



Hold that pose! Mercy seniors pose for pictures before graduation at the Baldwin Pavilion at Meadow Brook May 28.



STAFF PHOTO BY DANIEL LIPPETT

To a degree: Senior Stephanie David shakes hands with principal Sister Regina Marie Doelker during graduation ceremonies.

## Graduation stresses women role models

BY SUE BUCK

**S**ome 200 young women, including an Australian exchange student, finished their Mercy High School careers and stepped out as adults following the 48th commencement ceremony May 28 at Meadow Brook.

Dr. Alexa Canady, chief of Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan and an associate professor at Wayne State University, gave the commencement address. She became the first black woman neurosurgeon in the United States at the age of 30.

Throughout the ceremony, speakers reminded the graduates of the importance of strong woman role models.

"Graduates have faith in yourselves," said valedictorian Kristina Tracy Kudelko. "Remember always who you are, what you stand for, and what you can contribute. Mature gracefully and do not abandon that child within you who gives you light and laughter."

Kudelko, and salutatorian

Madhavi Dandu went through a careful screening process for their selection, said Sister Regina Marie.

As praises flowed commencement day, so did Treasurer Cheryl Munday's praises of Sister Regina, who she called a strong supporter. "In an age where it is vital for young women to be well-educated, it is equally important for them to be supported in their visions of themselves."

Ron Sill, Mercy Teacher of the Year, gave the introduction. His daughter, Amy Christine, was among the graduates. So was Katy Silcox, an Australian exchange student.

Students Antonia B. Harbin and Shireen Agah were writer and illustrator respectively for a booklet given out as a gift at the all-night graduation party, provided by Mercy parents.

Harbin paraphrased the words of Poet Edwin Markham: "There's a destiny that makes us

sisters. None goes her way alone. All that we sent into the lives of others will come back into our own."

Amid the plans and memories, students also expressed in writing, how Mercy High school had been a positive experience for them. Here's a sampling: "My accomplishments have been given just attention and my shortcomings have been either overlooked and overcome" — Heather Hudson.

"Attending Mercy has taught me to be myself and not to go along with the norm. I have learned to express my thoughts and feelings freely." — Amy Markiewicz.

"It has allowed me to include religion in my everyday life." — Nancy Attisha.

"I have benefited from this being an all-women's school. I have more opportunities open to me. I am looked at as a person, not overlooked because I am a girl!" — Margaret Jones.



Gather around: Mercy graduates, dressed in white dresses instead of black caps and gowns, wait for ceremonies to begin.

## Mercy High Class of '93

Following are the members of the class of 1993 at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills:

Caroline Marie Abbo, Ebony Antanea Adams, Shireen Michelle Agah, Sahar I. Alkhanji, Fay Mary Azab, Amela Assad, Patricia Elizabeth Atkin, Karlene Mary Attisha, Nancy Sabri Attisha.

Christina Banachero, Terri Banachero, Jennifer F. Banish, Jeanine Marie Binno, Shannon Rochelle Black, Dara Nzingha Black, Jenny Michelle Bjoji, Emily Darlene Bonten, Amy Reilly Bott, Sandra Leigh Boyd.

Jill Maureen Brady, Marshelle J. Brooks, Dina Marie Burghardt, Jennifer Marie Buser, Ibeta Keshia Byrd, Rebecca Anne Calvo, Amy Ekberg Carlson, Kelli Antonette Check.

Sonya Rani Choudhury, Nicole Michelle Chrispen, Sara Lynn Christensen, Angela Eve Cini, Jennifer Lynn Coffelt, Kara Lynn Connor, Victoria Eugenie Conover, Jodi Marie Cosmeck.

Madhavi Dandu, Jessica Ann Dprou, Kavita Datta, Amita Dave, Angela Nicole Davenport, Stephanie Margaret David, Erica Davis, Valencia Davis, Marcella DeAgostino, Renata Marie DiSignore.

Nicole Lynn Ann Derr, Sama Jayant Desai, Dana Lynn Deshaw, Dawn Marie DiPonio, Rosanne DiZazzo, Caitlin Hope Donahue, Janet Louise Drowek, Kathleen Marie Drowek, Jennifer Duda, Leah Elizabeth Duncan.

Robyn Alliece Duncan, Carrie Christian Diadozo, Jessica Jane Escobedo, Katherine Mounia Amayillis Farah, Sandra Marie Farida, Melissa Ann Ferguson, Christelle Joanne Flahaux, Bridget K. Flaherty, Rachel Marie

Fling, Mary Lynn Flint, Carlin Elizabeth Flora.

Sandy Goppy, Jennifer Lynn Garmo, Elizabeth Colleen Garrow, Michele Renee Giza, Erica Dorothy Gebstadt, Irona J. Givens, Lillian Raquel Godoy, Kristi Ann Hale, Colleen Elizabeth Hall.

Antonia Bonita Harbin, Katie Lynn Heffernan, Darlene Hermis, Kelly Ann Hodgins, Ebony Dawn Howard, Heather Caryl Hudson, Krystin Marie Johnson, Pauline Sabah Jabore, Jennifer Marie Jackson, Andrea Latamara James.

Margaret Rose Jones, Jill Katherine Jarosz, Amy Elizabeth Jennette, Malika Nalo Johnson, Stephanie Therese Johnson, Krystin Marie Johnson, Catherine Suzanne Jones, Valire Michelle Jones, Julia Kimberly Jostlyn, Helen Jovanovich.

Randa Shabib Kasgorgis, Heather Alton Kell, Kristen Marie Kessler, LaShonda Ann King, Laura Katharine Klesinski, Kristin Marie Leonard, Allison Cassandra Lewis, Kristen Alana Lewis, Deepa Mallineni, Sandy J. Mammo, Brooke Jennifer Mansour, Amy Suzanne Markiewicz.

Jennifer Jean McCombs, Christine Louise McGowan, Amy Jennifer Mease, Anjali Mohite, Jessica Ann Metzger, Meghan Mary Miesel, Martha Kathryn Millis, Krista Marie Miller, Kristen Lynn Moeller, Kerry Joyce Montgomery.

Megan Amy Montgomery, Melinda Mwan, Margaret Mueller, Megan Marie Muller, Kellyann

O'Malley Nargorsen, Amber Mary O'Connell, Andrea Mari-Elena Obrecht, Dawn Marie Owen, Patricia Paciooco, Poornima L. Padipaty, Elizabeth Cuevas Palad.

Shiba Christine Elnore Palmor, Marjion Naki Parham, Janetbi Patel, Jennifer Paulick, Melissa Grace Peash, Jodi Lynn Plopan, Ariane Poniatowski, Sally Rita Poota, Erin Elizabeth Sharnell, Prasad, Lisa Rene Prince, Nicole Lynette Pryor.

Kristen Elise Remus, Melissa Deann Robbins, Geraldine C. Roc, Meghan Kristen Roselle, Barbara Clare Rozman, Lynette Iola Salingo, Erin Lori Scheffer, Anjali Chandra Sekhar, Lisa Kathryn Sikorski, Katy Silcox.

Amy Christine Sill, Kimberly Kristal Simmons, Kathleen Simonelli, Linda Sitto, Sara Elizabeth Slawnik, Bernadette Ebony Smith, Erika Leigh Smith, LeTanya Denise Smith, Charis Chiles Solomon, Felicia Lauren Squaire.

Meara Kathleen Steele, Rachael Steplen, Kelly Ann Stirling, Allison Kay Strausbaugh, Barbara Margaret Sullivan, Krista Marie Surowiec, Jennifer Rae Szabo, Kimberly Ann Taylor, Kara Beth Thomas, Bethany Kate Tomala.

Kerrianne Topolewski, Catherine Marion Trainor, Melissa Patricia Tumas, Julie Joanne Vaguera, Dana Nanette Wade, Melissa Allison Waggoner, Wendy Lynne Wahli, Rachael Renee Walsh, Mala Cynthia Warren, Kourtney Ann Watts.

Leslie White, Mara Joy Williams, Lori Williams, Tracy Carol Winter, Kyle Leigh Wisne, Kera Nicole Wood, Twyla Allah Woolwine, Allison L. Wright, Monica Marie Yono, Samantha Ann Yono, and Beth Ann Ziobro.

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## Dunckel girl is state essay winner

Christine Kuo, 13, an eighth grade student at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, is a first-place winner in the statewide "America & Me" essay contest.

Kuo's essay, "Why I am Important to America," was picked as the number one entry out of 4,500 submitted from students in 450 schools. Dianna

Boyer of Power Middle School was ninth place in the competition.

Kuo received a \$1,000 savings bond during award ceremonies in Lansing.

She is the daughter of Steve and Shirley Kuo of Farmington Hills.