



**It's Magic Monday, February 3, 2020. This month we honor a Women of Mercy who exemplifies that a Mercy Girl is inquisitive, smart, well-rounded, and has integrity.**

**Name: Laura Wontrop Klauser '04**

**Post Mercy Education:**

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, May 2008

M.S., Global Automotive Manufacturing Engineering, University of Michigan, May 2014

**Personal and Professional Achievements:**

I live in Michigan and work for General Motors as program manager for Cadillac Racing. We race the prototype Cadillac DPi-V.R in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar series. My job is to make sure the racecar design is competitive, that the teams have the support they need to win, and that the sanctioning body creates a fair playing field. I am very active in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)

serving on the Detroit Section's Board and volunteering at the Formula SAE Competition held in Michigan each year. I'm married to Eric Klauser and we have a German Shepherd mix named Spike.

**Please share your favorite Mercy memory.**

My favorite part of my Mercy experience was the extracurricular activities in which I participated. I loved bringing the newspaper, *The Shield*, back to life and enjoyed the experience of Model Organization of American States (OAS). I really appreciate the students and faculty I encountered in these activities which built upon my in-class education and gave me additional learning opportunities that helped gain me admission to a great college.

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

**Ms. Kitty Yanson '66** pushed me to work harder and pursue my goals. She always had time to listen to my troubles, no matter how trivial. **Ms. Lynne Bowman**, through Model OAS, also inspired me to push myself and grow my experiences. **Ms. Tricia Potts** was a great career mentor, and I had many impactful conversations with **Mr. Bob Danner**.

**Were there any classes you took at Mercy that stand-out to you? Why?**

Algebra with **Ms. Potts** and Computer Science with **Mr. Danner** were the most important classes in my Mercy experience. **Ms. Potts** suggested I consider going into engineering, and is the reason I chose that path. **Mr. Danner** instilled a curiosity for technology, which is critical for engineering and almost every career now.

**Why is Mercy so important to you?**

I am fortunate to have grown up in a household that valued integrity. I believe if you live your life with integrity in your decision-making process and in your treatment of others, the rest will fall into place. No matter what, you will be able to look at yourself in the mirror and respect the person looking back at you if you maintain your integrity. This message was affirmed to me at Mercy every step of the way.