

Volume 17 | Number 1

Winter 2020

# Georgian Court University Magazine

**Impact 2020:** Renewing the  
Past for Future Generations



## INSIDE:

Launching Businesses  
Before Graduation

Planning the Future  
of GCU





### Dear Alumni, Donors, Students, and Friends:

The start of 2020 was more than the beginning of a new decade here at Georgian Court University. It also ushered in a sense of renewal and a surge of excitement.

Some of that excitement is reflected in the accolades we have recently received. We climbed 31 points to #108 from #139 in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings. The publication also

named us a Top Performer for Social Mobility, given the large number of GCU students who are first in their families to finish college.

Ultimately, all that we do is for students and for the countless ways a Georgian Court education impacts lives. Our traditional annual report has been replaced with *Impact 2020*, which is included in this issue and packed with examples of how donor dollars and alumni support make a difference.

Our achievements and work ahead must be tied to our mission and to our Strategic Compass, which focuses on academics, student experiences, revenue, and efficiency. Our forthcoming master plan (pp. 6-7) will also challenge us to think creatively about new uses for our historic spaces.

We are also introducing new pathways to an undergraduate degree and new degree programs. In the first public-private partnership of its kind in New Jersey, GCU's new 3+1 program will allow Brookdale Community College students to complete an associate degree and work toward their GCU bachelor's degree before leaving Brookdale. For some students, it means finishing a four-year degree at a fraction of the traditional cost. In 2019, we launched GCU's first doctoral program, a Psy.D. in School Psychology, as well as two new master's degree programs—an M.S. in Communication and Digital Marketing and an M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (p. 23).

Bold, creative moves aren't limited to the institution. Students and young alumni (pp. 2-5) are pursuing entrepreneurship with business acumen and social media savvy—before they even graduate. Others, like Dawn Lopez '20 (p. 13), Kaitlin Mulrane '18 and Adam McNeil '17 (pp. 16-17) and Seth Berkman '07 (p. 30) are eager to share what they learned about the world—and themselves—through international experiences.

Indeed, it is an exciting and historic time at Georgian Court. I look forward to sharing our progress with you in future communications and when I see you at **Reunion and Homecoming, October 2-3, 2020.**

*Go Lions!*

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.  
President, Georgian Court University  
P.S. Connect with me on Twitter at @DrJosephMarbach

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# Georgian Court

University Magazine

& IMPACT 2020



## 2

### READY TO LAUNCH

Georgian Court students and alumni are joining the entrepreneurial ranks in the fields of technology, fashion, and graphic design.



## 6

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

How the university will evolve is the focus of the Strategic Compass and a new, evolving campus master plan.

## IN EVERY ISSUE

8 Faculty

13 Student

14 At The Court  
IMPACT 2020

27 Athletics

30 Alumni

From Lakewood to Pyeongchang

Class Notes

Announcements



# READY TO LAUNCH:

## GEORGIAN COURT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ARE JOINING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL RANKS

By Gwen Moran

Recovering from an injury, Georgian Court University junior Bryce Council, a business administration major and sports management minor, thought about the concept of overcoming adversity. As he worked to recover, it occurred to him that launching a brand that inspired people to overcome their challenges would not only be a satisfying endeavor, but it would make a great business. Bryce would routinely say that he was “coming back soon,” when asked about his injury. **That sparked an idea.**

Juniors KJ Speller, Bryce Council, and Randy Simmons Jr. (clockwise from bottom) launched fashion brand CyiSoon in 2018.







*Senior Alex Roman is using her talents and skills learned in her graphic design courses as a freelance designer for local businesses.*

Bryce began discussing the concept with two of his friends—fellow juniors Kim “KJ” Speller, who is majoring in marketing, and Randolph “Randy” Simmons Jr., a digital communication major—and the three began to work on a plan. KJ would manage the website and social media, while Randy would create videos and work on other promotion. Bryce would work on sourcing and designs. And they’d all work together on other aspects of the business.

The result of their collaboration is a new fashion brand, CyiSoon. The name is an acronym for “count yourself in and make something out of nothing,” and the brand’s core message is about believing in yourself, even when everyone counts you out. In less than a year, the business has grown from 12 shirts to a full line of shirts, hoodies, leggings, hats, and shorts. CyiSoon has a growing customer base and ships orders “all over the world,” says Bryce.

## Doing Business, Court-Style

From Microsoft to Facebook to Insomnia Cookies, college dorm rooms have always served as incubators for cutting-edge companies. And Georgian Court has its own population of budding business owners who are working for themselves. Jennifer Edmonds, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business and Digital Media (SBDM), says the school provides an excellent environment for would-be entrepreneurs.

“It’s a combination of a few things. Our mentoring approach to everything—be it coursework or advising or career preparation—provides a hands-on, one-on-one approach,” Dr. Edmonds explains. “It encourages students to be comfortable talking about their creativity, and they’re able to work through the obstacles to what they want to do.”

The school also has a focus on digital development, which lowers the barriers to entry in



starting some businesses. And being in an environment where students have access to exceptional business minds on the faculty, as well as real-world business owners, gives them access to advice and contacts that can help them get their businesses off the ground, she says.

Senior graphic design major Alexandra “Alex” Roman didn’t plan to launch a worldwide enterprise out of her dorm room. But when her sister asked her to create a logo for her horse training and sale business during the summer of her sophomore year, she inadvertently launched a successful freelance design business.

“I’ve designed logos, flyers, and other promotional materials for some local small businesses. Many of them involved horse training and therapy, and because I love animals, it was really enjoyable to create designs that incorporated animals in them,” she says.

She credits her Georgian Court classes with helping her develop the “versatility that is required as a designer. Our professors have helped us to tackle a huge variety of projects, from web design to video editing to typography and beyond, and that helps us build a varied skill set so that we’re ready and willing to tackle any challenges that may come our way with our clients,” she says.

Alex recently took an independent study graphic design class with assistant professor Jinsook Kim, Ph.D. One particularly challenging assignment Alex remembers was a book design. She had come up with a concept, but Dr. Kim pushed her to make it better.

“I ended up doing stuff I never thought I would do otherwise. I was experimenting with 3D forms instead of just a regular magazine template,” she says.

Balancing work for clients and classes isn’t easy, but Alex says it taught her about managing her time and meeting deadlines. And the support system at Georgian Court always makes her feel like she has people in her corner—not to mention that earning money in such a flexible way is helpful as she works on her studies. While she’s not sure if she’ll continue freelancing after she graduates, she says it’s nice to know that she has that option.

## Launching a Business with Class

Taylor Bauerband ’18, ’19 and Nicole “Nikki” Gardner ’18 have known each other since sixth grade. Nikki joined Taylor at Georgian Court during their junior year. The two had many shared interests, including fashion and business. But, like many college students, they found upscale boutiques too pricey. They wanted to create a place where women could find great-looking clothes for reasonable prices. But they assumed that launching a clothing boutique was going to have to wait until they had money.

“We said, ‘We can’t do it when we’re this young, you need to have money first.’ And then, one day it just dawned on us that we can pretty much just do whatever we want and start it now, then see what happens with it. Why do we have to wait for a certain age or have a certain income? Why can’t we just try it now?” says Taylor.

And being students in the SBDM let them merge their business idea with their classroom work. They built the website for their boutique, Girls Next Door, in their e-commerce course and learned how to promote it in their marketing course. Their professors were invaluable, says Nikki.

“It’s not easy to launch a business like this. It’s hard to get people to trust you and get the word out,” Nikki adds. But having their partnership and access to the experience and expertise of their professors helped them create a business that has solid sales and continues to gain a following on social media.

Likewise, as KJ built CyiSoon’s website and social media presence, he also relied on his coursework at Georgian Court and advice from people he met in the industry.

“I just learn every day as I go,” he says.

## An Entrepreneurial Incubator

As advisor to the GCU Business Club, Theodora Sergiou ’92, owner of Toms River-based Nicholas Pools, works to cultivate resources that help student entrepreneurs develop their creative business ideas. As the owner of a successful business, she brings both real-world experience and contacts to the GCU campus. In addition, the Business Club hosts events with successful entrepreneurs who share their insights and advice.





*Alumnae Nikki Gardner '18 (left) and Taylor Bauerband '18, '19 (right) launched their online fashion boutique, Girls Next Door, as undergraduates in December 2017.*

"I had one student last semester who was interested in expanding her dog-walking business and creating an app for it. She has begun working on it and is currently hiring people and expanding her business," says Ms. Sergiou, who is also the internship coordinator for business. Another student launched a handcrafted jewelry business on Etsy. Ms. Sergiou is seeing more interest among students in entrepreneurship, and both the SBDM and Business Club are working to be responsive to those interests.

Dr. Edmonds agrees and says that the school's broad-based areas of study provide fertile ground for innovative minds to bring great ideas to life. Students may study accounting or graphic design, but they're alongside others who are studying business management, public relations, or marketing.

"Students emerge very well-rounded, and that exposure is important for anyone who wants to innovate in a business," says Dr. Edmonds. "The set of disciplines we have under one roof makes it easier for a student to envision all that's possible."

For student entrepreneurs like the founders of CyiSoon, starting a business in school has changed the course of their futures.

"When Bryce came to us with the idea, it all kind of came together. We both came from backgrounds with adversity, and this was a chance to make something good out of it," says Randy.

From Georgian Court to endless possibilities, this comeback is just getting started.





# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: GCU's Strategic Compass and Master Plan

By Gail H. Towns

What does the future of Georgian Court look like? Two words—growth and change. How the university will evolve is the focus of the Strategic Compass and a new, evolving campus master plan, which will be shared later in 2020.

The work to be done is guided by our mission and focused on four compass points: academic excellence, an exceptional student experience, revenue generation and diversification, and operational efficiency/resource utilization.



*In this early vision, architects from Kimmel Bogrette propose rethinking current buildings, restoring one of our historic entrances, and adding a much-needed new academic building.*





Ambitious initiatives are built into the Strategic Compass, with several underway. For example, the university is expanding academic programs to meet employer and market demands. Majors like health professions, health sciences, and the relaunched computer information systems help attract students for emerging fields. Plus, three new graduate programs were approved in 2019.

Beyond traditional academics, the university recently launched the Center for Professional Studies (CPS). Individuals, groups, and corporations can take advantage of more than 100 courses, certification programs, and corporate customized training options.

In addition, a range of comprehensive plans in other critical areas reinforce the Strategic Compass. Among them—aggressive approaches to strengthening enrollment, facilities, information technology, advancement/fund-raising, and human resources.

## Changing Spaces

Creating and launching a campus master plan is all about rethinking GCU's historic campus, current buildings, classroom and non-academic spaces, and the resources needed to make the vision real. At the center of it everything, though, are GCU students and their experience.

"It means thinking differently about our buildings and how they can better serve our students," said GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. "It's possible that we will restore one of our historic entrances and add a much-needed new academic building to campus."

Students, faculty, staff and administrators, and representatives from university archives, facilities, and finance had their say in focus groups last year. The talks were hosted by architects from Kimmel Bogrette, and in Fall 2019, the firm shared an early vision of what is possible for Georgian Court. Kimmel Bogrette continues to work with GCU on next steps.

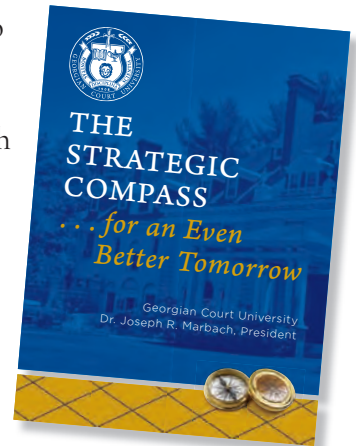
Among the early ideas: modernize the residence halls, create more social and hangout spaces for students, and possibly transform the Casino into a 21<sup>st</sup>-century student center.

Doing so would create an enhanced central gathering place for clubs, organizations, and eateries. Other campus changes might include

- building a new, state-of-the-art health sciences academic building;
- taking a new approach to the campus quad, currently the Italian Gardens;
- repurposing Raymond Hall and the Mansion;
- renovating Maria Hall and St. Joseph's Hall; and more.

"These investments also signal a return to the heart of campus—the historic, physical center of Georgian Court, stretching from the Apollo Fountain to the Casino. Making bold changes are nonnegotiable if we want to thrive and deliver what future students expect from their university experience," said Dr. Marbach.

"The campus master plan is also important as we continue to build and strengthen relationships—on campus, in the community, and with employers," added Provost Janice Warner, Ph.D. "Our plans and the effort we put into them are about coming together for the purpose of meeting student needs. Relationships drive everything we do."



Visit [georgian.edu/strategic-compass](http://georgian.edu/strategic-compass) to read the full Strategic Compass.

## New Faculty at GCU



**Chinenye C. Anako, M.D., M.P.H.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as a clinical lecturer and coordinator of anatomy and physiology. She previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Grand Canyon University and Estrella Mountain Community College. Her current research is on the effect of depression on the autonomic nervous system using heart rate variability (HRV). Dr. Anako received her M.D. and Master of Public Health joint degrees from the University of Arizona.



**Jacqueline M. Arnone, Ph.D., RN**, joined the full-time faculty of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian *Health* School of Nursing this fall as an assistant professor of nursing. She previously served as a visiting assistant professor of nursing for the B.S.N., RN to B.S.N., and D.N.P. programs at Stockton University. She is currently researching baccalaureate nurses' perception of role-play as a teaching strategy in a Psychosocial Nursing course. Dr. Arnone holds a Ph.D. in Nursing Educational Leadership from Kean University and is working on a post-master's certificate as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner from Maryville University.



**Meera R. Behera, Ph.D.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Business and Digital Media this fall as an assistant professor of finance. She most recently served as a part-time lecturer at the Rutgers School of Business in Camden and Newark and as an adjunct professor at Bloomfield College. Her research interests have grown from corporate governance to corporate finance, and her current working project is on capital budgeting. Dr. Behera holds a Ph.D. in Finance from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. in Physics from Berhampur University in India.



**Joshua Burns, D.C., N.D.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of integrative health. He previously served as a member of the alternative medicine faculty at Everglades University in Tampa and as an adjunct faculty member at Saint Leo University in San Antonio, Florida. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Dr. Burns holds a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from the National University of Health Sciences in Florida and a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine degree from the National University of Health Sciences in Illinois.



**Mark Clauburg, Ed.D.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Business and Digital Media this fall as an assistant professor of graphic design and multimedia. He has served as a GCU lecturer in graphic design and multimedia since 2018. He previously served as a guest lecturer at Kean University, an adjunct faculty member at Southern New Hampshire University, and an online faculty member at Walden University in Minneapolis. From 2004 to 2006, he was the GCU coordinator of instructional technology. Dr. Clauburg holds an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.



**Elissa Cutter, Ph.D.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of religious studies and theology. She previously served as a postdoctoral faculty fellow in theological studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She is a Catholic historical theologian whose primary research explores how rediscovering women's voices from history explicitly as theological voices can help us understand women's roles in the Church today. Dr. Cutter holds a Ph.D. in Theological Studies from Saint Louis University.



**John Foglia** joined the full-time faculty of the Sister Mary Joseph Cunningham Library this fall as an assistant librarian of systems and emerging technologies. He has served as a GCU on-call librarian since 2018. He previously served as a digital format selector, selecting material for the 21-branch Ocean County Library system, maintaining a \$1-million fiscal budget. Prior to that, he served as a young adult librarian at the Berkeley branch of the Ocean County Library. Mr. Foglia holds an M.L.S. from Drexel University.



**Corey Katz, Ph.D.**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences last spring as an assistant professor of philosophy. He previously served as a postdoctoral researcher in the ethics of sustainable development at the Center for Ethics and Human Values in the Department of Philosophy at The Ohio State University, where he designed and taught courses in biomedical and environmental ethics. He specializes in ethical theory, social and political philosophy, and environmental philosophy. Dr. Katz holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Saint Louis University.



**Megan Mazarick** joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of dance. She recently served as an adjunct faculty member at Elon University in North Carolina, Temple University in Philadelphia, and Georgian Court University. In addition to teaching master classes in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, she has led workshops and taught internationally in Hungary, Singapore, Egypt, and Poland, where a number of her choreographed works have also been performed. Ms. Mazarick holds an M.F.A. in Dance from Temple University.



**Cindy McVey, D.N.P.**, joined the full-time faculty of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian *Health* School of Nursing this fall as a clinical lecturer and simulation lab coordinator. She has more than 25 years of varied clinical experience as a family nurse practitioner and registered professional nurse. She recently served as an adjunct faculty member at Wagner College in New York. She is a nurse practitioner specializing in emergency medicine at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold. Dr. McVey holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Wagner College.





**Lori Nixon-Bethea, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS**, joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of psychology. She has served as a visiting assistant professor of psychology at GCU since 2017 and as a lecturer in psychology in 2016. Through her private practice, Intentional Hearts Counseling Services, LLC, she provides individual and group counseling to adolescents, teens, and adults experiencing an array of social, emotional, and behavioral issues. Dr. Nixon-Bethea holds a Ph.D. in Counseling from Barry University in Florida.



**Mary Ellen Strozak, CCRN, CNRN, RN-BC**, joined the part-time faculty of the Georgian Court–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing this fall as an assistant professor of nursing. She has served as a GCU lecturer in nursing since 2011. After nearly 25 years, she retired as a critical care clinical nurse specialist from Riverview Medical Center, where she served on the Bioethics Committee and chaired the Research Committee for much of her tenure, and was the Magnet and NDNQI site coordinator for a decade. Ms. Strozak holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Rutgers Graduate School in Newark.



**Matthew Sheridan, Ed.D.**, recently joined the part-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of criminal justice. He has served as a GCU lecturer in criminal justice and director of internships since 2004. He previously taught at Rutgers University, St. Peter's University, and Fairleigh Dickinson University, among others. He has numerous years of experience in the field with the New Jersey Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services. Dr. Sheridan holds an Ed.D. in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education from Rutgers University.



**Heather Tacovsky, Psy.D., NCSP, '10** joined the full-time faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences this fall as an assistant professor of psychology. She has served as a GCU lecturer in psychology since 2018. She previously served as a school psychologist at Tuckerton, Eagleswood, and Spring Lake Heights elementary schools, as well as Monmouth Regional High School and the Tinton Falls School District in New Jersey. Dr. Tacovsky holds a Psy.D. in School Psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and earned her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study and M.A. in School Psychology from GCU.

## Faculty Focus on Scholarship



GCU faculty have been busy with research, writing books and articles, exhibits, professional service, and conference presentations this year. Check out their work in *Faculty Focus 2019*, which also highlights four outstanding faculty members: 2019 Virginia Graham '31 Award for Teaching Excellence recipient **Johann M. Vento, Ph.D.**, professor of theology/religious studies and interim chair of the Department of Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy; **Jo Ann F. Cummings, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing; **Cassandra Lo, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of education and director of the School of Education pre-education program; and **Lindiwe Magaya, Ph.D.**, associate professor of education.

@ Check out [georgian.edu/publications](https://georgian.edu/publications) to read *Faculty Focus 2019* in its entirety.

# Criminal Justice Professors Explore the Past to Move Audiences Beyond Prime Time

There is no shortage of topics to explore when it comes to crime and punishment. A collaborative project by five criminal justice faculty members from three New Jersey Catholic universities decided to take them all on, and then some.

Two criminal justice faculty members from Georgian Court University, two from Saint Peter's University, and one from Seton Hall University worked to put everything anyone could ever want to know about the history of crime and the criminal justice system into the *Historical Dictionary of American Criminal Justice*, published by Rowman & Littlefield.

The book not only covers almost 1,000 terms, but also includes a comprehensive introduction, a fascinating account of the development of criminology as a social science, and an expansive bibliography. Georgian Court's Anna King, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice, and Matthew J. Sheridan, Ed.D., assistant professor of criminal justice and internship coordinator, are two of the co-authors of the book that examines the historical underpinnings of American criminal justice from A to Z. The book highlights the importance of historical, economic, political, and social contexts that have shaped criminal justice legislation, theory, policy, and practice.

## Historical Knowledge and Democracy

As they did research for the book, it became clear how relevant a historical perspective was for today's world.

"It's important to remember the impetus for current policies and practices," said Dr. King, who has been an H. F. Guggenheim fellow, a Gates Cambridge Scholar, and a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award fellow.

"The historical dictionary can provide insights into how a single person's actions can affect things," she added. "As we become more cognizant of our role in a democracy, I think, where would we be without organizations like the Anti-Defamation League or people like August Vollmer, the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century police chief and UC Berkeley professor who founded the American Society of Criminology?"

## Moving Past Prime Time

The proliferation of prime-time dramas often colors the public's perception of criminal justice. That's why it's more important than ever to present facts, definitions, and concrete examples of the system in context.



Drs. Anna King and Matthew J. Sheridan

"People get caught up in the TV stuff or the movies," says Dr. Sheridan, "but as professors, we can watch and say, 'No, no, no. That's not how it's done.' Everybody else doesn't. They walk away thinking, 'Wow, is that how the system works?'"

One example: a student stood up in his class and said, "Hey, Dr. Sheridan, I saw something last night on TV. The warden increased somebody's sentence. Can they do that?"

"That's why we don't watch TV," the assistant professor responded. "These are the myths that gets perpetrated through bad media."

The *Historical Dictionary of American Criminal Justice* is a vehicle for helping readers tread water between reality and myth.

## Breaking the Cycle

Another interesting term in the dictionary? *Panopticon*—a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century prison design proposed by English social reform enthusiast Jeremy Bentham.

"The couple of places [in Europe] that built them regret having built them," Dr. Sheridan explained. "When they went to build the first Panopticon here in the United States, it was Eastern State Penitentiary right in Pennsylvania."

The structure, ethics, and philosophy behind it, and its impact on prisoners' lives, have been the topics of debate and study for decades. Eastern State, which operated from 1829 to 1971, sits in ruins and is better known as a tourist destination than for the reform theories it was supposed to represent.

"People forget their history," said Dr. Sheridan. "Fast forward 100 years, and we build similar complexes of them in Stateville (Illinois), which then become known as the bloodiest prisons in America."

"That's why working on book projects like ours can be so important," he said. "We are more often in the moment, in the now, as opposed to understanding where things come from or how they got to be the way they are. We fix things without understanding that if we don't fix the original problem, they're going to happen again and again."



# Helping Children Through Words and Pictures

By Gwen Moran

*From strengthening caregiver bonds to enhancing cognitive development, the benefits of reading to children are widely documented. Now, two Georgian Court University faculty members have used the power of storytelling to help children overcome their worries and fears.*

## Taking an MRI to Mars

When Leslie Kumer, Ed.D., a longtime lecturer in the School of Education, first experienced a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine due to an injury, she thought about the fear that children must face lying still in that narrow tube and hearing the machine's loud beeps and buzzing. Because of her experience in education, Dr. Kumer knew the power of stories to help children understand and manage their emotions. So she began thinking of a story that would help them overcome their MRI anxiety. A longtime interest in space and NASA led to a creative take.

Teaming up with her former Georgian Court graduate teacher certification student Heather MacFarlane as illustrator, Dr. Kumer wrote *Tom's MRI Space Adventure*, an imaginative story of a young boy who falls off of his bike while not wearing a helmet. He is afraid of the MRI machine, but with his doctor's help, he transforms his experience into a magical mission to Mars.

Dr. Kumer attended the Book Expo at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City in 2018, bringing a prototype of the book with her. There, she met a number of celebrities and notable personalities, including astronaut Scott Kelly, who told her that he has had more than 500 MRIs. "He said, 'This is a great book to help children.' And that was the whole point, to help children alleviate this fear of going into this MRI and have a positive experience instead of a negative experience with the procedure," she says.

Dr. Kumer ultimately self-published the book through Archway Publishing, a subsidiary of Simon & Schuster, in 2018. Since then, she has sent more than 75 copies of the book to children's hospitals around the country and received a letter of gratitude from one in Hawaii.

## Worry No More

From the time she was a little girl, Lori Nixon-Bethea, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, assistant professor of psychology, was a worrier, she says. So, when she began her career working with children in foster care as a licensed professional counselor roughly 13 years ago, she understood the pain of their worry. She continually looked for resources to help them, but those were scarce.

In her practice, Dr. Nixon-Bethea says she frequently sees children who suffer from worry and, in some cases, clinical anxiety. Today, children are bombarded through social media, television, and other sources with messages and images that can be worrisome. And they often don't have the language, skills, or tools to express or manage that worry. So, she thought she would help them through a children's book.

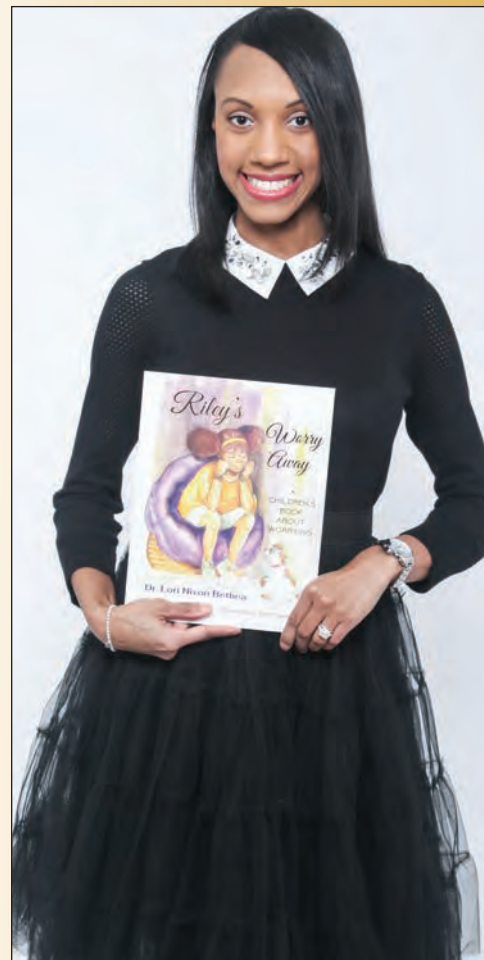
*Riley's Worry Away: A Children's Book About Worrying* targets children ages 5 through 8 and helps them understand what it means to worry, as well as how they can manage their worries. The book is designed to help children cope with their feelings and as a tool for parents and teachers to notice the signs of worry in children and address them.

"Notice and have them talk about their feelings. I think once that happens and children feel safe to talk about what they're feeling, half the job is already done," says Dr. Nixon-Bethea.

Both books are available online through various booksellers, and both authors say they are planning new works to help children.



Dr. Leslie Kumer



Dr. Lori Nixon-Bethea

# Service Awards Ceremony Honors Faculty and Staff Milestones

On March 14, 2019, the Faculty and Staff Appreciation and Service Award Ceremony recognized 69 faculty and staff members celebrating service milestones from 5 to 45 years. The event also celebrated the retirement of six faculty members: Mary R. Basso '67, '94; Constance Chismar, Ed.D., '72; Joseph E. Colford III, Ph.D.; Linda James, Ph.D.; Kathy Pultar, Ed.D.; and Michael Tirpak, Ph.D., five of whom were conferred emeritus status at Commencement 2019.



**Mary Basso**, associate humanities librarian, retired after 45 years at Georgian Court. She supported faculty and students with their research and reference questions and provided information literacy instruction in those areas. She also served as supervisor of access services, supervisor of adjunct librarians, and interim director of library services on several occasions.

She played a valuable role on numerous university committees and task forces, including: curriculum, general education, Middle States re-accreditation, policy manual, scholarship standards, and Strategic Compass. She assisted with the transition of the library from the old print catalog system to the first automated digital system and in the design of the Sister Mary Joseph Cunningham Library. She played a key role in recent years in library renovations and creating and updating library policies.



**Dr. Linda James**, professor of psychology, was the founding chair in the Department of Psychology in 1974. Under her guidance, the program grew into one of Georgian Court's largest majors, with several graduate programs added along the way. Dr. James worked extensively to help create the current faculty governance structure and was named the founding dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics in

2002. After a school merger, Dr. James worked hard to create an identity, vision, and purpose for the School of Arts and Sciences, one that valued high academics, supported students of all backgrounds and abilities, and supported programs that linked academic and student life. With Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74, she founded the Mercy Collegiate Society and supported students as they learned about the mission of the university.



**Dr. Constance Chismar**, professor of English education and director of the writing program, came to Georgian Court in 1975 as the first director of the EOF Learning Resource Center. She held several academic positions, including director of special services (the first iteration of TRIO), coordinator of gifted programs, and assistant dean. She joined the

academic ranks in 1985 and became a full professor in 1993. She also served as chair of the Department of English. She worked extensively to help create the current faculty governance structure and was named the founding dean of the School of Arts and Humanities in 2002 after Georgian Court adopted the provost structure with four schools. Dr. Chismar also developed the minor in communications and paved the way for the major.



**Dr. Kathy Pultar**, associate professor of nursing, came to the Hackensack Meridian Health-Georgian Court School of Nursing in 2011 as an associate professor. Dr. Pultar developed new courses for the GCU nursing program and steered the curriculum committee through many changes and updates, especially in population health and community health. Her areas of scholarship included projects on reducing

test anxiety and caring for older adult populations in nursing. She mentored senior nursing students as they conducted senior capstone quality improvement research projects and presented at Academic Excellence Night. Dr. Pultar has been with the nursing program during its transformation from new program to the largest major on campus. She also developed partnerships for community health clinical experiences.



**Dr. Joseph Colford**, professor of psychology and counseling and director of the M.A. in School Psychology program, joined the full-time faculty in 2003 as an assistant professor. He taught both general education and graduate school psychology, for which he created newer, up-to-date courses. He also enjoyed teaching Introduction to Psychology with the Humanities Program at Central Regional High

School. He mentored many graduate students through the rigorous process of becoming a licensed school psychologist. He successfully completed the accreditation of the M.A. program with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Dr. Colford served as the president of the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists and editor of the state newsletter and has published three books, numerous journal articles, and a column for the state school psychology journal.



**Dr. Michael Tirpak**, associate professor of education and director of the school counseling program, began his career at Georgian Court in 2005 as an assistant professor; four years later, he was named director of the school counseling program. In 2012, he earned the rank of associate professor. Dr. Tirpak taught more than 15 courses, primarily at the graduate level, and consistently received strong student evaluations.

He served as a member of the Graduate Council and School of Education Leadership Team, the Board of Trustees' Marketing, Enrollment, and Advancement Committee and Advancement and External Affairs Committee, and other work group/committees throughout his nearly 15 years at GCU. Dr. Tirpak never missed a Graduate Information Session and, before retiring from private practice, was a very successful licensed school psychologist.



# Nontraditional Student Forges Own Educational Path

By Tara M. Strickland



*Dawn posed with one of Great Britain's iconic red telephone boxes, visited Buckingham Palace, and worked hard during her internship at the JW Marriott in London (left to right).*

The path to a degree hasn't been easy for senior accounting major Dawn Lopez. After high school, she moved from Peru to the United States at age 17. She could not go to college because she couldn't speak English, instead working in restaurants to earn money while learning the language. More than a decade after arriving in the country, with a young son, Liam, at home, she began taking classes at Ocean County College in 2015. It took three years, but she earned an associate degree in business administration and three certificates from the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers. She even gave birth to her second son, Lucas, midway through a semester.

"That semester, I took classes online, but I would visit school twice a week for math and English tutoring," says Dawn. "I was taking noncredit classes in order to complete the requirements before starting credit classes. I remember going to OCC with Lucas, pushing his stroller all over campus."

Her dedication didn't go unnoticed—she was named to the President's List and received awards for Most Inspirational Student and Most Committed Student. In 2018, Dawn transferred to Georgian Court to continue her education, where she received a scholarship for being part of OCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

"I picked GCU because it was close to home, because of the scholarship, and because of its outstanding reputation. I didn't know anyone on campus, so I was on my own," recalls Dawn. "The first thing I did was become part of TRIO-SSS. After visiting them, I could breathe and not feel so lonely at this new school. I got hired by TRIO as an accounting tutor, and it all started to feel more like home."

Dawn threw herself into GCU's campus activities, not wanting to miss any potential opportunities. She joined Emerging Leaders, then Women in Leadership Development. She founded the

Human Resources Club and the Accounting Club, and is now the president of the Business Club and a career services mentor, among other activities.

In early 2019, Dawn was looking for an internship required to complete her degree. Laura Grodewald, director of global education programs, suggested an internship abroad. Together, they found an opportunity in London, England, through CAPA, the Global Education Network. Dawn applied and landed the job.

"I took a global marketing class and an internship workshop. I also worked in the financial department of the JW Marriott Grosvenor Hotel," says Dawn, who spent six weeks there last summer. "I learned how the hotel ran their finances. I helped them with their accounts receivable and accounts payable, investigated declined payments, and performed internal income audits."

The London internship led to an opportunity here in New Jersey—accounting firm Holman Frenia Allison offered her an internship in their audit department. It even led to an interview with Deloitte, one of the Big Four accounting firms, and a job offer to work full time at another Big Four company—Ernst & Young—auditing hedge funds.

"I haven't graduated yet, and I already have a job waiting for me at a place I've always dreamed of working," says Dawn, who will finally graduate with her bachelor's degree at age 33. By December, she'll also have her M.B.A., as she's enrolled in GCU's advanced admission program and already taking master's level classes.

"If it were not for the opportunities Georgian Court offered, my story would have been different. It's true that I work hard for everything I want to achieve in life, but I think working hard in the right place is most important," says Dawn. "I can say now that I am already living one of my dreams. It took a while to start, but the wait was well worth it."



# New Business Dean Focused on Making Connections

**Jennifer J. Edmonds, Ph.D.**, is the new dean of the Georgian Court University School of Business and Digital Media (SBDM). She most recently served as associate dean and director of the M.B.A. program of the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership at Wilkes University and brings nearly two decades of business leadership to her role at Georgian Court.

"Dr. Edmonds is innovative and creative in her approach to ensuring students and faculty succeed," said Provost Janice Warner, Ph.D. "She also brings an extraordinary commitment to detail and data—likely because of her background as a chemical engineer. In addition, she's eager to grow our business and digital media programs in ways that make a big difference for GCU graduates and for employers."

At Wilkes, Dr. Edmonds was involved in the tenure and promotion process for several years. She noted that it was important for her to both develop new faculty and assist in the career planning for mid-level faculty, and enjoyed the opportunity to build those relationships.

Beyond business leadership, Dr. Edmonds brings experience in strategic planning, institutional assessment, diversity/multicultural leadership, and student retention. As a faculty member, she has taught courses in statistics and operations management, and management science and information systems. She is also a presenter and avid researcher on many topics, including employee motivation, women's leadership in business, global commerce, and digital instruction.

Dr. Edmonds earned her doctoral degree in management science and her M.B.A. at Rutgers University. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan.

## Making Connections

Dr. Edmonds was attracted to Georgian Court, in part, because of the unique mix of programs offered by the SBDM. She was intrigued by its structure, where students pursue traditional business majors like accounting and business administration while others seek degrees in graphic design and multimedia or digital communication. There is also the M.B.A. program, which allows students who majored in many disciplines to develop business skills. A second graduate degree program, an online M.S. in Communication and Digital Marketing, will launch in the fall.

The university's size, with more than 2,400 students, was a draw for Dr. Edmonds. So were the talented faculty,



Dr. Jennifer J. Edmonds

"I have an affinity for smaller schools where there is a commitment to excellence in teaching, and that's my strength," she said.

"Ultimately, what we do in the School of Business and Digital Media—and beyond—is all about making connections. The reality is that *everybody integrates media and manages relationships at work*," she said. "It's a logical necessity to understand how *people and businesses connect to everything else*. That's where the exciting part comes in. It's about understanding how those connections can almost always lead to something new and something better."

Dr. Edmonds has hit the ground running with new programs and opportunities for SBDM students, including a Women Entrepreneurship Week panel co-hosted with the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education on October 24 that featured regional business leaders. The SBDM also held "Remaining Competitive in Today's Marketplace," a panel of successful restaurateurs, as part of the annual international observance of Global Entrepreneurship Week on November 19.

"As dean, I am excited to engage the school's students, faculty, staff, and new friends in innovative ways," Dr. Edmonds wrote in the recently re-imagined SBDM e-newsletter. "My vision is to promote the SBDM to the business community, expand the school's existing career preparation and professional development activities for students, and foster connections through SBDM events on campus."

# New Perspectives Leading the Way

By Stephanie Reid

**Georgian Court University has welcomed a number of new members to its leadership team this past year.**



**Priscilla E. Alicea** is the new assistant vice president for undergraduate admissions. She was most recently vice president of enrollment management at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where she managed a \$1.3-million operating budget and staff of 19. Before then, she served as director or assistant director of admissions at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island; Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, Florida; Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia; and Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in Cheyney. Ms. Alicea holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Providence College in Rhode Island.



**Paul DaPonte** serves the university as executive director of mission integration. Before coming to GCU, Dr. DaPonte was an associate professor of religious studies at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts, where he taught for 10 years and also served as vice president for mission and identity.

Dr. DaPonte previously taught in the Perspectives program at Boston College, and before that, at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Providence College and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Louvain in Belgium. His Ph.D./S.T.D. thesis was published by Orbis Books in 2009 as *Hope in an Age of Terror*.



**Alyce Franklin-Owens** is the new assistant vice president for financial planning and control. Ms. Franklin-Owens was most recently at Kean University in Union, where she was budget director for the past three years. In that capacity, she had oversight of Kean's \$220-million operational budget.

Prior to Kean, she was the budget officer for the city of Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Franklin-Owens has a master's degree in public administration and nonprofit management from Kean and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton.



**Chris Krzak** is the new vice president for enrollment and retention. Most recently, he served as the assistant vice president for enrollment management and executive director of admission at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where he exceeded headcount goals for both freshman and transfer students in Fall 2018

while lowering the discount rate. Prior to that, he served for 10 years as the dean of admission at the University of La Verne, California, where his team doubled the overall headcount of undergraduates on campus. He earned an M.S. in Leadership and Management at the University of La Verne and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco.



**Matthew Manfra** brings decades of experience and innovation to his role as vice president for institutional advancement. He has worked in wide-ranging development and advancement roles throughout his career. His early years were spent as an alumni affairs director, and later in human resources, at the College of

New Jersey (TCNJ). He also worked at Syracuse University as its first assistant vice president for annual giving and alumni relations and at Rutgers University, where he was charged with engaging alumni leaders and donors around the world. Prior to GCU, Mr. Manfra served as interim vice president of development and alumni relations at George Washington University in Washington, DC, where he led the team that completed GW's largest campaign—\$1 billion. Mr. Manfra holds a B.A. in Political Science from TCNJ.



**Frank P. Mascia III** brings a wealth of nonprofit experience to his new role as assistant vice president for development. He spent the past three years as vice president for development for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Mr. Mascia previously spent more than two decades with the American Cancer Society's

Eastern Division, most recently as executive director for the state of New Jersey. He received an M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling from St. John's University in Queens, New York, and a bachelor's degree in psychology and history from the College of Staten Island.



# Learning History in the Place Where It Happened

By Gwen Moran

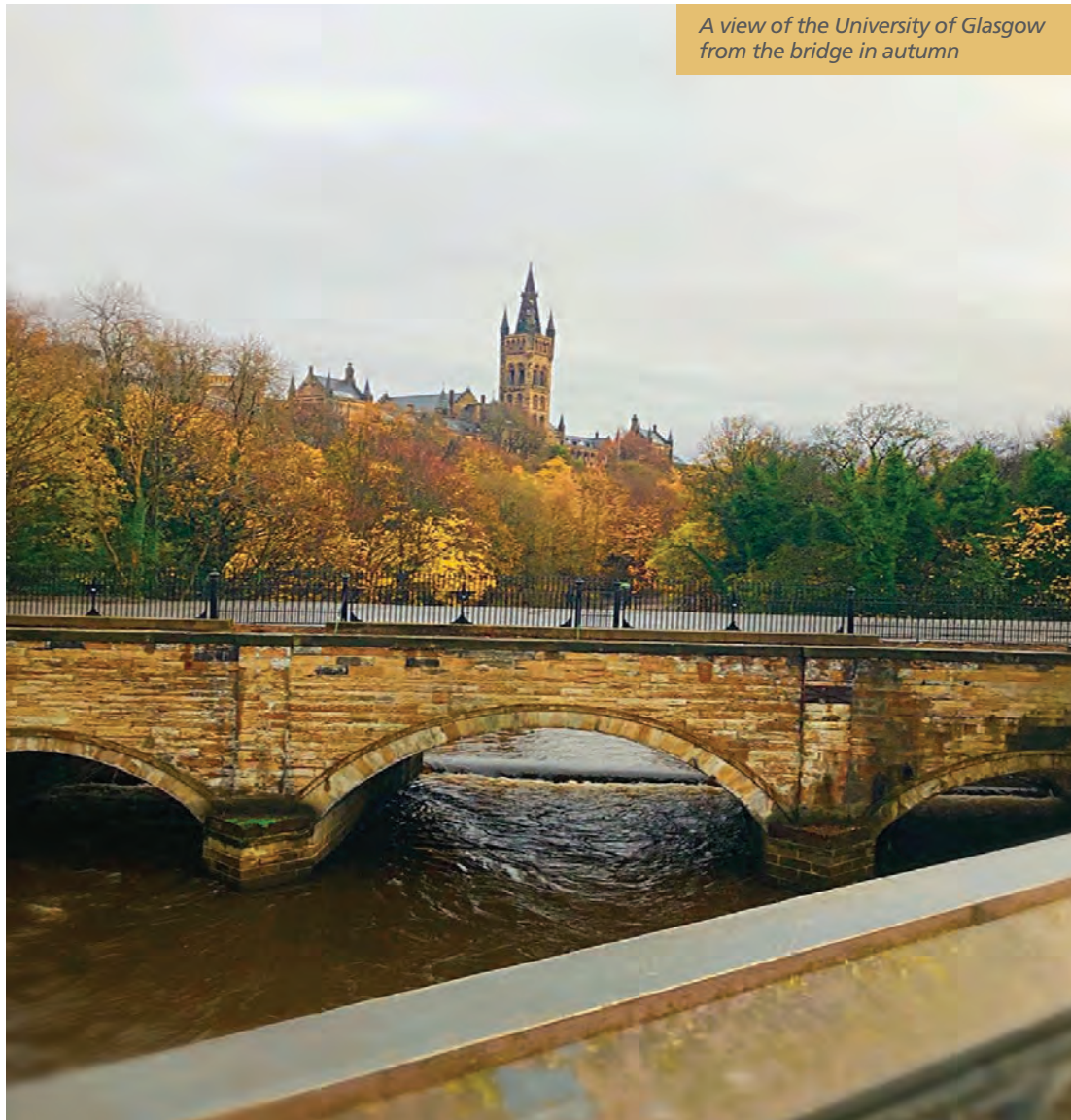


Kait at Loch Ness

A television show sparked Kaitlin “Kait” Mulrane ’18’s interest in Mary, Queen of Scots. Knowing that television shows typically take creative liberties with history, she wanted to know more. At first, she read books.

But she never expected she would go to graduate school in Queen Mary’s homeland. In September 2019, Kait graduated from Scotland’s University of Glasgow with a master’s degree in early modern history. The year before, she was part of the World Wars and Holocaust travel abroad trip to Europe organized by Georgian Court and led by Scott H. Bennett, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of History and Politics. “I was able to see how world history kind of fits with my interest in Mary, and then the rest from there just fell into place,” she says. She wrote her thesis on Queen Mary and Elizabeth Tudor.

“You couldn’t even turn a corner without finding something else that had to do with history,” she says of the University of Glasgow. Her professors hailed from all over the world and had varied backgrounds and expertise, “which was extremely helpful when it came to really narrowing down what I wanted to write about for the dissertation,” she says.



A view of the University of Glasgow from the bridge in autumn

## Immersed in an Ancient World

Kait wasn’t the only Court graduate to matriculate at the fourth-oldest university in the English-speaking world. In 2018, Adam McNeil ’17 began a master’s degree program in medieval history there. When he settled on the study of that time period and location, he said that he knew Glasgow would be the perfect place to study.

“For certain classes, we would even take trips to museums where we were able to go into the archives and see actual medieval weapons,” he says. “There is more opportunity to get out and actually see certain sites, go to certain museums, see the battlegrounds and castles where history happened. So you actually get that physical feel for it as well.”

Both Kait and Adam credit Dr. Bennett for their choices. He was familiar with the University of Glasgow since his daughter studies in Scotland. And while students may not immediately think of studying overseas for their graduate programs, Dr. Bennett knew that U.K. universities offer a world-class education at reasonable costs and welcome international students whose tuition supports their university system.



“Both were interested in the wider world and since they were interested in European history, it made sense to study to Europe,” he says. Even though Dr. Bennett focuses on the 20<sup>th</sup>-century and U.S. history, he agreed to offer Adam an independent study opportunity in late British medieval history.

“Since we don’t offer a course on medieval history, I wanted to give Adam the opportunity to read deeply on the subject that he would pursue in graduate school. He read 10 books and wrote a long historiographical essay on late British medieval history. In our weekly meetings, Adam discussed the texts and their arguments with crispness and precision,” says Dr. Bennett.

## An Opportunity Like No Other

Both Kait and Adam made the most of their time in Glasgow, soaking in the local culture and history and traveling to other parts of Europe as well. Kait, who had traveled on the Georgian-Court sponsored trip to Belgium, Germany, and France during her undergraduate years, visited Edinburgh, Amsterdam, London, Paris, and Rome, among other locations. Adam also had the opportunity to travel the United Kingdom, visiting York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, London, and Belfast, and plans to travel to Paris and Rome this year. Kait returned to the United States and is currently working for a marketing company. She is also spearheading an exhibition for the Ocean County Historical Society celebrating the centennial of women being granted the right to vote. The exhibit will have artifacts, documents, and information about the women’s suffrage movement.

Adam is still in Scotland, exploring options for earning his Ph.D. Currently, he is in discussions with one of his professors at the University of Glasgow to explore studying under him for his doctorate. Kait hopes to attend Boston University and complete her doctorate within the next five years. Both agree that studying overseas has informed their education in important ways.

“Being in a place where everything that I was interested in is readily accessible to the 21<sup>st</sup> century was absolutely astounding. There were things that I had to touch wearing gloves because they were so delicate and fragile,” Kait says. “I enjoyed every second being over there. The scenery, the history, the weather even, was just totally worth it.”



*Adam overlooking the Scottish city of Edinburgh after a hike*



*Adam on a trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland*



*Kait on the day she submitted her dissertation at the U of G main campus*



# Evidence of Mercy

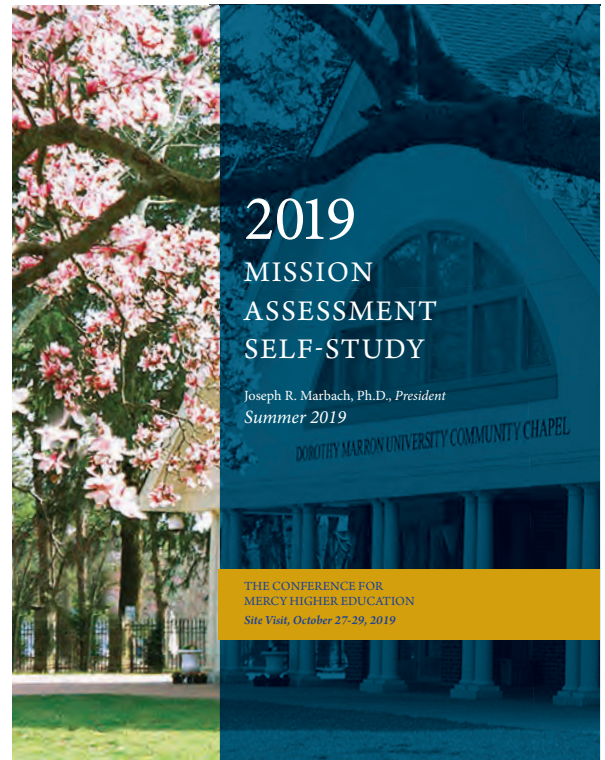
Georgian Court students do a great job of talking about Mercy. More importantly, they understand the *why* of Mercy. That was one of the big takeaways from the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE) campus visit in October 2019.

"They were impressed with the ways Georgian Court embodies what it means to be a Mercy institution," said President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. "Our guests learned how Mercy is evidenced at every level of the institution: from the curriculum, to the participation of our faculty, staff, and students in various formation programs, to the general embrace of our core values."

The CMHE team did their homework before coming to campus.

"We provided the group with a thorough and compelling report detailing our Catholic intellectual heritage, our roots in the Mercy tradition, and how our commitment to mission is evidenced campus-wide," said Dr. Marbach.

"We are grateful to the campus for input and to those who wrote whole chapters about our commitment to mission," he said, noting the contributions of Paul DaPonte, Ph.D., executive director for mission integration and special assistant to the president; social work professor Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74; and Janet Thiel, OSF, Ph.D., assistant vice president for university assessment.



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Save the Date

## CRITICAL CONCERNS WEEK EARTH: LAND & SEA

March 23-26, 2020

Care for all of creation is more than a nice sentiment—it is a call to live with mercy in every context of our lives.

Every year since 2006, GCU has dedicated a week to one of the ongoing critical concerns identified by the Sisters of Mercy. The very timely and urgent critical concern for Critical Concerns Week, March 23-26, is Earth: Land & Sea.

Mark your calendar now to participate, and visit [bit.ly/GCU\\_Prayer](http://bit.ly/GCU_Prayer) for our very special Prayer for Earth: Land & Sea.

For more information, contact [pdaponte@georgian.edu](mailto:pdaponte@georgian.edu) or visit [georgian.edu/events](http://georgian.edu/events) for upcoming activities



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

# IMPACT 2020



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HOW YOUR GIFTS **EXPAND POSSIBILITY**





Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., university president; Kim Erin O'Connor '79, Alumni Board of Directors; and Matthew R. Manfra, vice president for institutional advancement (left to right)

## Dear GCU Donors and Friends,

Georgian Court University is a special place today thanks to the countless students, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and friends who paved the way for the current generation of learners. Our rich history impacts today's students and will for future generations as it shapes our future. From our iconic Apollo Fountain, our gates, our buildings, and our grounds, the GCU campus is filled with rich history, memories, and stories!

There is power in stories, and we wanted to showcase some for you in this issue. The stories we've chosen are ones that illustrate the impact of philanthropy on campus and beyond. These are the opportunities afforded to students to study at GCU, the relationships that have been fostered thanks to donors, and the future leaders who are being shaped through the thoughtfulness of others.

These are but a sampling, and I hope you'll take a few minutes yourself to share YOUR Georgian Court story with us so we can share them with others through our social media, e-mails, and print materials.

What impact has Georgian Court made in your life? We'd like to know! Please send your stories to us at [advancement@georgian.edu](mailto:advancement@georgian.edu), and please be as creative as you'd like. Videos, poems, and pictures are all terrific ways to demonstrate the transformative power of Georgian Court University.

Or, are you looking for ways to make a new impact on The Court? My colleagues and I are always happy to provide more information about current opportunities and needs. We'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful institution and the impact you're making on our students. Your support means so much!

With GCU pride,  
Matthew R. Manfra  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

*On the cover: John Barrett (M.A. in Theology) and his daughter Megan Barrett (B.A. in English and Specific Subject Education) graduated together in 2019.*



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIP & GOLF CLASSIC

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Kendalia Turner with President Marbach

## SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH BRINGS DONORS AND RECIPIENTS TOGETHER

GCU scholarship recipient Kendalia Turner addressed the crowd at Georgian Court's Annual Scholarship Brunch and referred to the donors in the room as "silent heroes . . . who do what's right"—not for recognition or something in return, but because they truly believe in doing what is best.

Kendalia, a senior from the Bahamas, is just one of more than 200 students who receive scholarship support from generous donors. On October 27, GCU celebrated scholarship donors and recipients at a brunch at the Days Hotel in Toms River, reminding attendees why giving matters.

"Our achievements are only possible because of the people in this room. Your contribution matters—from improvements to the physical campus, to mentoring students, to establishing new academic programs," President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., said. "We cannot do this without you."

The event provides scholarship donors with an opportunity to meet, sit with, and speak to scholarship recipients, and in most cases, the student who receives the scholarship they provide. Being able to physically meet the student who benefits from your support is an unparalleled experience. As the highlighted student speaker at the brunch, Kendalia stressed how scholarships gave her and other students to fulfill their dreams.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you do for the proud Lions that come and go," concluded Kendalia. "I want you to know that we are all forever grateful for your generosity, and I can truly say that this island girl from a small city in the Bahamas with big dreams is proud to say that her dreams came true."

*March comes  
in like a lion...*



**GCU GIVES DAY**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020**  
[georgian.edu/giving](http://georgian.edu/giving)



# The Apollo Fountain: A Legacy of Giving

By Tara M. Strickland

## ICONIC. AUTHENTIC. UNFORGETTABLE.



2019 graduates Brandon Razler, Nathan Gill, Cameron Wardle, Logan Eisenhart, and Ryder Verdoni (left to right)

There are many words used to describe the Apollo Fountain, but none more so than *gift*. Indeed, the fountain is inexorably a gift that keeps on giving. Created by the sculptor John Massey Rhind as an extravagant birthday gift from George Jay Gould to his wife Edith in 1902, the electrically-powered fountain delighted the Gould family and their guests for two decades.

When the estate was sold to what is now Georgian Court University in 1924, the fountain became a central focus of the new campus. The pump mechanism, located underneath the Sunken Garden, draws water from Lake Carasaljo and throws upward 25,000 gallons of water per hour, nearly 25 feet in the air at full capacity. It's become the symbol of ceremony here at The Court, as it's usually turned on only for special occasions, such as New Student Orientation and Commencement. Generations of

students have posed in their caps and gowns, smiling through the prisms of color refracted by the swirling streams of water.

"Whatever your connection to Georgian Court, Apollo and his horses—the cherubs and the chariot—are a permanent part of the GCU experience," said GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., at a special event in June. "It is that special sense of splendor and uniqueness that we want to preserve and share with future generations."

However, the nearly 120-year-old pump mechanism, which also supplies water to two other campus fountains, is in need of a complete system overhaul. A new pump, controls, piping, and valve system are needed to run the fountain at its full capacity. The concrete base area also needs to be restored and cleaned. The motor must be replaced, and the electrical system should be





*Pamela Russo '18*



*Rebecca Moskowitz '98 and family*



*Tara Vitale '18 with her mother*

upgraded to meet current standards. Repairs to the entire system will allow all three fountains to function properly. Phase I of the restoration project is estimated to cost \$250,000. This would allow the university to operate the Apollo Fountain for special occasions, using water from the Lagoon, as it does now.

A second fund-raising phase would allow for the installation of a dedicated water recirculation system, which would recirculate freshwater in the three fountains, bypassing the lagoon and using the pump installed in Phase I. This would eliminate the additional maintenance required prior to each use of the Apollo Fountain due to the viscosity of the lagoon water and the minerals it contains—an additional cost. The recirculation installation would also include dynamic LED lights to provide an added element to night events. This freshwater system would allow the university to use the fountains on a regular basis and is estimated to cost an additional \$250,000.

Spearheading the drive to restore the fountain are Patricia Smith Heanue '68 and M. Deborah Hanley Williams '68,

university trustees, who each pledged \$50,000 gifts to the fountain restoration project.

“I spent many hours enjoying the beauty, tranquility, and uniqueness of our campus. Central to those memories are the Apollo Fountain, the Japanese Garden, the Mansion, and the Casino,” Ms. Heanue said. “The stewardship of this campus for the next generation of graduates is one of the things I care most in my role as a trustee. My husband, John, and I hope this gift will help preserve the historic Apollo Fountain for future graduates as they walk their own senior path!”

The university is about halfway to the Phase 1 goal, but there is still a long way to go. And you can help make that happen. Visit [georgian.edu/givenow](http://georgian.edu/givenow) to support the Apollo Fountain Restoration Project and ensure that the Apollo Fountain continues to give to and inspire future generations at Georgian Court.



*Jaelyn Tweedy '18*



*Maureen Kotusky '99, '18, graduate admissions counselor, with her parents and nephew in 1999*



## THE CUNNINGHAM FAMILY: A LEGACY OF HELPING OTHERS

Mary Joseph Cunningham, RSM, '53 was born in Camden, New Jersey, in 1921 and entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1941. Her career as the business officer and later treasurer of Georgian Court were her best-loved jobs. For more than 40 years, she helped thousands of students who were in financial need achieve their goal of graduating college.

One of her last achievements was having the new library built. The library was named for her in September 1999, two years after her death. Soon afterward, the Sister Mary Joseph Cunningham Scholarship was established to help students with the greatest financial need.

In 1949, she decided to have her entire family, several of whom had also graduated from Georgian Court, visit the college for a picnic. It turned into an annual event. In 2018, the family held their 70<sup>th</sup> picnic. At the annual gathering, donations are collected for her scholarship, to continue her legacy of helping thousands more students attend GCU.

Each summer, the family returns to Georgian Court. The adults relive their memories with their children and grandchildren. They believe their beloved aunt and sister could not have imagined what she started years ago has blossomed into such a family affair.





## KENDALIA TURNER: FROM THE BAHAMAS TO GEORGIAN COURT



Kendalia Turner is a senior finance major from the Bahamas and a recipient of the David J. Davis Jr. Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship was established with funds from the estate of Anne E. Davis-Smith to honor her husband, David J. Davis Jr., and to recognize students majoring in business. Mrs. Davis-Smith worked at AT&T for more than 30 years, and when she retired, she became a daily lector at the 7:00 AM Mass at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Lakewood. Following Mass, she brought Communion to patients in the local hospital and nursing homes. She was a great friend to Georgian Court University and volunteered her time to the GCU library's archives.

Kendalia, who is also captain of the softball team and in the advanced admission M.B.A. program, spoke at Georgian Court's Annual Scholarship Brunch in October 2019 and shared her impact story.

*"Psychology today describes silent heroes as folks who do what's right; they keep right on doing it, regardless of the risk to themselves or their personal self-interest, and they are neither famous nor fancy, but truly believe in doing what's best. Your generosity and will to make dreams reality for so many students is why I can stand before you today preparing myself to be a graduate of Georgian Court. Being from the Bahamas, the winters have probably been the biggest struggle I've faced during my time here, and if that's my biggest struggle, that can tell you the amount of consistent and constant support that I get here, which makes everything a little easier.*

*"I've gained so much knowledge, had great experiences in and out of the classroom, and made relationships that will last a lifetime. My dreams wouldn't be fulfilled if it weren't for donors like you, but this is bigger than me, I can confidently say that most of our dreams would just be dreams without your help. You're doing more than just helping us go to school, you give us a chance: a chance to learn, a chance to grow, a chance to transcend.*

*"Coming in, it was my mission to affect my peers in such a way that they would want to lead in the absence of leadership and in the midst of adversity, take on roles and responsibilities that will help others, become more involved, and simply strive to be the best versions of themselves. I cannot preach this enough—without your contributions to scholarships, I would not be able to complete this mission."*

## JOHN MURTAGH: TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Senior John Murtagh is a recipient of the Douglas C. King Endowed Scholarship, which is given annually in memory of late police officer Douglas C. King to recognize a student majoring in criminal justice.

When he graduates, John will be the first in his family to earn a four-year college degree—a dream he wasn't sure would be possible as his parents were near retirement age when he applied. GCU's scholarships and grants allowed him to continue to live at home and be able to help his parents and grandparents, while also participating in the high jump and sprint events for the GCU track & field team. At the 2019 Scholarship Classic, John explained how scholarships have helped him pursue his dream.

*"I chose criminal justice as a major so that I can pursue a career that involves protecting and serving our community and the country. I completed my internship at a police department and have learned how law enforcement serves our community.*

*"I want to thank GCU for the Douglas C. King Endowed Scholarship, and the scholarship donors for their support of Georgian Court University. My educational pursuit would not be possible without your generous support."*



John Murtagh (right) with the Honorable Eugene D. Serpentelli, A.J.S.C., university trustee (left)



## KATHLEEN K. MOON '71: TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION



As an active member of the GCU community, Kathleen K. Moon '71 continues to build her legacy as a Lofty Pines member (naming Georgian Court University in her estate plans) and the alumni agent for her class. For 29 years, Ms. Moon taught everything from first grade and third grade to reading recovery and reading/language arts. Now retired, she continues to use her teaching skills as a volunteer. She credits her career success and drive to give back to Georgian Court.

*"No matter who you are, where you come from, or where you are heading, you carry GCU with you your whole life. Georgian Court helped me attain my dream job as an elementary school teacher."*

*"It is because of Georgian Court that I am the woman I am today. In my eyes, GCU is a university built on traditions and genuine care. Here, I formed lifelong friendships because of the atmosphere of the campus. Faculty and staff worked with*

*students on a personal level, enabling us to gain knowledge and develop purpose. We were prepared for careers and for life.*

*"I believe in the greater good and advancement of the university. It is a pleasure to give back to a university that has given me so much. I give so future students can have access to a GCU education. With my support, GCU can continue to expand key programs and continue its traditions and mission."*

## DANIEL GINCHEREAU: CAMPUS LEADER

Daniel Ginchereau is a senior majoring in history and secondary education. Hailing from Marlton, New Jersey, Daniel is involved in many on-campus groups and activities. He is the past president of the Student Government Association, co-founder of the LGBTQ at GCU Club, treasurer of the History Club, Theater Club member, Mercy Collegiate Society member, and a Salt and Light ambassador. Daniel is the recipient of the Eugenia M. Palmegiano History Scholarship and is extremely grateful for the opportunities made possible to him and his fellow classmates through donor generosity.

Alumna Eugenia Palmegiano, J.D., Ph.D., graduated cum laude in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in history. She received a Ph.D. and J.D. from Rutgers University, where she was the first woman awarded the doctorate in history. Dr. Palmegiano established her scholarship to be presented to a senior majoring in history.

Through Georgian Court and support from donors, Daniel has also had the opportunity to travel abroad twice. He ventured to Poland, France, Germany, and Belgium to see sites related to the World Wars and the Holocaust with GCU faculty over Spring Break 2018. He was also Georgian Court's first recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and one of 835 American undergraduate students from 310 colleges and universities who received the grant funded by the U.S. Department of State. This allowed him to spend a semester abroad at St. Mary's University, just outside of London, England. All of his experiences, both at GCU at abroad, have helped Daniel find his true purpose.



*"It's really shown me what my drive in life is, and that's teaching. My purpose, my drive, my destiny if you will, is to help students who are at a disadvantage in the public school systems and without Georgian Court, I wouldn't be able to do that or anything that I planned to do."*

# University Sees Great Gains in *U.S. News* 2020 Rankings



Georgian Court University climbed more than 30 spots in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, moving to #108 from #139 a year ago. The 31-point move up in the rankings is the greatest leap among the 12 New Jersey schools appearing in the publication's Best Regional Universities

North rankings for 2019. The rise, one of the biggest posted by the 170 colleges and universities in the category, also lands Georgian Court at #82 for social mobility, making it a top performer among the ranked institutions.

"This is a direct reflection of our progress in many areas and the hard work that goes into improving the way we serve and support students from all walks of life," said Georgian Court President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.

The gains are important given what is behind the numbers. Georgian Court's historic mission to educate the underserved means that 43% of students qualify for Pell Grants and 40% are the first in their families to go to college.

"For many of them, earning a degree is critical for social mobility, which allows them to expand the possibilities for

their lives and careers," said Dr. Marbach, who noted that student retention and graduation rate were among the reasons for the institution's dramatic jump—in addition to academics.

"The 15 measures of academic quality reviewed by *U.S. News* are important to us, and so are the critical issues of access, opportunity, and affordability," said Dr. Marbach. "We are privileged to have standout programs and committed faculty who teach and mentor," he said. "It's a combination that contributes to the success of the incoming first-year student as well as the graduating senior."

What other factors contributed to GCU's climb in the rankings? Slightly higher SATs and the percentage of GCU first-year students who graduated in the top 25% of their high school class.

The rankings climb is one of several accolades this year. In Fall 2019, *Washington Monthly* named GCU a "Best Bang for the Buck" and in January 2020, the university made *U.S. News'* list of Best Online Master's in Education Programs.



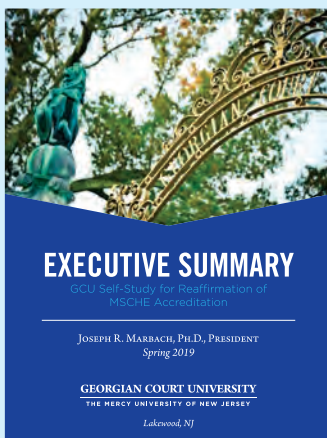
## Middle States Accreditation Re-Affirmed

Georgian Court University meets all of the standards for being accredited, according to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The commission, through accreditation, mandates that its member institutions meet rigorous and comprehensive standards.

"More than two years of preparation and serious self-examination went into this effort," said GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. "While the Middle States accreditation review through self-study and subsequent evaluation team campus visit may only happen every eight years, the university works hard every day to deliver a valuable educational experience."

The commission took action on GCU's re-accreditation on June 27, 2019. The MSCHE also requested a supplemental information report, due March 1, 2020, on progress made on implementing certain planning processes, resources, and structures.

"Earning the confidence of Middle States reflects all that our faculty, staff, and campus community do to ensure students can succeed in their careers and make meaningful contributions in the world," said Dr. Marbach.



Janet Thiel, OSF, Ph.D., Georgian Court's assistant vice president for university assessment, led the university's re-accreditation process along with co-chair Timothy M. Briles, Ed.D., associate professor of education, special assistant to the president for special projects, and NCAA faculty athletic representative, and a campus-wide steering committee. The group collaborated with dozens of campus contributors, and three faculty writers authored the comprehensive self-study, which documents the many ways GCU meets MSCHE's accreditation standards.

In March 2019, just months after GCU introduced its new Strategic Compass, the accreditation

organization sent a visiting team of experienced higher education leaders to evaluate the university. The visiting team focused its attention on the ways GCU complies with the MSCHE Standards of Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation.

The accreditation visit was GCU's first since its 2009 decennial self-study. The evaluation included reading GCU's exhaustive self-study; reviewing its documentation of the Standards and Requirements; and holding meetings with faculty, staff, and students.





Students Jessica DiGiovanni, Lily Antonowicz, Mary Verange, and Paris Blume enjoyed the bonfire on Friday night.



Pictured from left to right are alumni award recipients Rodrigo "Rod" Colon '95, '17 (Distinguished Alumni Award); Kristen Cladek '14 (Young Alumni Award); Diane Szubrowski, RSM, '68 (Alumni Service Award); Beverly Milyo '69, '83 (Lion Lifetime Achievement Award); and Arturo "Artie" Sanchez '19 (Outstanding Senior Award and Sportsmanship Award).



More than 40 members of the Class of 1969 returned to Georgian Court to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. They proudly presented a check for more than \$63,000 for the Sister Mary Catharine Sullivan Endowed Scholarship

# COMING HOME TO GEORGIAN COURT

By Alicia Smith

**On** September 27 and 28, more than 200 alumni, students, and friends gathered on campus to celebrate Reunion & Homecoming Weekend 2019. The weekend kicked off with an evening reception that allowed alumni from various years to reconnect and reminisce about their time at The Court. Later that evening, students enjoyed hypnotist Eric Mina, followed by a bash and bonfire on the Casino back porch.

Saturday began with the Alumni Awards Brunch, at which five extremely deserving alumni received recognition for their contributions to GCU. The day continued with various athletic games, a family fun carnival, beer and wine garden, chocolate painting and wine pairing event, Mass, and the Class of 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion dinner with the president.

The weekend closed with a casino night, in—you guessed it—the Casino. The room was transformed with fully functioning slot machines and table games with professional dealers. Students and alumni dressed in their best, and some left with amazing prizes!

 Visit [bit.ly/GCU\\_RHCPHOTOS19](https://bit.ly/GCU_RHCPHOTOS19) to view more photos. | Plan now for Reunion & Homecoming on October 2–3, 2020!

# Social Work Is Mercy Work for New Cumberland Graduates

By Gail H. Towns

For Zikea Wise-Hughes '19, social work is a passion. You could say it runs in her family.

To honor her late grandmother, a long-time drug and alcohol counselor, Zikea enrolled at Cumberland County College—now Rowan College of South Jersey Cumberland Campus—to pursue an associate degree in social work and a certificate in drug and alcohol counseling.

"I was so impressed with my studies at Cumberland County, I returned to complete my bachelor's degree because helping people has always been a trait of mine," said Zikea. "Social work is the art of helping people."

Georgian Court University launched the bachelor of social work (B.S.W.) program in the area two years ago, giving students more options to pursue the degree. Zikea was among the first 15 graduates to earn the B.S.W. through Georgian Court's partnership at the Cumberland location in May. Under the agreement, Cumberland students with associate degrees in social work are admitted to GCU's B.S.W. program as juniors. They take a rigorous course load of classes to prepare them to go into the field.

## Passion Meets Purpose

"These are students who want to make a difference," said Megan Sherman, Ph.D., LCSW, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Social Work. "People want to be a part of the solution, and social work is a calling."

And when it comes to her students, there's an adage that holds true.

"You can sit back and do nothing and complain about things, or you can get up and start moving and create change," said Dr. Sherman. "For our students—at Cumberland in particular—it's not just some conceptual component. This is part of their lived experience, and they want to be part of the change."

The partnership is creating a workforce better able to deal with societal issues where they live, according to Mary Kay Tuohy, D.S.W., social work program coordinator at the South Jersey location. "These students have responsibilities and families—having this program in their community provides access that they did not have before. Many do



Zikea Wise-Hughes '19 (left) and Dr. Megan Sherman (right)

not have the time or means to travel to universities that are hours away to continue their education after the associate degree." However, students in the Cumberland program also have full access to resources and events on the Lakewood campus. Zikea encouraged classmates to take advantage of them.

"Zikea is a community builder," said Dr. Tuohy. "She got the Social Work Club off the ground. She organized fund-raisers, created partnerships, and coordinated travel to Lakewood."

## Social Work Is Mercy Work

The Mercy core values of respect, integrity, justice, compassion, and service guide GCU's mission. Similarly, the B.S.W.

degree-completion program at Cumberland prepares students to make a difference in society and in their communities. The rigorous curriculum focuses on ethics, values, critical thinking, human behavior, and social and economic justice. It enables students to become a change agent in today's world—especially for the disadvantaged.

"The Mercy core values represent what GCU is—'social work is mercy work,'" said Dr. Tuohy. "This group of really dedicated people at Cumberland will make fantastic social workers, and they will come back to their communities and serve them well."

## Graduating with Advanced Standing

Zikea is now completing the M.S.W. program at Rutgers University, which she entered with advanced standing and expects to complete in May 2020. In fact, six of her classmates will complete master's degrees in just one year. Zikea credits the B.S.W. program with putting her on the path to achieving her dream job.

"GCU gives people like me with families and employment the option to stay local while obtaining an outstanding education on our own turf," she said. "GCU gives us the skills to serve individuals, families, and communities in our own backyard. Through this collaboration, we are able to actively make change in our own communities through grace and mercy."



# WELCOME TO GCU!

In late November, Georgian Court opened the new Welcome Center, just in time to welcome prospective students at Open House. The newly renovated area in Mercedes Hall will be the starting point for campus visits and tours. The brightly lit space is staffed with an admissions counselor on weekdays and on weekends during events.

"This is the first physical manifestation of our master plan," said President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., at the grand opening. "The master plan is about re-centering campus and refocusing campus here out on the Italian Gardens, and so what better place to start a tour of campus than right here in Mercedes, overlooking the Italian Gardens as we go forward? It really is the first step in executing our master plan."



The log in the fireplace is from the dying Oak Tree near the athletic fields, where the Goulds' golf course was located.



Patrick Givens, director of graduate and continuing education (left), welcomes people to the new space.



Dr. Marbach talks to Juan Quintero '19 (center right and left), former admissions counselor.



Matt Manfra, vice president for institutional advancement (left), speaks to Susan E. O. Field, professor of psychology and director of the advising fellows (right).

# NEW PROGRAMS OFFER STUDENTS MORE OPTIONS

*Last year, Georgian Court continued to expand possibility for students with the launch of three brand-new graduate programs—including the university's first doctoral program. The university also re-launched the B.A. in Computer Information Systems program. Each offers great opportunities for alumni who are ready to grow professionally. Visit [georgian.edu/academics](http://georgian.edu/academics) to learn more.*

## PSY.D. IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Students, practicing school psychologists, and other professionals eager to meet the mental health and educational needs of students at every age level can now enter GCU's Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in School Psychology program. The new program enables students to earn a doctoral degree upon completion of their undergraduate degree while also enabling practicing school psychologists to expand their practice and move into more advanced settings such as hospitals, clinics, universities, and private practice. This expansion enables GCU graduates to reach more children and adolescents who are in need of mental health services.

"The faculty are thrilled to see their hard work and long-term vision for Georgian Court University's psychology department come to fruition," said Alfred F. Mancuso, Psy.D., a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), associate professor, and chair of the GCU Department of Psychology and Counseling. "We couldn't be more pleased to unveil this new program."

GCU's overall strength as an institution and a need for more Psy.D. programs in New Jersey were among the factors considered by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. This new program has two tracks: a 112-credit, five-year program for students entering directly from their undergraduate program and a 47-credit, three-year program, which is an extension of GCU's National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)-approved existing master's degree and post-master's certificate programs in school psychology.

## M.A. IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION

Applications are now being accepted for the M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration to train more professionals who can help students succeed in college. Designed by the GCU School of Education, the 36-credit program is taught online and addresses a wide range of areas in higher education. Graduates will be prepared for leadership roles from the community college to the university level.

The comprehensive 12-course program includes a 300-hour internship in a minimum of two different areas within higher education. The program emphasizes the many areas of expertise needed for serving as a leader in higher education, including but not limited to student development, diversity and inclusion, strategic planning, higher education finance and law, counseling, organization and leadership, and administration.

"This is ideal for entry-level professionals and those looking to advance their career in higher education," says Amuhelang Magaya, Ph.D., the primary author of the program and chair of the administration and leadership program. "Our program will prepare students in a variety of entry, mid-level, and advanced careers in public, private, and two-year colleges."

## M.S. IN COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL MARKETING

The new Master of Science in Communication and Digital Marketing is taught 100% online and will enroll graduate students beginning in Fall 2020.

Integrating data-driven decision-making with marketing and communication best practices, the curriculum includes 10 courses. Classes can be completed online in one year or over two years. Coursework encompasses digital marketing, campaign management, branding, media law, and business analytics, among other topics.

"Today's marketing and communication professionals must combine creativity, expertise in use of digital technology, and business savvy to be successful. This unique program integrates the fields of communication and business (marketing)," says Ashley Elmore, Ph.D., GCU associate professor of business and director of graduate programs in the School of Business and Digital Media. "The curriculum highlights creative process, design, distribution of messages across media, and assessment of results using digital technologies," she said.

## B.A. IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Prospective GCU students were clamoring for the return of the computer information systems major, which had not been offered in recent years. The major offers students the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on experience with programming projects, database design, and network management; experience with team-oriented projects; and the foundation for understanding networks and database systems. Since computers are everywhere, the B.A. in Computer Information Systems programs will prepare students for a variety of career paths integral to the ways we work and live, such as cyber security or data analysts, database administrators, or information systems managers.



# Court Shorts

**GOOAAALS!** In early 2019, the Faculty Assembly approved revised Undergraduate Student Learning Goals and Outcomes (USLG). This included four goals and outcomes that were part of GCU's previously approved BRIDGE General Education program, as well as a fifth item related to a student's major: by the time a student graduates, they should meet their academic program objectives and have completed all requirements. The new USLG replace GCU's previous 10 institutional learning goals. Janet Thiel, OSF, Ph.D., assistant vice president for university assessment, notes that expectations for undergraduate students fall into four key areas—knowledge, both in the liberal arts foundation and in the student's major area of study; intellectual and practical skills; personal and social responsibility; and integrative learning.



*Dr. Johann Vento*

**Convocation Celebration.** Earning a college degree and having the opportunity to engage in academic pursuits carry an important responsibility, Johann M. Vento, Ph.D., told students, faculty members, and families at Georgian Court University's 2019 Convocation Ceremony. The GCU professor of theology/religious studies and chair of the Department of Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy, was named the recipient of the Virginia Graham '31 Award for Teaching Excellence at Commencement in May and delivered the Convocation Address. Dr. Vento's insight was shared as GCU faculty, staff, and alumni formally welcomed the university's newest students. The Class of 2023, including students from as far away as New Zealand, France, and Tunisia, began their studies at GCU on August 26.

**Athletics AVP Named AD of the Year.** Laura Liesman, assistant vice president for athletics, was named the 2018–2019 Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Athletic Director of the Year, as voted on by her peers. Ms. Liesman currently serves on the league's Directors Council Executive Committee as past president, while also serving as chair of the NCAA Division II Management Council. Under her guidance, GCU enjoyed a tremendous 2018–2019 campaign as the school played host to the inaugural CACC Spring Championship Festival and won four conference championships overall (men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's track & field, and women's track & field). In addition, the women's soccer team claimed the CACC Regular Season Championship, while the softball program also claimed the league's CACC crown, advanced to the conference final, and made the NCAA Division II East Region Tournament. The festival was a major undertaking for Ms. Liesman and other GCU staff, as the school and conference office hosted five championship events in a four-day span in early May. The successful event also featured a community service event with local elementary schools, music from iHeart Radio, food trucks, apparel vendors, and other festival type activities.



*Students David Bartolini (left) and Michael Gregory, a U.S. Army veteran (right) re-open the Veterans Lounge in the Casino.*

**Thank You for Your Service.** On Veterans Day 2019, Georgian Court University confirmed its commitment to military students by re-opening the Veterans Lounge on campus. The new lounge on the first floor of the Casino building has wheelchair accessibility, something that was lacking in the original location on the second floor. The new lounge has a laptop, printer, comfortable seating, and an area to make coffee or eat lunch. David Bartolini, U.S. Coast Guard veteran, reflected on why a space like this was necessary for veteran students like himself. He said that some of the veterans here may have some issues from where they've been, "so having a place that they can retreat to" could assist in their transition.



*Camelia M. Valdes (center) with members of LASO*

**Latinos Unidos.** Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes spoke at GCU in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on October 3. The event was sponsored by the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program in collaboration with the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), the Student Taskforce on Diversity and Inclusion, and TRIO–Student Support Services. Ms. Valdes, a proud champion of EOF as an alumna of Seton Hall’s program, is the first Latina county prosecutor in New Jersey and the first lead prosecutor of Dominican ancestry in the United States.

**Mercy Go Bragh.** Timothy M. Briles, Ed.D., associate professor of education, special assistant to the president for special projects, and NCAA faculty athletic representative, and Pamela J. Rader, Ph.D., professor of English, represented GCU at the 2019 Carlow Roundtable. The event is held every two years in Ireland and gives faculty from Mercy colleges and universities time to immerse themselves in the history, mission, and values of the Sisters of Mercy. The presentations also include faculty papers related to our shared Mercy heritage.



*Dr. Briles (back) and Dr. Rader (front right) are pictured here with colleagues at the Ruins of St. Kevin in Glendalough, County Wicklow, Ireland.*



*Officer Maloney (left) and Chief Zambrano (right)*

**And We’re Safe!** Several GCU colleagues were recognized by the New Jersey College and University Public Safety Association (CUPSA) at their awards event in June. Former Chief Thomas Zambrano, who received the Campus Career Award and Retirement Award in honor of his 39 years of working in campus law enforcement, praised members of the campus safety team. Campus Safety Officer Chris Maloney was honored with the Administrative Award. While many employees know Chris for his dedication to the daily work of keeping campus safe, he was also recently selected by the President’s Leadership Council to drive and handle all customer service requests for the Middle States accreditation team in March. Also in attendance at the event were campus safety team members Michele Risley and Charles Tighe and residence life staffers Elizabeth Estelle and Stephanie Abdalla.

**Singing Praise.** GCU’s Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program hosted two gospel concerts in 2019 featuring vocalist Elder Toby Rawls Carson ’95.

The events, held in May and December, drew students, faculty, staff, and alumni for praise and worship in the Marron Chapel. The English/education alumna, who also has a master’s degree in public communication from Fordham University, is an administrator with Bright Horizons Co. Elder Rawls, who has spent her whole life in the ministry, is an associate elder at Saint Paul Life Center in Newark. She is also the co-founder of iWorship Ministry, a movement designed to inspire men, women, and youth.

**Making the Pride Proud.** A huge thanks goes out to the more than 350 alumni, family, and friends who donated during Giving Tuesday 2019. Lions throughout the country proclaimed their commitment to the advancement of GCU, its talented faculty, and a thriving student body. Because of those who donated, students have greater access to scholarship dollars, faculty members may leverage additional academic and research support, and our campus will benefit from an increasingly connected digital infrastructure. Simply put—thank you!



*Elder Toby Rawls Carson '95*





Sunny weather followed the traditional GCU Academic Procession to the Apollo Fountain and the ceremony location.



## Commencement 2019: Find Your Purpose

Each of the students in Georgian Court University's Class of 2019 has a designated purpose, and it's their job to put it to work, according to Justice Anne M. Patterson, who offered advice to the graduates at GCU's Commencement Ceremony. The event followed the annual Baccalaureate Mass, held earlier in the day.

"What can you do to be ready for your unique contribution to the world, your distinctive accomplishment that belongs to no one else?" asked the New Jersey Supreme Court associate justice, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree during the event. "You have already proven that you are not afraid of hard work.

"Whether you go on to further study or land that first job," she advised, "please do not hesitate to take on the tasks that seem too difficult or time-consuming, the assignments that send everyone else running for cover. You take them on—because you will learn a valuable lesson from each of them."

Justice Patterson joined GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., in saluting more than 600 students who participated in the joint bachelor's and master's degrees ceremony. Other speakers included Kacie Mandella '19, a Manchester resident, psychology major, and Student Government Association Executive Board president, as well as additional honorary degree recipients Brian Gragnolati, FACHE, president and CEO of Atlantic Health System, and Michael A. Pontoriero, M.D., a deacon at Saint Thomas More Church and senior partner/vice president of the Cardiovascular Care Group.

In her parting words, Kacie encouraged the graduates to remember what made their time at Georgian Court special.

"Remember the person who helped you grow in college, or the person who really wanted to see you succeed and would stop at nothing to make sure you made it to this day," she said. "That's what I want you to remember about your time here—not the hard work, not the long days, not all of the homework, tests, and papers, but the people who stood behind you and pushed you toward success every step of the way.

"Life is unpredictable," she said. "We don't know where we will be in 5 or even 10 years from now. But we do know that no matter what, no matter where our journey takes us, we know that what we gained from Georgian Court will always be with us."



Justice Anne M. Patterson



Business major Arturo Sanchez (shown here with GCU Board of Trustees Chair Robert E. Mulcahy III on left and President Marbach on right) received the Kingdon Gould Jr. Award. It is given to a graduating senior who, in the opinion of fellow classmates, has contributed the most to the general welfare of Georgian Court.



## Lacrosse Duo Named CAANJ Student-Athletes of the Year

By Christopher McKibben



Five months after graduation, Georgian Court University's Samantha Fernandez and Ryder Verdoni continued to reap recognition as the lacrosse duo was honored October 24 by the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) with their selections as the CAANJ's Division II Student-Athletes of the Year.

Samantha, a three-time Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Player of the Year and Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) All-Region honoree, paced the conference-champion Lions with her 77 goals in the season (second in CACC). The all-time leading scorer in program history eclipsed the team record of 206 tallies (established in 2016 by Melissa Williams) on April 9 with four goals in a 17-6 home win over Post University. The Toms River, New Jersey, native netted goals in all but two of GCU's 19 games last season with 12 efforts of three or more in a contest, including a season-high nine in a 16-11 victory vs. Lock Haven University back on March 12.

Also a stellar student, Samantha placed on the CACC All-Academic Team while earning selection to the prestigious New Jersey Iota Chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Honor Society. She now serves as the head women's lacrosse coach at Ocean County College.

Ryder, a 2019 United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA)/Warrior and New Balance Division II Scholar All-American, sported a 3.63 cumulative grade point average as a biology major. The Farmingdale, New Jersey, native landed on the CACC All-Academic Team for the second-straight year last spring while also earning selection into Chi Alpha Sigma in 2018.

Having played a vital role in leading the Lions to the CACC title in both 2018 and 2019, Ryder ended his final collegiate campaign with his first career All-CACC accolade. He netted 21 goals, including four of the man-up variety, in 18 games. Ryder peppered the opponents' net with 104 shots, ranking eighth in the CACC.

The midfielder ended his career with 62 goals, tied for second most in the four-year history of the program with Michael Saladino (62, 2017–2018).

## Lacrosse Player Becomes Third CACC Representative to DII SAAC

By Christopher McKibben

Georgian Court University women's lacrosse student-athlete Madison Heck has been chosen as the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference's (CACC) representative to the Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Madison, whose term officially commenced in late August, becomes the third Lion to serve in this capacity, joining Heather Walker '08 (softball/volleyball) and Amy Berry '13 (volleyball).

"Madison is certainly a deserving candidate and will be a dynamic voice for both Georgian Court University and the CACC," states Laura Liesman, assistant vice president for athletics. "We take tremendous pride in the total development of our student-athletes; to now have a third Division II National SAAC representative demonstrates the drive and commitment our student-athletes put forth in all facets of their collegiate experiences."

Madison will be extremely busy during her tenure as she attends various NCAA meetings throughout the year, including the 2020 NCAA Convention in Anaheim, California. The Division II National SAAC will cast one vote toward potential NCAA legislation at the convention as each member is provided the opportunity to voice his or her thoughts and opinions on future legislation.

"This opportunity means so much to me because I will now have a platform to share my experiences as a student-athlete, representing both Georgian Court University and the CACC," says Madison. "I am extremely excited and lucky to have this chance to grow as an individual and to apply my learnings to the Georgian Court community; I will do so to the best of my ability, just as my predecessors have before me."





# Athletics Graduate Assistant Named NCAA Woman of the Year

*By Christopher McKibben*

Everyone who met Krissy Ortiz upon her arrival on the Georgian Court University campus this past August quickly learned that the diminutive graduate assistant owned one of the brightest smiles on campus, and could sure pack a wallop on the golf course.

However, the true depth of Krissy's success as a four-year star student-athlete at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, went well beyond her mastery of a putting green. The GCU community soon found out that the newest Lion blazed quite a path during her tenure in the Sunshine State that would place her as one of the NCAA's elite.

The native of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, and eight other female student-athletes (three from each NCAA division) served as the nine finalists for the honor of 2019 Woman of the Year in Indianapolis on October 20.

Each individual demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics, community service, and leadership throughout their collegiate career.

"I was fortunate to meet Krissy through the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was extremely impressed," says Laura Liesman, assistant vice president for athletics. "She has such a spectacularly balanced collegiate résumé and an abundance of diverse experiences throughout her four years at Lynn. We could not be more proud of Krissy on her well-deserved honor and are so excited to have her as a member of the athletics staff here at GCU. Her day-to-day input and her unique perspective as a former student-athlete is invaluable."

The 2018–2019 Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Woman of the Year, Krissy was named a Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Second Team All-American following First Team All-Region and Second Team All-SSC honors. With the play of Krissy, Lynn brought home the 2019 south region title and SSC championship title. The Fighting Knights ended the season with a ninth-place finish at the NCAA Division II National Championship, the program's first



national title appearance since 2015.

Krissy graduated from Lynn in Spring 2019 with a 3.93 GPA and degree in international business management. She is a 2019 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Third Team Academic All-American, a 2018 and 2019 Google Cloud/CoSIDA Academic First Team All-District selection, and a

four-time WGCA All-American Scholar as well as SSC Commissioner's Honor Roll recipient.

While her athletic and academic plaudits are impressive, her time spent promoting change within the administrative and community ranks may be her most extraordinary accomplishment. She has been an integral part of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at the university, conference, and national levels, serving as Lynn's SAAC co-president since 2016, being named the SSC's SAAC president in 2017, and representing the league as the national representative beginning in 2017. Additionally, she served on Lynn's Athletic Council, the NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, and the Division II Management Council.

Within the South Florida community, Krissy worked with many organizations to help those in need. She spearheaded two Make-A-Wish wish reveal campaigns and worked with Feeding South Florida, 4ocean beach cleanup, the Stratford Court retirement home, and many others. At Georgian Court, Krissy is primarily working with SAAC, as well as the department's GC-You and mentorship programs.

"The values of Lynn University played a major role in my life and have helped shape the person I am today," Krissy says. "During my time as a student-athlete, I came to realize that I would have to learn and develop spirit and service first, before I could develop strength as a leader and athlete. The Mercy core values of Georgian Court only add to my personal growth. I am so excited to join the Lions as I begin my next chapter."

# 2019: A Banner Year for GCU Lions

By Christopher McKibben

At the end of every calendar year, we typically take the time to reflect on the previous 365 days. When looking back on the 2019 that Georgian Court University experienced athletically, it's almost impossible to find a blip of negativity, as the Lions quite possibly enjoyed the greatest year in program history.

GCU, over the last 12 months, has won no fewer than 16 postseason contests, appeared in six Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) title games, and earned seven conference crowns.

The excitement kicked off in February when the men's track & field team won its second East Coast Conference (ECC) championship in three years, while the women's squad earned its first-ever ECC indoor title.

The GCU women's basketball team, toeing the postseason hardwood for the first time since 2003, made up for lost time in a big way in March as the Lions upset host Caldwell University, 80-63, in the 2019 CACC quarterfinals.

In May, Georgian Court served as the site of the inaugural Spring Festival, which featured five CACC Championships, including softball, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's outdoor track & field, and women's outdoor track & field. The Lions took full advantage of its home-field advantage, not only competing in all five championship events/finals, but securing four separate title banners over the four-day festival.

Georgian Court men's lacrosse continued to reign supreme in the CACC, as the #2-seed Lions outlasted #1 Chestnut Hill College to lay claim to its second-straight title in the CACC finale. GCU held off the Griffins, 11-10, to remain the only conference champion since men's lacrosse became a CACC sport prior to the 2018 campaign.



*Volleyball celebrated its victory in the CACC Championship game on November 17.*

Women's lacrosse claimed its third consecutive CACC crown (and fifth overall) as the top-seed Lions ran away with a 20-7 triumph over #2 Jefferson in the CACC Championship title game. GCU, the first team in CACC women's lacrosse history to win three straight banners, closed the year riding an 11-game winning streak while winning 33 games in a row vs. CACC foes (including postseason).

In track & field competition, GCU women continued their dominance of the CACC as the Lions extended their incredible streak of outdoor titles to six with a first-place finish in the CACC Outdoor Championship Meet. The GCU men collected their fourth outdoor title in the last five years, as the Lions topped the field in the men's championship final.

Softball may not have been the last team standing in its tournament (the Lions fell to Wilmington University in the championship game), but Georgian Court

hardly felt badly for itself as the squad won the most games in team history (46) and still earned a berth in the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament.

The success of the spring lost zero momentum through the idle months of summer, as the Lions came back to campus raring to go upon their return to the playing field. Both the men's and women's soccer squads, as well as the women's volleyball team, followed suit by each advancing to its respective championship tournament final.

With neither soccer team able to raise the banner at the end, volleyball was up to the challenge. The Lions collected the sixth CACC championship in program history (and first since 2013) with 30 victories. While the squad fell in the opening round of their sixth-ever NCAA DII Championship Tournament, it was an amazing year indeed for the Lions.



# FROM LAKEWOOD TO PYEONGCHANG

By Gail H. Towns

Journalist Seth Berkman '07 loves a good story. And when his editors at the *New York Times* assigned him to cover South Korea's efforts to build a women's Olympic hockey team—a first for their country—Mr. Berkman knew he had one.

He didn't know this particular good story would lead to his first book, *A Team of Their Own: How an International Sisterhood Made Olympic History* (Hanover Square Press, 2019). The book launched in October 2019 and is widely available in print and as an audiobook.

In it, he writes about the team's experiences on the road to the 2018 Winter Olympics, an interesting cast of more than 24 players, the influence of coaches, and the athletic landscape of three countries. Mr. Berkman also details what happened a month before the Olympics when North and South Korea combined their women's hockey teams. His story suddenly infused politics, diplomacy, women's empowerment, and national pride.

The veteran sportswriter and contributor to the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and *The Guardian*, talked to *GCU Magazine* about his professional journey.

*The book by itself is exciting, but your personal ties make it even more interesting. What's your story?*

I was born in South Korea and adopted at three months old by parents who raised me in Lakewood. That really shaped who I've become because it's such a unique town. A lot of people don't get a taste of diversity or other cultures or the intricacies of America until they go to college. Lakewood was never like that. I interacted with people from all backgrounds. The majority of my friends weren't just white, but also African American, Puerto Rican, and from other backgrounds. That allowed me to absorb the cultures of people around me.

*What led you to Georgian Court?*

I went to Florida for college but came back to New Jersey after the first month and lived with my mother's parents at

the other end of Lake Carasaljo. I was basically living right across from campus.

It was still early enough in the fall for me to complete late registration. Sister Dorothy [Lazarick, RSM, '67, former academic advisor] helped get me into a few classes, and I stayed for the next four and half years. Dr. Scott Bennett was my thesis advisor.

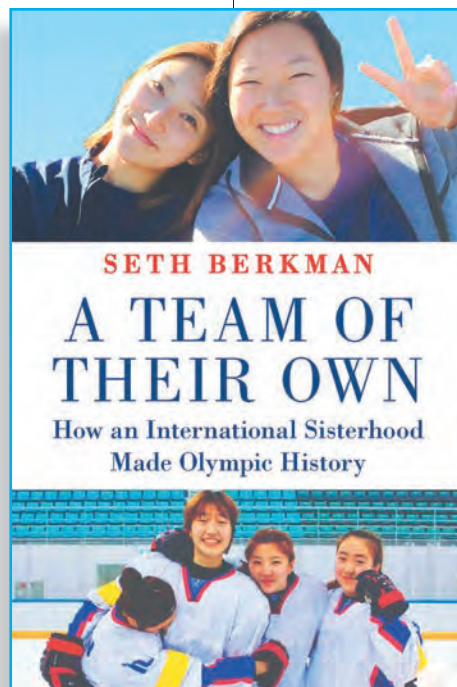
*After graduation from Georgian Court, you worked for a few local newspapers and eventually landed an editorial job at the NBA but decided to go back to school. Tell us about that.*

I wanted to learn more about general news and reporting, so in 2010 I earned my master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. One of the first gigs I was offered was sports writing for the *New York Times*. Given the way the *Times* covers sports, you're writing more about people—not so much about the game.

*What was it like to be in PyeongChang to cover the unified hockey team?*

You could tell right away that 90% of the crowd had never even seen a hockey team, but because the presidents of South Korea and North Korea were both there—essentially as cheerleaders—everyone was looking for the exterior things going on. There happened to be a hockey team in the middle of it. Everyone was trying to get pictures of the presidents while an actual game was taking place. It was an unusual mix of sports and politics and a rare moment captured in a hockey game.

*Seth Berkman also had lots to say about the book and what he learned while writing it. Read more at [georgian.edu/newsroom](http://georgian.edu/newsroom).*



## 1940s

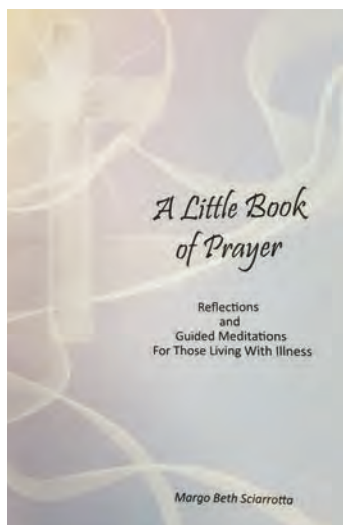


**Frances D'Aloia Semler '41**, shown above with her great-granddaughters Cecilia (center) and Lydia (right), recently celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. She recalls Georgian Court as "a place of dignity and elegance," and notes that Mother Mary John Considine '12 (one of the first seven graduates from Georgian Court College) was president at the time. She says that Mother Mary John's motto was: "You dress the way you think and think the way you dress," and often put those words into action by greeting Frances and her classmates before chapel to make sure their tams were on right.

## 1960s

**Eugenia Palmegiano, Ph.D., J.D., '60** received the 2018 Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History from the American Journalism Historians Association.

**Percylee Hart, RSM, '67**, former trustee, was the grand marshal of the 2019 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16. Sister Percylee has been the principal of Union Catholic High School since 1980.



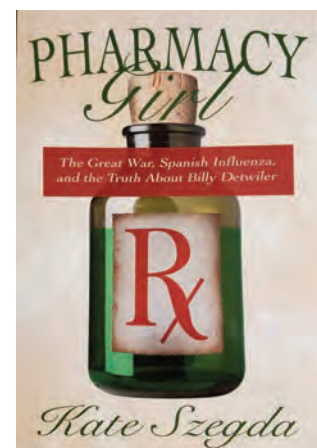
### Margo Mroz Sciarrotta '64

published *A Little Book of Prayer: Reflections and Guided Meditations for Those Living with Illness*. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Margo used her faith to help her accept her new normal. Her book teaches you what to say to someone dealing with tough times, how to handle awkward situations, and how to change painful situations into times of healing and strength. Margo recently passed away after a brief, courageous fight with cancer.

## 1970s

### Kathryn Wagner Szegda '71

published a novel, *Pharmacy Girl: The Great War, Spanish Influenza, and the Truth about Billy Detwiler*. Kate is a former middle-school English language arts teacher and has spent the last 10 years supervising student teachers for the University of Delaware.



### Carla Frumusa Valentino '79's

exhibition, *Alternate Routes: A Retrospective*, ran from February 15 to April 12 at Gallery211 in Red Bank. This collection represents the work of a more than 10-year period. A wide range of influences, as well as experimentation with a variety of media, contributed to the diverse outcomes. Color, shape, texture, pattern, and contrast are explored and reconfigured through multiple processes such as collage, painting, and most notably, mixed media. A single medium never seemed to be enough. The need to combine materials grew exponentially along with the gradual transition from realism to abstraction, and ultimately to a combination of both. Carla is a fine arts teacher at Red Bank Catholic High School, as well as an adult instructor at Colorest in Red Bank.



Members from the Class of 1968 had a luncheon at the Grenville Hotel in Bay Head on April 26 to remember the late Mary Arthur Beal, RSM, '55, former dean of the Georgian Court Graduate School. It was an occasion they have marked every year since her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in the Mansion in 2012. Pictured are Susan Arndt Leonard, Grace Letizia Cairns, Donna Moscvam Eastman, Mary Ellen Wormann McCrystal, Nancy Lamb Ryan, Lauretta Biasi Miller, Marjorie Murphy Hale, Debbie Hanley Williams, Carolyn Scimeca Gatti, Jo Ann Emburgia, and Kathi Solar Greene.



### 1980s

#### Joan Mast, Ed.D., '82

became the new superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District in August.

#### Barbara Ann Reilly

**Schick '84** was recognized as a Woman of the Month for March 2019 by P.O.W.E.R. (Professional Organization of Women of Excellence) for her outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of education.

### 1990s

#### Ave M. Latte, Ed.D., '90

began her career at Brookdale Community College in 1994 as a learning assistant in the Reading and Education departments. Today, she is a professor and chair of the Education Department. She was instrumental in adding the A.S. in Education degree for teacher candidates interested in STEM areas. Her work with both the credit and noncredit divisions of the college has brought two community college teacher

licensing programs for alternate route candidates to Brookdale. Dr. Latte's work with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher licensing program made Brookdale the only college in the state that has the grant and nontraditional program for CTE sectors of a community college teacher licensing program. She helped author the New Jersey curriculum and course for the New Pathways to Teaching program.

#### Jill Padavano Valentice '94

was promoted to executive director of Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County in Ohio.

**Maureen Butler '97** retired after serving as the first principal of Jackson Liberty High School. She joined the Jackson School District in January 2006 to get to know the community and the high school—Jackson's second—opened that September with freshman and sophomore classes. Maureen previously served as the assistant principal at Red Bank Regional High School in Little Silver, prior to the opening of Jackson Liberty.

**Jeanne Tammie Dougherty Pagano '90** was honored with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in Education Award by 10<sup>th</sup> District Legislators Senator Jim Holzapfel and Assemblymen Dave Wolfe and Greg McGuckin (on right in photo) for her dedication and work as an English teacher at Toms River High School East.



### GCU Day at the Races

MaryAnne Applegate Donahue '90, '97 (seated, center) and her family joined us on June 2 at Monmouth Park Racetrack



### Chocolate with a Twist

Alumni Board of Directors (ABoD) members showed off their chocolate creations from a painting, wine, and chocolate class held at GCU on March 29. Pictured are Kristen Cladek '14, secretary; Alicia Warnsdorfer Somers '95, director; Keri Tarantino Carlton '99, immediate past president; and Alice Bosies Velez '84, '93, president.



### 2000s

#### Colleen Bonner '01, '07

is a history teacher at West Johnston High School in Benson, North Carolina. In her first attempt at applying for a grant, she received an IGNITE 2018 Education Grant.

#### Nikima Barnhill Newsome, M.P.A., MMC, '01

is now the assistant director of records and election services/assistant city clerk with the City of Santa Monica in California.



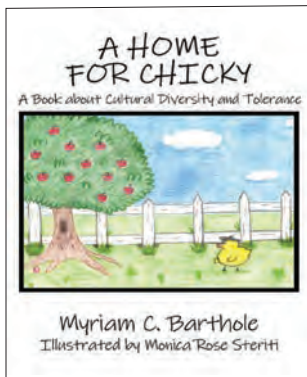
## Alumni Luau

Class of 2014 nursing alumnae Dana Stasiak Pepino, RN; Carrie Ann Curtin, RN; Katie Catanzaro, RN; Kristy Tolomei, RN; and Ashley Loksa, RN, reunited on July 18 at River Rock Restaurant & Marina Bar.



### Myriam C. Barthole '02

released her book *A Home for Chicky*, which celebrates cultural diversity and the different traits we all have that make us very special. Myriam is a retired teacher from Lincroft. She holds a master's degree in education from Georgian Court and a bachelor's degree in translation from the University of Montreal. Before becoming a teacher, Myriam worked for close to 20 years at the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). She lives in New Jersey with her husband, Carl, and has two grown children, Cynthia and Patrick.



### Nina Robinson Britton '03

was named to the WRAT Teachers Who Rock Class of 2019. Nina is a fourth-grade teacher at Bayville Elementary School in Bayville.

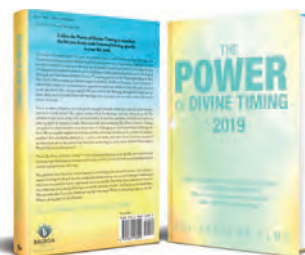
**Adam Binder '07**, founder of Creative Click Media, was named one of NJBIZ's Forty Under 40, which recognizes 40 notable movers and shakers under the age of 40 making their mark in the New Jersey business scene.

## 2010s

**Evgenia Timm, FACHE, CMPE, '10**, director of operations for the Physicians Services Division at Hackensack Meridian Health, received the American College of Healthcare Executives 2018 Innovation Award for her significant commitment to advancing health care management and excellence throughout Hackensack Meridian Health and Hackensack Meridian Health Medical Group.

### Joyce Yascone Elms '11

released a new book, *The Power of Divine Timing* (Balboa Press). It is an annual astrological guide and method that helps readers manifest their innermost desires. Joy is a third-generation intuitive and astrological intuitive with an M.A. in Holistic Health Studies from Georgian Court. She is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and earned her undergraduate degree from Columbia College in Chicago. Joy has lived in New York, Illinois, and New Jersey and currently resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with her husband, Thaddeus. She opened her astrological coaching practice at the Wainwright House in Rye, New York, and founded *The Power of Divine Timing™* "to help clients to nurture the correct source at the correct time to manifest desired results."



### Christina Georgas '11

is excited to start add a new journey as the communications coordinator at Saint Leo the Great Parish in Lincroft. She also works as a lead sales manager at Chico's Boutique in Sea Girt. Additionally, she is celebrating her fifth year in business as a successful beauty, health, and wellness coach with Arbonne International.

### Thomas Russo, Esq., '11

was sworn in as a member of Howell Township Council on New Year's Day. He is a lifelong Howell resident who grew up in the Ramtown section and is a 2005 graduate of Howell High School, where he was on the varsity wrestling and lacrosse teams. He received his law degree from Widener University School of Law, where he was elected and served as class president. Thomas is in private legal practice in Monmouth County and resides with his wife, Amanda, in Moors Landing.



**Sara Siman Cimino '12** was named to the WRAT Teachers Who Rock Class of 2019. She is a special education (language arts and mathematics) teacher at Southern Regional Middle School in Manahawkin.

**Sherri Vant '13** is a special education teacher for the Franklin Township Board of Education—the same district from which she graduated high school. She had been a substitute

for the district for four years prior to being hired full time. She recently completed her ESL certification through her employer and the College of New Jersey.

**Peter Collins Jr. '15, '17** is the assistant director of the Ohio Bobcat Club at Ohio University in Athens. The club is of the fund-raising arm of Ohio athletics.

**Samantha Greenstein '16** was named to the WRAT Teachers Who Rock Class of 2019. She is a special education teacher at Ridgeway Elementary School in Manchester Township.

**Tiffany Clarke '17** was named to the WRAT Teachers Who Rock Class of 2019. She is a third- and fourth-grade special education teacher at Manchester Township Elementary School.

**Natassia Skipper '17** is a police officer for the Rahway Police Department.

# CELEBRATING OUR JUBILARIANS

Just as a married couple would celebrate an anniversary, our Sisters of Mercy celebrate the anniversaries of their consecrated membership in their community. A jubilee is an occasion for celebrating God's faithfulness in helping them live their vows.

In 2019, four Sisters of Mercy celebrated 70 years: Joan Gavron '64, Mary Karen Horan '66, Joyce Marie Riley '63, and Edwina Rudolph '66, former dean of student services and mission assistant. Six Sisters of Mercy celebrated their Diamond Jubilees (60 years of service): Joann Burzichelli '70, former trustee; Carol Conly '64; Eileen Lowden '72, '82, former trustee (who passed away in March); Eileen McNamee '70; Brenda Rowe, friend of GCU; and M. Stanislaus Zita '67. Anna Saltzman '73 celebrated 50 years with her Golden Jubilee.



*On November 14, a liturgy of celebration was held to celebrate Sisters of Mercy and St. Francis in the Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel at McAuley Hall. Seated from left to right are Joyce Marie Riley, RSM; Dolores Targiano, RSM (60 years); M. Stanislaus Zita, RSM; and Veronica Simpson, OSF. Standing from left to right are Mary Pascal Hill; Kathleen Keenan, RSM, vice president of the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community Leadership Team; Mary Karen Horan, RSM; Joan Gavron, RSM; and M. Antonia Cooper, OSF (50 years), Franciscan International Leadership Team.*

## Engagements

**Sherri Vant '13** and Jason Nagy

**Jillian Kreutzer '16** and Christopher Dymek

## Weddings



**Nikima S. Barnhill Muller '01** and Dave P. Newsome—11/10/18



**Sandra McGreevey '14** and Anthony D'Elia—11/24/18



SEND YOUR ALUMNI NEWS TO  
the Office of Alumni Relations,  
900 Lakewood Avenue,  
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2697  
or [alumni@georgian.edu](mailto:alumni@georgian.edu).



**Jennifer Swenticky '14** and Christopher Rice—5/5/19

**Kaitlyn Connell '16** and **Patrick Abrenica '19**—7/29/18

## Children



Jacques and **Fiah Gussin Kwesseu '05, '06**, trustee—  
Daniel-James P. Kwesseu, born 10/10/18

Perry and **Autumn Florez Schatzow '08**—Marlow, born  
10/18/18, joins brother Samson



**Kaitlyn Connell '16** and **Patrick Abrenica '19**—  
Charlotte, born 9/27/18 (pictured with Kaitlyn's father,  
**Brian Connell '97**)

**Natassia Skipper '17**—King Ezekiel McNeil, born 9/17/18



# In Memoriam

Ada Abarca '44

Miriam Ronga Rockefeller Bush '47

Virginia Hamel Heffernan '47

Gloria O'Connor Miesch Shouse '48

Ida Squatrito Simpson '48, sister of  
Nancy C. Squatrito '50

Gloria Sibek Usher '49

Florence "Florita" Perini Field '50

Mary Sullivan Fitzgerald Finizio '50

Joan Rosebluth Hoonhout '51

Catherine Walker Kietzman '52

Lois Brodowski Piet '52

Barbara Barrett Steiger '52

Damaris Bray Sayce '53

Armida Siguion-Reyna '53

Constance Rapp Cherry '54

Joan Scanlon Dugan '54

Gloria Larach '54, sister of Alma  
Larach May '53

Margaret Sanzone McHarris '54

Elvira Condina Schopfer '54

Michiko Masugi Mathews '55

Bernadette Barry Bond '56

Grace Gallimore Leonida '56, formerly  
Mary Fatima, RSM

Maureen McElwee Moran '56

Carmen Yordan Skerrett '56

Mary Gloria Jones, RSM, '57

Margaret L. Torres '58

Mary Ellin Price Bollinger '59,  
sister-in-law of Margaret Birdsall  
Price '64

Margaret Mary Smith, RSM, '59, sister  
of Theresa Smith Mong '63

Barbara Burdett, RSM, '60

Sarah McCulloch, RSM, '62

Nancy Haworth Paul '62

Marie Virag '62

Virginia Johnson Dahill '63

Mary Yvonne Osborne, RSM, '63

Barbara Bilinski Smith '63

Margo Mroz Sciarrotta '64

Charity Downs, J.D., '66

Dolores Patterson, RSM, '66

Rhoda Brilliant Axelrad '67

Mary Ann Liddy, RSM, '69

Eileen I. Lowden, RSM, '72, '82

Daryl Marsala '73, '80

Audrey Smith O'Neill '73

Margaret Ruddy '73

Yvonne Wuest Timony '73

The Honorable John C. Bartlett Jr. '74

June Delli Santi Jenkins '75

Susan Hamilton '76

Lillian Mazza Serles '76

Sally Davis '79

JoEllen Brady Osborn '79, '82

Roy Feldman '80

Jane Schier '80

Carol Burkley '81

Victoria Bitetti Smith '81

Isabel Lopez Borrero '82, mother-in-law  
of Carole Rogers '04, '16

Beverly Rogers Lowe '82

Elizabeth Will Nanna '82, '84

Dawn Marie Swallow '82

Russell Gleeson '84, husband of  
Patricia Coughlin Gleeson '91

Mary Jane Pastor Steib '86, mother  
of Kathryn Steib Stegemann '94 and  
Leslie Steib '95, '15

Michael Thomas '86

Joanne Delpino Connelly '88

Joan Barry Montague '89

Mary Ann Cianci Cebula '91

Doris Irelan Reagle '91

Sharon Lee '93

Nancy Duehring '94

Meredith McGovern Fellows '95

Shirleyanne Tardiff Maken '95

Barbara Schiebel Sullivan '95

Maurice McGowan '97

Michelle O'Hearn Burton '99, sister of  
Dana O'Hearn Nosti '00

Nancy Levin '99

Thomas Gallucci III '02, husband of  
Deborah Gallucci, CPA, '02

Bruce Larsen '02

Heather MacDonald '02

Tracy Patterson '05, '11

Claire Bala '07

Andrew S. Battend, former vice  
president for college advancement  
and father of Lynn Battend Sandom,  
D.C., '05

Randolph Brown, director of financial aid

Pasquale DiFlavis, former adjunct  
lecturer in business

Emily R. Forman, current student

John "Norman" Gundersen, former  
groundskeeper

Wayne E. Jones, current student

Patricia Quigley, current student

## Condolences

*Georgian Court University wishes to extend its prayers and condolences to the families of alumni, members of the university community, and friends who have passed away.*



# Global State of Mind

As GCU celebrated Halloween on campus, soccer player Landry Cheta, who is from England, wanted to put an international twist on the event. His teammates from other countries put their global stamp on the festivities.

“As part of the soccer team, I have the pleasure of being surrounded by international students from various backgrounds and nationalities, including German, French, Italians, and others from different parts of the United Kingdom,” says Landry.

“We all bring a different perspective to GCU, stemming from our different backgrounds. We come from such different education systems, but we’ve come to understand that we can use that to our advantage,” he added. Landry is president of the university’s Global Lions Club and wants others to experience the world.

The club hosts monthly café meetings and is open to all students (most members are American-born). As a group, they encourage study abroad, global volunteerism, and world travel.



*British soccer players Meuke Klaus “Landry” Cheta, Rhys Cotter, and Jay Abraham (left to right)*



## Providing Opportunity

Maria Lopez '21 turned to a cousin for ideas when she applied for college. Georgian Court University stood out because it was a small campus promising a personalized education.

"I chose GCU because I knew I would have a lot of opportunities here," says the sophomore finance major from Brick, New Jersey. "GCU is special because people know each other. Small classes allow you to get to know your professors. They inspire me in so many different ways, including helping me plan my future after Georgian Court."

Maria is among the nearly 40% of GCU students who are first in their families to attend college. Equipping these ambitious students with the right mix of resources and support, including scholarships, is critical.

Your ongoing support makes a difference in their ability to succeed in college and focus on their future. For Maria, that means studying abroad in France, being a campus leader, and pursuing a career in consumer research.

Make a scholarship gift to Georgian Court University and expand possibility for students like Maria. Visit [georgian.edu/giving](https://georgian.edu/giving) or call 732-987-2232 to give.

