My niece is getting married in late August, and like any doting aunt, along with my sister and sister-in-law, we planned a bridal shower for Julia. As we finalized all the details, Julia suggested that she hoped we would consider a display shower, aka, green shower. Now over the years, I have attended many bridal showers, but a green shower was new to the aunts. After much “Googling”, we learned all about the rationale for no more lovely wrapping paper, pretty ribbons and bows, ceremonial gift opening, record keeping, paper plate bouquets, predictions about number of children and more. With equal amounts of trepidation and creativity, in particular about expressions of acknowledgement and gratitude to our guests, we let go of some of the old and welcomed the new.

As I reflect on the many changes and transitions at Gwynedd Mercy University, I can’t help but reflect on one of Catherine McAuley’s letters to Mary Anne Doyle, in Tender Courage, where Sister Isabelle Keiss paints a picture of Catherine that is one of “openness to new ideas, the readiness to adapt and assimilate, the ability to learn from the experience of contemporaries and the desire to share that experience with others...” Catherine’s attitude of flexibility and adaptability and reading the signs of the times and the needs of those she was called to serve permeates the culture of Gwynedd Mercy University today.

As we continually evaluate our academic and co-curricular operations and structures to put in place the right infrastructure to support the needs of our times, we have been letting go of some of the old while welcoming some changes. In this undertaking, we have constructed and demolished many facilities; added and deleted academic programs; bid farewell to long-time colleagues and welcomed new ones; demoted the card catalogue and promoted the internet; and so much more.

While acknowledging the many changes made and those yet to come, we stay firmly grounded in our Mercy heritage and traditions. This fall, in order to highlight the Mercy heritage and foundation of our University and give appropriate honor to three great women of Mercy on whose shoulders this University stands, we will rededicate the Lourdes Library in honor of Sister Isabelle Keiss and establish the Keiss Library and Learning Commons. This change will locate her name near the McAuley Academic Center with facilities named after our first two Mercy presidents, Mother Mary Bernard Graham and Sister Mary Gregory Campbell.

Like my niece’s bridal shower, letting go of the old — whether it’s campus facilities, programs, or named locations — brings an opportunity not only to adapt and assimilate but also to strengthen the expression of acknowledgement and gratitude. While change is certainly a constant at GMercyU, we will always acknowledge and appreciate the loyal and dedicated support of our many friends and benefactors.

Kathleen Owens, PhD
President
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On the Cover:
Albert Rementer and Anna Lonergan visited the Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing during their two-week trip to China.

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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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Gwynedd Mercy University held its 65th Commencement ceremony, its first since achieving university status, on May 10. More than 790 associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees were awarded, making the Class of 2014 the fourth largest graduating class in University history. The graduates join the ranks of more than 18,000 alumni across the globe.
Susan Keily
This year’s Commencement address was given by distinguished alumna Susan B. Kelly ’70, the CEO and Founder of the Women With a Cause Foundation. Kelly delivered an inspiring speech, sharing life experiences from her work with Women With a Cause Foundation, which provides economic development programs focused on education and skill training for women that enable them to be lifted out of poverty and lead them to self-sufficiency. As an ordained minister, Keily has dedicated her life’s work to the service of others.

Sarah Huskin
Sarah Huskin MS ’14 reflected on her journey at Gwynedd Mercy University and the growth both she and her classmates have endured. She has been employed as a Spanish teacher for the past six years and is committed to serving her local community.

Christie Delhagen
Christie Delhagen ’14 will be traveling to Dublin this summer for the Young Mercy Leaders Conference as a representative of the Alumni Association.
Elizabeth Black, MSN, RN

Elizabeth “Betsy” Black has been a staple in the Frances M. Maguire School of Nursing and Health Professions for the past 40 years. In the fall of 1974, Black joined the nursing faculty, teaching courses in both associate and bachelor-level courses. Black soon became the director of the associate of science in nursing degree program, expanding the program to more than 400 students. Despite her administrative role, Black continued to do what she was most passionate about: teach new nurses.

In 2006, Black developed and led the first international service trip for nursing students in the bachelor’s program and has led the spring break service trip to the Dominican Republic every year since. The trip has grown exponentially, something Black could only dream of eight years ago.

“I think students are seeing more of an international perspective and recognizing how important it is. It shows you that just because something is small to begin with, doesn’t mean it can’t become important to all who participate: the individuals, the school, and then of course, most importantly, the people we serve down there,” Black said.

Black’s high quality of teaching was recognized by her students and colleagues in 1998 when she received the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching. Black plans on continuing to pursue her passion in retirement by teaching online courses.

Carol Breslin, PhD

Carol Breslin, PhD, has served Gwynedd Mercy University for 49 years through her teaching, scholarship, extensive leadership and service. She was promoted to associate professor in 1970 and professor in 1980. As Director of the Honors Program for 18 years, Dr. Breslin developed a reputation for rigorous intellectual education. Through her passion for literature and writing, she instilled a love of learning in her students who see the ideas, style and language of literature in new ways.

“I think I’m most proud of the product, all of the students who are Mercy nurses. That’s the thing with all of the graduates. It’s knowing that if I go into a hospital around here, I hope I get a Gwynedd nurse because they are good nurses.” ~ Elizabeth Black

“‘I am most proud of and grateful for the confidence of the Sisters of Mercy who hired me, an inexperienced and very young English teacher.’ ~ Carol Breslin

Dr. Breslin has served on key University committees, including Faculty Council, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Scholarship Committee and the Task Force on Faculty and Academic Excellence. She also served as advisor to The Gwynermican staff for 38 years.

Along with her husband, Dr. Breslin plans to travel to places she has only read and taught about, places like Greece and the windy plains of Troy and spend more time with her four children and seven grandchildren.

Ann Cusano, MS

Ann Cusano has exhibited genuine care and compassion through her teaching and service at Gwynedd Mercy University since 1988. As the primary didactic instructor and laboratory director for the second year of the Respiratory Care Program, Cusano took pride in prepping and nurturing budding nurses. Each year, Cusano served as the faculty facilitator and organizer for “The Great American Smokeout,” a campus-wide event that raises awareness for lung health and promotes smoking cessation.

Throughout her time at the University, Cusano served on a number of key committees and professional organizations including the Wellness Committee, Educational Review Committee, General Education Task Force and Faculty Council. She also served as Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Society for Respirator Care’s (PSRC) Publication Committee and Editor of PS News and as Co-Chair of the PSRC Eastern Regional Meeting.

“She has a passion for literature that students find contagious, and as an advisor and teacher, she has inspired many to challenge themselves to pursue their own passions,” Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Lisa McGarry said.

Dr. Breslin is an esteemed scholar whose command of her intellectual discipline is extensive, and her scholarship is consistent and varied. She is currently working on a Pearl S. Buck anthology for Mellen Press. Her students and colleagues have recognized her with a Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching.

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Katherine Hylinski, MEd

Katherine Hylinski has served Gwynedd Mercy University for 23 years through her teaching, leadership and student mentoring. She began at the University first as an instructor, and then was promoted to assistant professor.

The real-world experience educating young people that Hylinski brought to Gwynedd Mercy University made her an invaluable guide and model for her students, conducting her classes creatively and holding her students to the highest professional standards.

“She has provided outstanding service to our students on their journey to become excellent educators and has served the School of Education with complete dedication,” Dean of the School of Education Dr. Sandra Mangano said.

In 1999, she founded the Gwynedd Mercy chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (GMAEYC), an organization of undergraduate education majors that has sponsored numerous activities, conducted fundraisers and collected materials in support of agencies connected with early childhood education.

She also created an Early Childhood Advisory Board to plan, implement and evaluate current issues in education. Hylinski has served on key University committees, including Faculty Council. She developed student leadership through planning and implementing community outreach services to St. Malachy’s School and Head Start.

Hylinski plans on continuing to be part of the University community and develop future educators through participation in GMAEYC and other events on campus.

Edward J. Miller, PhD

Edward Miller, PhD, has served Gwynedd Mercy University for 22 years through his teaching, research and leadership. He began as an associate professor in 1992 and was promoted in 1995 to professor.

His oversight of the religious studies curriculum has ensured its breadth, depth and rigor, as well as its alignment with Roman Catholic doctrine and Catholic social teaching. Colleagues have described Miller as a clear and active exemplar as a scholar who excels at teaching.

Dr. Miller was one of the founding faculty members of the Honors Program, and has taught half of the courses in the program. In creating the Honors Program, he drew on his experiences teaching PhD seminars and as chair of a doctoral program.

“My experience at other universities to draft a new employee handbook in the mid-1990s.

Colleagues of Dr. Miller have lauded his leadership in faculty governance with his service on numerous committees and his help in shaping faculty policy and procedure. Dr. Miller used his more than 20 years of experience at other universities to draft a new employee handbook in the mid-1990s.

He plans to continue research and publishing, and has just finished editing a book. He plans to write a memoir next. This fall he will present a paper at a conference in Paris.

“I will miss seeing on a regular basis some cherished colleagues. But there is another answer that is true for me, and I really think true for most retirees if they would admit it. One misses the daily structuring of one’s life that is provided by going into work every day and interacting with a larger range of people than happens in full retirement. Don’t get me wrong. The retired life is better than the grind of a daily job. Retired life is slower, more relaxed, open to free choices made on a whim, and so forth. But a structured lifestyle can get to be missed, too, and in honest moments a retiree will say so.” ~ Edward Miller

“I will sincerely miss my colleagues who have been a constant inspiration and support to me. They truly demonstrate the Mercy spirit as they always put students first. I look forward to a slower pace and more time spent with my friends and growing family. We now have our first grandchild, Sophie Jo, who has given us much joy!” ~ Katherine Hylinski

Dr. Miller is a prolific scholar, and has earned a reputation as a teacher who challenges his students to think independently and to question all assumptions.

“I feel that I have learned as much from my students as they did from me. My students became a part of my family and I have treasured watching them grow into valuable healthcare professionals over the years. Teaching was truly a labor of love and I will hold all of my students in my heart forever.” ~ Ann Cusano

Cusano and her husband have permanently relocated to Florida just outside of Disney World where they hope to spend many magical moments with their three grandchildren.

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Mercy on the Mainland

By: Kirsten Swanson
Jet lagged after traveling more than 7,000 miles over the course of three days, Albert Rementer and Anna Lonergan stood atop one of the Seven Wonders of the World thinking, “Am I dreaming?” They would utter words of amazement many times during their two-week tour through China, but nothing would compare to overlooking the Great Wall of China.

“I sort of just stood there like, ‘This is unbelievable. I can’t believe I’m standing here.’ It’s something you only see in books and TV, and then when you’re there, it’s completely different,” Rementer said.

Rementer and Lonergan were the recipients of the scholarship competition put forth by President Kathleen Owens, PhD, to send two students to China as part of Gwynedd Mercy University’s new partnership with Benedictine University in Chicago and three other Catholic universities.

The two-week trip started off with an orientation for the students at Benedictine University and just two days later, they boarded the Boeing 777 to Beijing. The travelers, made up of students and faculty members from Benedictine and students from Alvernia University in Reading and Gwynedd Mercy University, made their way through Beijing, Dalian, and Xi’an visiting historic sites such as The Forbidden City, The Imperial Palace, and Summer Palace, a masterpiece Chinese landscape garden design with palaces, lakes and gardens.

Prior to the trip, the students participated in a course on Chinese literature and film.

Rementer and Lonergan took part remotely, only communicating with Benedictine professors Dr. Steven Day, Dr. Tim Goines and Assistant Director of the Study Abroad and Exchange Programs Marc Davidson via Email.

The partnership between Gwynedd Mercy University and Benedictine University began in the 2013-14 school year. Benedictine University has cultivated a strong relationship with Chinese universities for the past decade, hosting Chinese students and sending American students to China through their international programs.

Benedictine University President William J. Carroll, PhD, reached out to several Catholic universities across the United States to create a consortium that will appeal to Chinese universities. As a result, Gwynedd Mercy University, Alvernia University, Mount St. Mary’s College in Newburgh, N.Y., University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and Benedictine University formed “The Alpha Group.”

The premise behind the consortium is to entice Chinese universities to send students to the United States to study. While the safe campuses and morally-based curriculum of Catholic universities are vital for Chinese families, an institution with less than two thousand students isn’t a huge draw considering China’s “small” universities can boast more than twenty thousand students. By the five schools partnering, they are able to offer Chinese students a variety of degree programs while shaking the diminutive stereotype.

New Perspective
their voyage. The only thing they wanted more than to have fun was to represent Gwynedd Mercy University proudly.

“Not only was this trip for ourselves, it was for the school. To see how well it goes, five schools were watching us. That put a little bit of pressure on us but it was an unbelievable experience for us as a whole,” Rementer said.

Whether it was tobogganing down the side of The Great Wall of China or learning the art of tai chi in the Temple of Heaven Park, every second of the trip was filled with a memorable moment. None more memorable than the afternoon spent at two elementary schools in the migrant village outside of Beijing.

The migrant village is not part of the city; therefore, the residents aren’t able to receive the many benefits Beijing has to offer, specifically the school system. Instead, hundreds of children attend one-room schoolhouses run by non-governmental organizations that are dedicated to providing Chinese children with an education.

Despite the bleak conditions, the children were happy and eager to learn. It was the travelers’ responsibility to teach the children a lesson, but the lesson the children taught them was much greater.

“Children are smarter than us. While it was obvious we were different, they did not judge or shy away out of fear of the unknown. Instead, they jumped into teaching us games where language did not matter because laughter and having fun are universal,” Lonergan said. “If only adults were able to maintain this sense of innocence, curiosity and willingness to engage new people, then many biases and cultural divides would not exist.”

As a parting gift, the travelers gave the children pencils and notebooks. At first the children wouldn’t accept them, as they thought they were too extravagant. After some convincing, the children accepted but wouldn’t use them until their old pencils wore down to nothing.

“Just seeing that definitely changed my whole thought process on life,” Rementer said. “Seeing how happy they were with what they had, and then I look back on the life I have and how lucky I am. I was taken aback from it. That’s where I got my culture shock.”

The Alpha Group

With their feet planted back on American soil, The Alpha Group is moving full-steam ahead on future initiatives, including a “Study Across America MBA,” which would allow Chinese students to come to at least two of the five campuses, over the course of their study.

Gwynedd Mercy University’s School of Business anticipates partnering with Shanghai University of Economics and Finance and perhaps other Chinese universities to offer a “3 + 2.5” program which will have Chinese students take the first three years of study in China, then come here to complete both their undergraduate degree and their MBA, ending up with three degrees: one from Shanghai University and two from Gwynedd Mercy University.

The Alpha Group is currently recruiting in China for students to study in America no matter what their area of study is and for a summer institute in 2015.

“There is a lot we have to offer. They are very interested in coming over and exploring American history, and the birthplace of America is in our own backyard,” Dean of the School of Business Dr. Heather Pfleger said. “Plus, we are relatively small and an extremely safe campus. That is something that is very important to the Chinese market. The fact that we are grounded in the Mercy tradition is another distinctive advantage.”

In just a few short months, The Alpha Group has already made life-changing impacts on students. The nerves that crept in before boarding that Boeing 777 are forgotten as Rementer and Lonergan reflect on the trip. They finish each other’s sentences, sharing their favorite memories. After almost every story, they both say, “I would go back tomorrow.”

To learn more about GMercyU’s China excursion, visit Albert and Anna’s blogs!

Albert’s blog

Anna’s blog

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NBA Internship a Slam Dunk for COMM Student

By: Alyssa Mease

When AnaLee Rodriguez ’15 was younger, her dad would dress her up in Michael Jordan basketball jerseys and sneakers and buy her WNBA Barbie Dolls. He loved all sports, she said, but especially basketball.

He passed on that love of sports to Rodriguez, who interned with ESPN’s 97.5 The Fanatic in Philadelphia and the Trenton Thunder, the Class AA Affiliate of the New York Yankees. But this summer, Rodriguez landed her dream internship doing graphic design work at the NBA front offices in New York City.

“My dad’s passion for the sport and league quickly became mine. My dad says I have taken our passion to a whole new level,” Rodriguez said.

The senior communications major and graphic design minor was one of 54 interns selected from a pool of about 3,000, and the only intern selected to work for the graphic design team. She credits her classes and activities at Gwynedd Mercy University with helping her gain the confidence and skills needed to land her dream internship.

“As a freshman, I was a really shy person but always had the will to try something new to better myself. Now, I am an outgoing leader who does not shy away from challenges, and continues to grow as a student and individual,” Rodriguez said.

During her time at Gwynedd Mercy University, Rodriguez has demonstrated her will to succeed. In February, she beat the University’s track and field four-year-old shot put record, with a career-best throw of 10.71 meters or 35 feet, 1 ¾ inches. Rodriguez also serves as a Resident Assistant, is Editor-in-Chief of The Gwynmercian, the student newspaper, and she is a Co-President of Sigma Phi Sigma, Gwynedd Mercy University’s chapter of the National Mercy Honor Society.

All of the confidence Rodriguez has developed has helped her pitch design ideas to the NBA partners and executives. She has helped to set up Adidas photo shoots and partnered with NBA players to volunteer with NBA Cares, the league’s outreach initiative.

“I guess my inner GMercyU Griffin will always show through my passion for helping others,” Rodriguez said.

The event Rodriguez was most excited for was the NBA Draft, the annual event where the league’s 30 teams elect new players from a pool of prospective candidates. She helped to set up and make sure the NBA’s logo and signage were properly placed at the Barclay Center in Brooklyn.

“The motion graphics that are placed around the Barclays Center, on ESPN, the still graphics on posters and signs were all done by my department,” Rodriguez said. “My favorite part was seeing everyone from all of the departments come together to create the world-wide known event.”

Officials at the NBA knew how excited all of the interns would be about the Draft, so they staged a mock Draft for the NBA Internship Roster during the interns’ first week on the job. Rodriguez was picked in the first round, as the 13th overall pick.

“I knew I wanted to go into sports broadcasting. I also knew I wanted to incorporate my creativity into my occupation and career, and having the opportunities to try both at elite sports organizations helped me solidify my future aspirations,” Rodriguez said.
Today

Their patients may be behind bars, but for nurses working in correctional facilities across the United States, inmates are simply patients who require their expert care and attention. With more than two million men and women in American prisons, the need for correctional nurses is as high as ever, but due to lack of knowledge and awareness, misconceptions are pushing students away from pursuing careers in this challenging field.

Gwynedd Mercy University is striking down those misconceptions by exposing students to the needs surrounding nursing and health care delivery within prisons. President Kathleen Owens, PhD, awarded Patricia Brown O’Hara, PhD ’80, Walter Zdunowski, Jean Michiels and Ann McGinn, PhD, with a Mini Grant to pursue their project, “Enhanced Understanding of Correctional Nursing through Inter-professional Education.”

Through class lectures, guest speakers and visits to correctional facilities, nursing students pair up with criminal justice students to take a deeper look into the history of the prison system, the unique atmosphere of correctional facilities and what needs to be done to solve the health crisis within.

“In today’s climate of multiculturalism, there is increasing emphasis from health care providers and organizations for nurses to provide culturally competent care,” Dr. O’Hara said.

The idea of being culturally aware extends to our nation’s prisons, and as a result, educators are starting to establish curriculums specific to the correctional nursing environment.

Everything Joe Miller, junior nursing student, knew about health care in prisons came from TV and movies. Going into the program, Miller thought correctional nurses did nothing more than stitch up a cut after a fight or hand out medicine. This course was an eye-opener.

“Many inmates have health issues that they have neglected to seek help for before even being incarcerated. I was surprised to see how much mental illness impacts the prison community and the steps they take to prevent those affected by it,” Miller said.

On any given day, correctional nurses can treat patients with mental illness, diabetes and even HIV. Aside from having to handle a variety of health concerns, nurses walk a fine line when interacting with patients. “We are taught in school that a strong nurse/patient relationship must be formed to facilitate the healing process. The nurses we interviewed had to keep this type of barrier in the relationship that you wouldn’t see so much in nurses in hospitals,” Miller said.

The difference in the way correctional nurses handle their patients is part of providing culturally competent care. “Nurses aren’t expected to have knowledge of all cultures, but they should be aware of the impact of culture on behavior and know how to obtain knowledge of cultural influences that affect groups with whom they most frequently interact,” Dr. O’Hara said.

When creating this program, Dr. O’Hara wanted her nursing students to realize there was a world outside of hospitals. After the completion of the Spring 2014 semester, three junior nursing students sought correctional nursing positions. In March 2014, a panel presentation by two prison wardens and two correctional nurses was attended by more than 60 students. The hope is this course will continue to grow and help recruit and retain incoming and current students.

“This grant helps students open up the door to new ideas for different jobs that they never even thought of. I talked to some student nurses and they never even thought of being prison nurses,” Zdunowski said. “The good thing is they are a captive audience but they are an audience that has the opportunity to help people who never had that type of care before.”

“Many inmates have health issues that they have neglected to seek help for before even being incarcerated. I was surprised to see how much mental illness impacts the prison community and the steps they take to prevent those affected by it.”
Joe Romano’s love of baseball began when he was a boy. He played on the varsity team in junior high school, in a semi-professional league in high school, and then after he was sidelined by an injury, worked as a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies.

He would watch both professional games and little league games with the same concentration, and his Ambler apartment was scattered with records of players and games he’d seen.

So when Gwynedd Mercy University – just a few minutes away from his apartment – established its baseball program in 1999, Romano became a regular at home games.

Coach Paul Murphy remembers having a conversation with Romano about what equipment the baseball team could use. Almost 15 years later, Murphy was told that Romano, who passed away in August 2013, had left a $10,000 bequest to the University’s baseball program.

“I was floored. I was totally floored by it,” Murphy said of the gift.

Plans are underway to use the donation to build two batting tunnels so players can practice hitting in inclement weather.

“The lasting impact of bequests helps to shape the University experience for students for years to come. Naming GMercury in your will as Mr. Romano did costs nothing now, yet it gives a sense of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on,” Director of Development Jill Dow said.

Murphy’s relationship with Romano goes back more than 25 years, to when Murphy was playing baseball at St. Joseph’s University. Romano told the eager pitcher to take care of his arm. The two crossed paths later when Murphy started working as a scout for the Chicago Cubs and Romano was scouting for the Phillies.

“I would say to everyone in the area, ‘If you want to know about a kid, call Joe Romano,’” Murphy said.

After Murphy took the job as the Griffins’ coach, he would pay close attention when Romano told him of a promising player.

“I might not even see them, but I’d be on the phone trying to recruit them based on the fact Joe saw them and said they were good,” Murphy said.

Romano’s love of baseball ran deep. He played semi-professional ball in high school, earning $5 an hour. After a knee injury ended his career, he went into the produce business with his brothers. Together, they ran Norristown-based Romano Brothers Inc. for 40 years.

But Romano never shook his love of baseball, and in the 1970s, he bought a Detroit Tigers affiliate in Erie, Pa. and a Boston Red Sox affiliate in Elmira, N.Y.

“He just ate, drank and breathed baseball,” his niece Joan Romano said. “He had this deep encyclopedic knowledge of the game and the players.”

In 1983, Romano began scouting for the Phillies in the mid-Atlantic region, but spent time in Costa Rica with former Phillies shortstop and first baseman Ruben Amaro, Sr. He had a home in Clearwater, Fl. – where the Phillies hold spring training – and he’d scout for talent there, too.

“He’d go out 10 in the morning and be home at 11, 12 at night. Then he’d do book work about the games, the players he’d seen,” his brother-in-law Michael Romano said.

As he got older and was unable to drive, the Phillies hired a driver to take him to games.

Romano’s family said he always gave them Phillies gear he had collected during his time with the team.

“I feel like every time he saw us he was passing us more Phillies gear,” his great-nephew Michael Moore said.

Romano was inducted into the American Legion Hall of Fame, and was honored by the Middle Atlantic Major and Minor League Scouts Association, the Florida Diamond Club and the Triangle Sports Club.
Game, Set, Match

History was made this season when Rachel Fein ‘14 and Peter Brzezinski ‘16 were named The Colonial States Athletic Conference [CSAC] Tennis Player of the Year.

Fein, of Blue Bell, Pa., and Brzezinski, of Hatboro, Pa., were recognized for their outstanding play in the CSAC, making Gwynedd Mercy University the first school to have players from both the men’s and women’s teams receive the honor.

Fein graduated in May 2014 as a four-time CSAC Player of the Year, winning both Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in 2010. Fein finished her collegiate career with a 78-9 singles record and 69-8 doubles record while remaining undefeated in the CSAC, never losing a single match in four seasons.

“There will never be another Rachel in our conference,” Head Coach Jim Holt said. “She is incredibly talented, the best player in conference, even the top team [Neumann]. It wasn’t even close. He was the clear-cut winner for Player of the Year; it was unanimous.”

Fein received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a minor in special education this past spring, boasting a 3.78 grade point average. Fein was named the 2013-14 CSAC Co-Female Scholar Athlete of the Year along with Gwynedd Mercy University’s Female Senior Scholar Athlete. While her plan is to secure a full-time teaching job, her former coach has something else in mind.

“Deep down, I’d like her to get a job but hope she finds something part time so she can be one of my coaches,” Holt said.

The other half of Gwynedd Mercy University’s dynamic duo still has two years left to fill out his resume, but Brzezinski has already left his mark on the men’s tennis program. Brzezinski went undefeated in conference play, going 7-0 at #1 singles and also earned an honor roll nod in doubles with sophomore Alexander Channick as the pair compiled a 5-2 mark at #1 doubles.

Brzezinski helped the Griffins earn a playoff bid as the #4 seed in the CSAC Tournament where top-seeded and eventual CSAC Champions, Neumann University, knocked them out. In the 5-2 decision, Brzezinski won at #1 singles and #1 doubles with sophomore Brandon Rodriguez.

Like Fein, Holt had Brzezinski on his radar when the young player was just a freshman at Hatboro-Horsham High School. “He basically took lessons out of the same club that I work at,” Holt said. “Peter demolished the league, even the top team [Neumann]. It wasn’t even close. He was the clear-cut winner for Player of the Year; it was unanimous.”

Since joining Gwynedd Mercy University, Holt has earned numerous coaching awards, including CSAC Coach of the Year six times, United States Tennis Association Middle States College Coach of the Year in 2009 and Philadelphia Area Tennis District Coach of the Year in 2010.

Being the seasoned player and coach that he is has enabled Holt to get the best out of his players.

“Coach Holt has done nothing but support me for the past four years both physically, mentally, and emotionally as well. He may not believe this but he has really helped me to pull out a few wins that I felt may not have happened,” Fein said.

Despite his own accolades, Holt is quick to give credit to his coaching staff. “In essence we have five coaches, all of which are knowledgeable. Three [coaches] are volunteer which shows the dedication. To me, if you are volunteering that sort of time, you are doing it from your heart because you love the game,” Holt said.

The women’s team was just one of the two Philadelphia area schools to make the NCCA tournament in 2014. The other was the Neumann University’s men’s program, both Division III schools. Holt, along with Assistant Head Coach John Magee, and Assistant Coaches Jim Holt Sr., Holt’s father, Lingo Kong and retired Gwynedd Mercy University faculty Bruce Taylor, EdD, has high expectations for both teams.

“For the women, anything less than a championship, is an unsuccessful season,” Holt said. “For the men, we lost in the playoffs this year to the eventual champions, but it wasn’t a blowout. So, if we can get to the finals, I can live with that.”

With two seasons under his belt and a stack of personal accolades to his credit, Brzezinski knows what it takes to win and he isn’t going to settle for second place.

“I definitely have very high expectations going into next year for our team and myself,” Brzezinski said. “We have a good shot at winning the league next year and anything short of that would be a disappointment.”

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Men’s Basketball

Finishing with a solid 15-3 record in conference play and 19-7 overall, the Griffins earned the second seed in the CSAC Tournament. The Griffins finished strong, winning six of their last seven games, but lost in the semi-finals to Neumann University. Freshman forward Arron Goodman averaged 19.9 points and 10 rebounds per game, shooting over 50% from the field. Goodman collected nine double-doubles and posted two 30-point plus games, earning him a spot on the CSAC second team. Sophomore Darnell Artis, the 2012-13 CSAC Rookie of the Year, continued his impressive play, averaging 12.1 points per game and leading the team with 46 three-pointers. Artis earned his first first-team selection, ranking in the top 10 in the CSAC in assists and three-pointers and 16th in shooting. Consistency was the key for the Griffins, thanks in part to junior Justin Knight who played in all 25 games, leading the team with 40 steals and averaging 13.4 points, five rebounds, and three assists per game. With the young team still intact, they are positioned to succeed in 2014-2015.

Women’s Basketball

Coming off back-to-back seasons of playing for the CSAC Championship, there were high expectations for the women’s basketball team. After a rocky start, the Griffins bounced back by winning 10 of their last 13 games. Senior Nicole Dougherty led the team in scoring (averaging 11.7 points per game) and led the CSAC in free throw percentage (84.2%), going 76-for-90 at the line. In the midst of their six-game winning streak, Dougherty posted her first career double-double on February 12 at Rosemont College. She was named to the CSAC second team while junior Natasha Matthews earned an honorable mention nod. The Griffins fell short of reaching the conference championship. It was the final season for the team’s three seniors; Dougherty, Jordan Dominic, and Lauren Smith. In their four seasons, the trio won a CSAC Championship in 2012, earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament and combined for 70 wins.

Men’s Lacrosse

The Griffins claimed the CSAC Championship, finishing the season with an 8-6 record. The Griffins outscored opponents 123-41, averaging 15 goals per game. At the helm was freshman and the CSAC Rookie of the Year, Marc Bushong, who led the team and tied the school record with 20 caused turnovers and 56 ground balls. He is the first Gwynedd Mercy University freshman to be named First Team All-CSAC. Sophomore Tony McCraw topped the conference in faceoff percentage (.663) and in groundballs per game (8.38 gpg), while totaling 32 goals and six assists. His performance also earned him a spot on the first team. The Griffins said goodbye to three seniors: Mason Risner, Mark Vattilana, and Anthony Scardina. Risner finished his collegiate career atop the record books as the all-time goal scorer in program history with 99 tallies. CSAC named him to the second team, along with juniors Nico Belardo and Matt Richter. Vattilana was chosen to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

Women’s Lacrosse

The 2014 season was the first for head coach Stephanie Markunas. The Griffins made it into the CSAC Tournament where they fell to Immaculata, 18-12. The Griffins bid farewell to their five seniors: Amy Powell, Elizabeth Rand, Theanna Longo, Gina Febbo and Erin Janzekovich, but are looking forward to next season. Junior Kesley Yori led the league in goals (68) and points (83), which ranked her among the top 10 in all Division III, and among the leaders in groundballs and draw controls. In eight conference games this season, Yori totaled 38 goals and six assists. She was recognized by the conference when she was selected first-team all-conference along with freshman Haley Williams, who was selected to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Baseball

The Griffins took to the sunshine state over their Spring Break to kick off their 2014 season, finishing the Central Florida Invitational with a 4-3 record. A 20-18-1 record led them to the CSAC Championship, where they were defeated by Keystone College. Senior Captain Dante Cassano led the team with 39 runs scored and 30 RBI while batting .339. He surpassed the 100 career RBI mark in April, making him the ninth player in school history to do so. Freshman
Today

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Frank Saviski was selected as the CSAC Rookie of the Year and named to second team as he finished the season batting .362 with 11 doubles, two triples and 30 RBI. Also on the second team was Cassano, junior Eric Heaney and sophomores Andrew Hill and Mike Marchitto. Hill worked his way into the starting rotations and finished with a 4-0 record with a .50 era in 13 appearances. Behind the plate, senior John Burns batted .364 in 33 with 27 runs, four home runs and a .617 slugging percentage at the plate, but behind it he had a .985 fielding percentage which earned him a spot on the first team. Senior Ryan Haley was named to the CSAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Softball

With just three upperclassmen on the squad, growing pains were to be expected for the youth-laden softball team. The Griffins bounced back from a losing streak by winning six straight conference games, finishing the season 12-10 against the CSAC. Despite the rocky season, the team earned the sixth playoff seed, but fell to third-seeded Immaculata in the opening round of the CSAC Tournament. Senior Stephanie Farrar finished her career as a four-time all-conference selection, her third straight second-team nod. She led the CSAC in triples (7) and led the Griffins with 36 hits, 14 extra base hits while batting .391. Sophomore Kesley McDonough joined Farrar on the second team as she battled through injuries to hit .394 with a team-leading 20RBI, .727 slugging and .494 on-base percentage.

Men’s Tennis

For the first time in the program’s history, a Griffin was named the CSAC Men’s Tennis Player of the Year. Sophomore Peter Brzezinski earned the honor after going undefeated in conference play, 7-0 at #1 singles. His performance helped the Griffins secure the fourth seed in the CSAC Team Tournament, but they were knocked out by top-seeded Neumann University. Brzezinski picked up both of their wins at #1 singles and #1 doubles with sophomore Brandon Rodriguez. Rodriguez and sophomore Alexander Channick also earned all-league accolades as they garnered honorable mention status. Both were 5-2 in conference play with Channick at #2 and Rodriguez at #4. The duo of Brzezinski and Channick also nabbed an honor roll nod in doubles as they compiled a 5-2 mark at #1 doubles.

Men’s Track & Field

The Griffins kicked off the 2013-2014 indoor season with a strong showing at the Ursinus College Bow-Tie Invitational. Sophomore Zakiiyah Richardson breezed through the 60 meter dash, capturing first place with 7.69 seconds while senior Jasmine Pugh advanced to the finals with a time of 8.03 seconds, helping the team finish 10th of 20 teams. The team set a new program record in the 4x100 meter relay at the 36th Annual Messiah Invitational. Pugh, freshman Cierra Adkins, sophomore Michaela Ng and Richardson cruised to victory in 48.40 seconds, crushing the previous program record of 48.89 seconds. Sophomore Christina Smith also captured top honors in the 1500 meter run, while senior Danielle McCloskey, junior Holly McGarrity and senior Amy Schneider crossed the line first in 9:58.13 in the 4x800 meter relay.

Women’s Track & Field

The women’s track and field team opened the 2013-14 indoor season at the Ursinus College Bow-Tie Invitational. Sophomore Zakiiyah Richardson breezed through the 60 meter dash, capturing first place with 7.69 seconds while senior Jasmine Pugh advanced to the finals with a time of 8.03 seconds, helping the team finish 10th of 20 teams. The team set a new program record in the 4x100 meter relay at the 36th Annual Messiah Invitational. Pugh, freshman Cierra Adkins, sophomore Michaela Ng and Richardson cruised to victory in 48.40 seconds, crushing the previous program record of 48.89 seconds. Sophomore Christina Smith also captured top honors in the 1500 meter run, while senior Danielle McCloskey, junior Holly McGarrity and senior Amy Schneider crossed the line first in 9:58.13 in the 4x800 meter relay.
Sister Ann Quigley ’67 has always been interested in Native American culture. So much so that when she was younger, she checked out every book her local library had on the topic.

But when she was invited to teach on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona in 1994, Sister Quigley learned that the Apache people were, at first, not as interested in her. “It took 10 years for them to start accepting us,” Sister Quigley said. “We stayed with them day by day, and shared their lives the way they live it.”

Sister Quigley and Sister Georgia Greene ’71 lived and taught at the St. Charles School, where Sister Quigley taught 5th and 6th grade and Sister Greene was principal. They adapted to life on the reservation, where electricity is spotty and the only traffic jams involve horses in the road.

There’s one grocery store, a casino and a post office, and the nearest town and Wal-Mart is a 40-minute drive.

The St. Charles School is the only Catholic school on the reservation, and the parents of the 130 students — who mostly live in poverty — negotiate the amount of tuition they pay each year.

“This school is a place that has to be there, you know, because there’s nothing else on the reservation,” Sister Greene said.

The unemployment rate hovers at around 80 percent, and hasn’t changed much since 1994. There are very few businesses open on the reservation, making it difficult for residents to find work. Even working for the reservation is tough because the Tribal Government often runs out of money before the year ends and has to send workers home.

Other persistent problems on the reservation include alcoholism and drug use.

“In the simplicity of the children’s prayers we hear requests: ‘Let my father stop drinking so we can pay our electric bill,’” the Sisters wrote in a letter to supporters in May 2005.

The church collected donations from parishes in Phoenix and Tucson – towns that are each about two hours away. The money was used to help families pay bills, give loans and stock up on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless people who knocked on the church door at night.

“You love them with the face of Christ,” Sister Greene said. “I always knew God had invited me to St. Charles. God and I were working together.”

At Christmas each year, parishioners from Our Lady of Joy parish in Carefree, Ariz. make the two-and-a-half hour drive to the St. Charles School to deliver clothing and gifts to the children, says Barbara Ehrhard, who coordinated the project until last year.
"We could hire a U-Haul and take it all up, but the parishioners really love going, and we probably take 20 vehicles," Ehrhard said. "One year we got them all, I think, 65 bikes for their education program."

Sisters Quigley and Greene also coordinated volunteer groups to help with projects around the school. Bonnie Burdick Waldron ‘60, and her husband, Bill Waldron, have been volunteering for eight years.

Burdick Waldron, a nurse, gives the students eye exams and measures their height and weight and Waldron does whatever is needed, including help Sister Greene hook up 60 donated computers.

"On the first trip home, I wrote in my journal 'This is such a God forsaken place.' And then I put '— no it’s not, because God sent Sister Greene and Sister Quiguley there.' They just made such a difference," Burdick Waldron said.

Poverty in remote San Carlos is vastly different from poverty in urban settings such as Philadelphia or New York City. Steven Rufe ‘12 learned firsthand about those differences when he student taught with Sister Quigley in 2012.

"Without quick and easy access to transportation, public services and even a grocery store, life in poverty in San Carlos is quite difficult. The rural nature of the reservation certainly complicates life for residents," Rufe said.

The harsh reality of life on the reservation was not lost to the Sisters, who often noted the poverty, addiction and homelessness in their letters to friends and families.

"Anger, depression and the web of poverty seem to have trapped these people. We cannot break that web or make choices for them. It is our hope that the children will grow up and remember that there is another way and will have the strength and courage to make changes," the Sisters wrote in a newsletter in May 2007.

Despite what the students faced at home, the Sisters worked to make sure the students felt safe at St. Charles School.

"When they're on that property they're safe, they're loved, they're happy," Sister Greene said.

Both Sister Greene and Sister Quigley left the St. Charles School after the 2012-2013 school year. Sister Quigley is working with students with learning disabilities at Mercy Vocational High School and Sister Greene recently returned from a sabbatical in Ireland. Rufe studied at Teachers College, Columbia University before taking a job at Rice Intermediate School, a public school in San Carlos.  

Sister Georgia Greene explains Apache customs to members of the Our Lady of Joy Parish.
Bill Lolio’s days begin at 6:30 a.m. when he gets out of bed to head to his job as a UPS delivery driver. It’s a tough job, he said, but one that makes him appreciate the sleep he gets each night.

“I run around all day,” Lolio said. “I’ve never had a job in my life where I’m so glad to get home at the end of the day. I’m tired, but it’s a good tired.”

His route begins at 7:30 a.m. and he usually gets home from work around 6:30 p.m. That is, every day except Thursday, when he leaves work at 5:30 p.m. to get to class at Gwynedd Mercy University’s Center City campus.

It’s a schedule the Philadelphia native has been keeping for the past two years, and one that paid off in June when he earned his associate’s degree in Business Administration.

But taking college courses wasn’t something Lolio, 46, always planned to do. He dropped out of high school in the 1980s and originally took the job with UPS because it offered the benefits his young family needed.

“I had the one son, so I started just for the health care,” Lolio said.

Then he considered becoming a Philadelphia police officer — a job that would require him to earn his GED, which he did in 1995. He changed his mind about the career move and stuck with his UPS job, which he enjoys.

Two years ago, Lolio went to work and saw a Gwynedd Mercy University table with information about the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. At first he walked by the table, but he turned around and asked for some information about the programs.

He had talked to his wife before about getting a college education, and when he realized how manageable it would be, he decided to give a Gwynedd Mercy University degree a try.

“I liked the one night a week of class,” Lolio said.

After his Thursday class, he gets home around 11 p.m., which leaves him barely enough time to get some sleep before his alarm clock rings at 6:30 a.m. again on Fridays. The schedule is tough, but he finds time for a break.

“I have a rule. I don’t do anything on Friday night. I don’t go out, I don’t open a book. I just relax,” Lolio said.

He also liked his learning team, a group of two women with whom he would study on the weekend.

“We called ourselves ‘The Weekenders,’” Lolio said. “We will be friends for the next 20 years.”

Lolio plans to get his bachelor’s degree, but he’s going to wait on a promotion at UPS. If he gets promoted to a managerial position, the company will assist with his tuition.

In the meantime, he’ll spend the summer with his wife, Gina, and three sons. His oldest, 22-year-old Bill, is a UPS driver like him. Joey, 18, is headed to the Marine Corps in July and 15-year-old Michael is still in high school.
Dear Alumni,

What a great year! We closed out with Commencement and have added almost 800 new alumni to our Alumni Association! In May, we had a fabulous crowd turn out for the tailgate and Phillies game; and in July, we had a gathering of alumni and friends at our alumni event ‘Down the Shore’ in Sea Isle, NJ. Thanks to everyone who came out to the events.

I am looking forward to this academic year, as it will be filled with a number of activities and events to stay connected. I hope you will join us for Red & Gold Homecoming weekend, September 26-28. If you have to pick only one day, my recommendation is Saturday, September 27. That day, we will offer a variety of sporting events; Fall Festival, featuring a mechanical surf board and zip-lining; tours of our new building, University Hall; an information session on planned giving, an opportunity to meet faculty at our ‘School Row’; an alumni reception with a beer tasting component as well as a Salute to several of our sports champions; and, a Voices of Gwynedd “Best Of” concert! There’s something for everyone!

This year, I invite graduates from 2004-2014, to participate in young alumni events which are part of our new Graduates of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) program. Please contact Alumni Relations for more information and keep your eye out for upcoming events.

Don’t forget to stay connected and informed on upcoming events by visiting our Alumni Events webpage and ‘Liking’ us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and M.E.R.V.’s Alumni Connection.

If you find yourself in Gwynedd Valley, please stop by the University to say hello. It would be my pleasure to give you a tour of our growing campus!

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

GMercyU Alumni hosted an alumni reception down the shore on July 19 in Sea Isle City N.J.
1974

Christine Anderson, of Philadelphia, Pa., is a happily retired physician as of June 2014. She plans on spending her time with her husband, seven grandchildren, and traveling.

1988

Tasos Konidaris, of Cherry Hill, N.J., was recently appointed to the Board of Directors as a non-executive Director and as Chairman of the Audit Committee for Pernix Therapeutics Holdings Inc., in Morristown, N.J.

1998

Sandra Greipp ’85/’87/’98, of North Wales, Pa., is recently divorced.

1999

Jalene Hadly Percy, of Glenside, Pa., is the Staff Development Coordinator at St. Joseph Villa in Flourtown, Pa. This position enables Jalene to share her love for nursing and teaching.

2004

David Dombroski, of Schwenksville, Pa., was named Vice President of Comcast Business for Comcast Cable in its Keystone region.

Cindy Lapinski, of Quakertown, Pa., was appointed as the New Director of Middle School at The Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

2006

Marjorie Whelan, ’04/’06, of Flemington, N.J., achieved her Doctorate in Nursing Practice and is now Board Certified in Neurology. She is a Nurse Practitioner in a Neurology Office.

2011

Brett Bishop, of Sellersville, Pa., recently finished his third year of teaching in Central Bucks School District and completed his second master’s degree.

Sarah Kratz, of Hatfield, Pa., earned her Professional MBA with a concentration in managing human capital from St. Joseph’s University on May 17, 2014.

2012

Scott Shapiro, of Florida, is an Accounting Associate.

2013

Joseph Cherson, of Telford, Pa., is completing his MBA at Northeastern University in Boston, Ma. in Business Administration.

Dominique Randall, of Philadelphia, Pa., is loving his new position as an auditor for the City of Philadelphia.

Cassie Towler, of Wildwood Crest, N.J., recently became the Client Support and Marketing and Social Media Consultant for RealTimeRental. RealTimeRental is a cloud based vacation rental software company based in Ocean City, N.J.

2014

Steven Hull, Philadelphia, Pa., graduated Cum Laude and started personal training school this past summer.

Lynette Padin, of Cherry Hill, N.J., is a reading specialist for the Philadelphia School District.

Throughout the United States and around the world, Gwynedd Mercy University graduates create bright futures. Your participation in the Annual Fund strengthens and expands our academic programs, covers operational expenses, and provides our students with the scholarship funds they need to pursue their passions, change lives and create bright futures.

Just last year, the University granted $14.4 million in scholarships, making it possible for more than 92 percent of our students to gain the best academic and practical experience and successfully follow their desired career paths.

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

Make a greater impact on the world today with your gift to the Gwynedd Mercy University Annual Fund.

To learn more call 215-641-5568 or give online at gmercyu.edu and select Giving.
Overcoming adversity is a trait Michael Daniels witnessed firsthand growing up. His mother, Michalena Daniels ’97/’99, made the gutsy decision to return to school after her job was phased out in 1996 while Michael was in high school. Instead of feeling bad for herself, she turned a negative into a positive and three years later, she tripled her salary by first earning her associate in nursing followed by her bachelor of science in nursing from Gwynedd Mercy University.

Fast-forward 15 years and Michael Daniels is now living in Honolulu on the island of Oahu, helping others overcome their adversities. “I remember how Gwynedd helped my mother and her example of ‘if you want someone to invest in you, you have to be willing to invest in yourself.’ Seeing her example as a teenager drove home those little life lessons,” Daniels said.

To say Daniels is busy is an understatement. He is currently working on several projects, the biggest being with Go For Broke National Education Center where he is the curriculum consultant. Go For Broke refers to the Japanese American experience during World World II, specifically the Nisei Veterans. Despite the harsh conditions, the Nisei Veterans overcame racism to become the most decorated unit in American military history. The non-profit uses the Nisei Veterans’ example to encourage at-risk youths to succeed in life.

“What we’re doing is taking that concept of overcoming adversity. That’s what we’re about at Go For Broke. These kids are living in some not-so-great parts of Hawaii. We’re saying, ‘not that long ago there was somebody in your situation who was dealt a similar hand and this is what they did. You can do the same thing.’ We took the idea that adversity really helps you come out stronger in the end,” Daniels said.

Daniels earned his bachelor’s degree in history from Widener University in 2001 and shortly after, traveled to Japan to work as an English teacher with the Japan Exchanged Teaching Programme (JET). While in Japan, he fell in love with his wife, Jenny Haro Paz, who is from Peru and was there teaching Spanish.

After Daniels returned to the states, Paz joined him and the couple soon married. To ease the travel for family and friends who spanned several continents, they decided to have the ceremony in Hawaii, a place they had never visited. The couple fell in love with the island and vowed to return.

Daniels followed in his mother’s footsteps and enrolled in Gwynedd Mercy University in 2006. He earned his master’s degree in education administration and less than 12 hours after defending his thesis statement, Daniels and his wife were on a flight out of JFK Airport to Hawaii, fulfilling their promise to each other.

Daniels credits Gwynedd Mercy University’s professors, Tom Shugar and John Knebels in particular, for teaching him real-life skills that have translated into his professional career.

“They gave real, practical advice that a lot of other schools aren’t giving their students. I used everything those guys taught me when I had any type of leadership position. A lot of this stuff I learned from them six years ago still holds true. Having that experience made it a really easy move from one end of the country to another; they’re good principles and they’re a really good foundation,” Daniels said.

Along with his position with Go For Broke, Daniels is a Worldwide Support for Development Handa Fellow. He spends up to 60 hours a week developing research to form policy briefs on economic growth through smart investments in education and healthcare.

Daniels has committed his life to helping others by being hands-on, something he learned at Gwynedd Mercy University.

“I would say it was my mom’s example of her going back and mentioning the cool thing about Gwynedd is they’re not afraid to go into neighborhoods and help people,” Daniels said. “I thought that was really cool. You need to bring people up.”

Michael Daniels (far right), along with his parents and wife, at The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, a Department of Defense think-tank that works with Hawaii’s counterparts around the Pacific.
Congratulations!

Engagements, Marriages and Anniversaries

Francesca M. Catalano '09, of Warminster, Pa., is engaged to marry Travis Kinney in June 2015.

Rebecca DeAntonio '11, of West Norriton, Pa., is engaged to marry Charles J. Heaps in June 2015.

Danielle Faulkner '09/11, of Ridley Park, Pa., is engaged to marry Joseph Fischetti in April 2015.

Tamika Jones '14, of Wyncote Pa., is engaged to marry B. Tabbs on Oct. 13, 2014.

Lynette Padin '14, of Cherry Hill, N.J., is engaged to marry Jose Reyes in July 2015 in Mexico.

Lauren Radcliff '13, of Green Lane, Pa., is engaged to marry Jon Tarsitano in September 2014.


Jessica Woodring '12, of Southampton, Pa., is engaged to marry Andrew Larkin in May 2015.

Michael Sweeney '11 married Felicia Biscardi (former student) on April 30, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nev.
Today


Diane Jellen,
of Boca Raton, Fl.

“Why don’t you?”

These three simple words gave Diane Jellen the push to pursue her dream of becoming a college graduate. While working at Merck & Co., Inc., just up the road from Gwynedd Mercy University, Diane started taking night classes at Bucks County Community College. After having success, she quickly transferred to Gwynedd Mercy University where the flexible night classes and the variety of courses fit perfectly into her busy schedule.

As a non-traditional student, Diane is the first to admit that being the oldest student in the classroom can be daunting but her age wasn’t an obstacle with younger classmates. When it came time to picking a leader for their group projects, they always turned to Diane. “That boosts morale for an older person. I think they saw the wisdom there and it made me feel respected. It was a warm, family atmosphere. It was all-encompassing of goodwill,” Diane said.

During her time at Gwynedd Mercy University, Diane was also coping with the recent end to her 28-year marriage. It was then that she realized her struggle with codependency. She sought counseling and has turned this battle into her career and passion. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Diane attended classes for addiction counseling and has worked as a paraprofessional in drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinics.

This year, Diane published a 40-day devotional titled “My Resurrected Heart: A Codependent’s Journey to Healing,” book one of a planned trilogy. The virtue of serving others is special to all those in Mercy, which stuck with Diane.

“I wanted to reach others with that same [message], ‘You’re not alone out there.’ We’re not here for ourselves. We’re here for a purpose and that is to reach out to others,” Diane said. “I saw it in the Sisters but even the professors that were not religious leaders or teachers, they too had a sense of what was moral and what was ethical.”

While Diane is recently retired, she is committed now more than ever to helping others overcome their codependency. As an inspirational speaker, Diane travels around the country to retreat workshops and support groups, sharing her passionate message of encouragement and hope.

Gwynedd Mercy University
cordially invites you to save the date to attend the Classes of 1989 & 1964 Reunions (Formal invitation to follow)

Celebrating 25 & 50 years...
Sunday, October 26, 2014
Gwynedd Mercy University
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If you would like to help plan this wonderful event and be part of the planning committee, please contact Gianna Quinn at 215-641-5554 or quinn.g@gmercyu.edu

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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 or call 215-641-5599. We strive to be as accurate as possible, so if there is an error or omission please contact us.
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Margie celebrating her Nursing Excellence Award with her Gwynedd Mercy University co-workers.
The Griffin is a literary journal sponsored by Gwynedd Mercy University. Its mission is to enrich society by nurturing and promoting creative writing that demonstrates a unique and intelligent voice. We seek writing which accurately embodies or reflects the human condition with all its intellectual, emotional, and ethical challenges. Like the mythical griffin, a constructed creature of fearless strength and courage, we prefer formed works rather than experimental ones.

Manuscripts of literary works – poetry, short stories, short plays, reflections – are accepted for consideration for publication throughout the year. The Griffin is published once a year in the fall.

To view the most recent edition and past issues of The Griffin please visit our Web site at gmercyu.edu/about-gwynedd-mercy/publications. Or, if you are interested in submitting your literary works for consideration in The Griffin, go to gmc.edu/about-gwynedd-mercy/publications/griffin for the guidelines.
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