

MIS MESSENGER

Summer 2012

Communications for Mary Immaculate School Alumni and Faculty



Congratulations to Alexandra Bulga '08 who graduated as Valedictorian of her 2012 class at John Paul II HS!

MIS Alumni Dominate Honors at Blue and Gold Banquet

The red and blue of MIS invaded Jesuit's Blue and Gold Sports Banquet as five former members of the Mary Immaculate community were honored during the May 2012 event. This annual affair is held in celebration of Jesuit Athletics and to honor the athletic achievements and accomplishments of their Hall of Fame inductees and current student athletes. MIS alumni/alumni parents honored this night were:

Adrian Winnubst '77 was inducted into the Jesuit Sports Hall of Fame honoring his four-years as starter on the Jesuit varsity soccer team. Winnubst was a member of three state championship teams, three-time all-district, three-time all-State and two-time all-American. In addition, Winnubst led the team in scoring during his senior year at Jesuit and was awarded a full college scholarship to Sam Houston State, where he started all four years.

Tristan James (T.J.) Hansen '97 was inducted into the Jesuit Sports Hall of Fame for his standout career as a high school wrestler, competing for all four years. Since then, he earned his bachelors degree at the University of Missouri, his MBA at Old Dominion, and has received a multitude of awards for his current job as head wrestling coach at Coppell Middle School. At a mere 29 years of age, Hansen became one of the youngest inductees ever.

MIS alumni parent Pat Schnitzius (father of Susan Schnitzius '75 and Tim Schnitzius '77) was honored as the John F. Campbell Fan of the Year, an award of legendary status recognizing unwavering dedication and ardent support of Jesuit athletic events.

John Schmeltz '70, was awarded the Rev. Philip Postell Distinguished Service Award. In addition to leading the booster club as president, writing of booster club bylaws and announcing huge games for the football team, Schmeltz focus on giving students the best sports experience possible makes him a great role model.

Tanner Coffin '12 was named one of three 2012 Athlete of the Year Finalists for his talents as a two-year letterman in football and a three-year letterman in soccer. On the gridiron this year, Coffin displayed his toughness and ability all season long as a cornerback. In soccer, Tanner (who helped Jesuit win the 2010 UIL 5A State Championship) was a consistent scorer for Jesuit. Tanner will attend Hardin-Simmons University in the fall.

The MIS Alumni Association is looking for someone to lead an All Class Reunion. If you are interested, please send contact Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79 at rmartinez@mischool.org or 214-783-2476.

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FREEDOM WRITER



Marc Masferrer '81 is the Metro/Online Editor for the Bradenton Herald, covering Bradenton and Manatee County (south shore of Tampa Bay.) In addition to overseeing coverage of local government and law enforcement, Marc handles the daily news management of the newspaper's website and other digital presences. His 20+ years in journalism includes speaking and blogging on Cuban human rights. His blog, *Uncommon Sense*, follows the latest news and information about Cuban political prisoners and others on the island who are fighting the Castro dictatorship. Below is a glimpse into why Marc, shown here (in red shirt) with former Cuban political prisoner Jorge Luis Gonzalez, is driven to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms of others.

Growing up, including during my days at MIS, I was always interested in the news and current events. Where that came from, I'm not sure, but I always remember there being a newspaper in my home. My interest in what was happening in the world around me went hand-in-hand with my interest and acumen in my social studies classes at MIS and later at Jesuit. For the high school paper, and later as a news reporter, I applied that interest to writing opinion pieces. However, it wasn't until my junior year in college did I begin to seriously consider journalism as a career.

I continued writing for the school paper at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and I had always thought I would work in government or politics. But the more time I spent in Washington, the less interested I became in that. I really enjoyed the work I was doing at the school paper, and I seemed pretty good at it, so I decided to give it a shot. What appeals to me about journalism? The answer to that has never really changed: I like knowing what is happening in the world, learning about it and sharing it with readers. And it is satisfying to know that rarely do I have two days that are alike.

I also enjoy knowing that every once in a while, we make a real difference with our work. We speak truth to power, which is vital for our democracy. We shine light on injustices, which is vital to forcing change.

My role as a human rights activist—a role I am proud to play—began when I decided to start a blog. In my previous job as editor of a small newspaper in East Texas, I had the

chance to write editorials and opinion columns, and wanted to keep my skill sharp while working in my current job, which requires less writing.

At first, I had planned for *Uncommon Sense* to be a general interest blog, addressing various topics. But as I looked for possible subjects, I increasingly became drawn to what was happening in Cuba. As the son of former Cuban political refugees, I was generally aware of what was happening on the island, but for the first time I came to learn about the individual men and women risking what little freedom they enjoy to challenge the Castro dictatorship and to demand justice for their country. Very quickly, I decided I wanted to use the blog to tell their stories, especially for those who couldn't speak for themselves—because of their imprisonment or because of their beliefs—and to perhaps play a small role in informing the world about what was happening in Cuba.

As a result, I have made contact with other activists, in Cuba and in exile, I have been invited several times to speak about Cuban political prisoners and other activists, and I have made many new friends.

Starting the blog caused me to reconnect with my identity as a Cuban. Growing up, I knew I was Cuban American, largely because of my family's traditions. But not until I moved to Florida in 2005 and started writing about Cuba, did I come to realize how my family's history had given me the opportunity—and the responsibility—to do whatever I could to contribute to the cause of Cuban freedom. I often



(Left) Mark speaking at a September 2010 rally in Tampa in support of Reina Luisa Tamayo, the mother of Cuban political prisoner Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who died in prison during a hunger strike.

(Below) Mark with his wife, Marie, in March 2012.

Follow Mark on Twitter @MRMasferrer or email him at mmasferrer@bradenton.com. You can also view his blog to read about Cuba's political prisoners at www.MarcMasferrer.Typepad.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UncommonSenseCuba.

wish I could do more, but I have decided that my work as a blogger who writes about Cuba has made me both a better journalist and a better Cuban.

One thing I have concluded, in large part because of the blog, is that we are only as free as the least free among us.

I enjoy knowing that every once in a while, we make a real difference with our work. We speak truth to power, which is vital for our democracy. We shine light on injustices, which is vital to forcing change.

So while as Americans we enjoy tremendous liberties, our freedom is limited as long as there are places in the world like Cuba, where an un-elected, murdering, thieving dictatorship represses the basic human and political rights of the people. It is our responsibility to do our part, no matter how small, to attempt to remedy such injustices. Undoubtedly, that is a conclusion made possible by the values instilled in me during my

16 years as a student in Catholic schools, where I learned the importance of putting our faith into action and acting as citizens of the world to contribute to its betterment.

Many in the Cuban resistance are personal heroes, their faith and courage serving as examples of how we should all face adversity and how we should all act on behalf of our fellow

man. They inspire me every day with how despite the odds against them, their faith leads them to persevere. But it is the story of a non-Cuban (http://marcmassferrer.typepad.com/uncommon_sense/2010/08/st-maximilian-kolbe-a-political-prisoner-for-all-times-cuba-catholic.html) that may explain best why I do what I do. Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest imprisoned at Auschwitz who was murdered after he had volunteered to take the place of a Jewish prisoner condemned to death by starvation as a reprisal after another prisoner escaped. Canonized by Pope John Paul II, he is the patron saint of political prisoners. And his feast day is Aug. 14, which also is my birthday. Many coincidences have led me to this point in my life as a Cuban American and career as a journalist, blogger and human rights activist, but none may be as telling as that.



Jill Riddell Bellone '77 is living in New Orleans with husband Chris, 17-year-old daughter Grace, and 16-year-old son Conway. She enjoys keeping up with old friends through Facebook and would love to hear from MIS classmates passing through or visiting New Orleans. She can be reached at jbellone1@gmail.com. (photo from facebook)

Rita Brandt Ford '79 is currently serving as the President of the Mary Immaculate School Parent Teacher Club. She and her husband, Scott, have two children attending MIS this year; Max in 6th grade and Gracie in 4th grade. Their two older boys are both MIS graduates. Jack '10 is a Junior at Jesuit College Prep. Sam '07 is a sophomore at Franciscan University of Steubenville studying Theology and Catechetics. After many years living in Coppell, they are building a new home in Farmers Branch to get closer to MIS and Jesuit activities.



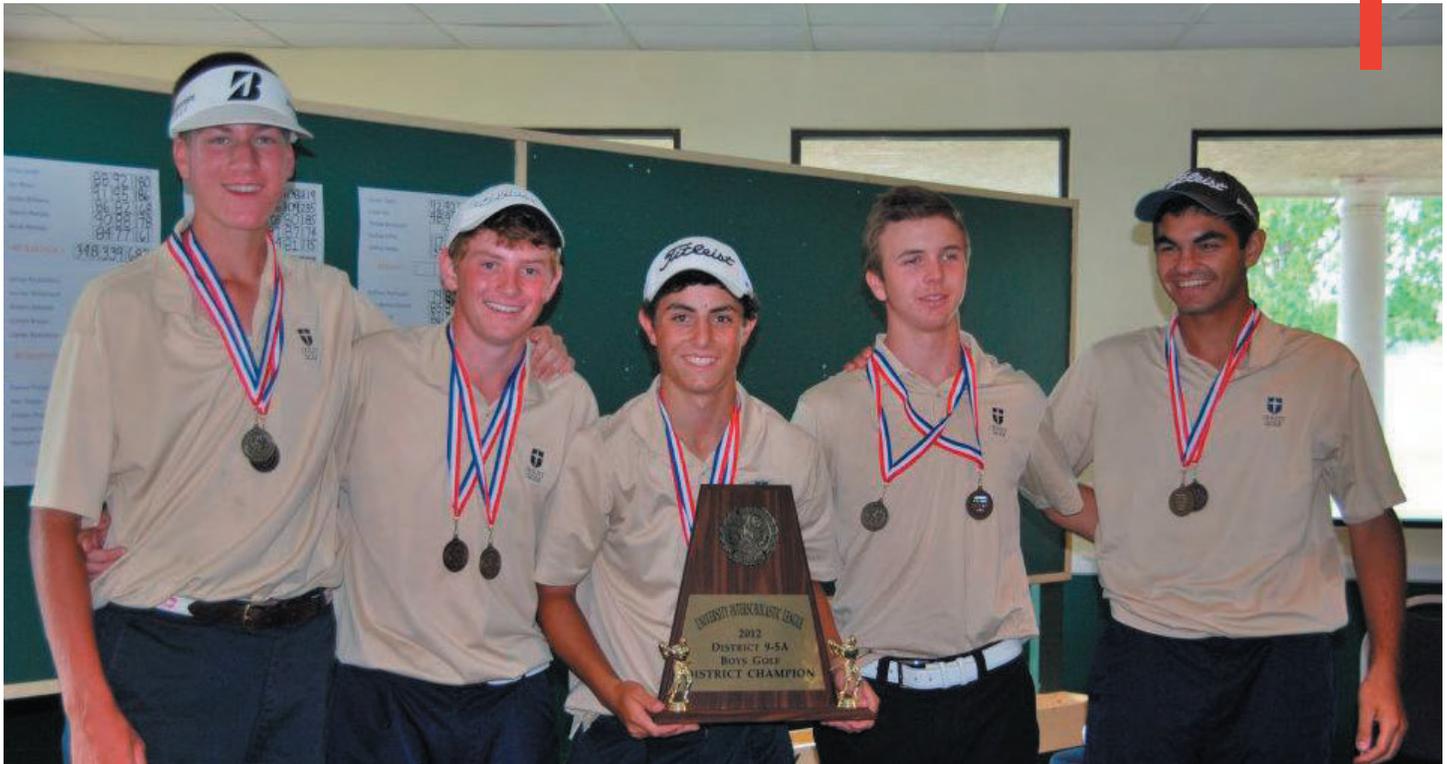
Joelle Slook Flynn '90 and her husband welcomed Avery Slook Flynn on July 7, 2011.

Elizabeth Beste '98 received her Doctor of Medicine from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine on May 20, 2012. She is now starting her Surgery Residency at UTMB in Galveston.



Brian Grant '07 and **Brady Davis '07** hang with Dirk Norwitzki at the Dallas Mavericks ring ceremony.

Josh Radcliff '09 (second from left) won the District 9-5A boys golf title, and **Will Strong '09** (second from right) also ranked in the top ten. They both are part of the Jesuit A team that won first in the district, qualifying for the regional tournament.



Karen Mixtacki '08 graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ursuline Academy in May 2012 and will be attending Texas A&M University in the fall as part of the University Honors Program, with a major in Aerospace Engineering. She recently became certified in scuba diving, piloted a glider plane for the first time, and enjoyed reconnecting with MIS friends from the class of 2008 to celebrate their high school graduations together. Karen continues to play her flute at weekly Masses at Mary Immaculate Church as she has done since 5th grade.



Grace Butler '11 (on left) and **Courtney Newman '11** (on right) both received honors as TISCA All State in swimming for Bishop Lynch this year. During their years at MIS, both swam on the MIS Swim Team, helping to win DPL Championships in 2010 and 2011. They are shown here as they receive their letter jackets.

Alan T. Pham '12 sends the following shout out to his classmates: "I graduated on May 25th of this year, but it still feels like it was just yesterday. What am I doing? Well, I'm working on my basketball skills so I can try out for the freshman squad at JP2 high school. I am also preparing my studies of Pre-AP English and Pre AP Algebra (usually a 10th grade level course). I'm the only one taking that math class among my Class of 2012 classmates in freshman year. But, the Class of 2012 will always be in my heart and soul. I miss my classmates a lot...good luck to them at their high schools!"

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. This national award represents the girls' time, leadership, creativity, and effort that contributed to making their community better. Congratulations to our alumni pictured below who recently earned their Girl Scout Gold Awards:



Karen Allen Mixtacki '08 just graduated from Ursuline Academy and is a member of GS Troop 1348. For her Gold Project, Karen organized and led a team of 25 volunteers to plant 4,000 daffodils in Oran Good Park in Farmers Branch, which will bloom, naturalize and spread each year, decrease litter, and create a perpetual garden of beauty for families and visitors to enjoy for many years to come. Karen is also a recipient of a Betty Richardson Gold Award Scholarship.



Christine Evans '08 just graduated from Newman Smith High School and is a member of GS Troop 1348. For her Gold Project, Christine led a team in constructing benches for the Farmers Branch John F. Burke Nature Preserve, making the park more family-friendly and accessible for all. Christine is also a recipient of a Betty Richardson Gold Award Scholarship and will be attending Texas A&M University.

Sally Haden '08 recently graduated from Ursuline Academy and is a member of GS Troop 1321. For her Gold Project, Sally held a sock drive that donated more than 4,000 pairs of socks to people in need at Central Market's Feast of Sharing held in Fair Park.



Shelby McKerring Mason '09 attends Ursuline Academy and is a member of GS Troop 756. For her Gold Project, Shelby worked with another Girl Scout to collect socks and slippers for senior citizens at The Brady Center. She also volunteered her time at St. Joseph's Senior Center.



Karen Mixtacki is shown with her project team in the photo at right.

MIS Graduates Win Scholarships

Scholarships for 8 MIS graduates added extra excitement for the community as the school year came to a close.

Gabby Lecca '12 was awarded The Ursuline Academy and Mary Immaculate Leadership Scholarship, **Shalom Ifeanyiichukwu '12** received the Bishop Lynch Opportunity and Achievement Award, and **Cole Haverkamp '12** received a merit based scholarship from John Paul II Catholic High School. All three of these partial scholarships are awarded to incoming freshman who have been accepted unconditionally at their respective high schools plus have met other criteria that includes scholarship, academic performance, leadership ability, participation in community service and Christian values.

A Dallas Parochial League Student/Athlete Scholarship was awarded to **Pauli Kerr '12**. One of six scholarships for students attending local Catholic high schools, this award is based on a student's excellent conduct and sportsmanship in their athletic endeavors combined with academics. Pauli will attend Ursuline Academy in the fall.

Madeline Tovar '12 received the Father Patrick Koch Science Award from Ursuline Academy, where she will attend high school in the fall. Madeline was also awarded the Sara Murawski Spirit of Community Award, presented to the MIS eighth grade student who best represents the school as an active participant in the life of the school and community.

The Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation presented three MIS students with a Spirit of Love High School Scholarship for using their talents to serve their community, and honored them during a presentation dinner sponsored by the foundation on June 15. **Aryn McGuire '12** will apply her scholarship towards her upcoming year at Pope John Paul II High School. **Hannah Salinas '12** and **Catherine Beachner '12** will apply their scholarships towards their freshman year at Ursuline Academy. Catherine also received Erin Costello Outstanding Student Award, presented to the eighth grade girl who best exemplifies Mary Immaculate in academics, character, and overall participation.

Class of 2012 Awards

Each year MIS acknowledges top students in honor of MIS classmates who have gone before us. These awards, with this year's award winners are:

- Patrick Brunner Outstanding Student Award: **Nate Young '12**
- Erin Costello Outstanding Student Award: **Catherine Beachner '12 and Julia Loshelder**
- Sara Murawski Spirit of Community Award: **Madeline Tovar '12**
- Kraig Frick Perseverance Award: **Mary Martin '12**
- Patricia Echeverri Spirit Award: **Annie Sullivan '12**

In addition to these awards, members of the graduating class receive honors and acknowledgments in specific academic areas, sports and other extracurricular activities. Congratulations to all!



*Scholarship Winners:
(Top L-R) Aryn McGuire, Hannah Salinas, Catherine Beachner, Madeline Tovar (Bottom L-R) Gabby Lecca, Shalom Ifeanyiichukwu, Cole Haverkamp, Pauli Kerr*

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.

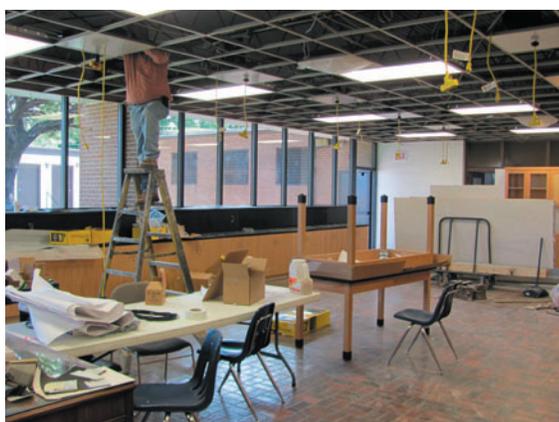
GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME	GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME
1959				1983			
1960				1984			
1961				1985			
1962				1986			
1963	Priscilla Morantes Mahaffey	priscillamahaffey@sbcglobal.net		1987			
1964	Fred McCurley, Andy Reddick	fmcurlay@flash.net; andy@andyreddick.com		1988	Suzy Rossol Matheson	srossol@hotmail.com	MIS Class of 88
1965				1989			
1966				1990	Lisa Chmiola Burns	lisac77@yahoo.com	MIS Class of 1990 Reunion
1967				1991	Lisa Gonzales Leos	leosinc@hotmail.com	MIS Class of 91
1968	Lib Grimmett/ Connie Black Taylor Bratton	libgrimmett@hotmail.com		1992			
1969				1993	Sally Hill Derrick	sally.derrick@gmail.com	MIS Class of 93
1970	Lois Zacha (Burt)	lezacha@aol.com			Liz Mahaffey	MahaffeyE@cfbisd.edu	
1971				1994			
1972				1995			
1973	Doug Kile/ James McGinn	dkile@techlightusa.com		1996			
1974				1997			
1975	Joe Meza	jmeza2002@msn.com		1998	Beth Beste		Mary Immaculate School Class of 1998
1976	Linda Eifert Lee	lindaclaudette@verizon.net		1999	Stephanie Wilson Koch	se506@aol.com	MIS Class of 99 Reunion
1977				2000			
1978				2001	Sara Fine	sfine@webershandwick.com	
1979	Rosemary Schmitz Martinez	rmartinez@mischool.org	Mary Immaculate School Class of 1979 - Farmers Branch	2002			
1980				2003			
1981	Kristin Heath Florence	kflorence@sbcglobal.net	Mary Immaculate School (MIS) Class of 1981	2004			
1982	Mary DelValle Fregia	fregiafam5@gmail.com	Mary Immaculate School - Farmers Branch, TX - Class of 1982	2005			
				2006			
				2007			
				2008			
				2009	Parker Martinez	parkermartinez@hotmail.com	Mary Immaculate (MIS) Class of 2009
				2010			
				2011			

St. Ann Science Lab and Art Center Nears Completion

Renovation efforts on the St. Ann Science Lab and Art Center have been going strong during the summer. Construction crews have removed old windows and replaced them with shorter, energy efficient windows; moved electrical boxes/switches; built and installed custom cabinets; installed custom counter tops and reinforced walls for the kiln room. They are currently working on installing pull-down electrical cords that will retract into the ceiling and finishing out the room that will house the new kiln, which can be used both for science labs as well as for art classes.



Shown below is the mobile instructor's sink that can be moved to the side when not in use. Also shown is one of the new large multi-student tables. Stools to accompany the tables have not yet arrived.



The construction portion of the new St. Ann Science Lab and Art Center renovation has been covered through our fund-raising and grant writing, as has the mobile computer lab that will be used with new microscopes and probes.

The ample cabinets will allow for the storage of all the new equipment, as well as for art materials and the wide desks will provide ample workspace for students in both science and art classes.

Thank you to all our generous donors who contributed to our fund-raisers last year...this Science Lab and Art Center is possible because YOU GIVE TO MIS!

Impact of Giving

Mary Immaculate School receives approximately three-quarters of our budget through tuition. With the downturn of the economy, we work harder than ever to ensure that our tuition remains one of the lowest for private schools in the North Dallas area so that as many children as possible can benefit from the blessings of a quality Catholic education.

Donations from our alumni and parishioners is increasingly vital to recruit and retain our most deserving faculty, provide tuition assistance, and implement new technology and programs.

Our goal is to ensure that Mary Immaculate School grows in stature. Gifts from former students, corporations, foundations and others in large part determine the future of Catholic education at MIS.

We invite you to choose exactly how your contribution will advance MIS through one of the following ways:

- **Student Impact:** A gift to our Tuition Assistance Fund will provide assistance for students whose families are facing short term hardship and are unable to pay the full tuition due to sudden emergencies or difficult economic times.
- **School-wide Impact:** A gift to the MIS Endowment Fund helps ensure that the generations to come have access to a quality Catholic education. Currently at just over \$1,000,000, the Endowment Fund allows the jump start of facilities improvements (such as the renovation of the old church sanctuary into a tournament-size gymnasium) and special programs.
- **Spirit Impact:** Many choose to fund programs that build Mustang Spirit through activities that occur outside the classroom. These include gifts to special departments or improvements, such as a gift towards new Science Lab equipment or towards new athletic uniforms.

The choice is yours. Contact the MIS Office of Advancement at 972-243-7105 x151 or send an email to rmartinez@mischool.org.

Methods of Support

Click on the icon to the right of each paragraph for more information on each method of support for MIS. The methods marked with an * indicates ways you can support MIS through everyday fundraisers that don't affect your pocketbook!

Undirected giving: Gifts can be made through an online contribution to our Annual Giving Campaign.

Purchase magazines/gifts: For every dollar spent on magazines subscriptions, gifts and other items purchased through Great America, Mary Immaculate receives between 40-50% of the purchase price. In addition to offering competitive prices on magazines, we can accept any offer for which you can supply a renewal notice or subscription card so you are always getting the best price available (sorry, no free subscriptions or items can be accepted.) Our school code is 2694065.

***Purchase online/printable giftcards:** Much of your regular shopping can be done by pre-paying for online or printable gift certificates, called Scrip. You can order for yourself or send an eGift in seconds for various retailers and restaurants, including Amazon, iTunes, Chili's, and HomeDepot.

***Tom Thumb Purchases:** When you link your Tom Thumb Reward card to Mary Immaculate School #1246, MIS receives 1% of your purchase every time you use the reward card.



If you shop on Amazon.com, you can effortlessly earn money for MIS. There is no sign up involved, you don't pay anything extra, and you don't need to enter any special codes – you just click on our school's shopping link to get to Amazon and then browse and shop as you normally do – Amazon does the rest. MIS will receive about 4-6% of all purchases made! Just link before you shop.



Our special link can be found on the MIS Home page at www.mischool.org. Simply click it and then bookmark it in your Internet Browser so that it can always be the first link you click each time you shop at Amazon.

You can double the percentage by buying Amazon scrip through *ScripNow!* above, then clicking the special Amazon link/bookmark to spend it!

MIS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

STRONGER TOGETHER



We're Excited You're Here!

We can offer you the lowest price on magazines and in doing so, MIS gains 40% or more of the purchase price!

FIND OUT MORE!

Safe and easy on-line ordering makes it simple to renew subscriptions or send subscriptions as gifts for birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions.

Through this fund-raising program, you can also purchase frozen cookie dough, gift wrap, jewelry and more... and show your support of MIS in the process!



MIS Alumni Committee

Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79

Lisa Gonzales Leos '91

Linda Eifert Lee '76

Stephanie Wilson Koch '99

•••

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 for more information.

Upcoming Alumni Gatherings

Mark your calendars now for these opportunities for MIS alumni to gather to renew friendships, kindle memories, and join together in fellowship at Mary Immaculate. Contact rmartinez@mischool.org for more info.

PARISH FALL FESTIVAL: SAT. OCT. 6

The all-day fall festival benefits the Mary Immaculate Catholic Community. It includes game and food/drink booths, cakewalk, raffle, carnival rides and more!

FESTIVAL OF TABLES: FESTIVAL OF TABLES: SAT. NOV. 17

This women's only luncheon and fashion show has the hostess of a table of eight decorate their table and mail invitations to their guests. Local/home businesses are encouraged to host a table to show off their products.

CHILI COOK-OFF: SAT. DEC. 15

This fun adults-only event has teams competing for the honor of the best chili at MIS, complete with a table decorating contest. After the judges have received their samples, everyone is invited to dine on the chilis. This evening is coupled with the Texas Hold'em/Bunko night.



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. 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.

