



IT'S MAGIC MONDAY: NOVEMBER 2, 2020!

This month we honor a Woman of Mercy who exemplifies that a Mercy Girl has integrity, is passionate, and appreciates all that she has. Briana Snyder, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, RYT 200 '01 remembers how challenging science classes with Ms. Rose Clugh together with art classes with Señor Gerardo Gomez prepared her for creating a work-life balance.

Name: Briana Snyder, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, RYT 200 '01

Post Mercy Education:

- B.A., History, Pre-Med, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005
- B.S., Nursing, Stevenson University, 2009
- M.S., Nursing Education, Towson University, 2012
- Ph.D., Nursing, University of Missouri (Columbia), 2017

Personal and Professional Achievements:

While attending The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), I volunteered in the UNC Children's Hospital and Emergency Department and observed that registered nurses were spending more time with and providing more care to patients and families than physicians were. This observation led me to reconsider attending medical school, my original goal. After graduation, I moved back home to Baltimore to earn my nursing degree while I worked in private physician practices. I began working as a registered nurse at Sheppard Pratt Hospital on the inpatient Trauma Disorders Unit, which provides treatment to adults with dissociative disorders who have survived extreme child maltreatment. I have always had a passion for teaching, so I earned my master's and doctoral degrees in order to pursue a career in academia.

I am currently an assistant professor in Towson University's nursing program, where I teach undergraduate and graduate nursing students and conduct research related to psychiatric-mental health care. I still maintain clinical practice as a registered nurse at Sheppard Pratt, and I volunteer at Paul's Place in the Nurses' Clinic, providing free health care to low-income and homeless individuals in the Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhood and the surrounding Southwest Baltimore communities. I am also a yoga teacher, and I lead a children's yoga program for students at my children's school.

I live in Baltimore with my high school sweetheart and Calvert Hall alumnus, Derek; our two children, Shane and Ivy; and our English bulldogs, Morty and Pete.

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

I loved my art, ceramics, and advanced drawing classes with **Señor Gerardo Gomez**. They were a relaxing change of pace from my other courses, and they challenged me to be creative and imaginative in a different way. It was also a privilege to learn from someone so naturally talented. I still love to draw and paint, and it has become a form of self-care for me that definitely helps with my work-life balance.

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

I am grateful to all of the Mercy faculty members who shaped me into the person I am today, but **Mrs. Rose Clugh** has been an especially important influence in my life. Her classes were challenging, and they prepared me for future coursework in my undergraduate and graduate degrees. She encouraged me to apply for a summer internship at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, which I never would have considered otherwise. I couldn't believe I got accepted, and it is still one of the coolest experiences I've ever

had. We still keep in touch, and I always look forward to her cards and letters. She has been so genuinely caring and supportive for over two decades now!

What is your favorite Mercy memory?

It's hard to pick a favorite Mercy memory because there are so many! One of the highlights was definitely the trip with the Ski Club because we had so many good laughs and memorable stories.