

# MIS MESSENGER

Winter 2013-2014

Communications for Mary Immaculate School Alumni and Faculty

## Alumni Mass this Weekend

MIS is kicking off Catholic Schools Week by honoring our alumni at 10:30 p.m. mass on this Sunday, January 26, 2014 at Mary Immaculate Church. Students from MIS will be assisting at the Mass as greeters, lectors and choir.

All MIS alumni, alumni teachers and their families are invited to join us in prayer and fellowship at the mass.

## Thanks for your Help on Security Upgrades at MIS!

2012-2013 marked a landmark in security at MIS. Fundraising and careful budgeting from both administration and the Parent Teacher Club during the 2013-2014 school year allowed approximately \$100,000 in security upgrades at MIS, including:

- A remodeled front entry with camera security system and magnetic-lock doors that can be locked/unlocked with the touch of the button from the office. The new entry also offers a solid wall for extended protection to the Kindergarten Hallway.
- A visitor management/tracking system, with visitor stickers made from a scan of the visitor's drivers license.
- Replacement of 50+ year old doors in the junior high and kindergarten wings
- New double-keyholed doorknobs on every classroom and exterior office that can be locked from either inside or outside of the room with a key, to replace old doorknobs which required locking from the exterior.



The students and parents of MIS send a big thank you to all who contributed to these security upgrades through MIS Annual Giving Campaign donations, magazine and Amazon.com purchases via our website links, and participation in the MIS Heart of Gold Auction. Your generosity helps to make MIS a safe environment for our students and teachers!

## Scholarships Available for MIS Students and Alumni

High school seniors whose families are parishioners at any of the 75+ Catholic churches within the Diocese of Dallas can apply for a \$2,500 College Spirit of Love Scholarship. Established in memory of **Rebekah Leah Rivera '97**, these scholarships assist students from Rebekah's faith communities who best demonstrate that they use their God given gifts and talents to serve others. Over \$60,000 has been awarded through the Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation scholarships since 2005.

To be eligible for a Spirit of Love Scholarship, the student must offer proof of community service, provide a written essay, and present at least one recommendation letter before the February 25, 2014 deadline. Students are not required to attend a Catholic high school to be eligible for this scholarship.

For full details/application form, please visit [www.rebekahleahrivera.org](http://www.rebekahleahrivera.org).

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OF MIS ON  
FACEBOOK!

# Finding her niche with a canine twist

Angela Larrosa '94 found inspiration from two interests near and dear to her heart that many people would find rather contradictory: fashion and dogs.

In August 2012, after 10 years as a restaurant/bar consultant, Angela was exhausted by late nights and long hours working in jobs that did not provide a feeling of self-fulfillment and accomplishment. She longed for a career in fashion and design, but a move to fashion centers like New York or Los Angeles was overwhelmed by her strong desire to stay in Dallas.

Spending time with her Bichon Frise, Lola, provided the extra motivation Angela needed in order to make the career change. She put her business skills into high gear, investigating fast growing markets in the pet services industry. Through her research, she found that she could put her bachelors of Art History degree from Southern Methodist University to good use at the same time in the canine clothing and accessories niche, and from there Lola Couture was born.

The Lola Couture line currently sells through Downtown Pawz in downtown Dallas, and has shown strong sales to dog lovers in the uptown /downtown area. An e-commerce website for the line is under development, and due for release in early 2014.

“Lola Couture has truly been the outcome of perseverance and hard work, but it I’ve had and lots of fun working with dog lovers and pet friendly organizations locally,” says Angela. “I’ve been so inspired with this line, that I also plan on launching Lola Couture Baby in the Spring of 2014, a line of baby clothing for infants and toddlers up to age two!”

In her spare time, Angela enjoys spending time with her family and traveling, particularly in Greece and the Middle East. Operation Kindness, a no kill shelter and non-profit organization, reaps the benefit of Angela’s commitment to community service, which dates back to her years at MIS. She believes that giving back to the community is very important, so proceeds of her business are donated to Operation Kindness.



Angela’s dog Lola does her share of being involved in the community too! As a service dog with a non-profit organization called Love on a Leash, Lola visits nursing homes and children who are in the hospital to bring love, laughter, and smiles to all those who come her way.

*Angela lives in the Dallas area and can be reach via email at [alarrosa@icloud.com](mailto:alarrosa@icloud.com).*

Hi from **Elizabeth Embree Miller '76!** My parents, Pete and Terry Embree, still live on Maydelle Lane, so I come in from Bentonville, Arkansas to visit. Bryan and I are buying a fishing cabin on Whidbey Island in Washington State, not that I fish much yet, but it's beautiful there. I am looking forward to reading about friends in the newsletter!

**Lisa Chmiola '90** began working as Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving at St. Agnes Academy in Houston in fall 2013. In this role, she will work with the leadership team of the Catholic college preparatory school on capital campaigns and estate gifts. Lisa was also recently named to the Board of Directors of the Planned Giving Council of Houston as Web and Social Media Chairman.

**Karla Ceballos '02** strikes a pose in front of her artwork.

**Brittany Claypool '06** and **Murphy Nixon '09** show off the many awards earned by the MIS Highsteppers at a December 2013 competition. Brittany and Murphy stepped forward to coach the award-winning drill team when **Liz Mahaffey '93** retired from the position this past year.



**Congratulations to our MIS alumni honored this year for their outstanding PSAT/SAT scores:**

National Merit Commended Scholar: **Sarah Rempe '10** from Hebron HS

National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholars: **Adrian Collins '10** from Ursuline

## In memory: Fr. Robert

Rev. Robert J. Vreteau, OMI, former pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish died at Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio, Texas on November 12, 2013, at the age of 94 years. Fr. Robert entered St. Peter's Novitiate on June 28, 1940, in Mission, Texas, and professed vows as a member of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on June 29, 1941. Fr. Robert completed his studies in philosophy and theology at the DeMazenod Scholasticate, now Oblate School of Theology, in San Antonio. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1946, at St. Mary's Church in San Antonio, by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, DD. Fr. Robert's first assignment was as Associate Pastor at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also served as Associate Pastor at St. Joan of Arc in Weslaco, Texas; Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston, Texas; St. Alphonsus in San Antonio, Texas; and Our Lady of Sorrows in San Antonio, Texas.

Fr. Robert served as Assistant Pastor in charge of missions at St. Mary's in Ballinger, Texas and then as Pastor of that parish before serving as Pastor at Mary Immaculate Parish in Dallas, Texas from 1957-1969 and 1972-1973. Under his direction, a permanent residence for the priests was purchased. Within the same year, a chapel/cafeteria was completed and dedicated on parish property at Valwood Parkway and Dennis Lane. In 1959, he began MIS with the help of Benedictine nuns who came to staff the school, using temporary buildings. Permanent offices and classrooms were built in 1962. In 1964 a worship space was built using the original master plan, which eventually became our full sized gymnasium.

Fr. Robert also served at St. Helen's in Pearland, Texas; Sacred Heart in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Sacred Heart in Seymour, Texas; St. Thomas in Big Spring, Texas; Our Lady of Guadalupe in Midland, Texas; and Sacred Heart in Del Rio, Texas. In 2000, Fr. Robert

retired and moved to Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio, Texas. Fr. Robert will be remembered with respect and esteem by his Oblate brothers and all the people who were recipients of his pastoral care.



*Fr. Robert (center) examining parish blueprints on the land at Valwood and Dennis prior to the groundbreaking for the permanent parish buildings.*

# MIS Class Notes

Our list of class reps is growing, and we'd love to add you to our list! As class rep, you serve as an ambassador for your class by promoting the involvement and fostering a spirit of loyalty and pride in MIS among your classmates. Responsibilities of the class rep are to advise the MIS Alumni Association of class gatherings and provide the association with updated address information on your classmates. For more information or to become a class rep, please contact **Lisa Gonzales Leos '91** at leosinc@hotmail.com.

GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME	GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME
1959				1986			
1960				1987			
1961				1988	Suzy Rossol Matheson	srossol@hotmail.com	
1962				1989	Thomas Brock	thethomas@thomasbrock.net	
1963	Priscilla Morantes Mahaffey	priscillamahaffey@gmail.com		1990	Lisa Chmiola Burns	lisac77@yahoo.com	MIS Class of 1990 Reunion
1964	Fred McCurley, Andy Reddick	fmcurlley@flash.net; andy@andyreddick.com		1991	Lisa Gonzales Leos	leosinc@hotmail.com	
1965				1992			
1966				1993	Sally Hill Derrick Liz Mahaffey	sally.derrick@gmail.com MahaffeyE@cfbisd.edu	MIS Class of 93
1967				1994			
1968	Lib Grimmett/ Connie Black Taylor Bratton	libgrimmett@hotmail.com		1995	Elizabeth Lucier Sobczyk	lizzielou81@gmail.com	
1969				1996	Anne Marie Lucier Bierman	annybierman@gmail.com	M.I.S. Class of '96
1970	Lois Zacha (Burt)	lezacha@aol.com		1997			
1971				1998	Beth Beste		
1972				1999	Stephanie Wilson Koch	se506@aol.com	
1973	Doug Kile/ James McGinn	dkile@techlightusa.com		2000			
1974				2001			
1975	Joe Meza	jmeza2002@msn.com		2002			
1976	Linda Eifert Lee	lindaclaudette@verizon.net		2003			
1977				2004			
1978				2005			
1979	Rosemary Schmitz Martinez	rmartinez@mischool.org	Mary Immaculate School Class of 1979 - Farmers Branch	2006			
1980				2007			
1981	Kristin Heath Florence	kfflorence@sbcglobal.net		2008			
1982	Mary DelValle Fregia	fregiafam5@gmail.com		2009	Parker Martinez	parkermartinez@hotmail.com	
1983				2010			
1984				2011			
1985				2012			
				2013			

## Development Plans for 2013-14: Your Dollars Going towards the Library and iPads

This year, financial development efforts beyond bridging the tuition gap will be contributed towards upgrades to the MIS Library and towards iPad sets for each of the four school wings (Kindergarten, Primary, Intermediate and Jr. High).

Upgrades to the Library began last year, with a tremendous improvement to the Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Successful results in the past few years from the Saxon Phonics Program that begins in Kindergarten encouraged Karen Saldana, our school librarian, to introduce the AR Program at first grade instead of waiting until second grade. In addition to the additional tests required for the younger readers, MIS extended access to AR Reading Practice Quizzes from 10,000 to more than 150,000 quizzes on fiction and nonfiction books that are considered essential reads covering content-area subjects.

MIS also began assessing technology in the library, with the intent of removing the bulky desktop computers and computer desks. Laptops that can be used at the group tables have been acquired, and will be introduced once monitoring software is purchased and installed.

The next phase of Library improvements will be more visible, and will require approximately \$80,000 from our development activities this year: seating and shelving that will enable better flow within the library and will section off an office area for Mrs. Saldana. A multi-level storytime area is also being considered for the K-2nd graders.

Discussions regarding Spanish Language Labs evolved last year, along with the realization that the best way to implement the labs would be through apps compatible with iPads, in mobile labs that can accompany the Spanish teachers from room to room. With over 20,000 educational apps, the iPads could be used in numerous other learning situations as well, and is a tool that is well liked by teachers as well as students.

The drawback? Cost. Two 20-iPad sets and two 30-iPad sets with wheeled charging carts and classroom monitoring software will run approximately \$43,000.

Realizing that the expense could not be covered in one year by the technology budget, plans were made to purchase quantities over the span of 3 years. Purchases actually began this past summer through the technology budget, with an iPad acquired for each of our teachers. This early introduction will enable the teachers research time to determine the best apps use within their lesson plans.

This year, over 85% of our current school families, 100% of our school leadership, and 100% of our staff/faculty have already contributed to the 2013-2014 MIS Annual Giving Campaign, which currently sits at \$89,000. Over \$7,000 of this has come from alumni and alumni families. Tuition gap and endowment fund requirements have been covered, so any additional gifts to the campaign will feed directly into the Library revitalization and iPad special projects.

We would love your support too!  
We invite you to express your faith and belief in Catholic education with a gift to the 2013-2014 MIS Annual Giving Campaign.

Together we can continue the tradition of generosity and the tradition of quality education at Mary Immaculate School.

Secure Donation



*Fifth graders using iPads to film historical skits in Social Studies class.*

## Go Hollywood at the Heart of Gold Auction on Feb. 15

The stage is set for the annual Heart of Gold Auction on February 15 at the InterContinental Dallas Hotel. This “Red Carpet Affair” will relive the glamour of Old Hollywood and benefit library upgrades and bringing more iPads into the classrooms for teaching.

Nostalgic for your MIS days? The auction is a great way to reconnect with old friends and support your school simultaneously. Grab a few of your friends and gather around a table for dinner, dancing, and wonderful items for bid. After all, you would look great riding around on a Harley!

Yes, you could be the proud owner of a Harley Davidson. You could also be the winner of a One Direction Concert experience, trips to New York and Galveston, packages of golf outings and DFW professional sports games, autographed sports memorabilia galore, a Container Store closet makeover package, local weekend getaways at the Ritz and Hotel ZaZa, and tons of other great items.

We would love to have you join us for a fun-filled night to benefit MIS!

Tickets are now available at [www.MISAuction.com](http://www.MISAuction.com).



*For the second consecutive year, Mary Immaculate School has been voted Best Private School by the readers of the Coppell Gazette.*

## MIS Alumni Committee

Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79

Lisa Gonzales Leos '91

Linda Eifert Lee '76

Stephanie Wilson Koch '99

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*Join us! Become a part of your MIS Alumni Committee, whether as a class rep or as a part of the new MIS Alumni Association leadership. Contact Rosemary at 972-243-7105 x151 or [rmartinez@mischool.org](mailto:rmartinez@mischool.org) for*



The Mary Immaculate School Alumni Association is supported through the MIS Office of Advancement. To update your contact information, please go to the Alumni section of our school website at [www.mischool.org](http://www.mischool.org). For more information or to volunteer as a class rep or association leader, please contact Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79 at 972-243-7105 x151 or [rmartinez@mischool.org](mailto:rmartinez@mischool.org).

