



IT'S MAGIC MONDAY: FEBRUARY 8, 2021!

This month we honor a Woman of Mercy who exemplifies that a Mercy Girl is hard-working, well-rounded, and proud of herself, friends, and school. Carmen Williams Tucker '12 found these traits were nurtured during her time as a Mercy Girl and that they continue to grow in her today. According to Carmen, "Without Mercy, I wouldn't be the woman I am today, with the career I have, with the friends that I care about so deeply."

Name: Carmen Williams Tucker'12

Post Mercy Education:

- B.S., Marine Science, academic minor in Vocal Performance, Coastal Carolina University, 2017
- M.S., Environmental Sciences and Policy, Johns Hopkins University, anticipated 2021

Personal and Professional Achievements:

I never imagined the path my career would take when I was a Mercy Girl. Right after graduation from my undergraduate program, I completed an internship with the Smithsonian Institution's Natural History Museum. Every day, I worked with the specimens I studied for a long time, going all the way back to **Ms. Nancy Uryasz's** Marine Biology class at Mercy. This internship led to my application to Johns Hopkins University's master's program in Environmental Science and Policy.

When I am not working or completing schoolwork, I participate in my church and various other activities. At New Psalmist Baptist Church, I am preparing to become a discipleship facilitator, I sing in our virtual choir, and I serve on multiple ministries. On occasion, I model for Alko Clothing Outlet and I work as a professional mermaid for festivals and public appearances. Not the exact direction I thought I would go during my high school years, but one with which I am very happy.

All along the way of my many opportunities, my mother, my brother, and my grandmother have supported me by attending every concert, graduation, or ceremony. I have a very supportive husband who keeps me sane, and amazing friends who I have been close to since our times at Mercy. I love being part of each other's life milestones and successes.

Were there any Mercy faculty members who especially impacted your life? Why?

Ms. Cindy Magruder, my advisor, kept me organized and goal oriented. I do not think I would have attended an out-of-state university without her support and guidance. **Ms. Nancy Uryasz**, **Ms. Carol Crist P '14**, and **Ms. Sue Ann Ness** facilitated my love of science. They were tough teachers and I almost never saw the end of homework, but that pushed me to continue to do better. Being accepted into Ms. Uryasz's Biology II class was an accomplishment but having her push her students to constantly go the extra mile was what I really needed! I am also grateful for **Ms. Vickie McGinty's** constant encouragement; because of her I still sing the quadratic equation! I cannot thank the Mercy staff enough!

What is your favorite Mercy memory?

I have a lot of amazing memories at Mercy: when our senior class won every field day game (minus one, but who's counting!); when I walked my big sister to get her Mercy Ring (I miss you Alicia!); and when the IND Seniors invited me and all of the Madrigal seniors to sing the National Anthem with them at the Big Game (We love you IND!). But if it comes down to it, I think it was as a freshman in my first week at Mercy. I remember I had my very first free period, which I decided to spend in the library doing homework and reading. The announcements came on and I half-listened, until **Mr. Felix Sung's** voice came over the PA system calling me to the office. I was terrified and confused because I was not sure what I had done to be called to the office, but when I arrived, Mr. Sung introduced me to the Madrigals and encouraged me to join. That warm welcome led me to be part of Madrigals all four years and to continue sing in college.