



Alumnae
MERCY
HIGH SCHOOL



IT'S MAGIC MONDAY: AUGUST 2, 2021!

This month we honor a Woman of Mercy who says, “It is so important to be a compassionate person who serves others, especially those that have experienced injustice. There was a time when I used to respect people that work hard and get a lot done. I used to put people that were smart and achieved great things on a pedestal; however, as time has passed, I have realized that kindness, compassion, and service to others far outweighs

intelligence. It took me some time to learn that there is a big difference between IQ and EQ in life and those that place greater value on serving others and living in a kind and compassionate way are deserving of our deepest respect and reverence. My time at Mercy helped me to value these characteristics.” Meet **Kacey Wetzel '00**, director of programs, outreach, and education at Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Name: Kacey Wetzel '00

Post Mercy Education:

- B.A., Environmental Studies, Rollins College, 2004
- M.S., Environmental Science and Policy, Johns Hopkins University, 2009
- Certificate of Public Health, Behavior Change, University of South Florida, 2014

Personal and Professional Achievements:

My career has centered on environmental and community health with a particular focus on the integration of social science theory and practice in regional environmental work. I love my work and feel very fortunate to work in, with, and among many incredible and inspiring colleagues. I am also fortunate to currently serve as the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and as a board member for the Linthicum Heights Shipley Improvement Association.

My husband Doug and I live in Anne Arundel County and enjoy traveling, gardening, fawning over our pit-bull Ki, cycling, and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

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

My French teacher, **Ms. Ludmila Adler**, showed me what it is to be real and vulnerable in a leadership role. Ms. Adler was honest about her life and her struggles; she was not afraid to show emotion; and she found humor in the little things. She was fun and funny but maintained a strict classroom environment. I really liked the culture she built in her classroom and the balance she struck with being a full human and a teacher. I think her willingness to be vulnerable and still maintain a significant level of authority shaped my view of effective leadership.

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

I really enjoyed a creative writing class that I took during my junior year. We were encouraged to write our own poems and share them in the class. I remember listening intently to the innermost thoughts and feelings of one of my classmates and realizing that despite having been in school with her for years, I didn't really know her that well. I loved learning about my friends and classmates through their creative writing. That class instilled in me a lifelong appreciation for poetry and a genuine interest in the feelings and thoughts of those around me.

What is your favorite Mercy memory?

I have several fond memories, so it is hard to choose just one. One memory (that still makes me chuckle) is the time I received after school detention for ignoring written warnings for having an “alien colored lock” on my locker. I had a hot pink lock and evidently that was not acceptable. Mercy taught me to pay attention

and learn the rules but also empowered me to question the rules when it made sense. I am thankful for that.