

Spring 2017

TODAY



Gwynedd Mercy
University

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

When I was growing up, the kids in the neighborhood would put on a play in someone's backyard every summer. The year we produced *Snow White*, I was cast as one of the seven dwarfs, i.e., Doc – at least I wasn't Grumpy. My sister Peggy got that role. While I may have preferred to play Snow White, I felt fortunate to have dodged the role of the wicked queen, who was not happy with what she saw in the mirror.

Today as I write this final President's message and peer into the mirror, the reflection speaks to me:

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall
Who's the smartest of them all?
If you think the CEO
There's so much more you need to know.



Actually, when I get up in the morning and look in the mirror, I usually see a teacher. On occasion, however, I sometimes see a student, albeit an aging student, but a student nevertheless. During my tenure at GMercyU, I have learned so much from my faculty and staff colleagues as, together, we strive to prepare *Distinctive Mercy Graduates*. I am grateful for all the "teachable moments" where I have benefitted from the wisdom and experience of my peers.

The "teacher" in me understands the great privilege it has been to confer more than 60 percent of the degrees that Gwynedd Mercy University has awarded since its founding in 1948. It's humbling to watch and experience the transformational change that occurs in students as they pursue their academic and professional goals, and to know that their education has not only prepared them for successful careers, but for fruitful lives as well.

Whether the persona in the mirror is that of teacher or student, in either case, I most certainly hope the reflection conveys an image of sincere gratitude. The GMercyU community has been blessed with so many loyal and dedicated alumni, friends and benefactors who, through their prayers and gifts, have been and continue to be agents of change. With your generous support and encouragement, we have been strengthened to move beyond the status quo and seize opportunity. We are proud of our distinguished past and the manner in which we wholeheartedly embrace our Mercy mission and core values. But it is to the future that we look for even greater achievements.

In the years to come, I look forward to a Gwynedd Mercy University future of noteworthy accomplishments. Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside all of you in support of higher education in the Mercy tradition.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen".

Kathleen Owens, PhD
President



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

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Friends, Fun and Football

By: Kirsten Swanson

A new tradition was born when GMercyU's Grid Iron Gang won the inaugural Route 309 Classic against Arcadia University last fall. The event concluded the first season of GMercyU's intramural flag football league, which included nearly 100 students.

Flag Football was just the first initiative of GMercyU's new Intramural and Recreation Program. The program aims to provide a variety of opportunities that promote a healthy lifestyle through recreational activity. Its goal is to continuously provide a competitive, safe and enjoyable atmosphere that encourages sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership development.

To kick off the spring 2017 semester, the program launched Intramural Basketball. The eight teams, consisting of men, women and co-ed teams, will compete for the championship and like their football counterparts, will go on to play Arcadia in the Route 309 Classic.

Assistant Director of Intramurals and Recreation Maddie Herman is excited about the popularity

of the programming, especially the sense of community among students that it generates.

"The culture of Intramurals is being widely felt throughout campus," Herman said. "One of the unique assets to the program is the 14 student workers that make up the Intramural department with opportunities to officiate and/or score-keep. They go through trainings on each sport to learn the mechanics and be knowledgeable on the respective sport."

One of those workers is freshman nursing student Vince Viola. Participating in the intramural program has given Vince and his friends a way to have some fun and let go.

"Intramural sports is more than a group of friends playing games. Intramurals has brought fun, leadership and confidence [to campus]."

To extend the program's reach, Herman and her staff will introduce commuter leagues next fall, which will offer games during times that are most convenient for GMercyU's commuter students. Aside from football and basketball, Herman plans to introduce sports such as softball, soccer, dodgeball, wiffleball and ultimate frisbee soon. 🌀



Nursing Students put Skills to the Test with Simulated Disaster Training

By Alyssa Onisick

GMercyU's nursing students had the opportunity to test their skills during a simulated disaster exercise on campus in November. Several volunteers acted as though they were injured in an explosion in a lab classroom, giving students in the BSN program an opportunity to quickly triage and assess their injuries.

"While this drill may not anticipate every possible scenario, it gives our nursing students an idea of how to behave during a disaster. If students do not get an opportunity to practice, then they will not be prepared when a real disaster happens," Associate Professor of Nursing Patricia Brown O'Hara said.

After the scenario ended, Professor Brown O'Hara held a de-briefing session with the students to talk about steps needed to

remediate any of their actions and responses.

"The de-briefing is as important as the drill as this is where students can verbalize how they thought it went and how they felt about their



responses and interventions," Professor Brown O'Hara said.

"The Disaster Day experience challenged my abilities in prioritizing tasks and maintaining protocol in a multifaceted, stressful situation. The day of training fostered my self-confidence and refined my nursing skills, ultimately preparing me to excel as a nurse."

- Lori Hager, BSN Class of 2017

The volunteers were given their assignments and roles for the simulated disaster in advance, but the nursing students were aware only that they were having disaster training. Just after class began on Nov. 30th, Professor Teresa Lewis ran in and alerted students to the simulated explosion in the building. The students then responded to do triage and label the patients according to the severity of their injuries. 🌟

GMercyU Awarded Transportation Grant

By Alyssa Onisick

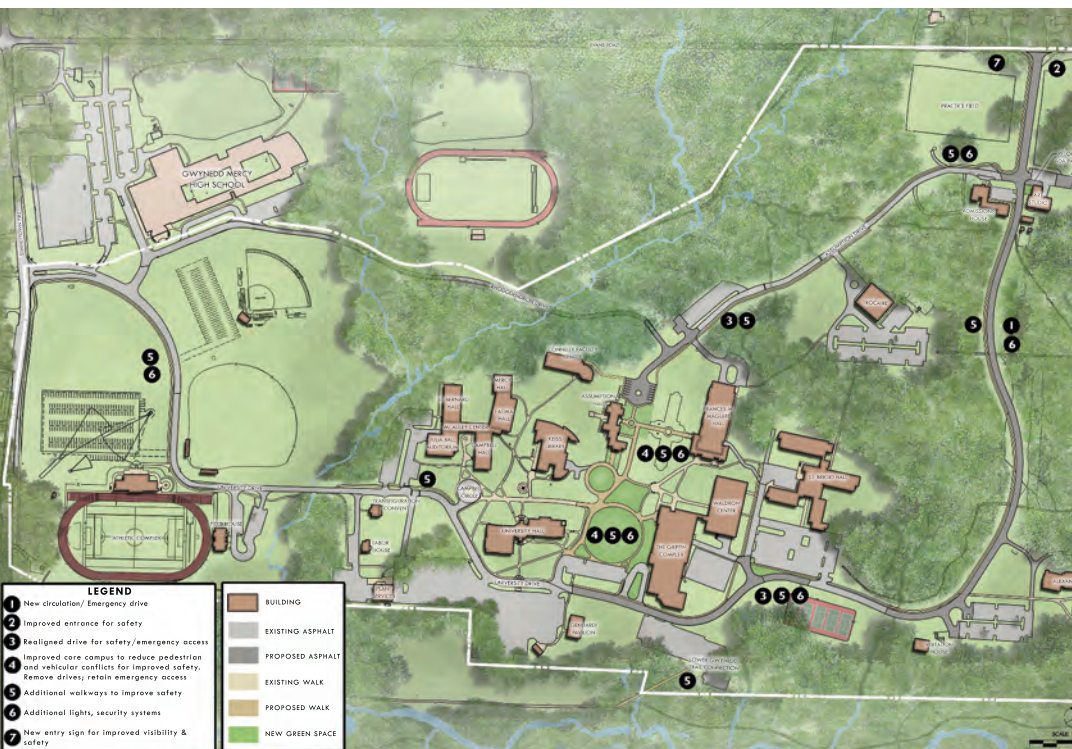
In December, GMercyU was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for its *Pathways to Success* project.

The project includes construction of a "Loop Road" to improve emergency response for emergency vehicles, a redesign of the Evans Road entrance, the creation of a pedestrian-friendly campus core, and construction of additional walkways with a connection to the Lower Gwynedd Township trails system.

"Once completed, the project will reduce vehicular traffic and improve pedestrian safety in the center of campus, improve connections with the broader community, and advance a multimodal system that improves safety for all modes of transportation," President Kathleen Owens said.

The grant was awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority through its Multimodal Transportation Fund.

"I commend Gwynedd Mercy University for its commitment to improve safety and quality of life both on campus and in the community," said State Rep. Kate Harper (R-61). "This is an important investment in the university's future." 🌟



Did You Know?

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

Exciting News!

GMercyU is planning to launch a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program! The MSOT program will meet the growing demand for qualified occupational therapists. Learn more about the program at gmercyu.edu.



GMercyU's Board of Trustees Chair Nancy Dunleavy (center) was honored as one of the 2017 Outstanding Directors by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.



Students, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Education traveled to Italy over winter break as part of GMercyU's numerous study abroad opportunities. The Griffins took in the sights in Venice, Florence, Assisi, Sorrento Region, Pompeii, and Rome in conjunction with two literature classes.





Catherine's Cupboard

Join us in welcoming Interim English Professor Julianne Roe and Associate Professor of Finance Alan Harper to GMercyU!

Maya Tsai joined GMercyU as the new Director of International Student Learning. In this role, Maya will assist students wishing to study abroad and welcome international students interested in studying at GMercyU.



Heather Pflieger, PhD was named Dean of the newly combined School of Business and Education. Dr. Pflieger previously served as Dean of the School of Business.



Food Pantry Opens on Campus

By Danielle Rainier, '17

Last fall, some members of the GMercyU community met with Campus Minister Lauren DuCharme about the concern that students have asked them for extra cash to buy lunch or any spare food for a meal. This concern kicked off the start of a project that would soon become bigger than anyone expected. The creation of Catherine's Cupboard can be explained through the planning, the building, the collections, and the blessing.

The planning began last June in Chicago at Saint Xavier University, where Lauren and GMercyU students Adrienne Kelly, and Rachel Zobel and I attended the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute (CMLI). There, we all worked to formulate a proposal for Catherine's Cupboard. Our group then presented our proposal to students from three other schools, collecting feedback and working through any concerns to better implement the plan come fall.

The building started once the plan was officially put in motion. Located in Campus Ministry's Visitation House on GMercyU's Gwynedd Valley campus, students can enter through the door next to the main entrance. Shelves were installed in the area at the bottom of the stairs and are fully stocked. Along with the shelves of food, students will find both a fridge and freezer with food they can take. Not only are students able to take food, but there is a list of community resources, a suggestion box for future items, and take-away refillable water bottles.

The collections come from various sources both on and off campus. Anyone can donate – both food and money – to Catherine's Cupboard. Recently, the residence halls held a pancake dinner where students had to donate at least one dollar and, in return, were given unlimited pancakes. It was a successful night and all the money went to keeping Catherine's Cupboard running in the future. Students also had the chance to donate to the pantry during Griffin Madness, where each non-perishable item donated gave them one extra raffle ticket to win an assortment of prizes. Donations do not stop there, however. Anyone can donate online or drop off any non-perishables and perishable food items to Visitation House.

Now, we come full circle to the blessing of Catherine's Cupboard. During the blessing, Lauren spoke of Catherine's Cupboard and all the support saying she is "overwhelmed by the compassion and generosity of the campus community." The food pantry is now open to both students and staff.

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity or are in need of some extra help, reach out via email to catherinescupboard@gmercyu.edu. 🌱

Danielle interned with the Office of Marketing and Communications during the Fall 2016 semester. She will graduate in May with a degree in Marketing.

Field Hockey Players Focus on Leadership Skills On and Off the Field

By: Kirsten Swanson

Gwynedd Mercy University's field hockey team has spent much of the past decade at the top of their game, both on the field and off. The team has made the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Championship for the past seven seasons, winning four of them. In 2016, 10 players made the CSAC All-Academic team and seven were named to the National All-Academic team.

The team's successes aren't a happy accident. While they strive to be good athletes and students, their ultimate goal is to be good people.

"When recruiting, I take a look at their interactions with their teammates, with their coaches, with their parents. How they're speaking to others," Head Coach Laura-Ann Lane said.

"It's those interactions that are important. We want to make sure we have good, quality people."

To foster those values, Coach Lane enlists the help of her upperclassmen. These women have been through a season or two and know what

it takes to juggle it all. At any given time, a player will have to manage games, practices, classes, internships, work-study, and a social life. Time management is key.

"By planning, they can still have fun. They can work and keep family obligations which makes them happy and perform better in the classroom as well as on the field. I'm proud of their dedication," Coach Lane said.

GMercyU sophomore nursing student Maggie Walsh is one of the team's captains who manages to lead her team on the field as well as be a leader in the classroom. Maggie is a two-time National Field Hockey Coaches Association Scholar of Distinction, which is awarded to student-athletes with a 3.9 GPA or higher.

"When I came here I really liked how small it was and the community feel. You can really be a nursing student, a field hockey player, do work-study or whatever else you want to do," Maggie said. "There's a lot of flexibility but also a lot of commitment."

"I like being able to balance different things and not be just a field hockey player or just a nursing student."

Last summer, Maggie volunteered at Camp PALS where she met Judy Adams, one of the founders of Dimes for Downs, an initiative that raises money to grant wishes to children with Down Syndrome. Together with her fellow Griffins, Maggie asked Judy and her brother Matt Adams to serve as honorary captains for their 2016 season opener. GMercyU and opponent Misericordia University raised funds



SINCE 2007

to benefit Dimes for Downs. As an added bonus, 6ABC covered the event and featured the Griffins on its newscast.

It may seem as if the Griffins have it all covered, but they aren't letting their run of success keep them from working even harder. After losing back-to-back CSAC Championship games, the team regrouped, evaluated what their goals were and what they could do to achieve them.

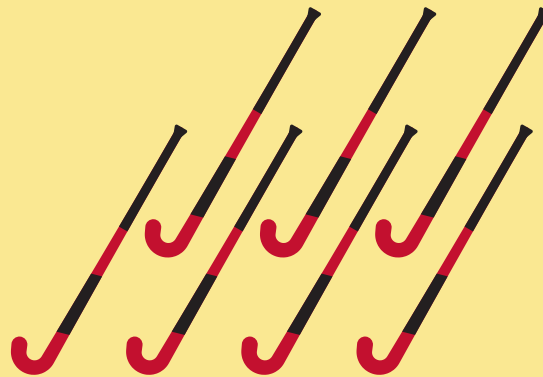
As a result, the team has formed a book club during Spring 2016 where they read motivational books and discuss ways in which they can apply the themes to their work on and off the field. So far, the team has read five books, including "You Win in the Locker Room First" by Jon Gordon and "The Team Captain's Leadership Manual" by Jeff Janssen.

"We really took the time to take a look at what we are all about. What can we do better? How can we make sure we are doing the right things," Coach Lane said. "We want to go further." 🌟



GMercyU sophomore Maggie Walsh is one of the team's co-captains.

Gwynedd Mercy University's Field Hockey team celebrated Judy and Matt Adams, founders of Dimes for Downs, as honorary captains with their opponent Misericordia University.



7

TRIPS TO CSAC CHAMPIONSHIP



4 CSAC CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

4

TRIPS TO NCAA TOURNAMENT



WINS FOR
200+
COACH LANE

5
CSAC
Players of
the Year

5

ALL-REGION
PLAYERS



1

ALL-AMERICAN
PLAYER



Women's Cross Country

The Griffins completed their 2016 season at the NCAA Division III Mideast Regional where freshmen **Julianna Green** and **Dana Rose** were the top Griffins to cross the finish line, clocking in at 25:46 and 26:01 respectively. Both Green and Rose also earned second-team all-conference recognition at the CSAC Women's Cross Country Championships. Sophomore **Cara Landis** was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team finished third overall at the 2016 CSAC Championships with all five of the scoring runners finishing in the top 25. Junior **Matt Brown** and senior **Justin DeLuzio** ran their way to second-team all-conference selections. The Griffins went on to finish the 2016 season at the NCAA Division III Mideast Regional where they placed 46th overall. In his last collegiate race, DeLuzio was blindsided by a deer that ran across the course, and in turn became a popular social media item. In true Mercy spirit, teammates **Matt French** and **Armani Rivera** sacrificed their times to run alongside him as he finished the race.



Women's Soccer

The Griffins faced off against Marywood University in the CSAC Semifinals after beating Immaculata University in the first round. One goal made the difference as the women's soccer team lost 1-0, ending their playoff chase. The loss marked the final appearance for the team's lone senior, **Ariety Fellenz**. Fellenz appeared in 66 games as a Griffin, totaling 12 goal and eight assists. Juniors **Anna Numerato**, **Meghan Petroski**, **Grace Macnamara**, and sophomore **Kailey Hopkins** all earned CSAC Second-Team selections.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team entered the CSAC Tournament as a sixth seed and were looking for their 10th win of the season, which would have tied a program record. The Griffins, however, lost in the first round against Cabrini University. The game marked the final time on the field for the team's six seniors: **Hunter Bishop**, **Chris Black**, **Miles Kehs**, **Neil McGarry**, **Danny Saba**, and **Adam Stangler**. Saba was named to the 2016 CSAC Men's Soccer All-Conference First-Team and Stangler was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.



Field Hockey

For the seventh straight season, the Griffins found themselves in the CSAC Championship after going undefeated in the conference during the regular season. Unfortunately, the season came to an end against Cabrini University, losing a close game 2-1. The Griffins may have fell short but they received numerous post-season awards. Junior **Melissa Russo** was named the 2016 CSAC Offensive Player of the Year, ECAC Division III South Region Offensive Player of the Year and was named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III South Atlantic Region First Team. She also became the first Griffin in program history to be named All American by the NFHCA. Joining Russo on the first team was Sophomore **Kaitlyn Lutz**, Junior **Brianna O'Connell**, and Sophomore **Maggie Walsh**. Coach **Laura-Ann Lane** was chosen as the CSAC Coach of the Year.



Women's Tennis

The Griffins won their fourth-straight CSAC Women's Tennis Team Championship, beating Marywood University 5-4 in the final. This marked the fifth year in a row the two teams have met for the title. Their fourth straight championship put the exclamation point on what was a remarkable season, going undefeated with a 14-0 record. The team claimed the CSAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Team Tournament which takes place in May 2017. Sophomore **Katie Garthaus** repeated as the CSAC Women's Tennis Player of the Year while Head Coach **Jim Holt** won the CSAC Coach of the Year for the sixth time.

Volleyball

G MercyU's Volleyball team finished the 2016 season with a 9-18 overall record, going 4-7 in conference play. The young team bid farewell to its lone senior **Laura Kirk**. Kirk appeared in 109 games as a Griffin, totaling 381 kills, 1260 digs, 133 aces, and 19 blocks. Junior **Casey Griffith** was named to the CSAC All-Conference Second Team and freshman **Liz Schule** was named to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Griffith was a force in her first season as a Griffin, as she ranked second in kills per set (3.73 kps) and third in total kills (317).



FALL SEASON

WRAP-UP

2002

First lay person to serve as President



ABS Program

2005

MERV was born



2006

2016

New Website • Named Frances M. Maguire Hall • Named Keiss Library and Learning Commons



Under the leadership of President Kathleen Owens, PhD, the University has achieved dramatic growth. Important milestones include the transition to University status, expanded academic and co-curricular programs, the addition of new campuses and the construction of new academic buildings and athletic facilities. As a tribute to Dr. Owens' accomplishments and her 15 years of outstanding service, the GMercyU Community reflects on her contributions and what she has meant to the University.

2015



University Hall • Largest campaign completed • Doctoral Programs



2014



University Status • First National Grant (NSF for

"On behalf of the Alumni Association of Gwynedd Mercy University, it is my honor and privilege to extend our deepest appreciation and well wishes to President Owens. The countless successes of our students and graduates, both on campus and in our communities, are a reflection of Dr. Owens' steadfast leadership and tireless commitment to the Mercy mission. She embodies the values and principles which are carried forth by our students into society. We are filled with pride in calling GMercyU our alma mater and are grateful to Dr. Owens for all of the positive influence and change she has brought to our university."

- Joanne Henkels '10/'12, President, Alumni Board

"Dr. Owens and I arrived new to campus in the same year so she has been my only experience with a University president. She will have left her mark in many ways but for me, as someone who is a student-centered teacher, I have always been impressed with how visible and approachable Dr. Owens has been. She has been visible at orientation, many athletic events (even playing basketball at Griffin Madness!), concerts, plays, and has also made surprise visits to ASB sites over the years. Students see her daily at lunch time in the dining hall. To me, all of this speaks to Dr. Owens' focus on our strategic goal of 'putting students first.' I believe that she has done this in an extraordinary way."

- Mary Jo Pierantozzi '72, Assistant Professor, Education

"President Owens' main priority is the students. From advocating for the students to attending student events, she always puts the students first. President Owens always asked what the students need and how she can help make the campus a better environment. She never backed down from a challenge and she continued to fight for students' rights in decisions for the school. From tackling social justice issues to always being present to talk with a student, President Owens embodies what it means to be a Merciful Leader."

- Shermeir Porter '18, Biology

"When we were participating in Alternative Spring Break, Dr. Owens visited us in San Carlos, Arizona at Rice Elementary. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that she cares about the service and the populations we serve as much as we do. She had an interest in not only our feelings about our experience, but also the students of Rice Elementary. Her support and care for both the students of GMercyU and Rice Elementary made us truly grateful for her as president of GMercyU."

- Danielle Rainier '17, Marketing

"Dr. Owens provided me with the amazing opportunity to represent GMercyU in China through the President's Excellence Fund. I know that I am not the only one that has benefited from this fund. It has made a huge impact on not just my life, but the lives of other students as well. Dr. Owens is the pure definition of what Mercy means and she has a heart of solid gold. She has made extremely positive impacts on not just the university, but the lives of all of the students she has touched over the years. Thank you, Dr. Owens for not only everything you have done for me, but for the GMercyU community as a whole."

- Albert Rementer '17, Management

2008



Turf Field • Campbell Solution Center

2009



Men's Lacrosse

2011



East Norriton campus



2013

2012



As Dr. Owens, President of Gwynedd Mercy University since 2002, prepares to embark on her life's next adventure, she shares with us some of her favorite things about her time in Lower Gwynedd.

Q&A

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP FIVE MOMENTS AT GMERCYU?

5. While I was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in grade school in Chicago, the women I have been blessed to meet during my tenure at Gwynedd Mercy University have provided me with a fresh and valued lens with which to view the extraordinary lives and works of my now colleague-Sisters. Somehow the 60+ elementary school students in each of the three classrooms in every grade did not permit much of an occasion for warmth and hospitality. I thank God for this second chance!

4. Over the years, I have been privileged to meet and greet so many loyal and dedicated GMercyU alumni, including some from our first graduating class! I enjoy hearing the stories of their student-days, as well as learning about their personal and professional journeys. It's always a treat to welcome them back to campus and to experience the many campus changes and improvements that are new to them.

3. The authentic sense of community that permeates the culture of GMercyU is a great treasure. My experience of our welcoming teaching/learning community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, president's council members, board members and friends is something I have greatly appreciated and will miss dearly.

2. I have loved the opportunity to travel with students on Alternative Spring Break (ASB) experiences, including trips to New Orleans; New York City; Laredo, TX; Arizona; and the Dominican Republic. I was consistently blown away by the commitment and dedication of our students, as well as the faculty and staff who organize the experiences and give of their own time to travel with the students.

1. My top moment occurs annually on the second Saturday in May, i.e., Graduation Day. What a magnificent occasion to see all our graduates and their families celebrate the accomplishments of our Distinctive Mercy Graduates.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT GWYNEDD VALLEY?

Now that I have learned to spell and pronounce "Gwynedd," I love the story of our township's Welsh and Quaker heritage, especially its tangential connection to Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, who for many years lived in a Quaker household in Ireland and where the Quaker faith of her host family influenced her life and writings. Of course, I also like telling all my friends and relatives in Chicago, "George Washington slept here as did James Bond."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT PHILADELPHIA?

Aside from our satellite campus in the Public Ledger Building in Center City, the Liberty Bell and all that it symbolizes for our nation is my favorite site in Philadelphia.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD ON CAMPUS?

While I really love the salad bar in Waldron Café, especially since it's been renovated and I can now reach the veggies in the back row, I am going to go with vanilla frozen yogurt. I know it's not as healthy as the salad bar but it's a refreshing treat.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

The great view of campus through the expansive windows in the Seminar Room and the Genuardi Student Lounge on the second floor of University Hall is breathtaking during all four seasons. Looking west, the academic heart of the campus with a view of the Bell Tower, McAuley Center, Keiss Library and Learning Commons and the other buildings is especially magnificent during the fall when the leaves are changing colors; to the east, the Genuardi Pavilion and the Griffin Complex are visible, and for those with x-ray vision, the tennis courts, Campus Ministry and Alexandria Hall dot the landscape; to the north, Assumption and Maguire Halls, Waldron Center and the triplex are more easily seen during the winter months when the leaves have fallen; and to the south, Campbell Circle, the outdoor athletic complex, the baseball/softball fields, and Treweryn Creek round out a panoramic view.

DECODING Black Sabbath

A CAUTIONARY TALE OF DRUG ABUSE



By: Patrick McGrain, PhD, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at GMercyU

As a criminologist, I'm always trying to find ways to pair my personal and professional interests. With this in mind, my co-author Kevin Conway and I decided we would look at the connection between substance use and heavy metal music.

Black Sabbath has given us – over the last 47 years – a road map to understanding the perils of drug addiction. Using their entire musical catalog, we did a content analysis of 156 songs over 19 albums to determine what they were trying to tell us.

We found that Black Sabbath wasn't celebrating drug use, but detailing the horrors of it; the lyrics reflect misery. In fact, 65 percent of their lyrics suggest a pattern of doom and gloom related to drug abuse.

If you take a look at the lyrics, we see a trajectory that mirrors findings from studies of pathological substance use. It starts off with songs like "The Wizard," describing a mythical being spreading his magic, and "Sweet Leaf," a full-blown love song to marijuana.

The lyrics then shift, moving from pleasure to substance use as a coping mechanism. For instance, "Hand of Doom" is about using heroin to get away from the misery of everyday life. Finally, songs such as "Methademic," released in 2013, warning of the horror of methamphetamine use, and the nightmare of addiction. Overall, the lyrics move from blissful, to needing drugs to get through life, to drugs destroying life, the natural progression of use-to-addiction portrayed in the substance use literature.

We look at the members of Black Sabbath and see drugs have taken something from their lives. What we've learned from their lyrics is that Black Sabbath does not celebrate drug use but teaches us the horrors of it. ☹️



FINDING **Your** SUPERPOWER AT **GMercyU**



**STEPHANIE ANDREWLEVICH
SUPERPOWER:
MAKING SCHOOL
A HOME**

AT GMERCYU, WE'VE COMPILED A TEAM OF DEDICATED PROFESSORS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING STUDENTS HONE THEIR OWN SUPERPOWERS ON THEIR QUEST TO BECOME A TEACHER, BUSINESS LEADER, POLICE OFFICER, OR ANY PROFESSION THEY ARE CALLED TO. HOW HAS GMERCYU HELPED YOU FIND YOUR SUPERPOWER?

From September through June, you will find Stephanie Andrewlevich '01 surrounded by her students at Mitchell Elementary School located on the corner of 55th and Kingsessing Avenue in Philadelphia. A school – and neighborhood – neglected for far too long, Stephanie jumped at the opportunity to become principal after spending 17 years working as a teacher and instructional coach in Kensington.

All of Mitchell's students live below the poverty line; many are homeless, and some are raising themselves. Stephanie is in the second year of a five-year plan to transform Mitchell into a model neighborhood school. Under this plan, Stephanie and her team are raising morale, increasing test scores, and providing stability to students and their families.

"Our mantra quickly became 'We are Mitchell. This is our house,'" Stephanie said.

Facing the challenge of a budget that doesn't always provide for basic necessities, Mitchell has increased the number of community and corporate partnerships. In a creative campaign to raise both awareness of Mitchell's needs and funds for new technology, Stephanie completed the Philadelphia Marathon in November 2016. As of January, Mitchell received \$94,000 which provided technologies such as tablets, headphones and document cameras for the classrooms. Stephanie's next projects include funding for after school programs, tutoring, and renovations.

"EVERY TIME WE ARE HAVING A CHALLENGE, WE ALWAYS TAKE IT BACK TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE A FAMILY; WE ARE A HOME."

"Every child is entitled to the same start regardless of what your zip code is or what challenges you may have," Stephanie said. "That's where my fight is. My fight is to make sure that every child in every community is given the same starting point." 🌟



Where are they now ?

By: Kirsten Swanson

For more than 30 years, Joanne Trotter spent her days on Gwynedd Mercy University's campus, first as a part-time typing instructor and ultimately as Dean of the School of Business. But now, instead of teaching and guiding Griffins, she spends time with her three grandchildren. The time she used to spend reading industry news and the *Wall Street Journal* is now spent reading James Patterson (the workers at the Cape May Library know Dean Trotter by name), volunteering at the local hospital and watching the waves.

Dean Trotter's first love was being in the classroom, working one-on-one with her students. While she has been out of the classroom for nearly a decade, Dean Trotter still carries the memories and lessons from GMercyU close to her heart.

"It was an incredible experience. I grew both professionally and personally over my 30 years," Dean Trotter said.

To say GMercyU grew is certainly an understatement. As her retirement grew near, Vice President for Mission and Planning Sister Kati McMahon told Dean Trotter, "When they write the history of Gwynedd, you will be listed as one of the pillars."

During her time here, the University welcomed its first male students; added schools, campuses and programs; and began offering graduate degrees. Dean Trotter was instrumental in developing GMercyU's first accelerated degree program in business, designed and wrote 10 graduate courses, as well as started the School of Business' Dual Enrollment program which is still going strong today.

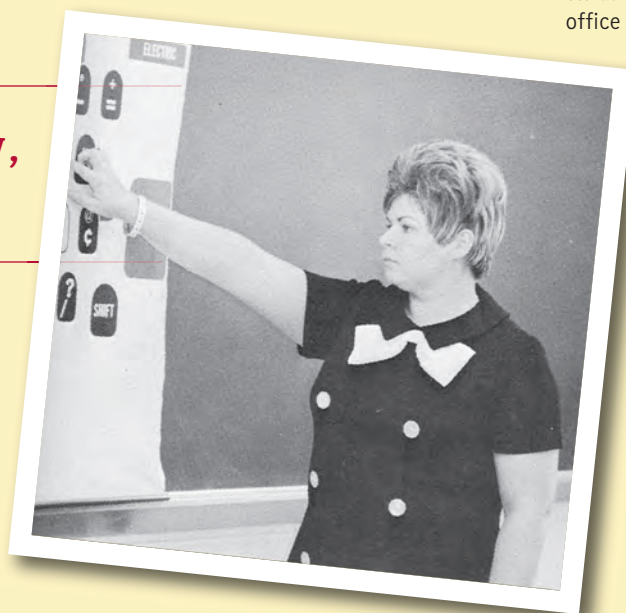
Dean Trotter was honored with several awards throughout her career, including the Lindback Award, PA Business Educator of the Year and was honored as Professor Emeritus when she retired in 2009. Her greatest accomplishments, however, are the lives she touched and the relationships she made with her students. She was a fixture at every home basketball game – in the same seat – and she was often a sought-after source of advice, both academic and personal.

"My focus was always on students. It was exciting to watch the once-nervous freshmen walk confidently across the stage at graduation," Dean Trotter said. "It was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle where the pieces all came together senior year."

Dean Trotter still gets together with her former colleagues and receives Christmas cards from GMercyU alumni. Much like her office on campus, if you ever find yourself down the Jersey shore, her door is always open.

If you would like to reach out to Dean Trotter, you can email her at trotter.j@gmercyu.edu. ☘

**"As Gwynedd grew,
so did I."**



Dear Alumni,

The days are growing longer and spring is upon us. The excitement is growing palpable as our graduating students prepare to leave GMercyU and take the next step in their lives. We wish our graduates all the best in their future endeavors and welcome them into the Alumni Association.

Membership in the GMercyU Alumni Association is free for graduates and includes complimentary benefits. One of the greatest benefits to our graduates is access to our Career Development Department, where alumni can meet with certified resume writers and career coaches for assistance, as well as search job databases. Other benefits include discounted auto/home/life insurance through Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, opportunities to audit classes at discounted rates and discounts at the campus bookstore.

If you don't receive email correspondence from us, please contact the Alumni Office to provide your email address so that we can keep you connected with what is going on at the University as well as on upcoming alumni events. We can even provide more information on those discounts!

In regard to email, any alumni still utilizing a **gmercyu.edu** email account please contact us to make arrangements to keep your account active. Our policy is to close email accounts one year after graduation, unless proper arrangements have been made to keep them open. Be sure to make the arrangements by **May 1st** to keep your account active. Alumni who are currently students will not be affected.

We always love meeting and hearing from our alumni. Please update your email and contact information with us or stop in sometime to say hello. It would be our pleasure to give you a tour of our beautiful and growing campus.

Kind Regards,
Gianna Quinn, Director of Alumni Relations
215-641-5554, quinn.g@gmercyu.edu
www.gmercyu.edu



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





Upcoming Alumni Events:




- June 17 **Phillies vs. Diamondbacks Tailgate and Game, McFadden's/Citizen's Bank Park, 2 p.m./4:05 p.m.**
- July 15 **GMercyU Down the Shore, Keenan's North Wildwood, 3-7 p.m.**
- August 25 **Day of Service, Volunteer Events 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
- Sept/Oct **Homecoming, details coming soon!**
- October 22 **25th & 50th Reunion Celebration, Classes of 1992 & 1967**

1-3. Friends reminisced with fellow alumni, faculty, staff and coaches at the All Alumni Reception during Red and Gold Homecoming Weekend 2016.

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
-  @GMercyU
-  Group: Gwynedd-Mercy University Alumni





4

4. The Alumni Association honored five graduates at the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards.



5

5. and 6. Graduates from the Classes of 1991 and 1966 gathered at Gwynedd Mercy University to celebrate their 25th and 50th reunions.



6

Class NOTES

1967

Mary Patricia Mood is a Dominican Sister of Peace and recently moved to Saint Catherine, KY to serve as a liturgist and musician.

1968



Dr. Maryanne McGuckin, of Ardmore, Pa., received The Philadelphia Pinnacle Award for her work as a researcher and educator in both the medical and healthcare communities in October 2016.

1971

Sister Catherine McMahon, of Gwynedd Valley, Pa., was recently named Vice President for Mission and Ministry for Gwynedd Mercy University. Sister Kati previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Mission and Planning.

1988

Deborah E. Evans, of Lancaster, Pa., graduated in May 2016 from Alvernia University with her PhD in Leadership. She currently works as a Human Resource Supervisor/Business Partner at ES3, LLC in York, Pa. She is also an Adjunct Professor at GMercyU, Alvernia University and Eastern Mennonite University where she teaches Ethics, Theology and Leadership courses.

1996

Robert F. Smith, of Hatfield, Pa., is Assistant Dean of Humanities at Northampton Community College (NCC) and recently published *Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution*.

2004

Jason De Simone, of Middletown, Del., is Editor-in-Chief for Customer Storytelling at SAP Global Marketing.

2008

Jessica Meyers Stack, of Philadelphia, Pa, is a 7th grade teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Philadelphia and is expecting her first child with husband Robert Stack in August 2017.

2009

Geoff Pieninck, of Gilbertsville, Pa., is the Director of Global IT at Telecom.

2010

Christina Patterson, of Lansdowne, Pa., is a case worker for the Department of Human Services.

2011

Denny Pham, of Rocklin, Calif., is a Pediatric Cardiovascular Technician at Stanford Medical Center.



**GOOD
TODAY...
BETTER
TOMORROW**

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

Please support the Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund today!

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

Engagements and Marriages

Courtney Cox '11, of Palmyra, Pa., married Johnathan Shepler on September 3, 2016 in Cornwall, Pa.



Courtney Cox '11 and Johnathan Shepler

Christina Patterson, of Lansdowne, Pa. was married on July 21, 2016.

Griffin Babies

Jason De Simone '04, of Middletown, Del., welcomed a baby boy Gabriel Michael De Simone on December 20, 2016. Gabriel joins sister Olivia and brother Jake.

Gabriel, son of Jason De Simone '04



Margie Magee '66, of Meadowbrook, Pa., welcomed granddaughter Mackenzie Nicole on July 29, 2016. Mackenzie is Margie's 10th grandchild.

2012

Roberta Leatherbury, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a Mental Health Case Manager for the Mental Health Association.

2014

Marisa Pellegrino, of Philadelphia, Pa., recently started working at the Montgomery County Courthouse in February 2016.

Brandon Rooney, of Cinnaminson, N.J., is a Cardiothoracic Nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and was recently accepted into graduate school.

Michael Wambold, of Warminster, Pa., is a deputy sheriff in Montgomery County and an assistant coach for G MercyU's men's soccer team.

Marie Urbano, of Lansdale, Pa., opened up a comic book shop in Hopewell, Pa., with her husband in May 2016.

2015

Keri Durkin, of Roslyn, Pa., is a Registered Nurse at Abington Jefferson Health.

Samantha Moses, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a Direct Support Professional for SPIN.

Hiral Patel, of Philadelphia, Pa, works at the Children's Crisis Treatment Center in Philadelphia.

Carol Patton, of Sellersville, Pa., is studying for her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

Gene Peterson, of East Norriton, Pa., recently passed the NCLEX and is a Registered Nurse at Chestnut Hill Hospital.

Deborah Piel, of Feasterville Trevose, Pa., has been a traveling nurse since 2009.

Ann-Marie Porrino, of Warrington, Pa., is a Special Education Teacher for Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

Jesse Rothgaber, of Holland, Pa., is a Special Education Teacher at Council Rock High School in Newtown, Pa.

Dominic Ruch, of Feasterville Trevose, Pa., is a Clinical Application Programmer at Covance in Conshohocken, Pa.

2016

Ave Bolli, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a Respiratory Therapist in the Intensive Care nurse at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

Caroline Bisch, of Norristown, Pa., works as a Radiology Tech at Paoli Hospital, Urgent Care, and at the Rothman Institute.

Amanda Martino, of Parlin, N.J., is an auditor at Kreisler Miller Accounting Firm and recently moved to Willow Grove, Pa.

Nilam Patel, of Doylestown, Pa., is a Registered Nurse at Dock Woods Community in Lansdale, Pa.

Caroline Roberts, of Lansdale, Pa., is a Registered Nurse at Ideal Image.

Nina Robinson, of Bristol, Pa., is an English teacher at Pennsbury High School in Levittown, Pa.

Ronit Sharma, of Perkasie, Pa., is a Registered Nurse at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, Pa.

We want to hear from you!

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

In Memoriam



October 22, 1947 - January 22, 2017

Judy Gallagher Winterhalter influenced and touched the lives of countless students at Gwynedd Mercy University where she was a longtime faculty member in the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions. For more than three decades, Judy inspired new generations of nurses with her devotion to the vocation and her dedication to her students.

Upon her retirement in 2011, Judy was honored as Professor Emeritus during Commencement. She began her career at GMercyU in 1975 and taught in the nursing program since 1978. During her time here, Judy was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award numerous times and co-founded GMercyU's Adult Health Center in Lansdale. There, Judy provided psychiatric mental health care to the underserved North Penn community.

Dean of the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions Andrea Hollingsworth was Judy's best friend. The pair met when they were young nursing instructors at Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in 1972. They quickly became friends and bonded over their love for not only nursing, but teaching.

"She taught with dedication and compassion. When she sensed that new students were nervous or anxious about starting graduate school she would joke, 'don't worry, I've never lost a student yet'," Dean Hollingsworth said.

Judy was more than just a professor to her students, she was a role model and a source of guidance.

"Judy combined being a teacher and a mentor for her students. She challenged them while providing the inspiration and tools to succeed," GMercyU alum Barbara Tournier '93 said. "Judy invited back former students to describe their current roles as an MSN. This not only motivated her students but created an awareness of various career opportunities available to them. Her many gifts to us will live on. We were blessed to have Judy in our lives."

The Judy Gallagher Winterhalter Endowed Graduate Nursing Scholarship was created in her honor to support outstanding graduate students enrolled in GMercyU's Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions. Contact Jill Dow at 215-542-4661 or dow.j@gmercyu.edu for more information.

Frances A. Brouse '88, of Brunnerville, Pa., passed away on August 30, 2016.

Sheila Centore Wall '02, of Maple Glen, Pa., passed away on September 8, 2016.

Margaret "Peggy" Reddy Daly '72, of Egg Harbor, N.J., passed away on September 12, 2016.

Julia Acchione Dolan '62, of Springfield, Pa., passed away on September 29, 2016.

Marlent Rita Lux '65, of Sarasota, Fla., passed away on October 8, 2016.

Mary Jeanne McBride Gavin '89, of Dana Point, Calif., passed away on November 1, 2016.

Christine Mattox '96, of Swedesboro, N.J., passed away on November 23, 2016.

James L. Harris '11, of Levittown, Pa., passed away on December 3, 2016.

Martha Nocetera Gumble '65, of Honesdale, Pa., passed away on January 2, 2017.

Patrick Buday '82/'87, of Pottstown, Pa., passed away on January 6, 2017.

Lorna Collier '89/'95/'99, of Lansdale, Pa., passed away in January 2017.

"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.edu/giving-gmercyu or contact Jill Dow dow.j@gmercyu.edu or 215-542-4661.





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HOME COMING 2017

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

Be sure to check the website for more information:
www.gmercyu.edu/news-and-events

