

# the WORLD as a CLASSROOM

**First Private College in the Nation Certified for Advancing Prospects of Latino Students** . . . . 4

**Get Moving, Get CERTIFied** . . . . . 6

**Thriving Partnership Between Mercy College and Don Bosco Community Center Made Stronger by STEM Education Grant** . . . . . 10

**Q&A with Eva M. Fernández, Ph.D.**  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs . . . . . 14

**Professor Wayne Cioffari Leaves Lasting Legacy for Mercy Students** . . . . . 20

**At age 96 Violet Edwards '22 Earns Her Degree and Sets Records** . . . 26

**A Family's Connection to Mercy and the College of New Rochelle** . . . . . 28

**The World as a Classroom**  
International and Study Abroad Students Learn and Grow Away from Home . . . . . 30

**Future Business Leaders Prepare for a Global Market** . . . . 34

**International Student-Athletes Find Balance with Athletics and Academics** . . . . . 40



Photo by John Raiola

## MESSAGE FROM President Timothy L. Hall

One aspect of Mercy that fills me with great pride is that when visiting Mercy's three campuses, I am surrounded by an environment rich in culture.

Research has shown how colleges like Mercy derive great benefit from welcoming students from abroad. Such visitors contribute an authentic learning experience that more accurately reflects the world students enter after graduation. Did you know our student body represents more than 60 countries on five continents? And while international students still comprise a small percentage of the student population, their influence on Mercy's progress toward a global citizenry is palpable.

This edition of Maverick Magazine explores the idea of the global citizen, which through the stories in this issue, is defined as someone who understands their place among a wider world and takes an active role in their community to bridge boundaries, make connections and give back.

In these pages you'll read examples of Mercy's increasingly global focus. Our programs ensure that students of every culture and nationality see themselves reflected in our faculty, administration and student body. We've expanded opportunities to work, live and study in multilingual environments.

You'll read about Mahmud "Wazi" Wazihullah, a business leader who directs the Business Honors Program; public health advocate Shalini Eragoda, MSPH, who teaches Global Health in between visits to her native Sri Lanka; David Arias '16, LVT, DVM, a veterinary technology alumnus whose study abroad opportunity influenced future international animal rescue work; and the stories of adjunct faculty Bogdana Vladescu '99, M.B.A. '03, Ed.D., senior director of international student services, and student athletes from Canada and Brazil.

Mercy continues to strengthen programs with community partners, such as the Don Bosco Community Center in Port Chester. Supported by a \$4.9 million grant aimed at increasing the number of Hispanic and low-income students attaining degrees in STEM subjects, the collaboration with Don Bosco is changing the life trajectories of youth and families in immigrant, first-generation and low-income populations.

The School of Education attracts many immigrants who seek careers that will serve the global community — whether by traveling overseas to teach, helping multilingual classrooms to thrive, or teaching English to speakers of other languages. Mercy's Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program can boast of several international scholars who have returned home to acclaim and opportunity.

Mercy is proud to support immigrants, women and people of color in becoming leaders with a voice and a seat at the table. We hear from our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Eva Fernández, Ph.D. and Joi Sampson, Ed.D., director of academic engagement, equity and inclusion. Indeed, Mercy's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is woven into our programming, highlighted in a story about expanding equity and access in global learning via technology.

I'm thankful to every person in the Mercy community for all you are doing to create a global citizenry right here on our campuses.

Sincerely,

Tim Hall  
President

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