

Kari Alberti Elliott '87

Where is your hometown? Current residence? Any personal family information you care to share (children, pets, hobbies, talents etc).

West Bloomfield

How/why did you decide to attend Mercy?

I was forced to go to school at Mercy, but ended up loving it.

What is your fondest Mercy memory?

I enjoyed Spanish and a trip to Spain, every bit of my Senior year, and still enjoying the life long friends that I made at Mercy. Mercy = lifelong friends.

What activities were you involved in as a Mercy student? Favorites?

Golf

Was there a favorite teacher, coach or staff member who had a strong, positive impact on your life? How so?

Mr. Engler – he was welcoming and easy to talk to, offered great guidance, built up our confidence. Mrs. Witte for English. Mrs. Lusch for Spanish/homeroom. And Ms. Linskey, Dean of Students.

Most rewarding professional, and/or personal, experience since graduating from Mercy?

Professional – working for our family business. Personal – being a mother.

What advice would give to future, or current, Mercy Girls, as we look forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary in the 2015-2016?

Don't take criticism personally, it's not all about you.

What has Mercy taught you?

Mercy taught me to be authentic. Mercy was empowering because it was "normal" to speak up in class, be direct, not be afraid to ask questions – speak up. Walking the halls gave students courage and confidence.

Mercy taught me to be mindful of others, taught me independence, to challenge change, and value the importance of giving back: pet therapy, working with elderly, through my work we participate in adopt-a-family programs, and Forgotten Harvest and the Detroit Children's Hospital.

Mercy instilled confidence that has taken me into my career at RKA Petroleum as a 3rd generation member of the family running the business.

As a working mother, Mercy taught me the organizational skills to have a successful career and time for my children as well.