

Fall 2016

# TODAY



## Compass for Civility

Over the years, I have found great satisfaction in using my *President's Excellence Fund* to support student participation in a variety of academically-stretching experiences such as study abroad trips, conference presentations, undergraduate research, Alternative Spring Break experiences, United Nations seminars, Mercy & Justice Symposia on Capitol Hill, pilgrimages to Mercy International Center in Dublin, and many others. During each of the presidential election years, I have supported student participation in a two-week internship at both the Democratic National Convention and Republican National Convention. Participation gives students an insider's perspective on the political process and a front row seat to history. As I write this letter, James has just returned from the RNC in Cleveland and Jasmin is now attending the DNC here in Philadelphia.



During this year's contentious journey leading up to the nominations of our nation's presidential candidates, I am ever more mindful of the university's obligation to reinforce a culture of civility where our mission and core values are the touchstone for cultivating a campus climate of respect, dignity and compassion. Our "Compass for Civility" (aka Mercy mission and core values) challenges us to create a campus culture where all members of the community feel united, included, and empowered and, at the same time, understand that challenges and mistakes cannot be an excuse to act in a hostile or violent manner. Whether campus events pertain to the political agendas of the presidential platforms or the major issues of our day, in our own country or abroad, our "Compass for Civility" must reflect Mercy values and be characterized by a willingness to listen and to consider ideas different from our own, without responding in a hateful manner.

How blessed am I to have my *President's Excellence Fund* to provide these awesome opportunities for GMercyU students. Given that today's students will be our leaders tomorrow, it is imperative that we prepare leaders who are capable of engaging in conversations and situations where their behavior is borne of mutual respect. This does not preclude their passion for the causes that ignite them, only that they act civilly in response to opinions that may be diametrically opposed to their own.

I express sincere gratitude to all of you who contribute to my *President's Excellence Fund*. It makes a transformational change in the lives of GMercyU students. Whether it is student participation in the RNC/DNC, student travel to the Dominican Republic or Peru to deliver healthcare to impoverished populations, or travel to China for both cultural and academic growth, you are making an impact on our collective future... for that I am extraordinarily grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen".

Kathleen Owens, PhD  
President



# Contents



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**  
Vice President for Institutional  
Advancement

**Kelly Statmore**  
Chief Communications Officer

**Editors:**  
Alyssa Onisick  
Kirsten Swanson

**Creative Director and  
Production Manager:**  
Donna M. Smyrl

**Design:**  
Kim Austin Design

**Photography:**  
Donovan Kennedy  
Hunter Martin  
Chris Panter  
Gianna Quinn  
Jim Roese  
Donna Smyrl  
Tim Smyth  
Kirsten Swanson



#GMercyUGrad16 2

Work of Art 6

Teaching Superhero 14

## PLUS

President's Message

Inside Cover

Campus News

2

Sports

12

Miss Mopar

17

Class Notes

19

**On the Cover:**  
Tim Smyth '08 is a history  
teacher at Wissahickon High  
School.





# #GMercyUGrad16

Gwynedd Mercy University's Class of 2016 officially joined the Alumni Association at the 67th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14. More than 730 degrees were awarded at the ceremony, including GMercyU's first doctoral degrees as the Doctorate in Nursing Practice graduated its first cohort.



Professor Thomas Gilmore was honored as Professor Emeritus after teaching in GMercyU's School of Arts and Sciences for nearly four decades.



Robert J. Ciaruffoli; Maureen McCullough, JD; and Rev. Dennis J. W. O'Donnell received The Beacon of Mercy Award for their dedication to service and commitment to integrity and compassion.



Professor Carlo Silvesi received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, given to faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary devotion to their students and profession.



Father John Collins, CSSR, former GMercyU chaplain and campus minister, served as the Commencement Speaker.



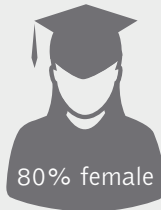
Stephanie Alderfer '04 received the Tender Courage Award, given to those whose accomplishments exemplify the ideals of Mercy.



Sean Welch '16 addressed his fellow graduates as this year's student speaker. Welch received his bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry and microbiology and will be attending medical school at Drexel University.

# CLASS OF 2016

**729**  
GRADUATES



"Being known and not simply just another number is what makes G MercyU unique."

**Jerome McArdle '16,**  
Accounting

"I really think by having people believe in us here, we believe in others the rest of our lives."

**Jenna Caffarello '16,**  
Elementary/Special Education

YOUNGEST  
**20**

**4** 18-20 years old  
**297** 21-25 years old  
**226** 26-35 years old  
**159** 36-50 years old  
**43** 50+ years old

OLDEST  
**69**



DEGREES  
**731**  
TOTAL

GRADUATES  
**215** associate  
**359** bachelor's  
**153** master's  
**2** doctoral

"The teachings we've gathered will be indispensable not only in our professions, but also in our growth as individuals, and the way we will work to better society."

**Sean Welch '16,**  
Biology

"To me, being a Distinctive Mercy Graduate means taking the values you learned and finding a way to make those work in the career path you have chosen."

**Kiersten Godzieba '16,**  
Elementary/Special Education

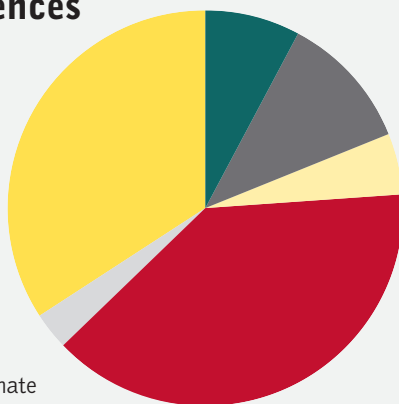
They Hail From

**51**  
OUTSIDE  
OF USA

**24**  
DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES



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



"G MercyU prepares graduates to always carry their values, be moral and practice ethically, and most important, to be socially responsible people."

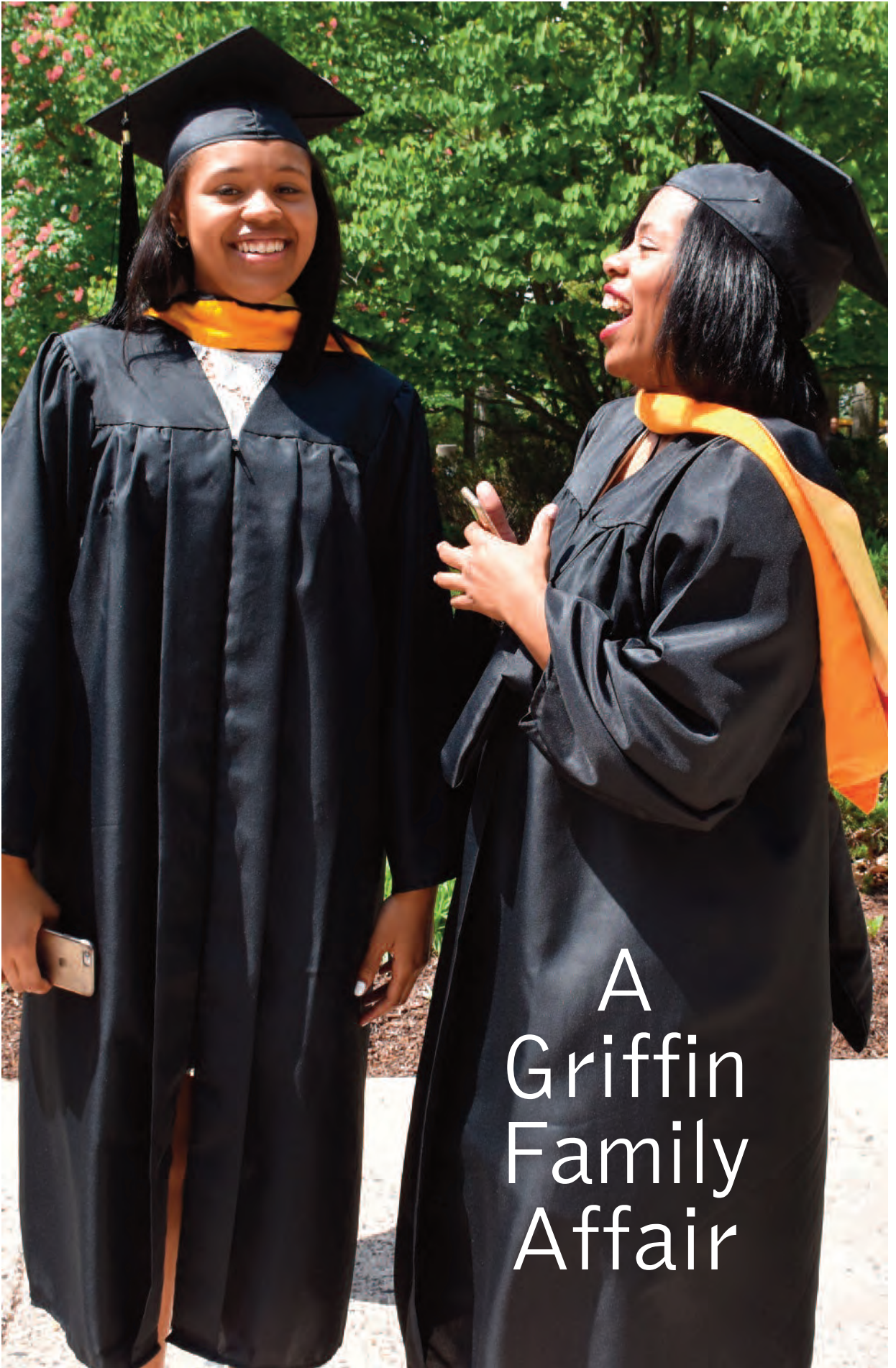
**Christina Harris '16,**  
Human Services

"You know you are going to walk out a better person than when you came in."

**Amanda Martino '16,**  
Accounting

\*All figures are an estimate

#GMercyUGrad16



A  
Griffin  
Family  
Affair

By: Alyssa Onisick

Among the 2016 graduates were Walettra Enoch and her daughter Diamond Devereaux. This year's commencement ceremony was the pair's second together, as Walettra (who goes by Mese) was pregnant with Diamond during her high school graduation.

According to the National Conference of State Legislators, only 2 percent of teenage mothers go on to earn a bachelor's degree by age 30. Mese earned her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in just four years. A few years later, she was looking to change careers when some friends suggested she'd make a great nurse; she had a way of connecting with people and caring for them. She went back to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Two years ago, she decided to get an advanced degree. She attended an Open House at Gwynedd Mercy University and thought it was a good fit, but Diamond was already a student here and Mese didn't want to infringe on her daughter's freedom.

"I came to the Open House here and it just felt like family. I heard Dr. Barbara Jones talking and thought, 'I know this is going to be really hard, but I feel supported,'" Mese said. "I had no plans on coming here because it was her school. I said, 'Diamond, how do you feel about me coming here? I know it's your school but I'll be in another area and I won't bother you.' But she said, 'Oh that will be cool!'"

Mese earned her master's degree in the nurse practitioner program while Diamond earned her bachelor's degree in respiratory care.

Mese had the unique opportunity to be both parent and classmate to Diamond, which gave her some extra credibility when she helped Diamond set up a study plan to keep her on track. She used the very same skills that make her a great nurse; she gently encouraged Diamond while simultaneously pushing her to do her best work.

"Not to say I don't look to my professors to give me that extra push, but with my mom already being in the medical field, there are certain things I didn't understand so I would come home on Sundays, and Sundays would always be the study day because in a certain class we would have quizzes every Monday. And what she would do was she would break it down and show me how to study and then she would quiz me," Diamond said. "There were some times I would just break down and cry, and

there would be a lot of fights because I didn't think I could be a respiratory therapist."

For Diamond, balancing her career as a student and member of the women's soccer team proved more challenging than she initially thought. Her time management skills were put to the test and after a difficult semester, she spent some time soul searching with her mom's help.

---

**I said, 'Diamond, how do you feel about me coming here? I know it's your school but I'll be in another area and I won't bother you.' But she said, 'Oh that will be cool!'**

---

"Diamond didn't pass one class. So she would always be really negative about it, and I would tell her she could do anything," Mese said. "Once she wasn't afraid of failing anymore, then she could go and be a resource to other people, and she got her confidence back. That's all she really needed."

Diamond made it through all of her exams, and her hard work paid off during her clinical experiences, when she got to experience the role of respiratory therapists first-hand and work with colleagues to save lives.

"The nurses call respiratory therapists. It feels so amazing to feel so important when you're in the hospital. It's like, 'Can we get respiratory STAT?!' It's that rush that you're running there with

your instructor and you're the first people on scene. When you bring that person back to life; it's an amazing feeling," Diamond said.

Diamond brought her GMercyU education full-circle with her recent acceptance of a position at Mercy Suburban Hospital in East Norriton, which was her primary clinical site. She passed both the Certified Respiratory Therapist exam and the Registered Respiratory Therapist exam this summer.

Mese will continue working as a nurse educator at GMercyU and Temple University. She is also working on developing an app to help patients understand the implications of various health conditions on their bodies, including high blood pressure and diabetes. Her younger daughter is in her first year of high school, and Mese says that by the time she heads off to college, she might be ready to go back for a doctoral degree, which could potentially give her the opportunity to share a graduation ceremony with both of her daughters. 🌟



**Diamond's mom and dad at prom, left, and above, Diamond with Mese at senior night for the women's soccer team.**



# Work of Art

By: Kirsten Swanson

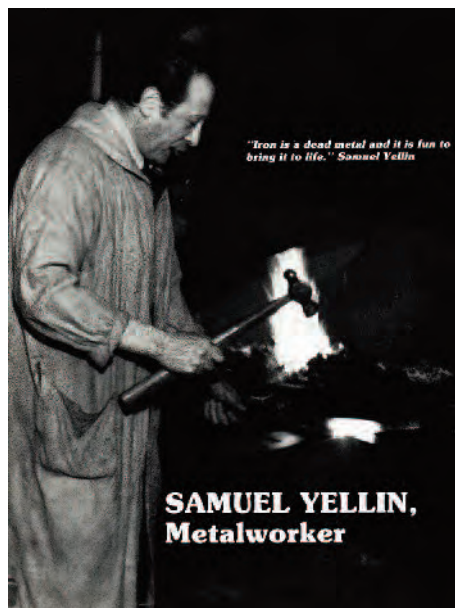
The story is as old as time: A European immigrant travels to the United States to pursue the American Dream. Yet the story of Samuel Yellin Metalworkers is much more than the classic tale; it's a story that lives on across the world through one-of-a-kind pieces of art crafted by an immigrant turned American legacy.

One of those pieces has stood at the center of Gwynedd Mercy University's campus for more than 90 years. Before the Sisters of Mercy bought the land in 1947, a year prior to GMercyU's establishment, Philadelphia's prominent Taylor family used the grounds as their country estate. The gate dates back to the 1920s when the Taylor family contracted Samuel Yellin to create the majestic ironwork. Standing across from Assumption Hall, the "Yellin Gate" is a testament to the Taylor's love for architecture and landscape and Yellin's talent and passion for beautiful craftsmanship.

Born in Russia, Yellin immigrated to Philadelphia in 1906 where he established his forge in North Philadelphia. He opened his last studio on Arch Street in West Philadelphia in 1915 and operated out of that location until his death in 1940. Yellin employed more than 200 craftsmen and created ironwork pieces for such clients as J.P. Morgan, the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, and colleges and universities nationwide. In operation for more

than 100 years, Samuel Yellin Metalworkers has been led by several generations of the Yellin family, with his granddaughter Clare Yellin now at the helm.

Yellin's personal successes transcended beyond his family. During the early 20th century, the most treasured and sought-after pieces of art and architecture were often European. Wealthy families and prestigious organizations believed they had to travel to Europe for the best pieces. Yellin helped change that misconception.



"What he wanted his clients to know was that beautiful work of highly skilled stone, wood, stained glass, and metal can be done in the United States," Clare Yellin said. "You didn't have to go across the pond to get it. He wanted to preserve beauty while also having quality at the same time."

Much like art, Samuel Yellin Metalworkers has evolved over the decades. Now, Clare Yellin spends most of her time spearheading "constoration" projects, a mix of restoration and conservation, on original Yellin pieces.

"We are excited to work with Gwynedd Mercy University to restore a piece of campus history as well as carry on the legacy of my grandfather. He took pride in creating original and magnificent pieces and I'm looking forward to bringing the gates back to life," Clare Yellin said.

The project is being funded by the William B. Dietrich Foundation, which is committed to architectural and historic preservation in the Philadelphia area.



"Gwynedd Mercy University is honored to partner with Clare Yellin and the William B. Dietrich Foundation to restore the gate and to ensure it will be part of our campus for decades to come. We are proud of our beautiful campus that is home to so many iconic pieces of architecture with the gate at the center," Gwynedd Mercy University President Kathleen Owens said.

Clare Yellin and her team removed the gate and transported it to Ohio where it will be restored. The project is expected to be completed during the 2016-17 academic year. 🌟

**Samuel Yellin, Metalworker** (left) was published by the Yellin Foundation in 1982, and top, the gate was removed and transported to Ohio, where it will undergo a restoration.



# FROM THE CONVENTION FLOOR: GMercyU Students Participate at RNC and DNC



Jasmin Hall '16 (center) at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pa.

The 2016 Presidential Election is one for the record books and two Griffins had a front row seat to history this summer. James Bender '16, an education and history alum, attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio and MBA 4 + 1 student Jasmin Hall '16 attended the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia as part of The Washington Center's Campaign 2016 two-week seminar series.

Hall and Bender spent a week learning about the political and convention process from guest lecturers including former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and Secret Service agents. They were then given assignments and spent the second week gaining hands-on experience, doing everything from escorting delegates to working security for House

Speaker Paul Ryan and various VIPs. As a special bonus, both Griffins were allowed on the convention floor when Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump accepted their respective party's nominations for president.

"My biggest learning experience was how people can still be kind and respectful to one another despite their differences in beliefs. As Americans, we are free to disagree, argue, and fight over our beliefs," Bender said. "But it was wonderful to see that none of that superseded our responsibility to treat each other like brothers and sisters in the Mercy way. The convention taught me not just about politics, but about the power of compassion and understanding, and I will be ever grateful to GMercyU for providing me this opportunity." 🌟

James Bender '16 (far right) with House Speaker Paul Ryan at Republican National Convention in Cleveland, OH.



# Exploring the Emerald Isle

Doctoral candidates from Gwynedd Mercy University's Accelerated Executive Doctorate of Education program traveled to the Emerald Isle for the program's first immersion experience in May 2016. As part of the residency, GMercyU's EdD students participated in the Fifth International

Research Methods Summer School program at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland.

The immersion trip is unique to GMercyU's EdD program as it gives students a first-hand view of how other countries and cultures are handling the issues facing education. While

most of the coursework in GMercyU's EdD program is online, the immersion trip is one of the program's three residencies; the other two being on the Gwynedd Valley campus. From Bunratty Castle to the River Shannon, the teachings learned and memories made in Limerick will last a lifetime. 🌍



**“Why did we go on this trip? As doctoral students, we needed to assess not only what we are doing locally, but globally as leaders. This gave us an opportunity to see how other countries, other continents, deliver instruction, prepare their teachers for instruction and how that looks in their school settings.”**

— Hamirah Mobley, EdD Student,  
Special Education Specialist



**“This is cutting-edge and innovative. It will have an effect on how other programs will schedule and select curriculum and course work for their students. GMercyU is on the forefront.”**

— Patrice Morris, EdD Student,  
Disciplinary Dean of Students  
in K-8 Elementary School



**H. RAY WELCH JR.**

H. Ray Welch Jr. is a member of Angel Investment firm Robin Hood Ventures where he invests in start-up companies in Philadelphia and the Mid-Atlantic region. Prior to joining Robin Hood, Mr. Welch spent more than a decade with Catholic Health East/Trinity in senior management positions. Prior to his tenure at Trinity, Mr. Welch served as President of ARAMARK Healthcare Support Services and held senior marketing and sales positions with Johnson & Johnson. He has also served on numerous boards including the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and Mercy Health System of Southeastern Pennsylvania.



**DENISE ALLEN WILLIAMS**

Denise Allen Williams has worked at MERCK & Co., Inc., for more than 25 years and is currently the vice president of business development. Ms. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Duke University and her MBA in finance and marketing from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Williams actively serves on numerous boards and committees including Merck for Mothers, Hellen Keller International, and the Duke University Pratt School of Engineering Board of Visitors.



**SUSAN M. MEITNER**

Susan M. Meitner serves as president, chief executive officer and founder of Centennial Lending Group, LLC in Maple Glen, Pa. She serves as a board member of The Mortgage Collaborative and is author of the book "Crazy Lucky Girl: Do YOU Have the Keys to Success," which was published in 2014. She previously served as executive vice president of Colonial Mortgage Service Company of America, senior vice president of Northeast Financial Corporation, and vice president of Madison Bank DBA Philadelphia Mortgage Company.



**EILEEN FOLEY GUEST**

Eileen Foley Guest currently serves as president of Guest, Inc. and is an alumna of Gwynedd Mercy University. After graduating from GMercyU, Ms. Foley Guest was assigned to work at the Newman Center at Texas Southmost College as part of the Catholic Extension Volunteers. She earned a master's in English from Villanova University and taught English and advanced placement courses at Abington High School for almost 25 years. Ms. Guest has also served on GMercyU's President's Council and was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012.



**BARBARA BUCKLEY, RSM**

Sr. Barbara Buckley is currently the Head of School of Merion Mercy Academy, and previously served as principal since 2007 and has worked at the academy since 1993. Sister Barbara holds a bachelor's degree in English and physical education from the University of Dayton, a master's degree in journalism from Temple University, and a master's degree in organizational dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania. She has also earned graduate credits from Villanova University, the University of Dayton and Theology credits from Gwynedd Mercy University.



**ROSE MARTIN, RSM, PHD**

Sr. Rose Martin, PhD, is executive director and co-founder of Hope Partnership for Education. She has worked with students from kindergarten through college as a teacher, high school counselor and adjunct professor. She serves on the board at Waldron Mercy Academy and as a member of the Anti-Racism Team for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Sr. Rose earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Gwynedd Mercy University, her master's degree in pastoral ministry from St. Thomas University and her doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania.



**JOHN C.S. KEPNER**

John C. S. Kepner is president of Fenway Management Advisors, LLC, a firm that provides non-profit strategy execution advisory services. Mr. Kepner earned his law degree from University of Pennsylvania Law School and previously served as senior vice president of Holy Redeemer Health System until 2015. He had a 30-year career in business and law where he was a partner, executive committee member and chair of the business and health law departments at Saul Ewing, LLP. Mr. Kepner also serves on the Temple Fox School of Business Senior Advisory Board and the Drexel Health Law Program Advisory Board.



**MARGARET TAYLOR, RSM**

Sr. Margaret Taylor served as the first director of sponsorship for the Sisters of Mercy Mid Atlantic Community. She previously served as the assistant director of the office for community development for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, served on the board of the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, and worked as a teacher and administrator in a variety of elementary and secondary schools. Sister Margaret was a faculty member for the Institute of Law and Religious Life at Misericordia University and has worked as a consultant to a number of religious communities on matters of ministry and personnel. She has served as a trustee and officer for numerous healthcare organizations. Sr. Margaret holds a bachelor's degree from Gwynedd Mercy University, a master's from Assumption College and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center.



**ROSEMARY HERRON, RSM**

Sr. Rosemary Herron has served as president of Mercy Career and Technical High School in Philadelphia since 2007. She served as principal of the school for 10 years, from 1997 until 2007. Sr. Rosemary is a board member for the Network for Mercy Leadership, is on the task force of leadership formation for Mercy Educational System: Elementary and Secondary Schools, and is on the advisory boards for St. Malachy School and Cardinal Foley. She previously served as principal of Gwynedd Mercy Academy, a position she held for 13 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Gwynedd Mercy University and a master's degree in theology from University of Dayton.

# Did You Know?

There's always something happening at GMercyU!  
Here are some of the things you may have missed!

Psychology Professor Rececca Lakin Gullan, PhD, was featured on Inside Higher Education's Academic Minute, a national website that features professors and experts daily. She shared research on the qualities of a good mentoring relationship. Dr. Gullan and a team of six GMercyU psychology students found four characteristics that they identified as critical to a strong mentoring relationship.

In response to the Griffins' request of the Board of Trustees, Hydration Stations have been installed on campus. These stations enable students to fill up their reusable water bottles in support of GMercyU's green initiatives.



Assistant Professor of Communication Janis Chakars, PhD led The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies recent conference in Philadelphia in May 2016. Academics from around the world gathered to hear President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Iives give the keynote address.



Madeleine Herman joined GMercyU's Athletics staff as Assistant Director of Intramurals and Recreation in June 2016. Maddie will work closely with students to support programs such as flag football and fitness activities.



If you haven't been on campus lately, you will now notice GMercyU's new front entrance located on Sumneytown Pike. The new entrance features beautiful landscaping and will soon display a digital board promoting campus events and news.



## What Does Mercy Mean?

"To be educated in Mercy is to be rooted in a manner of being, grounded in a way of living, and given to a way of serving that is steeped in kindness, love, forgiveness, and compassion. These qualities of being alive (and not just existing) are the 'heart and soul' of the person whose center is in Mercy. And it is these core qualities that your distinctively Mercy education has sought to cultivate and deepen in you.

You will bring no greater honor to Gwynedd Mercy University than to be that person - at home, at work, and everywhere in between - for the difficult and tumultuous times in which we live. Remember today and always that Mercy is at the center of your education, but even more at the core of your being.

Let no one tell you that Mercy makes you a bleeding heart of sappy spirit. Mercy makes you a great soul, a Mahatma, a noble person whose light radiates wisdom, healing, and hope! Let no one tell you that Mercy makes you some puppet or pawn. Mercy makes you the prophet whose gospel critique challenges injustice of any kind and whose alternative gospel vision inspires passionate action in the service of love and justice!

Let no one tell you that Mercy will keep you from calling the questions - the hard questions - and from making difficult decisions. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mercy will give you the confidence to engage in the courageous conversations - with respect for all and disparagement to none; and the tender courage to make honest, if even difficult decisions - with compassion for all and indifference toward none.

---

**Mercy will give you the confidence to engage in the courageous conversations - with respect for all and disparagement to none**

---

Let no one tell you that Mercy makes you weak. If as St. Thomas Aquinas teaches, and Pope Francis reminds us, Mercy is God's most stupendous attribute and greatest virtue, it will be no less for you, distinguished women and men of Mercy. Mercy will always make you strong, loving and wise."

— Father John Collins, 2016 Gwynedd Mercy University Commencement Address

What does Mercy mean to you?

GMercyU's School of Business hosted a competition for local high school students who are a part of our Dual Enrollment program. Each group was given a case study to prepare and present to a panel of judges, including some GMercyU alumni. Students from Centennial High School were crowned the winners of the competition.





## Men's Basketball

The Griffins are the CSAC Champions after defeating Neumann University, giving GMercyU's men's basketball its fifth conference title. Senior **Darnell Artis** led the Griffins with 27 points which earned him the MVP award. GMercyU was the top seed in the CSAC after finishing the regular season at 22-7 overall and 17-1 in conference play. The season came to an end in the NCAA Division III Tournament where they lost in the second round to Oswego State University. Artis was also named a first-team All-CSAC pick for the third year in a row while Head Coach **John Baron** was chosen as the CSAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his career. Senior **Julian Hyden** led the team in scoring, rebounding, steals and three-pointers made. Both Hyden and Artis reached the 1,000-point club during the season.

## Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team headed into the CSAC Tournament as the second seed, finishing the regular season with an overall record of 22-5 and 14-2 in conference play. The Griffins earned a first-round bye but were defeated by Cabrini College in the CSAC Semifinal, 67-56. Junior **Charlotte Kucowski**



was a CSAC first-team selection after leading the conference in blocked shots and was fifth in scoring. Senior **Olivia Bradford** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team as well as earning a spot on the second-team. Bradford was second on the team in scoring and was team captain, starting all 25 games.



## Men's Lacrosse

After defeating Centenary College, 17-3, in a CSAC Semifinal game, the Griffins lost to Cabrini College in the conference championship. One of 10 seniors, **Tony McCraw** leaves the program as one of its most successful players as the all-time program leader in goals (138) and points (198) in 59 career games. McCraw was named the 2016 Co-CSAC Player of the Year and was named All-American by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association. Junior **Marc Bushong** was named the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Men's Lacrosse Performer of the Year and to the CSAC First Team.

## Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team finished the regular season with a 4-12 record and entered the CSAC Tournament as a sixth seed where they lost to Marywood University in the first round. Three Griffins were honored with conference year-end awards. Senior **Danae Perrymond** was selected to the second team and sophomore **Lauren Mitros** earned a spot on the honorable mention list. Sophomore **Bria Gillard** was chosen to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Mitros led the team with 26 goals and 31 points while Perrymond led the team in groundballs and caused turnovers.





## Baseball

After missing the playoffs last year, the Griffins looked to rebound in the 2016 season. The team finished the regular season with a 19-21 overall record and 10-8 in conference play. Their season came to an end with a loss to Immaculata University in an elimination game in the CSAC Tournament. Six players were honored with CSAC awards, including freshman **Dave Tatoian** who was chosen to the first team. Senior **Beau Fleming** and sophomore **Jason Mulvey** earned a spot on the second team and sophomore **Mike Di Ianni** and freshman **Justin Curtin** made the honorable mention list. Senior **Andrew Hill** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

## Softball

The Griffins set a school record for the most wins during the 2016 season finishing with a 26-11 overall record. Unfortunately, their historic season came to an end in the first round of the CSAC Tournament, losing to Cedar Crest College. Sophomore **Jessica Behr** earned a spot on the first team after finishing in the top five in the CSAC in five offensive categories. Freshman **Alyssa Morales** was selected to the second team and sophomore **Kim Machalette** was an honorable mention pick. Senior **Megan Kelly** was named to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



## Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team is back-to-back CSAC Champions after defeating Marywood University in the title match of the 2016 CSAC Team Tournament. The win gave the team the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Team Tournament where they lost to John Hopkins University in the opening round. Head Coach **Jim Holt** was named the CSAC Coach of the Year for the second season in a row. Four Griffins were selected to the first team in singles: **Alexander Channick** at #2, **Joshua Carson** at #3, **Kylil Curry** at #4 and **Brian Irwin** at #6. In doubles, the pairing of Curry and Irwin at #2 and Channick and **Brandon Rodriguez** at #3 were named to the first team.



## Men's Track & Field

G MercyU competed in the inaugural CSAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships, finishing fourth out of seven teams. For the first time ever, the CSAC also gave out year-end awards in Men's Track and Field. After earning the CSAC Track MVP at the CSAC Championships, senior **Bobbie Stone** earned two second-team nods in both the 100m and 200m. Stone also joined the 4x400 relay team of **Jonathan Cogdell**, **Calvin Dennis**, and **Rashid Marrow**. **Patrick Timlin** and **Matt Forsythe** were also honored on the second team and sophomore **Sean Cole** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



## Women's Track & Field

The women's track & field team placed second overall at the 2016 Colonial States Athletic Outdoor Track & Field Championships, capturing 14 medals. The Griffins swept the medals in the 400 meters with senior **Christina Smith** in first, senior **Zakiyyah Richardson** in second, and junior **Cierra Adkins** coming in third. The Griffins totaled 128 points, four ahead of third-place Marywood University. The team also earned 21 individual and relay awards in the first-ever year-end CSAC awards for women's outdoor track and field. Senior **Christina Smith** and freshman **Kaitlyn Lutz** earned a nod on the first team after their first-place finishes in the CSAC Championship.

# WINTER SPRING WRAP-UP

# TEACHING SUPERHERO



BY: KIRSTEN SWANSON

SPIDERMAN, WONDER WOMAN, AND THE HULK AREN'T THE TYPICAL HEROES FOUND IN HISTORY CLASSES, BUT WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY ALUM TIM SMYTH '08 ISN'T YOUR TYPICAL TEACHER.

ONCE KNOWN ONLY FOR HIS CHALLENGING AND DIFFICULT CLASSES, SMYTH HAS NOW TRANSFORMED HIS CLASSROOM INTO A FANTASYLAND FULL OF SUPERHEROES AND ACTION FIGURES. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, SMYTH HAS USED COMIC BOOKS TO TEACH HIS STUDENTS EVERYTHING FROM THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TO THE #BLACKLIVESMATTER MOVEMENT.

"IT LETS STUDENTS THINK IN A DIFFERENT WAY. IT'S NOT, 'MEMORIZE THIS,' OR 'MEMORIZE THAT.' THE WHOLE SUPERHERO THING IS A STEREOTYPE PEOPLE HAVE [REGARDING COMIC BOOKS]. BUT EVEN SO, THE TYPICAL CAPED CRUSADERS STILL GO THROUGH A LOT OF SOCIAL ISSUES. COMIC BOOKS COME OUT EVERY WEEK OR TWO

WEEKS SO THEY CAN IMMEDIATELY CHANGE THE STORYLINE TO REFLECT WHAT'S GOING ON," SMYTH SAID.

## *FROM CLASSROOM TO COMIC CON*

SMYTH IS COMING OFF A THREE-MONTH WHIRLWIND WHERE HIS UNIQUE TEACHING STYLE WAS HIGHLIGHTED ON PBS AND SEVERAL OTHER MEDIA OUTLETS WHICH LED HIM TO GIVING A PRESENTATION AT PHILADELPHIA'S COMIC CON. IN JULY, SMYTH AND HIS FAMILY TRAVELED ACROSS THE COUNTRY AFTER HE RECEIVED AN INVITATION OF A LIFETIME: A CHANCE TO SPEAK AT COMIC CON INTERNATIONAL IN SAN DIEGO ON USING COMICS IN EDUCATION.

WHILE IT ALL SEEMED TO HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, SMYTH'S PASSION FOR COMIC BOOKS SPANS DECADES. HIS LOVE AS A KID TURNED INTO A SUBJECT FOR HIS THESIS WHILE STUDYING FOR HIS READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION AT GWYNEDD MERCY. AFTER THE TOPIC "BOYS DON'T LIKE TO READ" WAS DISCUSSED IN CLASS, SMYTH KNEW THERE WAS A WAY TO CHANGE THE MISCONCEPTION.

"I REMEMBER ASKING 'WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GIVING THEM TO READ? YEAH, I DON'T LIKE TO READ THAT STUFF EITHER,'" SMYTH SAID. "HOW ABOUT READING THE SPORTS PAGES? IS THAT READING? THEN WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT COMIC BOOKS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS."

SMYTH CREDITS THE PROFESSORS FOR ENCOURAGING HIM TO PURSUE THE TOPIC FOR HIS THESIS PRESENTATION.

"I DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL LATER HOW MUCH ASSURANCE I WAS GIVEN. I DON'T THINK I EVER WOULD HAVE INCLUDED COMICS IN MY TEACHING WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT," SMYTH SAID.

"EMERCYU GAVE ME THE PUSH I NEEDED AND I NOW ENCOURAGE MY OWN STUDENTS TO RESEARCH THEIR PASSIONS AS A RESULT."

SMYTH SLOWLY STARTED TO INTEGRATE HIS FINDINGS INTO HIS CLASSROOM, NOT WANTING TO DEVIATE TOO QUICKLY FROM HIS "TYPE A" TEACHING STYLE. ONE OF THE MOMENTS SMYTH KNEW HE WAS ONTO SOMETHING WAS

WHEN A STUDENT WHO BARELY SPOKE IN CLASS CAME UP TO HIM AFTER LEARNING ABOUT SPIDERMAN'S RECENT TRANSITION FROM PETER PARKER TO MILES MORALES, AN AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERHERO.

"WHEN I WENT TO THE COMIC BOOK STORE, I WOULD BRING HIM THE NEW EDITION AND WE WOULD TALK ABOUT IT. THIS IS A KID THAT I COULDN'T GET MORE THAN TWO WORDS OUT OF THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS. COMIC BOOKS OPENED THE DOOR FOR US. IT WAS VALIDATION," SMYTH SAID.

### **FROM COMICS TO HISTORY LESSONS**

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A WAY TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS AND OPEN THEM UP TO THE WORLD OF READING HAS BECOME A WAY TO TEACH THEM ABOUT NOT JUST HISTORY, BUT CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUES. SMYTH'S SUCCESS HAS SHOWN HIM THAT IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT AND STRAY AWAY FROM THE NORM - JUST AS THE CHARACTERS IN THE COMIC BOOKS SHOW HIS STUDENTS.

*TIM SMYTH '08 GAVE A PRESENTATION ON USING COMIC BOOKS IN EDUCATION AT THE SAN DIEGO COMIC CON.*



"YOU DO NEED TO SHARE WHAT YOU DO," SMYTH SAID. "WHETHER IT'S COMIC BOOKS, HIP HOP, SPORTS, WHATEVER YOUR HOOK OR PASSION IS, YOU BRING IT INTO YOUR CLASSROOM AND THE KIDS KNOW IT. IT HAS AN IMPACT ON THEM."

YOU CAN FOLLOW SMYTH'S CLASSROOM ADVENTURES BY FOLLOWING HIM ON TWITTER @HISTORYCOMICS.

*TIM SMYTH'S CLASSROOM AT WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL.*



# Family Knows Best

By: Kirsten Swanson

Deciding on where to go to college is one of the most difficult decisions you will ever have to make. So when it came time for Allison Bigos '15/'16 to decide, she followed in her aunts' footsteps and enrolled in Gwynedd Mercy University to pursue a career in nursing. After all, family does know best.

"When I began my search I looked at about three other colleges before GMercyU. When I finally arrived here, right from the beginning it felt like home," Allison said. "I knew that all of my aunts went here and they had a great experience. This was also one of the few campuses in which I was able to both play soccer and study nursing."

Allison's aunts, Deborah Mangano Sweeney '79/'81/'89, Madeline Mangano Nicastro '82/'84, and Angela Mangano Fowler '95/'97, are all GMercyU graduates from the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions. Aside from it being close to home, the ability to become a licensed RN after two years and in turn, start working while completing a bachelor's degree was critical in the sisters' decision.

"At one point, there were going to be three of us in college and one in high school. Affording tuition was going to be a challenge so my parents sat the three eldest down and told us that they would pay for car insurance and help with books but we would need to get scholarships, student loans and save our money in order to pay for college. So being able to earn money to help pay for the last two years was important," Deborah said.

All three sisters lived on campus, were resident assistants and actively involved during their time at GMercyU. Angela was a member of the Student Government Association.

"For Maddy, Angela and I, this was one of the things that my parents told us we would need to do," Deborah said. "They felt it was an excellent opportunity to learn how to live with folks from other backgrounds, cultures and with other life experiences."

Madeline and Angela were also involved in sports, which their niece Allison followed as a four-year member of GMercyU's women's soccer team.

While all four women are nursing alumna, they each took the strong foundation learned at GMercyU and have excelled in different fields. Deborah is now the Vice President of ProgenyHealth; Madeline is a successful and respected school nurse in South Jersey; and Angela is now a wound care consultant in the tri-state area. As for the newest GMercyU alum, Allison is in her first position as a surgical nurse in South Jersey.

As with many Griffins, the connection shared with the professors and Sisters of Mercy was what made GMercyU special for the family. The connection started before they even arrived on campus, as one of their professors, Mary Paul, RSM, taught their mom at Fitzgerald Hospital School of Nursing.

"One of the first times my parents came to campus, they ran into Sister Mary Paul. Angela was a toddler at the time and Sister Mary Paul told her that she was going to keep teaching until Angela arrived on campus," Sweeney said.

**"How many folks can say that one of their teachers also taught their mom?"**

While GMercyU will always hold a special place in the hearts of the family, there will always be a special place for future generations here at GMercyU. 🌟

**Madeline Mangano Nicastro '82/'84, Donna Mangano Bigos, Angela Mangano Fowler '95/'97, and Deborah Mangano Sweeney '79/'81/'89 celebrate Angela's graduation from GMercyU.**

**Allison Bigos '15/'16 was a four-year member of GMercyU's women's soccer team.**



# Miss Mopar®

## mopar /mo:par/

abbreviation for “Motor and Parts.” An umbrella term for vehicles manufactured by the Chrysler Corporation, including Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Jeep and Ram. The term originated as a reference to muscle cars in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

By: Alyssa Onisick

While waiting for Criminal Justice Professor Walter Zdunowski to begin class in October 2010, Michaela Brass was scrolling through online listings for cars. One in particular stood out: a 1972 Dodge Charger. She called her dad and asked him to go look at the car.

Two days later, they brought the car back to their home in Ambler and gave her a name: The Little Black Dress.

Michaela and her dad Frank spent almost three years restoring the car. Meantime, she graduated from GMercyU with her degree in psychology and minor in criminal justice. The day before Michaela planned to fire up the engine for the very first time, her mom passed away unexpectedly due to an undetected brain aneurysm.

“My old Dodge sat untouched for many weeks as I tried to adjust to life as a motherless daughter. It was a cold, dreary Saturday in late November when my whole broken-hearted family circled around my Mopar as I took my rightful place behind the wheel and fired it up for the first time.

“It was the first time I had smiled since I lost my mother,” Michaela said.

For the Brass family, a love of Mopars runs deep.

After their wedding, Frank’s parents bought a brand new 1962 Bermuda Turquoise Chrysler 300. With travel trailer in tow, they drove their family around the country. Later, they sold it to a brother-in-law, whose sons would steal it at night and race other drivers on Front Street in Philadelphia while their

parents slept. But in the early 1980s, Frank bought the car back and restored it to its glory. On the day he married Michaela’s mom, they rode off into the sunset in that car.

After Michaela was born, they would bring her along to car shows, where the Chrysler was (and still is) a habitual winner.

“Car shows became a staple in my family; my dad would win trophies left and right. I would watch in awe as he would pull one of his cars out of the garage. I would be in even greater awe when he would collect his trophy from the car show chairman,” Michaela said.

---

**“Since I was a child, I longed to have that experience of my own. As I grew and closed in on driving age, I would fantasize about having my own Mopar muscle car.”**

---

Since completing the restoration of The Little Black Dress, Michaela has participated in more car shows than she can count, and has lost track of the number of trophies she’s won.

But Michaela wasn’t satisfied with just winning awards; she wanted to do something her mom would be proud of. So she created an online community for women interested in Mopars. There’s the Miss Mopar Facebook page, which has more than 21,000 likes; her Twitter account, which has more than 1,000 followers; a blog; and features in various print and digital magazines.

“Miss Mopar is not a paid endeavor, so my payment comes in moments when a dad writes to me and tells me his 12-year-old daughter follows my page and started helping him work



on his old Mopar,” Michaela said.

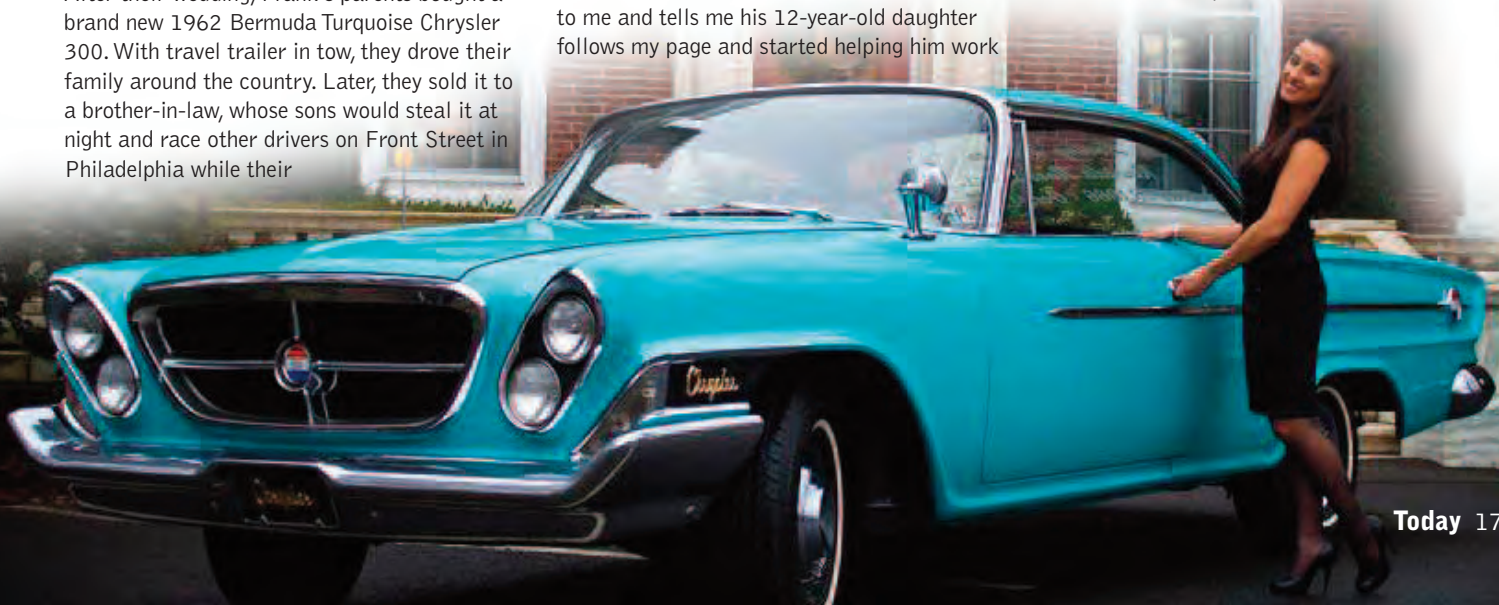
In 2015, she won the Tom Wopat (you might know him as Luke Duke from the Dukes of Hazzard) Celebrity Choice Award at Carlisle All Chrysler Nationals, an award given to one out of more than 2,000 Mopars.

She’s also restored three vehicles for a famed country music singer/ songwriter from Nashville, TN, and has been a guest blogger on a popular Mopar blog.

While at GMercyU, Michaela helped organize the Hot Rods for Heroes car show, which raised \$1,500 for Operation First Response.

Some days, Michaela comes home from her day job at a Chrysler dealership and spends another eight hours working on cars in her driveway with her dad, restoring them and getting them prepped for upcoming car shows.

“I hope to someday have a family that I can share my passion for the automotive culture with. Until then, I just want to live life to the fullest and drive my Dodge around with the windows down and my cell phone in the glove box so all I can focus on is the healing feeling of the open road beneath my rumbling piece of American history,” Michaela said. 🌟



# Dear Griffin Alumni,

As we prepare for a new academic year, I am reminded of our incoming students and the experiences they will encounter this year. Some of our students will attend college for the first time and others will begin the next level in their education, working toward their degree. Perhaps you remember your first days at Gwynedd Mercy University or then, College. If you haven't visited since graduation or even for several years, I invite you to come back to campus or to one of our off-site alumni events and meet with old friends and make new friends with whom you have a common bond. This year, the Office of Alumni Relations will offer educational, networking, social and volunteer opportunities. I invite you to join us and see what the University has been up to since your last visit. Check your email, mailbox or our [gmercyu.edu](http://gmercyu.edu) events page for upcoming events and activities.

For those who still utilize a GMercyU email account, please contact me to make arrangements to keep your account active. On November 30, 2016, we will deactivate all alumni email accounts, unless the proper arrangements have been made to keep an account active. More information on this initiative will be advertised in the upcoming e-newsletter as well as in emails to alumni. Alumni who are currently students will not be affected.

If you find yourself in the area, please stop in to say hello. It would be my pleasure to give you a tour of our beautiful and growing campus.

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



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

## Upcoming Alumni Events:

- September 17 ... **Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Event**
- September 26 ... **GMercyU Golf Tournament**
- October 6-8 ..... **Homecoming Weekend**
- October 8 ..... **Alumni Tailgate & Reception at Homecoming**
- October 8 ..... **ASB Alumni Reunion & Residence Life Reunion**
- October 8 ..... **MSM & MBA Alumni Networking Event**
- October 16 ..... **Reunion for Classes 1966 & 1991**
- November 5 ..... **Radiation Therapy Program Alumni Luncheon**
- December 8 ..... **Santa's Workshop Community Service Event**



Griffins headed down the shore to Keenan's in North Wildwood on Saturday, July 16.





GMercyU Alumni gathered at Citizens Bank Park for a tailgate at McFadden's Bar and Grill prior to watching the Phillies play the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday, June 4.



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

Check the alumni website for additional details and for online registration: [gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-alumni](http://gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-alumni)

### Connect with GMercyU Alumni Online

-  /Gwynedd Mercy University Alumni
-  @GMercyU
-  Group: Gwynedd-Mercy University Alumni
-  [sites.gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-blog](http://sites.gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-blog)

# Class NOTES

## 1964

**Mary Louise Bowdler**, of Ocean City, N.J., sells real estate in Ocean City, N.J.

## 1972

**Janet Miller**, of North Wales, Pa., is the proud grandmother of Chloe Jane Miller and Cayden William Miller.

## 1983

**Beth Ann Carlson**, of Alpharetta, Ga., has been a full-time outpatient nurse for 22 years.

**Cyndi Gornick**, of Austin, Texas, is the President and CEO of The Arc, a nonprofit organization committed to empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## 1991

**Jeffrey Wilkinson**, of Wilton, Conn., is the CIO of Commercial and Marketing for General Electric.

## 1993

**Joyce Ross**, of Westchester, Pa., was named President of the National Lipid Association.

**Barbara Tournier**, of Horsham, Pa., is an adjunct nursing professor at Gwynedd Mercy University and Rutgers University.

## 1995

**Evon Bergey**, of Perkasie, Pa., was named the Vice President of Community Initiatives at Landis Communities.

**Haifa Tyler**, of Richboro, Pa., recently accepted a position with Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. and was promoted to Associate Director of CSPV Clinical Safety.

## 1998

**Savannah McHugh**, of Lansdale, Pa., recently retired from Nextgen Healthcare Information Systems.

## 2002

**Faye Miller**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is the Chief Foundation Officer of New Foundations Charter School and has two sons.

## 2003

**Karla Johnson**, of Colleagueville, Pa., is the principal for Pennsylvania Online Charter School.

## 2011

**Yahaya Enakhimion**, of Springfield, Pa., is a nurse practitioner and has a little boy named Mak.

**Kristen Guancione**, of Ambler, Pa., works in Echocardiology at HealthWorks.

**James Isabella**, of Kingsport, Tenn., is proud of his daughter's acceptance into GMercyU's Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions.

## 2013

**Stephen Cresse**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently finished a post-graduate program at The University of Pennsylvania and is going to medical school.



## GOOD TODAY... BETTER TOMORROW

One of the most powerful and immediate ways you can help students is by giving to the Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund. Each year, the annual fund provides critical resources that strengthen academic, student life and scholarship programs. Gifts of all sizes work together to keep tuition costs down and to provide an exceptional, distinctive Mercy experience for nearly 3,000 students. By giving to the annual fund, you have a direct impact on students' success as they become good today, but better tomorrow.

*Please support the Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund today!*

**To learn more call 215-641-5568 or give online at [gmercyu.edu/giving-gmercyu](http://gmercyu.edu/giving-gmercyu) and select Giving.**

# Engagements and Marriages

**Matthew Fingerman '15**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is engaged to marry Mindy Sternberg on October 29, 2016.

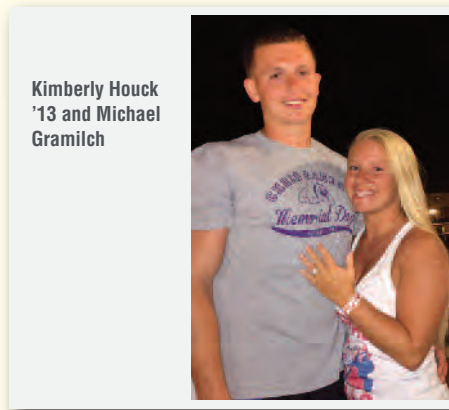


Matthew Fingerman '15 and Mindy Sternberg

**Jennifer Haegele '14**, of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., is engaged to marry Shawn Carroll on September 3, 2017.



Jennifer Haegele '14 and Shawn Carroll



Kimberly Houck '13 and Michael Gramilch

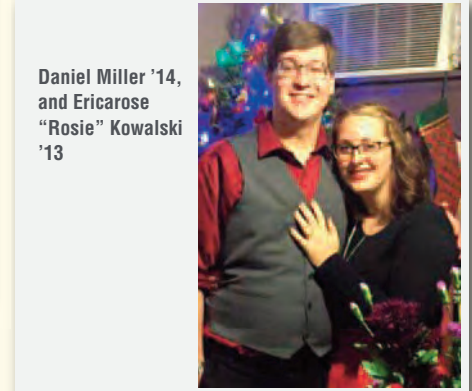
**Kimberly Houck '13**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is engaged to marry Michael Gramilch. The couple were engaged in North Wildwood, N.J. on July 4, 2016.



Nicholas Keba '14 and Jenna Gaydosh Keba '13

**Nicholas Keba '14**, of Bensalem, Pa., married **Jenna Gaydosh Keba '13**, of Philadelphia, Pa., on May 7, 2016.

**Daniel Miller '14**, of Lansdale, Pa., is engaged to marry **Ericarose "Rosie" Kowalski '13** on June 17, 2017.



Daniel Miller '14, and Ericarose "Rosie" Kowalski '13

**Brian Reid '12**, of West Chester, Pa., is engaged to marry **Kristy McGrath '11** in May 2018.



Brian Reid '12 and Kristy McGrath '11

**Nicole Fultz Smith** recently married Myron Smith on October 29, 2015.

**Michelle Stella '11/'15**, of Telford, Pa., married Zach Van Benthem on August 21, 2016 in Hellertown, Pa.

**Joshua VanHorn '15**, of Upland, Pa., is engaged to marry **Heather Santucci '14** in Fall 2017.

**Colin Fitzgerald**, of Abington, Pa., is a regional marketing manager for United States Liability Insurance.

**Ashley Heyes**, of East Norriton, Pa., was promoted to head national producer at cityHUNT Team Building Scavenger Hunts.

**Michelle Knapper**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a financial analyst at Crozer-Keystone Health System.

**Maurice Lee**, of East Norriton, Pa., was promoted two ranks in the United States Military.

**Amina Floyd Murphy**, of Lansdowne, Pa., was promoted to admissions counselor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Carol Risko**, of Willow Grove, Pa., works in critical care at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Julie Soltis-Kiehl**, of Blue Bell, Pa., is a hospice nurse at VITAS Healthcare.

**Kelley Sundstrom**, of Drexel Hill, Pa., recently joined the United States Navy.

**Lauren Tarsitano**, of Telford, Pa., is a third grade teacher at Vernfield Elementary School in Telford, Pa.

**Lamar Tymes**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a licensed real estate agent and recently started his own real estate office called Lamar Tymes Holding.

## 2014

**Carly Bingham**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa.

# Griffin Babies

**Marie Hohenwarter '51**, of Venice, Fla., welcomed great-grandson Dean in February 2016. Dean joins twin sisters Leah and Evan.

**Lauren Juliano '13**, of Quakertown, Pa., welcomed twin girls, Mackenzie and Madison, on December 25, 2015.

**Catherine Logano '12**, of Devon, Pa., welcomed a child in April 2016.

**Heather Massey '15**, of Philadelphia, Pa., welcomed a baby boy in February 2016.

**Carey Scarlett '12**, of Clayton, N.J., welcomed Kemi Onakolai on January 1, 2016.

**Jonathan Figliola**, of Weston, Conn., is a sales representative at Connecticut Distribution Center.

**Michael Ginley**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is currently in boot camp for the United States Navy.

**David Heiser**, of Schwenksville, Pa., is a management consultant for Comcast and is currently helping to restructure the company's IT team.

**Lavonia Jenkins**, of Philadelphia, Pa., works for the City of Philadelphia on The Board of Pensions and Retirement.

**Joseph Miller**, of Yardley, Pa., is an emergency room nurse at Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa.

**Ann Marie Piechocinski**, of Hamilton, N.J., works in the Pediatric Care Unit at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

## 2015

**Elizabeth Crater**, of Chalfont, Pa., is a long-term substitute teacher at West Rockhill Elementary School in Sellersville, Pa.

**Monique Eversley**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is the owner and event manager of YHD Enterprises which specializes in event management.

**Alyssa Figueroa**, of Sewell, N.J., teaches special education in the Philadelphia School District.

**Deborah Fioravanti**, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., works in the Interventional Radiology Unit at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

**Linda Schumann**, of Doylestown, Pa., welcomed a granddaughter, Ella.

**Gina Smith '05**, of Secane, Pa., welcomed a baby boy, Nathan, in May 2015.

**Regan Leatherman Weikel '02**, of Hatfield, Pa., welcomed Grant James to their family on May 25, 2016. Grant (3 years) joins big brother Grayson (10 years) and sisters Riley (8 years) and Rhyann (5 years).

**Mary Wilson '08**, of Elkins Park, Pa., welcomed a baby boy, Henry, in October 2014.

**Joseph Keegan**, of Perkasi, Pa., is employed at Pediatric Services of America.

**Pierre Korfiatis**, of Levittown, Pa., is currently pursuing his master's in psychology at Shippensburg University.

**Megan Lutey**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a radiation therapist at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Erik Messina**, of Warminster, Pa., is studying Political Philosophy at The Collegium Augustinianum.

**Victoria Porawski**, of Exton, Pa., works in the Progressive Care Unit at Paoli Hospital in Pennsylvania.

**Evelyn Reyes**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is pursuing her MBA at Gwynedd Mercy University.

**Christopher Sofia**, of Bensalem, Pa., is currently a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army and has been in the military for 13 years.

**Richard Ushka**, of Chalfont, Pa., is pursuing his master's degree in psychology.

**Joshua VanHorn**, of Upland, Pa., is a police officer in the Upland Police Department.

**John Welsh**, of Havertown, Pa., is an emergency room nurse at University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

**Christina Yi**, of Lansdale, Pa., recently moved to Virginia and is a fourth grade teacher.

# In Memoriam

**Helen Bridy Brass '80**, of Doylestown, Pa., passed away on April 3, 2016.

**Patricia Carreras '67**, of Midlothian, Va., passed away on May 1, 2015.

**Marilyn Chini Cartlidge '91**, of Vineland, N.J., passed away July 1, 2016.

**Martha Ann Putiri DiVito '62**, of Ocean City, N.J., passed away on May 3, 2016.

**Lee Parenti Kenney '84**, of Philadelphia, Pa., passed away on April 22, 2016.

**Nancy Campbell Madden '81**, of Ambler, Pa., passed away on April 11, 2016.

**Mary Marwood Vasas '78/'80**, of Pottstown, Pa., passed away on May 9, 2016.

**Phyllis Warthen '82**, of Milledgeville, Ga., passed away on May 2, 2014.

## 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 marketing@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 1991 & 1966

to attend their 25 & 50 Reunions  
**Sunday, October 16, 2016**

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

# GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2016 RED & GOLD WEEKEND



**OCTOBER  
6-9**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PLAN TO COME  
BACK AND  
CELEBRATE!**  
\*\*\*\*\*

- **Red & Gold Pinterest Party**
- **Drive In Movie**
- **Men's Soccer and Women's Field Hockey Games**
- **MSM & MBA Alumni and Student Networking Event**
- **Fall Festival**
- **Athletics Hall of Fame**
- **Alumni Tailgate**
- **Alumni Reception**
- **Alternative Spring Break Reunion**
- **Residence Life Reunion**

Check the alumni webpage and follow us on social media for more details as they become available.

**Office of Alumni Relations 215-641-5554 or [alumni@gmercyu.edu](mailto:alumni@gmercyu.edu)**

