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Georgian Court University Magazine

President's Annual Report &
Honor Roll of Donors
2016–2017



Creating opportunities
for students through
research, travel,
mentoring, and more



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We recently celebrated the achievements of nearly 600 graduates in the Class of 2017, and the promise their future holds. It was an exceptionally proud moment. More than 48 percent of the graduates receiving bachelor's degrees were the first in their families to complete college and a significant number—51 percent—earned their degree despite economic disadvantages.

Yet, their success does not surprise us. We have a strong tradition of attracting talented students and offering them high-impact opportunities in the classroom, on campus, and in the workforce—opportunities that lead to personal and professional growth.

This edition of *GCU Magazine* highlights a number of those opportunities. For some students, it means conducting research with a favorite professor. Others are seeing the world for the first time, thanks to faculty-led experiences in Ireland, Costa Rica, and other countries (p. 8). Still others benefit from time spent with high-profile speakers (p. 20), alumni entrepreneurs (p. 16), or successful graduates (p. 31).

Creating opportunities, however, is not done in a vacuum. It requires willing partners, like you.

In the *President's Annual Report & Honor Roll of Donors*, we share the extraordinary impact of your generosity. For example, more than 54 percent of all donations to GCU support scholarships, and last year, donations helped GCU award nearly *\$1 million* to students.

Your support makes a critical difference in the lives of our students and the lives they will touch in their careers and in their communities. Nursing majors Stephanie Nagy '17 (p. 27) and Alyssa Wallschleger '17 (back cover) are living proof.

Beyond what you read here, we look forward to sharing even more great news about GCU throughout 2017–2018, and during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, September 29 to October 1. We have big plans for you: an Athletics Hall of Fame induction, an Open House for prospective students, soccer and volleyball games, reunion gatherings, a family-friendly carnival, and an evening of laughs with comedian Nick Cannon.

If there was ever an exciting time to come home to GCU, this is it. I look forward to keeping you abreast of our shared progress and seeing you this fall.

Go Lions!

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.

President, Georgian Court University

P.S. Connect with me on Twitter at @DrJosephMarbach



On the cover: GCU students and faculty hiked nearly 80 miles in the Wicklow Mountains of Ireland in the spring. Pictured are Patricia Prioli '17; Sarah Leavitt '19; Kyle Homer '17; Becky Scharen '18; Katie Stabile '19; Ashley Quinby '19; and Jenn Summerhays, former director of global education programs (back, left to right) and Pamela Rader, Ph.D., professor of English; and Chloe Grady '17 (front, left to right).

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Georgian Court

University Magazine

President's Annual Report 2016–2017 & Honor Roll of Donors



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Four GCU Students Present Research Projects at Independent College Fund of New Jersey Symposium

By Sanford Josephson



The student presenters posed for a photo at the ICFNJ Symposium with the faculty advisors who worked with them on their projects. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Carolyn Bergman, Tyler Verdoni, Dr. Jean Parry, Shannon Delaney, Dr. Lei Cao, Qiaoli He, Dr. Jo Ann Cummings, and Efthimia Stefanou.

Shannon Delaney '17 loves lab work. The future clinical laboratory scientist says she "could spend hours looking under a microscope." Shannon, a resident of Howell, New Jersey, was one of four Georgian Court students and recent alumni who made research presentations on March 13 at the Independent College Fund of New Jersey's (ICFNJ) Undergraduate Research Symposium at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City.

The ICFNJ is an organization that exists to strengthen New Jersey's independent colleges and universities by supporting strategic investments in programs, scholarships, and education. The goal of the research symposium is to promote the educational and professional development of students in STEM majors, supporting the science, technology, engineering, and math pipelines.

An ICFNJ recipient of Celgene's Sol J. Barer Scholarship for Life Sciences, Shannon focused her research on identifying and comparing wild nematodes (multicellular earth animals) from different environmental niches with the help of her advisor, Jean Parry, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology.

"I decided to test nematodes in two different areas on campus," says Shannon, "on soccer fields where there would be more running and use of equipment and on wetlands where there wouldn't be as much activity. We hypothesized that there would be a difference in the nematodes families, but we found the same family—*Rhabditidae*—in both places. This is very important from an agricultural perspective. Some farmers put nematodes into the soil to enrich it, but there are parasitic nematodes and free-living nematodes." *Rhabditidae*, she says, are free living nematodes.

Shannon originally planned to pursue a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, but changed her mind.

"I decided I didn't want to go into academia," she says. "I took an immunology course, which I loved. I wanted more of the instant gratification of helping people. Clinical lab science helps people. I want to work in a lab in a hospital."

She has been accepted into the Rutgers School of Health Professions' medical laboratory science program and will be spending 15 months on the Newark campus.



Left: The students look over the program with GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. Right: Tyler explains his research on Carex kobomugi to a judge.

Balancing Sports and Science

Tyler Verdoni '17, a classmate of Shannon's at Howell High School, received an ICFNJ grant for his research into *Carex kobomugi*, an invasive dune grass species that is injurious to coastal dunes, with his faculty advisor Carolyn Bergman, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

"We received the grant in late October 2016," he says, "and did some extractions. Then, after semester break, in late January 2017, we had one-and-a-half months to get the data together. If it's asexual, spreading can be prevented through physical barriers, but, if it's sexual, the beds might have to be incinerated. We wanted to see how it would affect the dunes and how we can stop it from spreading. We're hoping for an asexual approach, and then we can pass this information on to park rangers."

The extractions were made from dunes in Willamette Valley, Oregon, and Fire Island, New York.

Tyler spent his freshman and sophomore years at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey. He played lacrosse there and was planning on transferring to Rutgers to major in biology and play club lacrosse. But Michael Hover, GCU's men's lacrosse head coach, reached out to him.

"He said this was going to be the first season of Division II men's lacrosse at Georgian Court. That was a selling point for me, plus Georgian Court has a good biology program, and I like the smaller campus."

Coach Hover remembers Tyler's first visit to campus, noting that he was "extremely mature, well-spoken and personally driven. He knew that he wanted to attend medical school after graduation." Once Tyler became a GCU student, Coach Hover adds, "He was involved in numerous extracurricular activities on campus, maintained a phenomenal GPA, scored extremely well on the MCATs, and narrowed down the medical schools realistically and efficiently."

Tyler will attend Temple University's School of Podiatric Medicine in the fall.

Exploring the Global Nature of Math

Math major Qiaoli He '18 finds life at Georgian Court less stressful and more flexible than his senior high school life back home in Hangzhou, China.

"In high school," he says, "I had to study eight hours a day. Here, I have more freedom to distribute my time. Also, I love the environment with the animals, such as deer."

A transfer from the University of Washington, Qiaoli learned about GCU from his mother's cousin, Lili Bruess, Ph.D., an associate professor of education and chair of the Department of Teacher

Education Programs at GCU. His presentation explored a minimal completion of binary matrices without total support. A matrix is a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions arranged in rows or columns. In a binary matrix, the numbers are limited to a 0 or 1. His research partner, Victoria DiStefano, started the project, and Qiaoli joined the project after the application was submitted and made the symposium presentation. He and Victoria, who were advised by Lei Cao, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics, received an ICFNJ grant for their research.

Finding the Beauty in Research

Efthimia Stefanou '16 of Oakhurst, New Jersey, explored the health-related quality of life of male endurance athletes by comparing them with males from the general population. The topic was selected, she says, because she became interested in quality of life among the infertility community about five years ago when her sisters were going through infertility treatment.

"Advocacy for this community," she adds, "remains paramount in maintaining or enhancing quality of life."

Most of the subjects in the project's samples were in their 30s. Male endurance athletes, Efthimia explained, are marathon runners or cyclists who exercise at least two hours four times a week.

"With male endurance athletes," she adds, "the decrease in testosterone may be dramatic. Declining levels of testosterone lead to lethargy and mood swings—similar to menopause in a female."

Efthimia is pursuing a nursing career and feels that "it's important that nurses have a place at the table in STEM research." She is particularly grateful to her faculty advisor, Jo Ann Cummings, Ph.D., RN, PPCNP-C, BCEN, assistant professor of nursing.

"She was a great mentor; she saw potential in me before I saw it in myself," says Efthimia.

According to Dr. Cummings, Efthimia "is one of those students who went beyond her zone of comfort. I presented the ICFNJ Research Symposium opportunity, and Effie accepted the challenge. Ultimately, when students expand their boundaries, they learn they are capable of more than even they expected."

Efthimia has been accepted into a nursing residency at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, New Jersey.

Her project, Efthimia points out, is not complete. "The next time," she says, "it will be essential to have a physiologist on the study. I hope to do it again this summer. I learned a great deal—that's the beauty about research."

The Business of Life

Georgian Court's M.B.A. program helps students advance their careers while juggling real-world demands.

By Gwen Moran



Scientist Dan Beach uses the skills learned in his M.B.A. classes every day in the lab.

With an undergraduate degree in biochemistry and a career as a laboratory technician and scientist, Dan Beach '17 isn't the first person you'd think of in a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. In fact, when he got a mailing about graduate programs from Georgian Court University, he says he almost threw it out. Then, he looked more closely.

"When I looked again, I saw the M.B.A. program and thought, everyone at work already has the science background. Not a lot of people have the business degree. If I could get myself both, I would have a really unique skill set," he recalls.

After two years of study, Dan graduated from the program in May 2017 and was the Commencement speaker representing graduate students. He earned his degree while working full time, currently as an associate scientist at Renaissance Pharmaceuticals in Lakewood.

While he had no business background, he says the program has given him new skills that he uses at his job every day. His classes and close bonds with other students gave him a greater degree of business knowledge and emotional intelligence than he had

before. Where he used to be more dismissive of ideas that conflicted with his own, he's more open to new concepts from other people. He feels he now has the skills to run a laboratory rather than just work in one.

Investing in the Future

In many ways, Dan is exactly the type of student for whom the Georgian Court M.B.A. program was created, says Janice Warner, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business and Digital Media. The program was created to be a flexible, effective way for students to earn their business graduate degree, whether they are doing so immediately after earning their undergraduate degree or years later. Small, interactive classes are rarely exam-based, and allow students to engage through case studies, projects, and discussions with highly qualified faculty members. Highly motivated students can complete the program in as little as a year, including summer session, and most find that the program provides immediate value to their roles, even as they're studying, or a way to give back to the community.



The flexibility of the M.B.A. program kept Holly Lombardo on track, even after an unexpected diagnosis.



Peter Collins received the 2015–2016 Track & Field Coaches Award at the 2016 Athletic Awards Banquet.

“Most of those projects are with the students’ companies wherever they’re working right now, but from time to time they’ll do something for a service organization, a nonprofit,” she says.

The intimate class size and close faculty attention were critical factors for Holly Lombardo ’17. After spending years in audit accounting for nonprofit and government sectors as well as corporate retail auditing and general accounting, she knew she would need her M.B.A. to realize her goal of being a school business administrator. She enrolled at Georgian Court in January 2015, first completing three prerequisite courses she needed before starting the M.B.A. program.

Later that year, Holly was hit with bad news: She was diagnosed with breast cancer. While she didn’t immediately tell her professors or fellow students, she says the flexibility of the program allowed her to keep studying while she completed treatment. During her radiation sessions, she was able to opt for Saturday classes instead of evening classes. Blackboard, the online learning management system, allowed her to access homework assignments early and schedule time to complete them when she knew she would be feeling

better. The small class sizes, access to professors, and tight-knit group of fellow students also made the experience one that “meant more to me than my undergrad degree,” she says. “I would do it all over again.”

Transforming Lives and Careers

After a back injury at a West Virginia university he was attending on a football scholarship, offensive lineman Peter Collins ’15, ’17 decided it wasn’t worth playing through the pain and having surgery before he was even in his 20s. He returned home to Maryland and attended community college, where he took up track and field again, leading to an athletic scholarship offer from GCU.

Here, Peter found an environment that allowed him to thrive and excel in both athletics and academics. He was recognized as the East Coast Conference’s (ECC) Indoor Track & Field Co-Scholar Athlete of the Year for the 2014–2015 academic year. He was a First Team All-Conference selection in the shot put and a Second Team pick in the weight throw at the ECC Indoor



Cindy Ruboyianes is studying for the CPA exam this summer.

Championship. He also earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.82.

After completing his B.S. in Business Administration, he had one more year of athletic eligibility. He decided to continue on at GCU to earn his M.B.A., finishing his collegiate athletic career during his first year of graduate school. Peter also landed Georgian Court's first graduate assistantship in the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

"I figured if I had to do something with the rest of my life, I might as well enjoy what I'm doing. I love sports, I love every aspect of sports. It's helped shape my life and it's a really great teacher in life," he says. With a new M.B.A. in hand and his graduate assistantship under his belt, GCU is helping him make his passion his career. In July 2017, Peter left for a yearlong internship with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) in Westlake, Ohio—a perfect stepping-stone toward his goal of becoming a collegiate athletic director.

Cindy A. Ruboyianes '16 had worked for decades in the private sector, including at insurance giant AIG. She enrolled in Georgian Court's M.B.A. program in August 2015 and was laid off from AIG roughly

two months later. She never sat for her certified public accountant (CPA) exam, so earning her M.B.A. was necessary if she was going to realize that certification. Due to the program's flexibility, she was able to complete her M.B.A. in one year. She's now studying for her CPA exam so she can take another step toward her goals.

"I was trying to get things done in a shorter period of time and Georgian Court—they just made it happen. The professors were absolutely wonderful," she says. "They brought in real-world experience. In addition, the mix of students of all ages and levels of experience brought a richness to the classroom. Students who had worked in the business world shared their experiences, which added another educational dimension to the class."

A chance introduction through Georgian Court's M.B.A. program also changed Fred E. Peters' life. Fred had been working in his family's plumbing business since he had graduated from college roughly 25 years ago. He was looking for a new career path and chose GCU's M.B.A. program because it was close to home and he thought it would give him additional skills to choose a new career path in business.



A chance introduction through Georgian Court's M.B.A. program also changed Fred E. Peters' life. Fred had been working in his family's plumbing business since he had graduated from college roughly 25 years ago. He was looking for a new career path and chose GCU's M.B.A. program because it was close to home and he thought it would give him additional skills to choose a new career path in business.

Immediately, he felt welcomed, and his professors eased the transition. The program has a number of online courses, which provide flexibility, but which were also somewhat challenging for Fred. He soon got the hang of them, thanks to his professors and fellow students. After one of his finals at Georgian Court, he happened upon a presentation by Merrill Lynch on campus. He arrived five minutes before the session ended and met someone from the financial institution's Toms River office. That meeting eventually led to a series of five interviews, for which his professors helped him prepare, and he landed a new job as a financial professional. Fred took some time off from his studies to get up to speed in his new career, but is returning for the Fall 2017 semester to finish his graduate degree.

Gaining Real-World Insights from Faculty

Ashley Elmore, Ph.D., M.B.A. program director and assistant professor of business, says that the administration is constantly in touch with businesses in the community to ensure that the skills they are teaching are relevant. Dean Warner adds that, in addition to the faculty members, who all hold

doctoral degrees, she enlists experienced professionals as adjunct professors to bring real-world insights to the program.


"We recently noticed more demand for understanding data analytics, specifically big data, and we wanted to be certain that our students were knowledgeable about this and understood how to take a large amount of data and to crunch the numbers and to look at the results and then to make their assessment on what a company should do based upon the numbers," she says. But all faculty members share one trait: prioritizing student success.

"Georgian Court was the most humbling experience of passionate professors who truly care about what they are teaching," says Holly. "They want to see you go the extra mile. They want to see you succeed."

Fred says that Georgian Court's M.B.A. program changed both his career and his life. He's succeeding in a career he never expected, made great friends, and expanded his knowledge of business more than he thought possible.

"Do not underestimate Georgian Court in any way," he says. ■

Students Find Education Far from Home with GCU Faculty



In recent months, Georgian Court University students traveled, served, and studied in Spain, Italy, Ireland, Peru, Costa Rica, and Australia. The largest segment of Georgian Court's growing global education program, however, is steered by faculty members creating opportunities abroad for students. Several explored the Spanish Civil War while traveling through four cities in Spain. Others studying English produced digital narratives about their 80-mile hike across the Wicklow Mountains of Ireland. And in South America, GCU student researchers recorded data—and their experiences—while studying tropical ecology in the rainforests of Costa Rica.

"Faculty are customizing and personalizing programs to provide students with life-changing experiences abroad," says Laura Grodewald, GCU's new director of global education programs.

The students' academic and personal journeys are documented in many ways, but ultimately are best shared in their own words, here and online.

"Pura Vida," Forever

Stephanie Gachette '19 | Major: Biology

Costa Rica was an amazing experience. We were able to explore and experience the beautiful cities of Monteverde, Arenal, Sarapiquí, and La Selva. With such an amazing and diverse group of people, we were able to make this trip one of the best experiences of our lives.

When we weren't working on experiments for our Tropical Ecology lab, we engaged in adventurous activities. We went hiking, zip-lining, bungee jumping, cliff diving, and whitewater rafting, and took boat rides. Every experience we had with each other was awesome because we bonded through our shared fears and excitement.

The national saying of Costa Rica is "Pura Vida," which basically means that no matter what your current situation is, life for someone else can always be less fortunate than your own.

We took this Costa Rican way of life and brought it back to the United States with us. We are constantly reminded of not only the great experiences we shared, but also the amazing things that we learned about ourselves. Pura Vida forever.

The Classroom Comes to Life

Christopher Quiles '17 | Major: Biology

The language barrier was sometimes a challenge although most people did speak enough English to communicate effectively with us. It definitely helped having our tour guide, Edwin, who was a native; we could ask him how to go about saying something. These types of experiences allow students to learn things that would not be possible to learn in a classroom. This is real-life experience—on how to effectively communicate with people with a different language, culture, and upbringing. There is no substitute for a first-hand, immersive experience on aspects of environmental/ecological impacts, dialects, and a whole new culture.



See Costa Rica through the eyes of GCU's Tropical Ecology students at <https://www.facebook.com/GCUTropicalEcology/>

The Paths (an excerpt)

Kimberly Sloan '17 | Major: English

This is a story about how sometimes you have to lose yourself to find yourself, and the paths we take to get there. It's about learning to live life and open yourself to opportunities because this is how you grow and thrive. And preferably, how this happens on the majestic landscape of a foreign land, and more specifically, along Ireland's Wicklow Way.

You're probably wondering how I ended up on this journey, across the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 3,183 miles from home—on a 127-kilometer trail. The lessons I learned hiking on the Wicklow Way I'll be telling my kids, my grandkids, about how Grandma walked the Wicklow Way, in the rain, uphill, with a few bags of crushed trail mix for sustenance.

It challenged me in ways I didn't expect. Ways I didn't prepare for—mentally or physically. I was drawn to the paths, the curves, the textures beneath my trusty boots, the views, and the inclines (oh, the inclines!) at the top where I was treated to a view second to none.

Metaphorically, the paths symbolized camaraderie, friendships, unbreakable bonds, inspiration, and courage. In life, it is the paths we choose to take and the experiences and opportunities we are granted that form the core of who we are.

Conquering Mountains (an excerpt)

Ashley Quinby '19 | Major: English

It was the third day of our hike, and I had struggled a couple of days before; the hikes were much harder than I expected. I wanted to do better. We trekked long and hard across the Irish land. I challenged myself to stay in front of the group, pushing myself harder to make every step count, my muscles aching with each movement forward.

We had to conquer one final hill, perhaps the steepest hill on our journey yet. I proceeded with conviction, keeping a steady pace, pressing my boots deep into the gravel. I could see the top of the hill . . . and victory was in my reach. But just as I reached that point, the entirety of the hill came into perspective.

I didn't even make it halfway.

That was it. I was exhausted, my breath laboring, my heart pounding in my chest. But then I realized Sarah (a classmate) was next to me, her breath laboring, and leaning over from exhaustion. She didn't stop. She persevered. So did I.

I refused to give up because it was hard. We continued to climb, together.



See and hear what GCU's Wicklow Walkers experienced on their journey at <http://bit.ly/GCUWicklow>



Patricia Prioli '17 hiked the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland.



GCU students went whitewater rafting in Costa Rica.



Imagine having lunch with a view of a volcano in Costa Rica!



GCU students walked on the nearly 80-mile Wicklow Way, Ireland's first waymarked trail.

Nancy Sardone Helps GCU Education Majors Get in the Game

By Gail H. Towns



Dr. Nancy Sardone (center) looks on as Erica Dunn (left) and Lindsay Donohue '16 (right) play Erica's game based on *The Book Thief*.

It's 8:30 PM, and inside the McAuley Heritage Center, six aspiring teachers huddle over a game board as they move multicolored pieces—teeny, tiny books—toward pretend reading rooms. Along the way, they pull cards of chance printed with questions, consequences, or directives.

Most have put in a full day with youngsters in local classrooms, but these pre-professional teachers are full of energy as they seek to acquire 14 “books”—the number needed to win.

That's because the game, based on the novel *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and created by their classmate Erica Dunn, who's earning her postbaccalaureate Teacher of a Specific Subject K–12 and Teacher of Students with Disabilities certification, is beyond child's play.

Serious Benefits to Playing Games

“Game-based learning has made significant strides over the past 10 years,” says Nancy Sardone, Ph.D., associate professor of education.

“It is emerging as a powerful instructional tool that positively affects the learning of K–12 students. And because games are goal-oriented,” she says, “they often increase motivation and provide trial-and-error opportunities that help students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.”

Dr. Sardone's upper-level students are required to design a game with challenging, measurable learning goals. Erica's caught the attention of the European Conference on Game-Based Learning, and last fall she traveled abroad with Dr. Sardone to share the game and its impact.

“I am glad I had the opportunity to present my game and learn more about game design,” said Erica, who was recently named by the New Jersey Department of Education as one of the state's top clinical interns. “I designed the game for a class assignment; I never imagined it would take me to Scotland for an educational conference.”

Beyond the Holocaust

The novel that inspired Erica's game is set in Nazi-era Germany, but her creation didn't stop there. She also incorporated Cambodia's Killing Fields, Rwanda's 100 Days, and the annihilation of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. By adding this layer of history, Dr. Sardone says, Erica tied in how society can help prevent future genocides from occurring by raising awareness, making policies, combating denial, and seeking justice.

“By creating immersive experiential learning environments through game play,” says Dr. Sardone, “teachers draw students in and enhance their ability to process information, make decisions, apply knowledge, solve problems, and collaborate.”

Faculty and Staff Recognized for Service



Dr. DasGupta (second from left) celebrated her retirement at the event with her daughters Ria and Rupa and her grandson Sagan.

On March 16, the Faculty and Staff Appreciation and Service Award Ceremony recognized 32 faculty and staff members celebrating service milestones. Congratulations to all who celebrated 5 to 40 years of service!

The event also celebrated the retirement of Kasturi “Rumu” DasGupta, Ph.D., professor emerita of sociology, who came to GCU as an adjunct in 1989 and became a full-time professor in 1993. She was chair of the Department of Sociology for many years and was the first director of service learning, now a key academic component at GCU. Dr. DasGupta was recognized with the President's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2006.

She has published and presented worldwide on topics such as feminism, globalization, ethnic studies, and poverty; however, her activism has been local, supporting immigrants' rights, women's and children's rights, and homelessness in general and Tent City in particular. Dr. DasGupta's book *Introducing Social Stratification: The Causes and Consequences of Inequality* (2015) is now literally the textbook on the causes of inequality.

For Dr. DasGupta, sociology is a lived experience of justice-making, a journey she has shared with the Sisters of Mercy.

Chemistry Grad Finds Opportunity through Research Here and Abroad

By Heidi Chaya '17

Chemistry graduate Madison Piassek '17 of Jackson, New Jersey, knows opportunity when she sees it. And she found it through GCU's "challenging and supportive" learning environment and immersion in the sciences.

Madison's extracurricular involvement at GCU—including the Chemistry Club; Gamma Sigma Epsilon, the National Chemistry Honor Society; and Sigma Zeta, the National Science and Mathematics Honor Society—often took her off campus. In 2015, she attended the 46th Biennial Conference for Gamma Sigma Epsilon in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, where she received an award for outstanding research poster. She attended the New Jersey Academy of Science's 62nd Annual Meeting at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. She even wrote a grant to acquire research funding from Sigma Zeta and received a competitive award for equipment.

But Madison's dedication to research also led her to new and unique opportunities with faculty.

As a sophomore, Madison was one of 11 students chosen nationwide for the Research Experience for Undergraduates program in Molecular Biophysics at Princeton University. The program, backed by the National Science Foundation, helps students from institutions with limited research means take on current issues in biology. Madison tackled the challenge of representing a chemical reaction. With Princeton University's Jannette Carey, Ph.D., and GCU's Parvathi Murthy, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, Madison used molecular visualization software to demonstrate how chemical reactions take place. Her work had immediate utility: she says the software could aid classroom instruction.

"I found collaborating with another university, in their facility, with their staff, to be an invaluable experience," says Madison. "It allowed me an opportunity to learn from others and expand my skill set. And with every research project that I work on, I learn more and more."

Last year, Madison did another research project with Eduard Bitto, Ph.D., GCU associate professor of biochemistry. She studied an enzyme called cytosolic 5'-nucleotidase type IIIa, which she says is crucial to the survival of red blood cells in the body. Madison hopes the project will shed light on the evolutionary history of this important family of enzymes.

The pursuit of science even took Madison overseas. In the summer of 2016, she worked for 10 weeks at the Center for Nanobiology and Structural Biology in Nové Hrad, Czech Republic, where she worked and lived with other students in a renovated castle. There, she worked with Ivana Kutá Smatanová, Ph.D., on an ongoing research project. She took a Federation of European Biochemical Societies course called Macromolecular Crystallography, where European scientists lectured and guided the lab work of the international students. She also attended



Madison in the lab at GCU



Madison in Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

the biannual International Conference on the Crystallization of Biological Macromolecules in Prague with her colleagues, all of which allowed her to delve further into a particular field of biochemistry in which she is interested: crystallography.

"Crystallography is a fascinating branch of science that allows us to study proteins, viruses, and nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), and it is a major tool used by pharmaceutical companies for structure-based drug design," she explains.

But the impact of studying abroad went beyond Madison's work in the lab. She also got to travel around Europe and make unforgettable memories. She went canoeing, biking, and visited wineries in Austria's Wachau Valley, and says she fell in love with the historic architecture of Prague. She even recreated the famous Beatles' *Abbey Road* album cover in London. The trip was as useful as it was fun; Madison says she learned how to get around cities and transcend language barriers—skills she can use throughout life.

"Working and living abroad added another level to my college experience," she says. "I look back on my summer in the Czech Republic as a time of great personal growth and development, and I am a stronger, more independent person for the experience."

Madison, who plans to continue her education at the Jefferson College of Biomedical Sciences in Philadelphia, proves that the college experience is an exciting and individual journey. She agreed that one's path could lead to unexpected places—even out of one's comfort zone.

"Trust that life will always take you where you're supposed to be," says Madison. "Life isn't always a straight line and often doesn't end up exactly how you plan it to, and that's totally okay!"

The School of (Student) Life

Georgian Court's dean of students hits the ground running—
and student life has already changed.

By Gwen Moran



Dean Jennings (seated) meets with students during his first weeks on campus.

When Amani Jennings heard about the open dean of students position at Georgian Court University, he didn't know much about the small Catholic institution. However, as he started doing his research about the university, he was intrigued—and had a question: Why weren't more people talking about Georgian Court?

"I think people think there isn't a lot going on here," he says.

He soon discovered that couldn't be further from the truth—and he wanted to be a part of the vibrant, active community of students and educators.

Dean Jennings, the university's first male dean of students, took over the role in January 2017 after spending more than eight years at New Jersey City University (NJCU) as assistant dean of students. He immediately held listening sessions with students to hear their concerns and priorities. Based on that information and other research, he began compiling a list of incremental changes he could begin making to improve and enhance student life.

Such feedback led him to address a need that is frequently cited by students: a student center or gathering area. When students come back in the fall, they'll find phase one of the transformation of the Lion's Den into a game room, which currently has a foosball table. Ultimately, it will be a space where students can play games like air hockey or video games, watch television, and simply gather with other students.

"We want GCU to be an exciting and transformative atmosphere for our students," says Dean Jennings.

He is also exploring new activities to add to the campus and working on developing new leadership opportunities for students, including getting more students involved in Women in Leadership Development (WILD) and expanding the Emerging Leaders program. Strengthening student organizations to be more student-led and not as dependent on their advisors, which typically increases their longevity, is another goal. He's also begun

exploring how Greek life might benefit the student community, and is particularly interested in service-oriented fraternities and sororities that are a good match for Georgian Court's values.

While at NJCU, Dean Jennings was responsible for interpreting and administering the university's student code of conduct, as well as policies regarding sexual and gender-based misconduct and alcohol and drug policies. He is certified by the Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) as a Level II investigator, trained to conduct trauma-informed interviews, mediation, and conflict resolution. In addition to being involved in residence life policy and procedure, Dean Jennings was also responsible for developing Greek life at NJCU and the management of the university's student center.

He is putting that experience and training to work for Georgian Court, rewriting and updating a number of student-related policies at the university. Such policies and procedures, such as codes of conduct, travel policies, and the judicial process, have a direct and important impact on students, he says, adding that they need to be thoughtfully and carefully constructed. Dean Jennings is committed to empowering students by making them aware of their rights and making their interactions with university policies and procedures "as user-friendly as possible," he says.

By taking a holistic view of student life and addressing the needs and concerns of students directly, Dean Jennings sees opportunities to build on the exciting, fulfilling student life that Georgian Court has to offer. For him, it's a priority that students have a plethora of social, leadership, academic, and athletic opportunities to get involved on campus.

"We are focused on being student-centered," he says.

"We always want to hear what the students are saying and use those insights as way-finders to be leaders regionally and nationally in student affairs."

Agape Latte.



A promotional postcard created for Chef Dee's presentation

Exceeds Expectations in Its First Year at Georgian Court

By Sanford Josephson

"Who wants to go to Boston?" Georgian Court rising senior Nick Ciccone remembers receiving that invitation in an e-mail from Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74, GCU vice president for mission integration. The trip was to Boston College to learn about Agape Latte, a program launched in 2006 by BC's Church in the 21st Century Center and its campus ministry to provide everyday conversations about faith experiences in a coffeehouse atmosphere.

"I had no idea what it was," recalls Nick, a senior nursing student from Point Pleasant, "but there were between 400 and 500 students there to hear Father Terry Devino."

Father Terrence Devino, SJ, BC's vice president and university secretary, spoke to the students about finding happiness in relationships. One of four GCU students who made the trip with Quinn, Nick recalls that "we all thought it was amazing to see that many people come to hear the talk. Even before we heard the speaker, we brainstormed about who we could get to speak at Georgian Court."

Nick and the three other students—junior Juan Quintero and 2017 graduates Lisa Gravato and Sydney Saget—formed the origin of a student board that launched Agape Latte at Georgian Court for the 2016–2017 school year with four presentations—two each semester. The four speakers selected were Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., president of Georgian Court; Jasmina "Jazz" Perazic, head women's basketball coach; Joseph F. Gower, Ph.D., GCU professor of theology/religious studies; and Deidre Keelen, a chef in the GCU dining hall.

Dr. Marbach, the initial speaker, talked about "Answering God's Call," relating the circular journey that eventually brought him to Georgian Court from previous positions at Seton Hall and La Salle universities. Ms. Quinn remembers chatting with Dr. Marbach about his upcoming speech.

"He's a very spiritual guy," she says, "but I also reminded him that he's also a very funny guy, and I told him, 'You've got to add some funny stuff,' which he did. We want the speakers to talk about the human side of who they are."

There were also efforts to make the setting as comfortable as possible for the students. "So," Ms. Quinn adds, "if they didn't come for the conversation, maybe they might come for the food or for the student entertainment."

The inaugural presentation was promoted, Nick says, via t-shirts, flyers, social media, and word-of-mouth, and says the board had hoped "to attract 15 to 20 people."

The biggest surprise for Ms. Quinn was that they "had such a large audience from the beginning, about 85 students. To have such support and interest from the very beginning was very inspiring."

In Coach Perazic's presentation "Transitions, Transformations, and the Joy of Giving," she talked about how "things happen for a reason," relating a story of how she was able to overcome obstacles to traveling back to her native country, Yugoslavia, for a family emergency, helped by an unlikely benefactor.

Dr. Gower stressed the importance of love and support of family despite whatever problems may be facing you. In exploring this theme, he referenced the Broadway play, *The Humans*, pointing out that it was "a drama about family. Each one has a problem, but what saves them is the love and support of each other."

Chef "Dee" opened her presentation by acknowledging that nine years earlier she had been struggling with addiction to drugs. Nick, who works as an EMT, says he often sees people "at their lowest point. Deidre told us about her lowest point, and how she got out of it. To see how she climbed the mountain was inspirational."

The Agape Latte board is currently planning the program for the 2017–2018 school year. The first speaker, in late September, will be Justin Roy, the GCU dean of admissions.

"We're hoping for a bigger and better year," Nick says. "It has surprised me how all aspects of the university have come together to support this program."



President Marbach speaks at the first Agape Latte event.



View all the Agape Latte events at bit.ly/GCU_AgapeVideo

Creating a Culture of Health from



Bernadette Melnyk, Ph.D., grew up in a coal-mining town of 1,000 people near Pittsburgh. During a recent talk at Georgian Court, she vividly recalled a cold January morning in the early 1970s when her mother sat down on the couch to pay bills. As the 15-year-old walked upstairs, she heard her mother sneeze.

“Bless you, Mom,” the teenager said. When her mother didn’t answer, she said it again.

No response.

The daughter went back downstairs and discovered her mother, who had had a stroke and died. The mother suffered headaches for over a year and had just been diagnosed with high blood pressure. Recently prescribed medication was in her purse.

Today, Dr. Melnyk is the chief wellness officer at The Ohio State University and regularly shares her journey. On April 28, she spoke to more than 160 students, faculty, health experts, and others during GCU’s Healthy Campus, Healthy Community Conference, which was sponsored by the GCU–Hackensack Meridian *Health* School of Nursing with the help of Meridian Integrative Health & Medicine and the GCU Office of Health Services. It included speakers from Rutgers

University, Hackensack Meridian *Health*, Catholic Health Initiatives, Rowan University, and the New Jersey Immunization Network. Grant funding was provided by the New Jersey Nursing Initiative, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation®, with assistance and support by NJHA/HRET of New Jersey.

“We wanted to explore the many ways we can create a culture of health on our college campuses while inspiring everyone in our community to live healthy lives,” said Teri Wurmser, RN, Ph.D., chair of the GCU’s nursing program and one of the conference coordinators. “It was really a day where everyone could participate in activities that promote healthy living beyond our campus gates.”

Behaviors Are Key

Following her mother’s death, Dr. Melnyk suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder. She developed so much anxiety that a family doctor prescribed Valium, which helped her sleep, but made her wake up groggy.

It was a rocky adolescence, but the experiences gave her a passion to become a nurse practitioner, first in pediatrics and then in mental health. She has devoted her career to developing prevention programs for teens and college students.

During the conference, Dr. Melnyk and others emphasized the importance of behaviors. While the number-one killer of Americans is heart disease, it’s behaviors, like lack of exercise, unhealthy eating, and smoking, that contribute to death and disease, Dr. Melnyk said.

“That’s the good news,” she said, “because behaviors can be changed.”

But changing behavior is hard. Often, crisis motivates change. If people take preventive measures while they still have their health, a crisis might be averted, Dr. Melnyk said.

Wellness initiatives—increasingly common in corporate America and at colleges—can help. Indeed, research shows that for every dollar spent on wellness, there’s about a \$4 return on investment. Ohio State spends about \$5.3 million a year on wellness programs for its faculty, staff, and students, and its statistical modeling shows a return on investment of about \$3.65 per dollar.



Conference attendees enjoyed a number of interactive wellness workshops, including one on sound healing, led by Sophia Argyris, M.D., C.Ac., GCU lecturer in holistic health.

Campus to Community

By Caren Chesler



Felicia McGinty, Ed.D.

“Why do companies, and now universities, invest in wellness? Because well employees and well students are more engaged, they are more productive, and students who are well do better academically. It really is worth the investment,” Dr. Melynck said.

Wellness Takes Many Forms

GCU’s investment runs the gamut. Students gravitate to the campus fitness center, and anyone can take the self-guided walking program, with maps marking mileage. Biweekly health campaigns cover topics like sun exposure, Lyme disease, things to think about before getting a tattoo, sexual assault and consent, sexually transmitted diseases, preventing health outbreaks, and programs on drugs and drinking. GCU’s holistic health studies program sponsors an annual Wellness Expo, and the Office of Health Services has convened a health fair for the public in recent years.

Yet wellness isn’t just physical. Campuses are also addressing mental health.

At Rutgers, the need is so great that the university hired nine new social workers and psychologists—and there’s still a waiting list for counseling center services. The university wants to address wellness systemically rather than individually.

“We needed to move away from this one intervention, one crisis at a time, to a broader, systemic commitment to holistic health on campus,” said Felicia McGinty, Ph.D., Rutgers’ vice chancellor for student affairs.

She pointed to simple changes, like having classes end earlier in the evening, offering better food choices in the cafeterias, and creating more walking paths.

“We have courses that meet until 10:30, 10:45 in the evening. Why? That’s a problem if we’re trying to create a healthy culture,” Dr. McGinty said.

At GCU, student volunteers promote healthy activities, checking weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar levels, and stressing the importance of good handwashing to curtail the spread of communicable diseases.



Cindy Mattia '16, RN

“Our goal is to reduce stress, sleep deprivation, and poor nutrition, and to increase physical activity,” said Cynthia Mattia '16, RN, director of health services and one of the conference coordinators. “It all has an impact on student success, not only at the university level but also after the students leave the campus. It can affect their entire lives.”

Nursing Students Celebrate Healthy Campus, Healthy Community Week

During Healthy Campus, Healthy Community Week, leading up to the conference, GCU nursing students shared a wealth of knowledge with the campus community. Their presentations focused on the five pillars of health—sleep, resilience, nutrition, activity, and purpose—and covered such topics as portion control, the effects of caffeine and body weight on sleep, and healthy coping strategies. It was good practice for the soon-to-be nurses, who will be passing that knowledge on to their patients—and hopefully changing behaviors for the better.



Juniors Laura Hill, Bridget Gallagher, Victoria Cats, and Nori Snow (left to right), who were research assistants for a college campus sleep study, presented on Healthy Campus Sleep Day.

GCU Students Perfect the Art of Networking at Annual Business to Student Connector

By Sanford Josephson



GCU senior Malawi Allen speaks with Patricia Vargas, senior staffing consultant at Express Employment Professionals of Howell.

Networking is vitally important for today's college students as they seek employment in their chosen careers. At the Fourth Annual Business to Student Connector, held April 25 in the Mansion, it was clear that students in the School of Business and Digital Media have already learned that lesson very well.

"I'm treating this like an interview," says Michael Purrazzella '16, '17. A recent M.B.A. graduate from Toms River, Michael hopes to work in public accounting or some type of internal auditing. "I'm here to expand my network," he adds.

In 2015, digital communication and graphic design courses were moved from the School of Arts and Sciences into the School of Business, resulting in the name change to the School of Business and Digital Media. The importance of that transition was apparent at the April event. Malawi Allen, a senior graphic design and multimedia major from West Orange, was looking "at all kinds of companies because today everyone needs graphic design and multimedia. I'm looking for internship opportunities, and I'm constantly learning new things, constantly updating my skills."

Malawi was one of several students chatting with Danielle Calabro, professional recruitment manager at Hackensack Meridian Health. "Our main need," says Ms. Calabro, "is marketing, because we are in the midst of rebranding." In 2015, Meridian Health and Hackensack University Medical Center agreed to merge the two systems, creating the state's largest hospital network.

Another graphic design and multimedia major, Ariana Mexquititla of Freehold, was getting a head start. Now a sophomore, Ariana was already "looking for internships and shadowing

opportunities." The connector, she says, "was an incredible experience. I was able to meet people from different fields and get an insight into their careers. Because of this, I was able to discover new things about myself and what I could do in my future."

The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, which is now Fulfill, provides free tax preparation services at several locations through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. David Goldstein, the FoodBank's director of organizational effectiveness, was at the event looking for volunteers among Georgian Court business majors for the VITA program. "It gives students opportunities to meet people in the finance world," he points out. Recent business administration graduate Troy Allen '17 of Old Bridge had already benefited from volunteering in the program. A teller at Amboy Bank, Troy was at the conference "looking for good contacts and gaining experience in networking."

Janice Warner, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business and Digital Media, welcomed everyone to the event and thanked sponsors New Jersey Natural Gas and Santander Bank. GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., and Provost William J. Behre, Ph.D., also attended and interacted with students and business professionals.

Trish Komsa '95, '06, director of human resources for the Township of Lakewood and an adjunct faculty member in the School of Business and Digital Media, says "it was great to see how the students were so eager to learn."

"I'm very proud of the type of students we are turning out," she adds. "They are smart, articulate, friendly, and genuinely eager to take on the challenges that await them upon graduation."



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

REUNION & HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 1, 2017

Weekend festivities for alumni, students,
and friends include...

President's Address • Athletic Hall of Fame Induction •
Alumni Awards Brunch • Class of 1967 50th Anniversary President's Dinner •
Reunion Class Celebrations • EOF & TRIO Reunion •
10-Year Anniversary of the GCU-Hackensack Meridian *Health* School of Nursing •
Ribbon Cutting & Science Lab Tours • Softball Reunion •
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schedule of events and to register.

COURTSHORTS

Seamless Transitions Georgian Court University has signed guaranteed admissions agreements with nine Catholic high schools to date: Donovan Catholic, Holy Cross Academy, Holy Spirit, Immaculate Conception, Notre Dame, Saint John Vianney (which also has an Early College Academy to M.B.A. agreement with GCU), St. Joseph, Trenton Catholic, and Union Catholic. Since these agreements have been signed, GCU's number of applications from these schools has increased. Since 2015, the number of applications from Catholic high schools has increased by 73 percent!



¿Hablas Español? Gisselle Meza '17 used her Spanish major skills to translate "Low Maintenance Landscaping for the Barnegat Bay Watershed," a comprehensive booklet on designing a low maintenance and environmentally friendly landscape appropriate for Ocean County's sandy soils and unique conditions. Gisselle dedicated over 200 hours translating the literature for the Ocean County Soil Conservation District as part of her GCU service learning requirement.

America the Beautiful. Shannon Walzer '16, who graduated with B.A. in History in December, is headed to Newark, New Jersey, to teach social studies as part of the Teach for America program. The programs recruit diverse and talented leaders who are committed to expanding opportunity for our nation's highest-need children. Shannon will commit to teach for two years in urban and rural low-income public schools as part of the program.

Marketing 101. You've got to admire Troy Allen's entrepreneurial spirit. The May 2017 B.S. in Business Administration graduate sold quadrants of his graduation cap to advertisers, with the intent of getting his résumé more exposure and landing a job. And it worked—Troy's current employer, Amboy Bank, decided to promote him to a position in their administration building as a result of the nationwide media attention he attracted. »



Follow the Leader. In June, Junior Natalie Hnath, a business administration major with a concentration in management, was one of 30 New Jersey women to participate in NEW Leadership™, a national nonpartisan program that educates college women about politics and leadership and encourages them to become effective leaders in the political arena. The New Jersey program, which is part of



a national network, was designed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University to educate and inspire a new generation of women leaders. Says Natalie: "Even though I don't want to go into politics, I learned so many important things: public speaking skills, how to network, personality traits of other leaders, and the workings of our country's political system. We also learned how important it is to work on a bipartisan level."

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT & HONOR ROLL of DONORS 2016–2017



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THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY





From the Desk of the Vice President for Institutional Advancement

After reaching my first anniversary as vice president for institutional advancement, I am grateful to have been able to spend the past year meeting many students, parents, alumni, and friends of the university, and am pleased to share with you the extraordinary growth you have helped us to achieve in that time.

Our alumni continue to build our impact in the community. The majority of our graduates have gone into compassion vocations—nursing, teaching, and social work to name a few—and they continue to amplify the Mercy core values in their lives and work. Our vision for the future will expand partnerships that benefit students, alumni, and the community, and build a stronger Mercy institution for generations to come.

I'm particularly honored to recognize the impact so many of you have had on Georgian Court and the lives of our students. The following Honor Roll of Donors recognizes the individuals and organizations to whom the university owes its success. To those of you whose names appear in this report, I thank you for your belief in and support of Georgian Court. Your giving sustains and elevates Georgian Court and our students, and I hope that the stories in this magazine help give you a richer understanding of the difference you have made.

Thank you for choosing to make an impact here at Georgian Court University. It is our hope that you will continue to engage with and be inspired by the transformation of the university, and the transformative nature of the education GCU provides. The institutional advancement team and I look forward to working with you to face the challenges and achieve the fund-raising successes that lie ahead.

Warm Regards,

Brian D. Agnew, Ph.D.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

We are excited to share a sampling of accolades and achievements from the 2016–2017 academic year and invite you to share the progress of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

LAST YEAR, GCU:

Graduated nearly 400 students with bachelor's degrees; 48% were first in their families to finish college.

Marked great strides in academic partnerships and off-site programs, which now include:

- GCU@Hazlet – Education, psychology, English, business, and interdisciplinary studies
- GCU@Cumberland County – Social work
- VCamp – Criminal justice and business
- Learning House – Holistic health
- KTA – Education

Created a partnership with the Ocean Township H.S. School of Finance and the GCU School of Business and Digital Media, giving 33 high school freshmen access to college classes.

Was recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education when GCU students Erica Dunn and Randi Silfan won New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Awards. The program recognizes the top 15 graduates of educator preparation programs in New Jersey.

Signed new dual admissions agreements with Mercer and Cumberland community colleges and partnered with Cumberland officials to offer social work degrees.

Signed seven guaranteed admissions agreements, for a total of nine Catholic high school partners (more are in the works).

Launched the St. John Vianney H.S. Early College to M.B.A. program, which is a new kind of partnership with the high school, Brookdale Community College, and GCU.

Welcomed the Youth Theological Institute and 14 high-achieving, high school seniors for *MercyworX*, a GCU and Center for FaithJustice partner program. Participants focused on social justice, service learning, and how to turn social concern into social action.

Climbed nine spots on the *U.S. News and World Report* “Best Regional Universities” rankings; the move from #131 to #122 reflects better first-year student retention and other factors.

Became a 2016 College of Distinction, a Catholic College of Distinction, and a Military-Friendly School. GCU also was recognized by *Abound: Finish College* for Top Adult Undergrad Degree programs.

Experienced tremendous success in giving day programs as more than 250 Lions raised more than \$30,000 on GCU Gives Day and \$14,000 on Giving Tuesday.

Increased unrestricted giving by 11.5% compared to last year, increased the number of alumni donors by more than 4%, and acquired 720 *new* donors.

Raised over \$153,000 at the 22nd Annual Scholarship and Golf Classic.

Acquired a \$1.99 million federal grant to strengthen college completion, a \$299,829 federal grant for sexual assault awareness programs, and a \$75,000 grant from the George Alden Trust to support STEM renovations in Hamilton Hall.

Received a grant from Catholic Relief Services to start the campus organization *Salt and Light*, which focuses on social justice worldwide.

Garnered several CACC championships thanks to the hard work of men's soccer, women's lacrosse, and men's and women's track and field dominance in the CACC Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

Won the East Coast Conference Indoor Championship in men's track and field.

Sent All-American thrower Michael Brazzel to the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships; he ended the season #2 in the *nation*.

Documented more than 10,000 volunteer hours among student-athletes, leading to top honors in the NCAA's *Helper Helper* community service competition.

Documented 87,028 hours of overall volunteer service, leading to placement on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Took state honors as a *Company Who Cares*, based on GCU community service hours, from the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey.

Engaged with more people on Instagram and on Snapchat, where our Class of 2017 filters were accessed more than 40,000 times.

Attracted 1,088,069 visits to the GCU Web site.

Received broad media exposure, especially from Dr. Mary Chinery's co-discovery of an unpublished play by Edith Wharton. Stories appeared worldwide, including in the *New York Times* and the *New York Daily News*.



#GCUPRIDE



EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

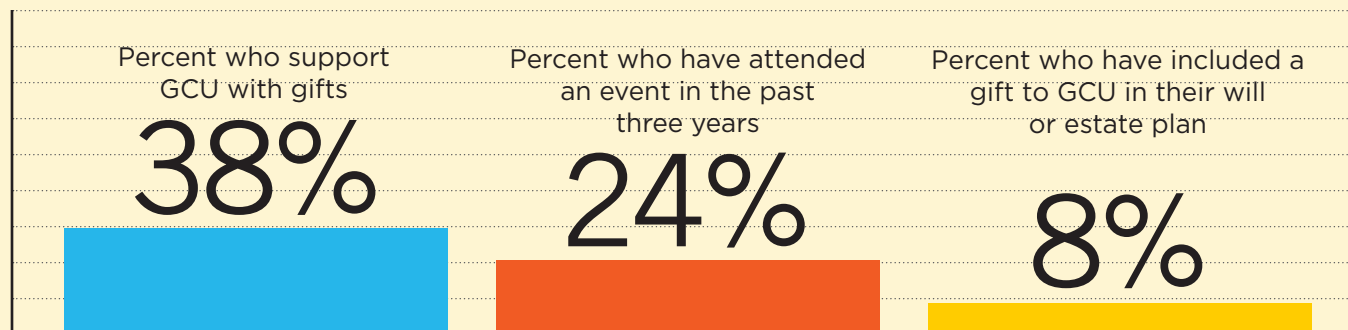


ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

8 Number of alumni events held last year
133 Number of people who attended

ALUMNI SURVEY SAYS!

225 Total Respondents



DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

208

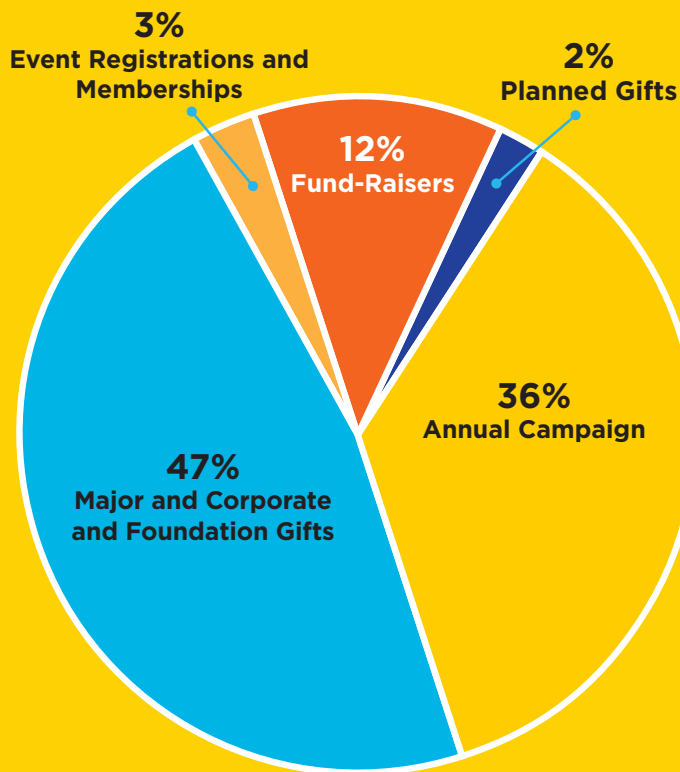
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded

\$934,881

Total Amount of Scholarships Awarded

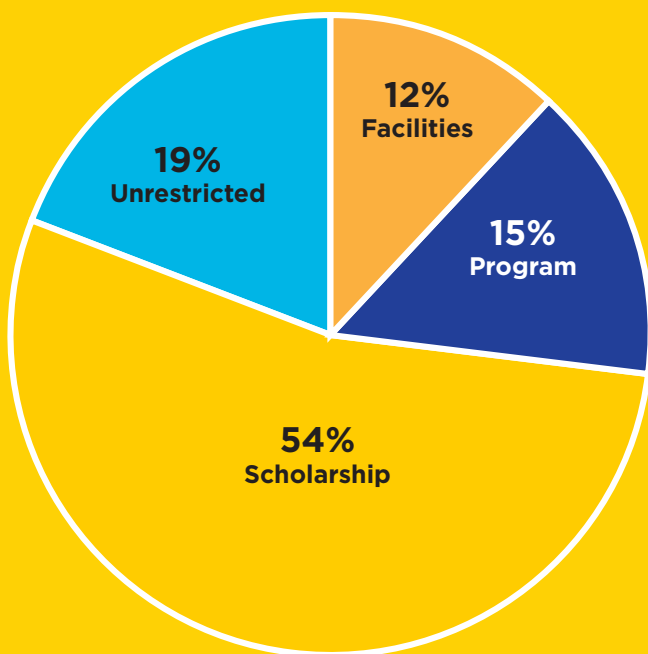


GIFTS TO GCU



DID YOU KNOW?

54% of all 2016–2017 donations support scholarships



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Have an idea for a great location for an alumni event? Let us know!

Share your ideas with
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ALUMNI

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Eleanor Wyrrough Matthiesen †

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Century Society \$125–\$249

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Helen O'Connor Spencer

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JoAnn McCarthy Donnelly

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Bette Jean Pickett Wintrich

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Joan G. Campana
Rose Loscarso
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Emily Ho Chiang

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May Lee Liu
Grace Chiniski Oliveira
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Claude Berhard Maignan
Maureen Sheehan Samaha
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Rosemary McElroy Todino

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Carolyn Roth Madigan
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"This scholarship means so much to me and my family. Thank you very much for your continued support of Georgian Court University."

Anne Zayatz '17
Art & Visual Studies



"As a veteran diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, the adjustment to college life was difficult. At times, it still is difficult. Thank you for making this scholarship possible. I would not be able to continue going to school without your generosity."

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Susan Francesco Strasser

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Debra Connerton Smith
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"Going to school later in life is challenging financially and mentally. I am so glad there is someone out there who believes in me, and I know that I would never have made it this far without you. It is an honor to be chosen, and my goal is to make you proud."

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Maria Martin Pyontek, D.O.

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Jeanne Jabush Poray

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Joyce Busch Cervati

Nancy Nicholas

Karen Busch Scheick

Jane Schier

Phyllis Weissman

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Apollo Society \$1,000–\$4,999

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Betsy Smith

Honor Society \$1–\$124

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Elizabeth Will Nanna

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Anonymous

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Patricia Wepprecht-Smith

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Natalia Henriques Costa

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Barbara Wonsala Kowalski

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Elena Scuzzese Trentacoste

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Darlene Austin Brown
Oneida Garcia
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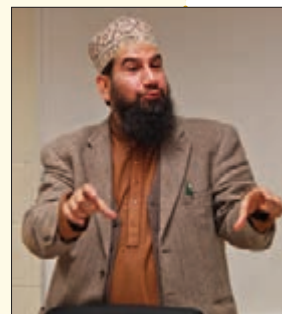
Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74, vice president for mission integration; Grace Talian '17, admissions recruiter/counselor (transfer students); artist Juanita Yoder; Deacon James Knipper '15; GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.; Father Richard Rohr, OFM; and Class of 2017 proud graduates.

A Banner Moment. GCU's beautiful liturgical processional banners on display at Commencement 2017 were created by internationally known artist Juanita Yoder, who was inspired by the Song of the Seraphim. Painted on silk, these banners reflect the essence of colors of the liturgical seasons. The Song of the Seraphim banners were generously donated by former trustee Deacon James Knipper '15 in honor of his father, former trustee James P. Knipper, his mother, Jean Sullivan Knipper, and other family members.



Once Again, We Are the Champions. Georgian Court University was named a "Champion of Good Works" by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) at its Chairman's Reception in March that saluted the generosity of the business community for the second year in a row. GCU, one of 39 businesses recognized at the dinner, was recognized for more than 87,000 volunteer hours donated by students, faculty, and staff, providing assistance to Catholic Charities, the American Red Cross, Read Across America, food banks, domestic violence shelters, clothing drives, health prevention and nonviolence awareness programs, and other organizations with an economic impact valued at \$2.3 million. Visit georgian.edu/gcu-champion-good-works-cianj to read more.

Beyond Boundaries. True Islam is intolerant of terrorism and the killing of innocent people is prohibited by the faith, Imam Masquood Qadri, a leader at Ocean County's only Islamic center, explained during a 2016 talk with GCU students. The Pakistan native was invited by Cynthia Ninivaggi, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice, anthropology, and sociology. "Globally, we are guided by the pillars of Islam: faith, fasting, pilgrimage, prayer, and chastity," Imam Qadri said as he highlighted the diverse backgrounds of local Muslims. "In Ocean County alone, we have Muslims from America, Egypt, Jordan, Afghanistan, India, Turkey, Albania, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and parts of Africa," he said. The presentation, part of Dr. Ninivaggi's Cultural Anthropology course, was intended to offer students a broader view of different faiths and cultures—a few weeks later they visited a Buddhist temple. "If we make more bridges, that will bring people, communities, and countries closer," Imam Qadri said. »



Critical Concerns. GCU hosted Jenny Nordberg, the award-winning journalist and author of *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*, during Critical Concerns 2016. University students, community residents, and youngsters visiting from Sisters Academy in Asbury Park were riveted by Ms. Nordberg's discussion of the challenges some Afghan girls face and the difficult choices their families make. The book evolved from Ms. Nordberg's coverage of "bacha posh"—how girls grow up disguised as boys in gender-segregated Afghanistan. Her story was first published in the *New York Times* and *The International Herald Tribune*. "Overall, this book is so important to the world's understanding of why there is so much inequality in the Middle East," said GCU history major Daniel Ginchereau, who had his copy autographed by the author. "Jenny Nordberg is a hero for telling the stories of these valiant women who do their best to survive every day in the face of a system that is constantly trying to silence them." »



A MINDSET FOR SUCCESS

Dr. Randal Pinkett, reality TV winner and entrepreneur, makes appearance at GCU.

By Gail H. Towns



Dr. Pinkett speaks to a packed house in the Dorothy Marron University Community Chapel on March 28.

When it comes to pursuing one's goals, a bit of passion goes a long way.

"If there's no passion, there's no point," author and entrepreneur Randal Pinkett, Ph.D., told a packed audience at GCU's inaugural Spring Lecture Series in late March. "Passion is what keeps us alive. When you bring passion to what you do, you also welcome challenges and work twice as hard."

Dr. Pinkett, widely known for winning Season 4 of NBC's *The Apprentice*, delivered a powerful message to students, faculty, and staff at the standing-room only event. The co-founder, chairman, and CEO of BCT Partners, a Newark-based management, technology, and policy consulting firm, also autographed copies of one of his books, *Campus CEO: The Student Entrepreneur's Guide to Launching a Multi-Million Dollar Business* (2007).

Dr. Pinkett's talk, sponsored by the GCU School of Business and Digital Media, the Student Government Association, and the Educational Opportunity Fund, challenged attendees to think deeply about diversity and global awareness.

"We are not meant to see through each other, but to see each other through," said the former Rutgers University track star, who earned his first graduate degree as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. His M.B.A. and Ph.D. are from MIT.

"The single greatest threat to our democracy is the growing divide in our society," he said. "There is danger in the communities of the

like-minded. When we surround ourselves with people who look like us and think like us, we become more prone to cast stereotypes on others. A global citizen mindset demands that I challenge myself in meaningful, supportive, and non-superficial relationships."

Sharing Words of Wisdom

Dr. Pinkett drew several rounds of applause as he shared several life experiences. He recalled the challenges of starting a business with college buddies, and finding community partners to invest in his company—way before BCT Partners become a multimillion-dollar enterprise.

GCU students took copious notes on their phones and posted quotes and photos to Twitter and Facebook as Dr. Pinkett continued to captivate the room with words of wisdom. He noted that "entrepreneurial thinking is the definitive mindset of the 21st century. It's a mindset that encompasses creativity. Resourcefulness. Courage. Resilience. Passion. Boundless enthusiasm for whatever you do."

A Lasting Impression

For Luka Zgonjanin '17, a former athlete and recent graduate of the School of Business and Digital Media, the message was clear.

"We all need to pursue something we are passionate about, not simply go for money in our careers," said Luka. "It actually makes sense because if you only go for money, you will never be happy. On the other hand, if you do something you love, you will be happy even if you do not make as much money. Dr. Pinkett is an amazing guy."



Student-athletes Luka Zgonjanin '17 (left) and Kelsie Blue '17 (right) pose with Dr. Pinkett (center).



Dr. Pinkett made time to sign books and pose for photos with students and other audience members.

CSI/ Stars and Research Consultants Share TV Secrets

By Tara M. Strickland

How does an English literature and theology major end up being an instrumental part of TV's biggest forensic dramas?

It's a circuitous path, but it makes sense that David Berman's liberal arts background led him to creating Entertainment Research Consultants (ERC), the industry's first entertainment research company, with Jon Wellner, who, appropriately enough, majored in television. After all, being able to write well, communicate with others, and handle complicated research is par for the course in any liberal arts field.

In their April 3 talk in the Casino, "The Science of Television: How Complex Scientific Information Is Transformed into Popular Entertainment," Mr. Berman and Mr. Wellner—both of whom appeared on *CSI*—described ERC's role in helping television shows seem as accurate as possible. ERC has helped television shows like the *CSI* franchise and many others research chemistry, biology, mathematics, and the law, along with a wide array of forensic disciplines such as odontology, entomology, and DNA analysis in an often-overlooked part of the creative process.

"Essentially our company is the link between a television show's writing staff, which is usually anywhere between 5 and 10 full-time writers, and the real-world professionals, both in law enforcement and the private sector, who provide important details that help make the program feel as authentic as possible—feel being the operative word," Mr. Berman told the audience of about 100 community members, students, staff, and faculty.

ERC has compiled a data bank of 300 scientific, medical, law enforcement, and other experts who help answer the many questions posed by writers of shows such as *CSI*, *The Blacklist*, *The Blacklist: Redemption*, *Lucifer*, *Rosewood*, *Zoo*, *Bones*, *Rizzoli and Isles*, and a handful of movie and commercial projects. They often receive a "laundry list" of as many as 200 questions per script.

"We've gotten questions about anything from Shakespeare, to scuba diving, to stamp collecting. We've even been asked about



David Berman (left) and Jon Wellner (right) interspersed their informative presentation with clips from *CSI*, *The Blacklist*, and *Bones*.

roller coaster construction, cliff diving, [and] diamond-smuggling monkeys," said Mr. Berman, who also played assistant coroner David Phillips on *CSI*.

Mr. Berman recalled an early episode of *CSI* in which a murder took place on a hockey rink, but a Zamboni had cleaned the ice before the investigators arrived. The writer of the episode had several questions for ERC—"How does a Zamboni machine dump its ice? Is it in one pile? Is it spread out over a large area? How does this work? What is the consistency of this ice? How long would it take for it to melt?"

Mr. Berman, who noted that they try to answer all of the questions they receive within 24 hours, said that he immediately called Zamboni to find answers for the basic questions. He then scouted online for physicists who could answer the more complicated questions on melting ice, then consulted a chemistry professor who helped distill the complex science into something simpler for TV viewers. In a clip from the show, audience members saw how ERC's research was reflected in the final scene.

And while ERC strives for accuracy in the research they provide (even with the dramatic exaggeration of television), there are times when things are purposefully inaccurate or details are omitted.

"Basically we can give out authentic-sounding, yet totally false research, if the truth is going to help a criminal commit a crime," said Mr. Wellner, who played toxicologist Henry Andrews on *CSI*. "For example, we're not going to give out specifics on how to make a bomb, or poison water, or build a weapon."

In addition to sharing their research process, Mr. Berman and Mr. Wellner also shared how TV shows are created, from the writers' room, all the way through post-production and onto the television screen. They also spoke about how forensics has changed since *CSI* premiered in 2000, including improvements to ballistics and DNA identification, photography, and 3D facial reconstruction. But they could not say enough about the unpaid experts who assist them with their research on a daily basis, helping make sure their respective fields are represented as accurately and fairly as possible.

"The key to this job is realizing we know nothing," said Mr. Wellner. "We have to find actual experts, and professors, and professionals that know everything."



David Berman (left) and Jon Wellner (right) answered questions from the audience and posed for pictures, including this one with GCU students Taylor Casciani, Kelly Bermeo, Neil Chang, and Marisol Gonzales (left to right).

Class of 2017 Takes Its



1. Brianna Marrone '17, president of the Student Government Association Executive Board (shown here with President Marbach), delivered an address on behalf of students at the undergraduate ceremony. She shared the three most important lessons she learned at GCU: To be present, to listen with the intent to understand, and to be there for someone.

2. Thomas C. DeNoville '17, Jordan A. Eugenis '17, Phillip M. Zimmermann '17, and Michael V. Pontrelli '17 (left to right) all entered in the Fall of 2013 when GCU went fully coeducational and became members of the first men's athletics teams at the university.

3. President Marbach (center) presented two honorary degrees at the undergraduate ceremony: a Doctor of Business Administration degree to Deacon James J. Knipper '15, former trustee (left), and a Doctor of Ministry degree to Father Richard Rohr, OFM (right).



The historic Class of 2017 has left the building.

GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., opened the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on May 25 by noting the importance of the Class of 2017: "Freshmen who entered in the fall of 2013 will forever be noted as the first fully coeducational class in The Court's storied and illustrious history. With this graduating class, a coeducational student body becomes the norm," he said. "The student experience has been changed forever."

Although the rain may have dampened some mortarboards, it did not dampen the excitement of the nearly 400 graduates and their families who celebrated hard-earned bachelor's degrees.

Commencement speaker Richard Rohr, OFM, globally recognized ecumenical teacher, author, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, compared graduation to a rite of passage in our society, telling graduates that "you have just completed your survival dance." But he urged them not to confuse that with their "sacred dance," which he said, comes after they experience setbacks that will teach them their true path in life: "You have to go down to go up; even a bird must do this before it learns to fly."

President Marbach's final words of advice to the Class of 2017 were: "Always live the values of this Mercy university. Be a people of compassion and integrity who respect others, and live lives in service to the cause of justice."

Place in GCU History



4. About 400 people celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass in the Casino Auditorium, led by Deacon James J. Knipper '15, former trustee; Father Anthony DiPalma, GCU chaplain; Monsignor Casimir H. Ladzinski, trustee; and Father Richard Rohr, OFM (left to right). They're shown in front of the colorful new liturgical banners donated by Deacon Knipper.

5. December 2016 nursing graduates Mikaela Chua (left) and Jenna Drucker (right) were headed to jobs at Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

6. President Marbach (center) presented President Emerita Barbara A. Williams '63, archivist and assistant librarian for science and mathematics (left), with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, and Adam Lowy, founder of Move For Hunger (right), with an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree at the graduate ceremony.

Graduate Commencement Ceremony

On May 24, master's degrees were granted to 172 students, who heard from Commencement speaker Adam Lowy, founder of Move For Hunger. He shared his experiences with leaving a steady, enjoyable job to take on the challenge of starting a nonprofit at the age of 23, and finding his mission and purpose in helping address the issue of hunger. He reminded the audience that "the only way you can fail is if you let yourself fail. So your goal is not to fail."

Daniel Beach '17, M.B.A. graduate, spoke on behalf of the graduate students. He encouraged his fellow classmates to not just "think," but to think differently.

"We have invested time, money, and most importantly, ourselves. By continuing to think differently, we can ensure that we will be a success. By continuing to see things differently, we will ensure that we stand out."

@ Visit georgian.edu/commencement for links to speeches, videos, and high-resolution photos of both ceremonies.

Dean Mary Chinery Co-Discovers Lost Edith Wharton Play

*History-Making Literary Discovery Began
with Edith Gould and Georgian Court*

By Michelle Giles

Years of literary research, countless hours exploring archives, and a mention in a book by M. Christina Geis, RSM, '49 about a play performance by Edith Gould here at Georgian Court in 1899—all led Mary Chinery, Ph.D., '86, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, to co-discover a lost Edith Wharton play, sparking international excitement and making Dr. Chinery a literary research star.

Wharton's *The Shadow of a Doubt*, a three-act play in production in 1901, was uncovered by Dr. Chinery and Laura Rattray, Ph.D., a reader in American literature at the University of Glasgow, at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Chinery's research journey began with Sister Christina's book, *Georgian Court: An Estate of the Gilded Age* (1982), which notes that Edith Gould performed *The Twilight of the Gods*, a play by Wharton, at the formal opening of the Casino, at the time called Bachelor's Court, in December 1899. That led Dr. Chinery, an American literature scholar, to research other performances of Wharton's plays around that time. When she presented her findings at the Wharton in Washington 2016 Conference in Washington, DC, last June, she mentioned a *New York Times* reference about *The Shadow of the Doubt* being cancelled. Dr. Rattray approached Dr. Chinery, saying she had never heard of the play, and they teamed up to look for it.

One week later—after several e-mails and online searches—they found it.

But finding the play wasn't enough. They needed to uncover the story behind it. In the fall, Dr. Chinery returned to the archives at Princeton University, Yale University, and the New York Public Library to trace the play's background. She and Dr. Rattray collaborated on their research and in the spring, they wrote an article about the play and their findings, as well as painstakingly retyped the play (with every dash and punctuation mark copied exactly), for publication in the *Edith Wharton Review*.

Their discovery has caused quite a stir in the literary world and beyond with stories in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Berkshire Eagle*, *The Times of India*, and many other publications, as well as interest across social media. The attention around the play's discovery surprised Dr. Chinery.

"I knew Edith Wharton scholars would be interested," she says. "But I didn't think the play would be so interesting to other people. There are a lot of fans of Edith Wharton."



Dr. Chinery with the *Edith Wharton Review* issue in which the lost play has been published

The play adds to the critical conversation about Wharton, Dr. Chinery notes, especially her early career. "The play definitely shows that she was a serious playwright before she was a novelist. She was very good at creating drama."

Dr. Chinery says the play shows that Wharton, as an early playwright, was working in the model of great European playwrights like Oscar Wilde and Henrik Ibsen. She notes that the play is "very witty" with "great roles for women," adding that it includes "issues that would become Wharton's later themes: women's roles, marriage, class, honor, and the ethics of euthanasia."

"Edith Wharton is so fascinating to me because she wrote in every genre," she says. "I think *The Age of Innocence* is one of the greatest American novels. But she also wrote about everything. Also, during World War I, she lived in Paris and spent an extensive amount of time raising money and helping refugees and women. She created a home for them, she had their children educated, and she gave women work so that they could survive after the war."

When Dr. Chinery first realized she and Dr. Rattray had indeed found the lost play, she "broke out into a cold sweat" and immediately texted Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., '74, vice president for mission integration. Her journey, however, didn't happen overnight. It began in 2008, when she began researching Gould's performance at Georgian Court and from there, she spent years alone in the archives, researching and then writing about early Wharton plays performed in New York City, finally leading to the discovery.

There is talk about public readings of *The Shadow of a Doubt* in multiple places in England and the United States, and very possibly at Georgian Court.

"It's really fun to see your work come to light after so many years when you've been working on a project for so long," Dr. Chinery says. "No doubt, it is the highlight of my professional career. And I love that there is a connection to Georgian Court."

GCU's EMPOWER Program Focuses on Sexual Violence Prevention

By Michelle Giles

Georgian Court's EMPOWER program, implemented through a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, engages the campus community in preventing, responding, and advocating against sexual assault and relationship violence while promoting social change.

As part of the program, GCU has established a Coordinated Community Response Team to coordinate efforts on campus to reduce power-based violence and developed close partnerships with Providence House, 180 Turning Lives Around, the Lakewood Police Department, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, and St. Francis Counseling Services. GCU is also partnering with Men Can Stop Rape to promote healthy masculinity campus-wide.

In April, the campus and community partners came together to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), with nearly 500 people attending the educational events throughout the month. The events included *A Day of Action*, a collaboration between students, staff, clubs/organizations, and on- and off-campus resources, that educated the campus community about sexual violence. *The Handprint Project*



The Handprint Project recruited students to take a pledge to not commit or condone sexual violence.

recruited students to take a pledge to not commit or condone sexual violence by placing a handprint on an "It's on Us" banner. For the *White Ribbon Pledge*, students signed their names on a pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence. In the *Teal Ribbon Project*, ribbons representing SAAM were hung throughout the campus.

GCU hosted a panel discussion and screening of *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary that exposes sexual violence as a prevalent problem on campuses across the country. On *Denim Day*, members of the GCU community wore denim to show their support of sexual assault awareness and prevention. Students participated in the *Clothesline Project* by decorating shirts with messages of sexual assault support and the shirts were then hung on a clothesline. Students also took part in *Conversations on Consent* for which they read survivor stories and discussed scenarios and what consent means to them.



GCU President Marbach; former Brookdale President Maureen Murphy, Ph.D.; Hazlet Mayor Sue Kiley, and Hazlet Deputy Mayor Scott Aagre (left to right)

GCU@Hazlet Celebrates Launch with Open Housewarming

By Tiesha M. Brunson

On May 17, GCU@Hazlet held an Open Housewarming to celebrate their new location at Brookdale Community College's Northern Monmouth Higher Education Center, located at 1 Crown Plaza in Hazlet, New Jersey. There, local adult learners and transfer students will have the opportunity to "Degree Up!" and complete their bachelor's degrees. GCU@Hazlet's degree-completion program will officially launch in Fall 2017, starting with programs in business administration, psychology, English, and interdisciplinary studies, as well as dual teacher certification for the latter three.

At the event, Patrick Givens, GCU director of graduate and professional studies, focused on affordability, convenience, and transfer-friendly—the three areas that make GCU@Hazlet the perfect option for those trying to complete their bachelor's degrees. Administrators, staff, and faculty from both institutions were on hand to welcome prospective students, and Hazlet Mayor Sue Kiley and Deputy Mayor Scott Aagre, as well as representatives from the offices of Congressman Frank Pallone and Congressman Christopher Smith, made it a VIP affair.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to offer a Georgian Court University education to the Hazlet community," said GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. "We knew that teaming up with Brookdale Community College would definitely be a first-class partnership."



Patrick Givens, GCU director of graduate and professional studies

GCU Trustees Deliver Talent, Passion, and Perspective

Robert “Bob” Mulcahy, III, one of New Jersey’s most involved and longest serving public officials, is the new chair of Georgian Court University’s Board of Trustees. He is joined by former nurse-turned-healthcare executive Judith Persichilli as co-chair of GCU’s governing board.

“They bring a wealth of strategic experience to higher education at a time when innovation is so important,” says GCU President Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. “They are well versed in what it means to address steep challenges, seek opportunities, and implement change.”

Mr. Mulcahy, who chairs the Casino Reinvestment Redevelopment Authority in Atlantic City, began his public career as a councilman in Mendham more than 50 years ago. A former president of the Meadowlands and a former Rutgers University athletics director, Mr. Mulcahy has been a GCU trustee since 2012.

Mrs. Persichilli also managed multiple roles throughout her career. She was a nurse at St. Francis Medical Center, and moved into finance/management before becoming CEO. She led the 2010–2013 merger of Catholic Health East and Trinity Health, which spanned 21 states, 82 hospitals, and 89 continuing care facilities. Now retired, she has been a GCU trustee since 2014.

GCU also welcomes a broad range of new trustees “who are joining Georgian Court as we explore new possibilities

for programs and new ways to meet the needs of students,” says Dr. Marbach.

New trustees are:

Michele Teresa Aronica, RSM, Ph.D., a career educator and professor of sociology at St. Joseph’s College (Standish, ME) and vice president of the Northeast Community of the Sisters of Mercy.

Kathleen P. Hickey, an NCAA compliance expert and senior associate athletics director at Rutgers University.

Mary Maples, J.D., associate counsel for the Office of Governor Chris Christie and a former lawyer for the Central Intelligence Agency’s Office of Security, Office of Congressional Affairs, CounterTerrorism Center, and Administrative Law Division.

Dele Oladapo, chief information officer and vice president, information systems, for Prudential Financial, Inc., whose expertise spans law, compliance, business ethics, and external affairs.

Maureen E. Sintich, D.N.P., M.B.A., RN, WHNP-BC, NEA-BC, senior vice president and network chief nursing officer for Hackensack Meridian Health; she served in similar executive roles at Wake Forest (N.C.) Baptist Health and Brenner Children’s Hospital.

Remembering Dr. Eduardo S. Paderon

Eduardo “Ed” Paderon, Ph.D., could make people feel at ease and still challenge them to push their limits.

“He had a way of sharing information and providing guidance that was truly, from the very first moment, a partnership,” says Evelyn Quinn, M.S.W., M.Ed., ‘74, GCU’s vice president for mission integration.

Dr. Paderon, Georgian Court’s chief academic officer from 2001 to 2005, died April 10 after fighting pancreatic cancer. He was 78.

A native of the Philippines, Dr. Paderon came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar in 1964 and earned three degrees from Fordham University: an M.B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. He also worked at University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio; Fordham; Manhattan College; St. Joseph Seminary; and for New Rochelle’s



Dr. Eduardo S. Paderon with William Bishop, assistant professor of geography

Iona College, where he created an M.B.A. program in Moscow for Siberian students. He later started a college in China and expanded exchange programs with Philippine colleges.

“Dr. Paderon had a great sense of looking beyond the everyday tasks that are involved in our jobs to be able to really see the big picture—the depth and breadth of what a Catholic education could be about,” says Ms. Quinn. “He would always say to me, ‘This is one day in what is going to be a life’s journey—it’s one step toward the goal.’”

“He left such an impression on everyone,” she says. “Even under the most trying circumstances, he managed to be a man of integrity and grace.”

New Director of Global Education Believes Living Abroad Impacts Personal Development

By Sanford Josephson



While majoring in international relations and Spanish at Bucknell University, Laura Grodewald studied in Chile during the spring of 2000. “That strengthened my desire to be a teacher and to share my experiences abroad,” she says. Since then—in a variety of settings—she has initiated and facilitated study abroad student trips to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

“Knowing first-hand the impact living abroad has on one’s personal development,” she says, “has motivated me to advise students through this challenging, yet rewarding, journey.”

Now, Ms. Grodewald is bringing her passion and expertise to Georgian Court as the new director of global education programs and notes that she’s heard “there is a lot of enthusiasm for global education on this campus.” One of her

goals is to “take that energy and build on it. One possibility might be the development of global café sessions where students who have studied abroad can bring back that experience to other GCU students, giving them a taste of what it’s like.”

Georgian Court has relationships with three external programs: Academic Programs International (API), International Studies Abroad (ISA), and John Cabot University, an American university in Rome. Ms. Grodewald’s primary responsibility is to help students select and navigate various study abroad options. With these programs, Grodewald said, “Students can almost go anywhere with any major. It depends on interest and affordability, but I will work with them.”

In addition to advising students about study abroad opportunities, Ms. Grodewald also coordinates faculty-led customized trips for students. Upcoming trips include a study of the Holocaust and world wars in Germany, Belgium, and France and a study of sacred and Neolithic sites in Ireland.

Ms. Grodewald recently returned to the United States from Hong Kong, where she taught Spanish at Renaissance College for four years. In addition to teaching Spanish in the Jackson School District and at the Peddie School in Hightstown, she taught Spanish for Healthcare Workers at Monmouth University, Brookdale Community College, and Ocean County College. While she enjoyed her teaching career, she looks forward to “working in capacities that promote global understanding and awareness here at GCU.”

Golf Fund-Raiser a Success

On May 1, Georgian Court University held its 22nd Annual Scholarship & Golf Classic at Deal Golf and Country Club. GCU honored Domenick M. Servodio with the Joseph E. Buckelew Civic Service Award and the TD Charitable Foundation with the Corporate Service Award.

The event, co-chaired by former GCU Trustee James J. Knipper and Trustee Michael J. LaFerrera, both of J. Knipper and Company Inc., raised more than \$150,000 benefiting student scholarships. Participants enjoyed a day on the course, a putting contest, cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner and an awards ceremony. Guests heard a moving testimonial from Stephanie Nagy '17, a student in the GCU–Hackensack Meridian Health School of Nursing, who shared her experiences as a GCU scholarship recipient and participant in Girls Involved in Science and Technology.

“It was a life-changing decision to attend Georgian Court University, and a major factor was indeed the amount of scholarships provided, as well as my acceptance into the nursing program,” Stephanie said.



Golfers at the 2017 Classic raised more than \$150,000 for student scholarships.

@ Read Stephanie’s powerful speech in its entirety at georgian.edu/Scholarship-Outing/

See photos at bit.ly/Scholarship-Outing

GCU Athletics Takes Home **5** Championship Crowns

By Christopher McKibben

The 2016–2017 athletic campaign was one for the ages on the Georgian Court University campus as the Lions earned an unprecedented five conference titles in three different sports, with four of the victories coming on the Lions' home turf!

Georgian Court's first taste of triumph came on November 6 from what many would consider the unlikeliest of teams... men's soccer. Ranked #9 in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) preseason poll entering the campaign, GCU proved that it's how you finish that matters, as the Lions made history by defeating #8-seed Post University in the most dramatic of fashions, a 4-3 shootout triumph, to secure the CACC title in just its fourth season as a program.

Head Coach Dino Raso and his roster finished the year with a 13-5-2 ledger, six more victories than any of the Lions' previous three seasons. With tension filling the Georgian Court soccer field every passing second, it would be the Lions who would escape with the victory as tournament MVP Michael Clarke '17 connected on the penalty kick that provided his team the championship banner.

The GCU women's lacrosse team returned to prominence on April 30, as the Lions doubled up #3 Philadelphia University, 16-8, to earn the 2017 CACC crown. GCU (13-8), winners of its final 12 contests of the season, earned the third conference title (2010, 2011) in program history as the Lions ran the table with a perfect 11-0 mark vs. CACC competition.

Five goals on the day from CACC Player of the Year Samantha Fernandez gave the sophomore 74 on the season, breaking the previous team-high of 71 set by Ryan McGrath in 2011. However, it was goalkeeper, Amber Neumann, who was the star of the show as the sophomore shot-stopper collected a game-best 16 saves en route to being named the tournament's MVP.

The Georgian Court University men's and women's track and field squads continued their dominance of the CACC with first-place performances in the CACC Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 7.

The GCU women, compiling 222.5 total points, earned their fourth straight CACC title while their male counterparts, with 255.5 points, took home their third consecutive championship banner.

Georgian Court's men's squad, behind the strength of four individual titles and five new team records, also soared to a first-place finish on February 24, earning its first-ever East Coast Conference (ECC) Indoor Championship. The Lions collected 157 points en route to the crown, holding off second-place St. Thomas Aquinas College by 12 (145).



The men's soccer team brought home their first conference championship.



The women's lacrosse team took home their third CACC crown in the program's history.



The men's and women's track and field squads continued their dominance of the CACC Outdoor Championships, with the men's squad also earning the East Coast Conference (ECC) Indoor Championship.

GCU Salutes 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Members

By Christopher McKibben

Former GCU Lions Nancy Staudt Arvan '86, Laurie Pells George '98, and Heather Walker Hastie '08, '10 have been announced as the members of GCU's Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF) Class of 2017. The trio will be honored during a special induction ceremony on Friday, September 29, at the Lakewood Country Club in conjunction with Reunion & Homecoming Weekend, September 29 through October 1. This year's honorees represent the Lions' first HOF class since 2012.

Nancy Staudt Arvan enjoyed a collegiate career spent mostly in the fast lane as the premier harrier in Georgian Court cross-country history. The three-time District 13 individual champion paced the Lions to multiple District 13 crowns, resulting in more than one appearance in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championships. A staple atop the standings in every race she entered, Nancy earned her most impressive achievement in May 1985, when the junior placed second overall in the NAIA National Marathon Championships with a lightning-quick time of 2:55.46. The finish crowned Nancy as the first (and only) All-American in program history.

After graduating with a degree in English and art, Nancy worked in the hospitality industry as a restaurant manager. She has been married for 25 years and resides in Southport, North Carolina. She continues to run while also staying active through tennis, woodcarving, and painting.

One of the most prolific goalkeepers in Georgian Court women's soccer history, Laurie Pells George played a vital role in leading the Lions to an unfathomable 71-15-4 record during her collegiate career as a member of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) and NAIA. Under her leadership, GCU soccer earned two CACC championships (1994–1995) and three NAIA National Championship Tournament Berths (1994–1995, 1997).

A force between the pipes, the four-year starter and 1997 CACC Player of the Year amassed a program-best 57 career shut-outs, which included 16 for a 20-2 Georgian Court squad in 1994 and 15 more in 1995 for the 25-2 Lions. Laurie earned NAIA Second-Team All-American status in 1995 before closing out her collegiate career with back-to-back First-Team selections. Laurie was also a star away from the pitch, earning the 1996 New Jersey Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (NJIAIW) Woman Athlete of the Year for her prowess in the classroom and the community.

After receiving her degree in elementary education and psychology, Laurie earned a tryout with the USA National Team.



Nancy Staudt Arvan '86



Laurie Pells George '98



Heather Walker
Hastie '08, '10

She proceeded to play two seasons of semi-pro soccer with the Delaware Genies before suiting up with the Philadelphia Charge of the Women's United Soccer Association in 2001. She was an assistant coach with The College of New Jersey, Clemson University, and the University of Maryland, and she currently runs the Pells Keeper School, which she founded in 2007. Laurie and her family reside in Maryland.

Heather Walker Hastie enjoyed a stellar career, both athletically and academically, at Georgian Court. As a member of the softball and volleyball teams, she led the Lions to CACC championships in each, as well as appearances in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional tournaments. In 2007, she received the GCU Volleyball Coaches Award and was named the CACC Softball Player of the Year.

As softball captain, Heather was the epitome of a leader with her selection as a first team Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American. The star catcher was the first NCAA Division II First-Team All-American in GCU athletics history and still leads the program with 43 career home runs. In 2008, Heather was named Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division II First Team All-Region, Daktronics First Team All-Region, CACC First-Team All-Conference, CACC All-Tournament Team, and ECAC First-Team All-Star, all while maintaining a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She was selected to the CACC All-Academic team for both volleyball and softball and was named a NFCA All-American Scholar-Athlete.

Heather's leadership roles were not limited to the playing field. She served as president of the GCU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

and as the CACC's representative for the national SAAC, as well as the president of the Pi Delta Phi Honor Society. Heather received the prestigious GCU Presidential Award, the GCU Inspiration Award, and GCU Woman of the Year, and was a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award in 2008. The NCAA also awarded Heather with a postgraduate scholarship.

After graduating with a degree in history, Heather proceeded to serve as an assistant coach for the GCU softball team for two seasons while working toward an M.B.A. She aided in leading the Lions to the 2009 CACC title with a record of 40-17 and the only NCAA Super Regional appearance in team history. GCU returned to the NCAA Regionals in 2010 with a record of 39-19.

Heather is an elementary schoolteacher and works in sports information, marketing, and home events for Laurentian University. She and her husband, Evan, reside in Canada.

GCU Lions Earn Top NCAA Service Award

By Christopher McKibben



Roary, along with his friends from the GCU SAAC, joined forces to participate in the first CACC Mascot Day at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Service. It is not only a Mercy core value, but a way of life at Georgian Court University. A value that the GCU Lions have taken to the next level as the university's student-athletes are the proud recipients of the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Team Works Helper Helper Community Service Competition Award for their community outreach efforts.

NCAA Team Works, which coordinates community service efforts at NCAA championships, and Helper Helper, a volunteer management and tracking platform, launched the community service competition to recognize student-athletes who give back to their communities. The competition ran from January through March. The winning schools were determined based on the amount of service hours completed and the participation of student-athletes.

"I am so exceptionally proud of our student-athletes for living our value of service this and every year," says Laura Liesman, assistant vice president for athletics and recreation. "To make serving others a top priority, while also balancing a full calendar of academic and athletic responsibilities, is a true testament to the character of a GCU student-athlete."

Student-athletes at Georgian Court earned first place in the Division II category. They participated in more than 90 events from January 1 through March 31, amassing more than 3,300 hours of service. Among other volunteer activities, student-athletes from various Georgian Court teams travel once or twice per month to a local senior community, where they compete in the Georgian Court Wii Bowling Championships against the residents.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished over the last year," says Ben Salsby '17, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) president. "Having an app such as Helper Helper that tracks the hours volunteered is a great idea. Giving the students something to look back on at the end of their seasons or semesters shows them the impact they have made. With 10,000 community service hours alone last academic year, it has given us a great baseline to work from, providing a good stepping stone for future generations of Georgian Court student-athletes."

@ For more information on the NCAA Team Works Helper Helper Community Service Competition, visit ncaa.com/teamworks.

Javelin Thrower Brazzel Takes Second Place on National Stage

By Christopher McKibben



Mike Brazzel

GCU's Michael Brazzel achieved national acclaim for the second straight season this past May as the then-junior again recorded All-American status with a second-place finish in the javelin at the 2017 NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships, hosted by the University of Tampa and the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

The two-time CACC Male Field Athlete of the Year and U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) East Region Field Athlete of the Year ended the year #2 in the entire nation as the native of North Arlington, New Jersey, let fly a team-record throw of 70.89 meters, trailing only Nils Fischer of Angelo State (75.05 meters).

"Mike has been an integral part to the success of our program since its inception in 2013," states Head Coach Mike Murawski. "He is a dedicated athlete, and his work ethic shows through his performances year in and year out. He is a two-time All American, and we are very proud of what he has been able to accomplish throughout his career thus far."

Joe Napoli, GCU assistant track & field coach for throws and the USTFCCCA East Region Men's Assistant Coach of the Year, agrees.

"I am extremely proud of what Mike has been able to accomplish this season, fighting through a couple injuries, yet always possessing a positive attitude and moving forward," shares Coach Napoli. "For a javelin thrower to be as consistent as he was this season, throwing a lifetime best at the NCAA meet was simply outstanding."

Mike earned All-American status a year ago with a third-place throw of 66.17 meters in 2016. He blew that mark away on multiple occasions this season, culminating with a then-team record-breaking effort of 70.79 meters on May 7 en route to the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Championship.

Mike was joined by teammate Alyssa Whipkey in the national championship meet, who placed 13th overall in women's javelin competition with a distance of 42.85 meters. The then-sophomore from Pennsville, New Jersey, established a new women's team high with a throw of 43.60 meters in the GCU Last Chance Meet in May.

Social Justice Superhero

Iveliz Crespo, J.D., '11 uses her law degree to advocate for those who don't have a voice.

By Gwen Moran

Growing up in a single-parent household in one of Camden, New Jersey's working-class neighborhoods, Iveliz R. Crespo, J.D., '11 was surrounded by people who struggled to provide for their families and find financial and employment security. Even at a young age, she was aware of the injustice that surrounded her.

"I was struck by the rampant abuse low-income people face in employment and the discrimination they face in accessing the justice system," she says.

Those impressions stayed with her as she went on to do her undergraduate work in criminal justice at Georgian Court University. Coming from a small high school, she was attracted to the university's small class sizes and felt like she would get an individualized education. She liked that the university was a women's institution at the time and was attracted by the Mercy core values, which reflected her own attitudes toward social justice.

A Leader in Training

While at Georgian Court, Ms. Crespo founded the Alliance, a group to bring together lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual (LGBT) and straight students to raise awareness of LGBT student issues. She was also one of the founders of the Mercy Collegiate Society, a service-based organization dedicated to helping students incorporate the Mercy core values into their lives through service trips and other activities. In addition, she was a member of Women in Leadership Development (WILD), which helped her learn valuable leadership skills that she uses to this day, she says.

"I learned how to advocate for myself in the workplace, how to request a raise in the job, even how to dress for an interview. They had wonderful workshops were geared toward making sure that women would succeed, not just at Georgian Court, but once they left Georgian Court and entered the workforce," she says.

After graduating in 2011, Ms. Crespo attended Rutgers-Camden School of Law. While there, she received a number of awards and honors, including the Philadelphia Bar Association's Public Interest Law Student Award, which is awarded to law students committed to providing legal assistance to the underserved community. Once she earned



Iveliz Crespo, J.D., '11

her J.D., she completed a clerkship with the Hon. Mary White of Superior Court's Family Division in Gloucester County.

Serving the Underserved

Ms. Crespo's passion for helping underserved communities became the focus of her work. In 2015, she joined South Jersey Legal Services as a migrant farmworker staff attorney. There, she helped migrant farm workers with issues ranging from employment rights to human trafficking issues. The work reminded her of the injustices she had seen growing up in Camden, where many families included

undocumented people. It was there that she realized one of her proudest moments, when she was representing farmworkers who had been mistreated and underpaid at their jobs, eventually obtaining a settlement for them.

"Even though it wasn't a large monetary amount, when they got it, you could tell in their voices that they felt so empowered—that they advocated for themselves and they got what they felt they deserved," she recalls.

In January 2017, Ms. Crespo joined the Mazzoni Center, a Philadelphia organization that offers a wide range of outreach, education, medical, legal, and other services to the LGBT community. She was interested in working with the organization as it does not accept Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funding, which is government-sponsored and restricts recipients from working with undocumented individuals. This gives her more opportunities to work with people she feels need her help the most.

In addition to the satisfaction of being a social justice-minded lawyer, Ms. Crespo has another reason to celebrate. She married her partner, Jessica Meller, in December 2016. And she looks toward a bright future, perhaps leading a nonprofit that helps low-income individuals or others who are being exploited or oppressed. As she moves toward that goal, the mentors, lessons, and passionate discussions about social justice from her time at Georgian Court stay with her.

"I already came to Georgian Court with this idea that the people in poverty had hardships that need to be addressed," she says. "The mentors I had at Georgian Court were committed to public service and giving back. That definitely reaffirmed my belief that this is what I'm meant to do."

● 1970s

Yayoi Toyama Ogawa '74 was an interpreter and chaperone at the Miss International World Pageant in Tokyo in October 2016. In addition to staying with the women and touring various places in the area, Yayoi shared Japanese culture experiences, such as tea ceremonies and flower arranging.



Yayoi Toyama Ogawa '74; Diane Szubrowski, RSM, '68, donor relations volunteer; and **Monica Sobieski Urban '74** enjoyed lunch together in Red Bank, New Jersey, on May 30.

● 1980s

Marianne Perry '82 is excited to announce her retirement after 15 years in the financial industry and 20 years with the New York State United Teachers, a labor federation. She and her wife, Jeanette Laszczynski, celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on July 24, 2016, and are looking forward to this year's move from upstate New York to their new home in southern, coastal Delaware.

Julie Sklar Knowles '84 has two children: Jared, a junior at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland; and Andre, a junior and football player at Toms River High School South. Julie is a social worker at Southern Ocean Rehabilitation in Manahawkin.

Susan Shaffer '84 has a daughter, Maya, in the eighth grade. Maya is originally from Guatemala; Susan adopted her when she was a baby. Susan is the corporate director of marketing for a national healthcare company.

Phyllis Angellella Aires '86, '93 was inducted into the Central Regional School District Hall of Fame on October 7, 2016. Phyllis, a 1981 Central Regional graduate, excelled in softball and helped her team win its third and fourth consecutive A-South championships. She won an Ocean County Championship in her senior year and was selected as First Team All-County and First Team All-Shore in 1980 and 1981.

Victoria McKeon '87, '08 is a math teacher at Manalapan High School.

● 1990s

Kelly Ruerup Kernasovic '91, '00 is the principal at Washington Street Elementary School in Toms River. She previously served as the supervisor of instruction there and at Walnut Street Elementary School.



Debra Emery '98, former GCU athletic director and basketball coach, was named as one of the Jersey Shore's greatest girls basketball players by the Asbury Park Press. She played for Ocean High School and then went on to Montclair State University. In college, she not only played basketball, but softball as well. In 2002, Debbie, a member of the Class of 1986, was inducted into Montclair's Athletic Hall of Fame. She is now a physical education and health teacher at Holmdel High School.

Dawn Kaszuba '98, '06 is the principal of Ocean Township High School. Prior to this, she was an English teacher at Freehold Township and Red Bank Regional Schools and a guidance counselor and director of school counseling at Red Bank Regional. She is also president of the Monmouth County Guidance Directors Association. She and her husband, Joe, have four children: Tiffany, Amanda, Melissa, and Andre.

● 2000s

Jamey Brooks Stofko '00, '15 presented her research on yoga's impact on the classroom behaviors of students with special needs at the 2016 Conference of the American College of Sports Medicine's Greater New York Chapter.

Keith Buscio '04 is the assistant vice president, director of public relations for Provident Bank. Prior to this, he was vice president for marketing and communications with Santander Bank.

Jessica Petracco DeWysockie '04, '08 is the business administrator/board secretary for the Tabernacle School District. Prior to this, she was an assistant school board administrator for Ewing Public Schools.

Tanya Mosley '06 is a teacher at the Walnut Street Elementary School in Toms River. She is also a councilwoman in South Toms River.

National Capital Alumni Reception



Helen Stiskal '81; Venetia L. Banks '78; and Jennifer A. Shufan, major gifts officer (left to right)



Brian D. Agnew, Ph.D., vice president for institutional advancement; Mary Peckikonis '83; and Marcianne Moe '84 (left to right)

On Sunday, January 29, alumni in the Washington, DC, area joined Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., president; Brian D. Agnew, Ph.D., vice president for institutional advancement; William J. Behre, Ph.D., provost; and fellow alumni for casual conversation, wine, and refreshments. The event was graciously hosted by M. Deborah Hanley Williams '68 and Mary Bowman Halpin '66 in the offices of Wisdom & Williams Associates.

Mercy Sisters Celebrate Sister Barbara Williams

At the Graduate Commencement Ceremony on May 24, the university honored Georgian Court's seventh president, Barbara A. Williams, RSM, '63 with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Her fellow Sisters of Mercy and a Sister of Charity gathered in the Mansion to celebrate her honor after the ceremony. Pictured are Mary Bilderback, RSM, assistant director of the arboretum and lecturer in biology; Diane Szubrowski, RSM, '68, donor relations volunteer; Marie Cook, RSM, Ph.D., '64, professor emerita of biology; Helen Neder, RSM, '67, retired academic advisor; Nancy Herron, RSM, '71, former student services coordinator; Margaret Tierney, SC; Carole MacKenthun, RSM, '68 (*standing, left to right*) and Barbara A. Williams, RSM, '63, president emerita, archivist, and assistant librarian in sciences and mathematics, and Cecelia Fox, RSM, '76, '90, '98, former registrar and vice president for finance (*sitting, left to right*).



Laura Ritter Weaver '07 is a special education teacher at Manchester Township Elementary School.

Nicole Fortino, Esq., '08 is an attorney with The Brown Law Firm in Lakewood. Nicole received her J.D. from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

Autumn Florez Schatzow '08 is a special education teacher for Brookfield Schools. She and her husband, Perry, have one son.

Rebecca Walczak Scott '08 and her husband, Kevin, have two children: Owen and Savannah.

Kamilah Bergman '09 is a special education science teacher at Long Branch High School. She is also the JV girls basketball coach.

Jennifer Crombie '09 is a New Jersey state trooper.

Kristina Iacovino '09, '13 is a behavior analyst at Reed Academy, a private nonprofit school for children ages 3 to 21 on the autism spectrum, in Oakland, New Jersey.

● 2010s

Ashley Bennett '10 announced that she will be running for the 3rd District Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders in November 2017.

Laura Steeb '10 is a sixth-grade special education language arts teacher at Burnet Middle School in Union, New Jersey.

Kelly Dowdy Coleman '11, '14 worked at First Children Learning Services for two years as an ABA therapist in both public school and home settings. In 2016, she became a special education teacher working with high school students with autism at the Rutgers Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center.

Brooke Culver '11 is an operations specialist for Retro Fitness Corporate Wellness.

Katelyn Steakin '11 is a middle school science teacher at the Pennington School. In addition to her GCU degree, Katelyn holds a Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

Shealyn Sullivan '12, '13 is a key leader for lululemon athletica.

Teresina Obie '13 received her M.S.W. from Fordham University in May 2016.

Bryan SanAndres '13 opened his own software development consulting company, Bryco, in October 2016.

Shelly Botwinick '14 produced her own new-age ambient healing music CD, *Elemental Escapes*. In addition to composing the music, she also performed the vocals.

Melissa Ullrich '14 is a special education teacher of history at Middlesex High School, New Jersey.

Nataya Culler '15 is pursuing an M.L.S. at Pratt Institute in New York City.

Barbara Spiotto Humenik '15 received her holistic nursing certificate.

Lisa Dreher '16, a teacher at Freehold Township High School, was selected as one of five teachers from New Jersey honored as 2016–2017 fellows in the Bayer-National Science Teachers Association's New Science Teacher Academy. During the year-long fellowship, Lisa and the other fellows will get to participate in a variety of science-related professional development activities, including access to a Web-based curriculum, e-mentoring from a discipline-specific mentor, membership in the NSTA, and financial support to attend the 2017 National Conference on Science Education in Los Angeles, California.

Emeline Fishel '16 is a Coast Guard veteran who returned to college and received her bachelor's degree from Georgian Court. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in American Studies at Stockton University, for which she received a graduate assistantship.

Samantha Kuntz '16 was accepted into the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

Alumni Benefits

Being a Georgian Court alum has its privileges!

All our alumni have access to:

- a *lifelong professional e-mail address*
- the Office of Career Services, Corporate Engagement, and Continuing Education for *résumé writing, interview skills, career testing, and job postings*
- *online career development tools*
- *professional development programs and continuing education units*
- *GCU library access*
- *free attendance at home GCU athletic events*
- *discounted health, life, and long-term care insurance*
- *discounted property/casualty insurance*
- *use of the Dorothy Marron University Community Chapel for your wedding and the historic campus for wedding photos (fee schedule available upon request)*

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 732.987.2454 or alumni@georgian.edu for more information.

Engagements

Jennifer Cala '08 and Daniel M. Lahey

Fiah Gussin '05, '06, trustee, and Jacques Kwesseu

Roxann F. Rizzuto-Flancbaum '12 and Dean Fazzolari

Kaitlyn Grimes '13 and Daniel Wehrle

Patricia Nelson '15 and Jesus Roque

Ashlee Rosa '16 and Michael Poskonka



Rachael Rutz, RN, '16 and Sal Biase

Weddings

Donna Deubel '91 and Brian J. Lapczynski—12/19/16



Tatsiana Shparaga Lisowsky '06, '08 and **Peter Lisowsky '07**, Ellucian on-site chief information officer—12/13/16

Jessica Gest '08 and Jess Lawrence—5/13/17*

Brittany Angrisani '11, '15 and **Daniel Gordon '09**—5/6/17*

Christine Gorczyca '13 and Richard Scherm—5/26/17*

Christina Masitti '13 and Kevin Ashe—5/5/17*

Ashley Flach '15 and Michael Edolo—3/19/16

**Wedding held in the Dorothy Marron University Community Chapel on the campus of Georgian Court University*

Children

Joseph and **Patricia Reuter Falco, RN, '02**—Giavanna Genevieve, born 12/1/16

Darren and **Victoria Maxwell Hanson '02**—Patrick Christopher, born 9/23/16



Allen and **Lauren Messinger Roberts '02**—Colin, born 12/2/16



Marcela Hernandez Knipper '06, '08 and **Timothy Knipper '08**—Bodhi, born 5/3/16



Jason and **Laura Egles '14**, marketing specialist—Layla Jane, born 3/17/17, joins big brother, Michael



Michael and **Ashley Flach Edolo '15**—River Edolo, born 7/31/16



Patricia Nelson '15 and Jesus Roque—Remy Lu, born 11/1/16

In Memoriam

Mary Eager Johnson '39

Irma Carleton Spatz '40, mother
of Frances Spatz Obsitnik '70

Virginia Scheider Cartus '41

Mary D'Zio '41

Helen Woodruff Powell '44

Lillian Darragh McCarthy '45

Sally Ann Quinlan Vejnaska '47

Mary Conley Dixon '48

Kathleen Mooney Rupprecht '49

Anna Edebohls Rhoades '51

R. Frances Hewitt, RSM, '52

Barbara McKinley Freer '53, mother
of Victoria Freer Gianakos '85 and
Alexandra Freer-Balko '88

Elizabeth Beam Kast '55

Diana Terraneo Hawkins '56

Theresina Flannery, RSM, '57,
former trustee

Grace Nolan, RSM, '57

Margaret Crilly, RSM, '59

Rose Machi, MPF, '59, formerly M.
Cirino Machi, RSM

Mary Anne Hartigan Schrank '59,
former lecturer in Latin

Kathleen Muccie Bennett '60

Maria Lewycka Barabach
Besoushko '61, sister of Alexandra
Lewycka Komorowsky '68

Virginia Grant Liotta '61

Ruth Nipps '62

Loraine Bauchmann '63

Benedette Astorino Fiore '66

Roberta Santoro Schubert '66

Jill Ann Lissy '68

Mary Agnes Prewitt '68

Estelle Stevenson '70

Lillian Lizura, RSM, '71

Peggyann Snyder Haffey '73

Marianne Damiano Perzel '73

Margaret Long Simmons '73

Shauna Evelyn Masterpool '75

Jean Hedden '79

Kenneth Bergmann Sr. '80

Elizabeth Harding Jones '80, '99

Michael DeSimone '82, husband of
Elizabeth Morrison DeSimone '65

Caryn Habermann '85, wife of
Jeffrey Habermann '84

Nancy Yeger '85

Joan Delmaster '88

Marcelle Cottrell Mele '89

Sonya Haugabook-Matos '90

Jimena Abarca '91

Linda Kegelmann Pagan '91, '06,
director of student accounts

Susann Matteson Farrell '92

Merodie Stanley Bradshaw '94

Donna Freeman Fogler '94

Louise Hugelheim Lang '94

Stacey Mocik-Garrett '94

Nina Iwaszczenko '95

William Hale '96

Janice Mundy '99

Rena Zinaman Kriegel '00

Caroline Wenzelburger '04

Rosemary Ifeyinwa Atuegbu, SHCJ, '08

Angelo J. Imperiale Sr. '10, '11

James Cole '17, student

Rose Colazzo, former cook

Felicita Estrada, housekeeper and mother
of Alex Estrada '16

Robert Gerke, Ed.D., former lecturer
in education

Dorothy Horner Patchell, former GCU
administrative assistant and mother of
Nancy Horner Kerrigan '89

Wanda J. Lepiocha, housekeeper; aunt
of Fabien Gerke '99, '00 and Hannah
Gerke '99; and sister-in-law of Roman
Gerke, electrician

Rocco Nicoletta, graduate student; son
of Suzanne Schierer '98; and brother
of Tara Nicoletta-Gajano '92, Jennifer
Nicoletta '95, Anna Nicoletta-Lapp '97,
and Michael Nicoletta '06

Eduardo S. Paderón, Ph.D., professor
emeritus of philosophy and business
administration and former provost

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.*



IN LOVING TRIBUTE

Make a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one who impacted your life, and make a profound and immediate impact on the lives of GCU students.

Visit alumni.georgian.edu/TributeProgram or call 732.987.2267 to make a gift or for more information.

Dancing on Air



On Friday, April 21, GCU's Department of Dance held their annual Spring Dance Concert at The Strand in downtown Lakewood. Performed by more than two dozen dance majors, the concert featured five faculty-choreographed pieces as well as dances by guest choreographers Randy James and Alex Biegelson of Ten Hairy Legs; GCU alumna Titilayo Majoyeogbe '14 of T.MAJ Dance Company; and Sidra Bell of Sidra Bell Dance New York. Check out georgian.edu/dance to see more photos and videos of our dancers in action.

Photos: Raymond Morton



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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Saving Lives Through Scholarships

When Alyssa Wallschleger '17 learned that doll therapy promotes relaxation and healing in older patients, she and a classmate started a "Dolls for Dementia" donation drive. Alyssa and her peers in GCU's Nursing Club collected nearly 750 dolls for area geriatric units and earned national recognition from Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders.

"There are so many leadership opportunities here at GCU, and it brought me all the way to vice president of the state nursing students association," says the recent nursing graduate.

Her leadership and clinical experience also led to being chosen from among 700 applicants for a 10-week externship opportunity at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in 2016.

"It was an amazing experience, and they kept me on as a nurse tech," says Alyssa, who begins work as a full-time nurse at CHOP in August.

Her success wouldn't have been possible without GCU donor-funded scholarships. The first in her family to earn a college degree, Alyssa juggled demanding coursework, mandatory clinicals, and the unexpected toll of her mother's cancer diagnosis.

"It really means a lot—I wouldn't have been able to finish school," she says, adding that her mother is now cancer-free. "The best feeling I've ever had was walking across the stage at Commencement and seeing my mom in the audience."

To donate to student scholarships and help other students like Alyssa achieve their dreams, visit alumni.georgian.edu/giving or call Megan O'Keefe, development officer for annual giving, at 732.987.2267.