

Veritas

FALL 2026

FOR ALUMNAE AND
FRIENDS OF THE
D.A. COMMUNITY

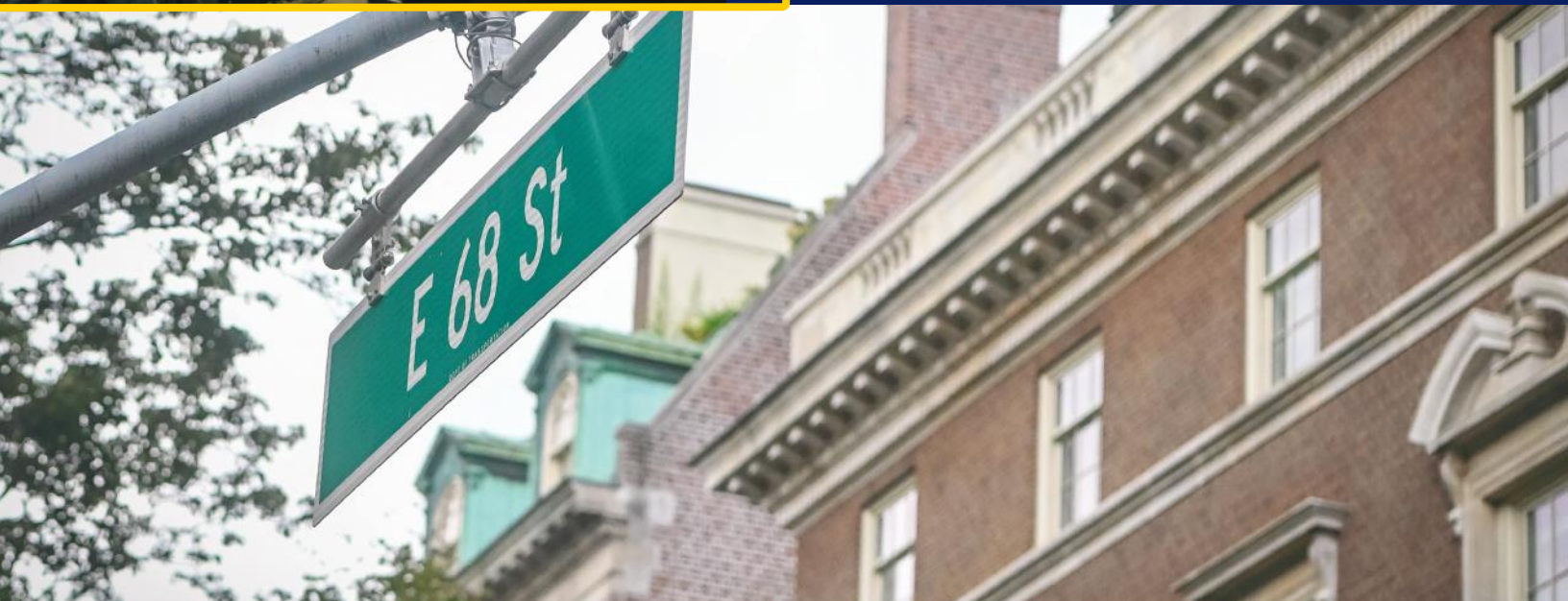


DOMINICAN ACADEMY
Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 PRESIDENT'S LETTER
- 02 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026
- 03 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AND AWARDS AT GRADUATION
- 04 YEAR IN REVIEW
- 12 GALA
- 13 ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT — HONORING LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND FRIENDSHIP
- 14 A LIFESAVING BOND
- 15 D.A. ATHLETICS
- 16 GLOBAL JOURNEYS, LASTING PERSPECTIVES
- 18 ALUMNAE NOTES
- 24 STAFF/FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
- 25 IN MEMORIAM



VERITAS MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM THE

President

Dear Alumnae, Parents, and Friends,

One of the greatest joys of serving as president of Dominican Academy is witnessing how our Dominican tradition continues to come alive in each new generation of students. New students join us each year from all over the city, experiencing the Dominican charism from day one.

It's woven into the rhythm of our school day when we honor our Dominican saints and celebrate their feast days with gratitude. It guides our retreat and service opportunities, which encourage students to encounter Christ through reflection and action. And our students are also invited to experience these rich traditions in other ways that are active, personal, and transformative.

Each year, Dominican Academy sends student delegates to the Dominican High School Preaching Conference, joining peers from more than 30 Dominican schools across the country. Together, they spend six days immersed in prayer, thoughtful study, meaningful conversations, and shared service. They return challenged to bring what they have learned back to their own communities—not simply by speaking about the Dominican pillars, but by living them.

This past year, three seniors embraced that challenge with remarkable creativity, designing and leading Dominican Academy's inaugural Dominican Day, which invited the entire school to participate in workshops and activities, and included faculty and staff members who offered heartfelt reflections on how the Four Pillars have shaped their own lives. The day was a beautiful reminder that our tradition is not something preserved in history books; it is alive in the hearts of our students and educators today.

This spring, students traveling in Peru were given an extraordinary opportunity to walk where two of our beloved Dominican saints—Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres—once lived and served. Visiting the historic Convent of Santo Domingo allowed them to experience our shared heritage in a deeply personal way and reminded them that the values we cherish at Dominican Academy are part of a living tradition that reaches across generations and around the world.

This issue of Veritas tells many stories of our students, faculty, and alumnae. At the heart of each one is the same Dominican spirit that has sustained our school since its founding. Thank you for continuing to be part of that story. Your generosity, your prayers, and your enduring connection to Dominican Academy strengthen our community and ensure that each new generation of young women can carry our charism forward with confidence, compassion, and faith. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

May God bless you abundantly, and please know that you and your families remain in my prayers.

Peace and all good,

Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D.
Alexandria M. Egler, Ph.D., P '10
President



CLASS OF '26 *Graduates*



The members of D.A.'s Class of 2026 have committed to attend the following colleges and universities. D.A.'s graduating Class of 2026 earned more than \$22.4 million in merit scholarships and grants, including acceptances to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, and Boston College. The Class of 2026 also included one National Merit finalist and eight commended students.

American University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University*
Bucknell University
The Catholic University of America*
Chapman University
Clark University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross*
Columbia University
Cornell University
Fairfield University*
Harvard University
Haverford College

Indiana University*
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola University Maryland*
Manhattan University
McGill University
New York University*
Northeastern University
The Ohio State University
Pitzer College
Princeton University
Reed College
Skidmore College*
St. John's University
University at Buffalo
University of Bristol
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago

University of Connecticut
University of Florida
University of Galway
University of Glasgow
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Amherst*
University of Michigan
University of Mount Saint Vincent
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Tennessee
University of Wisconsin—Madison
Villanova University*
Wake Forest University*
Yale University

**Indicates multiple students attending*

JOURNALIST TATIANA SERAFIN, '90 SPEAKS AT CLASS OF 2026 COMMENCEMENT

This year's commencement speaker for D.A.'s Class of 2026 was alumna Tatiana Serafin, '90, an award-winning journalist and educator who earned national recognition for her coverage of the war in Ukraine and serves as coordinator of the Journalism program at Marymount Manhattan College.

Serafin's acclaimed podcast *The Doorstep*, produced in partnership with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, had a run of 99 episodes and explored how global events shape everyday life. The podcast earned both the Sigma Delta Chi Award and a Bronze Medallion from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Speaking to the graduating class, Serafin urged graduates to go forward with courage, prepared with all the knowledge that D.A.—and its alumnae network—has given them.



“

D.A. has given you the courage to **LEAD** and to be **LED**. We are in a moment where our voices are being silenced... You will be called to lead and to listen. It is important to distinguish the two.

COURAGE
connects us all.

D.A. has given you the courage to **REMEMBER** and **BE REMEMBERED**. You all rest on the shoulders of all the D.A. alums who came before you, including me. You will always have us and the courage and light that D.A. gave you. And generations of D.A. graduates are now looking at you and reaching out their hands to you.

D.A. has given you the courage to **INSPIRE** and to be **INSPIRED**. Fewer people are going to college, and there is a concerted effort to control and manipulate the marketplace of ideas with book bans and misinformation. You are standing up and showing up to say learning matters.

”



Congrats!



CLAIRE P.
Valedictorian



GWENDOLYN L.
Salutatorian



ANGELINA M.
Mother Stephanie
Award for Character
and Leadership



MAIREAD L.
All Dominican Girl
Award for Integrity
and Character



LAISHA G.
DEIB Award for
Equity, Diversity
and Inclusion



NOREEN W.
Board of Trustees
Service Award



ANGELA A.
Scholar Athlete
Award

Year in Review



Alumnae Rooftop Reconnection

More than 70 alumnae attended D.A.'s annual Rooftop Reconnection, representing class years from 1958 to 2021. Guests browsed fun silent auction items, tried their luck in a lively 50/50 raffle, reconnected with longtime friends, made new ones, and even got to meet Dominic the Tiger! Nights like these celebrate the indelible bonds forged on East 68th Street, connecting generations of D.A. alums across the years.





D.A. Teacher Featured in Humans of NY Display

In October 2025, Dr. Lauren Serpagli, co-chair of D.A.'s STEM Department, was featured in a historic exhibit showcasing Humans of New York stories and coinciding with the release of *Dear New York*, the latest book of portraits by Brandon Stanton, founder of Humans of New York. D.A. sophomore Cara O., '28, submitted a photo and her personal story about Dr. Serpagli as a teacher and it was chosen as one of 600 students' portraits to be displayed in Grand Central. Fun fact, Cara's mother was previously featured on Humans Of New York. During the pandemic, as the owner of Mary O's Irish Pub, Mary rescued her pub from closing by selling her mother's Irish Soda Bread scones—and her story was embraced by the platform's 30 million followers.

Opening Mass

On September 26, 2025, a very special opening mass marked a new chapter in D.A.'s history—the transfer of canonical sponsorship from the Dominican Sisters of Peace to Dominican Veritas Ministries (DVM). The mass honored the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the faithful successors of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs who founded Dominican Academy in 1897 and whose 15 years of sponsorship carried our mission forward with strength and grace.

Dominican Academy joins a network of 13 Dominican schools in nine states that are also sponsored by DVM, which was founded with Vatican approval and affirmed by local bishops to sustain the future of Dominican schools across the United States. In a moving ritual, representatives from D.A., Dominican Veritas Ministries, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace, including Sr. Pat Twohill, OP, prioress, lit candles symbolizing our past, present, and future—flames of faith, truth, and sisterhood that will never be extinguished.

Dominican Sisters from across the country were present to celebrate the transfer of sponsorship and to attend a reception at the school afterward.

Dr. Kristin Melley, Executive Director of DVM, said, "Today, Dominican Academy has another partner to walk alongside this incredible school community. In this profound moment of change, we recognize the Sisters' incredible foresight and courage to imagine a future for D.A. that will last far beyond any of us."





Alumnae Reunion—October 2025

On October 25, 2025, Dominican Academy welcomed back over 130 alumnae for the Class Reunion for the classes ending in "0" and "5." The event started with a mass at D.A. presided over by Father James Ferus, S.J. Years ranging from 1960 to 2020 enjoyed time catching up with old friends, looking through their yearbooks, taking tours of the school, and talking with current D.A. students. The class of 1975 had a wonderful 50th reunion with classmates coming from across the country and even internationally and reconnecting in the library.





Holiday Helpers

D.A. student volunteers helped distribute over 500 turkey dinners at a Catholic Charities New York Thanksgiving Dinner distribution site in Harlem as part of a citywide distribution that fed 3,000 families. They were joined by special guests NY Governor Kathy Hochul and His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Antonio Fernandez, P'29, CEO of Catholic Charities NY. D.A. Campus Ministry also participated in several holiday drives including the Stock the Pantry, Holiday Food Drive, benefiting the NYC Common Pantry and a Christmas Gift Drive to aid Hour Children, which provides support to the families of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in New York State.



D.A.'s First Dominican Day

D.A.'s first Dominican Day on January 21, 2026, was a celebration of the Four Pillars—the cornerstones of Dominican education that ground us in prayer, study, community, and service. The day—planned by Isabella S. '26, Noreen W. '26, and Aurora K. '26—included different floors of the building dedicated to each pillar, group activities, community building moments, and even a service project. Faculty speakers gave presentations about how each pillar is an active part of their lives, and keynote speaker Mr. Michael Petro, campus minister of St. Francis de Sales School in Toledo, Ohio, encouraged students to pursue all their goals with intention, actively incorporating the pillars into their everyday lives.

Christmas Festivities Abound

The holiday season at D.A. was filled with music, celebration, and connection. As part of a beloved annual tradition, members of D.A.'s Glee Club performed Christmas carols in the New York Athletic Club lobby, while the Parents Association hosted families at the school for its annual holiday party, complete with activities, games, food, and even shopping.

Faculty, staff, and students were also delighted to welcome several dozen alumnae back to campus for D.A.'s annual Young Alumnae Welcome Back event. The event continued with a post-Christmas Liturgy performance by the Glee Club and Senior Ensemble, bringing students, alumnae, and families together through music and faith to mark the holiday season.





Career Day

More than 20 alumnae representing four decades returned to D.A. to share their career stories, personal journeys, and reflections on the sisterhood that continues to shape them. This year's speakers reflected the breadth of New York City itself, with leaders in law, human capital, corporate strategy, molecular biology, medicine, and more. Their advice was just as diverse as their paths—all aimed at empowering the next generation of young women.

Like so many D.A. traditions, Career Day was personal and meaningful, giving juniors the chance to connect with these accomplished alumnae in panels and small-group conversations—perfect timing as many students begin visiting colleges and thinking more deeply about their futures.



Installation of Archbishop Hicks

On February 9, 2026 Dominican Academy was honored to be represented by President Dr. Alexandria Egler, Sr. Joan Franks, O.P. '59 and two of our students at the Installation Mass of Ronald Hicks as the Archbishop of New York at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The school also contributed prayers and messages to a spiritual bouquet presented to the Archbishop as he began his ministry of leadership and service to our city.



The Mouse Trap

D.A. Playhouse's production of *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie took place in March 2026. This famous murder mystery—the longest running show of any kind in the world—is known for being sharp and suspenseful, and it brought out some of the most talented thespians on East 68th Street.

Florida Receptions

D.A. President Dr. Alexandria Egler was present for two intimate gatherings in Florida with alumnae and parents earlier this year. Thank you to Monica and Andrew Konopka, P'20, '25 for hosting in Palm Beach and Diane Donnelly Kenney, '66 for hosting in Naples. We loved seeing so many community members and hope to gather again this year.



St. Patrick's Day

Students, alumnae, faculty, and staff proudly marched up Fifth Avenue in the 265th New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, representing the spirit, sisterhood, and tradition of Dominican Academy on one of the city's biggest stages. The celebration didn't end there, as our community gathered back at D.A. afterward to continue the festivities, reconnect, and share in the joy of the day.



JUNIOR RING DAY

On April 24, 2026, the Junior class celebrated a beautiful milestone at St. Vincent Ferrer Church as they received their class rings—symbols of sisterhood, commitment, and the journey ahead. Rooted in faith and tradition, Junior Ring Day is a cherished moment when students reflect on how far they've come and look ahead to their senior year with pride and purpose. Several juniors received their rings from alumnae family members, and Ysabela S. was awarded the Natalie Frankowski, '14 Award for her impact on the school community and her dedication to Campus Ministry. In presenting the award, Dr. Serpagli described how Ysabela "embodies the very spirit of this scholarship—faith in action, humility in leadership, and a deep commitment to both scholarship and service."



Mother-Daughter Luncheon

More than 300 guests gathered at this year's Mother-Daughter Luncheon at TAO Downtown, including D.A. students, mothers, and other loved ones—with several D.A. dads lending a hand to support this beloved tradition hosted by the D.A. Parents' Association (DAPA). The afternoon included lunch, raffles, and dancing.



Walkathon 2026

This year's Dominican Academy / Regis Walkathon was filled with school spirit, laughter, and unforgettable moments! From singing to walking and playing together to watching some epic dunks in the dunk tank, the day was a perfect reminder of the joy and community that make traditions like this so special. Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make this year's Walkathon such a huge success raising over \$30,000 for our school.



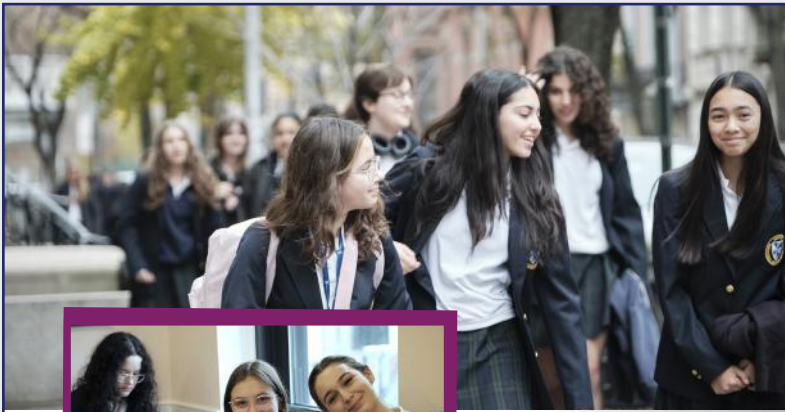
College Tour

This year's college tour brought 20 D.A. rising juniors and seniors to the Mid-Atlantic region for walkthroughs, tours, and information sessions at Villanova, St. Joseph's University, George Washington University, American University, Loyola Maryland, Georgetown, Catholic University, the University of Delaware, and Johns Hopkins. A cornerstone of our college guidance program, these annual college tour trips alternate between the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions so that students can gain a first-hand perspective for the size, feel, and culture of some of the nation's top colleges and universities beyond what they learn from college reps who host in-house info sessions at D.A. throughout the year.

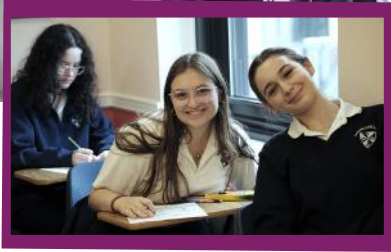


Finance Networking Reception

Female leaders from Merrill and Bank of America came to D.A. at the end of May for an exclusive networking opportunity that let students connect with these accomplished professionals, ask thoughtful questions, and gain firsthand insight into careers in finance and leadership. The event was hosted by Danielle Papandrea, P'26, and attended by Dr. Egler, Diane Kenney, '66, a member of the D.A. board of trustees, Sadhvee Hansraj-Pastine, '86, board chair, and Dr. Anitarose Dziwura, finance club moderator, plus several of her students.



SUPPORT THE DOMINICAN ACADEMY ANNUAL FUND



The Annual Fund strengthens every part of the Dominican Academy experience, supporting exceptional faculty, academic excellence, student activities, technology, and facility repairs.

Your gift ensures every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive at D.A.



Continue the Legacy of Excellence
Learn more at dominicanacademy.org/donate/fall-veritas



Join D.A. Connect

Stay engaged with D.A.
& fellow alumnae!



dominicanacademy.alumnifire.com

For questions, please contact the Development Office at
212-744-0195 or development@dominicanacademy.org.



2026 SPRING AUCTION & BENEFIT

Dominican Academy held its Spring Auction & Benefit on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the iconic 230 Fifth Ave. Rooftop, one of NYC's most renowned event venues. It was an unforgettable evening, bringing together our alumnae, parents, D.A. faculty and staff, and benefactors who make our community such an extraordinary place. This year, we were thrilled to honor Erica Sharkey Allegretta and Meredith Hill Chartier, both members of the Class of 1999, who spoke about the incredible sisterhood their class still shares.

Our auction was led by Paul Florez-Taylor, who rallied attendees to bid on vacations, golf outings, and exclusive events—all to raise funds that support D.A. The event also featured an exuberant group of current student ambassadors who came up with their own cheer to rally attendees and showcase their incredible enthusiasm for D.A. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the event exceeded all expectations and raised more than \$300,000 in support of our students. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our alumnae, families, faculty, staff, and friends, and we look forward to celebrating together again next year.





ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

Honoring

Leadership, Service, and Friendship

Although they have pursued very different careers, D.A.'s 2026 Spring Auction & Benefit honorees, Erica Sharkey Allegretta, '99 and Meredith Hill Chartier, '99, share a common purpose: using their talents and putting their faith into action to create opportunities and improve the lives of others.



As an immigration attorney with Pryor Cashman's Immigration Group, Erica has built a career helping individuals and employers navigate an increasingly complex legal landscape. She counsels clients on a broad range of immigration matters while staying ahead of changing policies and regulations. Beyond her professional practice, Erica has dedicated significant time to pro bono work through Immigration Equality and Safe Passage, organizations that provide free legal services to vulnerable individuals seeking safety and stability. Earlier in her career, she also worked with survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, helping them petition for visas and access critical legal protections.

Erica's work reflects the values she first encountered at Dominican Academy: pursuing truth, advocating for justice, and serving with compassion. Her professional excellence has also earned national recognition, including multiple selections as a Best Lawyers in America "One to Watch" in Immigration Law and Labor and Employment Law.

Meredith's path has been equally inspiring. After spending a decade as an elementary school teacher, she combined her passion for education, entrepreneurship, and community to found Bellamy Kitchen in Hudson County. What began as a catering and meal preparation business evolved into a shared commercial kitchen after Meredith recognized how difficult it was for aspiring food entrepreneurs to find affordable, licensed kitchen space.

Since opening in 2018, Bellamy Kitchen has helped more than 200 small businesses launch, test, and expand their concepts by providing an accessible, low-risk environment to grow. Meredith is now preparing the next phase of that mission with a restaurant collective that will give six promising businesses the opportunity to operate retail locations while sharing resources and operational support.

Continuing more than 30 years of friendship, Erica and Meredith have both been panelists at D.A.'s annual Career Day, which gives current juniors valuable, personal insights into a wide range of fields as they begin the college search. They also helped organize a fundraiser in memory of their beloved fellow classmate, Christine Perry Hogan, '99, who passed away in 2021.

"The Class of '99 was special and unique," Erica said at this year's Spring Auction, which raised more than \$300,000 to support Dominican Academy. "The girls—and now women—that I had the honor and privilege of growing up with are now my second family. They are my support system. They are my rock. Dominican Academy taught me lessons and brought me friends I will always rely on."



A Lifesaving Bond

THAT BEGAN
AT D.A.

A friendship that began in the halls of Dominican Academy is now being celebrated far beyond them. The Summer 2026 issue of *NYU Langone Health News* features alumnae **Paula Schneider, '14** and **Lydia Fernandez, '14** in a moving cover story about the extraordinary bond that led Lydia to become Paula's living liver donor—an act of friendship that ultimately saved her life.

The story traces their friendship back to their very first day at Dominican Academy in September 2010. New to the school, Paula and her twin sister were sitting alone at lunch when Lydia decided to join them. The three quickly connected, and Paula and Lydia soon became inseparable, sharing weekends together and building a friendship rooted in kindness, trust, and unwavering support. After Paula was diagnosed with two autoimmune diseases during her first year of college, Lydia confided that she would be there for Paula if she ever needed an organ. When Paula's condition caused toxins to accumulate in her body and

she eventually faced uncertain prospects for survival, Lydia remained true to the promise and volunteered to become Paula's living liver donor.

On November 30, 2022, the lifelong friends underwent an intricate eight-hour transplant surgery at NYU Langone. Lydia's donation gave Paula a second chance at life, and today both women are healthy and thriving.

The magazine shares not only the medical journey but also the enduring friendship that carried them through it—from serving as one another's maid of honor at their weddings to celebrating the lives they continue to build together. As Paula reflects in the story, "It took Lydia, my family, my wonderful doctors at NYU Langone, and a whole community to get me through this. I wouldn't be here without them."

Senior Athletes 2025-2026		
Isabel Abeijon	Corinne Adamo	Angela Anteri
Madeline Blaire	Katherine Boyle	Fiona Brennan
Madison Ella Chen	Riley Degelder	Ana Delgado
Siena DiNardo	Nailah East	Taylor Freyburger
Laura Guerrero	Garrett Harrison	Samantha Hsu
Elizabeth Land	Madeline Lee	



D.A. NAMED A

Scholar Athlete

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



SPORTS—DONE THE D.A. WAY

Dominican Academy student-athletes proved that excellence in the classroom and on the field go hand in hand. During the 2025–2026 school year, the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) introduced a new Scholar Athlete recognition program honoring students who earned a 90% or higher GPA during their athletic season.

Every Dominican Academy team qualified for the association's team honor, and D.A. was named a Scholar Athlete School of Excellence. Several teams achieved a remarkable achievement: every player earned a 90% or above. **Across all nine Varsity sports, D.A. student-athletes posted an average GPA of 95%**—a testament to the focus, resilience, and time management that define the Dominican Academy experience. Angela Anteri, '26, captain of D.A.'s volleyball team, was the recipient of this year's Scholar Athlete award and Wendy Lee, '26, salutatorian and captain of the soccer team, won the St. Dominic award.

The accomplishments extended well beyond academics. More than half of this year's graduating class competed on athletic teams, with many playing multiple sports and remaining committed to their teams throughout all four years of high school. Their dedication helped lead teams to championships, personal bests, and continued growth within the CHSAA while demonstrating that Dominican Academy students never have to choose between academic excellence and athletic achievement.

A CONTINUING LEGACY OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

Every school has traditions that bring its community together, and at Dominican Academy today, few are more beloved than Dominic. This year, the D.A. community celebrated the seniors who helped transform D.A.'s mascot into a joyful symbol of school spirit. Whether entertaining crowds at games, welcoming prospective families at Open Houses, energizing rallies, or making first-year students feel at home during orientation, Helen O'Sullivan, '26 and Izzy Papandrea, '26—the first two students to don the Dominic costume and embody the spirit of D.A. sports—made sure Dominic was always ready to inspire school pride.



Their work was complemented by classmate Noreen White, '26 whose leadership as editor of *Dominic Daily* kept the community connected through monthly highlights of team accomplishments, schedules, and athletic news.

Together, these three seniors embodied the enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment that make Dominican Academy such a special place. Their legacy will continue to encourage future generations to cheer loudly, lead proudly, and celebrate every victory—on and off the field.



Peru & China



Global Journeys. Lasting Perspectives.

From the Andes Mountains to the bustling streets of Shanghai, Dominican Academy students stepped far beyond the classroom this year, immersing themselves in new cultures, traditions, and ways of life. Whether staying with host families in China, learning firsthand about agricultural traditions in a Peruvian mountain community, or exploring the history behind some of the world's most significant landmarks, these global experiences challenged students to see the world—and their place within it—from new perspectives.

Over Easter break, students and chaperones traveled to Peru, beginning their journey in Lima, where they sampled local cuisine, including ceviche and lomo saltado; explored the renowned Larco Museum; and learned about the rich legacy of the Inca civilization—before a five day journey through the Andes to view the famous ruins of Machu Picchu for themselves.

“I was struck by the beauty and grandeur of the surrounding Andes and the clouds drifting quickly around them, as well as by the fact that a city at such an altitude had endured for centuries in the Andes’ harsh environmental conditions,” Iris M., ’27 wrote in *Student Prints*.

The journey offered more than spectacular scenery. In Urubamba, students met accomplished ceramic artists preserving centuries-old Incan traditions through their craft. In the mountain community of Lamay, they experienced daily life alongside local families—helping prepare food, learning about sustainable farming practices, participating in a traditional offering of gratitude to Pachamama, or Mother Earth, and sharing a meal together. The experience provided a meaningful window into a

culture shaped by community, history, and a deep connection to the land.

Later in the spring, four Dominican Academy students traveled halfway around the world as participants in the Ricci-Guangqi Young Scholars Program, a yearlong collaborative course that connects Dominican Academy and Regis High School with Nanjing Foreign Language School (NFLS). Their two-week visit to China concluded the academic partnership with an immersive homestay, allowing students to experience daily life alongside the families of their Chinese counterparts.

While in Nanjing, students balanced classroom collaboration with cultural exploration. They attended sessions at NFLS, toured the Jiangsu Museum of Chinese Medicine, and gained a behind-the-scenes look at one of the country’s most advanced transportation systems during a visit to the Nanjing Vocational Institute of Railway Technology.

“ I was struck by the beauty and grandeur of the surrounding Andes and the clouds drifting quickly around them, as well as by the fact that a city at such an altitude had endured for centuries in the Andes’ harsh environmental conditions. ”

—Iris M., ’27

This year's Ricci Scholars also joined the China Institute's CI-100 Youth Study Abroad initiative, commemorating the organization's centennial, and participating in the International Youth Forum alongside students representing four other countries—an opportunity to exchange ideas while building friendships across cultures.

The partnership allowed D.A. students to experience three days in Shanghai, each with different focal points that helped them discover this destination where centuries of history and rapid innovation exist side by side. One full day showcased the city's metropolitan, urban energy and things like the incredible collections at the world renowned Shanghai Museum and the modern glamour of Huaihai Road, the city's most graceful commercial street, followed by additional days that explored traditional street life and its historic roots, including the last intact portions of Shanghai's old city.

Although the destinations themselves were extraordinary, the lasting impact of these experiences extended well beyond the places students visited. Each journey reflects Dominican Academy's commitment to forming globally minded young women who approach the world with curiosity, compassion and a desire to build bridges across cultures.



That mission was especially evident in the spiritual dimension of both programs. Following Easter Mass in Lima, students visited the Convent of Santo Domingo, where Saints Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres lived lives of faith and service. Likewise, the Ricci-Guangqi Program honors the enduring legacy of Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci and Chinese scholar Xu Guangqi, whose friendship and collaboration became a powerful model of cultural understanding and dialogue between East and West.

"My Mandarin improved substantially because of the constant immersion in the language," said Mary S., '28. "I experienced some culture shock, but I learned that building a global mindset means trying to understand customs and norms that are different from our own. It's sometimes hard, but it's crucial to remember that others are probably thinking the same way about American culture. As we've learned, our differences can actually help us connect."



Explore Peru IN STUDENT PRINTS

To view photos from D.A.'s Peru trip and read student coverage published in *Student Prints*, including Iris M., '27's Arts and Architecture Column about the enduring legacy of the Inca, scan the code.



Alumnae



1954

Susanne Schuppel Washburn writes: In 2026 StoryWorth published my memoir titled *TERMINAL MORaine: Life Tales Left Behind*. Should any classmates (or other people who were at D.A. in my years there 1950-1954) be interested in reading the book, you can have access to it online, after I've given StoryWorth permission. You can just email me at: sswashburn@gmail.com with your email address and I'll take care of the permission.

My granddaughter Gina is visiting me for some weeks, before she returns to Boston University, to begin her sophomore year — and she may be a music major. Very active with her cello all the time. My other grandkid, Quinn, will be returning to Kenyon College in Ohio to start his sophomore year — and he may be an English major (like me, my husband Larry, and his dad, Niall).



1956

Regina (Suhre) Ferrante shared part of the adventures across America that she

and her husband James Ferrante (Jim) have been undertaking: We went exploring another part of our beautiful USA in April. I am now 88 years old and Jim is 91 years old. When we retired we wanted to see America First. We took a Viking Cruise on board The Polaris of four of the five Great Lakes. We cruised Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. We started off in Toronto, Canada and terminated in Milwaukee, WI. We explored both cities before and after with the Viking pre- and post-cruise arrangements. All land tours on the cruise itinerary were excellent.



1958

Jo Ann Liberali Cardone writes: Early January through early February found me in Oman, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore. It was a truly amazing adventure. Lucky for us we got out before the war began. Ten days after returning, I had a second total knee replacement. I have now almost returned to my previous life. Recovery has been longer than I'd like but it's better every day. August will find me in Portugal for a riverboat cruise through the Douro Valley. The photo was taken while on safari in Sri Lanka.



1961

Members of the Class of 1961 held their annual Christmas dinner at New York Athletic Club and listened to D.A.'s Glee Club perform for members of NYAC. Pictured are **Kathleen Murray, Nancy LaValle, Kathy Murnion, Beth Dougherty, '58 and Judy Norton**.

Judy Murphy Norton would like to remind everyone that the Class of 1961 will be celebrating your 65th Reunion on October 24, 2026, at D.A. Please join us for a fun gathering!



1962

Elizabeth Hoban writes that she and her husband are still living in Deer Park, NY. Their oldest grandchild graduated high school in Fairfield, CT, and is off to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in August. She will be studying Health Sciences and Nursing. Their remaining grandchildren (5 boys and 1 girl) will be in 6th, 8th and 10th grade in September.

Notes



1964

Many members of the class of 1964 who were saddened by the passing of their longtime class representative, Diana Pons Rossi, chose to honor her memory with an In Memoriam gift to D.A. They recalled Diana as their consummate corresponding class secretary, who organized reunions and kept up a stream of correspondence, signed as "Ponsy." They called it an extraordinary record of service to our class and to D.A., where she also served as a trustee for many years. Each year at Christmas, Ponsy sent out her wonderful newsletter filled with D.A. and class updates. She made sure that our reunions always had something special. Anyone present for the 30th will remember the book filled with memorabilia, class pictures, and bios. She presented a framed certificate to Miss Evelyn Jantzer whom she had located and arranged to join us. We were able to reminisce with her about our Senior class performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." May Diana Rest in Peace.

1966

We are sad to report that our classmate and friend **Mary Cahill Reitz** passed away on June 14, 2026, after a short illness, surrounded by her family. After D.A., Mary received her B.A. degree from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and then her Nursing degree from Cornell University. Mary brought compassion, intelligence and kindness to countless patients and families during her career. She lived most of her adult life in Cooperstown, NY. Mary was also an artist who loved painting the ocean and sky in reminiscence of spending summers growing up in Breezy Point. She also participated and led many Bible Study groups throughout her life. Mary is survived by three daughters and six grandchildren as well as Kenneth Reitz with whom she shared nearly 40 years of marriage as they built a family together. Mary was a beacon of light in our class—she was bright, enthusiastic about life and great fun. We have lost her smile but not our memories that live on.



1967

Louise Marie Pedone Cosenza shares: In May, I was fortunate to see the tulips blooming in Amsterdam at the Keukenhof Gardens. From there I went on a 12 day Sapphire Princess cruise around 8 Baltic countries and learned about their history. I saw many lovely churches and beautiful buildings, ate pierogies in Gdansk, took a canal tour around Copenhagen and visited Santa in Helsinki! At the beginning of June I attended my granddaughter Antonette's

graduation in Indiana where we partied for four days. At the end of June, I went on a Disney cruise to Nassau with my granddaughter Leila, her parents and my sister and arrived back home in time for a July 4th BBQ!



Mary Ellen Colby Higgins shares an update regarding their Connecticut Higgins grandchildren: Rory, Quinn and Molly Higgins are frequent Saturday hikers through the trails of Connecticut Audubon in Fairfield, CT. Along with Mom & Dad, of course. Caroline Higgins joined brother Charlie for his First Holy Communion this May. This June William Ronald Higgins (named after both granddads) joined his siblings Charlie and Caroline as the youngest Higgins Knicks fan!

1968

Margaret (Peggy) Hanley writes that after D.A., she moved briefly to Virginia as a Public Health Nurse before moving to San Diego, CA where she now lives. After being a B.S.N. in both Public Health and Psychiatry for seven years, she received an M.S.W., then loved the issues of learning how to manage big organizations, mostly in health care. And last but not least, she completed her M.B.A. and worked with large health care agencies both public and private. Now she is mostly retired, but continues in the Public Sector in San Diego County, and as a private consultant. Peggy says that "D.A. started my direction to health and organizational needs in large agencies. [Now] the best of my work these days are my seven grandchildren, ages

Alumnae

6–15. I hope you all have valued our days at Dominican Academy, and that your education there will lead to your college, Masters and Ph.D. I will keep you in my prayers.”



1969

Denise Midroy sent in a flashback of her daughter Molly Dougherty and her now husband Brian Miller creating memories in Tanzania, where they were fortunate to meet and spend some time with Jane Goodall.

Continuing their annual “girls’ trip” adventures, **Cathy Myers-Jusko** (NYC), **Denise Midroy** (CO), and **Maureen Fahy Grone** (CA) spent a wonderful week in gorgeous Savannah. Best friends since their D.A. days, they love planning these “reunion” trips and catching up over monthly Zoom calls.



1975

Deirdre Higgins reports she is still writing, still teaching, still editing, but now in Philadelphia and excited to visit all the museums and historic places! “Both my

kids live in PA so that’s a plus. Happy to be able to come to more of the D.A. reunions now that I’m not 3,000 miles away.”



Beth Montagni Figari shares: My husband Peter and I are enjoying our retirement. We spend six months in FL and six months in NY. We have four grandchildren ages 2–9 who keep us very busy. We enjoy boating, fishing and traveling to places on our bucket list. We feel very blessed.



1976

Claire Sarrazin Rennell writes: In celebration of our graduation 50 years ago this June, a group of us from the class of ’76 took a Viking River Cruise on the Rhine! A marvelous week filled with laughter and years of friendship!!! We can’t wait for our D.A. reunion in October. Trip friends included **Claire Sarrazin Rennell**, **Maria LaRussa Palamara**, **Elizabeth (Beth) Golden**, **Mary Barrett Wagonblast**, **Barbara Olen Lindgren**, **Cecilia (Ceci) Recalde** and **Susan Byrnes**!

1980



The Class of 1980 held a special gathering at D.A. in July of 2025 in honor of their 45th reunion. Classmates came from all across the country and some even Zoomed in to be a part of the evening!

1981

Jennifer O’Grady shares: “My play, *Charlotte’s Letters*, premiered in 2025 at The Stella Adler Center for the Arts in New York. One of its monologues will be published in *The Best Women’s Stage Monologues 2025* and another appears in *Best Women’s Stage Monologues 2022*. My plays have won awards and been produced by theaters and schools throughout the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada and Mexico. More info about my work can be found at www.jenniferogrady.net. My husband and I recently moved back to Manhattan and our two adult children live in Manhattan now too.



1984

Lisa Leonard has expanded her voiceover business to offer Live Announcing/VOG/

Notes

Emcee services. The Philly resident has recently voiced award ceremonies for Northwell Health, Haymarket Media, and the NJ Hall of Fame. www.lisaleonardvoice.com/lisa-leonard-live



1986

Melissa McAllister Wieler is excited and proud to welcome her daughter **Emily** into the D.A. alumnae sisterhood. Emily graduated from D.A. on May 29th and is headed to the University of Connecticut this fall. Go Huskies!



1993

Tina Lopez O'Keeffe shares: "I was honored to receive the **Entrepreneur of the Year Award** at the 20th Annual Latina Hat Luncheon presented by the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Crescent Beach Club on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Every year the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals in the community who serve as inspirational role models. This event celebrates contributions to the workforce and recognizes dedication to the Hispanic and minority communities

they serve." The O'Keeffe Family. From right to left: Patricia, '29, Tina, '93, Thomas, and Dalia.

1994

Congrats to **Marie Alana O'Brien**, who married Bill Cassese, Fordham Prep '92, in October 2024. They live in Scarsdale, New York.



1996

Laura Lawless sent the following update: Now some 30 years post graduation (how?!), life remains good in the beautiful Southwest. After graduating from D.A. and Harvard, I moved to Arizona to attend law school at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and have practiced management-side employment law and litigation at two global law firms ever since. I am currently a partner at Squire Patton Boggs (US), LLP and in addition to my labor and employment transactional and litigation practice, I undertake pro bono representation of clients in constitutional law disputes. But I'm proudest of my daughter Emma, a senior in high school, and my son Connor, in fourth grade, along with my furbabies Chopper and Rufus, and enjoy filling my downtime with powerlifting and mixed martial arts, both sports I took up in my mid-40s in a moment of temporary insanity. Watching my eldest start her high school senior year and head off to college and beyond, I'm filled with nostalgia for our class of 1996 and wishing my fellow D.A. alumnae well on our 30th anniversary!



1997

Dr. Nina Tandon was honored by The Roosevelt Island Business Alliance, Inc. (TRIBA) at their Second Annual Merit Awards. TRIBA is an organization formed by representatives of businesses and building owners on Roosevelt Island for the purpose of improving the quality of life on Roosevelt Island. The award was presented by **Elissa Weil, '81**, Assistant Principal at D.A. and attended by classmate **Carla Nassy**.

2004

Daina Ann (DeFrancesco) Smith

co-wrote and co-produced a film called **Semolina Pilchard** alongside award-winning Liverpool filmmaker and director Mike

Clarke. The film, which had its US premiere at the Ridgely Playhouse on July 16 and in New York on August 27, is a character-driven British crime-comedy set in Liverpool, the city that gave the world the Beatles. It follows a fractured gangster family pulled back together by crisis, legacy, and the kind of messy love that only family can produce. The title is lifted directly from "I Am the Walrus," and hidden throughout the film are Beatles Easter eggs, nods, and references woven into the fabric of the story.



Alumnae Notes



2006

Natalie Zadrozna shares: My husband, Robert, and I welcomed our twin daughters, Iris Augusta and Violet Lucinda, on January 18, 2026. They were baptized on April 18, 2026.



2007

Lacey Gutekunst recently started a new role as the Local Activations and Partnership Manager at the Museum of Ice Cream. Use code DAMOIC10 for 10% off tickets to the NYC museum. See you in the sprinkle pool, Thanks Lacey!

2008

Elizabeth Cappello completed her final portion of medical training with a fellowship in Transfusion Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in June 2026. In August, she will start her dual appointment in pediatric hematology and transfusion medicine at Montefiore Einstein as an Assistant Professor.



2010

Alumna and Board of Trustees member **Nicole DeFilippi** and her husband, longtime volunteer George Smith, are expecting their first child — a baby girl due in August 2026! Nicole recently celebrated her baby shower with family and friends, including many fellow D.A. alumnae, among them her cousins **Kristin Shea, '82** and **Sophia Pinter, '19**.

2011

Tess (Cole) Sorensen and family welcomed their fourth child and first son, Joseph Leo, last fall. His middle name was inspired by the American Holy Father, and by Pope St. Leo the Great and Pope Leo XIII, whom Tess first came to appreciate while in Church History class at D.A. They are very much enjoying life as a family of six!



2013

Sawyer-Rae Joseph-Stewart shares: I'm excited to share that I'll be graduating from Physician Assistant school in August 2026. Returning to school has been one of the most challenging and rewarding

experiences of my life. Over the past few years, I've balanced graduate school while raising my daughter alongside my husband, and this journey has taught me the value of perseverance, faith, and leaning on the people who support you. I'm looking forward to beginning my career as a Physician Assistant, with a special interest in women's health, and I'm grateful for the foundation my education and community gave me.



Allison Scacaloski welcomed her first child, Aurora Grace, on July 10, 2026! Welcome to the family!



Nina Gabriella Sparacio and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Sofia Isabella, into the world on May 19, 2026.



2014

Natalie Petit married Brendan Carroll on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Their wedding ceremony and mass was held at The Church of St. Rosalie's in Westhampton. Pictured from left: groomsmen and brothers Lucas Petit and Marco Petit, groom Brendan Carroll, bride **Natalie Petit, '14**, mother Leslie Petit, father Francis Petit, sister and Maid of Honor **Sally Petit, '19**.



Elizabeth-Cybèle Skidmore just graduated from City College with a BA in Theatre and International Studies. Congrats!



2015

Laura Peralta is proud to share: I have graduated from my third degree from NYU (BA '19, MS '23 and BSN '25) and now have started a position as a Registered Nurse at NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center in the Hematology/Oncology Unit. I also had the incredible honor of receiving the Early Career

Nursing Award from the NYC Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society at their Annual Nurses Week Gala. Looking forward to returning to East 68th Street to provide compassionate care to oncology patients at NYP Weill Cornell.



2016

On June 27, 2026, **Katerina Katakallides** represented Queens County at the Miss New York Scholarship Competition. That same week, she began her graduate studies at Harvard University, pursuing a MA in Anthropology.



Olivia Sheane shares: I am attending Wake Forest Law School in Winston-Salem, NC this Fall.

2017

Marianna Wells received her JD from CUNY Law in May 2026 and will start as a Clerk in the Second Department, New York Court of Appeals in September 2026.



2021

Maxine Flordeliza writes: "After graduating from the University of Vermont, I joined the Peace Corps and am currently serving as a Youth Development Volunteer in the Peruvian Andes. I work alongside local schools and community partners to support youth through leadership, life skills, and vocational guidance. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience that has strengthened my passion for education, community development, and cross-cultural exchange." Maxine met up with D.A. students on their Spring Break trip to Peru this year, including her sister **Dominique, '26**.



Carolyn South shares: I just completed a year of service with City Year! I served at an elementary school in East Harlem alongside an amazing team of fellow volunteers. I'm so grateful for the experience, and for the third-grade class that always kept it exciting.

Passion Meets Purpose

At Dominican Academy, the Four Pillars of Dominican life—Prayer, Study, Community, and Service—encourage every member of our community to keep learning, growing, and sharing their gifts with others. Our faculty and staff live those values beyond the classroom, pursuing graduate studies, performing, mentoring, and serving their communities. These experiences are connecting them with other remarkable organizations in the New York City area, and adding even more depth to the relationships they build with D.A. students each day.



Kiera Egan

English Teacher and Drama Club Moderator

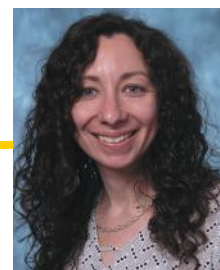
For more than a decade, Ms. Egan has overseen outreach for the Underground Theater Alliance, a New York theater company that creates opportunities for artists of all experience levels. She's helped bring several productions to Dominican Academy for special student performances and is looking forward to expanding the partnership with future workshops and a possible summer theater program.



Kate Finlayson

Dance & Body-Mind Conditioning Teacher

Ms. Finlayson is active in New York's salsa dance scene, performing with Reflexiones De Rios and Esencia at Nieves, two studios that appear at showcases, social events, and salsa congresses throughout the region. She has also taught ballet, hip-hop, and salsa at Nieves Studio, where she occasionally assists with adult classes and community events.



Jennifer Reardon-Muller, '98, P '24

History Dept. Chair and DEIB Coordinator

Mrs. Reardon-Muller is currently pursuing a second master's degree in Leadership and Supervision at Fordham University, where she's focusing on education law and policy. The program complements her work as Dominican Academy's DEIB coordinator, deepening her interest in educational leadership, equity, and civic education.

Dr. Lauren Serpagli

STEM Dept. Co-chair, Biology Teacher

Dr. Serpagli has co-authored two journal articles on science and technology education and is an adjunct professor at Hunter College—where she teaches teachers—offering a course that prepares future 7-12 grade science educators. She also tutors AP Biology students and leads D.A.'s Summer Connection Camp and Summer Scholars programs. Outside of the bio, she's a Girl Scout leader and Parents Association secretary at her daughter's school.



Josephine Mazzara

Cafeteria Supervisor and Finance Associate

This year marked the fifth year that Josephine Mazzara has celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph by creating an altar and sharing traditional St. Joseph's breads with the Dominican Academy community and her parish community at St. Joseph Parish in Astoria. The tradition began in 2021, when Josephine and her family organized a food collection at St. Joseph's to stock the parish food pantry in thanksgiving for the grace of her husband's recovery from a near-fatal illness related to COVID-19. What began as an expression of gratitude has become an annual school tradition of faith.



2025–2026

In Memoriam

Alumnae

Eleanor Fitzgerald Lyons, '49, P'82
Janet Smith DiBlasi, '50
Virginia Rogers Bracken, '53
Catherine White Rotanz, '53
Irene McCaffrey, '55
Mary Virginia "Kennedy" Duthaler '60
Margaret Ann Brooks Cope, '61
Dr. Kathryn Prichitko Pryor, '64
Mary Elizabeth Cahill Reitz, '66
Licia Mastrangelo Chavez, '67
Maura Fitzpatrick Distabile, '77
Ann Oroszlany Brown, '84

Family

John (Giovanni) Barger, H'54
Peter Guarasci
Joseph W. Janos, P'84, G'25
Kamel Labidi, H'69
Richard (Dick) J. Lolatte, H'59
Paul Joseph McAllister, P'86, G'26
Edward Palmieri, P'93
Elaine Wieler, G'26

Staff

Former D.A. teacher Pablito Sayaman passed away surrounded by his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren. Mr. Sayaman faced his illness with the same courage, wisdom, and grace that defined his life as a longtime beloved D.A. math teacher from 1987 until his retirement in 2012. May you rest in peace, Mr. Sayaman.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
ALUMNAE ROOFTOP RECEPTION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026
OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND 8TH
GRADERS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2026
MINI OPEN HOUSE FOR 7TH AND
8TH GRADERS

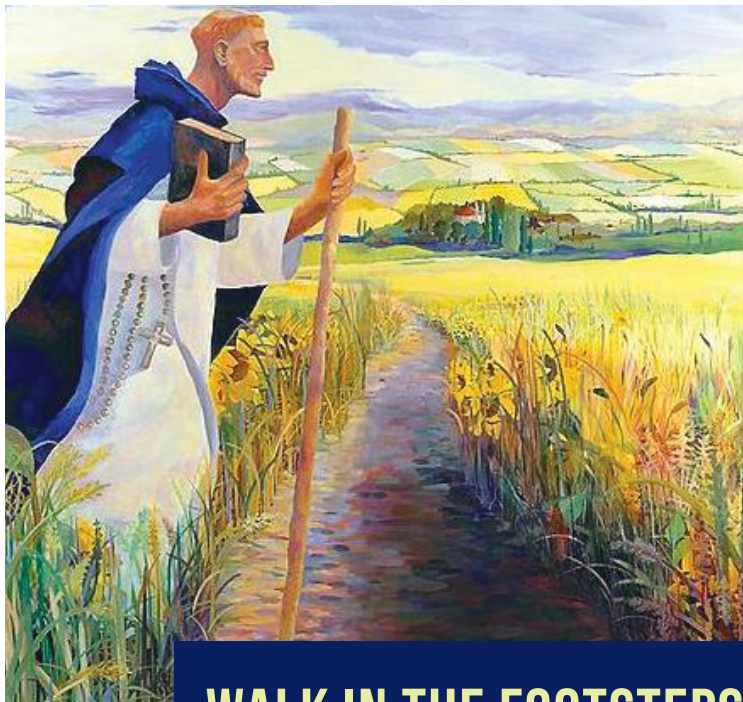
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026
REUNION FOR CLASSES ENDING
IN "1" AND "6"

MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 2026
YOUNG ALUMNAE WELCOME BACK

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2027
CAREER DAY

SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2027
SPRING AUCTION & BENEFIT

*Want to be included in our next issue of Veritas? Email us at
development@dominicanacademy.org.*



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

OCTOBER
2027

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS *of* SAINTS DOMINIC DE GUZMÁN AND CATHERINE *of* SIENA

ALUMNAE, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF D.A. ARE INVITED TO JOIN DR. ALEXANDRIA M. EGLER
FOR THIS SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE THROUGH ROME, SIENA, FLORENCE, AND BOLOGNA