



IT'S MAGIC MONDAY: APRIL 5, 2021!

This month we honor a Woman of Mercy who says, “I am a proud Woman of Mercy! At Mercy, I learned important values that molded me into the person I am today and now have the amazing opportunity to pay it forward. The court is my classroom where I get to teach life lessons through the game of basketball. I coach with passion and integrity and I am committed to helping develop the physical, mental, and spiritual growth of my student-athletes — a few of the same values I was taught as a Mercy Girl! Meet Ashlee Courter Rogers '99, head women's basketball coach at Marymount University.

Name: Ashlee Courter Rogers '99

Post Mercy Education:

- B.A., Elementary Education, Psychology minor, Marymount University, 2003
- M.S., Special Education, McDaniel College, 2006

Personal and Professional Achievements:

My family and I reside in Falls Church, Virginia. I am the proud mother of Georgia (16), Hugh (13), Andrew (5), & Luke (3). After Mercy, I attended Marymount University (MU) where I was a four-year member of the women's basketball program. My college coach strongly encouraged me to pursue a career in coaching once I graduated and I am so glad I listened to him! I am currently in my 11th year as the Head Women's Basketball Coach at my alma mater and my 15th overall as a head coach at the DIII level. A fun fact is my husband, Chris, is the Men's Basketball Coach at Marymount University as well. My professional career has blessed me with the opportunity to be a Co-Director of the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament held annually at MU. The Special Olympics athletes are so inspirational; it is a rewarding experience to be a part of such an impactful event.

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

Many! **Ms. Rose Clugh, Coach Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P '09, Ms. Joanne Simmons, Mr. Ray Stoddard, Sr. Marie Foley, RSM (RIP), Ms. Cindy Magruder, and Coach Louie Sowers** are all phenomenal educators who positively impacted my experience at Mercy. The faculty and staff created a challenging learning environment that pushed me outside my comfort zone. At the same time, I felt supported by them and had a lot of fun along the way. The rigorous academics and the investment in my personal growth prepared me for life moving forward. As I reflect on the impact of these educators, I do not believe one of them contributed more than another; this speaks volumes to what Mercy is about. The committed members of the entire Mercy community are what turns a Mercy Girl into a Woman of Mercy. It is an investment on everyone's part. I am truly grateful they invested themselves into helping me reach my potential.

What is your favorite Mercy memory?

Overall, I have very fond memories and an appreciation of the Mercy traditions. Specifically, I will share a favorite memory from my athletic career. I grew up playing soccer, basketball, and softball. It made sense to continue pursuing these sports when I entered high school. My senior year I was invited to play volleyball by my good friend, **Michelle Russell '99**. I had never played before. Michelle was a phenomenal setter who thought my height and athleticism could help provide some depth to our hitter position. I owe Michelle so much for talking me into trying out for the team. It was one of the best times of my life. My teammates and **Coach Louie Sowers** were an incredible support system. Taking home the Conference Championship that year made it even sweeter!