

*A thank you from our Alumnae Scholarship  
recipient Amy Anselmino....*

As my final semester at Mount Mary begins, I have been reflecting about my years here at the college. First and foremost, I find myself so very grateful for the opportunity to receive a Mount Mary education. Mount Mary has had such a powerful, positive impact on my life. Looking back, I can see how I have been encouraged to grow as an individual and to become a confident and assertive young woman. I firmly believe that the environment of a women's college made a huge difference in my growth as a person.

I have been challenged to excel academically in my chosen field of education. The faculty at Mount Mary took a personal interest in me. I enjoyed having classes taught by both Sisters and lay faculty who shared candidly about their experiences as lifelong learners. My classes required me to think critically and independently. The experiences I have had in the classroom have prepared me well for my career as an educator. I feel ready to assume the many responsibilities of teaching.

When I came to Mount Mary I was a bit timid. I will leave as a stronger, more confident woman. My role in Mount Mary athletics played an important part in my growth as a person. I played on the Blue Angels soccer team for all four years, and now I am volunteering as the assistant coach. Being involved in the soccer program challenged me in important ways outside of the classroom. I learned how to balance my academic work with my commitment to the team. This taught me a *lot* about time management.

The friendships that I have made here at Mount Mary are so incredibly important to me; I know they will last a lifetime. In the environment here, I have found friends who can connect with me on a deeper, more meaningful level. My friends share my vision for social justice in the world and also share my Catholic faith. It was a wonderful experience to have friends to go to church with on Sundays. My friends inspire me to be a better person and to think about how I can go into the world and spread kindness.

I am currently student teaching. My degree will allow me to teach Pre-Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. When I have finished my student teaching, I am planning on returning to Michigan to begin seeking a position as an elementary school teacher. I am also considering the possibility of teaching English in Korea for 6 months. I was born in Korea and this would provide me with an opportunity to learn more about my culture. I look forward to many rewarding years as an educator and advocate for children.

The half tuition scholarship made it possible for me to attend Mount Mary. My father passed away very unexpectedly during my first semester at the college and I doubt that I would have been financially able to continue without the scholarship, given the challenges my family faced. Our memorial to my dad was a brick in the Mount Mary courtyard outside the Gerhardinger Center celebrating his life.

Please know that I am *most* grateful to all of you for giving me the opportunity to earn my degree at Mount Mary College.