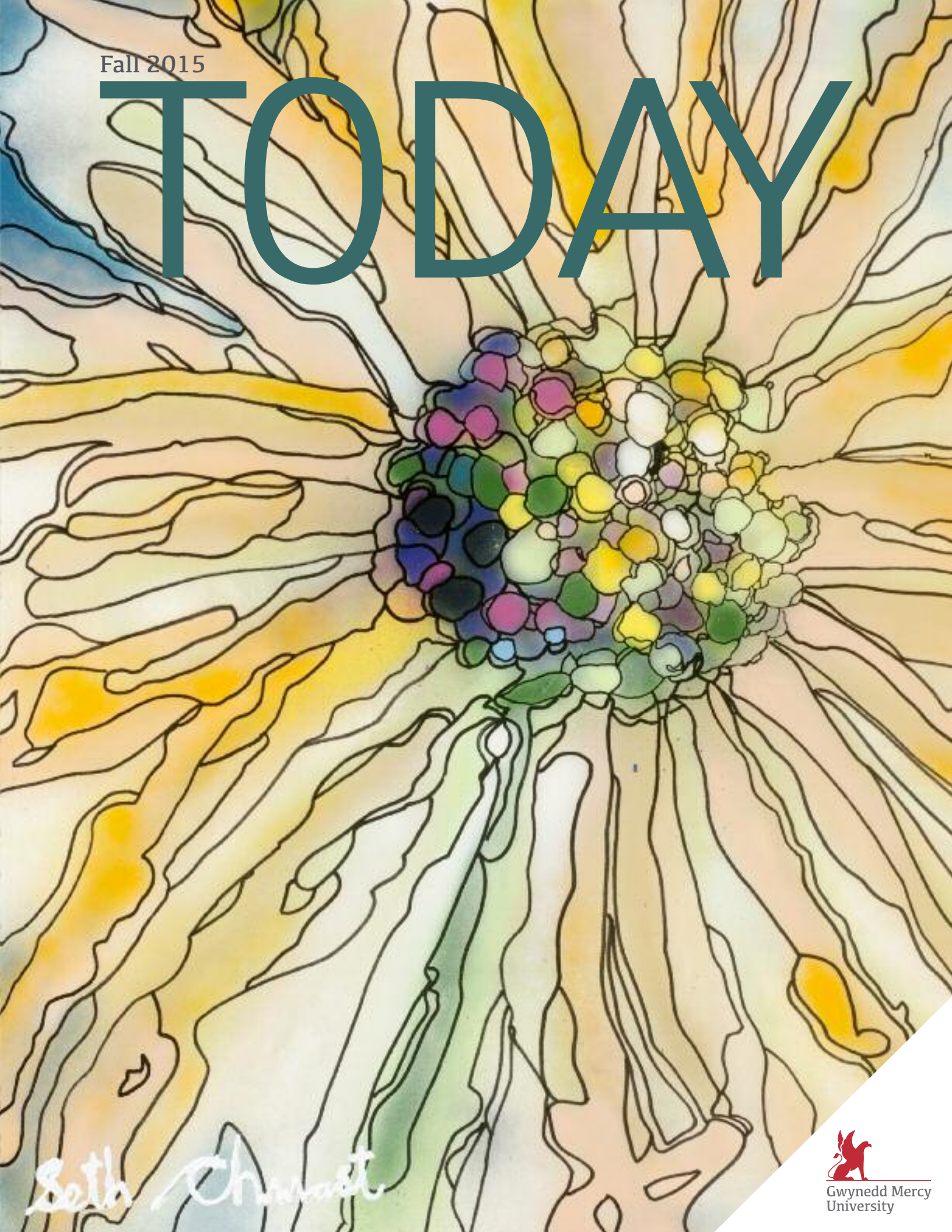


Fall 2015

# TODAY



*Seth Christ*

## Life's About Changin'

I often think about change and why it's so difficult when, as singer Patty Lovelace says: "Life's about changin', nothing ever stays the same." Wow, this has absolutely been my experience of life!

This summer, like every summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy a week's vacation with my children and grandchildren. When I began my tenure at GMercyU, I had a one-year-old grandson and now I have five grandchildren, ages 8 to 15. How did this happen?

As a lifelong tennis player, I recall playing tennis with my sons and beating them handily until they were in high school and they began playing varsity tennis. Ouch... I no longer won any of the games. My then one-year-old grandson (now 15 and a freshman tennis player) was once upset when I would win a game or two; now he wins just about all the games.



This summer my husband and I also planned a weeklong vacation. As you might imagine, we had differing opinions of how to spend our week. While his suggestions for theatre and arts in New York City were very enticing, my suggestions for health and well-being carried the day. We attended a weeklong residential program that focused on physical, nutritional, mental and spiritual well-being. Talk about change; because of a variety of life circumstances, I know very little about cooking and food preparation. While this comes as no surprise to people who know me (including my family); I nevertheless took a few cooking classes that introduced me to a great deal of information about nutrition and food preparation. While I still have no time to watch the Cooking Channel, I have changed my personal commitment to all that's involved with healthy food preparation (including delegating this responsibility to my husband). On the other hand, my husband (a good cook) feared that he would be met by a whip-toting physical trainer, who would demand 50 push-ups upon arrival. His fear did not materialize, but he did come to understand the critical elements of healthy eating and the significance of regular exercise.

Over the last few years, GMercyU has experienced significant changes in its student demographics, enrollment patterns, degree offerings, campus facilities, academic delivery modes, campus locations, and so much more. And, while many of these changes responded to the needs of the time, our enduring mission and core values remain the same. We are committed to preparing *Distinctive Mercy Graduates* who are competent in their academic disciplines/professional fields, exhibit a foundation in liberal learning, and demonstrate a commitment to Mercy values – especially the value of service on behalf of others. As you will read in this edition of Today, our students are well-equipped to meet the extraordinary challenges of our times, while simultaneously embracing our deep and enduring Mercy core values. Personally, I can think of nothing better than to send our *Distinctive Mercy Graduates* into a world that desperately needs their knowledge, skills, values and abilities. Of course, the University is enabled to do this as a result of the extraordinary generosity of our alumni, friends and benefactors; and for that I express sincere gratitude.



Kathleen

Kathleen Owens, PhD  
President



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Gwynedd Mercy University  
*Today* is published twice a year  
for alumni and friends of the  
University. Your comments and  
suggestions are welcome.

**Gerald T. McLaughlin**  
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Artist Seth Chwast's painting  
*The Big Pink Flower*



# #GMercyUGrad15

Gwynedd Mercy University's Class of 2015 walked across the stage to a roar of applause as they received their hard-earned diplomas at the 66th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9. Nearly 800 associate, bachelor's and master's degrees were awarded at the ceremony, making this the fourth-largest graduating class in the University's history.



JeNell LaRue '08 received the Tender Courage Award, given to those whose accomplishments exemplify the ideals of Mercy.



Sister Cora Marie Billings, RSM, the first African American to join the Religious Sisters of Mercy, received an honorary degree.



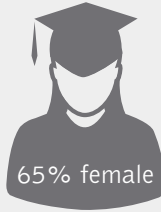
Frances M. and James J. Maguire received The Beacon of Mercy Award for their dedication to GMercyU and their philanthropic efforts throughout the Philadelphia area. James also served as the Commencement Speaker.



Megan Kelly '15 addressed her fellow graduates as this year's student speaker. Kelly received her bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in business.

# CLASS OF 2015

**791**  
GRADUATES



**22**

18-20 years old

**15**

61+ years old

**35%**

ages 21-25

OLDEST

**68**

(2)

YOUNGEST

**19**

(14)

DEGREES

**794**

TOTAL

209 associate  
419 bachelor's  
166 master's

AVERAGE AGE

30 associate  
31 bachelor's  
39 master's

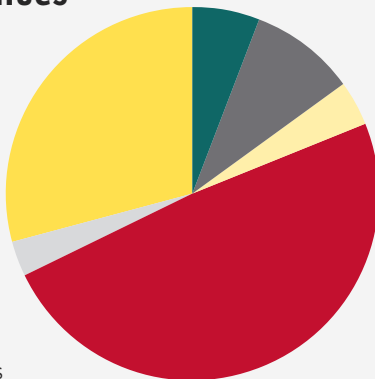
They Hail From

**14**  
STATES

**29**

DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES

- Health Professions
- Arts & Sciences
- Business
- GPS
- Education
- Nursing



\*All figures are estimates





# Artist with Autism Visits GMercyU



When Seth Chwast was diagnosed with severe autism as a young child, his mother, Debra, was told time after time that her son wouldn't amount to anything.

Fast-forward decades later, Seth, now 32, is a world-renowned artist whose paintings have been exhibited around the world. In front of a packed house in University Hall on April 10, the Chwasts shared their story and kicked off Gwynedd Mercy University's eighth annual Autism Conference.

"You can reach for the stars and you may not get the star you thought you would get, but you may get something better," Debra Chwast said.

Debra is the author of *An Unexpected Life: A Mother and Son's Story of Love, Determination, Autism, and Art*, which chronicles the journey both she and Seth have been on since his diagnosis. Refusing to limit or restrict Seth, Debra committed her life to helping Seth find a way to express himself.

In 2003, she enrolled Seth in a painting class in their hometown of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and the rest, as they say, was history. Seth began describing his world through art; his ability to paint without boundaries has enabled him to create pieces in various styles and mediums.

Seth has traveled all over the world, holding exhibits in the Galapagos and Cayman Islands, and has appeared on national television programs such as *The Today Show*. Seth has worked with international artists, regularly flying to New York to work with Kip Jacobs to create Manhattan cityscapes and mobiles.

His colorful paintings were on display throughout GMercyU's University Hall and on the t-shirts of the Education students who filled the auditorium.

"What he is doing is amazing," Debra said, "and Seth is autistic. He cannot cross the street. You can't train him; you can't condition him; you can make him feel guilty but you can't make him do what he can't do. But if you focus on what he can do, he can blow you away."

It is the mission of the Autism Institute of Gwynedd Mercy University to support scientifically research-based best practices for individuals with autism. The Autism Conference is just one of the many ways the Institute provides services and resources that contribute to the development and educational progress of persons on the autism spectrum.

Debra hopes Seth's story will inspire others, especially future educators of people with autism, to focus on the abilities of the person, not the limitations.

What's next for the Chwasts? They spent most of their summer in Europe while Seth's art was displayed in France. Debra is working on a multimedia curriculum using Seth's art to teach children about autism.

For now, Seth continues to paint smiles on faces around the globe.

To read more about Seth, visit [growyourbrainart.com](http://growyourbrainart.com).

**Seth Chwast spent the weekend at GMercyU displaying his vibrant paintings and sharing his story with his mother, Debra.**

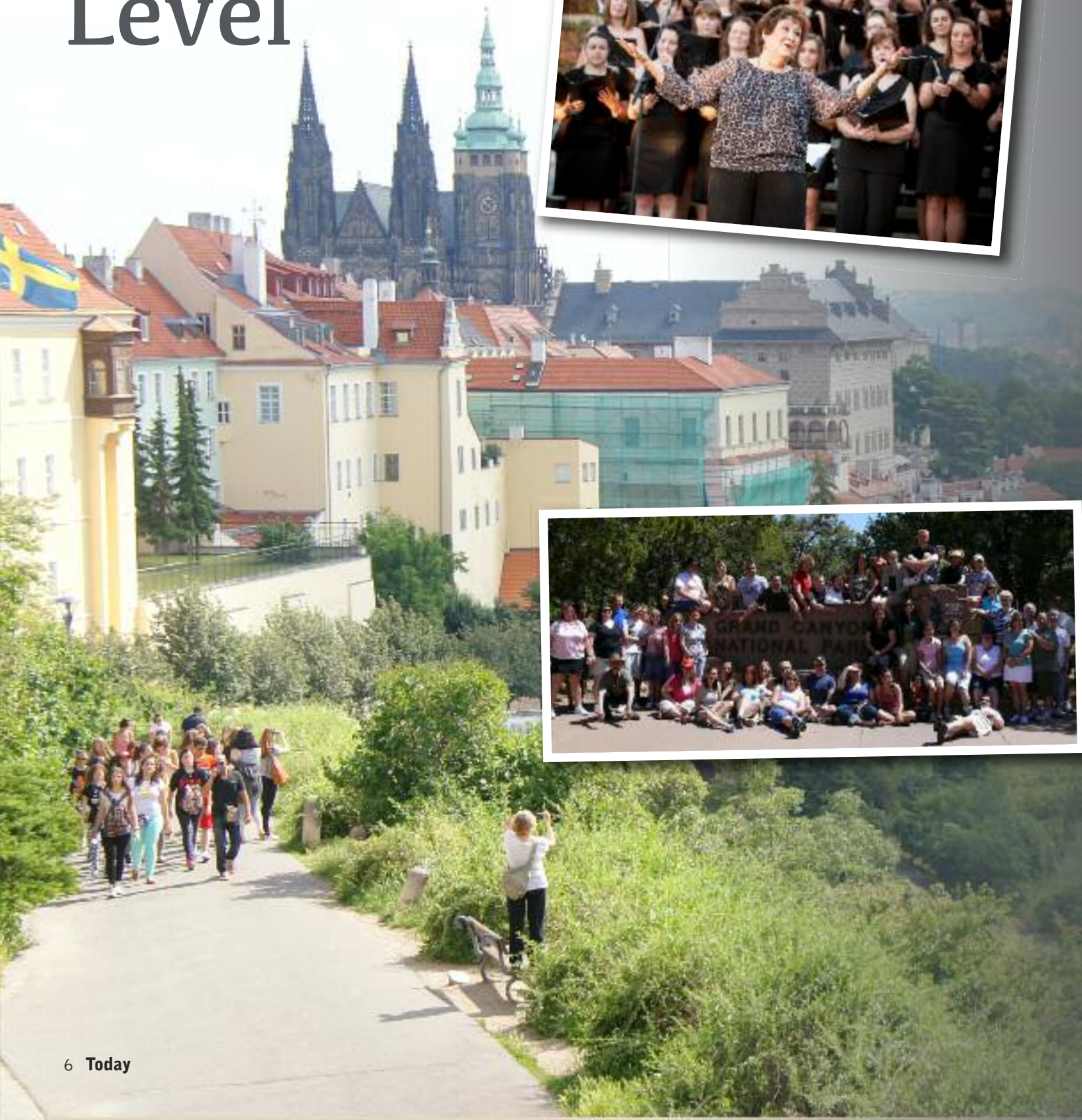


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**“I believe  
‘Never give up,’  
‘Never say no.’”**

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# VOG Reaches Platinum Level



**In 20 years of touring, Voices of Gwynedd director Carol Evans has seen it all.**

There was the time at the Grand Canyon that Danielle McConaghy '09 dropped her camera off the edge of a cliff and Eddie Pratt '09 climbed down to get it, even though they had only just met.

There was also the time Dennis Sidorick '15 proposed to Jessica Reedel '10 after a concert at the Kylemore Abbey Chapel in Ireland. (They're married now.)

Then there was the time on the Alaska cruise when Melissa Evans-McNamara '03 and Sean McNamara '97 bought a pregnancy test and found out they were expecting. (Their son, Liam, is 4 years old.)

"They're just some really remarkable people," Evans said of her group this summer, a few weeks after they returned from their trip to Spain, marking VOG's 20th year of tours.

The very first VOG concert tour was to Ireland in 1995, and the group sang "Circle of Mercy" in the courtyard of the Mercy International Centre, where GMercyU is listed among all the Mercy schools in the world. Evans said everyone in the group couldn't help but get emotional at the thought of being surrounded by Mercy in the very place where the Sisters of Mercy were formed.

"We just couldn't believe that we were bigger than this little Mercy college in the Gwynedd Valley," Evans said.

The group has traveled to cities around the world where little English is spoken, but the message of their music is never lost, Evans said. At a church in Prague, the group performed during a Sunday service, and only knew when they were supposed to sing because the priest would say, "Voices of Gwynedd!" Otherwise, they understood nothing, she said.

After the mass, a woman approached Evans' daughter Aryssa Burrs and grabbed her hand. With tears in her eyes, she gave Burrs a chocolate bar.

The next day the group performed at another church in the middle of the day. The first two pews of the church were filled with the priest and parishioners who had heard the very same concert the day before, including the woman with the chocolate bar.

"Musically, it was a big thing for me," Evans said. "Music and emotions; there's a language barrier, but music and emotions cut through."

At the same time the group connects with the

world beyond GMercyU's campus, the group connects with one another during the trips. Several couples have met through VOG and have gone on to marry and have children. Those babies are called Junior Voices, and their ranks are growing.

The Junior Voices include Liam and Emily Evans-McNamara, Tyler and Brynlee Swartley-Turansky, Liam and Abby Illian-Baskin, Aiden and Nora Tumolo-Pratt and the newest Junior Voice, Evelyn Phillips, who was born in July to Megan Turiano and Dan Phillips.

The Junior Voices, much like their college counterparts, are instantly welcomed into the Voices of Gwynedd family.

Nobody knows that feeling better than McConaghy, who dropped her camera off a cliff in the Grand Canyon. To her surprise, people she hardly knew jumped in to help rescue it.

"I didn't even know Eddie and he was so quick to offer to save my camera that had gone off the edge. That was only my second year at GMercyU and I have just always felt like I belonged in VOG. It's nice to be part of such a big group where there are so many people that will support you," McConaghy said.



This year's tour was 53 people strong, and Evans sees no reason to slow down anytime soon. She's been adding destinations to her VOG tour bucket list, including Denver, Chicago, New England, Paris and Central America, though the feasibility of all of those locations is unknown. In order for a place to be a good match for a tour, transportation and accessibility to places to hold concerts is considered. Locations that are too remote would require too much travel time between venues, and prove difficult for audiences to attend.

Now that they're back stateside, the group is already preparing to fundraise for next year's trip to somewhere in the Northeast- maybe New York or Canada. For more information or if you're interested in joining VOG, call 215-646-7300 ext. 144 or email [vog@gmercyu.edu](mailto:vog@gmercyu.edu).





# GMercyU Celebrates Maguire Hall and New Nursing Program



**O**n the eve of Commencement, Gwynedd Mercy University celebrated the naming of Frances M. Maguire Hall.

The home of the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions now dons the name of one of the University's most treasured and dedicated alum, friend and benefactor. Mrs. Maguire and her husband James J., have been instrumental in the University's growth and success over the last few decades.

They are two individuals who truly value education and provide philanthropic support for students and institutions at all levels throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond. Mrs. Maguire earned a medical secretary degree from GMercyU in 1955 and later returned to study nursing in the mid-1970s.

It was an exciting week for The Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions as they also opened the doors to a new Center City state-of-the-art facility and GMercyU's first-ever Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program just a few days prior.

The new ABSN program is just another way GMercyU is keeping up with the latest healthcare trend of needing better-educated nurses. Designed for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field, the ABSN aims to produce future nursing leaders and features the high-quality education and clinical rotation opportunities that have long been hallmarks of the school's nursing programs. The degree program takes as little as 15 months to complete.

"Leveraging this state-of-the-art facility, a rigorous curriculum and dedicated faculty, we will not only enable students young and old to become bachelor's-prepared nurses in as little as 15 months, but also position them for successful, long-term careers as the profession continues to evolve," Dean Andrea Hollingsworth, PhD said.

The space is located at GMercyU's Center City Philadelphia campus, conveniently located in the Public Ledger Building at 600 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. The facility is equipped with the newest technology, including the ever-so-popular SIM people.

GMercyU will be admitting new students three times a year: May, August and January. For more information, visit [gmercyu.edu](http://gmercyu.edu).

**(Top)** Frances M. Maguire with Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions Dean, Andrea Hollingsworth, PhD, and students.

**(Bottom)** The new facility at GMercyU's Center City campus gives students hands-on experience in the multiple state-of-the-art labs.

# New Trustees Announced



**Jean M. Keeler, JD** is Grand View Health's president and CEO, a role she's held since 2012. She has negotiated innumerable physician and hospital contracts, developed the corporate compliance plan, established the HIPAA privacy policy and program and effected a comprehensive risk management program. Ms. Keeler has been employed by Grand View Health since 1996, serving in a variety of positions, including senior vice president and general counsel.

Ms. Keeler graduated magna cum laude from Villanova University School of Law and received her undergraduate degree in biology from DeSales University. She is a member of the Bar of Bucks County and is admitted to the Bar of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania.



**Vladimir S. Bien-Aime** is CEO and President of Global DMS, an award-winning pioneer of web-based appraisal process management software and a provider of technologies used across the mortgage process. He is an appraisal compliance expert with specific knowledge of the most current federal, state and local appraisal-related regulations. Since co-founding Global DMS in 1999, Mr. Bien-Aime has grown the company to capture a leading share of the appraisal management segment, with a client base of more than 20,000 unique users and a 100 percent retention rate among lender clients.

Prior to co-founding Global DMS, Mr. Bien-Aime consulted on special technology projects that involved the analysis, design and implementation of large-scale technology systems for several of the industry's leading financial corporations as well as for pharmaceutical giants. He also has worked in information technology for the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Bien-Aime earned his bachelor's degree in computer science from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.



**Joseph L. England, CPA** is a shareholder of St. Clair CPA Solutions, a firm that helps businesses and individuals build and manage wealth with comprehensive financial services for every stage of the corporate and family lifecycle. Mr. England has been an accounting professional for nearly 30 years, and he currently serves as an investment adviser representative for the Commonwealth Financial Network. He works with small- to mid-sized businesses providing financial statements, tax advice, accounting services and business consulting. He has guided clients through mergers and acquisitions, financing, restructuring and business planning for expansion and succession.

Mr. England graduated cum laude from LaSalle University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

## Men's Basketball

Finishing the regular season with 16 wins, the Griffins lost to Cabrini College in the semi-finals. Junior **Darnell Artis** continued his success and earned his second first-team All-CSAC selection. Artis started all 27 games, averaging 12.1 points, 5.2 assists, 3.0 rebounds a game while shooting almost 43 percent from the field. Sophomore forward **Cedric Elleby** was selected to the CSAC second team and senior guard **Justin Knight** earned a spot on the honorable mention team. Junior guard **Jason Cavell** was chosen to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team and to the 2014-15 National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors court.



## Women's Basketball

After winning 13 of their last 16 games, the women's basketball team headed into the CSAC Tournament where they edged out Rosemont College 71-60 in the first round, but lost to Immaculata University in the semifinals, the last game for seniors **Kelsey Yori** and **Natasha Matthews**. Yori missed only two games in her entire career, totaling 740 points while Matthews finished with an outstanding 1,129 points. Freshman **Dee Terry** was named the 2014-15 CSAC Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year.



## Men's Lacrosse

In the regular season finale, a 25-5 win over Neumann University, the team broke several individual and team records. Senior **Nico Belardo** became the program's all-time points leader with 146. The team also notched 11 wins, the most in school history. Despite losing in the semifinals to Marywood University, the squad earned the CSAC Team Academic Award, given annually to the team that achieves the highest combined grade point average.

## Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team finished the regular season with an 8-10 record and entered the CSAC Tournament as a fifth seed. The Griffins had five players honored with season awards: senior **Kelsey Yori** repeated as a first-team selection while senior **Sarah Lombardi**, junior **Danae Perrymond** and freshman **Lauren Mitros** were selected to the honorable mention list, and freshman **Bria Gillard** was named to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

## Baseball

For just the second time in the program's 17-year history, the Griffins missed the postseason. Despite a rocky season, several players were honored by the CSAC. Freshman **Jason Mulvey** was named the CSAC Rookie of the Year. Mulvey started all 29 games for the Griffins, batting .298 with three doubles, four triples and 12 RBI batting leadoff. Junior **Beau Fleming** was chosen to the first team at as designated hitter. On the second team, senior **Rick Elfreth** and junior **David Blount** earned honors. Senior **Matt Rakus** and juniors **Chris Hens** and **Christian Carmolingo** were selected to the honorable mention list.





## Softball

The Griffins kicked off their season at the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where they took five of eight games. Once they returned north, they won 11 of 13, all against CSAC opponents. Their hot streak came to an end against Cabrini College in mid-April. Junior **MaryKate Ballerino** was named to the first team, earning her first all-conference award while senior **Jennifer Whalen** and sophomore **Nikki Canfield** were selected to the second team. Junior **Megan Kelly** was chosen for the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



## Men's Tennis

The Griffins captured its first-ever CSAC Championship by unseating defending champion Neumann 5-1 in the title match of the 2015 CSAC Team Tournament. The men's tennis team finished the season with an impressive 11-2 record and went undefeated (7-0) in the conference. A championship win earned the team a trip to the NCAA Division III Team Tournament where they dropped a 5-0 decision to The College of New Jersey. Junior **Peter Brzezinski** was named the CSAC Men's Tennis Player of the Year while head coach **Jim Holt** won his third CSAC Coach of the Year award. A total of six Griffins were honored on the teams.



## Men's Track and Field

The Griffins kicked off the 2014-15 season with a strong showing at the Ursinus College Bowtie Classic, finishing fifth. To finish out the year, GMercyU hosted the CSAC Invitational where they were the runner-up. Sophomore **Chase Toliver** won four events while senior **Chris Selke** placed in five of six events. A select group of Griffins headed to the 2015 ECAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships and turned in some top times of the season. Toliver won his heat of the 110 hurdles in 15.01s while the 4x100 meter team of **Bobbie Stone, Toliver, Ben Keliojor,** and **Kylil Curry** finished 2nd in their heat and 10th overall.



## Women's Track and Field

The women's track and field team opened the 2014-15 season at the Ursinus College Bow-Tie Classic, finishing sixth. They finished the season in grand fashion, capturing first place at the CSAC Invitational. Senior **AnaLee Rodriguez** won two events and broke her own school records, taking first in the shot put and hammer throw. Junior **Christina Smith** was also a top finisher, winning the 800 meters, 1500 meters and the women's 4x400 relay. The Griffins went on to the ECAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships where junior **Zakiyyah Richardson** finished second in her heat, while the 4x400 meter relay of **Cierra Adkins, Richardson, Michaela Ng,** and **Christina Smith** finished 14th overall with a time of 4:01.50, the second fastest time in program history.

# WINTER SPRING

# WRAP-UP



# Destined for the Classroom

Growing up in Cheltenham Township, Pa., Craig Metcalfe '05 was destined to sculpt young minds. He was the student who knew all of the teachers, was heavily involved in activities, and even taught tennis professionally.

Metcalfe kicked off the 2015-16 school year as the newly appointed principal of Universal Vare Charter School in South Philadelphia. It is a position he has been preparing for since he was a kid, tagging along with his father, who is also a teacher.

"Following in his footsteps was something I wasn't shy about doing at all because I saw everyone who respected my father and I like how they reacted to him," Metcalfe said. "He was the one who kept me around kids and showed me this different world that many fail to experience."

After graduating from West Chester University, Metcalfe's first teaching job was with the School District of Philadelphia at

Engineering and Science High School. He soon moved onto the North Penn School District, then Norristown High School, eventually making his way back to Cheltenham High School, his alma mater.

While he was fulfilling his lifelong dream, Metcalfe was left wanting more.

"I wanted to have a larger say with what was going on at a school. It didn't matter if it was School A, School B or School C," Metcalfe said. "You being the one to call the shots, putting your stamp on what's going to happen is very important."

Metcalfe earned his Master of Science in Educational Administration with a Principal Certificate from Gwynedd Mercy University in 2005. It was here where he was able to learn from experienced administrators, especially when it came to teaching in the inner city.

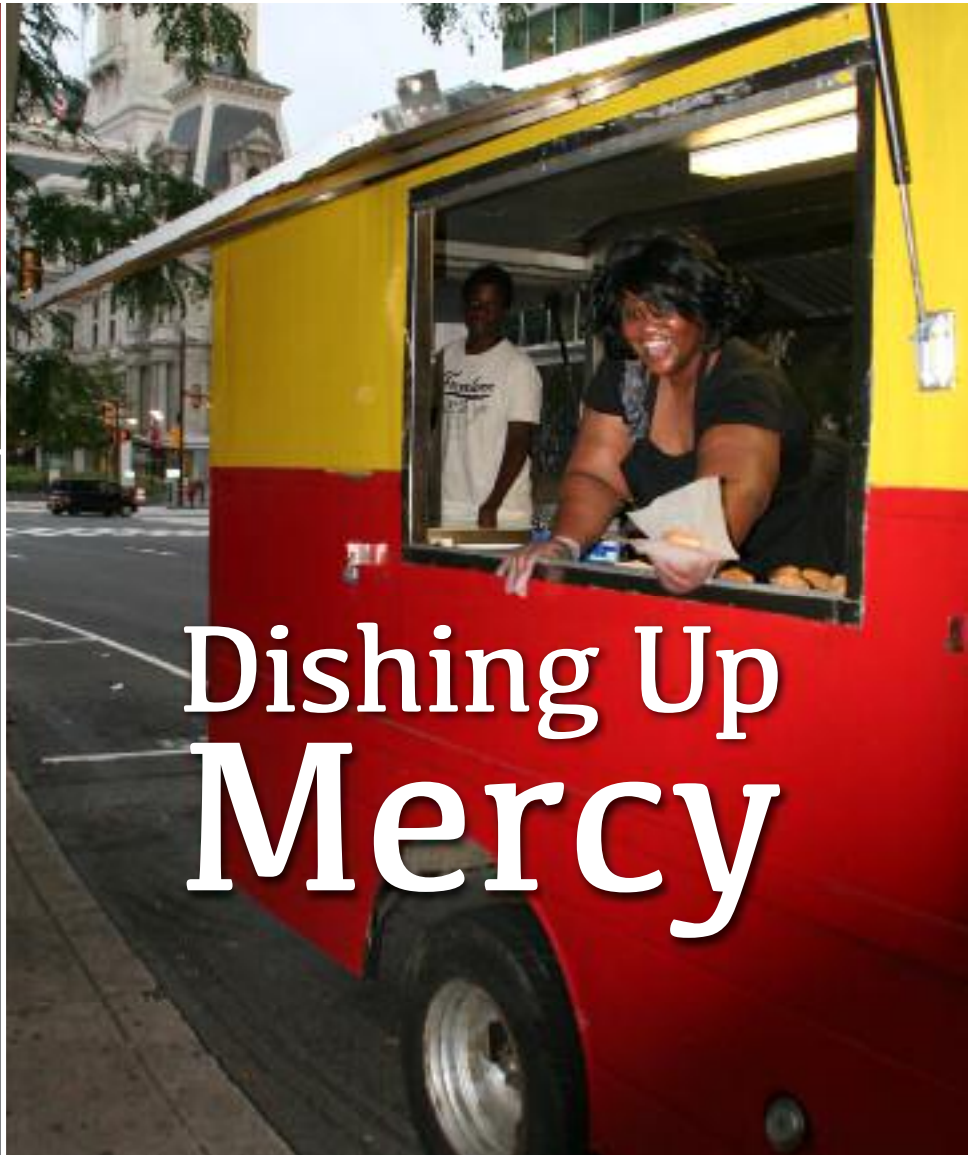
Metcalfe hopes to use what he learned at

GMercyU as principal of Universal Vare Charter School, a school that has seen its fair share of challenges in the past. Located in the up-and-coming neighborhood of Point Breeze, Universal Vare Charter School is using its new leadership to become one of the city's most promising schools.

While Metcalfe is focused on the school's STEAM initiative, "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics," his main priority is hiring and maintaining educators who share his passion.

"One of the first things I ask teachers is why did you become a teacher? If it's anything other than 'I love kids.' You don't become a teacher because you love math. You become a teacher because you love kids," Metcalfe said. "That's the one definite if you want to get involved in education." 🌟

**Craig Metcalfe '05 is the new principal at Universal Vare Charter School in South Philadelphia.**



**Fittingly parked at LOVE Park in Center City Philadelphia, Toni Johnson '15 serves up a side of Mercy with every meal she dishes out to the homeless men and women who line up even before the hand-painted food truck pulls up.**

# Dishing Up Mercy

Almost every Monday evening, you can find Johnson and her children serving homemade and delicious Caribbean food to the homeless community in Philadelphia. It's a chance for Johnson to not only give back, but to teach her kids the importance of service.

"I feel like I have a calling for service," Johnson said. "The mission of GMercyU is to give unto others and that's what we do."

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## "The Sisters of Mercy rock."

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Giving back to the homeless in particular is close to home for Johnson. In the late 1980s, Johnson, a troubled teenager, found herself living on the streets after her mother kicked her out of the home.

Being too ashamed to tell her family, Johnson slept underground until she made her way to St. Stephen's Church in Philadelphia. She was soon placed as a ward of the state and was sent to Sleighton Reformatory School in Glen Mills, Pa., followed by Rebecca Gratz Girls Home in Wynnewood, Pa., which is now a Red Cross Shelter for the homeless.

In 2010, Johnson felt as if she was ready for the next step in her career, so after some researching, she stumbled upon GMercyU. What she found in GMercyU was much more than an education; she gained a support system, encouragement and the reinforcement she needed to never give up.

"I have six children and I'm divorced. Many nights I cried, but my group supported me when I needed them," Johnson said.

To say Johnson was a perfect fit for GMercyU, a University rooted in service, is an understatement. Toni has spent her whole life

giving back through her passion for food. She has volunteered and worked for numerous non-profits, including Philabundance, where she is now a Sous Chef and Baking Instructor.

Johnson earned both her associate and bachelor's degree in business administration and organizational management from the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. She earned the distinctive Outstanding Alumni Award at the 2015 Honors Convocation and is now a member of GMercyU's Alumni Board. 🌟

**You can find Toni Johnson '14 serving food to the homeless at LOVE Park in Philadelphia.**



# Dear Griffin Alumni,

This past May, we welcomed nearly 800 new alumni into the Gwynedd Mercy University Alumni Association, which now boasts more than 20,000 Distinctive Mercy Graduates. With so many alumni, the Office of Alumni Relations continually works toward providing networking and programming opportunities that are of interest and relevance.

In the near future, GMercyU will email a survey asking for your feedback. Please take a moment to complete the survey so that we may continue to enhance your alumni experience and provide opportunities of interest. If you would like to participate in the survey and do not have access to email, please contact the Alumni Office for details on how to participate or visit the Alumni News and Events page on [gmercyu.edu](http://gmercyu.edu). If you do not currently receive emails from the University, please contact us so that we may keep you apprised of University announcements and activities.

As always, thank you for your support of GMercyU. I hope to meet you at one of the upcoming events.

Kind regards,  
**Gianna Quinn**, Director of Alumni Relations  
 215-641-5554 or [alumni@gmercyu.edu](mailto:alumni@gmercyu.edu)



**Don't forget to "Like" the GMercyU Alumni Facebook Page!**





## Upcoming Alumni Events:

- October 18 ..... **Reunion Classes 1965 & 1990**
- October 22 ..... **GMercyU Women Connect Event**
- October 22 ..... **Griffin Madness**
- October 23-24 ..... **2015 Red & Gold Homecoming Weekend**
- October 24 ..... **Alumni Reception at Homecoming**
- December 9 ..... **Alumni Service Opportunity - Wrapping for Mercy**
- February 7-10 ..... **GMercyU On the Road: Naples/Orlando, FL**
- April 10-13 ..... **GMercyU On the Road: Arizona/California**

Contact Gianna Quinn in the Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@gmercyu.edu](mailto:alumni@gmercyu.edu) or 215-641-5554 for more information or to register.

Check the alumni website for additional details and for online registration: [www.gmercyu.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/events-news](http://www.gmercyu.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/events-news)

### Connect with GMercyU Alumni Online

-  /Gwynedd Mercy University Alumni  
Featuring: Trivia Tuesday
-  @GMercyU
-  Group:  
Gwynedd-Mercy University Alumni
-  [www.mervsalumniconnection.com](http://www.mervsalumniconnection.com)



**1.** GMercyU Alumni and President Kathleen Owens, PhD, hit the road & met with alums living in and by Baltimore on April 12. **2.** For the fourth straight year, GMercyU Alumni enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at Citizens Bank Park to watch the Phillies take on the San Francisco Giants and tailgate at McFadden's Bar on June 6. **3.** Griffins gathered to enjoy the ever-popular Center City Sips for a night of Networking on June 24. **4.** GMercyU Alumni headed down the shore to hang out at the Springfield Inn in Sea Isle City, N.J. on July 18. **5.** To close out the summer, GMercyU Alumni enjoyed a second Center City Sips on August 26. **6.** As part of Orientation Weekend, GMercyU Alumni participated in the Day of Service with the Class of 2019 on August 28.

# Class NOTES

## 1974

**Julia Pillsbury**, of Dover, Del. traveled throughout Europe with her daughter in October 2014, stopping in Rome, Paris and Germany.

## 1975

**Barbara Turzer**, of Willow Grove, Pa., is an Educational Assistant for Upper Dublin School District and enjoys spending her summers in Ocean City, N.J. She is a great aunt to six kids who live in California.

## 1978

**Mary Patricia McKeever**, of Broomall, Pa., has four grandchildren and works at Pediatric Care at Temple University Hospital.

**Joyce Lacy**, of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., has worked in breast oncology for the past eight years.

## 1980

**Brenda Waiters**, of Macon, N.C., moved to North Carolina after retiring from her nursing job at Independence Blue Cross.

## 1983

**Rita Grinnan**, of Wellsboro, Pa., retired five years ago from Charles Cole Hospital in Coudersport, Pa. where she was the director of health management.

## 1985

**John McFadden**, of Hollywood, Fla., is a Dean and a full professor in health sciences at Barry University.

## 1997

**Joe Secoges**, of Conshohocken Pa., founded the non-profit, Athlete Heart Shield, which provides heart screenings for children and student-athletes.

## 1998

**Patricia Wolanski**, of Collegeville, Pa., has four grandchildren, is an active member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and is the head chair of its national convention in 2018.

**Monte Willis**, of Sicklerville, N.J., is a school teacher and married with three kids.

## 1999

**David Page**, of Telford, Pa., is enjoying retirement, writing and traveling.

## 2004

**Genevieve Powell Pinnel, LMFT**, of Rockledge, Pa., is a licensed marriage and family therapist and co-owner of Holtz and Powell Marriage and Family Services in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

**Chibuzor Nwankwo**, of Macon, Ga., is an academic coordinator and is married with three kids.

**Nicole Zappone**, of Ardsley, Pa., has been teaching for 11 years.

## 2005

**Jenee Lee Wilson**, of Douglasville, Pa., relocated to Atlanta to teach middle school and was recently married in 2013.



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# Griffin Babies

**James Cote '10** and wife **Megan Toland Cote '09**, of Osterville, Mass., welcomed their first baby, Quinn Cote, on January 25, 2015.

Quinn, son of James Cote '10 and wife Megan Toland Cote '09



Julianne, daughter of Megan Koppel '08

**Megan Koppel '08**, of Ambler, Pa., welcomed a daughter, Julianne Mae, on April 24, 2015.

Hailey, daughter of Mackenzie Moore Mintzer '10 and Mike Mintzer '09



**Mackenzie Moore Mintzer '10** and **Mike Mintzer '09**, of Lansdale, Pa., welcomed a daughter, Hailey Mintzer, on March 4, 2015.

**Lynn Beben Haines '12**, of Philadelphia, Pa., welcomed a daughter, Brianna Lynn Haines, on July 13, 2015.



Brianna, daughter of Lynn Beben Haines '12

# Engagements and Marriages

**Albert DiDomenico '11**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is engaged to marry Anna Marie Amorose.

**Christina Grossman Flincheagh '12**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently married Kurt Flincheagh.

**Susan Swoyer McAtee '10**, married Douglas P. Lloyd on December 25, 2011.

Susan Swoyer McAtee '10 and Douglas P. Lloyd



**Genevieve Powell Pinnel, LMFT '04**, of Rockledge, Pa., married Jonathan Pinnel in April 2015.

**Matthew Zauflik '10**, of Willow Grove, Pa., was married on March 15, 2015 in a temple in Philadelphia.

## We want to hear from you!

Whether it's a marriage announcement, newborn baby or exciting professional news, let us know! We'd love to hear all of your life's milestones. Submit your information (along with graduation year) and a photo to be included within one of the next two *Today* magazines. High resolution images are preferred. E-mail [smyrl.d@gmercyu.edu](mailto:smyrl.d@gmercyu.edu) or call 215-641-5599. We strive to be as accurate as possible, so if there is an error or omission please contact us.

## Gwynedd Mercy University

### Invites graduates from the Classes of 1990 & 1965

to attend their 25 & 50 Reunions • **Sunday, October 18, 2015**  
11:30 a.m. Mass • 12:30 p.m. Welcome, Luncheon and Campus Tours

### Gwynedd Mercy University

1325 Sumneytown Pike  
Gwynedd Valley, Pa.

**Please RSVP by October 9th to reserve your seat**  
215-641-5554 or  
[alumni@gmercyu.edu](mailto:alumni@gmercyu.edu)



## 2007

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**Beverly Slifer**, of Sellersville, Pa., has three grandchildren, Hannah Grace, 2, and twins Abraham Jack and Josephine Margaret, 7.

## 2009

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**David Romanofski**, of Philadelphia, Pa., became a published author in fall 2014 and celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary on February 14, 2015.

**Jennifer Kozminski**, of Telford, Pa., recently returned from a seven-month deployment in Atar.

## 2010

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**Adrienne Mattison**, of Blue Bell, Pa., works at Grandview Hospital in Sellersville, Pa., Colmar Imaging Center in Colmar, Pa., and US Imaging Center as a MRI technologist.



**Susan Swoyer McAtee** is the proud grandparent of Connor Aidan McAtee, 7, Keely Shea McAtee, 5, and Tenley Reese McAtee, 3.

## 2011

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**Christina Farmer**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently started at Hahnemann Hospital in the medical intensive care unit.

**Corey Leonard**, of Philadelphia Pa., is the proud father of three-year old daughter, Milani Leonard.

**Edward Weaver**, of Chalfont, Pa., is an emergency nurse at Temple University Hospital.

**Olivia Wilson**, of Wildomar, Cali., moved to California after graduation as a traveling nurse and decided to stay. She is now an ICU nurse.

## 2012

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**Christina Grossman Flincheagh**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a telemetry nurse at Einstein Montgomery Hospital.

## 2013

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**Brittany Barna**, of Fairless Hills, Pa., works as a nurse in the trauma center at Abington Hospital.

**Staci Luck**, of Pottsville, Pa., teaches at Gillingham Elementary School in Pottsville, Pa.

**Suzanne Hendricks**, of Quakertown, Pa., is founder and Director of Nurses and Administration at Childway Pediatrics in Lansdale, Pa.

## 2014

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**Noelle Pumo**, of Collegeville, Pa., was inducted into Central Montco Technical High School's Distinguished Alumni Association on April 30, 2015.

## 2015

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**Danielle Grant**, of Wyncote, Pa., is an associate director at Einstein Healthcare Network.

**Pamela O'Hara**, of Levittown, Pa., graduated with her ASN in May and is continuing on at GMercyU to complete her BSN. O'Hara is pictured here with her husband Shane, and their children Colin O'Hara, 10, and Kayla O'Hara, 7.



*"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Gwynedd Mercy University [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose"*

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## In Memoriam

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**Alice Murphy Brennan '93**, of Burke, Va., passed away on August 5, 2015.

**Seamus Cummins**, of North Wales, Pa., passed away on August 1, 2015. Seamus was a 2015 recipient of the GMercyU Nursing Excellence Award.

**Sister Mary Delphine Dowd, RSM**, of Merion, Pa., passed away on June 19, 2015. Sister Mary Delphine worked in the bookstore at GMercyU.

**Carol Dittrich Eddy '88**, of North Wales, Pa., passed away on December 16, 2014.

**Michael Gonzales**, former faculty member and chair of Computer Information Science, passed away in July 2015.

**Kathleen Marinari Stephens '81**, of Blue Bell, Pa., passed away on April 21, 2015.

**Monica Mumford '58**, of Argyle, N.Y., passed away on June 7, 2015.

**Judith Runell '69**, of Homosassa, Fla., passed away on April 17, 2015.

**Patricia M. Trowbridge '88**, of Souderton, Pa., passed away on April 26, 2015.

**Mary Weber '69**, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., passed away on September 14, 2014.



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