

# B

# BEAUMONT

# NEWS

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS OF BEAUMONT SCHOOL | WINTER/SPRING 2021

# FRONTLINE HEROES:

## Living Dynamic Adaptability



**Rita Pappas, MD '84**  
Medical Director, Cleveland Clinic



**Margaret (Meg) Ruesch, PhD '87**  
Vice President, Pfizer

# IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 ..... Letter from the President
- 4 ..... News and Notes from North Park
- 6 ..... #GoBlueStreaks
- 22 ..... Alumnae News and Notes
- 22 ..... Welcome Theresa Day, Director of Alumnae Relations and Reunion Giving

## BEAUMONT IN THE WORLD

- 12 ..... Strength in Diversity
- 13 ..... Alumna Spotlight: Da'na Langford '99
- 14 ..... Student Spotlight: Shannon Blankenship '21
- 15 ..... Bloom Where You Are Planted

## CELEBRATING BEAUMONT ALUMNAE

- 8 ..... Dr. Rita Pappas '84:  
COVID Advisor to Her Alma Mater
- 9 ..... Sherri Buford '06: Going Above and Beyond for the Students She Loves
- 23 ..... Meg Ruesch, PhD '87: How Do You Solve A Problem Like COVID-19?
- 23 ..... In Memoriam

## THE BEST OF BEAUMONT

- 10 ..... Thank You, Beaumont Teachers
- 16 ..... Sister Dorothy Kazel Remembrance

## 2019-2020 DONOR REPORT

- 18-21 ..... 2019-2020 Donor Report

**Published for alumnae, parents and friends of Beaumont School by the Advancement Department**

Wendy A. Hoke  
*President*

Barbara Brown  
*Director of Marketing/Editor*

Kim Kraus Epley, PhD '95  
*Chief Philanthropy Officer*

Susan Ancheta '95  
*Philanthropy Data Analyst*

Theresa Day  
*Director of Alumnae Relations and Reunion Giving*

Oreng Creative Group  
*Design*

Allen Graphics  
*Printing*

Contributors:  
Anna Bobby, Al Fuchs, Kristin Krebs '93,  
Julie Olack

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 – 2021

- Mary Curran '81, *Board Chair*
- Suzanne Hanselman, *Vice Chair*
- Wendy Hoke, *President*
- Katherine Callahan '80
- Julie Edgar
- Pierre El-Hindi
- Thomas Gill
- Sister Joanne Gross, OSU
- Jason Jones
- Eliot Kijewski
- Dorothy Russo Moulthrop, PhD '91
- Sister Susan Mary Rathbun, OSU
- Jennifer Roth
- Roger Stewart
- Andrea Wasdovich-Duffner '68
- Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU '63
- Claudia Wenzel '85

## EX OFFICIO

- Lisa Andreani, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Nicholas Beyer, *Principal*



## ON THE COVER

Frontline Heroes:  
Living Dynamic Adaptability. .... 8, 23



The only all-girls' school in Northeast Ohio to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.



# Message from the President



---

*“We have a long history of diversity, we are tapping into deeper discussions about what it means to be **anti-racist**, how our stories can **help build bridges of understanding**, and how our efforts to be a **diverse, equitable and inclusive community of women** must continue to evolve.”*

---

## Dear Alumnae and Friends,

As I write this letter to you, I am reflecting on our COVID year which seems ever so much longer, probably because it spans two school years. But through it all we have learned so much about resilience, gratitude and perseverance. St. Angela counsels that “if you stand united in heart, you will be strong in adversities.” Her wise words capture so clearly what we have been striving for throughout this school year.

Accompanying us on our journey this past year are so many Beaumont women, some of whom we are featuring throughout this issue of the *Beaumont News*. Our pandemic heroes gracing our cover are two extraordinary women who are changing the world as they work to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Rita Pappas '84 is the medical director of hospital operations at Cleveland Clinic. She was featured on the cover of Cleveland Magazine's Top Doctors issue in December 2020 for her work in developing the surge plan for COVID. Fortunately, that surge did not happen here in Cleveland. But more than that, Rita has served as the medical advisor to Beaumont throughout the pandemic, advising on our Restart Plan and helping us navigate decision-making during the various surges in infection.

Her work has protected all here at Beaumont. As of this writing, we have had 23 students test positive for COVID and only one staff member working remotely. Read about Rita's work this year on page 15.

Next to Rita is a global pandemic hero. Dr. Margaret Taylor Ruesch '87 is the vice president of research and development at Pfizer in Boston. I had the chance to talk to Meg for our podcast Beyond Beaumont about her work on the COVID-19 vaccine. You can read a bit about our conversation on page 23. The audio link will be posted on our website at [beaumontschool.org/podcasts](https://beaumontschool.org/podcasts).

We could not have made it through this year without the dedication and perseverance of our faculty and staff. Teachers have been on the frontline of this pandemic, too. We honor and thank them on page 10. See how many you can identify even behind their masks. As of March 6, our faculty, staff and coaches have been vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. Thank you, Meg!

2020 has put issues of race and inequality front and center for Americans. Here at Beaumont, where we have a long history of diversity, we are tapping into deeper discussions about what it means to be anti-racist, how our stories can help build bridges of understanding, and how our efforts to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community of women must continue to evolve.

In December, Beaumont had a special month-long remembrance of Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU, who was martyred 40 years ago in El Salvador. With the help and support of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, we had an exhibition of artifacts from her life. Students engaged with her words in their art and on the “stage.” And I recorded a three-part podcast with her friend and companion for much of her time in El Salvador, Sister Martha Owen. You can find a link to the audio and much more on our website at [beaumontschool.org/Dorothy](https://beaumontschool.org/Dorothy).

Contained within this issue of *Beaumont News* is our 2019-2020 Donor Report. Beaumont has been incredibly blessed by the generous support of so many alumnae, benefactors, parents, and friends. Your gifts directly impact our students. For this report, we let our students say a few words about what your support means to them.

Finally, with the help and involvement of many, we completed our Master Campus Plan, approved by our Board of Directors in March. Look for much more to come as we roll out the plan and embark on our quest to ensure that our Beaumont facilities match the exceptional quality of our programs.

As always, I love to hear from you. Let us know how we're doing. Send me an email to [whoke@beaumontschool.org](mailto:whoke@beaumontschool.org) or call me at 216.325.7324.

Yours in St. Angela,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy A. Hoke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy A. Hoke  
President

# NEWS AND NOTES FROM NORTH PARK



## ▲ SERVICE DAY IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

Our annual Service Day looked a little different this year because of COVID, as we were kept from going out to organizations to serve. But we did come together on campus to work on various projects. Beaumont Service Day Moderator and World Languages Teacher Alice Pamies summed it up in a poem: We are grateful to have served today so The hungry will eat; The lonely will get a letter; Children with physical challenges will get a toy; Someone will receive a 3D-printed hand; Freshmen will connect with one another; The homeless will get a mat to sleep on or a blanket to cover them; Children will listen to a story recorded just for them; Children and teens in the diocese will have a new mask; Studio Artists paintings will touch the lives of others; And, The earth will be a bit cleaner.



## ▲ THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

This show must go on! The Beaumont Drama Club fall production, 30 Reasons NOT to be in a Play, continued as planned by offering the play via Livestream for the general public.



## ▲ HORSEBACK RIDING

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn McNeil '21** who will continue her academic and horseback riding career at Lake Erie College next fall.





## ▲ SUPPORTING CLEVELAND CLINIC CAREGIVERS

The Beaumont Community recently participated in the Cleveland Clinic Caregivers Service Project. In total, our outstanding faculty and students packed over 1,300 care bags and signed 500 hero cards for Cleveland Clinic caregivers. Team leaders **Carlson Jones '22** (above left) & **Rachel Crumb '22** (right) were instrumental in making this project a success, with the help of faculty moderators Cindy Campbell, Gail Mastrangelo and Sue Riley.



## ▲ VEALE YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP UPCYCLE INNOVATION WINNERS

Entrepreneur Club Members **Abby Smith '21**, **Ashley Morris '21**, **Marykate Kessinger '24** and **Ellie Thomas '24** won the top two team prizes at the Veale Youth Entrepreneurship Upcycle Innovation Challenge. Abby and Ashley's idea, The Honeycomb Inn, proposed bee hotels in local parks to help bee populations. Marykate and Ellie proposed a local coffee shop growing its own fruit and vegetables. Prizes were also awarded to **Camryn Mango '24** and **Mariya Washington '23**.



## ▲ VIRTUAL CAS CONFERENCE CHARITY HACKATHON WINNER

**Mary McDonald '22** was part of a team of students from four different schools chosen as the winners of the Virtual CAS Conference Charity Hackathon. The students will continue with a month-long process of collaboration with charity representatives supporting Peru's Sacred Valley, creating a needed agricultural handbook.



## ▲ FEAST OF ST. URSULA

The Beaumont Community celebrated the Feast of St. Ursula with a beautiful all-school liturgy livestreamed from the chapel to their homeroom class.

# #GOBLUESTREAKS

Highlights from some of our Beaumont Blue Streaks. Follow our sports teams on social media with hashtag #gobluestreaks, @BeaumontAD, and online at [beaumontathletics.org](http://beaumontathletics.org).



**Lauren Bangasser '22** placed 13th at the 2020 Ohio High School Athletic Association Division II State Tournament, Oct. 16-17 at The Ohio State University's Gray Course in Upper Arlington. Lauren also was named to the All-Northeast Ohio Division II first team.



Blue Streaks basketball player, **Lydia Gattozzi '21** finds a way to give back while doing something she loves! Lydia is raising money for Coats for the Kids of Cleveland as donors make pledges based on points she scores throughout the season.



The Beaumont School volleyball team ended their season as Division II district runner-up. **Bella Peroni '21** reached the 1,000-dig milestone and **Sarah Yohann '21** surpassed the 1K mark in career assists. The following players were named to the all-district teams by area coaches: First Team—**Darby Leininger '21**, Third Team—**Bella Peroni '21**, Honorable Mention—**Alycen Radolovic '22**. **Peroni** also was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Region Five Team.



# BLUE STREAKS SIGNINGS



**Shannon Blankenship**  
SUNY Brockport,  
Basketball



**Tanya Edwards**  
Ohio Wesleyan University,  
Basketball



**Katherine Foerg**  
Nazareth College, Golf



**Ariea Garrett**  
Medaille College,  
Basketball



**Lydia Gattozzi**  
Canisius College,  
Basketball



**Rhianon Hunter**  
Baldwin Wallace University,  
Lacrosse



**Maria Jones**  
Wheeling University,  
Swimming



**Darby Leininger**  
University of Mount Union,  
Volleyball



**Bella Peroni**  
Niagara University, Volleyball



**Tyah Williams**  
Tiffin University, Volleyball



**Sarah Yohann**  
University of Mount Union,  
Volleyball



**Ally Ziegler**  
Wheeling University,  
Basketball

# DR. RITA PAPPAS '84

## COVID ADVISOR TO HER ALMA MATER



Frequently we hear of the many brave Beaumont alumnae who are on the frontlines during this pandemic. One such alum, Dr. Rita Pappas '84, was instrumental in Beaumont's in-person return last August. Dr. Pappas is the medical director in Hospital Operations at Cleveland Clinic. She has

served as our medical advisor this year, helping to develop the Restart Plan that enabled Beaumont to prepare for and execute in-person learning during COVID. Her counsel was invaluable as we navigated developments and it helped us stay in-person throughout the year.

President Wendy Hoke had the foresight early in the pandemic to call on Dr. Pappas to be our advisor during this novel and trying time. "Wendy was very prepared when we met to discuss Beaumont's COVID strategy. I am very proud to serve as the medical advisor for Beaumont during the pandemic. Wendy and I use the guiding principle of safety for all the students and Beaumont faculty. Beaumont's COVID plan was able to safely provide education during an uncertain time," says Dr. Pappas.

"We could not have known how smoothly this would have gone. We are grateful and fortunate to have such a compassionate and smart person as Dr. Pappas who has used her knowledge and science background to guide her

recommendations for us," says President Hoke.

With Dr. Pappas' input, Beaumont's Restart Plan was designed to ensure the safety of our faculty, staff and students and to offer options for in-person and virtual learning for those students who wanted that choice.

### A Leader at Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Pappas has been on the frontline working with other leaders at the Cleveland Clinic fighting COVID for the past year. The team has been meeting 7 days a week for months with the purpose to care for COVID patients. In this leadership role, as well as a staff pediatrician, Dr. Pappas has improved efficiency across the Clinic, with her current focus of racing to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

She recalls the impact Beaumont has had on her even as a leading physician during this historic pandemic. "As a Beaumont grad, I use the leadership skills that I learned by serving in Beaumont's Student Council, such as communication, teamwork and humility."

## BEAUMONT'S RESTART PLAN SAFETY MEASURES:

- 1) Students and teachers social distance in redesigned classrooms
- 2) Masks are mandatory
- 3) Hand sanitizer stations added throughout the school
- 4) Additional lunch periods added to ensure smaller group gatherings
- 5) Extra time added between classes to allow distancing in the halls
- 6) Classes held outside during the warmer months
- 7) Every classroom is equipped with cameras and laptops to ensure all classes are livestreamed via Google classroom and are accessible online for our remote learners.



For more information about Beaumont's restart, visit [www.beaumontschool.org/restartplan](http://www.beaumontschool.org/restartplan).



# SHERRI BUFORD '06

By Kristin Krebs '93



Photo by Dave Pelkiewicz, cleveland.com

## Going Above and Beyond for the Students She Loves

Sherri Buford '06, a third grade teacher at Westwood Elementary in Warrensville Heights, has not let the challenges that COVID has presented teachers stop her from bringing a quality learning experience to her students. Sherri's ability to adapt and be flexible with her class earned her the recognition as one of Cleveland's Hometown Heroes this past September.

Sherri began the year by visiting each of her students' homes to introduce herself. As she explained, "This year I need parental support more than ever. Teachers and parents are on the same team and the scholar is the star."

Extending grace and being patient has also been essential. She made herself more available to her students and their families. It was important to her to build a

---

**"Ms. Bihuniak was outstanding. She pushed me to be a creative thinker and had a powerful impact on my desire to pursue teaching."**

— Sherri Buford '06

---

foundation based on trust. "Relationships are important," she says.

Throughout her 11-year teaching career, Sherri has gone above and beyond in the classroom. "I'm a teacher, and I love what I do. I love where I work. I love who I work with, and most importantly I love the kids."

Sherri can't wait for COVID to end so that she can resume normal and personal touches. She feels like she owes it to her students to show them mentors who they can look up to so that they can grow up to be successful. She hopes that she can inspire one of her students to maybe grow up and be an educator one day.

Her love of teaching began at an early age. She remembers always wanting to be a teacher and playing school as a young child. Growing up, her mother was perhaps her greatest mentor as she was a teacher herself. Sherri saw firsthand how much her mother left a mark on her students. Sherri hopes to continue making an impact on her students' lives, just like her mom.

As a student, Sherri admired many of her teachers from kindergarten through high school. While at Beaumont, Ms. Bihuniak

and Sister Ann Wojnar were a few of her favorites. "Beaumont helped me to be a leader! Teachers are leaders. We have the power to change people's lives." Sherri claims that her time at Beaumont helped her find her voice and grow in confidence.

"Ms. Bihuniak was outstanding. She pushed me to be a creative thinker and had a powerful impact on my desire to pursue teaching." She learned typing from Sister Ann, not knowing it would be such a pivotal skill that she uses daily. She credits her side passion of photography to what she learned from Ms. Hudak in the Art Department. "I am hired by my friends today to take pictures for them, and all of my experience is from what I learned at Beaumont."

Her time at Beaumont helped her find her voice and grow in confidence. She offers this advice to current Beaumont students: "Enjoy your four years. Take advantage of all of the opportunities that you have at Beaumont and do as much as you can." Sherri notes that she still has best friends from Beaumont whom she talks to regularly, and she wants students to remember, post-graduation, that "the Beaumont community is powerful and important."



Amid COVID-19 our faculty lived the Ursuline mission of dynamic adaptability. Through dedication and courage, they offered our students both in-person and live virtual learning, creating the backbone of our amazing community. Thank you, Beaumont Teachers! **Front row (L to R):** Gail Mastrangelo, Erika Emch, Tara Limestoll, Sue Barnett, Sister Cheryl Mentkowski, Sally Hudak. **Second row (L to R):** Gretchen Santo, Stephanie Moran, Mike Pettek, Bob Crawford, Rebecca Hamrick, Maggie Mueller.

**ATTENTION 5-8TH GRADE GIRLS**

*Summer Enrichment & Athletic Camps*

**COMING JUNE & JULY 2021**

**Learn  
Cool  
Skills!**

**Bring  
Your  
Friend!**

For more information go to: [www.beaumontschool.org/summercamp](http://www.beaumontschool.org/summercamp)



# MONT TEACHERS

# You



**Third row (L to R):** Sister Ann Wojnar, Tatyana Bricker, Christina Vitatoe, Dr. Lisa Litteral, Kate Bernardo, Olivia Murdock, Alison Sukys.  
**Fourth row (L to R):** Erin O'Bryan, Alice Pamies, Sue Riley, Samiha Iskander, Lena Feduolova, Anna Bobby, Cindy Campbell, Kolleen Gregorio, Kristen LoPresti.  
**Fifth row (L to R):** Simon Masters, Mike Larsen, Chandler Arnold, Marty Steward, John Michael Langa, Mary Durkalski-Ina '07, Roberta Gigis, Christy Salata.  
**Last row (L to R):** Ann Hoelzel, Nick Beyer, Wendy Hoke, Michele Bernot. **Not pictured:** Wendy Bihuniak, Helene Dovishaw, Fernanda Goldberg, Alicia McLean.



*Shop the Barone Spirit Store!*

**BUY ONLINE AND PICK UP AT THE FRONT OFFICE**

[WWW.BEAUMONTSCHOOL.ORG/SPIRITSTORE](http://WWW.BEAUMONTSCHOOL.ORG/SPIRITSTORE)

Your purchase supports our students. #GoBlueStreaks





# STRENGTH IN

# DIVERSITY

Beaumont School has a decades-long tradition of educating a diverse student body, reflecting the rich culture of Cleveland Heights and its surrounding communities. Our Ursuline tradition and values teach us to stand in solidarity with all of humanity.

As last summer’s racial unrest unfolded across the country, educational institutions were called to account for their practices around diversity, equity and inclusion. At Beaumont, we believe we have a role to foster respect for the uniqueness of our individual community members and to promote the development of the whole person.

We commit to these roles in Beaumont School’s mission and statements of belief, and President Wendy Hoke has shared in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement: “We have a moral obligation to, as St. Angela says, teach by example. We must love our students and teach them to love as Christ did by standing up to confront the demons of prejudice and hatred in our society.”

Combating racism is intrinsic to our Catholic faith. Indeed, to be Catholic is to see the beauty of all creation made in God’s image. We have witnessed the strength of our Beaumont students, faculty and alums as they work to bring social justice, not only to our community, but to change the world around them.

### Dedication to Justice

Being an anti-racist school requires imparting to students the knowledge and values that mirror this. It requires our faculty and staff to take the same journey as our students. Over the summer, faculty and staff participated in additional training and brought back to Beaumont ideas, programs and curriculum to apply directly in our classrooms, such as English, government and humanities.

English teacher Mrs. Vitatoe explains the significance of her approach of adding black writers and perspectives of underrepresented groups such as Native American to her course work. “Certainly, attempting to be more inclusive in the curriculum is only one avenue for being mindful of diversity and inclusion within the classroom setting. Beyond a curriculum that values diversity, where students get a chance to ‘see’ themselves in the literature that I bring to the classroom, they need to trust that their own voice is valued in our discussions. One effect that I’ve noticed coming from focusing more on literary voices of color is that my students of color are more apt to speak up in class.”

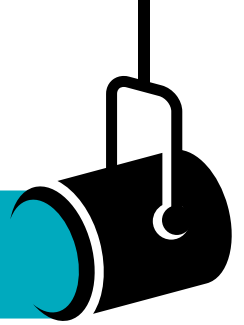
Faculty created a safe space for our students to start the Show Up Program, a student-led group to a focus on the black community, hear their stories, and inform those around them.

Students participated in an 8-week course titled “Our Story: A Survey of the Black Experience in America” along with students from both Gilmour and Laurel to learn the connection of recent events with historic roots, and self-advocacy skills.



## ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT:

# DA'NA LANGFORD '99



Da'na Langford '99 has a passion for serving underserved populations. She has been a practicing Certified Nurse Midwife for the last 10 years and is the co-founder and CEO of the Village of Healing. The community development organization offers life skills training, professional development, mentorship, educational opportunities, and financial literacy counseling. Through these services, individuals and families are provided life enhancing skills to ensure equity in the community.

Da'na has recently returned to Beaumont as a generous donor and club moderator. We had the chance to catch up with Da'na and she had much to share.

### **We are delighted to have you back at Beaumont! Tell us what you have been involved in?**

I knew that I wanted to give back and help black students benefit from a Beaumont education. I, along with a group of alums, founded BHS Black Alumni Association, a group dedicated to raising scholarship funds for deserving African American students at Beaumont and Benedictine High School. So far, we have assisted a handful of students with tuition, supplied Chromebooks and helped with school lunches.

This year I have stepped in as the moderator of FAME (Females Achieving Minority Excellence) which is a student club that celebrates minority excellence and multicultural education. FAME members are dedicated to the task of community building, exceptional leadership, active faith, and empowering one another through their high school career at Beaumont.

In addition, I have assisted with the Show Up Program over the summer to open the dialogue about race at Beaumont. I wanted to share my own experience and how it has shaped my current work in social justice. I have also participated in Career Day and shared my experiences as a black female entrepreneur.

### **What prompted you to get involved with Beaumont School again?**

It was important to me to lift up and share with young black students that their voices matter and I want students to see their potential. During high school, it's easy to not see the benefits but the foundation is being built. Ninety percent of my Beaumont friendship circle is women who have earned their Master's degree. I want this model to be the norm, not the exception, for future Beaumont students.

### **What values/skills do you feel are most important for young people to learn when it comes to anti-racism and social justice work?**

I want young people to learn to value open communication, especially when it may be uncomfortable. "Embrace the uncomfortable and appreciate those differences" is my mantra. We must respect where people come from based on an education of our differences.

### **What did your experience at Beaumont teach you about anti-racism and social justice?**

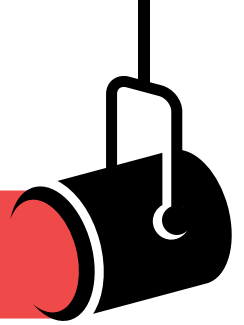
Mr. Crawford, my world history teacher, allowed me to ask questions and created an environment where we could ask "Why is that?". Allowing for an open discussion, helped create in me the desire to speak my mind and build my confidence. The race relations at Beaumont were not perfect but by reflecting on my experience, I have come to value the importance of my education. I want current students to see fellow successful black women that they can look up to and relate to.

### **What do you hope to see happen at Beaumont School in terms of anti-racism/social justice in the coming years?**

I'd like to see a continued effort towards open dialogue in the Beaumont community through a willingness to get uncomfortable. I hope that my involvement in FAME and Show Up will allow me the opportunities to engage with the students to share the importance of open communication. In addition, I believe a black history course and further anti-racism training should be available for all students and faculty. The best way to improve race relations is to understand and hear each other's perspectives. This can only be achieved through education and open communication.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

# SHANNON BLANKENSHIP '21



Shannon has been a leader at Beaumont from the beginning. As a senior this year, she helped start the student-led Show Up Program this past summer to put a focus on the black community, hear their stories, and inform those around them. They added the LGBTQIA+ community this fall, and want to impact not only Beaumont, but the greater community as well. You can follow them on Instagram at @showupprogram. She will attend SUNY Brockport in the fall 2021, where she will play basketball and major in broadcasting and journalism, with a concentration in Sports.

### **Who has been your inspiration when it comes to social justice/anti-racism?**

Personally, my grandfather/family is my inspiration. He was born in 1935, and if he was still living, he would only be 85. When he was growing up, he would be taken out of

grade school to go work tobacco fields for rich white men. He left home at 15 with little to no education, in hopes of finding a better life and it's hard to believe it was less than 100 years ago. This is my inspiration. I feel I must lead the Show Up program at Beaumont because I want to show that my family did not go through everything for me to not make a difference.

### **What values do you feel are most important for young people to learn when it comes to social justice and anti-racism work?**

Young people should learn that when it comes to social justice, you have to pick your battles. There are always going to be people that try to get under your skin and only focus on frustrating you. We are taught in history class that even if a side wins the battle, it does not mean they win the war. Social justice is a war

for equality. If you fight every battle, you tire yourself out. Not every battle is worth fighting.

### **What has your experience at Beaumont taught you about social justice and anti-racism?**

Beaumont has taught me that even in the safest place, there are still people that do not want to see you succeed. I've spent the last four years meeting new people, making friends with people of all interests and passions. I never thought I would have to defend myself for being black. I never thought I would have to sit down and talk about why being racist in a diverse school is unacceptable. To me, Beaumont is a safe space; however, they cannot control everything that happens outside of school. Students must handle situations that they didn't think they would have to. My experience here taught me that social justice lies in every corner and you must be tough enough to face it head-on, and sometimes by yourself.

### **What do you hope to see happen at Beaumont in terms of social justice/anti-racism programs and projects in the coming years?**

I hope Beaumont does not slow down. This fight for equality cannot be taken lightly. We need to continue to push and show that we are in full support of oppressed communities everywhere. I hope that the school becomes more involved in the outside community. I want to see that Beaumont is not just trying to get more black students to come here, we need people talking, starting drives, collecting money, having people visit our school. It's bigger than us and I hope that Beaumont students continue to inform and educate people.

### **How has Beaumont prepared you to be a leader?**

Beaumont has enabled me to be the person and leader I am now. I am where I want to be in regard to leadership. There is always room for improvement, but I want to find a stronger voice for myself. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities Beaumont has given me.





# Bloom

## WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

Josephine Smyser '26 shares her passion for service as a Beaumont student and a Girl Scout.



I've been a Girl Scout since the first grade. My troop focused on the basics such as learning to camp, build fires, and canoe. Of course, we sell cookies too! That has helped me learn about relationships and business skills. I'm lucky to have had generous women who stepped up to guide our troop and serve as leaders and role models for us.

I think there are a lot of similarities between being a Girl Scout and attending Beaumont. Both are girl-powered and supportive of me and my dreams. President Hoke encourages Beaumont students to be brave and Girl

Scouts gives me the opportunity to put those words into action and try new things. Because of Girl Scouts, I came to Beaumont knowing that a group of girls can do great things when we are united in vision and spirit. I think that is why it's been so easy for me to embrace my Beaumont sisters and charge ahead with making our world a better place.

The opportunity to pursue service projects have presented challenges that have opened me to new experiences. My troop developed new skills researching and creating a survey and video about body image and teenagers. My Beaumont sisters helped us when almost 100 of them participated in our research. We could not have done it without them. Last summer, I earned my Girl Scout Silver Award by working with four other scouts to make a whole new trail at the Mentor Marsh. The first step of this process was working with our advisor, a naturalist from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who educated us on the land's history, the different plants in the marsh, and most importantly, the value of native plants and why we must conserve them. We designed the trail and removed the invasive plants, making space for native plants to grow. We will plant native plants using grant money we were awarded from

the local chapter of the Native Plants Society of America. Through all the physical and emotional labor, my Silver Award project ignited a love of plants, especially the native ones. My overall goal for the trail was to educate people about the beauty of native plants and in the process, I learned to appreciate them myself.

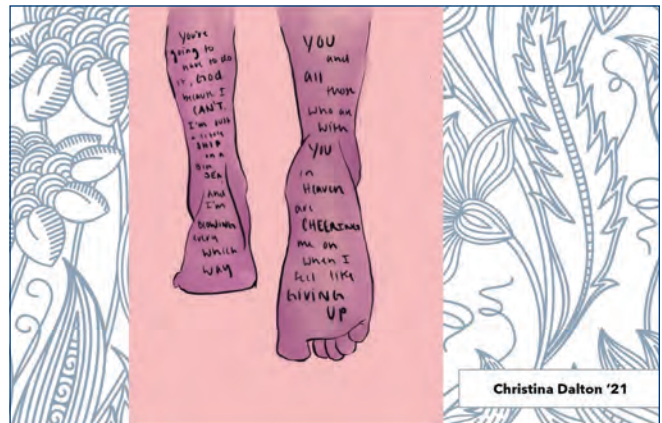
Service is the thing that unites my work at Beaumont and my activities as a scout. The Mentor Marsh project connects with other volunteer work I've been doing for four years with the Lake Metroparks where I work with children who were learning the skills of being a naturalist. I guess that was the first volunteer work I did when I realized how fun it is to share the simple joy and beauty found in the natural world with other people. At Beaumont, I have been touched by the life of Sister Dorothy Kazel and inspired by her example. Because of her, I know that my life will have a deeper meaning if I am of service to others. Beaumont and Girl Scouts have taught me that service is not a chore. Service is an opportunity to create, bring joy, and make a difference.



# SISTER DOROTHY KAZEL REMEMBRANCE

**"I want to be remembered as an Alleluia from head to foot."**

—Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU 1939-1980



Christina Dalton '21

Directed by Fine Arts Instructor Ms. Kristen LoPresti, Beaumont Studio Art IV students created the Walk with Us Sister Dorothy Footsteps project, honoring Sister Dorothy's quotes and prayers.

Beaumont honored Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU, former Beaumont School Guidance counselor, on December 2. That date marked the 40th commemoration of her martyrdom in El Salvador, along with Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, and Lay Missionary Jean Donovan. To enjoy our full remembrance, visit [beaumontschool.org/Dorothy](http://beaumontschool.org/Dorothy).



Mass of Remembrance at Beaumont School led by Father Tom Fanta of St. Dominic.



Some of Sister Dorothy's personal items and writings were on display in our lobby, on loan from Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland archives.



Beaumont designed and distributed commemorative t-shirts to students, faculty, staff, Board members, and the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland.





Beaumont Drama Club prepares for A Way To Serve: Dorothy Kazel.



President Wendy Hoke interviewed Sister Martha Owen in a 3-part podcast series available at [beaumontschool.org/podcasts](https://beaumontschool.org/podcasts).

## Sister Dorothy Kazel A REMEMBRANCE

In her alumnae quarterly communication, President Hoke invited alumnae to participate in this commemoration by sharing their Sister Dorothy memories. Mary Beth Dulzer '74, offers this glimpse of Sister Dorothy's lasting impact on the students she served, and Sister Beverly Anne LoGrasso, O.S.U, shared reactions to the impact Sister Dorothy had on her and so many. Read full accounts online at [beaumontschool.org/Dorothy](https://beaumontschool.org/Dorothy).

### From Mary Beth Dulzer '74

I first met Sister Dorothy at Beaumont School. I was a student from 1971 to '74. Sister Dorothy was a guidance counselor, and she was also my shorthand teacher. I occasionally use shorthand to this day, and naturally I think of her every time I do.

I've heard it said more than once over the years that Sister Dorothy was an ordinary woman who lived an extraordinary life. I've always disagreed with that assessment. To me, Sister Dorothy **was** an extraordinary woman. She belonged to that rare breed, naturally gifted with an innate, selfless goodness and indomitably cheerful, kind and warm spirit. I refer to these individuals, the few I've met in my life, as "shining". Sister Dorothy was a shining woman. Because of this, people were drawn to her like moths to a flame.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Sister Dorothy's wonderful sense of humor, vivaciousness and adventurous spirit. A favorite memory comes to mind. It was a blustery winter day and I was in class, glancing out the window just in time to see Sister Dorothy in a black shawl and snow boots scurrying to get to another building. The walk became slippery, and at one point she almost lost control. She quickly recovered, however, and started "ice skating" her way to the building, shawl flapping in the wind, an exuberant expression on her face.

During those years at Beaumont, I witnessed Sister Dorothy reach out to many hurting young people. She genuinely cared and wanted to help, and she did help in very tangible ways. She often went above and beyond just a listening ear and sprang into action whenever a situation called for it. She meaningfully interacted, fearlessly got involved and made a positive difference in so many lives. Extraordinary!

### From Sister Beverly Anne LoGrasso, OSU

The lives of Dorothy, Maura, Ita and Jean teach me that the heroism of martyred saints originates in ordinary Christians taking the Gospel seriously in situations of violent oppression. As St. Oscar Romero pointed out: Those who are committed to the poor risk the same fate as the poor. If the women are never officially canonized, they will always be saints to me and thousands of others.

#### Some personal "snapshot" memories:

- Dorothy, well loved by students, including my sister Barb, at Sacred Heart Academy in the typing room where she taught business classes
- Dorothy in the Beaumont cafeteria at her family good-bye party in the summer of 1980; her uncle begged her NOT to return to Salvador
- Dorothy's love of collecting driftwood from Lake Erie and painting Scripture quotes on it
- Dorothy's bright spirit, open, gentle, manner which seemed to hide a depth of spirit, determination, searching
- Dorothy piling us into a car to attend a charismatic prayer meeting at St. Joseph High School
- We gathered around the Beaumont convent fireplace the night we heard of the murder. Sister Francis Patrick was stunned and just kept repeating: "Why would anyone want to kill Dorothy?"
- Dorothy's funeral in St. John Cathedral on a bitter cold night, when the entire main aisle was lined by an honor guard of priests for her coffin; Bishop Pilla preached.
- Dorothy's winter boots on the "grab table" at Beaumont convent. I stopped dead in my tracks when I saw them; I thought: "Shouldn't we be saving these as first class relics?" One of the Sisters said: "Dorothy would rather they be given to the poor."

# DONOR REPORT 2019-2020

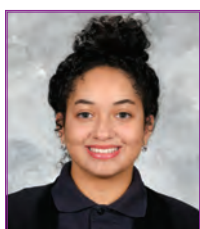
“Thank you!” Beaumont School students tell us what they love about the school and community, and share the lifelong lessons they are learning.



I was drawn to Beaumont in eighth grade because of its community and I have not been disappointed since. I have come

to meet my best friends who I know will be in my wedding someday. I am surrounded by love whenever I walk into the building and I am abounding with joy that I am able to attend Beaumont because of your help.

—Christina Parker '21



I have really enjoyed being back on campus. After we left school in May, I realized just how much I value in-person classes. This is

why I am so happy that Beaumont has been able to offer both in-person and virtual classes. While this has definitely been an *interesting* year, I have still managed to continue focusing on my future at college. I'm planning to get my Bachelor's degree in human-computer interaction and pursue a career as a user interface designer.

—Lillian Irizarry '22



Through the rigorous and challenging classes I have taken, I could not have picked a better school to prepare me for university and

what follows. I have learned why it is so important to be a well-rounded student both academically and socially. Through the clubs and sports I participate in, I have learned skills like leadership, teamwork, and communication. It is because of your willingness to sacrifice for people like me that I have become the person I am today.

—Moira Ginley '21



Beaumont has been the perfect fit for me, and I am so proud and lucky to have your scholarship to support me. The environment of

Beaumont is so welcoming and open. I have made many friendships that have continued from my freshman year. Although COVID-19 has brought change, I have adapted. My favorite class right now is Chemistry. Even though there is a lot of work in that class, many of the concepts make sense to me which make the class more enjoyable. Currently, my hardest class is American Literature. The teacher is very tough, but

I know that I will come out being a better and stronger writer. Right now, I am involved in Latin Club, Irish-American Club, Ambassadors, Academic Scholars, and softball. I love all my clubs and the opportunities they give me.

—Molly Manning '23



I cannot express how much I've changed for the better in the past three months or how thankful I am for your help. I ran for Student

Council and am now a member of the class of 2024 board. I also made the basketball team, auditioned for a play, and acted in a play. I am an active member in the Ambassadors Club, Spirit Club, the Beaumont Drama Club, and F.A.M.E (*Females Achieving Minority Excellence*). This year I've stepped out of my comfort zone and accomplished the goals that I could have only dreamed about last year.

I am honored to be a Beaumont student, and I've been honoring this title before I even knew if I was a Beaumont student. I feel like the best thing about Beaumont is equality. No one is given a better chance than another, whether you're white, black, tall, short, democrat, republican, rich, or poor, everyone is supporting you. There are no favorites.

—A'Kayla Ivory '24





My years at Beaumont have been wonderful so far. This year, I am taking all IB classes as I am an IB Diploma Candidate. It is

super challenging, but so worth it! My favorite class this year is my IB French course. I have grown an immense love for the French language while at Beaumont. I am now considering minoring in French while at college. Volleyball this season was a great success. We were able to advance to the district finals.

—*Alycen Radolovic '22*



Beaumont gives me so many opportunities to strive and be a successful young woman, but the best experience I've had here so

far is the amazing art program. Studio Art has sculpted me to be an amazing artist, a profession I hope to pursue after high school. I have had the honor of attending three art shows which have all been great experiences and I have been awarded with two Scholastic Art awards over the years.

—*Ashley C. Morris '21*



Beaumont is a place filled with positive reinforcement, shoulders to cry on, people to lean on, and friends to laugh with. Beaumont

is the epitome of what I desire our world to look like: one filled with strong, independent minds.

—*Madyson Treharne '22*



I'm very excited to be involved with new clubs and to form relationships with my classmates. Being able to come to Beaumont every day, meet new

people, make friends, and form relationships with my teachers has made me very grateful that Beaumont is open for in-person learning. The recent situation with COVID has also made me think a lot about what I want to do in the future. Since I've always been interested in science and math, this has influenced me to aim towards a career in medicine, like developing new medicines or vaccines.

—*Madison Willoughby '24*



I chose to attend Beaumont my freshman year because of the sense of community and sisterhood I experienced on my visits. I am so happy

with my decision and I love all the people and experiences I have encountered. I most enjoy the welcoming and vibrant atmosphere at school, and I will be forever grateful for the bonds I am able to create every day. Thank you so much for furthering these opportunities!

—*Olivia Carmichael '22*



I am glad that Beaumont has the option for in-person learning because it gives me the chance to be more engaged in class. Being

a Beaumont student has really helped me understand what being in a community is like and always having someone to help.

—*Laila McMichael '23*



I want to share with you a little bit about why I chose Beaumont and what I enjoy most about my Beaumont experience. I chose

Beaumont for two main reasons: the first being that my older sister, who also attended Beaumont, used to constantly tell me that her Beaumont friends were some of the kindest and funniest girls she's ever met; and the second being the Studio Art Program. The two main reasons I chose Beaumont, are similarly the two aspects of my Beaumont experience that mean the most to me. The girls that I am lucky enough to call my best friends are truly the kindest, sweetest, funniest, most compassionate, and most courageous girls that I have ever met. I can honestly say that doing virtual school last spring and not being able to see these girls every day, was one of the hardest challenges I have faced in high school.

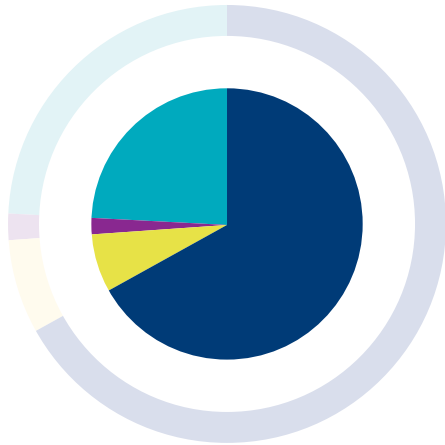
Being a part of the Studio Art Program at Beaumont has undoubtedly shaped the girl that I am today. The other girls in this program support me, inspire me, and create with me. My time in the Studio Art Program taught me not only which techniques and mediums I like to use, but, additionally, how I can use these techniques to express myself through visual art. I am forever grateful for the opportunities that this program has given me.

—*Seneca Rulison '21*



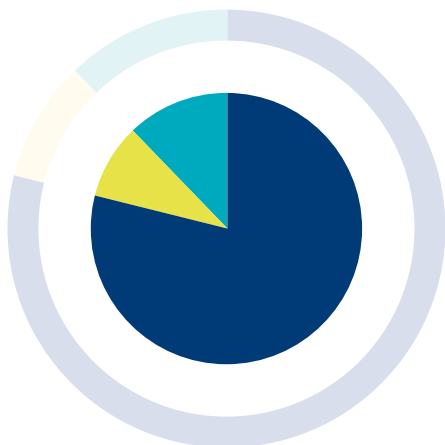
DONOR REPORT 2019-2020

# FINANCIALS



## INCOME

- Net Tuition ..... \$4,210,881
- Other Services ..... \$430,815
- Mandated Services ..... \$115,138
- Support ..... \$1,509,534



## EXPENSES

- Program ..... \$5,702,657
- Administrative ..... \$642,464
- Fundraising ..... \$862,369

# Why We GIVE



“Giving to the Merici Challenge is impactful for me because I was only able to attend Beaumont School with financial assistance, so I hope that my contribution to the Challenge can help another student have the same opportunity. Beaumont School was an enriching experience that I believe

other students would be lucky to have. It gave me the rigor and discipline to prepare me for college, while creating a nurturing environment as I grew into adulthood.”

—**Tanisha Wilburn '00**,  
Merici Challenge Sustaining Supporter

“I want my donations to go where they are needed. This year, I supported summer training for the teachers to enhance their virtual learning knowledge to be better prepared for the fall.”

—**Anonymous Donor**, 10 years



“It’s been more than 10 years since I graduated Beaumont and as I reflect on my years since graduation, I realize that I am the woman I am today because of Beaumont. Beaumont taught me the importance of speaking with confidence and recognizing my own worth, while also empowering others to

recognize their strength and voice. The world needs more “Beaumont Girls” who bring intelligence, kindness, and a passion for justice into the world and the only way we can continue to do that is by supporting the school, its graduates, its current students and its future students through mentorships and scholarships.”

—**Elizabeth Walton '09**, 3rd Generation Legacy Donor  
(Grandmother Clare Kirchner Schuele '54 (dec.) and Mother Dr. Karen Schuele '76)



# To all our Benefactors and Friends of Beaumont,

We hope this message finds you and your family safe, healthy and settling into 2021 with a hopeful outlook on the year to come.

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 threw us all some curveballs and presented many challenges and surprises. Here at Beaumont, we teach our students to rise to meet a challenge and face it head-on. Facing adversities helps to build character, strength and resilience. We know that last year made our Beaumont community stronger, more courageous and determined to succeed regardless of the circumstances.



## In that spirit, we would like to emphasize some points of light and pride from 2020:

- In March 2020, our faculty pivoted in just a few days to provide a virtual/online learning experience for our students in all classes following the Governor's order mandating a shut-down.
- Thanks to a generous donor, our teachers attended countless hours of continuing education this summer to learn the newest online teaching technologies to upgrade virtual learning experiences for our scholars.
- This summer, a group of students took it upon themselves to start a new campus organization called the *Show Up Program* which is focused on supporting our diverse student communities through the power of storytelling.
- Through the summer, our Leadership Team and Facilities Department worked tirelessly to plan and implement COVID safety measures to ensure thorough sanitization of our facilities and proper social distancing of our students, faculty and staff throughout the day.
- Our strong faculty partnered with us to deliver a superior student experience during a pandemic and opened in August for **in-person classes** that continued throughout the year with the exception of Thanksgiving to New Year's. Students returned in person in January.
- We experienced the immense generosity of our donors in the spring of 2020 to surpass our annual fund goal.
- Our second cohort of IB Diploma students tested in the 85th percentile on their IB exams. These high scores are typically not seen until the fifth year after the program has been established.
- We provided \$50,000 in one-time COVID relief grants for our families who needed extra financial assistance.
- Working with Bialosky Cleveland, we began a comprehensive Master Campus Plan process to create long-term vision for Beaumont's campus.
- Our Admissions and Marketing Departments implemented a hybrid virtual/in-person recruitment strategy for the fall season.
- Our enrollment stayed steady at 325 students for the 2020-21 school year.

We know we could not have gotten through the last year as successfully as we did without you – our Beaumont family of alumnae, donors, and friends. All of us felt your support. We are truly grateful for your prayers, donations, words of encouragement, and your partnership and belief in our mission to educate women for life, leadership and service.

Know that our work continues. The young women in our halls today are learning to change the world with your help and support.

We look forward to the time when we can gather with you in person and celebrate together. Until then, dear friends, stay safe and healthy, care for each other, wear your mask, and wash your hands.

Yours in St. Angela,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Curran".

Mary Curran  
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy A. Hoke".

Wendy A. Hoke  
President

# NEWS AND NOTES

## ALUMNAE



**Kelly Gehrs Engstrom '98**, Director of Operations for celebrity interior designer Nate Berkus, now oversees his expansive range of projects and digital platforms for [www.nateberkus.com](http://www.nateberkus.com). She speaks at professional conferences and webinars to mentor and advocate for assistants in the industry.



**Kayla Primes '14** was recently promoted to Legislative Assistant (LA), the second highest legislative position in her congressional office. At age 25, she is the youngest LA on Capitol Hill. Kayla also is Vice President of the Congressional Black Associates (CBA), the oldest and largest association of African American staffers on Capitol Hill. She hopes to begin law school in the future.



**Gianna Gaspar '17** made the most of her time home from college during the pandemic by sewing masks for various businesses along with donating them to healthcare workers. Check out the custom masks (see above) she designed for Beaumont.



**Alexandra Andrus '17** works as a student ambassador for local company University Tees and designed our popular Tie Dye Hoodie (see above).

## WELCOME, THERESA DAY

Theresa Day has joined Beaumont School as our new Director of Alumnae Relations and Reunion Giving.



Theresa brings a wealth of knowledge to this position with over 10 years of experience working as an Event Planner and Community Fundraiser in the nonprofit sector.

She is no stranger to the all-girls high school environment coming to us from her previous position as the Assistant Director of Development at Magnificat High School.

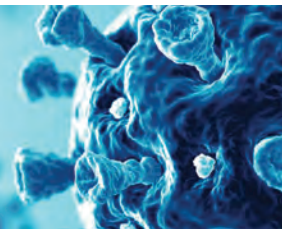
"I am excited to be a part of the Beaumont community and to have the opportunity to connect and build relationships with all the Alumnae," says Theresa.

This past winter, Theresa hit the ground running to launch the online auction for the Beaumont Beau-tique, as well as the Annual Day of Giving. She already has a full calendar of events scheduled for 2021. We welcome the newest member of our Advancement team and look forward to all the wonderful things to come. Beaumont alumnae are welcome to contact Theresa at [tday@beaumontschool.org](mailto:tday@beaumontschool.org).



## How do you solve a problem like COVID-19?

**Meg Ruesch '87** on her year developing the vaccine that is changing our lives



It was late Sunday, early Monday morning on November 9, 2020, when it was announced that the results of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine trials showed the vaccine was more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID.

“We had been gearing up to produce vaccine since we started working on this (last March,” said Dr. Margaret

“Meg” Taylor Ruesch '87, vice president of research and development at Pfizer in Boston. “We were all waiting for clinical readout.” When they received the news, “it was such a huge moment. We’ve all worked on projects that for whatever reason, biologically, don’t work out.”

“This was a huge celebration and then – gulp – we’ve really got to make as much vaccine as possible.”

When they received the order in March to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 and plan to manufacture 50 to 60 million doses by the end of 2020, Meg said the team of biologists, biochemists and engineers set about asking questions like:

- How do you make vaccine at a large scale?
- What are the critical attributes of vaccine to test on every batch?

- How should the vaccine be stored to ensure quality?

The goal this year is to make 2 billion doses. Meg says their team approaches their work with a great sense of purpose. Their motto is, “Science will win.” As she discusses in our Beyond Beaumont Podcast, when you’re given such a tall order that literally changes the trajectory of lives across the globe, you start by working across disciplines with a lot of people trying to figure out how to develop a process to manufacture a high-quality, safe, consistent, and effective vaccine in large numbers.

Working with external stakeholders, including their partners at the German company BioNTech, regulatory agencies and vendors, Meg said it was critical to be flexible and open to collaboration, even working through the Thanksgiving holiday with European regulators. In February, Pfizer reported that it had cut the vaccine production time by nearly 50 percent, with Meg’s team working to consistently and safely improve manufacturing capacity toward that two-billion dose goal.

In addition to our conversation about COVID vaccine – which Beaumont faculty, staff and coaches have received – Meg also talks about the importance of mentors, balancing being a mother, wife and researcher, navigating a career in the sciences as a woman, and how Beaumont prepared her for her role.

— Wendy Hoke

Hear Wendy’s full conversation with Meg on the *Beyond Beaumont Podcast* at: [beaumontschool.org/podcasts](https://beaumontschool.org/podcasts).

## CLASS NOTES

Please find Class Notes online at [beaumontschool.org/beaumontnews](https://beaumontschool.org/beaumontnews).

## IN MEMORIAM

### From July 1, 2020 – March 11, 2021

Marie Stuble Jefferis '34  
 Carolyn Prutton Small '45  
 Sally Lanigan '47  
 Jackie Vignos Murphy '48  
 Nancy Reifke Sindelar '49  
 Lois Matia Podway '51

Dottie Durbin Caine '52  
 Nanette Rees O'Callaghan '53  
 Joan McDonnell Coughlin '54  
 Faye Petersen Hollis '54  
 Clare Kirchner Schuele '54  
 Sue Giebel McGinness '56  
 Kathleen Entrup Messer '57

Marylyn Mosinski Latek '59  
 Marilyn Smayda Kidd '60  
 Mary Richardson Allen '63  
 Jan Crowley Hall '63  
 Carol Ann Kuhner '67  
 Kathleen Cugini Nichol '73  
 Daiva Marcinkevicius Kinnavy '75

Andrea Chapman Stephens '82  
 Gina Laurienzo '84  
 Tina Modica '88  
 Therese DePompei '95  
 Alex Wuertz '17

**FOLLOW US!**

-Facebook: Beaumont School  
-Instagram and Twitter:  
@BeaumontSchool1  
-LinkedIn



You may go paperless by adding your name to the Beaumont School's Green List on the bottom of the contact update form at [beaumontschool.org/updateinfo](https://www.beaumontschool.org/updateinfo), and we will notify you when the latest issue of Beaumont News and Class Notes are available online.

**Reunion 2021**

Merici Challenge

*Today your gift can go twice as far*

**SAVE THE DATE: Reunion 2021**

**September 24 - 25**

<https://www.beaumontschool.org/reunion>