

Exit, Pursued by a Bear

Mercy Friends,

Taking my cue here from Shakespeare's most strikingly bizarre stage direction, I'm drawing the curtain on this Winter's Tale of Mercy-teaching after 40 years. It's been great fun, and I've learned more than a few things along the way. I hope I've been able to teach some students a few things in the process.

As things turned out years ago, my daughter Emily never ended up enrolled in any of my courses. Every day I've walked into a Mercy classroom, though, I've seen glimpses of her in front of me--brilliant and beautiful and kind and passionate and inquisitive and . . . (I hope you know I'm talking about you, ladies). So, thank you.

The fact that Mercy paid me, and that Mercy parents footed the bill, all so I could do something I've loved, still leaves me a little speechless (I know, can you believe it?). To all my colleagues--not just in English, either--thank you. You're the best. Yes, you are.

With a full heart,

Mike Gruber

From Principal Carolyn Witte:

I have worked alongside this man for many years. He has been consistent in his dedication to students, to the abilities and talents he sees in these young women, long before many see it in themselves. He nurtures, he nudges; he demands, but he also encourages. Literally thousands of Mercy students have been impacted by his teaching.

Mr. Gruber was selected as Teacher of the Year in 2003 and, as a result, was the Master of Ceremonies at commencement. In closing, he said to the graduates: "It's now time to spread your exquisitely lovely butterfly wings. Go live our love, our love for you. And go with our love, wherever you go."

Today, Mr. Gruber, I wish the same for you.