

Spring 2016

# TODAY



Gwynedd Mercy  
University

## Storytellers

One of my most treasured pieces of art is my Storyteller figure that I acquired at an art show in the southwest. The Storyteller figure represents Indian mothers, fathers and grandparents telling stories to their children and grandchildren in the interest of keeping and preserving their cultural traditions and history. The powerful sculpture resonates with me both personally and professionally. As a first-generation college student, I know that the stories of my immigrant grandparents, played out in the lives of my parents, greatly impacted my personal and professional journey. I now see the impact of my stories, transmitted by my sons, playing out in the lives of my five grandchildren.



Storytellers are important not only in the context of family, but also in the context of institutional culture. At our recent Board of Trustees retreat, the attendees engaged in discussions and exercises designed to enhance their role as institutional Storytellers. During the current year, our board meeting agenda includes time for "Telling Our Story," in which board members are invited to share opportunities they have had to tell the GMercyU story.

Of course, some of our greatest Storytellers are our founders and sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy. In ancient Celtic culture and even today, the *Shanachie* is revered as the "bearer of old lore" and one who preserves the tales and legends of the clan and community through the oral tradition of storytelling. On a recent trip to the Sisters' Motherhouse in Lower Merion, along with a few of my colleagues and over a comfortable cup of tea, we heard many stories about the rich history and tradition that the Sisters have lived and witnessed.

Our many thousands of alumni are another treasured source of Storytellers, many of whom I have been privileged to meet. In so many varied settings and locations, they have shared their engaging narratives about their college education, lifelong relationships, careers, and so much more, including Mercy in their lives then and now.

And now, in the current academic year, having just experienced the energizing visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia and fully immersed in the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, both of which you will read about in this magazine, we are fully engaged in preparing the next generation of GMercyU Storytellers. With your prayers and ongoing generous support, I am confident that the stories of our future Shanachies will continue to reflect the long history and strong traditions of our university.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us all remember the words of Pope Francis:

*"And Jesus has this message for us: Mercy; I think—and I say it with all humility—that this is the Lord's most powerful message: Mercy."*

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:**  
Hunter Martin  
Chris Panter  
Gianna Quinn  
Jim Roese  
Donna Smyrl  
Kirsten Swanson



5

Pope-a-Palooza 2

Value of Liberal Arts 5

Color Run 12

## PLUS

President's Message

Campus News

Sports

All in the Family

Class Notes

Inside Cover

2

8

13

18



**On the Cover:**  
GMercyU education student  
Jeff Moyer, captain of Greater  
Kensington String Band,  
performs during the 2016  
Mummers Day Parade held in  
Philadelphia, Pa.



When Pope Francis made his historic visit to the United States in September 2015, the entire region became swept up in the festivities.

Coined Pope-a-Palooza, GMercyU's celebrations kicked off at the start of the semester with stations on campus representing the Pope's favorite religious painting, "Mary, Undoer of Knots." Members of the GMercyU community were invited to write down a "knot" in their life, tie it to the frame and "untie" someone else's knot.

# POPE-A-PALOOZA



Students, faculty and staff also advocated tirelessly for Project HOME, raising awareness for the critical issues of hunger, homelessness and poverty. This continued when GMercyU played host to multiple Mercy institutions around the nation the weekend of Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia. The group spent the weekend working on activities centered on the critical concerns of Mercy before it was finally time to make the voyage down to the Parkway, where they joined the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims for Sunday mass.

While Pope Francis was only in the country for a few days, the impact his visit left on GMercyU will last a lifetime. ☺



“What we were doing on the Parkway felt impossible... trying to combat hunger and homelessness in Philadelphia. It is easy to say ‘there is nothing that I can do; it’s way too big.’ However, it starts small. You can make a difference!”  
 – Elise Nonnenman '16



“I am grateful that GMercyU has given me and more than 100 students the opportunities to not only hear the word of God, but to act on it. This weekend was part of history and I am so glad that I got to experience it with my peers, professors, campus ministers and all followers of Jesus and justice alike!”  
 – Adrienne Kelly '18

# Year of Mercy

**“A little bit of Mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” – Pope Francis**

Gwynedd Mercy University kicked off the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* with a campus-wide celebration on December 7. The celebration started with a procession of The Works of Mercy banners carried by members of the GMercyU community. The procession crossed the threshold of campus—our “Door of Mercy”—into the Julia Ball Auditorium for the Proclamation of the Year of Jubilee by President Owens and the Vigil Liturgy of the Immaculate Conception.

Pope Francis called for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in March 2015, a nearly year-long event that began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016. Jubilees, or holy years, are often held every 25 or 50 years, hence the “extraordinary” designation on this unplanned celebration.

Mercy has been a common theme and mission of Pope Francis throughout his entire life. He is encouraging all people to focus on God’s Mercy throughout the year, and in a special way to reflect upon and engage the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

“As a university, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, we aspire to be a learning community of distinctive Mercy educators and learners. We also claim the name and respond to the call of Mercy in our curricular and co-curricular offerings and in the way we live and learn together,” Special Assistant to the President for Mission and Planning Sister Catherine McMahon said. “During this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy we celebrate with the whole world the affirmation of Pope Francis that this virtue, this call, this name is at the heart of the church and has the power to transform our world so hungering to be healed.”

GMercyU has developed a calendar full of events to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Each month, departments, faculty and student organizations will “adopt” a Work of Mercy by hosting programs and service projects during each designated month.

“This initiative highlights some of the many ways we respond as a university to be Mercy and to engage Mercy-ing,” Sister McMahon said.

Visit [gmercyu.edu](http://gmercyu.edu) to find out more information on GMercyU’s Year of Mercy events. 🌟



Patrick McGrain, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Criminal Justice

# #BlackLivesMatter What's next?

In October 2015, we offered a Campus Conversation series, which focused on a variety of issues that have affected our social conscience and generated a tremendous amount of attention—in the media, and in classrooms and homes around the country. From the controversy of *#BlackLivesMatter* to the waving of the Confederate flag, the coverage of police brutality to the perpetuation of hate-motivated behavior, we looked at various incidents that have forced us to consider the true nature of human beings.

Unfortunately, while these incidents may have been unique in their occurrence, they were not a surprise, at least to those who pay attention to the conflict that has arisen in our multi-ethnic, multi-opinion America. In fact, the only sure thing is that these types of events will continue to occur, regardless of how well we try to educate the masses.

Now that 2015 is over, we are forced to ask...what's next? What will happen in 2016 that will bring society together, either in discussion or in protest? What will occur that will make us question the human condition? If we learned anything from the Campus Conversation series, it is that human beings will never cease to astound; each statement, each shot meant to make the point that we so clearly cannot understand without walking a mile in someone else's shoes.

**To read Dr. McGrain's full piece, visit the GMercyU blog or go directly to [bit.ly/gmercycampusconvo](http://bit.ly/gmercycampusconvo).**

## Forgiving the Horrific: Is it Possible?

**Presenters:** Mary Reilly, MS, Assistant Professor of Psychology, GMercyU; David Tuck, Holocaust survivor

Professor Reilly examined the benefits of forgiving what is often deemed as unforgivable and the steps one must take. Mr. Tuck closed out the Campus Conversation series by sharing his experiences in Concentration Camps and speaking about how he has since moved on from the Holocaust.

## Hate in America: What Does it Look Like and Why Does it Happen?

**Presenters:** Rebecca Gullan, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology, GMercyU; Patrick McGrain, PhD, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, GMercyU; John Gallagher, former Commander, Counter Terrorism Operations in Philadelphia; Richard Barrett, Supervisory Assistant, United States Attorney

This lecture ranged across a variety of topics and disciplines. Dr. Gullan's presentation showed how hate crimes can be driven by psychological disorders. Dr. McGrain showed how membership to certain hate-filled associations helps perpetuate hate crimes in America.

Both Gallagher and Barrett shared their personal stories and discussed what effect Hate Crime legislation has on the regulation and control of bias-motivated crime.

## Shots fired everyone is fleeing...: Reconstructing #Ferguson from Geotagged Social Transmissions

**Presenters:** Robert J. Kane, PhD, Professor of Criminology and Justice Studies, Drexel University

Through domain analyses of social media messages, Dr. Kane told the story of the Ferguson rebellion. His findings revealed that protestors did not speak with one voice. Dr. Kane also examined the police response to protestors.

## Dismissing the Confederate Flag: What it Means to America

**Presenters:** Judith Giesberg, PhD, Professor of History, Villanova University; Patrick McGrain, PhD, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, GMercyU; Rebecca Signore, MA, Adjunct Faculty, GMercyU

The presenters discussed the multiple angles of the Confederate Flag argument that hit the nation by storm. Dr. Giesberg delved into the flag's history, Signore discussed Confederacy imagery in literature, and Dr. McGrain addressed the Confederate Flag as a symbol of racism.

## Race and the Media: Black Lives Matter, but How and to Whom

**Presenters:** James Peterson, PhD, Associate Professor of English at Lehigh University; Sofiya Ballin, Reporter, Philadelphia Inquirer; Solomon Jones, Columnist and Host of Wake Up with WURD

The panelists discussed their assessment of race and media, as well as their own work and responsibilities as generators of social discourse.

---

“Now that 2015 is over, we are forced to ask...what's next? What will happen in 2016 that will bring society together, either in discussion or in protest?” – Dr. Patrick McGrain

---

# Value of Liberal Arts

Gwynedd Mercy University's mission is to create a learning community rooted in Gospel values and rich in liberal arts while promoting an atmosphere of inquiry and dialogue. The strong liberal arts education helps prepare *Distinctive Mercy Graduates* for all life may bring them, both professionally and personally.

Skills such as critical thinking, communicating clearly and problem solving, which are stressed at GMercyU, are qualities employers value. According to The Council of Independent Colleges, 80% of employers think every student should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts.

This is why each degree program at GMercyU includes a set of learning outcomes that spans a variety of topics and defines what students should know and be able to do upon graduation.

Daniel Craig '07 graduated from GMercyU with a bachelor of arts in English with his mind set on law school. It wasn't long until he realized he wasn't meant to practice law and quickly switched gears to sales.

The change in careers may seem drastic, but Craig credits his foundation in liberal arts at GMercyU for giving him the skills needed to succeed in almost any industry.

**Having a liberal arts degree provided me with the tools that paved a way for success. For me, it breaks down into a few components:**

- 1. Communication:** the ability to understand another's point of view and clearly articulate your own in a way that resonates with the audience
  - a. This also translated into a passion for reading and writing. Those skills are useful in any profession.
- 2. Flexibility:** instead of focusing on a specific area of study, I gained a deeper understanding of the world. While it is important to have "specialists" in the fields of math and science, my degree enabled me to pursue various career paths, until I found my passion.

– Daniel Craig '07



PRIVATE COLLEGE GRADUATES  
**FINISH ON TIME**

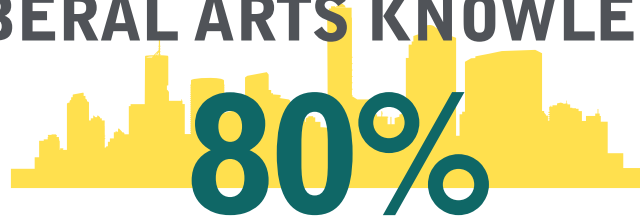
**59%**

**38%**



59% of graduates of smaller private colleges finish within four years, compared to 38% at regional public universities.\*

EMPLOYERS WANT  
**LIBERAL ARTS KNOWLEDGE**



80% of employers think every student should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts.\*



STUDENTS MORE LIKELY TO PERFORM  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**190%**

Private college students are 190% more likely to perform community service than other 18-24 year olds.\*\*

STUDENTS MORE LIKELY TO

**VOTE**  
**45%**



Private college students are 45% more likely to vote than other 18-24 year olds.\*\*\*

# Griffin Leaders



Gwynedd Mercy University prides itself on producing *Distinctive Mercy Graduates*. With this goal in mind, GMercyU created The Griffin Student Leadership Institute (GSLI) in 2013.

GSLI's foundation is rooted in the core values of GMercyU and aims to produce *Distinctive Mercy Graduates* who are professionally competent and committed to the Mercy tradition of service to society.

The institute consists of three tiers: Emerging Leaders, Organizational Leadership, and Exceptional Leadership. Emerging Leaders is geared towards both current and incoming students and explores personal leadership qualities, knowledge and skills. Level two, Organizational Leadership, focuses more on team development and skills for healthy organizations. Leaders of clubs and organizations on campus are encouraged to join. The highest level, Exceptional Leadership, is

designed for students with extensive leadership skills who are ready to actualize their experiences and training. Students in this tier of GSLI are paired with professional mentors who have a Mercy connection, including alumni.

Alumni play an integral part in GSLI, not just as professional mentors, but as presenters and workshop leaders as well. Former President of the Alumni Association and Physical Therapist, Rachel King Marco, for example, served as a professional mentor and feels not only did her mentee grow, but she did as well.

"It allowed me to show how passionate I am about my field of work but also how to reconnect to why I am so passionate as a mentor. I wasn't sure what to expect from the experience; however, I was pleasantly surprised at how I was able to connect on a deeper level with my mentee and build a relationship from this process," Marco said.

Care junior Chelsea Gadecki, for example, started with the Emerging Leaders Tier and worked her way up to Exceptional Leadership.

---

"My mentors have helped me understand the roots of my desire to lead," Gadecki said. "Meeting people with the same mindset creates community and ultimately improves your skills as a leader as they inspire you to continue on the path of being an exceptional leader."

---

Each year, GSLI holds a campus-wide leadership conference where the entire GMercyU community is invited to take part. This year's conference theme is "Leading with Mercy Creates Community: #DareYourself" and will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016. To find out more information, visit [gmercyu.edu](http://gmercyu.edu). 🌟



The mentors serve as the connector between what the students learn during workshops to how to apply it in the professional world. GMercyU Respiratory



Sister Helen, fourth from right, celebrated her 90th Birthday with the GMercyU Community on February 27, 2016.

## One Sister, Global Impact



By: Kirsten Swanson

All of their stories are different, but somehow all the same. Sisters Haifa Tyler '95 and Samar Froman '95 arrived at Gwynedd Mercy University in 1991, as the Gulf War was breaking out in Saudi Arabia. Gabe Radi '93/'02 and Debesai Solomon '92/'94 found themselves on GMercyU's doorstep with nothing but the shirts on their backs.

No matter how many miles they traveled or which foreign land they came from, Sister Helen was here to accept them. For more than four decades, Sister Helen served as a surrogate mother, sister, teacher, colleague, confidant and friend. During her time at GMercyU, Sister Helen held many positions, but none was more influential than her role as the Director of International Student Services.

In this role, Sister Helen changed countless lives forever by simply offering an acceptance letter to a university in a country filled with opportunity. She turned this foreign land into a home away from home, cooking holiday meals for students who had nowhere to go and making it more than just a place to study.

Alumni and close friends gathered in GMercyU's Assumption Hall on February 27, 2016 to celebrate Sister Helen's 90th birthday. They shared countless stories of the hospitality and love Sister Helen showed them, and the resourcefulness and tenacity she embodied in order to get the job done.

School of Business Professor Ralph Hoffman was a new homeowner when he first arrived at GMercyU back in the early 1990s. He recalled that Sister Helen seemed to take an interest in his new home, asking how many bedrooms

there were and what the accommodation were like. Thinking she was just an interested colleague, he thought nothing of it until he got a call from Sister Helen asking if he could house an incoming student from Panama. Before he knew it, Raphael was moving in with him for his first semester at GMercyU.

Kanami Shiga arrived at GMercyU knowing very little English but that didn't stop her from realizing how special Sister Helen is.

"Because of my English limitation, sometimes I couldn't understand what Sister Helen said since she sometimes talks with excitement. But I could tell she is very warm and kind," Shiga said. "Lots of students appreciate how she helped them. They were pushed by her support and learned how to survive American life and grab their dream." 🌟



## Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team joined the women's team and finished the season at the NCAA Mideast regional at Dickinson College on Saturday November 14, 2015. Two runners stood out, sophomore **Matt Brown** and freshman **Justin DeLuzio**. Brown was the top finisher with a time of 27:34 (5:32/mile) finishing in 105th place. This was Brown's best 8k race all year, running more than a minute and a half faster than he did on the course earlier in the year. DeLuzio was the Griffins second finisher with a time of 31:50 (6:24/mile) and placing of 323rd.

## Women's Cross Country

The Griffins finished the season at the NCAA Mideast regional at Dickinson College on Saturday November 14, 2015. Senior **Christina Smith** and sophomores **Brittany Finn** and **Emily Makara** competed. Smith ran her last race and finished the 6K course in 144th place out of 365 runners in a time of 25:05. Finn was the second finisher for the Griffins with a time of 25:58, ranking 193rd. Makara clocked in with a time of 26:44, finishing in 232nd.

## Men's Soccer

The men's soccer season came to an end after an upset defeat against Summit University. The Griffins needed this win and a loss from Cairn University in order to sneak into the sixth and final playoff spot. Seniors **Seth Lindner**, **Brandon Rodriguez**, and **Rich Mychack** earned CSAC All-Academic Team for their final season as Griffins. Mychack earned a spot on the CSAC All-Conference Second Team while senior **Kyle Ditsche** was an honorable mention selection. Rodriguez was named to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. The Griffins finished the 2015 season with a record of 6-13-1 and 3-5-1 in CSAC action.



## Women's Soccer

The Griffins had a great year, but a late goal was the difference as the second-seeded Griffins fell in a tough 1-0 decision to top-seeded Cabrini College in the 2015 Colonial States Athletic Conference Championship. Senior **Jess Tadley** was honored as the 2015 CSAC Defensive Player of the Year, as well as named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) NCAA Division III Women's Scholar All-East Region Team. Tadley and **Meghan Petroski** were also selected as ECAC All-Starts. Seniors **Allison Bigos**, **Megan Gifford**, **Diamond Devereaux**, Petroski and Tadley were named to the Fall 2015 CSAC All-Academic Team. The Griffins ended their season with a record of 12-4-3.



## Field Hockey

Fifth-straight CSAC Champions' dreams came up short after losing to Cabrini College in an tough 2-1 defeat at home. Sophomore **Melissa Russo** scored the Griffins' lone goal in the 53rd minute. Senior **Amanda Martino** was named to the Fall 2015 CSAC All-Academic Team. The Griffins finished the season with a final record of 13-6. Senior **Katie O'Neill** was named the 2015 CSAC Defensive Player of the Year, as senior **Megan Senkeleski**, and sophomore **Melissa Russo** were named to the first-team. **Stephanie Bacho, Madison Reiss, Brianna O'Connell,** and **Samantha Soccia** were all honored on the second team, while **Maggie Walsh** and **Abigail Gabriel** earned a spot on the honorable mention list.



## Women's Tennis

The Griffins captured their seventh overall Colonial States Athletic Conference Team Tournament Championship and second in a row with a convincing 5-0 win over Marywood University. The Griffins claimed the CSAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III team Tournament which takes place in May 2016. The Griffins made quick work at doubles in the best of nine format, sweeping all three matches for a 3-0 lead. Needing just two wins at singles to lock up the title, a pair of freshman obliged with solid wins. **Katie Garthaus**, the 2015 CSAC player and Rookie of the Year, took care of business with a 6-0, 6-2 win at #2 singles. Needing one more victory, **Natalie Danze** sealed it with a 6-0, 6-1 win. Junior **Jenna Caffarello**, Junior **Kristen Kriebel**, and Freshman **Amanda Gentry** were named to the Fall 2015 CSAC All-Academic Team. GMercyU will learn their NCAA Tournament opponent when the pairings are released in early spring.

and 5-6 in conference action. They will lose both Greer and Tressel to graduation as the duo made up nearly 40% of the team's kills this year. In their careers, Greer played three seasons, appearing in 77 matches. She totaled 261 kills (1.03 kps), 60 aces, 175 digs, and 83 blocks (34 solo). Tressel was a four-year letter winner, playing in 113 contests and finished with 490 kills (1.30 kps), 114 aces, 951 digs, and 23 blocks (6 solo). Tressel was named to the fall 2015 CSAC All-Academic Team.

## Volleyball

The 2015 season came to an end as the Griffins fell 3-1 (25-17, 25-12, 22-25, 25-11) at Keystone College. Freshman **Samantha Schearer** posted her first double-double of the season, going for a career high 11 kills and tying a personal best with 13 digs. Senior **Brianna Greer** added seven kills and **Lauren Tressel** chipped in four. The Griffins had a three-game improvement in CSAC play from a year ago and finished the 2015 season at 9-20



# FALL SEASON

# WRAP-UP

# O Captain! My Captain!



By: Kirsten Swanson

## GMercyU Education student is the youngest captain in Philadelphia's Mummers Parade.

"When you get up to heaven, God's going to ask, 'what did you do?' You can say you made someone happy. At that point, you're in."

These words uttered by a longtime Mummer quickly became Jeff Moyer's mantra. They serve as a source of inspiration for the Gwynedd Mercy University Education student as he spends his days in class, and nights and weekends at the helm of the Greater Kensington String Band.

If you made the trip down to Broad Street or watched the coverage of the 2016 Mummers Parade on New Year's Day, you would've seen Moyer covered in sequins and dancing for all to see.

The tradition of Mummery runs deep in Moyer's blood, as it does for many families in the tri-state area. His grandfather and great uncle joined the Mummers more than seven decades ago and have been a part of Greater Kensington since the 1960s. Moyer's great uncle was a captain for more than 10 years. It wasn't long until Moyer's father took the helm, leading the string band for 20 years until 2009.



"Ever since I was a kid my mom would take us down in the morning to the parade to go see dad. My parents met in the band," Moyer said. "My mother was the choreographer one year and they won first place. My dad got the guts to ask her out and here I am, I guess. It's funny how it worked out."

Moyer always knew he would throw his hat in the ring and run for captain; he just wasn't expecting it to be so soon. When it was time for elections last year, he put his name on the ballot in attempt to get his name out there and test the waters. He never imagined he would follow in his father's footsteps at just 22 years old.

"How do I get guys who have been doing it for 40, 50, 60 years to care? That's the tricky part. I gained respect from a lot of people this year. I'm happy to say I think I changed a lot of people's minds since then," Moyer said.

This is where Moyer's teacher instincts have come in handy. When he isn't putting parade props together or attending a Mummers Association meeting, you will find Moyer in a classroom, either as the student or the teacher.

Moyer is an elementary education major with a dual major in special education. Unlike his road to captain, his path to GMercyU was full of twists and turns. He started at Philadelphia University majoring in architecture. It wasn't long before he realized this wasn't the career for him. He decided to regroup at Bucks County Community College to study music. He began teaching marching band at area high schools and quickly realized this was a match made in heaven.

"I figured I'd cut out the middleman and focus strictly on education. I was looking for places to go so I talked to a few professors. They were observing student teachers at a school and every teacher had where they went to college on the outside of their classroom. They noticed that so many of them were from Gwynedd Mercy," Moyer said. So, his decision was made.

Having a string band captain on campus is nothing new for GMercyU. Men's basketball coach John Baron has been captain of Hegeman String Band for 15 years, even winning top prize two of the past three years.

"People only see the final product. They think we made it up on New Year's Eve. It's a year-long commitment," Baron said. "It's raising money, doing parades and concerts to get money to run the club not just for New Year's Day. Our clubs are just like a house. We have electric bills to pay and mortgages."

Anytime Moyer gets stressed or begins to question why he does what he does, he repeats the words that were said to him so many years ago by that longtime Mummer.

"That just made so much sense to me. You're doing something good in the world. If I put a smile on one person's face, I'm doing my job," Moyer said. "That's what it's all about, especially teaching. It's all about how to make one person's life better."

As for what Moyer plans to do after graduation? He is open to any teaching job that comes his way but one thing is for certain: He will be strutting down Broad Street on New Year's Day. 🎉

# GRIFFIN COLOR RUN

Gwynedd Mercy University's Student Activities Committee hosted the first Griffin Color Run on campus on Sunday, October 11, 2015.

The 120 runners and volunteers raised about \$1,300 for The Trevor Project, which is a nonprofit organization that works to prevent suicides among LGBTQ youth.

"The Griffin Color Run was an amazing event and it was an honor to raise money for The Trevor Project. It was a great day for a good cause," said Albert Rementer, the event's organizer and a junior in the University's 4+1 MBA program.

The course, which ended up being just under the distance of a true 5K, had the participants run two loops around the beautiful, tree-lined campus. The course started by Alexandria Hall, looped around the back of campus, down past Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School and up past the stadium for two laps totaling just over 3 miles. 🌈



# All in the Family

**Two sisters, two majors, two different GMercyU experiences: that explains Ashleigh '09 and Kimberly '13 Houck's legacy connection.**



By: Alyssa Onisick

"Our girls may look alike and act alike in some ways, yet they are their own unique individuals. They both got something different out of choosing GMercyU—a small, Catholic college close to our home—and yet they both have chosen their own paths in life and are successful and, most importantly, happy with their choices," their mother Karen said.

Ashleigh pursued a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Sports Management. She interned with the Philadelphia 76ers during her junior year.

"I was very lucky to get this internship and network with so many people in the field I wanted to pursue," she said.

Kimberly originally thought she wanted to study Nursing, but ultimately switched to Accounting and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She interned twice for Gable Peritz Mishkin, a well-known accounting firm in Ambler, and worked there part time in the summer before her senior year.

Though both sisters have student loans, they appreciate the value of their GMercyU education, and see it as an investment in their futures.

Kimberly currently works as a Staff Accountant at Clark Capital Management Group, an Investment Management Company, where she recently celebrated her one-year anniversary and received the "Exemplary Employee of the Year" award.

Ashleigh is employed by the PICPA (The Pennsylvania Institute for Certified Public Accountants), where she was promoted within her first year and is a member of three different committees. She routinely sees Professor Carlo Silvestri, who is an active member of the PICPA.

Their parents also realize the value of sending their daughters to a school where professors spend time getting to know students, and offer them career guidance during and after their years here.

"Kim's professors were outstanding and always looked out for her best interest in school and after graduation with recommendations for employment," Karen said. "Her degree in Accounting from GMercyU is what helped to get her to where she is today."

During her years at GMercyU, Ashleigh got involved in all she could. She was on the dance team for three years and used a grant from the University to study abroad in Perugia, Italy before her senior year. She has since served on the Alumni Board for six years, and plans to stay involved after her term ends.

"I think that you should always make it a goal in life to see somewhere new, meet someone new and experience different cultures as much as you can," Ashleigh said. "I am always on the run and always up for adventure of some sort."

While Kimberly focused more on her education than

extracurriculars, the two sisters share a love of travel now. Every couple of months they explore a new state or visit the Caribbean, and they spend their summers in Wildwood, NJ.

"As their parents, we feel that their four years at Gwynedd Mercy University played a major role in who they are today and we are truly grateful," Karen said. 🌟



**Ashleigh Houck '09 was awarded a grant from GMercyU's President's Excellence Fund to travel abroad to Italy.**



**Greg, Karen, Kimberly '13 and Ashleigh '09 Houck.**

# Dear Alumni,

Another academic year is almost complete. Thank you to our alumni who participated in reunions, homecoming, young alumni events, service projects and the regional Florida On The Road events. After February's great turnout at our GMercyU On the Road alumni events in Naples and Tampa, FL we are working with interested alumni toward starting our first alumni chapters. This is an exciting time for the Alumni Association as it grows and becomes more active than ever before!

In addition to organizing alumni gatherings, this past fall the Office of Alumni Relations conducted a survey to determine what type of programming interests our alumni. Thank you to those who took the time to respond, and please know that we will work on expanding programming in the coming year to provide a wider variety of offerings.

I hope to meet more of our graduates at upcoming alumni events this spring and summer in Center City, as well as in North Wildwood, NJ; please join us. Emails and communication regarding the events are forthcoming.

As always, if you find yourself in Gwynedd Valley, please stop in to say hello. It would be my pleasure to take you on a tour of our beautiful and growing campus.

Warm regards,  
**Gianna Quinn**, Director of Alumni Relations  
 215-641-5554 or quinn.g@gmercyu.edu



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

## Upcoming Alumni Events:

- June 4..... **Phillies vs. Brewers Tailgate and Game, McFadden's/Citizen's Bank Park, 1:00 p.m./3:05 p.m.**
- June 22..... **Center City Sips & Griffin Networking, location TBD, 5-7 p.m.**
- July 16 ..... **GMercyU Down the Shore - July 16, Keenan's North Wildwood, 3-7 p.m.**
- August 24 ..... **Center City Sips & Griffin Networking, location TBD, 5-7 p.m.**

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: gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-alumni

### Connect with GMercyU Alumni Online

- /Gwynedd Mercy University Alumni  
Featuring: Trivia Tuesday
- @GMercyU
- Group: Gwynedd-Mercy University Alumni
- sites.gmercyu.edu/gmercyu-blog

**Join GMercyU alumni for a tailgate party at McFadden's Restaurant and a Phillies vs. Brewers game at Citizen's Bank Park**

**1-3 p.m. Tailgate  
 3:05 p.m. Game**

**McFadden's at the Ballpark/Citizen's Bank Park  
 One Citizen's Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148**

Tickets are \$50 each and include food and drinks at the tailgate and entrance to the Philadelphia Phillies vs. Milwaukee Brewers game. Already have tickets? Join us for the tailgate party at McFadden's for just \$30. Pre-registration is required. Online registration coming soon.

**Questions?** Contact The Alumni Office at alumni@gmercyu.edu or 215-641-5554.



1



2

1. Friends reminisced with fellow alumni, faculty, staff and coaches at the All Alumni Reception during Red and Gold Homecoming Weekend 2015.

2. GMercyU Women Connect held its first networking event on October 22, 2015. The focus of the new alumni group is to bring women from around the GMercyU community together to empower one another, share stories, and network.

**GMercyU** at the **Shore**  
**KEENAN'S NORTH WILDWOOD**  
**July 16, 2016**  
**3-7 p.m.**

113 Olde New Jersey Avenue  
 North Wildwood, NJ 08260

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



4. Residence Life hosted its own reunion on the lawn of St. Brigid where former Resident Assistants reminisced with old friends during Red and Gold Homecoming Weekend 2015.



5. Alumni joined Campus Ministry and wrapped gifts collected by the GMercyU Community which benefitted Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.



6. and 7. Graduates from the Classes of 1990 and 1965 gathered at Gwynedd Mercy University to celebrate their 25th and 50th reunions.





8. GMercyU's Graduates of the Last Decade gathered at Happy Tymes Family Bowling Center for a fun night of games and friends on November 6, 2015.



9.-11. GMercyU Griffins gathered together, with President Kathleen Owens, in Naples, FL; Tampa, FL; and Boca Raton, FL.

## REUNION 2016

# October 16, 2016

*Graduates from the Classes of 1991 and 1966 are invited to attend a Mass and Luncheon at Gwynedd Mercy University.*

**11:30 a.m. Mass, Campbell Hall Chapel**

**12:30 p.m. Welcome, Assumption Hall**

**1:00 p.m. Lunch, Reunion & Campus Tours, Assumption Hall**

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations 215-641-5554 or [alumni@gmercyu.edu](mailto:alumni@gmercyu.edu) no later than October 10 if you wish to reserve your seat.

# Class NOTES

## 1959

**Margo Mazzotta's**, of North Wales, Pa., granddaughter is currently a freshman at Gwynedd Mercy Academy.

## 1960

**Bonnie Waldron**, of Clinton, N.Y., and her husband will be taking their 10th trip to volunteer at the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona. She has five children and 22 grandchildren. Bonnie also volunteers at her local church.

## 1967

**Joan Brinkman**, of Marlton, N.J., is a retired high school teacher. She currently supervises student teachers at La Salle University.

**Mary Patricia Mood**, of Columbus, Ohio, recently moved to Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Columbus, Ohio and is on a mini-sabbatical as she discerns her next ministry.

## 1979

**Adrienne Daub**, of Collegeville, Pa., is retired and has volunteered once a week at the SPCA for the past 15 years.

## 1988

**Anne Dopheide**, of Glen Mills, Pa., has returned to Gwynedd Mercy University and is currently enrolled in the BSN Completion Program.

## 1989

**Susan Smith**, of Doylestown, Pa., recently joined Bucks County family law firm Williams Family Law, P.C. as a partner.

## 2000

**Susan Ebner**, of Ambler, Pa., has traveled to Peru on several mission trips where she assisted the isolated Shibipo people deep in the Amazon along the Ucayali River.

## 2003

**Angelique Daray-McGuire**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is National Board Certified in English for Language Arts.

## 2008

**Rachel King Marco**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently started a new position with Next Step Physical Therapy in Northeast Philadelphia as a physical therapist.

## 2009

**Claudia Castelo**, of Glassboro, N.J., just received a promotion at Corizon Correctional Healthcare.

**Kevin Dougherty**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., recently started a new job as Principal at Elmont Memorial High 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](http://gmercyu.edu) and select Giving.**

# Engagements and Marriages

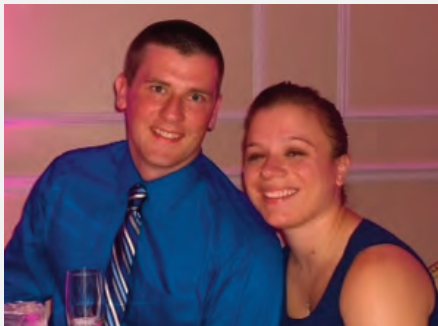
**Leigh Manduke Akers '13**, of Jeffersonville, Pa., married David Akers on October 17, 2015.



Leigh Akers '13, and David Akers

**Megan Bogan '14**, of Hatboro, Pa., engaged to marry Timothy Latouch on August 26, 2016.

**Gregory Borgman '13**, of Vineland, N.J., and **Christy Ferrari '13**, of Warminster, Pa., are engaged to be married on July 30, 2016.



Gregory Borgman '13 and Christy Ferrari '13

**Anna Candeloro '12**, of Laurel Springs, N.J., engaged to marry Anthony Scifidi.

Francesca Catalano '09 and Dr. Travis Kinney

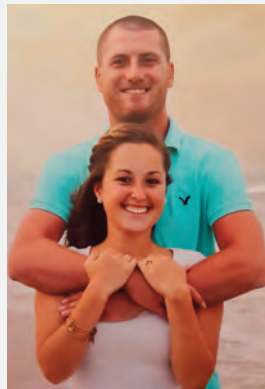


**Francesca Catalano '09**, of Warminster, Pa., married Dr. Travis Kinney on June 12, 2015.

**Maureen Curcio '10**, of Harleysville, Pa., married on November 22, 2014.

**Jenna Gaydosh '13** and **Nicholas Keba '14**, of Philadelphia, Pa., are engaged to marry on May 7, 2016.

Jenna Gaydosh '13 and Nicholas Keba '14



**Michelle Gould '10**, of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., is engaged to marry Jim Prieto on June 18, 2016.

Michelle Gould '10 and Jim Prieto



**Rachel King Marco '08**, of Philadelphia, Pa., married Anthony Marco on Pope Saturday, September 26, 2015.

Rachel King Marco '08 and Anthony Marco



**Georgiana Priory '13**, of Ambler, Pa., is engaged to marry on October 1, 2016.



Elizabeth Walton '09 and Noah Fox

**Elizabeth Walton '09**, of Havertown, Pa., is engaged to marry Noah Fox in May 2016.

# Griffin Babies

**Nora Benko '12**, of Gilbertsville, Pa., welcomed her first child, Autumn.

**Ashley Bilotti '03**, of Harleysville, Pa., gave birth to a daughter, Arya, on June 26, 2015. Arya joined sister Jasmine and brother Octavian.



Arya, daughter of Ashley Bilotti '03

**Patricia Santangelo '78**, of Ocean City, N.J., recently welcomed two new granddaughters, Charlize and Layla.

**Bernadine Waterman '02**, of Philadelphia, Pa., welcomed a new granddaughter, Aniya Marie Rochelle Cartwright, on October 7, 2015.

## We want to hear from you!

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

## 2010

**Maureen Curcio**, of Harleysville, Pa., earned a master's degree in August 2014.

**Tracie Douglass**, of Hopewell, Va., completed her master's degree at Abraham Lincoln University.

**Noreen McDonough**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently started a new position as Contract Specialist at Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support in Philadelphia for the Department of the Navy. She also completed her Master of Business Administration with a Global Perspective at Arcadia University.

**Marilynn Murphy**, of Abington, Pa., received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Duquesne University in May 2015.

**Alysha Petti**, of East Greenville, Pa., earned her master's degree in Science and Education Elementary.

## 2011

**Kenneth Bishop**, of Telford, Pa., got a new job as a case manager for Liberty Mutual Insurance in June 2015.

## 2012

**Shurda Abraham**, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently earned a promotion at the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

**Jessica Woodring Larkin**, of Southampton, Pa., is teaching first grade at St. Joseph's School in Cockeysville, Maryland.

## 2013

**Laura Brennecke**, of Hatfield, Pa., is currently a nurse practitioner at Thomas Jefferson Hospital.

**Stephanie Burton**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is currently a clinic manager in the Patience Dialysis Unit at Fresenius Medical Care.

**Megan Carman**, of Bensalem, Pa., recently joined the Air Force.

**Rebecca Coleman**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is currently an Alcohol Treatment Therapist at Advanced Health and Treatment Center in New Jersey.

**Kellie Delhagen**, of Hamilton, N.J., is a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Zachary Kline**, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., is a Staff RN at the Methodist Hospital of Southern California.

**Megan Smakulski**, of Wilmington, Del., received The DAISY Award For Extraordinary Nurses on January 27, 2016.

## 2014

**Cherrice Applewhite**, of Lindenwold, N.J., is a cake manager.

**Christina Bellitti**, of Alexandria, Va., moved to Virginia after graduation and now works as a kindergarten teacher.

**Molly Baldwin**, of West Chester, Pa., is currently a full-time nurse at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia.

**Elizabeth Ciccone**, of Leesburg, Va., landed a job as a Health and Physical Education teacher in the Loudoun Public School in October 2015.

## 2015

**Shawn Aikens**, of Salt Lake City, Utah, is currently enrolled at the University of Utah for Nursing.

**Taylor Alston**, of North Wales, Pa., currently serves as a nurse in the Peace Corps.

**Cheryl Barfield**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is an Accountant Executive.

**Kiersten Bojanowski**, of Churchville, Pa., started working as an Operations Analyst for SEI Investments Company in September 2015.

**Haley Clarkson**, of Lafayette Hill, Pa., recently passed the ASN certifications exam.

**Corina Davis**, of Lansdale, Pa., works with special education children in the Cayuga section of Philadelphia.

**Robyn Dudley**, of Lansdale, Pa., is currently attending law school at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in California.

# In Memoriam



"His primary concern was his students' learning and well-being and he made sure to tell each and every one how proud he was of them. We are grateful to have known and loved him and been blessed by his presence in our lives."

– Dr. Michelle Kulp McEliece, Associate Professor of Biology

**October 2, 1940 - February 28, 2016**

**Richard Coletta** inspired and touched the lives of countless students at Gwynedd Mercy University, where he was a long-time adjunct faculty member for Natural and Computational Sciences. He cared about more than just what was going on in the classroom; Rich took a special interest in each of his student's lives.

Rich was a passionate educator for nearly four decades, teaching at GMercyU, Villanova University and Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School in Plymouth Meeting, Pa. He was dedicated to his field and craft, educating and encouraging the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics professionals.

"Mr. Coletta was truly one of the most genuine, caring professors that I have ever known. At the end of every conversation I ever had with him he always said, 'God is

going to take care of you. He won't let anything bad happen to you.' Those words get me through every day and any challenge that I encounter. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have known Mr. Coletta. His positive energy and caring personality will truly be missed by all of the professors, staff, and students at Gwynedd," GMercyU senior Biology student Elizabeth Mannino said.

Rich was an integral part of the Natural and Computational Sciences Division and his presence on campus will be missed deeply.

"Although Rich taught courses in the sciences, his impact extended throughout the campus. There were very few people on campus Rich had not befriended," Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Michelle Kulp McEliece said. "If you knew him, you were truly blessed, both literally and figuratively, as he never parted ways without wishing you 'God bless!'"



**Sister Mary Colman O'Loughlin**, died on Monday, March 14, 2016. Sister Colman was a gentle, loving woman with a wonderful sense of humor. Everyone who met her found her delightful.

She spent many years in the education ministry, beginning at the elementary level in both the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in Williamsburg, Va. After further study, which included time in Cuba studying Spanish, Sr. Colman taught at GMercyU. She also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1972-1988.

Sister Colman entered the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1941, and would have celebrated 75 years this fall.

**Justine Concannon '55**, of Ambler, Pa., passed away on March 26, 2015.

**Melissa Corcoran '69** passed away on October 10, 2015.

**Marguerite Cluelow '66** passed away on October 19, 2015.

**Ethel M. Glackin '53**, of Souderton, Pa., passed away on October 31, 2015.

**Deborah Madden Keister '90**, of Schwenksville, Pa., passed away on February 25, 2016.

**Mary Theresa MacMullan '83**, of Somers Point, N.J., passed away on October 22, 2015.

**Sister Michael Maureen '64**, of Philadelphia, Pa., passed away on November 1, 2015.

**Sister Marian Rufe '64**, formerly Sister Marian James, of Merion Station, Pa., passed away on February 22, 2016.

**Christine Wadzinske Schwartzkopf '88**, of Leander, Texas, passed away on September 25, 2015.

**Sister Anna Donofry**, known as Anne, died on Feb. 25, 2016. She was 89 years old. Sister Anne was a professor and curriculum coordinator of nursing at GMercyU from 1972 until 2000. She served as a member of faculty council and as chair of the BSN and ASN faculty meetings.

She graduated from the Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing in 1949, and became a Sister of Mercy in 1952. She earned her BSN from Villanova University, her MSN from the Catholic University of America, and her doctorate in curriculum theory and development from Temple University in 1987.

Sister Anne was a member of the National League for Nursing, the



Pennsylvania League for Nursing, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Mercy Higher Education Colloquium. She was also a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society for nursing.



Gwynedd Mercy University

1325 Sumneytown Pike,  
P.O. Box 901  
Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437

Office of Institutional  
Advancement

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lansdale, PA  
Permit No. 444

# HOMECOMING 2016

## Join us this fall for Red & Gold weekend activities and events.

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

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

