

Lisa Hathaway
2009 Commencement Speaker Finalist

I am not the traditional student. I am a “forty something” Mother of two incredible daughters, wife to a hard working man, daughter to honorable parents who have wanted the best for me and supported me. I have been in my chosen profession-nursing-for twenty five years. I consider nursing a vocation. Gwynedd Mercy College shares that philosophy. While preparing me with an excellent clinical education, Gwynedd has also instilled in me principles that have and will stand the test of time...principles of honor, integrity, discipline, mercy, and love...of which this world could use all the more of.

My education here at Gwynedd has spanned over twenty years. Now you may be thinking wow she is slow, why did it take her so long to finish? But, actually I began as a young nurse here and received my BSN here in 1985. My Mother attended this college, as did my sister-in-law and my husband for a short time.

My education at Gwynedd served me well then to go out into the world of nursing and contribute to the needs of the sick...to minister to them...with all the skill and knowledge and mercy and love worthy of the profession of nursing.

I have enjoyed a valuable career while raising my family. When it came time to further my education to meet the ongoing challenges of nursing, it seemed obvious to me that there would be no other place to accomplish this but at Gwynedd Mercy College.

Now, I did this with much trepidation at first. But once again Gwynedd showed its merit to me with instructors and staff that guided me through various steps of the process, something often lacking in our self-service world today. I valued this.

Dr. Jones listened to me and supported me when I shared my struggles “juggling” a full-time job, and family, and the real issues like paying tuition, and studying, and writing papers after so many years. She was my cheer leader.

While my daughters were doing homework, so was I. It made for quite interesting talks around the kitchen table.

When I thought to myself...I don't think I can do this...professors here at Gwynedd said yes you can!

Many nights, weekends and summers...three years later I stand before you graduating with a masters of science in nursing.

Whatever your major or degree might be, be proud of your accomplishments here...but most of all remember the **other** lessons you learned here at Gwynedd Mercy College...the lessons of contribution to the world around you...the message of mercy and love that you can now take into the world...the greatest man who ever lived said “be the

light of the world and the salt of the earth”...you have been equipped with that here...there will be several commencement speeches telling graduates all over the U.S. in the weeks to come to go out and make a difference...you have been given the tools to do that in a way that is honorable, right, and so needed...thanks to your education here at Gwynedd Mercy College!