



THE BONNIE BUZZ

"As we gather in gratitude this Christmas season, let's reflect on the cherished memories, enduring friendships, and the indomitable spirit that unites us as alumnae. Wishing you a season filled with warmth, joy and the blessings of lifelong connections."



From our new principal, Rocco Gentile:

As we approach this holiday season, it brings me great joy to welcome you all to our Bonnie Buzz. I personally appreciate your achievements, resilience and continued commitment that inspires faculty and staff to work for the future of Fontbonne. Our Alma Mater is more than, "the glories of the past in golden years," but rather the daily continuance of the all that made Fontbonne the home you all love. May this season be a time of reflection and renewed connections.

Thank you for being the embodiment of our school's values and carrying that spirit into the world. Wishing you all a Christmas filled with love, joy and cherished memories.

Rocco Gentile
Principal
Fontbonne Hall Academy

RECENT EVENTS

October 6th marked our annual Walkathon! Students raised money for Fontbonne to purchase vans, which allow for better transportation for our afterschool activities.

Our Alumnae Reunion took place on October 28th. Bonnies from graduating years ending in 3 and 8 all came together for a celebration and luncheon.

November 9th was a night full of fun and games! Casino Night honored Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald and was held at Villa Russo Catering Hall.

This year's Thanksgiving Basket Drive fed 25 families! Students enjoyed the morning liturgy followed by important reflection time in their FAs.



UPCOMING EVENTS



ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

From our Annual Report



Suzanne Belford Torfin

Profession: **Airline Pilot
Delta Airlines**

Class of '94

Ultimately, she sought out alternative opportunities and found herself drawn to the world of corporate aviation. She secured a job as a pilot for Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of NYC. Flying in the corporate sector provided her with unique experiences.

However, she continued to have a burning desire to fulfill her ultimate dream of flying for a major airline. Today, she is proud to serve as a pilot for Delta Airlines flying out of Salt Lake City, Utah with a home in Park City.

In addition to her career as a pilot, her personal life has been enriched with love and family. During her time at ACA, she met her husband, Adam, who is also a pilot. Beyond their professional achievements, their most precious joys come from their two beautiful children. They are blessed with an 8-year-old son, James and a 5-year-old daughter, Juliana.

She has been fortunate to maintain connections with dear friends from Fontbonne Hall Academy's Class of 1994. The bonds with Loretta Connolly Courtney, Ann Margaret Hennessy Gillian, Tiffany Kramer Turchi, Michelle Pugliese Marinuzzi, Liz Ahern Cowley and Amy Martin Mathis have stood the test of time. These connections serve as a reminder of the enduring friendships that have shaped her journey and provided a sense of belonging. She remains profoundly grateful for connections made and lessons learned at Fontbonne.

From a young age, Suzanne was captivated by the magic of flight. She was constantly mesmerized by the graceful dance of airplanes descending from the heavens. In a pivotal conversation with her father, she expressed her desire to become a flight attendant. To that her father said,

"Why be a flight attendant when you could be a pilot?"

From that day forward, she dedicated herself to the pursuit of aviation. After college, she attended flight school in Vero Beach, Florida, became a flight instructor, and then got hired by ACA, a regional airline.



Lisa Tanzi

Profession: **Sr. VP and General
Counsel Parts Authority**

Class of

'94

Lisa pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Italian at Binghamton University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She chose to study abroad in Italy and fell in love with international travel and culture.

Following graduation, Lisa enrolled in Brooklyn Law School. After taking a variety of classes and working at a law firm on Wall Street as a Summer Associate, she decided to pursue a career in corporate law. Lisa then worked at an international law firm where she specialized in mergers and acquisitions before building her career as in-house counsel.

Throughout her career, Lisa has traveled, published articles, taught classes, performed pro bono legal work, met Supreme Court Justices, mentored young lawyers, and developed incredible friendships. She has found it most rewarding to nurture the careers of the attorneys and paralegals that report to her. These interpersonal connections have brought her the greatest satisfaction on her career journey.

While Lisa loves her career as a lawyer, her favorite job is being a mom to a 16 year old son. She feels lucky to have a partner who supports her career, while managing his own responsibilities as a doctor and as an officer in the NYS Army National Guard. Lisa is grateful for her family, the faculty and friends she connected with at Fontbonne, and the life experiences that helped her achieve her professional and personal goals.

Lisa M. Tanzi is the Senior Vice President & following graduation, she enrolled in Brooklyn General Counsel of Parts Authority, a national aftermarket automotive parts distribution company. In this role, she serves as the head lawyer responsible for the legal and compliance department. As General Counsel, Lisa is part of an executive team that develops and implements the company's strategy.

It was at Fontbonne where her ambition to become an attorney first took shape.



Dr. Maria Catherine Pietanza

Profession: **VP Clinical Research
Merck & Co. Inc.**

Class of

'91

Cathy's work at Merck allows her to take a larger role in tackling cancer on a global level, as the clinical trials reach hundreds of countries, and physicians around the world who seek approval for medications. One of her greatest professional accomplishments was working on a breakthrough immunotherapy drug, which allows patients to fight cancer with their own immune system.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, Cathy was determined to reward her parents' hard work with her own educational and professional success. Graduating from New York University, Cathy continued her studies at The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn/Downstate. She completed her residency in internal medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where she was also a chief fellow. Cathy has authored numerous articles, reviews, and book chapters, and has been an invited lecturer and presenter at national and international meetings.

In her free time, Cathy enjoys skiing, traveling, and cycling. Family remains extremely important, and she continues to live in New York City, close to her parents, sisters, Rosa '93 and Josephine '04, nephew and nieces, and hopeful future Bonnies, Raffaella Rose and Anna Catherine.

Dr. Maria Catherine (Cathy) Pietanza is a Scientific Associate Vice President of Clinical Research at Merck & Co. Inc. In her current role, Cathy develops the strategy for the study of Merck products in global clinical trials for lung cancers. Cathy was appointed Assistant Attending Physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. At MSKCC, she led the Small Cell Lung Cancer Research Program, and was a principal investigator on clinical trials in lung cancer, as well as pulmonary neuroendocrine tumors.

Fontbonne is the school that gave her a strong sense of self, and the confidence as a young woman to strive for any goal.

Cathy is proud to be a graduate of Fontbonne. It is the school that gave her a strong sense of self and the confidence as a young woman to strive for any goal. Many teachers inspired and encouraged her, especially Mrs. Gilda King, with whom she continues to have a strong connection. Cathy's professional success is anchored in the numerous values she gained at Fontbonne, such as faith, hope and community.

Eileen Corigliano

Profession: **Head of School
Staten Island Academy**

Class of

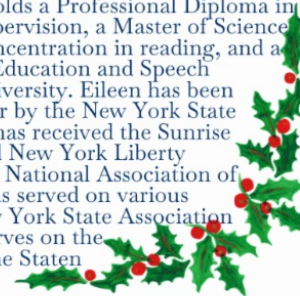
'89

Dr. Corigliano (or as many at the Academy call her, Dr. Crig) can be found in her office, visiting classrooms, teaching, or coaching. Eileen believes that schools should offer a variety of core programs, including athletics, arts, technology and community service opportunities; while fostering intellectual, creative, social and physical development in a safe and nurturing environment.

Eileen recently completed her Doctorate in Education at Northeastern University. She also holds a Professional Diploma in Educational Administration and Supervision, a Master of Science in Elementary Education, with a concentration in reading, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Speech Communication from St. John's University. Eileen has been named the Administrator of the Year by the New York State School Counselor Association, and has received the Sunrise Leadership Award, and the UPS and New York Liberty Inspiring Women Award. She was a National Association of Independent Schools Fellow, and has served on various school evaluation teams for the New York State Association of Independent Schools. She also serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees for the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.



Eileen Corigliano has been an educator since 1993. She joined Staten Island Academy 29 years ago and has been part of the community ever since. Over the years she has taught in Lower, Middle and Upper Schools in subjects ranging from math and technology, to English and history. She now serves as the Head of School at Staten Island Academy.





Lisa Bova-Hiatt

Profession: **Chief Executive Officer
NYC Housing Authority**

Class of

'87

Lisa served on student government when she was a senior at Fontbonne Hall Academy. Her teacher advisor, Ms. LoGerfo, is still a dear friend, and Lisa is still very close to the other student leaders at Fontbonne. Lisa explains how her years at Fontbonne prepared her for a career in public service. Helping others, especially those less fortunate, is grounded in the Catholic faith, and this tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable before our own. This sense of service was also fostered at Villanova where there was a strong emphasis on social justice and community service.

Prior to NYCHA, she was general counsel of the City University Construction Fund and executive university counsel of the City University of New York (CUNY). Prior to CUNY, Lisa served as executive director of the New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, where she played an integral role in helping the agency carry out the reconstruction of over 12,000 homes and hundreds of infrastructure projects after Superstorm Sandy.

When Lisa is not working, she loves spending time with her husband and adult children. They love to play golf, travel and entertain their friends and family. She is also passionate about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity with her friends from Villanova. Also, in an effort to spread kindness across the city, country and world, several years ago, Lisa created a Facebook group called "Random Acts of Kindness." The group now has over 37,000 members across 100+ countries.

In July of 2023, Lisa Bova-Hiatt was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the New York City Housing Authority, the largest public housing authority in the country that provides housing to 528,105 authorized residents across its programs. She had served as NYCHA's Interim CEO since September 2022 and worked for NYCHA as the Authority's General Counsel and member of its Executive team.

Her years at Fontbonne prepared her for a career in public service.

RENOVATIONS

This summer, Fontbonne underwent major renovations.

Starting at the front entrance with an appealing presence on Shore Road, our St. Joseph statue is prominently displayed surrounded by a newly paved entryway leading to inviting doors adorned with our etched glass insignia. Upon entering the building, there are all newly positioned administrative offices for Admissions, Development, College Advisement as well as a student space for study and research. Last year, the Walkathon revenue was intended for air conditioning in the gym. With generous support from the Sisters of St. Joseph, that project has expanded to include an HVAC system with air conditioning and heat as well as a ventilation system. A complete renovation of the cafeteria has taken place with all new furnishings, professional restaurant equipment and a new food service that will focus on healthy food choices for the students and staff. The cafeteria has been decorated in blue and gray and displays artwork from the Sisters of St. Joseph, Ministry of Art in Chicago. The interior of the Ita Ford building was freshly painted for a new and attractive ambiance. In an effort to enhance the student experience, our seniors will enjoy the special privilege of a newly created paved patio space between the gym and the main building. The beautiful patio furniture was generously donated by Gilda Piccini King '68, former Assistant Principal of Fontbonne. While several contractors worked together to complete these varied projects, Sister Maria Pascuzzi, the liaison for the Sisters of St. Joseph worked diligently to bring these projects to fruition.





ALUMNAE CONTRIBUTION

Thank you to the Class of '63, who have generously donated a 7.5 ft Christmas tree that is displayed in our newly renovated reception area in memory of the deceased members of their class.

Let's keep in touch!

If you know any Fontbonne alumnae who might have changed email addresses, please let us know. We would like to ensure nobody gets lost in our ever growing family. Once a Bonnie, always a Bonnie! Additionally, see our Facebook and Instagram pages for more frequent updates!



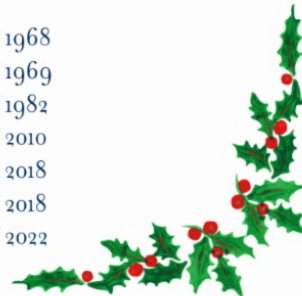
Have a wonderful Christmas, and may the New Year bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

Effie Maldari
Alumnae and Development
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(718) 307-5814

IN MEMORIAM

ROSE MARIE PAGNOTTA MURTAGH
MICHELE ATEYEH
JOANNE KOSS
SHANNON LEGG
GABRIELLA SHAMMAS
GABRIELLA MAZZA
CALEIGH DUGGAN

Class of 1968
Class of 1969
Class of 1982
Class of 2010
Class of 2018
Class of 2018
Class of 2022



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