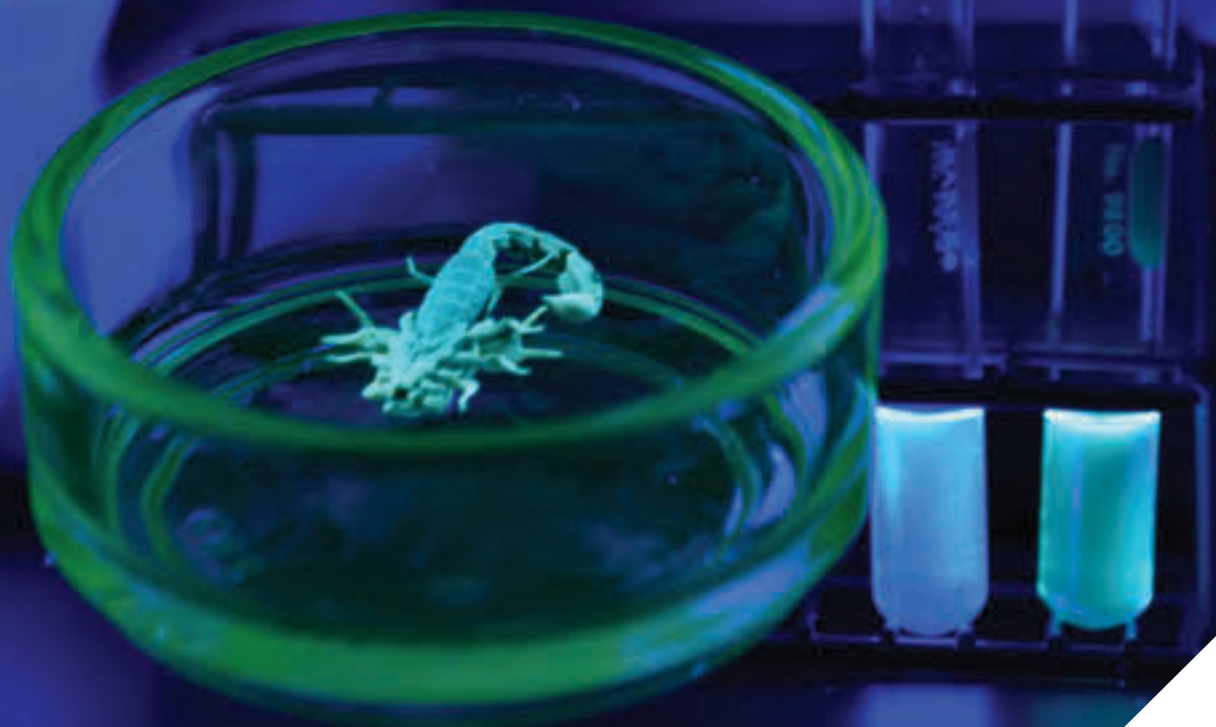


Spring 2015

TODAY



Obedience

Have you ever found a real treasure? Well, last semester the University's archivist, David McAllister, uncovered a gem among the many unexamined items in the University's archives: the handwritten journal of Sister Mary Gregory Campbell, RSM, founding academic dean and second president of Gwynedd Mercy University. At the time of her retirement in 1986, she was approaching the age of 80, having served as the academic dean (1948-1959); president (1959-1972); and psychology/statistics faculty member (1972-1986).

S.M.G., as she identifies herself, describes an amazing journey from a vision to a two-year junior college to a four-year baccalaureate college, all of which begins on August 6, 1948 with a single journal entry titled "Obedience." As she subsequently explains, she was a second-year principal at Merion Mercy Academy when her superior, Mother Mary Bernard, "with a smile on her face, handed me 'the' envelope... Academic Dean of Gwynedd-Mercy Junior College."



Wow, it's hard for me to even imagine walking in her shoes — a change in career overnight because she obediently accepted the assignment she was given. Undaunted by her admitted lack of knowledge about junior colleges, S.M.G.'s intelligence, leadership, grit and persistence enabled Gwynedd Mercy Junior College to open on October 1, 1948. Obviously a quick learner, S.M.G. led the transition from junior college to four-year college, which her journal documents on May 23, 1963: "4-yr. College approved by unanimous vote of the State Council for Education."

It's interesting that Facebook COO, Sheryl Sandberg, tells women in her 2013 #1 best-seller, *Lean In*, it's time to sit at the table, seek challenges, take risks and pursue your goals with gusto. Do you think she had S.M.G. in mind? For those of us who were fortunate to know her or to experience her legacy, we recognize those same impactful qualities that Sheryl writes about 55 years later.

How fortunate for our university community that S.M.G.'s "obedience" engaged the dedication, scholarship and creativity of so many other sisters and lay colleagues in shaping the foundation upon which GMercyU was built. Then, as now, we seek to prepare new generations of *Distinctive Mercy Graduates*. While the degree programs and levels, as well as the areas of specialization, may have changed since our earliest days, our Mercy-influenced commitment to empower students to lead productive and satisfying lives is as strong today as it was in 1948.

In this issue of *Today*, you will read about several of my faculty and staff colleagues who are following in the footsteps of S.M.G. and shaping the curricular and co-curricular environment for this day and time. You will also meet several alumni whose accomplishments reflect, I am sure, just what S.M.G. prayed desperately for when she wrote "obedience" in her journal.


Kathleen Owens, PhD
President

Visit Dr. Owens' blog, *A View from Assumption!*





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
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On the Cover:
Students in Dr. Thomas Umile's
organic chemistry lab
investigate how and why
scorpions glow when exposed to
ultraviolet light.

Finding the Gem in the Germs 5

Not Your Average Chem Class 6

Tales of Survivors 8

New Archivist Uncovers
University's Lost History 10

PLUS

President's Message	Inside Cover
Campus News	2
Sports	14
Alumni News	
The Pursuit of Happiness	16
Beth Allen '91/'93	
Corey Lord '04	
Class Notes	20

As part of Gwynedd Mercy University's dedication to expanding its global reach, it welcomed two faculty members from China's Yang-En University (YEU) during the fall semester.

Professors Christine Cai, Vice Dean of the Foreign Studies Department at YEU, and Anna Zhang, Dean of the School of Economics at YEU, spent the semester living in a campus residence hall, presenting in classes and traveling to nearby cities. One of their goals during the semester was to help promote collaboration between YEU and Gwynedd Mercy University.

"I'm happy to see students and teachers willing to learn so much more about our culture," Cai said. "Working with the dear colleagues and lovely students here has been so delightful and will be an unforgettable part of my academic career and life experience."

The two professors participated in class discussions on campus. They relayed their own experiences as well as traditions and customs in Chinese culture and business. In November, they led a presentation on Chinese culture, dress and language at Gwynedd Mercy Academy. They, along with two exchange students studying at the Academy, demonstrated how important tone is when speaking, modeled traditional Chinese dresses and taught students how to write some basic Chinese characters.

Zhang also led an informal lesson in Chinese language with some students at the University twice a week. They talked about some of the differences in structure between the two languages, she said.

"It's not just that I taught them Chinese, but we taught each other," she said.

Lisa McGarry, PhD, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, agreed that the relationship between the University and the scholars was mutually beneficial. Prior to their arrival, Cai, Zhang and University



Professors Cai and Zhang, pictured here with Catherine McMahon, RSM '71, Special Assistant to the President for Mission and Planning, fully immersed themselves into the GMercyU community in their short time on campus.

officials created an agreement of things they hoped to accomplish during the semester. This included promoting collaboration between Gwynedd Mercy University and Yang-En University, working on academic projects and research papers and contributing to the University.

"Christine is a professional and cultural ambassador whose work and presence has enriched both the School of Arts & Sciences and the University. Students, faculty and staff found her engaging and generous with her time and talent. The Arts and Sciences faculty and I are happy to have her as a colleague and friend, and we look forward to continuing our work with her to establish program articulations between YEU and GMercyU," Dr. McGarry said.

YEU, located just outside Quanzhou, Fujian, China, enrolls almost 20,000 students each year. The sprawling campus sits on the Yang-En Lake, and students spend much of their time in class or studying, Cai and Zhang said.

"Many students asked me, 'What's the difference between Chinese campus culture and U.S. campus culture?' Even our own university campus culture is unique in China," Zhang said. "So I think each campus in the

U.S. has its own unique characteristics too."

Cai and Zhang noticed that students at GMercyU are quicker to ask questions in class, even in the middle of a lecture. At YEU, students don't normally ask questions during class, they said. Lessons here generally encourage student participation, which is not always the case at YEU.

"Cultural differences influence classroom behaviors. Students here are more active, while the students in our university are quieter in class," Zhang said.

Zhang and Cai said it took a little while to get used to the differences, but they came to appreciate some of the techniques professors at GMercyU use to engage students, and plan to implement some where they can at YEU. Likewise, professors at GMercyU enjoyed having Zhang and Cai on campus to share their firsthand knowledge and perspectives of Chinese culture.

"Anna brought a wonderful perspective to the School of Business, enhancing and enriching experiences for students both in and out of the classroom. In her short time at GMercyU, she taught us all so much about China, from its modern day development to its history, culture, customs, language and food. It was a privilege

Going Global

to be able to work with her developing articulations and strengthening the relationship between our two universities," Dean of the School of Business Heather Pfleger, EdD, said.

The cultural differences Zhang and Cai pointed out didn't affect only students in a university setting; they also noticed differences in professional settings.

Zhang, who spent much of her time in business classes, hosted a Campus Conversation lecture

in November about differences in business practices in the United States and China.

Cai, whose GMercyU email inbox had about 1,200 emails by December, said her email inbox at YEU would never have close to the same amount.

"It's impossible, I think, at my University. We use the telephone more than email," Cai said. "And at our university, we have longer meetings."

Cai said a typical meeting could last several hours, as opposed to the meetings she attended that usually ran less than an hour at GMercyU.

Cai and Zhang took advantage of GMercyU's location before they went home in January. They traveled to Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston and Lancaster. Their work with GMercyU continues and the University hopes to finalize plans for an exchange program for students and faculty with YEU. 🌐

The most traveling students usually do over winter break is to grandma's house but for 30 Gwynedd Mercy University students, the new year was spent more than 3,500 miles away across the pond. The School of Business hosted a mini-study abroad trip to Scotland and England from December 27, 2014 to January 3, 2015. Students across all disciplines, along with faculty and members from the University community, took in iconic sights such as Edinburgh's Christmas Market, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. To fulfill the study-abroad component, students took several classes prior, during and after focused on related topics. As part of the initiative to increase its global exposure, the trip was offered to all members of the University.



“The whole experience was mind-blowing. Going out of the country and seeing new places has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember. Now I can say I have actually seen a foreign country.”

– Brandon Bonamico '18

“It’s true that there really is no substitute for experience. In order to really understand European culture, you have to go and experience it firsthand. The knowledge and experience I learned is much more important than most things that I could have learned from a book. You really have to go there and immerse yourself in their culture to really understand their values and belief system.”

– Michael Bruce '16

“The trip was invaluable. Between being able to see all the history, experience the city and bond with members on the trip I would do it again in a heartbeat. Traveling to a different country really turned on a light. Being able to say that I climbed an extinct volcano in Scotland or visited Westminster Abbey and Wimbledon in London is amazing.”

– Alexander Channick '16

“You can only learn so much about the history of another country in a classroom. Getting the chance to learn about the history first-hand is pretty remarkable.”

– Matthew Novitski '18

“Traveling abroad to London and Scotland was one of the biggest risks I have probably ever taken in my lifetime. Part of me thought I was not ready, but then another part of me thought it was time. It was time for me to travel and learn about a new country. The whole trip was a huge learning experience.”

– Danielle Rainier '18



New Director of International Student Services

By: Alyssa Mease

For many students, the decision to study abroad comes with barriers: Can they afford it? Will the classes they take fit in with their requirements at Gwynedd Mercy University? Where do they want to go?

Enter **Lora Steiner**, the new Director of International Student Services. Steiner was brought in to help students work through the logistics of studying abroad, whether for a full semester, a summer or a two-week stint.

Steiner encourages students to consider traveling to countries outside of their comfort zones; for example, instead of going to London or another, more familiar or English-speaking country, they could visit China.

“If students are willing to branch out a little bit, these are often more affordable options, and often, really interesting options,” Steiner said.

Steiner can also assist students get their required documents such as visas and passports, arrange for internships while abroad and advise on how to find cheap airfare in Europe. She will also be the go-to resource for international students interested in studying at Gwynedd Mercy University.

“If they’re interested, then I want to help them navigate that,” Steiner said.

The key to a successful study abroad experience is to begin planning early. Exchanges such as the one Gwynedd Mercy University has with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland fill up quickly. Preparations for these experiences should begin in freshman or sophomore year.

Students interested in studying abroad are encouraged to stop by Steiner’s office in Student Services anytime to get more information or discuss possible opportunities. Steiner, who previously worked in international admissions at another school, has traveled extensively herself and can provide some firsthand knowledge of other countries.

“I found I liked learning from people who were different from me,” she said.

Growing up in a family that valued travel, she visited many places as a child. She also spent a semester in the Middle East while in college, primarily in Israel and Palestine.

“That was really formative for me in ways I hadn’t anticipated. I saw things differently,” Steiner said. “We’re all just humans; we put up these barriers. But I was in Cairo, and I saw a little girl wearing Minnie Mouse shoes and carrying a purse. She could have been anywhere.”

Steiner hopes that by helping students make sense of the logistics of studying abroad, she can ease some of their concerns and make an international undergraduate experience a reality. 🌍

Finding the Gem in the Germs



By: Alyssa Mease

can develop necessary medications without incurring the huge expense that normally comes with research.

Professor Stacey Lettini's, PhD, microbiology students set out last fall to gather soil from different locations around campus. Armed with shovels, buckets and a list of instructions, the students brought their soil back to the lab to test it for antibiotic properties.

The students spent the semester finding bacteria in their soil samples that secreted antibiotic compounds, isolating it and testing it. The hope was that they would find antibiotic-secreting bacteria that could be used to create a new medication.

Many students who earn degrees in biology go on to become researchers, making the Small World Initiative labs even more applicable to their future careers.

Although they found their soil samples from Gwynedd Mercy University did not contain previously undiscovered antibiotic compounds necessary to cure common ailments, they did contribute their findings to a larger collaborative of more than 50 institutions around the world.

The Small World Initiative, started at Yale University, seeks to solve the growing problem of antibiotic resistance by having undergraduate researchers create a database that records trends of antibiotic production across different organisms and habitats. By doing the legwork of the research, the initiative's hope is that new antibiotics will be discovered by students looking to gain experience, and the pharmaceutical companies

"It seemed like when we took the bacteria out of the mixed cultures, they stopped secreting the antibiotic," Dr. Lettini said. "The students seemed to have loved the project, although they were upset about not finding the antibiotic-producing bacteria."

Nonetheless, the students were able to share their findings with undergraduate researchers in 28 states and five countries—adding to scientific knowledge and creating a framework that may be used by researchers in the future. A team of researchers recently partnered with a drug company to develop a new antibiotic to treat tuberculosis and MRSA, antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

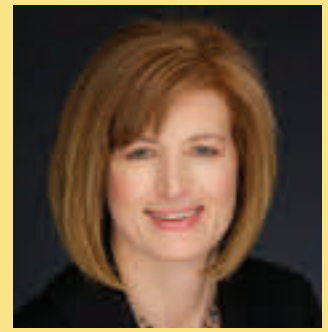
Dr. Lettini's intent was to teach students the skills they would need to conduct research, rather than assign typical labs that would have pre-determined results. Many students who earn degrees in biology go on to become researchers, making the Small World Initiative labs even more applicable to their future careers, Dr. Lettini said.

Two students from the lab have already signed on to participate in a summer research program with Dr. Lettini.

"We want to take the project and instead of just looking at bacteria in soil, let's expand and also look at bacteria in water and in other places. Let's look at different kinds of samples and see what bacteria are there," she said. 🌍



Dr. Stacey Lettini (front row, center) pictured with students who participated in Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs).



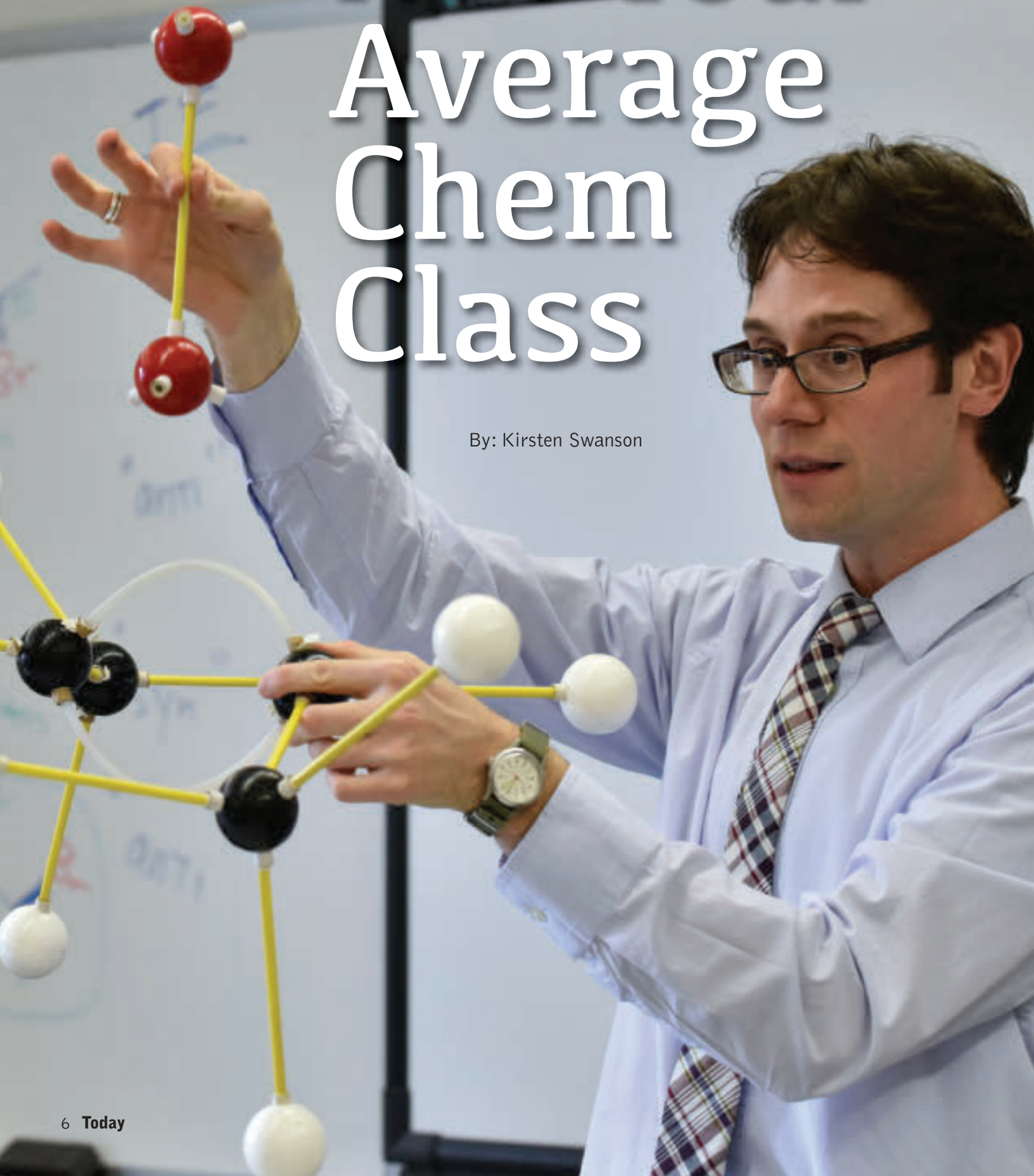
New Trustee Announced

Ellen L. Stang, MD, FAAP, is the founder, president and CEO of ProgenyHealth, a company specializing in care management solutions for infants in intensive care nurseries. At ProgenyHealth, Dr. Stang is responsible for the strategic direction and daily operations of the firm, and under her leadership, the company has grown substantially over the past 11 years. ProgenyHealth's approach is proactive and family-centered with an emphasis on a strong case management program. Its model stresses comprehensive care management customized to meet the individual health care needs of each infant. ProgenyHealth partners with health plans and employer groups and their neonatal providers to work collaboratively to attain quality outcomes for this vulnerable segment of the population. ProgenyHealth is a leader in the new era of patient-centered health care and provides neonatal care management services to NICUs in all 50 states.

Dr. Stang began her professional career as a private practice pediatrician after graduating from The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in 1989 and completing her residency at Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia in 1992. During that time, Dr. Stang was one of the founding partners of Bucks County Pediatrics, a practice of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. She was also co-director of the newborn nursery for the newly established maternity wing at the Bucks County Campus of the Medical College of Pennsylvania. Dr. Stang left private practice in 1999 to serve as a regional medical director at Keystone Mercy Health Plan until the founding of ProgenyHealth in 2003. Dr. Stang was named one of Ernst & Young LLP's 2012 Entrepreneurial Winning Women. She is board certified and is a member of the American College of Physician Executives and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Not Your Average Chem Class

By: Kirsten Swanson



Bemoaning chemistry lab after chemistry lab that required him to take one mystery white powder and turn it into another white mystery powder, Thomas Umile, PhD, knew he couldn't have his students suffer through the same cycle during their undergraduate careers.

So in Dr. Umile's organic chemistry labs, students are expected to apply the theory to real-world experiments, including a recent experiment that had students investigate how and why scorpions glow when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Dr. Umile joined the biology program at Gwynedd Mercy University as assistant professor of chemistry in the Division of Natural and Computational Sciences in fall 2014. He received a bachelor's and master's degree in biochemistry/chemistry from the University of Scranton and a doctoral degree in chemistry from Princeton University. He joins Gwynedd Mercy University from Villanova University where he taught in the chemistry department as a postdoctoral fellow.

"I am really lucky to be here. This division is so collaborative and I am very immersed in the biology program and faculty. As a chemist, it allows me to be more applied and make stronger connections to what the students need in this program than I could at larger institutions," Dr. Umile said.

With class sizes less than 10 students, Dr. Umile is able to design his instruction around not only what the students are learning in their other classes, but what fields they are interested in post-graduation. His unique spin on teaching the fundamental principles of chemistry with different examples keeps students engaged. By showing them how the concepts can apply to their careers, it removes the stigma that chemistry is only useful for chemists.

Dr. U. has great enthusiasm and a method of teaching difficult concepts that really brings them to life and makes them easier to understand.

"I was really worried about Organic Chemistry because I kept hearing about how difficult it is. Dr. U. has great enthusiasm and a method of teaching difficult concepts that really brings them to life and makes them easier to understand," sophomore biology student Amanda Pirrone said. "It is clear that he has a passion both for chemistry and for teaching, and in his class you really feel like he is invested in your education. I ended up doing really well in the first semester, and in the second semester I'm finding that it's one of my favorite classes."

During his studies, Dr. Umile became heavily interested in natural products isolation, green chemistry and sustainability. He has carried out numerous research projects centered on these topics and incorporates them into his classroom as much as possible.

To even better prepare his students for the current climate in science, Dr. Umile teaches students about sustainability through experiments. Before when chemists were told to make something there were no concerns to waste and long-term impact on the environment. Today, all of those factors are considered.

Dr. Umile had students in his Organic Chemistry class perform an experiment without using a solvent and an acidic catalyst – two key principles behind green chemistry. Instead, students used one of the liquid components as its own solvent and polymer beads infused with acidic qualities.

As an added bonus, the compound the students made was fluorescent and glowed under UV light. The compound is naturally found in scorpions' exoskeleton. This makes it easy for ecologists to find them in a dark desert.

"Students learned how to make this from scratch. That technique is used in research. Part of identifying a compound when it's novel is you make that compound from scratch to compare it to the natural source. Sometimes you have to make something from scratch to prove what you found," Dr. Umile said.



This summer, Dr. Umile will be continuing his latest research project on the widespread amphibian declines caused by a fungal pathogen with undergraduate students. All of the research to date on the fungal disease, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), causing the decline has been discovering the bacteria on the amphibians that is fighting the fungus and how it works.

Like his classroom instruction, Dr. Umile is going against the trend. Much of the available research has focused on the bacteria, but he is commissioning students to help him research how the fungus is responding to the bacteria trying to kill it. They are going to look at what compound the fungus is making to combat the bacteria, if any, and whether it is involved in the geneity of the disease.

Dr. Umile is also going to continue working with his colleagues from previous research at Villanova University and Vanderbilt University.

"It can be a neat project for students to see collaboration across disciplines and institutions because that's become so common in modern-day science. It's a great opportunity for students to have as many interactions with larger institutions to broaden their view. Breadth of opinions and views on the same thing can be really eye-opening," Dr. Umile said.

Like any teacher, Dr. Umile's hope is that students take what they learned in his classroom and apply it to their career. But for the time being, he would be just as happy if his students went home and bragged to their friends about how fun their chemistry labs are.

Next up in Organic Chemistry II... the creation of glow sticks. 🌟

Tales of Survivors



For Kurt L. Balderson '14 and the rest of America, September 11, 2001 started out just like any other day. Balderson was a stock trader for the investment bank CIBC World Markets at 1 World Financial Center in New York City, just steps away from the World Trade Centers. He arrived at work, not knowing a mere two hours later, the biggest terrorist attack to ever hit America would occur. Balderson survived the attacks and spoke to a packed house in University Hall on September 11, 2014, recounting his experience.

I remember this particular morning was significantly beautiful. On the ferry I took from Jersey City, N.J. to downtown Manhattan, I stood on the outside upper-deck as the sun was just rising behind the World Trade Center. I thought I worked in the best place in the world. It was the most prestigious and one of the most elegant.

Work started as usual: I sat in a morning meeting and at about 8:40 a.m., I went to the cafeteria to grab a quick breakfast before the trading day started. That is when something happened that would change my life forever.

The building shook.

In the next couple of minutes, more and more people started coming down to the cafeteria, saying there was an explosion in the building right next to ours. I paid for my breakfast and walked to the elevator and pushed the up button to go back to the trading floor, not knowing the extent of what was happening

outside. Someone yelled to me, "Kurt, we have to leave the building."

I was right across the street and had unobstructed views of both of the WTC towers. There was debris flying everywhere. I looked up and saw that the top 30 or so floors of the North tower were on fire. I thought to myself that there were people dying up there. Nearly everyone who left the building with me saw people jumping. I don't remember seeing that; perhaps I am just blocking it out of my mind.

For lack of a better word, I panicked. I started to run towards the Hudson River, to where my ferry departs. Very few people were reacting. I was running around hundreds of people who were just staring up at the WTC. I saw my ferry coming across the river and kept on running, hoping I would make it in time. I reacted very differently than I did after I experienced the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993. At that time I remained

nearby and watched. Now with a wife and two daughters, responsibility for them made survival my primary concern.

I got to the ferry dock as my ferry was pulling up. So many people were getting off the ferry to enter Manhattan. I was screaming, "The World Trade Center is on fire. Get back on the boat." Everyone looked at me with that blank "New York" face thinking I was crazy.

I remember walking over the crack between the ferry dock and ferry thinking to myself, "Am I having a nervous breakdown?" Very few people got on the boat with me, and many got off. The few of us on the ferry headed to the outside upper deck.

We were looking back at the burning WTC as the boat pulled out. Then from the corner of my eye, I saw the second plane approaching. I was about 300 yards away and clearly remember reading United Airlines on the side of the plane. I remember seeing everything clearly, but I don't remember hearing any sound. I must have blocked that from my memory. I was in such a state of shock. I fell to my knees and got sick. I was certain that everyone I had just left was dead. At that moment I thought I was one of the few who made it out alive.

Although my car was parked at the ferry drop off, I was without my car keys. A complete stranger who lived in the opposite direction gave me a ride home. I sat in the passenger seat with my head between my legs. We were listening to a news channel and as we were driving past Newark Airport we heard that the Pentagon had been hit. He turned off the radio and we drove in silence.

When I arrived at home, my wife and daughters were not there. It was my daughter's first day of pre-school. I tried calling my parents and brother but all circuits were busy. It was a very lonely feeling as I sat on my sofa watching TV as the World Trade Centers collapsed. I was there only 45 minutes ago and now I was sitting by myself in the comfort of my own home while many of my friends and colleagues were still there.

Finally my wife and kids came home. She kept telling me to call my friends and I kept on responding to each name, "They're dead." "All my friends are dead."

Fortunately, I was wrong and most of my friends made it out safely. I did lose four close friends. Two worked for Cantor Fitzgerald, a company which lost nearly 750 employees. I was out with one on Monday, the night before the tragedy. The other got me a job offer from Cantor when I was job hunting the year before. He was so proud of where he worked, on the 104th floor, above everyone.

The weeks following the attacks were hard. The employees of the investment bank I was working for were displaced because of severe damage to our building. Because we did not have a permanent building in which to go



David Tuck learned about the value of life at a young age. At just 10 years old, his family – and the approximately 125 other Jews in his Polish town – were sent by the Nazis to live in the Lodz ghetto.

In the ghetto, Tuck realized he could capitalize on his ability to speak both Polish and German. He told the Nazis he was 15 years old so he could work giving out food ration cards to families, a job that required both languages. Tuck knows he otherwise would have been sent to a death camp with other young children.

“The most important thing is life. I know it,” Tuck told a packed crowd in University Hall

back, a few weeks later the company reduced its NYC work force by 40%. I was one of the employees who was let go. Then there were the funerals, where there were no caskets, just pictures.

I was screaming, “The World Trade Center is on fire. Get back on the boat.” Everyone looked at me with that blank “New York” face thinking I was crazy.

I am finally getting over the shock of what had happened and how close I was to it. After getting laid off, I decided to take the fall off and not even look for another job. I spent quality time with my wife, two daughters, family and friends. I did not want to return to corporate America and had no interest in working back in NYC. I focused on turning a

on November 19. The lecture was part of the Campus Conversations series.

Tuck described Hitler as “Bully #1,” and says the world turned a blind eye to the devastation he caused.

“Everybody knew what he was going to do, but nobody cared,” he said.

By the time the war was over in 1945, Tuck had been to five concentration camps in Poland, Germany and Austria. Two years after arriving at the Lodz ghetto, he was sent to the Posen labor camp, then to another in 1943 to construct an autobahn, or expressway. Later that year, he and other skilled workers were sent to Auschwitz, where he worked in a sub-camp called Eintrachthütte building anti-aircraft guns.

In January 1945, Tuck was sent to Mauthausen, then to Günsen II, where he worked in an underground factory building German aircraft.

When the American troops liberated Günsen II, Tuck was 16 years old and weighed just 78 pounds, a result of his daily diet of coffee, a slice of bread and watery soup. Instead of eating all of his food at once, he would hide his bread in his shirt and eat it throughout the day. He would ask Nazi officers if he could do side jobs for them, and some would

longtime dream into a quick reality. Hence, the creation of Stuffits, a sandwich shop in my hometown of Doylestown, Pa.

When people ask me what I remember most about September 11, 2001, it really isn't the debris, the panic, running to the ferry, the explosion when the second plane hit, or the Twin Towers collapsing. My most vivid memory is really of the night before when I said “goodbye” to my friend who worked for Cantor on the 104th floor. We said “goodbye” for the very last time. When we shook hands, he winked and he said, “I’ll see you soon.”

Balderson followed his heart and began his teaching career in 2009. He earned his master’s degree in school counseling in 2014 from Gwynedd Mercy University and currently works in the Great Valley School District. In honor of the four friends he lost, Balderson made a promise to share his experience on the anniversary of the attacks with his high school students, most of whom are too young to remember. ☺

turn their backs if he scrounged for extra bread.

One side job required him to take jewelry off corpses in a cemetery. For another job, he and several boys were left unsupervised in neighborhoods for several hours. They would rummage through trash bins for discarded food.

“This, ladies and gentlemen, is how I survived 5 ½ years. How, I have no idea, but I’m here today,” Tuck said.

After the war, Tuck spent time recovering in Paris with his father’s second cousin, where he met his wife Marie. They moved to the United States in 1950 and ran an interior decorating business in the Bronx for 32 years. He has since moved to Bucks County and volunteers with the Holocaust Awareness Museum. Last year, he shared his story with more than 10,000 students.

He spoke to students here in conjunction with the University’s “Gwynedd Reads” program, which encourages all members of the University community to read the same book at the same time. The novel chosen for the 2014-2015 academic year is *Jacob’s Oath*, which tells the story of Jacob Klein and Ava Kaufman, who meet at the end of the Holocaust and travel back to their homes in Heidelberg, Germany. ☺



New Archivist Uncovers University's Lost History

The daunting task of organizing 160 boxes worth of faculty files dating back to 1948 didn't scare University archivist David McAllister. Instead, it invigorated him.

By: Alyssa Mease



“There’s more in there than just employment contracts,” McAllister said of the more than 2,200 folders.

Included in the files of past faculty members, he found notes from students, recommendations from deans and research. He spent months alphabetizing and organizing the files, and then created a record of the information. He found the average tenure for faculty – including adjuncts— is about three years. The average tenure for a Sister of Mercy is about 10.

“When I was doing it I thought, ‘Well, this is interesting,’” McAllister said.

But perhaps the best thing he has come across since his quest to organize the University’s archives was a letter addressed to the University’s first president, Mother Mary Bernard Graham, RSM, from President John F. Kennedy. His secretary used an autopen signature to sign the letter, which encouraged Catholic colleges and universities to support his civil rights bill.

“It was wonderful, and where did I find it? In a miscellaneous box with the label ‘Misc. W.’ The ‘W’ was for ‘White House,’” McAllister said. “It was really fun to find that.”

The system for archiving university information has changed a lot since the 1980s, when Henrietta Connelly, RSM, first started. Changes in available technology make searching the archives easier, but all of the information has to be entered into the system manually.

“The volume of the records was greater than one individual could handle,” McAllister said. “I think we were in the same situation a lot of smaller institutions were in, where the volume of records was overwhelming.”

While there are many boxes that contain information, photos and relics from the 1950s, the majority of documents range from the 1980s to present, McAllister said. Before the 1980s, saving these items wasn’t done as often.

Another problem McAllister has run into is that some documents have duplicates. One document had 12 copies saved.

“It looks like we have a massive amount of stuff – and we do have a massive amount of stuff—but I suspect once I find all the duplicates, it will be a lot less,” McAllister said. “I’ve been going through, and this is the biggest thing I’ve been doing, and organizing, trying to make these collections cohesive.”

McAllister found hundreds of photos dating back to the 1950s. He and a student worker have begun the process of scanning the photos to post in online galleries. Once the online gallery is live, he hopes to recruit some alumni to help him identify the people and events depicted. Some photographs were marked with students’ names, but others have just a year or location.

Another project McAllister is working on is an oral history of the University and some of the memorable faculty members. He recently spoke with Mary Coleman, RSM, who taught at the University starting in the 1950s and became academic dean in the 1970s.

“She doesn’t remember everything, but just to look at her eyes, it’s there,” McAllister said.

“They’re proud of what they accomplished and it really shines through, and it makes me proud to be working on it.”

He also spoke with Anne Donofry, RSM, who shared her own memories of Sister Fenton Joseph, RSM, who established the associate degree nursing program at the University in 1959. She passed away in 2003. Sister Anne is in her 90s now, and was a student of Sister Fenton Joseph.

“They’re proud of what they accomplished and it really shines through, and it makes me proud to be working on it,” McAllister said.

The oral histories are available on the GMercyUArchives channel on YouTube. 🌐

Coach Mondillo Enshrined in Pennsylvania's Sports Hall of Fame

Gwynedd Mercy University Director of Athletics and Head Women's Basketball Coach Keith Mondillo was elected to the Louis C. Cappiella Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2014 last fall.

Mondillo is in his 20th season at the helm of the women's basketball team where he has guided the Griffins to six conference championships, eight NCAA tournament appearances and more than 385 wins.

Mondillo's induction came as a surprise to the veteran coach but he is recognized as one of the best among his peers, ranking 29th on the list of All-Time Coaches in Division III and winning Colonial States Athletic Conference Coach of the Year five times.

"I tell them [recruits], I'm in my 20th year here. I wouldn't still be here if I didn't believe in the education and experience we deliver to not just our student-athletes but to all of our students."

Basketball has been Mondillo's passion his entire life, playing at Archbishop Kennedy High School and Arcadia University. At Arcadia, he captained the men's basketball

team in his junior and senior seasons before graduating in 1993.

Mondillo continued his athletic career in yet another Catholic institution when he began coaching the Griffins in 1995 at just 23 years-old.

"Playing in Catholic leagues is different; it's about the community. I'll never forget Saturday mornings after a big game in high school, I would walk into 7/11 and there will be old guys congratulating me on a good game – or criticizing a bad game - the night before," Mondillo said.

It's that same sense of community that has kept Mondillo at Gwynedd Mercy University for more than two decades but more importantly, it's the reason he and his staff are able to recruit quality students. At almost every game, you can look into the standing-room only crowd and find President Owens cheering on the team, a rare occurrence at larger institutions. The support Mondillo and the rest of the athletic staff gets from the entire University community makes it an easy sell for recruits.

"I tell them [recruits], I'm in my 20th year here. I wouldn't still be here if I didn't believe in the education and experience we deliver to not just our student-athletes but to all of our students," Mondillo said.



Mondillo at the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Induction with his wife, Jennifer Mondillo '97/'04, and children Chase and Grace.

While from the outside looking in, Mondillo thinks it may appear as if he has chosen comfort over career ascension but despite many offers, he feels Gwynedd Mercy University is the right fit for him.

"When my kids ask, I never say I'm working or I'm going to work. It never feels like a burden," Mondillo said. "We always tell our students they need to be lifelong learners; that's true for all professions. The more I coach, the more I learn." 🌟



Griffins' Hall of Fame Welcomes Four Inductees

One of Homecoming's treasured traditions continued this year when Gwynedd Mercy University inducted the newest class into the Griffins' Hall of Fame. On Saturday, September 27, 2014, Dan Algeo '90, Sheon Givens '00, Mark Mattes '08, Rashid Santiago '07 and Kathy Snell '04 were honored.

Coach Dan Algeo's induction was earned through the years of making the University proud of his coaching accolades and the way he went about his calling. The beloved coach, teacher, mentor and friend was laid to rest last summer but not before leaving his mark on the young men he coached. He is one of only two coaches to ever win Philadelphia Catholic League titles at two different schools, Roman High School in 1999 and Cardinal O'Hara High School in 2004. He is second on the all-time wins list for football coaches at Cardinal O'Hara. He will always be remembered for his big heart, his contagious personality and his dedication to the people in his life.

The first title for the men's basketball team was won in 1999 led by **Sheon Givens** where he was named tournament MVP. Givens, a starting forward, was named to

the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) all-conference team for two years, including first team all-conference his senior year. Givens made his teammates better by his unselfish style of play. A transfer from Rutgers University, Givens captained the 1998-99 team to a miraculous run to the title with only six players on the team.

Mark Mattes was a three-year starting outfielder for the men's baseball team and left his mark on the record books. He has the second-highest career batting average (.367), is second in hits and stolen bases, third in runs scored and doubles and fourth in total bases. He was voted twice to the NCAA Regional All-American team and ECAC All-Region team, while going all-conference in each of his three years. A two-time captain, his teams reached the NCAA tournament all three years while winning two conference championships. He was named the 2008 Male Senior Athlete of the Year.

Rashid Santiago started point guard for the men's basketball team all four years, winning back-to-back titles in his freshman and sophomore seasons. He was a two-time member of the conference

All-Sportsmanship team and was among the Top 10 in assists in the conference each of his four years. His teams played in the NCAA tournament two times and in 2003-04 reached the Sweet Sixteen. Santiago was elected judge in the Lehigh County Magisterial District in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania in November 2013.

Kathy Snell got off to a great start in her career winning Conference Rookie of The Year as a starting forward on the women's basketball team in 2001. She was a first team all-conference selection three years including Player of The Year in her senior season. Kathy is among the Top 10 all-time leading scorers at Gwynedd Mercy University, having scored over 1,083 points in her career. Snell was named to the ABCA All-Region team in 2003-2004. Her teams won two conference championships and played in the NCAA tournament three of her four years. 🏀

(Left to right) Kathy Snell '04; Jim Algeo, on behalf of his brother, Dan Algeo '90; Rebecca Algeo, on behalf of her father; Rashid Santiago '07; Mark Mattes '08



Men's Cross Country

The Griffins had their string of six-straight CSAC Championships come to an end as the men's team was unable to capture the title, finishing seventh overall. Freshman **Matt Brown** finished third on the 8k course with the time of 27.05 to earn first-team all-conference. Senior **Craig Gonzaga** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team under first-year head coach **Kevin Clark**.

Women's Cross Country

For the first time in the last four years a team not named Marywood University captured the CSAC Championship Crown. This year it was Gwynedd Mercy University that would rule as champion for the first time since 2009. Five runners finished in the top 15: **Christina Smith** (22:39) finished second and **Brittney Finn** (23:55) finished fourth, each earning first-team all-conference honors. **Hannah Geiger** (24:33) finished 11th, **Emily Makara** (24:44) finished 12th and **Holly McGarrity** (24:45) was 13th to round out the top five for the Griffins, each earning second-team all-conference. Senior **Simone Rudich** was named to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

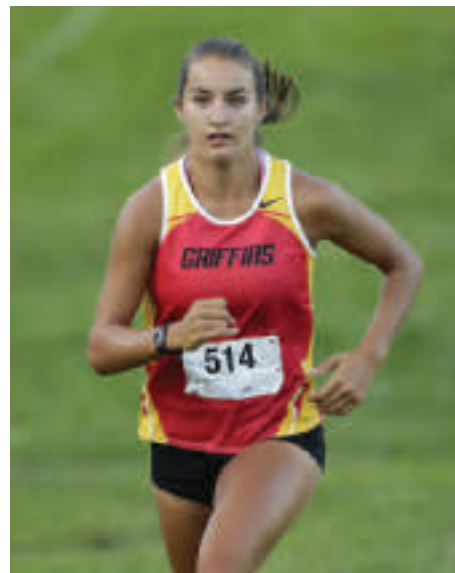
Men's Soccer

This was an historic season for the men's soccer team, finishing as the fourth playoff seed in the CSAC and hosting their first-ever home playoff game. They fell 3-2 in the opening round in overtime to Centenary College, the defending champions. Senior **Ryan Rodel** earned his second-straight CSAC first-team all-conference selection. Junior **Rich Mychack** earned his first honor, making the second team. Senior **Zac Clifford** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. The Griffins finished 7-12 and 5-4 in league play.



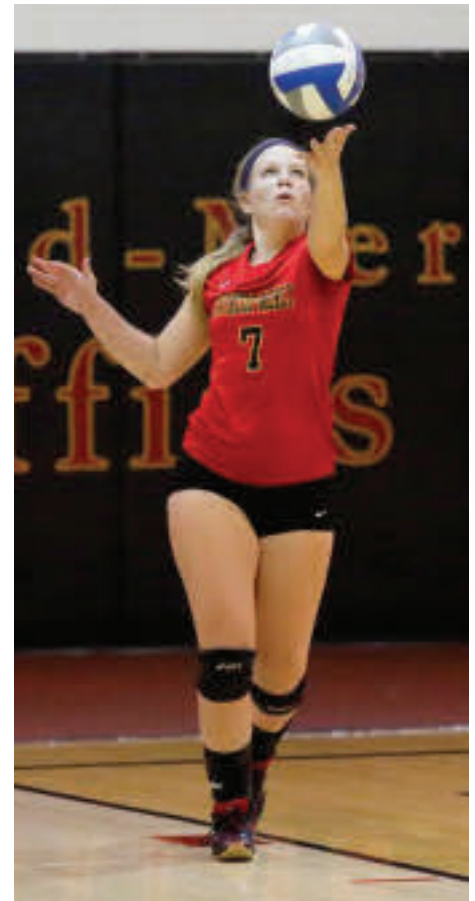
Women's Soccer

The Griffins enjoyed a successful season, finishing with the overall record of 11-7-2 (8-2-1 in conference play). With their conference record, they earned the #3 seed in the CSAC playoffs. The Griffins would edge Neumann University in the first round at home, winning in penalty kicks. The postseason run ran out of steam with a loss to Centenary College, 4-0, in the semifinals. Individually, freshman **Meghan Petroski** was named the CSAC Rookie of the Year to highlight four first-team all-league selections: senior **Casey Gaughan** and juniors **Kerri Petroski** and **Jess Tadley**. Senior **Sara Nance** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Both Kerri and Meghan Petroski were also named ECAC All-Stars, with Kerri selected to the first-team and Meghan selected to the second team.



Field Hockey

The defending CSAC champions made it four consecutive championships this season defeating Cabrini College 5-1 in the title game. Junior **Stephanie Bacho** aced the win with a three-goal performance en route to the championship MVP. The Griffins had a conference-high four first-team picks. Senior **Kelly Kruk**, junior **Katie O'Neill** and freshman **Madison Reiss** joined Bacho on the first team. The second team featured three more Griffins: senior **Brittany Wilson** and freshmen **Melissa Russo** and **Brianna O'Connell**. Junior **Megan Senkeleski** was an honorable mention selection and freshman **Noelle Schillinger** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. The Griffins' season ended with a loss to Juniata College in the opening round of the NCAA tournament, going 15-6 and 6-1 in CSAC action.



Volleyball

Under new Head Coach **Erica Trautwein**, the Griffins had a tough but better year this season finishing 7-23. With all of the players returning in 2015, the future is bright for the Griffins. Sophomore **Laura Kirk** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team for the second-straight year. On the court she led the team in kills (211), kills per set (2.09), attacks (969), digs (395) and digs per set (3.91). She recorded six double doubles and was named to the CSAC Honor Roll for the week of September 14, 2014.

Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team repeated as champions of the CSAC, earning their sixth conference championship in the last seven years. Gwynedd Mercy University finished 9-1 in conference play earning the top seed, defeating Marywood University 5-3 in the

final. The Griffins had five players selected to the first-team all-conference: seniors **Gabrielle Muller** and **Taylor Michener**, junior **Jenna Caffarello** and freshmen **Amanda Goff** and **Joslyn Jackson**. Michener and Jackson were selected as doubles. Jackson also earned singles honors on the honorable mention list. Sophomore **Kristen Kriebel** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

FALL SEASON

WRAP-UP

THE PURSUIT OF

Although Beth Allen '93 and Corey Lord '04 have very different passions, they share the courage to pursue them. Gwynedd Mercy University strives to not only teach students the necessary skills for their desired careers, but instills in them a love for lifelong learning and personal growth. While Allen and Lord may not have set out to be entrepreneurs when they enrolled at Gwynedd Mercy University, the education they received gave them the foundation to discover their Next.



While flipping through the television stations in recent years, you may have caught Beth Allen '91/'93 showing viewers how to caulk their bathtubs or repair their gutters. The local DIY guru has fixed everything from leaky faucets to ugly staircases, but she is at her best when she is motivating others to do it themselves.

After spending a few years running her own interior design business, Allen created DIY HIP Chicks, a business not just dedicated to improving women's homes, but empowering them. As much as she loved using her eye for design to tell women how to fix their home, Allen felt like she could make more of an impact.

"It's not about the toilet flapper. It's about the confidence you get from replacing the toilet flapper. I was just telling women what to do. I didn't want to just give them the fish, I wanted to give them the rod," Allen said.

Allen graduated from Gwynedd Mercy University with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Due to the hands-on experiences she got early on, Allen was soon juggling multiple hospital jobs while still going to school. Allen was offered the role of Director of Residential Services at ACTS Retirement-Life Communities, Inc. just two years after graduating, a huge responsibility for a young professional.

Allen decided to leave the nursing profession to raise her three children. Fast-forward to a decade later, Allen started to get the itch to do something when her youngest son went to kindergarten. After spending two years running a full-service design company, Red Door Decors, Allen started attending meetings at Network Now, a women's networking group in Doylestown, Pa. It was there where she decided that teaching is what made her happy.

"I came home that afternoon and texted my husband and said, 'My life is about to change.' I just felt something awaken in me," Allen said.

DIY HIP Chicks was born.

Allen contacted the local adult evening school to see if they would be interested in a course on home repair for women. To her surprise, the director said yes and Allen found herself having to create a curriculum for a ten-hour course. The first class was five women. The next semester was a class of 25. Then she branched out to other school districts.

The switch from nursing, to stay-at-home-mom to DIY queen may seem jarring, but Allen has learned to apply the skills she learned as a nurse to her home projects.

"You have a human body and you have a house. There are systems that work together, some work separately. You have to identify the problem. Come up with your plan and implement. Every house is different, and every body is different," Allen said.

The more Allen empowered her peers, the more she felt empowered to expand her business. To this date, Allen has done more than 60 local TV appearances, including an 11-month weekly spot on pHL17 and has almost 500,000 YouTube hits. She is currently putting the finishing touches on her signature keynote, "Potty Talk," a DIY reality show called "HIP Chicks House Calls" and a viral video campaign.

Allen's "Potty Talk" uses the toilet as a metaphor for fear along with items from her toolbox to represent some of life's challenges. At the end of each lesson, she hands each woman a piece of toilet paper and asks them to write the one big fear that is holding them back. Once they are in the privacy of their own home, the women face the fear and then flush it.

Allen is the first to say that she isn't a master at anything, but she takes pride

in having the confidence to find the solution. That same confidence has given her the ability to create the life she has always wanted.

"The thing that I learned at Gwynedd Mercy is the love of learning. I have been a student my whole life. You don't stop until you figure it out. I really don't think that I'm that particularly different from other people; I'm just doing it. It's not about my ego. I just use HIP Chicks as a way to help other people," Allen said. 🌟



Happiness



Everywhere you look inside of CAL Sports Academy's gym in Harleysville, Pa., there is a reminder of the mission Corey Lord '04 set out to accomplish when he left his job in corporate America to follow his passion of teaching young athletes.

On each coach's shirt, the number 5 is on the back as a symbol of the five pillars each member at CAL Sports Academy stands for: commitment, determination, motivation, strength and teamwork. On the walls there are posters reminding kids that a positive attitude is all you need to be your best. It is these beliefs that enable Lord to influence more than 3,000 students a year.

Lord was a star athlete his whole life, representing his native country Barbados throughout elementary and high school in soccer and track and field. After his move to the United States, Lord set and still holds records for both New York State High School Track and Alfred State College where he competed in the NJCAA National Indoor and Outdoor Championships in 1994.

While his career took him to Wall Street, his passion took him to the local YMCAs.

Spending his days in the corporate world and nights in the gym, it was there where he began to recognize his real talent.

When Lord was relocated to Montgomery County, he decided to continue his education at Gwynedd Mercy University. After graduating in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Science, Lord joined the University's men's basketball team as an assistant coach. In 2009, he helped coach the team to the Colonial States Athletic Conference League Championship and a first round bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"I wanted to find a school where it would allow me to have a flexible schedule. It was good to hear young students' perspective while they were maturing. I was able to help a lot of them with finding jobs and internships and give them career advice," Lord said.

In 2006, after listening to a plea from a mother whose son sat on the bench during most YMCA basketball games, Lord launched CAL Sports Academy. The Academy strives to discover a player's "Strength Through Sports." The staff and coaches give players the encouragement to keep developing their

skills through not just adversity, but success too.

"If I say you did something well, that's from the heart. If I say you are being lazy, that's from my heart. I tell kids to remember the conversation when you got cut from the team. Now you're on it. Don't settle for just being on the team. Be that starter. Be the difference," Lord said.

The Academy offers high-level youth basketball, speed and agility, soccer and girls volleyball along with Pre-School Sports Explorer training. Lord has watched his students who start out as three year olds transform into successful young adults. He is an extension of their families, being invited to birthday parties and weddings and is often the voice of reason between parents and their children.

Lord's mother, just days before she passed away from breast cancer, told him that he needed to follow his passion for helping children. For most, leaving a secure job for the unknown would be too scary, but for Lord, he felt like it was his only option.

"Having the desire every single day to truly make an impact on someone's life is exactly why it's worth it. There is no greater feeling than to help a human being with nothing and asking for nothing at all. Have faith. Have faith in God, have faith in yourself and have faith in the goals that you set for yourself," Lord said.

CAL Sports Academy continues to grow each year. Lord has begun to give motivational speeches at local colleges and high schools. He is sure he will soon be a national figure and is looking forward to taking his staff, many of whom have been with him since the beginning, along for the ride.

Lord believes that when people give up they don't realize how close they are to the finish line. The finish line for CAL Sports is nowhere in sight. 🌟

Updates from the Office of Alumni Relations



1



2



3



4

1. and 2. Graduates from the Classes of 1989 and 1964 gathered at Gwynedd Mercy University to celebrate their 25th and 50th reunions. 3. GMercyU Griffins gathered together, with President Kathleen Owens, in Chicago Ill., at Meson Sabika Restaurant. 4. GMercyU's Graduates of the Last Decade gathered at P.J. Whelihan's in Blue Bell on November 13, 2014. 5. Alums Haifa Tyler '96 (middle) and Tom and Samar Froman '95 enjoyed the beautiful fall day with their families at the All Alumni Reunion at Homecoming 2014. 6. The Career Development and Alumni Relations offices worked together to provide a panel discussion and networking opportunity for alumni and students on November 11, 2014.



Saturday, June 6, 2015

Join GMercyU alumni for a tailgate party at McFadden's Restaurant and a game at Citizens Bank Park.

Tickets are \$50 each and include food and unlimited beer and wine at McFadden's tailgate party from 2-5 p.m., and entrance to the 3:05 p.m. Philadelphia Phillies vs. San Francisco Giants game.

Already have tickets? Join us for the tailgate party at McFadden's for just \$30.

Pre-registration is required.

Online registration is available at:
www.gmercy.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/news

Contact Kristen Swanson at 267-448-1400 or kswanon.k@gmercy.edu to reserve your seat.



Dear Alumni,

Spring is upon us and after a chilly winter, what better way to warm your soul than to meet and reconnect with fellow Griffins? We have a number of opportunities available through the upcoming months and I hope you will consider joining us.

Our On the Road events continue to grow as we reach out to our graduates who live outside of the Philadelphia region. If you are an alumna/us interested in hosting an On The Road gathering, please contact me in the Alumni Relations office.

We have also recently had great success with our new young alumni program for the Graduates Of the Last Decade (GOLD). If you are a graduate from 2005-2015, and are interested in participating on the GOLD committee, please contact the Alumni Relations office.

Last, but certainly not least, if you find yourself in Gwynedd Valley, please stop by the University to say hello. It would be my pleasure to introduce myself and 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



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




Upcoming Alumni Events:

- April 12 **GMercuryU is hitting the road and heading to Baltimore**
- April 25 **GMercuryU GOLD event in Manayunk**
- June 6 **GMercuryU at the Phillies**
- July 18..... **GMercuryU Down the Shore-Sea Isle City, NJ**
- October 18 **25th & 50th Reunion 2015 Celebrating the Classes of 1990 & 1965**
- October 23-25 **Homecoming 2015**

Contact Gianna Quinn in the Alumni Relations Office at 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:
www.gmercyu.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/events-news

Connect with GMercuryU Alumni Online

-  /Gwynedd Mercy University Alumni
Featuring: Trivia Tuesday
-  @GMercuryU
-  Group:
Gwynedd-Mercy University Alumni
-  www.mervsalumniconnection.com



GMercuryU at the Shore

Beat the heat this summer and join alumni and friends of GMercuryU "down the shore."

July 18, 2015
3-6 p.m.

The Springfield Inn
43rd Street & Pleasure Avenue
Sea Isle City, NJ 08243

Tickets are \$20 per person and include cover, food, music and drink specials.
 All guests must be 21 years of age or older.

Online registration is available on the alumni events page at:
www.gmercyu.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/events-news

Contact the Alumni Relations Office at
alumni@gmercyu.edu or
 215-641-5554 for more information.



Class NOTES

1958

Marie Hillary, of Binghamton, N.Y., is happily married with great-grandchildren.

1962

Louise Regli Matt, of Doylestown, Pa., is retired from the Central Bucks School District. Regli's granddaughter, Stella Lily Matt, attends nursery school at The Valie Genuardi Hobbit House on Gwynedd Mercy University's campus.

1966

Kathleen Dower, of Placentia, Calif., recently retired after 32 years working as an emergency nurse and manager. She has two children and six grandchildren.

1969

Mary Potter, of Fayetteville, N.C., celebrated the marriage of her son, Bill, to Susan, on July 13, 2013.

Rylanda Wilson, of Philadelphia, Pa., is expecting her fourth grandchild.

1972

Robert Fitzsimmons, of Cheltenham, Pa., is looking forward to his son following in his footsteps and studying at Gwynedd Mercy University in the fall.

1974

Eugenia Cancelliere, of Souderton, Pa., retired in 2013 after teaching second grade for 39 years at North Wales Elementary.

1986

Kathleen Martin Browning, of Bermuda Dunes, Calif., is recently retired from the Air Force and is back in the civilian work force, attempting to get her PhD.

1987

Kristine Walters, of Metuchen, N.J., is a high school nurse at Metuchen High School.

2000

Ann Gill Becker, of Lansdale, Pa., is continuing her education in Gwynedd Mercy University's Master's Nursing Program and has two grandchildren, Harry Jr. and Kira.

2002

Julia D'Agostino, of Philadelphia, Pa., is getting her master's degree at LaSalle University and is married with three children.

2004

April Funk Detweiler, of Perkasie, Pa., is a respiratory therapist at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She is married to Kyle Detweiler and the couple has two children, Cole (4) and Paige (21 months)

2005

Pat Crane, of Oreland, Pa., joined Keller Williams Real Estate as a realtor in May 2014.

Melissa Teske-White received her MSN from Villanova University as a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner in December 2014.

Glenna Vasoli, of Lansdale, Pa., is seeking her doctorate in education from Widener University.



EVERY
GIFT,
EVERY
STUDENT,
EVERY
DAY

The Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund strengthens and supports nearly every facet of our campus from operational expenses to the expansion of our academic programs, but its biggest impact is on students. When you give to the Annual Fund, you help empower 96% of students who rely on financial aid by providing them with the scholarship funds they need to pursue their dreams. Just last year, the University granted \$14.7 million in institutional aid.

Every gift, no matter what the size, has the potential to make a difference in the lives of our students and positively impacts the future of the University.

Please support the Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund today!

To learn more call 215-641-5568 or give online at gmercyu.edu and select Giving.

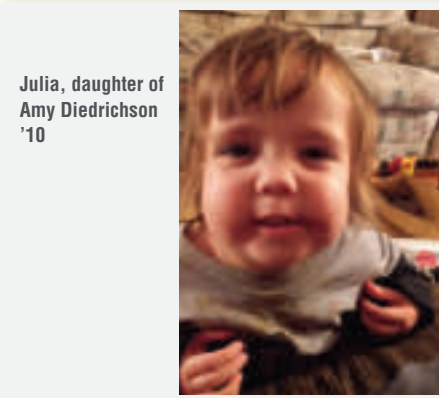
Griffin Babies

Amanda Blocklinger '06, of Souderton, Pa., welcomed twins, Gwyneth and Grace, in November 2014.



Piper Evelyn, daughter of Kristin Gage Braun '01/'03

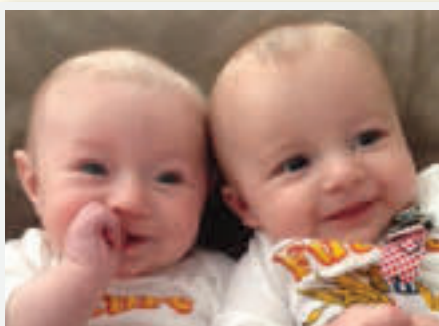
Kristin Gage Braun '01/'03, of Douglassville, Pa., and her husband Tim Braun, welcomed a baby girl, Piper Evelyn, on November 13, 2014.



Julia, daughter of Amy Diedrichson '10

Amy Diedrichson '10, of Gloucester City, N.J., celebrated her daughter Julia Diedrichson's third birthday on February 25.

Danielle Strype Deprince '07 and **Lauren Capotrio Seaman '07** both welcomed baby boys just two days apart. Deprince and Seaman were roommates and played soccer together. Thomas John Deprince III (right) was born on September 17, 2014 and James Kevin Seaman III (left) was born on September 19, 2014.



(left to right) James, son of Lauren Capotrio Seaman '07, and Thomas, son of Danielle Strype Deprince '07

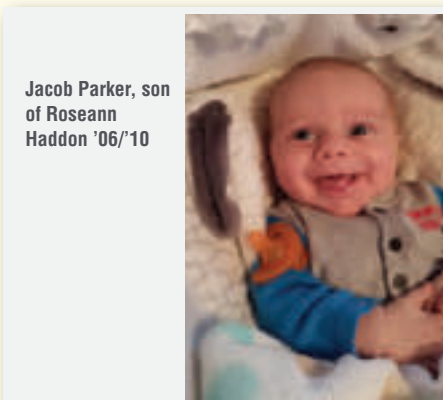


Jacob Marion, son of Jason De Simone '04

Jason De Simone '04, of Mikleton, N.J., and his wife Jacqueline, welcomed their second child and first son, Jacob Marion, on October 7, 2014.

Charles Falco '99/'08, of Philadelphia, Pa., welcomed a baby boy, Mickey Francis Falco, on March 14, 2014.

Gloria Ford '12, of Souderton, Pa., welcomed a baby boy, Luke Ford, on December 3, 2014.



Jacob Parker, son of Roseann Haddon '06/'10

Roseann Haddon '06/'10, of Nazareth, Pa., and Joseph Plebani, welcomed a baby boy, Jacob Parker Plebani, on November 30, 2014.

Marie Hohenwarter '51, of Venice, Fla., welcomed twin great-grandchildren on April 17, 2014 and a grandson on February 5, 2015.

James Morene '11 of Philadelphia, Pa., and **Kristen Galanti '12** of Philadelphia, Pa., welcomed their first child, a son, Jacob James, on August 7, 2014.



Jacob James, son of James Morene '11 and Kristen Galanti '12

Mary Diehl Osman '84/'86, of Green Lane, Pa., welcomed a baby girl, Mackenzie Belle Osman, on July 9, 2014.

Patty Cinaglia Santangelo '78, of Ocean City, N.J., became a proud first-time Grandma to Layla Rose in November 2014.

Danielle Vattilana-Share '97, of Churchville, Pa., welcomed a baby girl, Marissa Grace, on September 18, 2014.



Marissa Grace (with big sisters Alyssa and Jessica), daughter of Danielle Vattilana-Share '97

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@gmercycu.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.

Congratulations!

Engagements, Marriages and Anniversaries

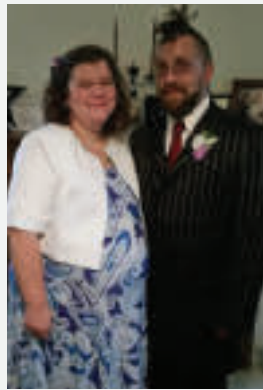
**Brett Bishop '11
and Lori Phillips**



Brett Bishop '11, of Salford, Pa., married Lori Phillips on December 20, 2014.

Roseann Haddon '06/'10, of Nazareth, Pa., married Joseph Plebani on November 17, 2014.

**Roseann Haddon
'06/'10 and
Joseph Plebani**



**Stephanie Paine
'09 and Matthew
Lombardo**



Stephanie Paine '09, of Bensalem, Pa., married Matthew Lombardo on August 15, 2014.

**Sean Carchidi '10
and Danielle
Benner '11**



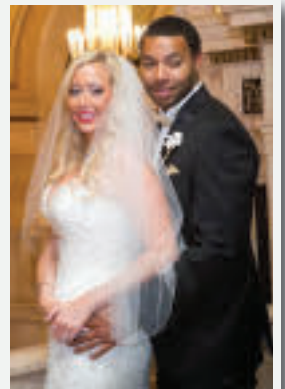
Sean Carchidi '10, of Philadelphia, Pa., married **Danielle Benner '11**, of Philadelphia, Pa., on July 18, 2014.

Christine Harrison '09, of East Greenville, Pa., recently bought her first home in August 2014 and is engaged to marry John Fehnel in September 2015.



Christine Harrison '09 and John Fehnel

**Melissa
Teske-White
'03/'05 and Art
Sudduth**



Melissa Teske-White '03/'05, of East Norriton, Pa., married Art Sudduth in the historic Hershey Theatre on August 31, 2014.



Kristin Gage '01/'03 and Tim Braun

Kristin Gage '01/'03, of Douglassville, Pa., married Tim Braun on November 8, 2013.

Caitlin Leslie '09, of Rutledge, Pa., is engaged to marry in October 2015.

SAVE THE DATE

Reunion 2015

Celebrating the Classes of 1965 and 1990

October 18, 2015

2011



Nikki Zaffiri-Boland, of Sellersville, Pa.

Life has come full-circle for Nikki Zaffiri-Boland, who crafted her design skills producing this very magazine as an intern for the Office of Public Relations at Gwynedd Mercy University. Zaffiri-Boland is the Corporate Communications and Design Specialist at Univest Corporation in Souderton, the only company she has worked for since August 2011, just two months after graduating with her bachelor's degree in English.

Choosing where to go to college was easy for Zaffiri-Boland; choosing what she wanted to do for the rest of her life was a different story. Zaffiri-Boland, thinking she wanted to become

a veterinarian, researched local schools with a good biology program and applied to only one school: Gwynedd Mercy University.

After a difficult freshman year, Zaffiri-Boland met with her advisor, Dr. Felicia Barbieri, to discuss options and had an epiphany.

"Dr. Barbieri asked me if science was what I was passionate about. No one had ever really asked me what my passion was. I was kind of taken off guard. My whole life I had wanted to be a veterinarian: wasn't that what I was supposed to do?," Zaffiri-Boland said.

After some thought, Zaffiri-Boland realized reading, writing and art was what she enjoyed doing the most. Dean of the School of Arts and Science Dr. Lisa McGarry took Zaffiri-Boland under her wing, guiding her as she discovered her passion.

"Lisa is the main reason I am where I am today. I thank God that she became my adviser and my mentor," Zaffiri-Boland said. "She was there for me the whole way, cheering on my big accomplishments and there

to turn to when I was at my lowest point. She is the first person who comes to mind when I am asked how I got to where I am today."

At Univest Corporation, Zaffiri-Boland has moved up the ranks quickly and into a position that utilizes all of her skills. Whether it's taking photos for the corporate newsletter or designing a new feature on the website, no two days are alike.

From the moment she joined Univest, Zaffiri-Boland rolled up her sleeves and was willing to learn on the fly. As a young professional, she is an avid believer that it's never too late in your college career to explore your true passions. It may take some time to find what it is, but with guidance and dedication, success is always an option.

"We only have a short time here and you need to live purposefully. Don't waste time trying to decide what you want to do or spend time in a career you despise. Take a chance and be spontaneous. You never know where it could lead you," Zaffiri-Boland said.

2008

Lakshmiee Gosine, of Telford, Pa., completed her master's degree at Alvernia University and one year of her doctoral degree in Philosophy at Alvernia University.

Sandra Gonzalez, of Wyncote, Pa., has been the principal at Antonia Pantoja Charter School in Philadelphia, Pa. for eight years.

2009

Vanessa Brown, of Chalfont, Pa., received her master's degree in counseling for children and family at Arcadia University.

Jordan Linden, of Ambler, Pa., is moving to Florida for a job in the technology department with Comcast.

Christine Harrison, of East Greenville, Pa., is teaching ninth-grade English and Reading at Penridge High School in Perkasie, Pa. She received her M.Ed. in the summer of 2014 and is a certified reading specialist.

Stephanie Paine Lombardo, of Bensalem, Pa., received her master's degree from Holy Family University as a Reading Specialist and currently teaches Intensive Learning Support in the Bensalem School District.

2010

Noreen McDonough, of Philadelphia, Pa., was promoted to Staff Accountant for The College of Global Studies at Arcadia University in July 2014.

Simona Jusyte, of Langhorne, Pa., is an associate scientist and the viral clearance study director at WuXi AppTec, in Philadelphia, Pa.

2011

Sarah Kratz, of Hatfield Pa., is a recruiter at Liberty Personnel Services, a staffing agency in King of Prussia, Pa., where she specializes in permanent, full-time placement of Accounting, Finance and Administrative professionals.

Lauren Keiper, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is continuing her journey as a travel nurse with Aya Healthcare. Previously, Keiper spent two years at UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh, Pa., on a Step-down Hepatology/GI/Transplant Unit.

Jessica Rufe, of Chalfont, Pa., recently started as a biophysics analyst for Johnson & Johnson.

2012

Paulina Connor, of Windermere, Fla., recently moved to Florida and accepted a full-time position as a Labor & Delivery RN at the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies in Orlando, Fla.

Kathleen Costello, of Warrington, Pa., moved to North Carolina in August 2012 to work at Duke University Hospital.

2013

Carmen Hunter-Anderson, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a three-time cancer survivor.

Bri Virginio, of Warrington, Pa., is an account manager at Iron Mountain in Pennsylvania.

2014

Katie Bomhoff, of Aston, Pa., recently passed her boards in Radiology.

Larry Campbell Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa., recently started a new job as a therapeutic residential specialist.

Robert Canfield, of Gwynedd Valley, Pa., is a project coordinator at eBay Inc., in King of Prussia, Pa.

Christie Delhagen, of Hamilton Square, N.J., is an 8th grade Multiple Disabilities teacher at Pond Road Middle School in the Robbinsville School District in New Jersey.

Tegan Wendell, of Glenside, Pa., is the Police Communications Officer in Upper Dublin Township.

In Memoriam



"We at Hobbit House have all felt exceptionally fortunate to have Mr. Genuardi as our benefactor throughout the years. Everyone knew he loved us and promoted Early Childhood Education. Mr. Genuardi's thoughtful concern and generous good nature will be greatly missed but not forgotten. We will continue to keep both he and Valie and their family in our prayers daily."

– Faculty and Staff at Hobbit House

The Valie Genuardi Hobbit House, home of Gwynedd Mercy University's smallest students, is the epitome of **Frank Genuardi**. Hobbit House, named in 2000 in honor of his late wife of 57 years, is committed to providing an education that is both caring and conscientious, much like Mr. Genuardi.

Mr. Genuardi, who passed away on February 10, 2015, was more than just a successful businessman; he was a devoted family-man who used his resources to help the community.

"The University has lost a great friend with the passing of Frank Genuardi. Personally, I will miss his wonderful stories about his life before founding Genuardi Family Markets and, of course, his engaging recollections about the family business," President Kathleen Owens, PhD, said.

Mr. Genuardi, together with his brothers, established Genuardi Family Markets in the 1950s. He was a World War II Veteran and a member of the Catholic War Veterans. He penned the book, "Family Pride, A Memoir" and found himself in the rarest of occasions including a personal audience with Pope John Paul II in Rome, Italy. Mr. Genuardi was active in various community associations, from local hospitals to business associations.

As one of its most dedicated benefactors, Mr. Genuardi was instrumental in the evolution of Gwynedd Mercy University. Mr. Genuardi was most passionate about helping the University in any way he could, from capital projects to participating in the annual golf tournament. He served on the Board of Trustees starting in 1980 and received

an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, in 2004.

For more than three decades, Mr. Genuardi was a constant presence on campus. He considered the Gwynedd Mercy University community his extended family and was ever loyal and generous with his time, resources and knowledge.

Mr. Genuardi's partnership with Gwynedd Mercy University was fueled by his close relationship with the Sisters of Mercy, especially former President Sister Isabelle Keiss and former Vice President for Development Sister Lois McDonough.

"Frank often teased that when he met the Sisters of Mercy he was doomed. However, it wouldn't be too long after that statement that he would admit that was a wonderful lifetime relationship that nurtured his faith, his innate goodness and his desire to give as he had received," Special Assistant to the President for Mission and Planning Sister Catherine McMahon said.

Mr. Genuardi lived his life in Mercy, enriching the lives of all who knew him and were lucky enough to call him a friend. His wisdom and counsel impacted all who studied and worked at the institution and his generosity is an everlasting inspiration to others.

"Frank always expressed great appreciation for his life's journey; it was the lens through which he viewed life's ups and downs," President Owens said. "He was a valued friend and role model, whose legacy will certainly live on at Gwynedd Mercy University."



Lynn Cassidy '06/'08, of Harleysville, Pa., passed away on July 24, 2014.

Ann Decher '66, of Langhorne, Pa., passed away on June 2, 2014.

Diane J. Durso '03, of Chalfont, Pa., passed away on February 5, 2015.

Alice E. Filor '85, of Bordentown, N.J., passed away on December 28, 2014.



Marie Suzanne Friel, RSM, passed away on December 4, 2014. Sister Suzanne was the guidance director from 1975 to 1983.

Jo-Ann Dugan Goetzinger '92, of Willow Grove, Pa., passed away on December 14, 2014.



Bernadette McLaughlin Hunter '68, of Cherry Hill, N.J., passed away on January 16, 2015.

Eileen Shields Hynes '65, of Blue Bell, Pa., passed away on August 6, 2014.



Mary Juliana, RSM, passed away on November 15, 2014. Sister Juliana worked in the University's library and campus store from 1975 to 1980. She worked in the University's employment opportunities office until 1992.

Ann Lunetta '79, of Belleplain, N.J., passed away on July 23, 2014.



Helen Plunkett '64 passed away on January 21, 2012.


Joan D. Pollitt '78, of Media, Pa., passed away on November 18, 2014.



Christine Santangelo Rosner '79, of Dresher, Pa., passed away in August 2014.

"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"

This simple sentence added to your will allows you to make a meaningful impact on our students for years to come. Please consider joining the Mother Mary Bernard Graham Society by designating GMercyU as a beneficiary to your estate. For more information, visit gmercyu.planmylegacy.org or contact Jill Dow dow.j@gmercyu.edu or 215-542-4661.



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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2015
FREE APPLICATION

discover the Next



Rosemarie Zaro '83 was a second grade teacher at St. Paul's School in Norristown when her principal, Sister Elizabeth Anne, RSM, encouraged her to earn her degree in teaching from Gwynedd Mercy University.

A mother of two girls already, Rosemarie spent five years working toward her degree, even student teaching while pregnant with her third child. Her son was five months old when Rosemarie graduated.

Two years after graduating and while still teaching at St. Paul's, Rosemarie was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Despite years of treatment and finding a bone marrow donor in Iowa, Rosemarie died from an infection on May 22, 1987 at the age of 42.

With the help of Sister Lois McDonough, RSM, former vice president for development, Rosemarie's husband Dr. John Zaro decided to start a scholarship in her honor, one of the first Annually Funded Scholarships at the University.

"She was so proud of her Gwynedd Mercy affiliations, and she wanted to help women achieve their career goals. She always felt that she learned so much by teaching people," John said.

Since its inception in 1987, the Rosemarie Zaro Scholarship Fund has provided 64 students with more than \$162,000 dollars. The scholarship is offered to students who show financial need, with a special emphasis on women with children or other family obligations.

"The scholarship foundation will strive to keep Rosemarie's goal of helping independent, mature women with unique family responsibilities achieve their education goals," John said.

To make a donation to the Rosemarie Zaro Scholarship Fund, contact Jill Dow at 215-542-4661 or dow.j@gmercyu.edu.



**Gwynedd Mercy
University**

discover the Next

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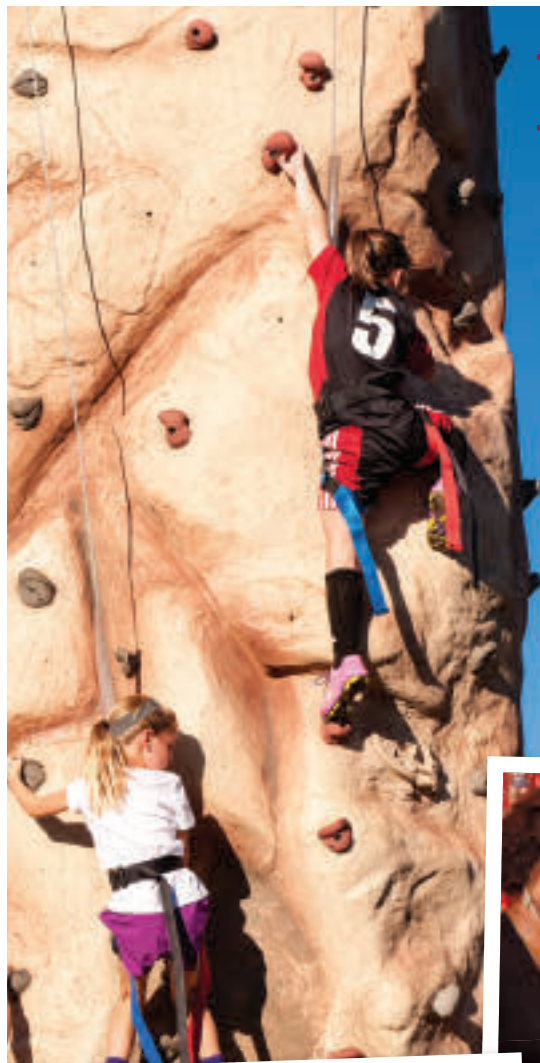
Homecoming 2015

SAVE THE DATE

October 23-25, 2015

More information coming soon on
Homecoming activities and events.

Be sure to check the
alumni website for
more information:
[www.gmercyu.edu/
giving-gwynedd-mercy/
alumni/events-news](http://www.gmercyu.edu/giving-gwynedd-mercy/alumni/events-news)



QUESTIONS?
Contact the Office
of Alumni Relations,
215-641-5554

