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Writers and actors fight against Hollywood

STORY AND GRAPHIC: MEGAN SULLIVAN

“The show must go on” has been a common saying in Hollywood but not these days. For the first time since 1960, both writers and actors have gone on strike, shutting down the writing and production of film and television, and effectively Hollywood as a whole. So, why are these strikes occurring and how will they affect the future of Hollywood and the job market in America? There are many things to blame for the strikes, but it can be summarized in one word: technology.

Recent advancements in technology have brought numerous benefits to the entertainment industry. However, have entertainment executives taken this reliance on technology too far? One particular threat troubling the writing community is the rise of artificial intelligence, also known as AI. From emails to school assignments, AI writing tools are available for virtually everyone at little to no cost. Movie studios executives are looking to leverage these new tools as well. By using AI to write scripts, movie studios are threatening to replace writers—valuing profit over quality.

New technology is not only threatening writers but also actors. According to Andrew Webster, editor of “The Verge”, film studios are now considering scanning and purchasing the performances of background actors, owning their digital image for use in any future project. This would eliminate the need to pay for background actors, forcing them out of work.

“AI is threatening to actors, threatening to writers...,” actress Maura Lamoureux says. “The ramifications of that for actors and writers may not be so much of

an issue right now, but they can see the writing on the wall.”

However, artificial intelligence is not the sole issue plaguing Hollywood. Industry workers are witnessing the rise of streaming services, which has fundamentally transformed the entertainment industry. Previously, television networks released episodes of a television season individually, with a release schedule spanning months. Under this structure, writers worked longer time periods as they produced episodes weekly. However, with the emergence of short, “binge worthy” shows released in bulk, entire seasons are now written in weeks. This shorter schedule puts long gaps between writer’s paychecks, requiring several jobs per year for a stable income, a feat not easily sustainable in this industry.

The rise of streaming services has taken a major source of income from both writers and actors — residuals. Residuals, developed by unions in the 1960s, are payments made to those who worked on a project for every time it’s played after its initial release, as stated by Andrew Dalton of “Fortune.”

“Often it’s those residual checks that help actors get through times when they’re not acting,” expalined Lamoureux.

Due to the reduction in residual payments caused by streaming services, what used to be a substantial portion of an entertainer’s salary can now amount to near pennies, with the bulk of profits filling the pockets of streaming executives rather than workers.

The strikes and resulting production shutdowns have impacted Hollywood beyond just the striking writers and actors. Other workers such as make-up artists, set designers, and crew members are impacted as film and television production comes to a halt. While many may deem the strikes as unimportant, others believe it could be a precursor for the types of issues that may impact many American workers from lawyers to teachers and accountants to bankers. The writer and actor strike may be a “Hollywood” issue today, but will likely impact us all in the long run as its impact is felt throughout much of America’s job market.

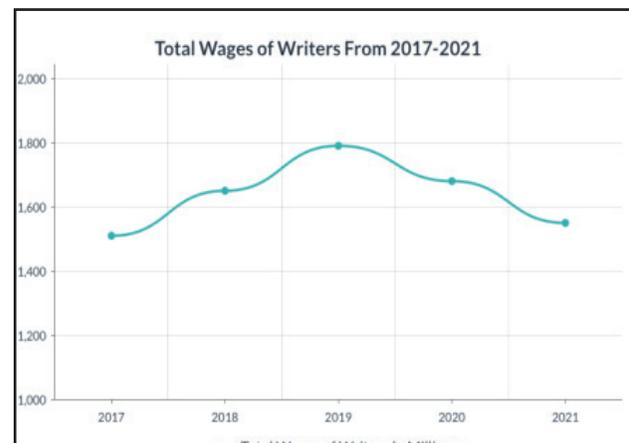


Chart of the total revenue of writers wages from 2017-2023. Information courtesy of Jenna Moon of “Semafor.”

Wildfires blaze across the island of Maui

STORY AND GRAPHIC: ZAARA AHMED

Over the past few weeks, starting on August 8, 2023 and continuing through the rest of the month, wildfires have wreaked havoc on Hawaii, more specifically on the famously scenic island of Maui. The wildfires consuming Maui have been named as the most deadly wildfires the U.S. has seen in over a century. According to Reuters, it is currently reported that 115 people have passed away, while 338 people are still missing, all due to this disastrous event.

The first wildfire was reported on the night of August 8th in the city of Lahaina. As the fire blazed through the city, more than 2,000 buildings were destroyed and, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, it will cost around \$5.5 billion to rebuild Lahaina. Sadly, the Lahaina wildfire was only one of four other wildfires that broke out on Maui.

“These wildfires will be a seminal event in history as to what went wrong and what went right,” Dr. Kristine Daley, moderator of Mercy High School’s Green Glub, said.

The city was home to about 13,000 people and attracted around 2 million tourists a year, making it a hub for travelers and a big donor to Hawaii’s economy. That being said, tourism accounts for 40% of Maui’s economy, which makes this situation all the more

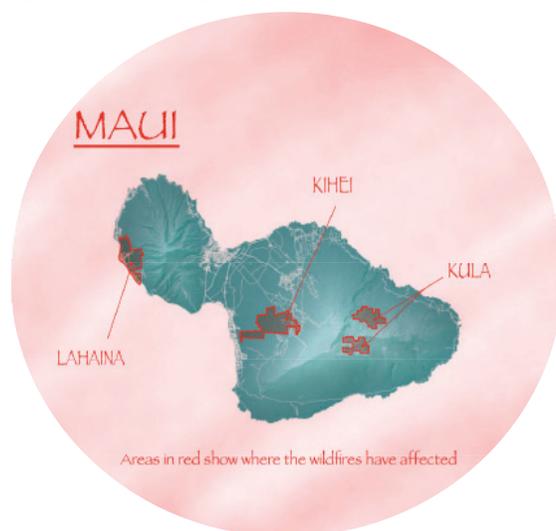
disastrous. The amount of carbon that the wildfires have released into the atmosphere will most likely defer anyone’s plans of traveling to Maui anytime soon. The fires are almost fully contained, but the destruction they caused will unfortunately last for a long, long time.

“When you look at the impact of wildfires, one of the greatest challenges is the amount of carbon that was

released into the atmosphere; it’s important to reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of carbon that was emitted is a lot more than what would be considered okay,” Daley expressed.

The exact cause of the wildfires is still a mystery. As the people of Hawaii grapple with the despoliation of their home, it has remained unclear as to what exactly triggered the start of the fires. According to CBS News, the cause has unfortunately not been officially identified, but it is speculated that the power lines in the area created the spark that led to the birth of the fires. This is, however, only a possibility.

The people of Hawaii are struggling to cope with the destruction of their home and need all the support they can get. The best way to help the Hawaiian community is to donate. The American Red Cross is a nonprofit organization devoted to emergency assistance. They are currently hosting funds to help the victims of the wildfires—to donate, visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org). Additionally, The Hawai’i Community Foundation is also accepting donations and has already raised \$1 million dollars that will go towards helping those who have been affected by the fire. Visit their website to donate to the fund. Supporting the people of Hawaii is so important during this time—any donation helps!



Map showing where the wildfires have affected Maui.

Rewind in time: Mercy Spirit Week Edition

STORY AND GRAPHICS: LENA LAJOY, MAURA MCSWEENEY AND HELENA NAJAR

Spirit Week is a beloved annual tradition here at Mercy. It is a time where students and staff get to celebrate school spirit with fun activities and free dress days. The exciting week ends with the highly anticipated Homecoming Dance on Sunday, September 24 in the Mercy Gym.

In the past, Mercy has been known to take Spirit Week very seriously. Whether it's by students going all out on themed dress days or by the fierce competition between grades on field day, there is never a dull moment.

Mrs. Laura Everett, Mercy graduate and the director of alumni relations, fondly looks back on previous Spirit Weeks and highlights the differences between then and now.

"We used to have this thing called lobby scenes where you would walk through the lobby and there would be different skits going on per grade," Everett said. "It was very different, I had never seen anything quite like that but you could be silly and express yourself."

Even though there have been major changes to Spirit Week throughout the years, the overall meaning and soul of the week have largely remained the same.

"The competition between the grades has always been a huge part of the week and even though you are

competing against each other, I think it really creates school pride and spirit," Everett said.

Some changes that have been made to Spirit Week have greatly improved the significance. Most notably, Mercy started Make a Difference day.

"They created this amazing community service day where everyone goes out and is able to support organizations and to show what Mercy is really about," Everett said. "I think that some students may not have had the opportunity to do service in that type of way or see the areas that we go to so I think it's really important."

Spirit Week also gives students the opportunity to be creative in terms of their outfits for the themed dress days.

"I like seeing the creativity when everyone is in theme and dressing up, that's always been a favorite part of mine," Everett said. "So much thought is put into what the students bring, just seeing everyone be able to have fun with it and put effort into the theme is great."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Spirit Week at Mercy changed drastically and caused a great disconnection in the community but that didn't stop the Spirit Week coordinators from trying their very best to

keep Mercy united in the difficult times.

"There was a lot of thought into trying to continue to build the morale between students and relationship building between teachers and students during that time," Everett said. "

But now that the world is back to how it was before COVID-19, Spirit week is back and better than ever. Spirit Week allows for a sense of togetherness even in difficult times and that is why it is such a fundamental part of Mercy.

"I think Spirit Week is a way to come together and to bridge gaps between grades or students," Everett said. "It's a month after school starts and things can get boring so it's a way to bring enthusiasm and excitement so students can realize that Mercy is not just a high school, but is an experience in and of itself."

"Traditions are important, Spirit week is important and being able to just have pride because you come from Mercy is the best part of this school," Everett said.

Spirit Week takes place on September 18-22 and concludes with the Homecoming dance on September 24.



Lobby Scene
In the past, Mercy students would act out skits based on the spirit week themes. Students could walk through the lobby and see the scene being acted out.



Field Day
At Mercy, it is tradition for the different grades to have class colors. Pictured here is the whole school in their colors for Field Day.



Field Day
One aspect of Spirit Week is that grades support and cheer each other on during competition



Homecoming
Mercy students celebrate the end of spirit week with the Homecoming dance. Here they are shown dancing the night away with friends



Make a Difference Day

One important aspect of Spirit Week is when every student goes to different organizations to do service. This day, known as Make a Difference Day, brings together the Mercy community to serve those in need.



Field Day

During Field Day students from all grades participate in competition. Pictured here are Mercy students partaking in a mummy wrap game.



Field Day

Dressed in red and baseball caps, Mercy staff show off their dance moves during Field Day. Some staff members come together to entertain the students and have some fun.

MERCY HISTORY FUN FACT

Mercy hasn't always had Spirit Week or a Field Day...

Mercy's first ever Field Day first took place on October 15, 1975 after Mercy's annual Powderpuff football was discontinued because there were too many accidents. The field day included many different events and races such as the creation of class floats, obstacle courses, a popcorn eating contest, and more. They even crowned a "Bagel Queen" who raised the most money for a charity of her choice!

Spirit Week 2023 has a lot in store

STORY AND GRAPHIC: REESE KIZY

Spirit Week— one of the most anticipated weeks for students at Mercy— is right around the corner. The planning and thought that goes into the series of events for the week is credited to Mercy class officers and Human Relations Council. In preparation for the Homecoming dance on Sunday, Sep. 24, 2023, spirit week builds anticipation and promotes togetherness for all Mercy students. These various events for the week aim to connect Mercy students to the themes of service and unity. Make A Difference day, Field day, and the Bonfire are events of spirit week that are favorites. In preparation for spirit week, student council meets on the first Saturday after school starts to plan the week by combining ideas and sharing suggestions during workshops throughout the day.

"The girls meet for their leadership conference where half of their time is dedicated to collaboration," one of the coordinators of student activities, Mrs. Cindy Richter said.

It is important for not only the members of student council, but also HRC representatives to collaborate and plan the week. Student council leaders from 10-12th grade, as the freshman class does not have officers yet, use their time to plan for the entire student body. E-board members also attend, and especially the E-board chair, Sage Johnson, has a big part in the planning. HRC and student council work together to balance between fun events and respect for everyone.

"They do a really good job of hearing each other out," Richter said.

Different activities are planned for the officers and smaller groups are made in order to share ideas.

"The committees are comprised of all grade levels," Richter said. "We also do a personality test to see where they fall. I like to vary the groups based on that as well, in efforts to get all types of voices and personalities reaching out to one another's ideas."



Students cheering for staff .vs. student basketball game. Spirit week 2022 holds lots of excitement at Field day Photo courtesy of Alaina Hatcher '23

In addition, the workshop on this day also serves as a bonding exercise for student council members, as Richter mentions. Mr. Steve Morgan, one of the moderators of HRC, stresses the importance of appropriate dress for Spirit week.

"No offensive clothes should be worn by the

students," Morgan said.

HRC representatives from each grade work to spread awareness about what kinds of clothes would be considered appropriation of any kind. They do this by making posts on HRC social media accounts with the clothing restrictions, and appearing on the announcements sometimes, as Morgan explains.

"The most important factors of the planning is everyone working together so we're on the same page, and also the communication among the student body," Morgan said.

As the thoughts for this week are combined from



Sophomores dressed in class color purple competing at 2022 Field day. Tug of war battle breaks out between 9th and 10th graders. Photo courtesy of Alaina Hatcher '23

the input of all students and members of student government; senior class officers have an especially loud voice.

"I would say the seniors have the biggest impact, only because they are passionate about their last year and want to have a good final spirit week," Richter said.

Senior class officer, Carly Dalloo, explains how the class officers plan the week. "We meet at school on the first Saturday of the year from 9-2," Dalloo said.

"The committees we split up in at the planning meeting each have their own purpose; one was for spirit week, one was for homecoming itself, others were about field day and more activities," Dalloo said.

The theme for the week was a collective group of ideas discussed at the meeting, then combined.

"The motto about the theme, which mostly became what the theme was known by, was developed by Megan Windham," Dalloo said.

Overall, the seniors, as Carly Dalloo described, are very excited about their last spirit week. The week full of activities, dressing up, and special events is full of laughs and school unity, as it has been for years at Mercy. As the first full month of school goes on, spirit week leading up to the Homecoming dance, is a highly anticipated and carefully planned event that all students look forward to. As junior Gabby Backus puts it, "Get hype for Spirit week and don't disappoint!"

Campbell Flynn sets off to new levels

STORY: TESS O'DONNELL

Campbell Flynn, junior setter at Mercy High School, spent her summer busy competing on the United States Womens U19 and U21 volleyball teams at the 2023 World Championships in Croatia and Mexico.

Flynn went to National Team Development Programs in the winter of 2022 and the summer of 2023. The coaches of the various United States teams scouted her at club tournaments and saw her potential. She was chosen to train for the team in Colorado this past summer, competing with 20 others girls for a spot on the final roster of 12. After her week of training in Colorado, she was chosen for the final roster of the U19 womens team. The U19 Women's team would travel to Croatia in early August, 2023 to compete in the U19 World Championships. Flynn won gold, along with the rest of the U19 women, after going undefeated in the tournament.

"It was crazy, it felt unreal," junior Campbell Flynn said. "It was so much fun and I met so many cool people from across the country that I'm really close with now."

When you make the final roster for the U19 team, you automatically make the roster for the U.S. Women's U21 team. After winning gold in Croatia, Flynn flew back to the United States where she spent a week in California to recover while her fellow teammates that she would play alongside in Mexico flew in. Flynn and the rest of the U21 team went to Mexico in late August where they placed 6th at the U21 World Championships.

"Winning was amazing but also getting sixth at U21's was

crazy because we were such a young team," Flynn said.

On June 16th, 2023, Flynn committed to play at University of Nebraska on the women's volleyball team, the top ranked program in the country.

"I always wanted to play at Nebraska and it was my dream," Flynn said. "They have been following me for a long time and I love their coaching staff and volleyball is super big at Nebraska."

But the end of the summer does not bring an end to Flynn's season, actually it's quite the opposite because high school



Junior Campbell Flynn sets a ball against Turkey for the U21 National Women's Volleyball team in Mexico. The U21 team finished 6th at the World Championships this past summer. Photo courtesy of Campbell Flynn.

season has only just begun.

Flynn has been a starting setter on varsity since freshman year and is looking forward to her third season playing for Mercy. Previously, MVV lost in the State Championship Tournament in Regional Round 1 against Northville but Flynn has high hopes for the season.

"I'm very excited to play this high school season and I think we can go far in the tournament," Flynn said. "I haven't really met the freshman or the newcomers so I'm excited to get to know them."

The Mercy Varsity Volleyball Head Coach Loretta Vogel has been impressed with Flynn's ability as the setter and as team leader on the court since freshman year.

"I think from the time she was a freshman, she was able to run the offense and be very mature about that, and I think for anyone in a program setting is such an important aspect of the game," Vogel said. "So, we've been very fortunate that from the time she was a freshman, she was able to step into that role."

Angie Butler, senior on the MVV team and 2 year teammate of Flynn, also recognizes the effect Flynn has on the team.

"Campbell is a great leader on and off the court," Butler said.

In addition to her national teams, Flynn competes for her club team, Legacy 17-1 Adidas. With all of Flynn's competition and her collegiate season coming soon, one can only wonder what is in store for the rest of her volleyball career.

Chevallier jumps over the competition

STORY: DARIA SMITH

After losing the desire to run long distance, an unexpected opportunity to attempt high jumping, ultimately led to 2 state championships and 1st place at the 2023 Junior Olympics for senior Milena Chevallier.

After running long distance during her entire freshman year, Chevallier saw a high jumper from Vanderbilt's women Track and Field team that led her to gain interest in the idea of doing field events herself. Even though Chevallier had only attempted high jump once 2 weeks before the qualifiers, her club team and Mercy Track Coach Michael Montijo allowed her to try to qualify for the 2022 Junior Olympic in high jump. To the surprise of many, she qualified and ended up coming in 6th place, leading to the beginning of her high jump career sophomore year.

"To be honest I really hated running," Chevallier said. "So I ended up deciding I don't want to do this anymore and I ended up high jumping instead which has worked out."

Since Chevallier began high jumping, she has made unbelievable accomplishments. She won her first state championship at the MITS Indoor State championships earlier this year. She also qualified for States for the second year on Mercy's Varsity Track and Field team. She jumped 5 feet 11 inches, winning her second state championship and clinching the girls high school state record at the 2023 MHSAA LP Division 1 Track and Field Finals at the end of this past school year. Going into the summer already leaping over records, she continued her success at the Nike Nationals in Oregon where she placed 2nd. Later at the Under 20s National Championship, where she competed against college

athletes and in front of college coaches and came in 4th. Regardless of everything she achieved this summer, the most cherished victory was jumping 5 feet 10 inches, winning first place at the 2023 Junior Olympics National Championship in August.

"There's a lot to say about Milena, but it is hard to describe greatness in the making," Montijo said.

Despite the amount of success Chevallier has accomplished, she still faces challenges such as the high expectations and pressures of an athlete of her caliber to consistently perform at a high level. After an outstanding sophomore season, Chevallier qualified for States and was seeded at or predicted to be state champion. After having what Chevallier described as "one of the most disappointing performances in her career" and getting fifth place, she was forced to go back and reevaluate her training to prepare for what she hoped to be a higher place at states the next year.

"After a disappointing finish at fifth I thought to myself, oh I need to go back and work 20x harder," Chevallier said. "If I want to reach my goal, I need to get more consistent."

Although she did not perform at the level she wanted to her sophomore year, she came back stronger than before her junior year. She came in seeded as number 2 and ultimately won states, achieving "redemption".

"Getting 1st place was a big improvement," Chevallier said. "It was really rewarding getting to see a year of hard work pay off."

Milena's undeniable talent and humbleness when it comes to high jumping are qualities that everyone around her respects.

"I can tell you that Milena has the it factor," Montijo said.

"She has social grace, courage, composure, a kind heart, intelligence (both emotional and intellectual), and possesses a form of quiet leadership that her teammates and I as her coach respect."

Regardless of the accomplishments Chevallier has already reached she still has many goals that she and her coach plan to achieve in the upcoming years. In regards to college, she hopes to commit to a D1 school by the end of November with a full ride scholarship. She also plans to jump 6 feet, a personal record, and take part in the 2024 Olympic trials next year. As for long term goals, Chevallier dreams of participating in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles where she aims to find herself standing on the podium holding a medal between her teeth.

"My coaching objective is to guide Milena through her Olympic development journey, which can reasonably materialize for the 2024 Olympic Trial," Montijo said.



Senior Milena Chevallier, jumps 5'10" at the U20s National Championships in Oregon. Chevallier finished 4th at the Championships this past summer. Photo courtesy of Milena Chevallier.

What the tech? How to practice digital safety

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MICAH ROGERS

With the world at our fingertips, technology is more intertwined in our daily lives than ever before. Through social media, online shopping and streaming services, our relationships with technology become more complex by the day.

This rising complexity introduces innumerable benefits: it has never been easier to connect with people from around the world and interact with the different types of content that the internet has to offer. However, it is important that we recognize the dangers of the internet, despite how many resources it has to offer.

Mercy's IT Director Mr. Tom James is responsible for keeping Mercy devices secure from possible cybersecurity threats. The recent uprising of internet hackers and scammers has amplified his role in the Mercy community.

"Apple products have been less susceptible to privacy and cybersecurity threats" James said.

However, it is still necessary to stay vigilant in terms of practicing safe internet usage regardless of the type of device that is being used.

On the other hand, social media comes to mind for many people when discussing internet safety. Junior JJ Akabuo offers a unique perspective on her experience with social media safety. In the past she was an avid Twitter user. That is, until she decided to create a post

criticizing the outfit choice of a particularly polarizing artist.

The tweet received more backlash than she expected, causing her to earn a 'cancelled' status amongst the artist's most passionate fans. Not only did she have to delete her account, but she now goes by a different name than she did before the incident.

"Be mindful of what you put out on the internet," Akabuo said. "What you put out comes back to you."

In light of especially turbulent times on the internet and in media, JJ's story serves as a cautionary tale for the negative ramifications behind posting on a social media platform. The concept of a "digital footprint" continues to gain relevance as people (particularly younger millennials and older members of Generation-Z) are starting to experience the consequences of posting before thinking twice about it.

"Internet safety is something that people should take seriously," Akabuo said.

All in all, the concepts of cybersecurity and social media posting are more closely related than one may think. Hacked accounts are becoming increasingly common on apps such as Instagram, resulting in deleted accounts and breaches of privacy. Every aspect of internet usage should be approached with equal amounts of care.

It is of the utmost importance to stay educated on how you can protect yourself from the risks of using technology. So, before you hit send on that post or input your information to that website, think: am I taking my safety and security into consideration?



Students stay safe during summer travels

STORY: CAROLINE BARTLETT

Staying safe while traveling is essential to having a relaxing vacation. Throughout the summer, Mercy girls traveled around the world for family and school trips. From Greece to France and even Puerto Rico, they had the opportunity to experience many new things. However, with all of this traveling comes the danger of going somewhere unknown and worrying about your safety.

One Mercy student, junior Mackenzie McDaniel, traveled to the United Kingdom with her family and was followed back to her hotel by a man when walking by the boardwalk.

"We kept making turns and he still followed," McDaniel said. "We tried to walk in the opposite direction and avoid looking back."

Situations like this can put a damper on your vacation which is why it's important to stay safe and aware of your surroundings. Staying safe ensures that you have a fun and enjoyable time because when you are uncomfortable, you have higher levels of adrenaline causing anxiety. This anxiety can take over your trip and ruin it so doing simple things to ensure well being can avoid all of this. Therefore, simple acts of safety will still allow you to enjoy your vacation.

Freshman Gabby Taul, who vacationed to Puerto Rico, suggested staying with your group and always making sure your hotel room door is locked. Other safety measures include: putting extra locks on your door, making sure your windows are closed and putting your valuables in safe

locations. Taking precautions such as these can help to keep you safe and comfortable.

Junior Eva Ursu traveled to Italy where pickpocketing is more common. Ursu suggested holding all items in a bag in front of you and to never leave your phone on a table. Doing this will ensure that your belongings stay with you throughout your trip instead of in the hands of strangers.

Other things you could do, according to The Better Health Channel, are avoiding traveling at night, asking your hotel concierge about safe and unsafe areas and trying to blend in with the locals. The more you stand out, the easier of a target you are. This includes dressing naturally for your surroundings and not getting an obvious rental car.

On the annual Latin summer trip, Latin teacher Mrs. Lauren Marquard traveled with her students abroad to Italy, specifically Rome and Pompeii, and then took a ferry to Greece. The group then went to Olympia, Athens and the Greek islands. Beforehand, they had a meeting about what to expect and how to stay responsible for their own safety but most importantly she builds relationships with the travelers.

"I think the best way to manage behavior and safety is just having a relationship with someone," Marquard said.

Marquard has not yet had a situation where someone has been unsafe. She attributes this to having a relationship with her students before taking them overseas.

Marquard said another key to safety is knowing how to use phrases like how to ask for directions and how to say yes and no. This is key because it allows the group to communicate with locals in case someone gets lost.

"It's also important to let people know where you are going, why you are going and when you will see them again." Marquard said.

All of these experiences reiterate reasons why you should always stay aware and prepared. So, as you travel in the coming years, remember the importance of having a plan to remain safe and if you ever feel unsafe, speak up.



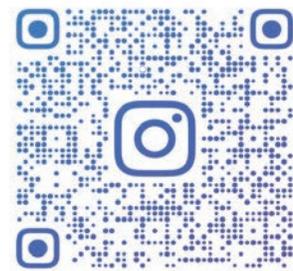
Mercy students, staff members, and family all visit the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. The Latin trip took place from June 18-July 1, 2023. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Lauren Marquard.

Summer adventures with Mercy Marlins

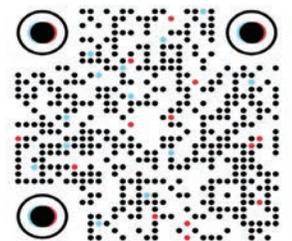


Hey Marlins!

Don't forget to follow Newsprint on social media and check out our website to stay up to date on all things Mercy!



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