

ASSUMPTION MAGAZINE

Spring 2020



Sophomore Sydney Badon, inspired by her sister, finds her voice as a writer and advocate. The Fahnbulleh sisters share their inspiring journey to Assumption at Rocket Spectacular. Graduates give back at the Alumnae Career Day...and more inside this issue!



Rooted in the values of Jesus Christ and the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, Assumption High School, dedicated to the development of the whole person, educates young women in a Catholic community where faith guides, compassion inspires, integrity matters, and excellence empowers.

#### OUR VISION

Assumption thrives as the college preparatory school of choice for young women by providing a wide range of educational and co-curricular programs that are complemented by spiritual and physical development opportunities. This unique experience educates the whole person in a caring, Christian environment that is permeated with the charism of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Assumption graduates are socially responsible women, committed to gospel living, lifelong learning, and a life of leadership and service in society. We cultivate the investment and involvement of the community so that the legacy of this Catholic Mercy-sponsored school lives on for generations.

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# PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Experience is a blessing. With 25 years in education under my belt, I started off the 2019-2020 school year confident in my role as principal and excited about all that lay ahead. But I have been anything but confident and far more anxious than excited as a parent during this year. With a seventh and eighth grader fully immersed in middle school and a fifth grader right on the brink, there has been a lot to navigate when it comes to homework, activities, friends, and, of course, pre-teen mood swings. My husband and I have had to rely on relatives, friends, and each other to help guide us through these uncertain times and keep us pointed in the right direction. Every day is a new adventure, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Every day we find the way on our journey...together.

This is one reason that I am so grateful for the school theme this year, "Find Your Way." The student leaders chose this theme to encourage all of us to "find our way" by navigating unfamiliar territory, discovering different interests, taking advantage of new experiences, building new relationships, and making the most of every moment. The community of Assumption has certainly been busy this school year finding our way...together.

In August, we welcomed our newest students to Assumption. The freshmen were eager to begin their year, especially after benefitting from summer seminar

where they worked with upperclasswomen leaders to "find their way" in a new school. Our nine AHS families, each made up of a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior homeroom, also took time to meet our newest community members and work together to build school and class spirit during our annual Walk for Assumption in September. It was a great way to kick off the new year!

Our alumnae also "found their way" back home for Reunion Celebration Weekend. With over 450 alums in attendance, our reunion classes enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, friendship, and fun. Alums were also able to meet current students and tour the school with them. In October, our alumnae had another opportunity to find their way back home at our annual Rocket Halloween Night. Alums brought their families decked out in festive costumes to trick-or-treat in the hallways and enjoy various activities in the gym. It's been a wonderful year for current students, alumnae, and future Rockets to celebrate Assumption style.

Lastly, our prospective students and parents have also had an opportunity for "find their way" to Assumption by taking time to attend our "Walk and Talk" parent tours during the school day and our "Discover Assumption Day" for those just beginning the school selection process. We also enjoyed a highly successful Open House night in December showcasing all that an Assumption education has to offer. We look forward to officially meeting the Class of 2024 students and parents at our upcoming registration nights. It's been a joy to meet new students and parents as we share all that we love about Assumption.

For me, personally, I have enjoyed these events and many more where I have been able to build new relationships. One of my favorite moments this year has been "finding my way" back to senior retreat where I had the opportunity to spend four days at Mount St. Francis with 50 members of the senior class. In the end, taking time each day to connect with God and our Gospel calling is one of the best ways to move forward on our journey. Yes, experience is a blessing, but so too is the gift of new discoveries, achievements, and friends. And the best part is that we get to do it all together.

Martha P. Tedesw

#### **MARTHA PFAADT TEDESCO '90**

PRINCIPAL



Sophomore Sydney Badon is finding her voice at Assumption High School and using it to speak up in support of children with epilepsy. Sydney's younger sister, Samantha, started experiencing symptoms of the disease when she was just six years old. By age seven, Samantha was officially diagnosed with Leavons Syndrome, a specific type of epilepsy.

As a young child, Samantha couldn't understand what caused her seizures and other symptoms which left her fearful and confused. Sydney wanted to help her little sister but soon discovered that adequate resources for helping young patients cope with the diagnosis simply didn't exist. Refusing to accept that nothing could be done, Sydney decided that making a difference for her sister and others like her was something she had to do herself. An eighth-grade school project gave Sydney the opportunity she had been looking for. Since Samantha wanted to tell her story to help other kids facing the same struggles, Sydney decided to write a book. In addition to doing extensive research, Sydney interviewed Samantha about her own experiences with epilepsy and the many ways the condition affects her life. Together, they hoped the book would help others deal not only with the physical challenges of epilepsy but also the emotional difficulties as well. They wanted readers to understand the condition better, know they are not alone in facing it, and feel empowered about living a full and rewarding life.

Sydney's book, *A Kid's Guide to Understanding Epilepsy*, was published in July of 2019 by the Children's Hospital Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Norton Children's Hospital. It explains how the brain works, common triggers for seizures, how a neurologist can help, types of tests that may be needed, and possible treatments. And best of all is that it's explained in kid-friendly language with illustrations and questions that allow readers to relate the material to their own personal experiences. Five thousand copies of the book are available at various Norton Children's Hospital offices, including the office of Dr. Vinay Puri, Samantha's own doctor.

Sydney's advocacy for those with epilepsy extends beyond her role as a published author. She has participated in many philanthropic events to raise money for research and traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators as a Team Speak advocate. Not surprisingly, Sydney's journey with Samantha has fostered a budding interest in the field of medicine. She plans to become a neurologist one day, much like Dr. Puri.

Assumption is so proud of Sydney! Her compassion for others, drive for making a difference, and dedication to the achievement of her goal are great examples of how "excellence empowers."

If you would like a copy of her book, please call the Children's Hospital Foundation at 502-205-4976 for more information.



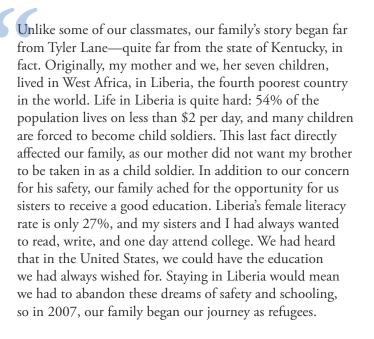


"SHE'S SO STRONG. SHE'S HAD TO MOVE SCHOOLS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES. SHE GETS SICK A LOT AND FALLS BEHIND, AND EVEN THOUGH SHE STRUGGLES IN SCHOOL SHE CONTINUES TO TRY HER BEST. I AM SO PROUD OF HER."

Sydney Badon '22, on her sister Sydney

## A SPECTACULAR STORY

This year at Rocket Spectacular, Kadieone, Kadietwo, and Hawa Fahnbulleh shared their story of the benefit of an Assumption education. They moved the crowd to tears, concluding with a standing ovation and leaving a lasting impact on the many guests. The three sisters are members of the class of 2020, preparing to graduate. They came to the US in 2007, placed in the same grade, and thanks to Catholic Charities, attended Nativity Academy. Nativity led them to Assumption and the Success Scholars Program. These three sisters have an incredible story, and we'd like to share their speech with you.



We traveled—by boat, by plane, by bus. Eventually, we arrived at a refugee camp which would become our home for three years while we waited. There are many daily challenges of living in a situation like we did; it is hard to describe them all.

Even as we waited, there was one dream about which we were somewhat impatient: our education. The camp had no school, and still we longed to learn. Finally, our prayers were answered, and our family was approved to come to the United States. Immediately, we received our first homework...because none of us spoke any English.



Kadietwo Fahnbulleh, Hawa Fahnbulleh, Kadieone Fahnbulleh

Our education began through Catholic Charities and the Americana Center, where we began learning English as a second language. We took lots of classes. Really, you would not believe how many classes we took, and because my sisters and I had been out of school for our three years in the camp, we completed this coursework together—each of us was placed in the same grade. The learning curve may seem steep, but our appetite for learning and our determination to learn English and speak fluently kept us motivated.



Catholic Charities connected us to Sister Ruthann from St. Boniface, who helped us enroll at Nativity Academy, where we learned about a special program called "Success Scholars" at a high school called Assumption. This program offers the highest amount of financial aid, including books, uniforms, supplies, retreat fees, and an after-school academic support program. Without this assistance, Assumption would have been an impossible dream for any one of us, let alone three. But we three were selected for this incredible gift—my two sisters and me.

The compassionate community and people who have welcomed us have given us countless opportunities to seize the chance our family chased across countries and ocean and years. Once we started, we quickly involved ourselves in extracurriculars beyond our Success Scholars program. We are all officers for the Diversity Club, of which Hawa is the co-president. Kadieone is an Assumption ambassador, and I, myself, was a leader for our freshmen's Summer Seminar. As seniors, we've also found our next steps beyond Assumption, too; we have all been accepted to multiple colleges and earned scholarships. This fall, Hawa and I will attend WKU and Kadieone will attend Kentucky Christian College on a basketball scholarship.

Even with these doors opened to us, our family still faces dayto-day challenges, including an all-hands-on-deck approach to budget and finances. We seven children and our single mother all contribute: Mom takes care of the rent, my older sister the LG&E bill, my brother the water, and we three pool our money for internet and our phones. We all work together to lift each other. Despite some difficulties, though, one thing stays the same through it all: our education comes first. Because of donors like you, we continue to realize our dream for an education. Because of Assumption, we are shaping our lives with the support of a faith-filled community that believes in lifting others. Because of this environment, we are taking challenging classes, emerging as young leaders, creating lasting friendships, and looking ahead to college. These realities are made possible through your generosity.

We want to thank you for helping us achieve our goals and dreams. To me, Assumption is a place of opportunity—not only to become someone great in the future but also to grow now as a young woman, one who uses her knowledge to change the world and to have an impact on others' lives. We are just three of many students who can both attend Assumption and succeed because of the generosity of others. Whether it's learning with my classroom teachers, working with Mrs. Cronin in the Learning Differences program, or standing in front of you in this room tonight, I know I can truly count on this community. I may be here

with my two sisters, but you have also afforded me 950 Assumption sisters. On behalf of all students receiving financial aid, I thank you for your generous help.

Assumption is my second home. It lets me escape the problems I may face at home or at work. It makes me feel safe and secure that I won't be judged. It gives me teachers and friends who deeply care about me. It reminds me that I am a valuable person who has dignity and worth and that what I do makes a difference...just as you have for us and our family. In closing, our journey from camp to campus was possible because of the people who helped carry us from one stage to the next. We know we will carry you and the Assumption community in our hearts forever."



-Read by Kadietwo Fahnbulleh



## WHY I GIVE BACK

From the lens of the Alumnae Career Fair, Jessica Cusick Malloy '01 shares her experience as alumna and professional.



Jessica Cusick Malloy '01



Mandy Borntraeger Conti '04 and Alaina Tobbe Jenne '09

## What are the day-to-day responsibilities your career?

As an assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, every day is different. In managing the Government Fraud Unit, I spend my time bringing enforcement actions against individuals and corporations who deceive the United States. In my capacity as the financial litigation unit coordinator, my days are filled fighting for individual victims—striving to repair the financial harm that crime left in its aftermath. Finally, the days I spend organizing our Office's Civil Rights Program are packed working to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable members of our society. The days are incredibly challenging, but they are immeasurably rewarding.

#### *How did your experience at Assumption prepare you?*

First, Assumption taught me how to fail, and that it is part of life's process. Behind every happy image of success, lie stories of time wasted, wishes unattained, and goals missed. Growth always involves the risk of failure. As AHS taught me to always put in my best effort when I take that risk, I can accept failure without regret or wondering "what if." Eventually, the risks pay off in dividends.

Secondly, Assumption prepared me by enveloping me in a community of remarkable, caring, and hardworking women. Ever as supportive of my journey today as they were in high school, my AHS friends are always there in times of need.

#### Why did you want to come back and serve at the Alumnae Career Fair Day?

Assumption also taught me that empowered women empower women. We lift up our peers and support each other's journey with gusto and zeal. So, in coming back for the day, I hoped to embolden a career path or two.

I also hoped to convince someone to use me as a conduit for their aspirations. I had to make a lot of cold calls to get to where I am today. But AHS's Career Fair Day gave students a chance to meet people who can create introductions and warm the conversation. And it will come as no surprise, the young women at Assumption today were eager to seize the opportunity for development. I left inspired by and in awe of my future fellow alumnae.

#### Why it is important to give back to Assumption – whether that be with time, talent, or treasure?

It takes a village to thrive and be great, and the community of Assumption is no different. It was a great village when I attended, and I intend to insure it remains great for my daughter to attend in 2030, and my granddaughters to attend thereafter. And their daughters. And their granddaughters... You get the point.



Students listen to Career Day presentations



Lauren Pieper Coffey '06 and Jackie McNatt '99



# BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

#### **OVERALL ATTENDANCE**

More than

515 members of the classes that end in 4's and 9's attended Reunion Celebration on Saturday, August 24.







#### **ADDITIONAL EVENTS!**

50- year anniversaries, respectively.







**REUNION WEEKEND 2019** 

Save the Patel

All classes that end in "0" and "5" are invited. More details to come.

#### **RECORD-BREAKING CROWD!**

More than



#### **HIGHEST CLASS PARTICIPATION**

The class of 2014 had the highest class participation with 95 members in attendance and 40% of their class represented. The class of 1969 had the second highest participation with more than 35% of their class represented at the reunion, then the class of 1989 with 32.8% of their class represented.

In addition to the Open House for all classes, there was a mass and luncheon to celebrate the class of 1969's 50-year reunion. There was also a special cocktail reception held for the classes of 1959, 1964, and 1969 who were celebrating their, 60-, 55-, and

### **REUNION CELEBRATION 2020!**

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

# **BRICK PREAT**

#### FAMILY HALLOWEEN NIGHT

The Alumnae Board teamed up with the Marketing and Admissions office to host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Assumption Family Halloween Night. Guests explored the new and improved route which included science experiments, aviation, face painting, magic shows. We were thrilled to welcome over 1,000 alumnae, future Rockets, and extended Rocket family to make it the largest Halloween Night yet!











## IN MEMORIAM

#### Our deepest sympathy to the following members of the Assumption community and their families.

To the family and friends and to the Class of 1958 on the death of their classmate, Joyce Tyrrell Cato '58, on December 15, 2019.

Sally Herman Poland '60 on the death of her sister, Laura Herman '00; on the death of her aunt; Amy Thompson Herman '70 on the death of her sister-in-law; and to the Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, Susan Herman Doolittle '62, on May 4, 2019.

Judy Robinson Lee '61 on the death of her grandson, Zachary Alexander Croxton, on January 12, 2020.

To the family, friends and the Class of 1961 on the death of their classmate, Carole Stuecker **'61**, on August 11, 2018.

Aline Allgeier Carter '62 on the death of her sister; staff member Angie Dusch on the death of her mother; Christine English '07, Emily English '15, Lexi Dusch '18, Libby Dusch '20, and Laney Dusch '22 on the death of their grandmother; and to the Class of 1959 on the death of their classmate, **Dorothy Allgeier** Steuerle '59, on October 15, 2019.

Marilyn Heil-Weber '62 on the death of her sister, Barbara Goff, on February 8, 2020.

Cassie Rief Soete '62 and former staff member Kim Miller on the death of their mother, former staff member Angie McDermott, Allison Rief Markert '04, Kathleen Miller '11, and Maria Miller '14 on the death of their grandmother; and Megan McDermott '15 on the death of her great-grandmother, **Catherine "Cassie" Gahafer Rief** on February 1, 2019.

To the family, friends, and the Class of 1964 on the death of their classmate, Joyce Lehmann Cloutier '64, on September 21, 2018.

Paulette Harpring Ruckriegel '64 on the death of her brother and Lauren Harpring on the death of her uncle, Jerry Harpring, on August 16, 2018.

To the family and friends and to the Class of 1965 on the death of their classmate, Barbara Jean Lehmenkuler Gagel '65, on February 8, 2020.

To the family, friends and the Class of 1966 on the death of their classmate, Mickey Brown Coates '66, on January 4, 2019.

Karen Jarboe Hellmueller '66 on the death of her mother, Rita Pauline Jarboe, on January 19, 2019.

Sandy Kimpflein Brooks '66 and Joan Kimpflein Riggs '70 on the death of their mother, and Kimberly Michelle Riggs Goode '96 and

Lisa Riggs Kopp '99 on the death of their grandmother, Betty Kimpflein, on October 14,

Mary Nell Lucas Griste '70 on the death of her sister and to the Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, Cleo Lucas Mertz '62, on January 19, 2019.

Mary Lou Kearney Marzian '72, Lena Kearney '77, and Genie Kearney '79 on the death of their sister and to the Class of 1968 on the death of their classmate, Kathleen Kearney Schell '68, on June 28, 2019.

Janet Maloney Sauer '73 on the death of her mother, Margie Glenn Maloney, on June 28, 2019.

Lisa McCoy Gueltzow '74 and Claire McCoy Boldrick '76 on the death of their father; Melanie McCoy '95, Caroline McCoy Lesousky '00, Ellie Boldrick Mikel '03, Katherine Boldrick Mitchell '04, and Laura Gueltzow Goubeaux '05 on the death of their grandfather; and former AHS president Mary Lee McCoy on the death of her father-in-law, Ruebush McCoy, on November 14, 2018.

Theresa Hohmann Russell '74 on the death of her mother, former staff member Carolyn A. Klueber Hohmann, on March 8, 2019.

Vickie Niemann Crane '75 and Michelle Niemann Wheeler '78 on the death of their father and Erin Wheeler Fogarty '02 on the death of her grandfather, Kenneth Joseph Niemann Jr., on December 15, 2019.

To the family, friends and the Class of 1975 on the death of their classmate, Kathy Koch Grisanti '75, on January 11, 2019.

Alison Fischer Harris '79 on the death of her father and Kaitlan Harris Wiedmar '07, Krista Harris Lindner '09, and Maddie Fischer '20 on the death of their grandfather, Timothy Wayne Fischer, on November 17, 2019.

Tracy Williams Adams '80 on the death of her sister and to the Class of 1983 on the death of their classmate, Dee Williams Chandler '83, on June 18, 2019.

Theresa Caster Dyar '81, Margie Caster DeMuth '82, Kathleen Caster Mace '84, and Maureen Caster Danahy '87 on the death of their father; Elizabeth DeMuth '11, Sarah Kate Dyar Landry '12, Catherine DeMuth '16, Claire Dyer '17, and Mary Margaret Danahy '20 on the death of their grandfather; and Marianne Caster Miller '79 on the death of her uncle, Robert Joseph Caster, on June 29, 2019.

Judi Joseph Erskine '82 and Amy Joseph Oberst '84 on the death of their mother, **Marian** Joseph, on December 28, 2019.

Maureen Donaldson Fell '82 on the death of her aunt and to the Class of 1960 on the death of their classmate, Kathi Condon Wade '60, on April 19, 2019.

Mary Dages Gould '82 and Anne Dages Nutt '86 on the death of their brother and Elizabeth Nutt '20 and Lilly Nutt '20 on the death of their uncle, John Russell Dages, on June 7, 2019.

Dianna Perkins McAuley '82 on the death of her sister and to the Class of 1984 on the death of their classmate, Michelle Perkins McAuley '84 on December 22, 2019.

Mary Bizzell Burns '84, Jenny Bizzell Freeman '86, and Nancy Bizzell Neumann '91 on the death of their mother and Meghan Neumann '21 on the death of her grandmother, Rita Martin Bizzell, on November 7, 2018.

Erin Gary '87, Bridget Gary Hart '88, and Ann Marie Gary '94 on the death of their father, E.J. Gary, on August 19, 2019 and their mother, Patricia Mauer Gary, on October 3, 2019.

Tricia Barry Biagi '89 on the death of her husband, Sophia Biagi '19 on the death of her father, and Cathy Barry Willinger '77, Barbara Barry Banta '78, Ellen Barry Connelly '83, and Julia Barry Bell '84 on the death of their brotherin-law, David Michael Biagi, on October 20, 2019

Shannon Kilkelly Kelting '90 on the death of her mother and to the Class of 1960 on the death of their classmate, Mary Willinghurst Kilkelly **'60**, on March 17, 2019.

Tiffany Thomas Murphy '92, Tina Thomas Posey '95, and Tara Thomas Osbourne '98 on the death of their mother; Laraine Blume Garpetti '64, Sharon Blume Powers '75, and Carole Blume '76 on the death of their sister; Michele Thomas Griffin '76 on the death of her sister-in-law; and to the Class of 1968 on the death of their classmate, Lynne Blume Thomas '68, on October 5, 2019.

To the family, friends, and to the Class of 1994 on the death of their classmate, Carrie Urton McCaw '94, and her daughter, Kathryn Celestine "Kacey" McCaw, on February 14, 2020.

Katie Weber Danner '00 on the death of her mother and to the Class of 1975 on the death of their classmate, Peggy Ward Weber '75, on December 5, 2018.

## IN MEMORIAM CONT'D

To the family, friends and the Class of 1999 on the death of their classmate, Amy Fisher '99, on November 22, 2018.

To the family, friends and the Class of 1999 on the death of their classmate, Brandi Thomas **'99**, on June 26, 2019.

Amanda Dodson '00 on the death of her sisterin-law, Amanda Meyer Wiedo, on November 18, 2018.

Kirstie Cook Buckley '04 on the death of her father, Ronald Lee Cook, on April 14, 2019.

Lauren Bauer '06 on the death of her mother and to the Class of 1975 on the death of their classmate, Nancy Worland Bauer '75, on March 27. 2019.

To the family and friends and the Class of 2006 on the death of their classmate, Melissa Witt **'06**, on February 13, 2019.

Madison Wessel '14 on the death of her father, Dale Wessel, on August 18, 2019.

Jessica Wheatley '15 on the death of her mother, Shawn M. Corum Wheatley, on September 20, 2019.

### **ROCKET IN REVIEW** The First Annual Walk

The first annual Assumption Walk was held on December 9, 1983. Assumption girls paraded 7 miles bundled up in heavy coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Students were expected to raise money by getting sponsors with 98% of the student body participating and 100% of the faculty and staff. A total of \$17,058.25 was raised in the first year.

January 11, 2019.

2. 2018

"I remember that the walk was long and it was very cold outside. Some girls didn't make it to the end because it wasn't an easy walk. I remember my lungs burning from the cold but my body sweating from the challenging walk."

- Kelly Hovekamp '87

"I remember it was a LONG walk and wasn't easy for those who were out of shape! "Walks" were not as common back then so AHS was pretty innovative with this idea. Not sure why we chose Decemberchilly and challenging to get sponsors when everyone was saving for Christmas gifts!" - Mary Margaret Ralph, Faculty Member

"I was a sophomore and can remember that we were really excited to not have classes. We pulled wagons with boom boxes playing that great 80s music! I pulled wagons for 7 miles!" – Carrie Laha '86



This year's walk was record-breaking! Check it out on page 4 of The Annual Report.

Morgan Monsour '16 and Riley Monsour '19 on the death of their grandmother and to the Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, Elaine Quarles Monsour '62, on February 3, 2020.

Karalyne Park '18 on the death of brother, Daniel Park, on May 15, 2019.

Claire Hellmann '19 on the death of her mother Susan Hellmann, on May 31, 2019.

Georgia Reinecke '22 on the death of her father, Fred Reinecke, on May 18, 2019.

To the family, friends, and Sisters of Mercy upon the death of former faculty member, Sister Joyce Ogden, RSM, who passed away on December

To the family and friends of former staff member Tammy Champa, who passed away on December 13, 2018.

To the family and friends of former faculty member, Merigay Small, who passed away on December 15, 2018.

To the family and friends of former faculty member Terry Redden, who passed away on

To staff member Tammy Finch on the death of her father-in-law, Samuel Finch, on January 26, 2019, and her sister, Susan Reilly, on June 24, 2019.

To the family and friends of former faculty member Sister Margaret Willis, SCN, who passed away on April 1, 2019.

Former AHS president Elaine Salvo on the death of her mother, Rose M. Rizzi, on April 30, 2019.

Faculty member Christina Elpers on the death of her father, William Joseph Wooldridge, on September 18, 2019.

Former faculty member Mary Helen Zahn on the death of her husband, Wendell Kessler, on September 10, 2019.

Staff member Tricia Walker on the death of her mother and Makena Walker '21 on the death of her grandmother, Rita Ann Scanlan, on September 29, 2019.

Savannah Roby '22 on the death of her father, Brian Roby, on January 30, 2020.

#### **ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL**

Spring Magazine 2020

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