



Lisa Demaio Ferrari '82, Mercy Trustee Patrica Blackmar, Alex Ferrari '82 and Mercy Trustee Sarah O'Connor '80
Photo by John Raiola



Q&A WITH MERCY COLLEGE TRUSTEE Alex Ferrari '82

Alex Ferrari '82 has been a member of the Mercy College Board of Trustees since 2011. He serves on the Executive and Development Committees and is the chair of the Endowment Management Committee. Alex retired as Executive Vice President and COO, Production & Production Technology at Viacom Music & Entertainment Group. He is married to Lisa Demaio Ferrari '82. They now split their time between New York and Florida.

How and when did you first get involved with Mercy? I first got involved with Mercy in 1979. I had just graduated from the Westchester Business Institute with an associate degree in finance and accounting and came to realize that an associate degree was not enough for the career I wanted. I started looking for the next place to take my college education and that's when I first got exposed to Mercy. I needed a place where my credits would be accepted, that

provided tuition assistance and that had the program I was looking for, and Mercy provided all of it. Mercy was affordable, convenient and enabled me to get a great education. I graduated in the spring of 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and accounting and found a job almost immediately. I started as a staff accountant for a start-up company called MTV Networks, the company I stayed with for almost 35 years.

What drew you back to Mercy College? Fast forward 30-plus years and the then President of Mercy, Kim Cline, reached out to get me involved with the school again. I was hesitant at first but when I saw what Mercy was doing, I was hooked again. I was reminded of how Mercy was there for me when I needed help and today it's even more impressive at how much Mercy provides to students who are motivated to get a higher education.

How would you describe Mercy College in three words?
Compassionate, motivated, focused



Executive Director, Career & Professional Development Jill Hart, Tina Thornton, Philanthropy Officer Patricia Byrns '96, Alex Ferrari '82 and Mercy Trustee Jim McCormick

Photo by John Raiola



Alex Ferrari '82, Sam Roberts, Ronnie Roemer, Richard Thompson

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What do you love most about Mercy College? I love that everyone at Mercy demonstrates the passion and focus to ensure students have the means and assistance to graduate with little or no debt.

What does service mean to you? Serving on Mercy's board to me is such a rewarding experience. It gives me great pleasure in knowing that the work we do goes towards helping young students better their lives through gaining an education. The board continually pushes for ways to improve the graduation rate at Mercy and when I see the graduation rate improving every year, I know the work we are doing is making a difference.

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