

MIS MESSENGER

Summer/Fall 2013

Communications for Mary Immaculate School Alumni and Faculty



GIFTS TO MIS WILL RECEIVE MATCHING FUNDS ON NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

On this Thursday, Sept. 19—FOR ONE DAY ONLY—MIS will receive a percentage match on all contributions over \$25 if the gift is given via credit card online at our secured link: <https://www.donorbridgetx.org/npo/750800637>.

Plus, since this is our first year to participate in the North Texas Giving Day, MIS is eligible for an additional \$5000 bonus if our school has the most number of donations made to a new organization.

Please consider a gift to MIS on this day! These gifts will go towards our Annual Giving Campaign, from which funds will be pulled for our MIS Library Revitalization and for the purchase of iPad Labs on wheels for the classrooms.

Revitalization of MIS Library

Upgrades to the MIS 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 (which 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 of 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 upwards of \$40,000 from our development activities this year. The bulky computer desks that line the wall of the library will be removed, and new seating and shelving that enables better flow within the library will be installed. In addition, tall shelving will section off an office area for Mrs. Saldana. Also under consideration will be a multi-level storytime area for K-2nd graders.



Above: MIS has over 500 reasons to get up and give this year...like us on Facebook to see more of our reasons!

Below right: A future Mustang tries out an iPad while sitting at the librarian's desk.



BECOME A FAN OF MIS ON FACEBOOK!

This article on MIS alumni Julie Tsecouras '03 is printed with permission from The Dallas Morning News.

The mosquito catchers:

Julie Tsecouras '03 tracks pesky insects for City of Fort Worth

By SHERRY JACOBSON, Staff Writer
sjacobson@dallasnews.com

Photos by Louis DeLuca/Staff Photographer

FORT WORTH — Nobody likes mosquitoes, but Julie Tsecouras wants to better understand them.

That's why she's joined three other graduate students as part of a mosquito-surveillance team for the city.

Tracking the pests might help prevent the kind of West Nile epidemic North Texas saw last summer, when Tarrant County alone reported 280 human cases and 11 deaths.

But the project also is helping Tsecouras and her three classmates earn a master's degree in public health at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Tsecouras and the other team members take their work seriously. They have to. All risk being bitten by virus-carrying mosquitoes.

"I take this very seriously, wearing long pants and shirts to reduce the risk," Tsecouras said. "But I have been bitten."

Fort Worth is paying the health science center about \$148,000 this year for taking on the mosquito-tracking chores. Last year, the city deployed restaurant inspectors to collect the insects. The year before, it did not track them at all.

"We went a number of years without any trapping," said Brandon Bennett, director of the city's public health and code compliance department.

"Up until 2012, there were just a few human [West Nile] cases," he said. "It caught everybody off guard when the numbers spiked last year."

Every Monday this summer, the four health science students deliver mosquito traps to the grounds of 42 Fort Trapped

mosquitoes are taken to a lab, where they are processed by Dr. Joon-Hak Lee and his team of graduate students. "Fieldwork is the cornerstone of mosquito control," according to a Dallas County entomologist. Worth fire stations.

By Tuesday, the lure of stinky grass clippings and water inside each trap draws enough



mosquitoes to allow West Nile testing. Some of the trapped insects are alive when the students return — but not for long.

“As a precaution to all of us, the mosquitoes go straight into the deep freeze,” Tsecouras said. “And they will all die.”

The team does not wear insect repellent, lest the smell drive away mosquitoes that should be tested.

Scott Sawlis, an entomologist and vector-control supervisor for Dallas County, sees the benefit of students meeting mosquitoes in their natural habitat.

“You can have all the theories in the world, but you have to go out and see how they work,” he said. “Fieldwork is the cornerstone of mosquito control.”

Dr. Joon-Hak Lee, an assistant professor at the UNT health science center, is directing the mosquito-tracking venture. He has made an academic career out of studying how insects spread diseases.

His fascination with bugs began in the 1980s as a college student in South Korea.

“We have to focus more on ways to stop these outbreaks and prevent these diseases,” said Lee, who arrived in the U.S. in 1993 to earn a doctorate in medical entomology from Iowa State University. He joined the health science center staff nine years ago.

Lee has published studies on ticks, mites and various types of mosquitoes that deliver diseases to unsuspecting humans.

He crossed paths with West Nile not long after the virus made its U.S. appearance in 1999.

Initially, he coordinated surveillance efforts for Alabama, later joining the New York State Health Department. There he trained county health departments on mosquito control and virus surveillance.

Lee arrived in North Texas two years after West Nile showed up here. Initially, he shared his surveillance knowledge with

local governments trying to tackle mosquito control. “I didn’t see a strong response in the D-FW area,” Lee recalled. “I was thinking we’ve got to do something to improve our system.”

It was especially difficult for Lee to watch from the sidelines last year when the annual West Nile outbreak turned into an epidemic that would claim nearly 40 lives in four North Texas counties.

“Our emphasis needs to be on preventing rather than responding,” Lee recalled telling himself. “We have to do more.”

So he approached the city of Fort Worth late last year with the idea of improving mosquito-surveillance efforts. Making it a UNT educational effort came second.

“We have developed a good system,” Lee said. “Now, everybody knows what they have to do.”

Bennett said it has been “a very good partnership, especially with the community education perspective.”

For the students, it’s been a long hot summer of collecting mosquitoes, identifying which ones could carry the virus and then shipping them off for testing.

So far, their efforts have not resulted in finding any with the West Nile virus, and Fort Worth has reported only one human case.

By comparison, the city had 16 positive pools and 81 human infections last year.

“Fort Worth was a hot spot last year, but not this year — yet,” said Tsecouras, who earned a bachelor’s degree in biomedical science and entomology from Texas A&M University and is in her second year at the UNT health science center.

The results might sound disappointing for the students. But Tsecouras said she and her classmates are just glad to be part of the project.

“We happened to get lucky,” she said.

Elliot Harrison '88, donated over \$500 towards the MIS 8th grade trip in May to San Antonio. Elliot, who currently resides in California, visited MIS at the beginning of the school year and reminisced with his former teachers. His memories of his own class trip led him to make the contribution towards this year's class trip. Our thanks to Elliot for reaching out to pay it forward to today's MIS students!

This year, several former MIS athletes were recruited to continue in athletics at the college level. These alumni will be pursuing their respective sports at the following schools:

- **Ryan Mehl '09**: Track & Field, Texas A&M
- **Josh Radcliff '09**: Golf, The University of Texas, Arlington
- **Will Strong '09**: Golf, Rhodes College
- **Taylor Tibbits '09**: Football, Hendrix College



Josh Radcliff '09 was awarded the 2013 Wunderlick Award at Jesuit. The Wunderlick Award is awarded to the one student who exemplifies excellence in combined Academics and Athletics during his 4 years of high school. Josh was also selected to the All North Texas High School Golf Coaches Honor Team this past year.

Kirsten Jones '09, Allie Harrelson '11, and Katlyn Urias '11 participated in the Tournament of Champions Softball Tournament held Feb. 14-16 as part of the Newman Smith Varsity Softball team, taking second place. High school softball teams from across the metroplex participated in the tournament.



Alex McIntyre '10, who has entered his senior year at Jesuit College Prep, received the Hendrix College Odyssey Book Award at the school-wide Junior Convocation on May 24, 2013.

Laura Evans '11, Nick Hoang '11, Maddie Spicer '11, and Chris Velasquez '11 were named Superintendent Scholars for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. This award honors the top 100 sophomore students in the school district based on their scores in the PSAT. All four are also members of the Newman Smith tennis team.

Courtney Newman '11 traveled to Rome in March with the Bishop Lynch A cappella choir. In 2010, the group received an invitation to visit and perform from Father Pierre Paul, the choirmaster at St. Peter's Basilica and leader of the Capella Giulia. This year will mark the 500th anniversary of the Capella Giulia, and the Bishop Lynch A Cappella Choir was asked to take part in the festivities. The timing of Pope Benedict's resignation allowed the group to visit Rome during the conclave.

Rachael Gura is a freshman at Collin County Community College, and is interning as a new assistant youth minister at Mary Immaculate Church. Her role in youth ministry mostly consists of organizing the teen leader youth nights, helping put together the different retreats throughout the year, and organizing the other events that are hosted by the teen leaders.

After 25 years, Mrs. Baldocchi is retiring from MIS. Remember walking over to Kroger's to buy apples for Johnny Appleseed day? Or celebrating the Thanksgiving Day feast? These are part of your first grade memories!

Like her fellow teachers at MIS, creating a positive impact on her students is what has driven Mrs. Baldocchi. Not only does she follow the curriculum, but she fosters an environment that encourages compassion; she pushes students to succeed, because she envisions they will.

Let her know how much of an impact she made on you by sending her a letter at: PO Box 270632, Flower Mound, TX 75027-0632.

What is important for her to hear:

- your first grade memories
- what are you up to now

Taking the time to contact her is greatly appreciated. Over the years she would light up when telling us about you-her students. You delighted her-thank you for being an important part of her life.

—Eddie, Paul, and Kate '93 Baldocchi



Congratulations to our MIS alumni pictured who recently earned their Eagle Scout rank as members of Troop 713:

Connor Gleim '09 (not pictured)

Connor led a crew in building a raised garden for Mary Immaculate School students to use in outdoor learning.

Liam Kaiser '10

St. Ann Parish was the recipient of the hard work from Liam's Eagle Project. He led a group in rebuilding the nativity set and props for the parish.

Thomas Gaubert '10

For his Eagle project, Thomas led teams in planting fourteen trees at two city parks as part of the City of Farmers Branch's plan to replace older trees.

Patrick Gleim '11

Patrick led a crew in renovating an outdoor recreation area for Independent Living, a residential program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Congratulations to Adrienne Collins '10 on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The highest merit in Girl Scouting, this national award represents the girls' time, leadership, creativity, and effort that contributed to making their community better. As part of earning her Girl Scout Gold Award, Adrienne hosted a discussion on healthy relationships for the junior high school girls at MIS.



MIS Graduates Win Scholarships

As the 2012-13 school year came to a close in June, seven graduating students had cause for extra celebration as they received over \$24,000 in scholarships as tribute to their work during junior high at MIS.

Farmers Branch resident **Matthew Newman '13** was awarded a \$2500 renewable merit scholarship by Bishop Lynch High School in Garland, where Matthew now attends high school. Matthew received the Patrick Brunner Outstanding Student Award from Mary Immaculate School as well as the Top Academic Achievement award for his overall highest GPA.

A \$1500 Sr. Marie Staats OSU World Language scholarship was awarded to **Maria Tovar '13** of Farmers Branch. This renewable scholarship is awarded to incoming freshman who have been accepted unconditionally at Ursuline Academy of Dallas and who have met a series of other criteria. Maria was also the recipient of Mary Immaculate's Sara Murawski Spirit of Community Award.

Kimberly Juarez '13 of North Dallas received a \$1200 renewable Opportunity and Achievement Award from

Bishop Lynch. Kimberly also received a \$500 Spirit of Love Scholarship awarded by the Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation for her dedication to community service.

Carrollton resident **Madison Feldman '13** accepted a \$1000 Ursuline Academy and MIS Leadership Scholarship. The recipient of Mary Immaculate's Erin Costello Outstanding Student Award, Madison was also offered a \$2500 scholarship to John Paul II High School in Plano.

Elizabeth Egizio '13 of The Colony received a \$1000 merit scholarship from John Paul II High School, where she now attends high school.

Farmers Branch resident **Warren Fregia '13** was awarded a \$1000 Presidential Scholarship from his intended high school, Bishop Lynch.

Michael Gasper '13 of Coppell was also recognized with a \$500 Spirit of Love Scholarship by the Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation for using his talents to serve his community. He is now attending Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

Class of 2013 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: **Matthew Newman '13**
- Erin Costello Outstanding Student Award: **Madison Feldman '13**
- Sara Murawski Spirit of Community Award: **Maggie Baum '13 & Maria Tovar '13**
- Kraig Frick Perseverance Award: **Grace Sakalas '13 & J. T. Mix '13**
- Patricia Echeverri Spirit Award: **Hallie Tomlinson '13**

In addition to these awards, members of the graduating class receive honors and acknowledgments in specific academic areas, sports and other extra-



Scholarship Winners: (L-R) Newman, Tovar, Juarez, Feldman, Egizio, Fregia, Gasper

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.

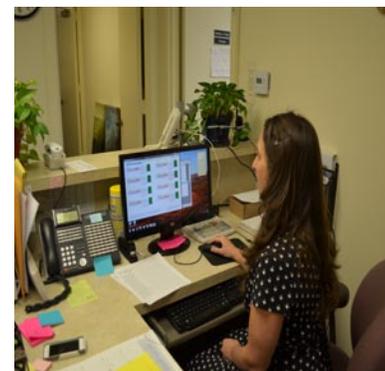
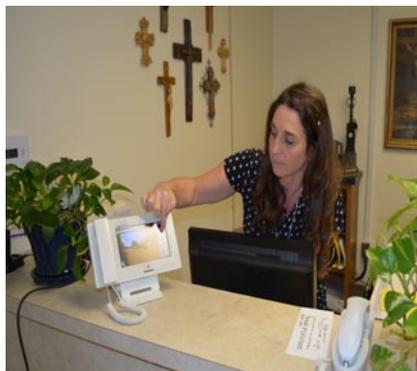
GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME	GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME
1959				1986			
1960				1987			
1961				1988	Suzy Rossol Matheson	srossol@hotmail.com	
1962				1989	Thomas Brock	thethomas@thomasbrock.net	
1963	Priscilla Morantes Mahaffey	priscillamahaffey@gmail.com		1990	Lisa Chmiola Burns	lisac77@yahoo.com	MIS Class of 1990 Reunion
1964	Fred McCurley, Andy Reddick	fmcurlay@flash.net; andy@andyreddick.com		1991	Lisa Gonzales Leos	leosinc@hotmail.com	
1965				1992			
1966				1993	Sally Hill Derrick	sally.derrick@gmail.com	MIS Class of 93
1967					Liz Mahaffey	MahaffeyE@cfbisd.edu	
1968	Lib Grimmett/ Connie Black Taylor Bratton	libgrimmett@hotmail.com		1994			
1969				1995	Elizabeth Lucier Sobczyk	lizzielou81@gmail.com	M.I.S. Class of '96
1970	Lois Zacha (Burt)	lezacha@aol.com		1996	Anne Marie Lucier Bierman	annybierman@gmail.com	
1971				1997			
1972				1998	Beth Beste		
1973	Doug Kile/ Mitch Jaremko	dkile@techlightusa.com; mitchelljaremko@yahoo.com		1999	Stephanie Wilson Koch	se506@aol.com	MIS Class of '99
1974				2000			
1975	Joe Meza	jmeza2002@msn.com		2001	Sara Fine	sfine@webershandwick.com	
1976	Linda Eifert Lee	lindaclaudette@verizon.net		2002			
1977				2003			
1978				2004			
1979	Rosemary Schmitz Martinez	rmartinez@mischool.org	Mary Immaculate School Class of 1979 - Farmers Branch	2005			
1980				2006			
1981	Kristin Heath Florence	kflorence@sbcglobal.net	MIS Class of 81	2007			
1982	Mary DelValle Fregia	fregiafam5@gmail.com		2008			
1983				2009	Parker Martinez	parkermartinez@hotmail.com	
1984				2010			
1985				2011			
				2012			
				2013			

Security Upgrades

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. This system, called Raptor, was purchased for us by the MIS Parent Teacher Club and will go active in September.
- 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 safety of our students continues to be of utmost importance at MIS. We employ a variety of security measures in our daily efforts to provide a safe, secure learning environment...measures which reflect our community's high expectations for school safety.



A generous \$20,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation helped to fund the security system for the front entry.

A generous \$10,000 gift from VAN Oriental Food also helped to fund the security upgrades implemented this past year.

Let us thank you NOW!

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways you can leave a lasting impact on Mary Immaculate School. A bequest may be made in your will or trust.

With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to MIS as part of your estate plan.

A bequest may be made in several ways:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset
- Gift from the balance or residue of your estate

Through your bequest you can retain assets during life, lessen the burden of taxes on your family, and support MIS students.

If you have named Mary Immaculate School in your will, feel free to let us know...we'd like to show our appreciation now.

Contact the MIS Office of Advancement at 972-243-7105 x151 or send an email to rmartinez@mischool.org for more information on directing your gift.

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: FRI. OCT. 4 to SAT. OCT. 5

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

CHILI COOK-OFF & TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT:
SAT. DEC. 16

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. Don't miss out on the chance to hold the tournament title!



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.

