

NOVEMBER

# SAVE OUR EARTH





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Correction: Junior Jessica Koehler’s name was spelled incorrectly in our March issue. *Newsprint* regrets the error.

## Mercy Newsprint Editorial Policy:

As Mercy Newsprint staff we promise to keep you entertained and informed with accurate and unbiased information. Our goal is to provide timely news while promoting diversity and representing the entirety of the Mercy community. We encourage letters to the editors and any other feedback you may have. You may reach out to us through our email (newsprint@mhsmi.org), our Instagram (@mercy.newsprint), or through any of our staff members.

# Dive into Diversity: Arab Heritage and Chaldean American Month

STORY: HELENA NAJAR

This month we celebrate Arab Heritage Month. During Arab Heritage Month, the backgrounds, culture and contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans are recognized by the wider American community. Here at Mercy, diversity is one of our critical concerns and with clubs like the Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA) and the Human Relations Council (HRC), our school is aiming to educate people of all different backgrounds about different backgrounds. Senior Angelina Hamati, a member of MESA and an Arab representative on HRC explains why Arab Heritage Month is a valuable time in America.

“Arab Heritage Month is a month where we recognize all Arab Americans,” Hamati said. “It’s important because demographically, Arabs are really diverse so understanding them and really acknowledging their backgrounds creates a more equitable community where we all know each other.”

At Mercy, we have the privilege of being home to all different types of Arab people who want to teach about their personal experiences.

“My parents immigrated from Lebanon and Syria so as a first generation Arab American, people understanding my culture and me having the ability to showcase it is super important to me,” Hamati said.

What many people often misunderstand is that Arabs come from all over the Middle East and all have different traditions,

foods and religions. MESA and other Arab people within the Mercy community are working to help non-Arabs appreciate the differences in specific Arab cultures.

“I think a main misconception is that all Arabs are the same, which they aren’t,” Hamati said. “A lot of people don’t know that there’s so many different countries in the Middle East that all have different dialects, foods and traditions.”

Mercy is always working to educate on diversity by allowing students to host events and speak about their culture like the Arab Heritage and Asian American Pacific Islander event that was hosted on April 24.

“Nandini Desaraju and I decided to throw this combined event because May is a very short month and there is no time for Asian American Pacific Islander culture events,” Hamati said.

The event included dancing, education, a panel and food. It also helped bring two different cultures together.

“Doing it together is beautiful, it’s a nice message that we are all in this together,” Hamati said.

April is not only Arab Heritage month but as of last year it is also Chaldean-American Month. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared April Chaldean-American month as a way to honor the 160,000 Chaldeans, Assyrians and Syriacs in Michigan which is the largest concentration in the country.

It can be easy to clump the two months together because

they celebrate groups of people from the same area but there are many differences between Arab Heritage Month and Chaldean-American month.

“Arab Heritage month recognizes a more broad group of people originating from all throughout the Middle East, while Chaldean-American month focuses on the specific group of Iraqi Christians who immigrated from northern Iraq,” junior member of MESA Ella Poota said.

There is a large community of Arabs at Mercy, specifically Chaldeans and learning about their individual customs is crucial.

“The Chaldean community here is large and growing, so it’s critical to familiarize ourselves with the traditional customs and traditions that the heritage holds in order to better understand our Chaldean peers on a more personal level,” Poota said.

Both Chaldean- American and Arab Heritage month are ways to commemorate minority groups in the United States and by opening ourselves to their culture by listening and learning we are bettering ourselves and the world as a whole.

“Representation is really cool and there is a huge lack of knowledge but even if we do share the information there needs to be people who are engaged in it and participate otherwise our efforts will go to waste,” Hamati said.

# Teacher of the Year: Lauren Marquard

STORY: MAURA SULLIVAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year Mercy had the honor of recognizing Mrs. Lauren Marquard, or ‘Magistra’ to her Latin students, as Teacher of the Year. Her energy in everything she does from teaching Latin language disciplines, to supporting Mercy spirituality programs, to creating a family-like classroom atmosphere makes her a favorite in the Mercy community. For this issue, *Newsprint* had the privilege of interviewing Marquard and discovering more about her life.

Marquard graduated from Mercy High School in 2006 and then went on to receive her undergraduate education at the University of Michigan (U of M), and studied Latin, History and Secondary Education, thereby receiving three degrees from U of M. Upon obtaining her undergraduate degrees she continued her education, receiving a master’s degree at Madonna University in Educational Leadership.

Marquard has always felt a passion for teaching and knew from a young age that it was the career she wanted to pursue.

“I always felt a big draw towards teaching,” Marquard said. “I like how you have to work with people, how you have to explain things. I like the process of starting with nothing and building into something bigger. For me it was always a matter of what I wanted to teach.”

However, deciding to pursue a career in Latin education was not a straightforward choice. Marquard dabbled in many potential subjects before finally landing on Latin in her senior year of high school.

“I finally made the decision to teach Latin because I really liked it,” Marquard said. “I was pretty good at it, and it put a lot of my

interests in the same place, but when I went to U of M, I was like, all over the place. I really love the content, but U of M was so rigorous and it was a lot for me.”

Today, Marquard not only embraces the challenge of Latin, but also enjoys inspiring others to grow and pursue it as well.

“I really love teaching Latin because it’s not like a one semester class. I love relationships,” Marquard said. “I love seeing you come into class as a freshman. You don’t know anything, and you have this confidence, sort of. And then to see you be able to grow in that. I know to see that growth is really amazing.”

While she truly loves her job, Marquard explained that teaching can also be a very taxing profession.

“It’s really hard when someone’s having a difficult day, and if they’re having conflict in their own lives, I think about that at night. It’s not just like, oh, cool, I see you for 49 minutes a day and then I don’t think about you again. I do,” Marquard said. “I think about my students. You’re always on my mind. Like, I pray for you guys, and I’m always worried about you. And not that I don’t like the worriedness, but it’s just...it’s not a job. Like, it’s a vocation.”

Marquard does have some advice for students today.

“Our culture can be so harsh, unforgiving, toxic. It’s really important to develop your faith and to stay centered in that because things are going to come and go, but that relationship that you have with God, what you have with your family and your friends, that’s what’s going to get you through difficult times,” Marquard said. “In the end, it doesn’t matter how many medals you win, doesn’t matter what your GPA is or all the degrees that you get or how much money you have. Life is about more than that.”



**“Mrs. Marquard is an incredible teacher because she pushes everyone to excel not only academically, but spiritually and mentally.”**

- Natalie Murphy ‘23

**“Mrs. Marquard makes her students feel comfortable participating in class and encourages us to push ourselves academically. You can tell how much she cares about each and every student. She values every single person and does whatever she can to help us succeed.”**

- Naomi Piasecki ‘24

**“Mrs. Marquard is such an inspiration. She pushes us to be our best in and outside of the classroom. She is inspired by faith in everything and inspires her students to do the same.”**

- Mia Juday ‘23

**“Mrs. Marquard is one of the most kind and caring teachers I have ever had. Choosing to do Latin as my language was one of the best (and hardest) decisions I have ever made.”**

- Katherine Young ‘23



# Pro/Con: Out of uniform incentive takes effect

STORY AND PHOTOS: LENA LAJOY AND MAURA MCSWEENEY

Back in the fall, Mercy’s annual Maroon and Gold Raffle raised over \$186,000 through donations and students selling tickets. As students sold tickets, they gained incentives including entries into gift card raffles and cash giveaways, but the ultimate incentive for many was being out of uniform for the month of December and the remaining school days after spring break. As students sold more tickets, they earned the shorts pass, leggings pass and out of uniform pass. Now, while many argue that out of uniform is much better and think the school should be out of uniform year round, there are some clear benefits of wearing uniforms that cannot be overlooked.

## Pro: Out of uniform gives students freedom

Every morning, as Mercy students and faculty enter the building, numerous students can be seen wearing sweatshirts and pajama pants that are not included in the dress code. The announcements come on after prayer and that is when students know to put those items in their bags.

However, with the end of spring break, the raffle incentive of free dress has taken effect for all students who sold their tickets. While some may say that no uniforms makes their mornings more difficult or we are out of uniform for too long, it is clear that Mercy students enjoy a time of no uniforms and comfy dress.

The freedom to dress how the students want allows them to be in comfortable clothes all day, and it is evident that, for some students, being comfortable helps them focus in class and learn in class.

“I like being out of uniform because you have a chance to be comfortable in the clothes you want to wear,” junior Carly Dalloo said. “It makes for a better learning environment because you can have the comfort of being in your own clothes.”

Being out of uniform not only allows students to be comfortable, but also express themselves in ways that are restricted by being in uniform. Every day, students can walk around campus and see people’s interests and styles shown through their outfits. Despite being able to wear jewelry and other accessories when in uniform, many limitations are still enforced and wearing uniforms is still very restricting. When out of uniform, students can wear something and express themselves in different ways everyday.

In addition, the weather in the spring proves to be another perfect reason why being out of uniform is ideal. Students have the opportunity to wear shorts and any other clothing that is more comfortable as Michigan weather warms up. Some of the more common choices when it comes to outfits in hot weather are skirts, not uniform obviously, or shorts that fulfill the dress code requirements.

“I definitely think that being out of uniform helps when it comes to dressing with the weather. On warm days I’m able to wear a skirt or shorts to be more comfortable in the hotter weather,” junior Elena Garza said.

Mercy student-athletes may also find that out of uniform is helpful when it comes to getting ready quickly after school. Often, it is a hassle trying to run from class at 2:40, to sign out at advisor by 2:45 and then run over to the court, field, or track for



Freshman Hannah Heinzman enjoys her out of uniform pass after school while doing her homework. Many students note that being out of uniform improves their learning environment

sports practice. Being in casual clothes already can be helpful because students are already in some of their uniform attire.

“I find it helpful to be out of uniform when it comes to lacrosse,” senior Olivia Gray said. “Even when practice is a little later, I still find that being out of uniform makes my life much easier because I don’t have to worry about changing out of my uniform.”

Regardless of speculations of being out of uniform, it is clear that students almost unanimously agree that being out of uniform is much better than having to all match. Being out of uniform also reminds students that summer is not too far away.

## Con: Uniforms save students time every day

With spring break being over, this means that the out of uniform incentive has begun. For the rest of the school year, students will have to take the time to try and decide on what they would like to wear to school. While this an appealing opportunity, there are some cons to being out of uniform.

“I think it’s because you have to dress up everyday, and then certain outfits you might want to wear people might not like and it’s just a lot of extra work every day,” freshman Julia Attaway said.

As a teenager, trying to keep up with new trends in clothes can be difficult when balancing school and other activities, especially if you do not have the money. Uniforms allow students to not have to worry about what they are wearing, since every other person is wearing the same thing as them.

“I think uniforms can help reduce stress related to trends,” senior Megan Mato said.

Uniforms also help with safety measures at schools, making it easier to identify someone who is not from the school. When we are all wearing the same clothes teachers do not need to worry about whether or not a student could be a intruder if there is ever a serious situation.

“It is safer because potential threats can not blend in, and it is easier to differentiate between a student. Also in a medical situation, it is easier to identify who a student is to make sure they get help,” junior Maddie Raetz said.

Uniforms are also extremely convenient because they save individuals time at night or in the morning. Uniforms take away the struggle of trying to decide what to wear and worrying about if it looks good. In the morning you can grab your uniform and do not have to worry about what other people think since you are all in the same outfit.

“Uniforms do save me a little time in the morning since I don’t have to try and figure out what I want to wear,” Mato said.

It is also important to note that at times, uniforms can even prevent or limit the amount of bullying at a school. When all students are wearing the same outfits, most likely no one will be made fun of for the clothes they wear or their economic status. Uniforms help to make a school community more friendly and limit the impact on students from bullying.

“I think uniforms could help with maybe bullying because if you dress a certain way, and certain people don’t like that, that can cause some issues,” Attaway said. While some people may argue that uniforms limit students’ ability to express themselves, there are still many ways to show your interests in uniform. Students can wear fun colored shoes, jewelry or even dye their hair to express their individuality. There are still countless ways that students can convey who they are while wearing a uniform.

“Students can wear jewelry, headwear and any shoes they want so I think there is still an ability for students to express themselves,” Raetz said.

Uniforms are a great way to bring inclusivity into a school, and ensure that no student feels left out or uncomfortable. School is a place where all students should be learning new information instead of worrying about what their clothes look like compared to everyone else’s.



Mercy students gather around the Media Center printer, in uniform, as they wait for their assignments to print. Mercy students wear their uniforms all year except the month of December and after spring break due to out of uniform incentive from the Maroon and Gold Raffle.

# We must preserve Earth's great beauty

STORY AND GRAPHICS: LENA LAJOY

## The Willow Project and its effects on our planet

On March 13 President Joe Biden approved an oil drilling project located in Alaska named Willow. During Donald Trump's presidency, the Willow Project was brought into attention, and approved. Now, with Biden as President, the Willow project again had to be reviewed and approved. With the project being approved, millions of citizens have come together in protest.

"It was recently approved by President Biden. Feedback from social media helped send over 100 letters of disapproval to the White House and more than 3 million names signed on a petition against it," freshman Marilyn Medley said.

The Willow oil project was created by a company called ConocoPhillips. The project is set to take place in Northern Alaska, and will take tons of oil from Alaska which will be used to generate electricity for millions of Americans. When originally proposed during Trump's presidency, the project consisted of five drilling sites. Now, with some modifications made by Biden, there will be three drilling sites.

"I know they are going to build oil drilling wells so they are going to use really big machines which are going to take up space and cause a lot of problems," junior Lily DeGrenier said.

While there are already some oil projects occurring in Alaska, the Willow Project will be much larger. While the Willow Project will bring in millions of barrels of oil for the United States, there are many lasting harmful effects which will impact not only people but animals as well.

"The impacts of the Willow Project will be somewhat world-ending," Medley said.

One of the biggest impacts that will most likely result from the Willow Project is the emission of around 200 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

This is an extremely large number, which will cause detrimental effects during the project's existence (30 years). As a greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide reflects the sun's rays back to earth. This process heats up the planet and causes many environmental issues.

"The Willow Project is going to make around 900 million metric tons of carbon dioxide every year which is enough for 200 million gas powered cars," junior Miranda Lebednick said.

One major impact that this could have on the polar regions is that as the planet heats, ice melts which leads to higher sea levels which can flood or raise sea levels all over the world.

This means that people living in coastal areas would have to move, and some of everyone's favorite tourist spots could be consumed by water.

As the ice melts, the animals like polar bears and penguins which live on the ice lose their homes and could become extinct.

"This will increase the amount of ice melting in the north pole, destroying

habitats and creating devastation to the wildlife living there," Medley said.

The Willow Project will take up a lot of land in Alaska for animals and people who live in the region. This is due to land being cleared, habitats being destroyed, potential oil spills and loss of jobs. To fit in all the equipment, the land needs to be cleared which will mean that animals will no longer have homes or maybe even some food sources. If a problem occurs, resulting in an oil spill, this could kill off countless animals and lead to people having no income.

"It could cause economic troubles I assume because they are going to have to destroy land to create these oil wells which could lower tourism or destroy homes," DeGrenier said.

As students we can raise awareness for environmentally harmful projects, like the Willow Projects, by educating ourselves and our peers, posting on social media to raise awareness and through contacting your local representatives. Although many of the impacts may not directly affect us in Michigan for some time, the Willow project will still harm millions of people. By doing our part to try to prevent further harm to our planet, we can hope to preserve what remains of our beautiful home.



## The importance of commemorating Earth Day

On April 22, the 53rd annual Earth Day occurred. On Earth Day, people all over the world unite to participate in helping keep our Earth clean. Earth Day gives us all an excuse to spend time outside and realize how important our planet is.

"People use Earth Day to celebrate the Earth while also highlighting the fact that the Earth is declining and that if people want to continue living here, that we must change our ways of living," junior Shreya John said.

On this day there are countless different things we can all do as students. Whether you post on social media, go out with friends to clean your neighborhood or volunteer at an

organization to clean different areas, all contributions are important. By sharing the importance of Earth Day and actively participating, you can be made aware of how serious environmental issues are.

"I think social media is a great way to spread awareness about environmental issues, all while sharing the beauty of our planet; both are equally important," senior Annabella Evangelista said.

The very first Earth Day happened in 1970, and was started by Gaylord Nelson who, after witnessing an oil spill, realized that change needed to happen. He rallied a group of people to protest different harmful practices and projects hoping to open people's

eyes to environmental problems.

"Earth Day is a call to bring more attention to the declining health of the Earth, and encourage people to live more sustainably," John said.

Every year on Earth Day there is a specific theme, and this year it is "Invest in Our Planet". This theme highlights the importance of us all, from the government to civilians, doing our part to help Earth. In order to make a true difference, we must all unite under a common goal of cutting back on pollution, and consciously make efforts to help preserve ecosystems.

"I love the theme 'Invest in our Planet' because it sparks motivation in younger generations that we can truly make a difference in our future if we

really put our minds to it," Evangelista said.

There is still time to reverse decades of environmental depletion and pollution all across our world. Even small acts can be big, and every effort counts towards trying to implement change worldwide.

Even though this year's Earth Day has passed, there are still many ways to advocate for our planet. Going outside and actively attempting to make a difference is key. Through tasks including picking up trash, recycling, going thrift shopping and conserving energy an impact can be made no matter the day.



# Mercy’s feathered friends cause problems

STORY: ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND MAURA SULLIVAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This month *Newsprint* is placing a spotlight on everyone’s favorite wildlife at Mercy: the geese. During this time of year most Mercy students will not go a single day without hearing their call or seeing them stalking school grounds. Here *Newsprint* covers some frequently asked questions, staff and student opinions and facts regarding their life cycle.

## THE MERCY OPINION

“I think they are kind of cool, I like them. They can be a little noisy sometimes, a little loud but you know we are all just out here trying to find a good place to live and they did it so.”  
- Finley Siegel ‘23

“I think they are cute but they can be annoying sometimes.”  
- Gabby Owens ‘26

“I think they are really annoying but they distract everyone from class so we don’t have to do class work so at the same time they are kind of lovely in that way.”  
-Izzy Corridor ‘25

“I like them because they are a sign of spring and a sign of life and it’s like a Mercy tradition. I just think it is nature right in our face. Some people just walk by them and ignore them or get annoyed about the crapping everywhere but I like them.”  
- Mrs. Andrea Kowalyk

“I don’t appreciate the loud noises, it’s very annoying”  
- Kierah Streather ‘24

“I love the geese. I think they are comedic relief and one of them was like pounding its head against the wall and I thought it was the funniest thing. Plus the babies are the cutest things in the world.”  
-Maggie Neumann ‘25

“One day I was walking in after I had first and second hour off and I was walking by and they started honking at me so I started walking faster. Then all of a sudden the one goose came up and started flying towards me so I sprinted down the sidewalk and everyone looked out the window watching me run past and I had to run all the way to reception. It was traumatic.”  
-Emily Kuebler ‘23

## How do the geese affect classrooms and learning?

As the weather starts to get warmer and springtime rolls around, Mercy staff and students alike know that their classes are going to be interrupted increasingly often as the Mercy geese make their appearance. These geese seem to have no qualms honking at all hours of the day and stampeding on the roof making noise. This constant stream of noise from the geese often disrupts classroom learning and messes with the concentration of many.

“They are the bane of my existence,” English teacher Mr. Steve Morgan said. “From the minute I get here everyday to the minute I leave it’s the constant eh eh eh eh eh. They are the most foul of all the fouls first of all and they are one of the worst animals to ever exist.”

When one is trying to listen to a teacher give out crucial information or attempting to take a test or quiz, hearing the geese’s constant and very loud honking can be quite distracting. For some people, however, this distraction is a welcomed one.

“I think they are really annoying but they also distract everyone from class so we don’t have to do as much work,” sophomore Izzy Corridor said. “So at the same time they are kind of lovely in that way.”

## Why do the geese keep coming back to Mercy?

For many upperclassmen and staff it is difficult to remember a time when Mercy has not been plagued by geese. So why do they keep coming back?

To begin with, if geese determine a certain area is safe for nesting, they will often return back to that same place in future years.

“Geese will typically come back and nest in the same place if they feel like it is safe, has adequate food, adequate water, usually for up to 12 years,” AP Environmental Science teacher Mrs. Christin Schmitt said.

Furthermore, Mercy’s environment has proved to be perfectly suited for the geese.

“They also are grazing so they like roots, shoots, stems, seeds and grasses as opposed to trees,” AP Environmental Science teacher Mrs. Kelly Muscat said. “Which makes sense with the vast amount of grass that we have kind of behind that north hall area and even between art and the pond which is all very grassy which is their food source, and then also the pond.”

Finally, whether intentional or not, Mercy has encouraged the geese and inhabit our land.

“There was buckthorn, an invasive species that got brought over to this area. What happens when you move all of it, because it was all down around the pond and the geese love an easy access so when we took it out it almost attracted more geese because it made it really easy to get to the pond,” Associate Principal Academic Affairs Mrs. Colleen McMaster said.

## What is the grant that Mercy is applying for?

Mercy High School has just recently applied for a grant through Michigan State University’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism for 2023 Proposals for High School Journalism and Environmental Science Collaborations.

There will be three high schools that will receive one year grants of \$2,000: \$1,000 to the journalism program and \$1,000 to the environmental science program for equipment, software or scholarships in addition to being paired with a professional journalist to mentor them.

Mercy applied for this grant to further understand the behavior of the geese and how our school impacts them and they impact us in turn. Next year AP Environmental Science students and Newsprint staff would work together to study and describe these interactions.

The

Canada Goose

The Canada goose, the main species inhabiting Mercy, is the most common goose in North America. Federal law protects Canada geese. It is illegal to harm geese, their eggs, or their nests in the United States without permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are primarily recognized by their black head and neck and the white patch on their cheek. All Canada Geese share the common characteristics displayed here:

- ## Quick Facts
- Goose is actually the term for female geese, male geese are called ganders. A group of geese on land or in water is called a gaggle, while in the air they are called a skein.
  - Nesting season is mid March to May.
  - They are the largest waterfowls, the other being swans. Through they are waterfowls, they spend most of their time on land.
  - Geese express a mourning behavior when they lose their mating partner or their eggs.
  - Geese have been domesticated for a long time, about 3,000 years.
  - Geese return to the area of their birth each year to mate and nest.

Geese can fly up to 1,500 miles in a single day when migrating.

Baby geese, called goslings, will follow virtually anything that moves including dogs, ducks and humans.

A group of geese is referred to as a gaggle or skein.

Most geese pair with a mate at the age of three. Pairs usually mate for life.

Geese fly in v-shaped patterns to reduce headwinds for birds flying behind the leader. When the goose in the leading position tires, it will drop back and let another take over.

Geese primarily eat green vegetation, grasses, aquatic plants, grains and occasionally fish and insects.

# Think fast, buzz fast: Quiz Bowl members heading to nationals

STORY: ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Quiz Bowl is one of the several academic teams we have here at Mercy and, so far, the team has had great success.

In Quiz Bowl, two teams or individuals compete to answer questions from all different areas of knowledge including history, literature, mythology, science, fine arts, current events, sports and popular culture.

In the team system, contestants use a buzzer system for “tossup questions” which allows contestants to buzz in and interrupt the reading of a question when they know the answer. While these questions are answered individually, if answered correctly, they earn one’s team the chance at a three-part “bonus” question that is typically more difficult but also worth more points and is collaborative.

For the individual system, contestants are placed into groups of 10 where they compete on their own and move up and down levels based on their performance according to senior Linny Maier.

At Mercy, Quiz Bowl starts their season in September and ends in May, and throughout their season they meet for hour-long practices on Tuesdays.

“At practices sometimes what we will do is we will begin with a presentation on a topic that is of importance,” Quiz Bowl coach Lauren Marquard said. “So it could be like a topic in history or an artist or a scientific concept. We will have a presentation on that with key facts, figures and important things about the topic and then we will do a Kahoot afterwards to test how much we remember. Then in the second half of the meeting we always play practice games.”



Linny Maier attending Quiz Bowl Nationals for the individual competition. Photo courtesy of Linny Maier.

While they do practice together, Quiz Bowl members are also expected to study on their own to gain expertise in the many fields that they are quizzed on. Anyone can join Quiz Bowl from Mercy and once they join they would be placed into one of three levels.

“We have three ‘levels’ of sorts - Novice (for people who have never played before), JV (for returning players) and Varsity (for players who have earned their varsity letter),” Maier said.

Maier has reached the varsity level and attended nationals for the individual portion of Quiz Bowl from March 31 to April 2.

“It went well,” Maier said. “I went in with no expectations and was pleasantly surprised.”

Qualifying for nationals is no easy feat and Maier has worked hard to achieve this honor.

“If you do particularly well as an individual, like if you are finishing in the top 10 or the top five of players in a tournament - and tournaments will have about 100 kids in them - you can get an invitation to individual nationals,” Marquard said. “[Linny] went to individual nationals because she placed fifth in one of the weekend tournaments and then third in another weekend tournament which is really high and it is really difficult to do that.”

Quiz Bowl has four league meets a year but the number of additional tournaments varies on how they qualify. There are different kinds of tournaments that the team has attended: after school competitions and weekend tournaments.

“After school competitions consist of about three games per tournament but weekend tournaments can last all day and take up to 10 games,” Maier said.

The team has worked extremely hard this year and has done so well that they qualified for nationals which the team will be attending from May 24 to May 29 in Atlanta, Georgia.

“We have all been working very hard this season and I’m really proud of our team and how far we’ve come,” Maier said. “As the only all women’s team in a male dominated sport, it’s up to us to set the precedent that can help inspire others.”

# Tea for Tuition is helping expand Mercy

STORY: HELENA NAJAR

Every year Mercy’s Alumni Association arranges the Tea for Tuition event. This event brings together past, present and future members of Mercy to better our community. Director of alumni relations Mrs. Laura Everett plays a major role in the organization of Tea for Tuition and aims to educate the Mercy community on what it is and why it is so important.

“The Alumni Association, in which there are over 16,000 alums, help support tuition assistance for deserving students who may otherwise not be able to attend Mercy without the help of financial assistance,” Everett said.

This program has been helping students find their home at Mercy. With this financial aid, countless students have been given the resources to attend our school.

“Since 2011, we have raised \$327,000 for tuition assistance,” Everett said, “It’s just really nice to be able to connect with students and know that we can also make a difference in their lives as they do the same with their Mercy education.”

With Tea for Tuition, previous Mercy students can give back and help the younger generations receive the best education possible. By assisting with tuition, alums can guide new students through their high school years and set them up for the rest of their lives.

“You make choices in life where you give to those in need or you give to those who you feel definitely are deserving and the return is seeing these young women continue to do great things in the world,” Everett said.

The tuition assistance program not only helps students afford to attend our school but it also creates long lasting relationships and future opportunities for students after they graduate.

“I think that [Tea for Tuition] can help with philanthropy so that they can look back and give back to those who are behind them,” Everett said.

What’s so great about Tea for Tuition is that it’s not just for alum and incoming

students, but for the entire Mercy community. Students can volunteer at the event and are heavily involved in the planning.

“The cool thing is that we have a lot of student involvement for the tea, basically all alums and the Mercy community are able to come,” Everett said.

Aside from raising funds for the financial aid program, Tea for Tuition also includes an award ceremony, where distinguished alums are recognized for their hard work.

“During that event we honor our Distinguished Alum as well as a Trailblazer Alum award that day,” Everett said.

A Distinguished Alumni award is one of the highest honors at Mercy.

“The award is based on the Mercy values,” Everett said. “They can be nominated by family members or classmates and the alumni board chooses who they feel should be the recipient.”

The Trailblazer Award, on the other hand, is a newer award that the alumni board put in place in order to showcase the work of a younger distinguished alumni.

“This award is for a younger alum who is making strides in her career, this year if you graduated between 2002 and 2018 you are able to receive the award,” Everett said.

“It’s pretty cool because it brings a younger demographic to Tea for Tuition, we have people who have been attending this event for the past 19 years and we want to bring in both groups so that everyone can be a part of this important event,” Everett said.

*Tea for Tuition takes place on Sunday, April 30 in the Gym/Lobby of Mercy High School.*



# Meet Mercy's 2023-2024 EBoard members

STORY AND PHOTOS: MAURA MCSWEENEY

## SAGE JOHNSON



**Why and when did you decide to run for EBoard?**

I decided to run for EBoard because I felt like I had the experience and I had a lot of skills that it took to be on EBoard. I feel really connected with our school and the student body so I felt like I would be able to represent them well.

**What are your plans and goals for the upcoming year?**

My biggest promise is the ATM, but

overall, I want to incorporate more school spirit and fun activities throughout the year.

**Who is an inspiration for you when it comes to leadership?**

Caitlin Hill '21. During my freshman year, she was the BASE leader and encouraged me to run for student council, and even though she is far off in college now, she has always encouraged me in my leadership and always telling me to go for more.

**Favorite thing about Mercy?**

The people because I feel like I couldn't have fit in a better school than this one. These were exactly the people I needed to be with and the people make Mercy.

**Favorite Cafe Meal?**

Santa Fe chicken salad because I was in Santa Fe group during COVID so I thought that I had to eat it.



**Why did you decide to run for EBoard?**

I decided to run for EBoard because I have been in student government since freshman year and I felt ready to become more involved within student government. I also wanted to be on EBoard because they have more say in events like Homecoming and Spirit Week. Being on EBoard will allow me to voice my opinion on bigger decisions

too. And doing announcements seemed really fun.

**What are your plans and goals for the upcoming year?**

I definitely want to create more spirit within Mercy and build it back up after it seemed down after COVID-19 through events and other activities. Also, creating an environment where people feel comfortable and people know that they have an EBoard that's willing to listen to their ideas and incorporate whatever they have in mind into the new year.

**Who is an inspiration for you when it comes to leadership?**

My dad.

**Favorite thing about Mercy?**

Definitely the people. The people at Mercy make it such a great community.

**Favorite Cafe Meal?**

Greek salad flatbread.

## GRACE ELIYA

## IZZY AHME



**Why did you decide to run for EBoard?**

I really care about the Mercy community! Especially after being on student council for a year, I have really grown not only as a student government leader but also in my classes and extracurriculars, so I really wanted to give back everything that I've experienced and also provide the growth that I've experienced.

**What are your plans and goals for the upcoming year?**

I definitely want to create a stronger bond within student government because with a stronger student government comes a closer and stronger student body. I also have some spirit week ideas because I know how much the Mercy community cares about that. Overall, I want to create the best experience for next year with my fellow EBoard members!

**Who is an inspiration for you when it comes to leadership?**

My dad always pushes me to be my best in every aspect of my life. Watching him and his leadership roles, it has inspired me to do the same in my life.

**Favorite thing about Mercy?**

Not only the cafeteria food, but also the friendships that I have made in both in and out of the classroom. And also the Forensics team!

**Favorite Cafe Meal?**

Santa Fe chicken salad.

**Why did you decide to run for Eboard?**

I ran for EBoard because I wanted to be a representative for the Mercy community, and I want to make every day a better day.

**What are your plans and goals for the upcoming year?**

One of my goals is to do more with U of D because I think that we should have more events between us. Another goal is to create more sisterhood through fund-

raisers and other activities that will bring us closer together because even though we all may go to the same school, we may not know each other.

**Who is an inspiration for you when it comes to leadership?**

An inspiration for me is knowing my history, especially my family's history and Black history in general. Everything about how it took so much work to get rights and how we have evolved to me being able to run for office in an all-girls Catholic school.

**Favorite thing about Mercy?**

The people. The people are definitely what make Mercy. Mercy isn't just a building, it is us that form the sisterhood and help me get through everyday.

**Favorite Cafe Meal?**

Chicken tenders and fries.



## KENNEDY DOBSON



# Sports spotlight- Mackenzie Conway

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: MIRANDA MULLIGAN

What started as a bet with a friend in fifth grade to try out each other's sports quickly turned out to be the start of sophomore Mackenzie Conway's lacrosse career.

During her freshman year when the former lacrosse goalie quit, the Mercy varsity lacrosse team was desperate for a player with prior experience. Even though Conway had only played two games as goalie and had no intent playing lacrosse in high school, when the team reached out she knew she had to step in. Lacrosse is not Conway's only sport. During the fall Conway is on the swim team and during the winter she focuses on strength and conditioning along with playing for different club teams.

"I like being on a field more than being in a pool," Conway said. "I like the more team-like environment and I like playing goalie because it's just a different feeling being in goal, something about getting hit with a ball is just fun."

Before the end of the season, Conway hopes to get the All American, lacrosse player of the year award along with over a 65% saving average for all her games. For the team as a whole she hopes everyone gives their 100%, has fun and most importantly win states.



Being the youngest captain on the Mercy team does come with some challenges.

It took some time for older teammates to listen to a younger captain.

"They know that because I lead on the field they should listen to me and follow what I say," Conway said.

Conway says pressure is just something that comes with the role of being captain but being a leader is something that is natural for her. Conway has received many awards for her accomplishments but some to highlight are the 2022 MHSAA All State - Second Team, 2022 MHSAA State Semifinalist and Academic All State.

Conway's leadership, talent and dedication on and off the field are beyond impressive.

"Mac has quickly risen as a team leader and one of the best lacrosse players in the State," Mercy Varsity Lacrosse Coach Steven Schimpke said. "It's hard to believe that this is just her second season playing goalie full time. I have every reason to believe we'll be watching Mac play college lacrosse at the highest level when she wraps up her career at Mercy. And like all great lacrosse goalies, she's a little quirky to go with it. We wouldn't have it any other way."

## UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS: MAY 1 - MAY 13

<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV softball @Stevenson</li><li>• JV tennis @ Marian</li><li>• V tennis vs. Marian</li></ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Track and field vs. Regina</li><li>• V softball vs. Lutheran North</li><li>• Soccer @ Marian</li></ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV tennis vs. Bloomfield Hills</li><li>• JV softball @ Lutheran North</li><li>• Lax @ C-K</li></ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV tennis vs. Farmington</li><li>• V tennis @Farmington</li></ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• V softball @OLSM</li></ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• V softball @ Goodrich</li><li>• Track and field @ Farmington Invitational</li></ul>
<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV softball @ Bishop Foley</li><li>• Track and field @ DC</li><li>• JV Lax vs. DC</li></ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lax CHSL Semifinals</li><li>• JV tennis vs West Bloomfield</li><li>• V tennis @ West Bloomfield</li><li>• Soccer vs. FGR</li><li>• V softball vs. FDR</li></ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV softball vs. DC</li><li>• JV tennis @ Canton</li><li>• V tennis vs. Canton</li></ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV soccer vs. Dearborn</li></ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JV softball vs. Plymouth Christian</li></ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lax CHSL Finals</li><li>• Track and field CLC</li><li>• JV softball @ Anchor Bay</li><li>• V tennis CLF</li><li>• SOCCER @ DC</li></ul>

# Editorial: Sustainable shopping is easy

STORY AND GRAPHIC: NEWSPRINT STAFF

On April 22, our nation and school celebrated Earth Day. This holiday challenges us to be more environmentally conscious and to work harder to keep our planet clean and safe.

Many of our daily activities can hurt the Earth in ways that are hard to even imagine. Whether it's by carbon dioxide emissions from cars or waste from single-use plastic it seems almost impossible to go through a day without harming the planet in some small way.

Even though it may be hard to protect the ecosystem in our daily lives there are small changes you can make to change this.

One of these many small changes is shopping sustainably. According to Sustainability Victoria, sustainable shopping recognizes that everything we buy has health, environmental and social impact.

Shopping sustainably can apply to anything you buy. For example, when you are grocery shopping, take your own reusable bags to carry your items in so that you are not unnecessarily using plastic bags. Plastic bags that are used in supermarkets can make their way into our lakes and oceans harming marine life and ecosystems. These plastic bags are also created unethically.

"Approximately 8% of the world's total oil production is used to make plastic and 12 million barrels of oil are used to manufacture the 30 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States each year and they use fossil fuels as they are shipped around the world," an anonymous writer at Yale University said.

Making the switch from plastic bags to reusable ones not only benefits the Earth but can benefit you too by saving money.

"Reusable bags can last for years without needing to be repaired, recycled or thrown away," Andrew Krososky at Greenmatters said.

Aside from using plastic bags, there are many other ways that we harm the environment with our shopping habits, one of them being the fashion industry.

The fashion industry, fast fashion specifically, has one of the biggest negative impacts on the environment. According to SustainYourStyle, the fashion industry accounts for between 5-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Fast fashion hurts our oceans, agriculture and workers who are overworked and underpaid but sadly it is not slowing down. According to the American Chemical society, since the 2000s, fashion production has doubled and it will likely triple by 2050. Production of polyester, a common fabric in fast fashion, has increased significantly in the last 50 years.

It is easy to explain away the negative effects fast fashion has on the planet by thinking it is benefiting you but the truth is that it isn't.

"Because clothing has gotten so cheap, it is easily discarded after being worn only a few times," Renee Cho at the Columbia Climate School said.

You may think buying fast fashion is saving money but it is actually doing the opposite. Fast fashion clothes are poorly made so they do not last as long because they rip and discolor so you have to throw them away and buy new ones.

Instead of saving money and investing in well made, sustainable clothing that will last for years you are constantly buying new cheap clothes which will

ultimately add up to be the same or even more money than well made clothes.

But even if buying sustainable clothes is unattainable for you because of financial reasons, there are other ways to be fashionably sustainable and cost efficient.

One popular example is thrifting. Going to thrift stores and buying used clothes at a cheaper price is a great way to be sustainable in your shopping habits.

"This type of shopping reduces energy consumption, air pollution, mountains of landfill and keeps our oceans clean," Swift Wellness said.

These are only two easy examples of how you can be environmentally conscious by shopping sustainably.

We only have one planet and it is crucial for our survival as a human race for us to care for it in every way possible. At Mercy, we are called to be stewards of the Earth and by implementing some of these practices in your daily life you can fulfill your role. Every action counts.



## Mrs. Russo is more than meets the eye

STORY: REESE KIZY, GUEST WRITER



Mrs. Russo speaks to a student during her 6th hour class. Photo courtesy of Helena Najjar.

Algebra and iExplore teacher Mrs. Denise Russo had multiple successful careers before coming to Mercy.

She worked in engineering before getting certified to teach. Attending college in Florida, she majored in aerospace engineering. She worked to engineer military planes for Ford and liked the work environment there.

"After a while I felt like engineering wasn't exactly right for me and it was getting to be too much," Russo

said. "I liked engineering and the skills I would have to use to do my job, so I wanted to continue to do something similar to that."

She decided to leave the industry after eight years and become a teacher as she was getting ready to have her first child.

Russo was born in Chicago and likes to visit her family there. She says that she doesn't always have time for hobbies and activities outside of her job, but she does enjoy reading.

"I mostly get caught up in all of my kids' activities even when I do have time for myself," Russo said.

Russo describes herself as having a practical mind and following her head rather than her heart.

"I was an engineer so I think everything has to be analyzed and I need to look at data to make more thoughtful decisions," Russo said.

She likes to look at things from a more logical perspective, and doesn't like when students let their overwhelming feelings and emotions get in the way of their learning.

"I try to avoid really stressful situations in my classes, but when students cry in my class I know I can't do much at the moment and I try to wait for a better time

to talk to them," Russo said.

"Sometimes it can be difficult for me to deal with because I feel like high stress and anxiety or crying over class happens a lot at Mercy," Russo said.

She goes on to describe her concern for students being unproductive during off hours and not using them for catching up. She says that phones in class and adviser are another one of her pet peeves.

"The amount of time that teens spend on phones is already a lot, so I don't like it when students take out their phones," Russo said. "I don't like the constant huge amount of information and pressure from social media and being connected to a screen all the time. I would live without a phone if I could."

Russo expresses that teaching is important to her and she lives by the phrase, "If you don't know why you are right, you will never know when you are wrong."

Despite her strong opinions on phones and schedules Russo cares deeply about her students and they feel the same about her.

"Mrs. Russo is always really kind and she helps her advisees and students with their math homework whenever they need it," senior Lily Cochrane said.



# How to: make small changes to help the Earth

STORY: JULIA LORELLI, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR

As the weather starts to warm up, it is time to put the sweatshirts and pajama pants in the closet and bring out the t-shirts and shorts. New summer styles means new clothes. However, newer does not always mean better, especially when it comes to caring for the Earth.

When shopping for your new summer wardrobe, here are a few tips to keep in mind to help cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

The most important thing to do for the environment is to reduce, reuse and recycle. The most important of the three is to reduce our consumption of items whenever we can.

Reducing consumption is the most sustainable of the three R's. It decreases the need of natural resources and uses less energy to create, package and ship goods.

This includes small stuff like using a reusable water bottle, not drinking with plastic straws, buying only clothes you really need, thrifting or buying second-hand, and even driving with your friends to save gas.

"I am not perfect and don't always do all these things but a small change that I make every day in the cafe is getting my lunch in the 'for here' containers which are normally paper, cardboard, etc. instead of the 'to go' plastic container," senior and leader of Green Club Marina DiPonio said.

While DiPonio loves a good Urban or Aerie trip, she also loves thrifting and buying second hand.

"It's all about making small changes," DiPonio said. "Green Club has helped the environment by attempting to bring back recycling and educating others about environmental issues."

Mercy is showing that shopping sustainably is an easy thing to do.

In the Fibers class, students do an assignment called "Reimagined Garment". First, students write proposals of their concepts.

Students are asked to research and draw design options for a garment reimagined from a piece of clothing that they or their families

would be donating or throwing away anyway.

According to art teacher Mrs. Susan Smith, "Over the years, students have found many creative solutions to this challenging project. Some students cut sections of the garment and reattach the cut fabric pieces in new ways," said Smith. "Mercy students have also included many found objects in their designs such as straws, coffee stirrers, baking cups, pop cans, candy wrappers, water bottles, shopping bags, newspaper, feathers, photos and thumbprints."

It is not expensive to get creative and make your own clothes which could further help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. While it might be more fun to have the top brands and go on long road trips, it is better for the environment to use second hand.

If something from a big name brand is an absolute must, try to limit what is bought because the same tank top could probably be found at a thrift store for \$5 and at Nordstrom for \$25. If a long road trip is planned, try not to drive during rush hour and bring some friends.

Check out our  
April Spotify  
Playlist!



Open Spotify  
and scan to  
listen!

## April Photo Recap...



New members of the National Honor Society are inducted. A tradition at Mercy, the current NHS officers welcome the new inductees.



Seniors Mia Juday and Rehema Klueg along with Religious Studies teacher, Mr. Curt Klueg, receive the Heart of Mercy award. The recipients demonstrate the values of Mercy in their everyday life.



Spring sports get underway. The varsity lacrosse team huddles to prepare for their game.