

During Catholic Education Week 2011

THE YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SALUTES OUR:



2011

Distinguished Alumni

ANNA *Lacivita*



COSTUME DESIGNER

St. Robert CHS graduate Anna Lacivita designs costumes for theatre, dance, musicals, opera and film in the greater New York City area. Her recent credits include a stage production of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida* and assisting on HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Anna has worked with actors including Alec Baldwin, Amy Irving and Stockard Channing. She has received a number of awards and scholarships, including the J.S. Seidman Award for Excellence in Design and the Lloyd Burlingame Scholarship. Anna obtained an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of Design for Stage and Film, a BFA from York University in Set and Costume Design and a certification in fashion design from the Istituto Marangoni in Milan, Italy. She notes that having a Catholic education allowed her to focus on her faith, which has helped her to persevere and be appreciative of all the opportunities she has been given. Anna also says that the range of extracurricular activities provided by her teachers taught her how to collaborate at a young age and discover her unique creativity.

ISAAC JR. *Olowolafe*



**REAL ESTATE
COMPANY FOUNDER**

Isaac Jr. Olowolafe is a graduate of Holy Cross CA and the University of Toronto. He is the broker of record at Dream Maker Realty, which he founded eight years ago. Isaac Jr. is also president and CEO of Dream Fund Holdings, an issuer of Canadian real estate investment opportunities. He is co-founder and director of Build Our Wealth, a non-profit organization transforming lives through education, mentorship and investment access. He has established the Dream Maker Realty/Olowolafe Family Scholarship at the University of Toronto, making him the first Nigerian in a Canadian university with a named award. He is also a recipient of the distinguished Harry Jerome Award. Isaac Jr. says that his Holy Cross math teachers motivated him to focus on his math skills—skills that he values in his business transactions today. Isaac Jr. is newly married to his university sweetheart, with a newborn baby girl.

MELANIE *de Jesus-Aniceto*



OPTOMETRIST

Fr. Michael McGivney CA graduate Dr. Melanie de Jesus-Aniceto is a partner at the Stouffville Optometric Centre. She attended the University of Waterloo and the Illinois College of Optometry. While in her final year of optometry school she volunteered to travel with other optometry candidates to attend to the eye care needs of villagers in Honduras. She currently serves with the Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes program, working to improve the quality of life for individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities by optimizing their eye health. As a member of Fr. Michael McGivney's first graduating class, she recalls the great sense of community students and teachers strove to create and their sense of pride in their small school. She says she is fortunate to have been influenced by great people, including science teacher (now principal) Corinna Taverna-Rossi, who introduced her to the profession of optometry and demonstrated that a woman can be successful in a career and still have a family.

PINA *D'Agostino*



LAW PROFESSOR

Professor Giuseppina D'Agostino, a Father Bressani CHS graduate, joined the Osgoode Hall Law School faculty in 2006 and is founder and director of IP Osgoode, Osgoode's Intellectual Property Law and Technology Program. She completed her doctoral and masters studies with distinction at the University of Oxford, where she was a lecturer in law. Before attending Oxford, she practiced law in one of Canada's leading law firms. She publishes on a range of issues and has authored two books. She is featured in the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Ontario's new book, *The Next Generation, Made in Canada: The Italian Way*. Professor D'Agostino notes that she was blessed with strong role models during elementary and high school—many exceptional teachers who helped her to solidify her skills and inspired her to dream. She recalls that teacher (now principal) John Heinrich fuelled her to believe in herself and to work hard. She believes that having a Catholic education grounded her to live a spiritual life, guided by faith.

ANDREW *Cooper*



CHIROPRACTOR

St. Elizabeth CHS graduate Dr. Andrew Cooper is the owner of Cooper Chiropractic Health Centre, a multidisciplinary healing health centre in Concord. He attended Queen's University and Logan University, earning two degrees in the sciences as well as a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Dr. Cooper opened his health centre in 2002 with a vision of working with people to help them develop health in mind, body and soul. He notes that the roots of this philosophy began with his upbringing and schooling in the Catholic system. He recalls that his teachers at St. Mary Immaculate CES were supportive and nurturing, and he remains in contact with some of them to this day. At St. Elizabeth CHS, he continued building a foundation in subjects he later used to become a chiropractor. He recalls that teacher Bernie Smith inspired him to pursue math and sciences, and provided him with guidance and support to help him reach his goals.

LINDSAY *Bolger*



CANCER ACTIVIST

Lindsay Bolger blossomed at St. Brother Andre CHS, joining the rugby, volleyball, basketball and field hockey teams. She attended St. Francis Xavier University, playing varsity rugby and volleyball and going to national finals three times. Lindsay was diagnosed with a rare type of brain tumour at the age of 21, but she persevered to graduate as valedictorian and attend grad school. Lindsay started the B-Strong Fund to raise money for brain tumour research and the B-Strong Bash, a fundraiser that has raised over \$470,000 in five years. She stayed positive while enduring four surgeries, chemo and radiation. Sadly, she passed away in 2009, but not without eternal optimism to beat cancer or find a cure. Both St. Brother Andre CHS and St. Francis Xavier University have since announced awards in her name, in tribute to her positive and powerful leadership. Lindsay is still inspiring people with the incredible optimism she demonstrated. Visit www.bstrong.ca.

