



The Final Homecoming

FORGET THE BUMPER STICKERS AND ALUMNI SWEATSHIRTS — Mount St. Mary's College grads want a memento that lasts forever. To meet these eternal demands, the Catholic school in Emmitsburg, Md., offers a unique service to its graduates: an alumni cemetery.

According to director of auxiliary services George Gelles, the university began offering plots to alums and former employees two years ago, after requests prompted the graveyard setup.

"It's giving alums a place to come back to — it's like coming back home," says Gelles, an alumnus of the class of '64 and a plot owner.

But alums aren't the only ones who benefit. With the price tag for a plot ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 depending on location, the college makes money and gets to use land that otherwise would have gone to waste, Gelles says.

The service has been well-received. Of the 250 available plots, 155 have already been sold. In July, the school opened another grove with an additional 110 plots. So far, eight people have been buried in the cemetery, including Barbara Green, the wife of 1951 alumnus John Green.

"I had been a very active alumnus who lived all over the country and really didn't have a place to call home, so I bought two plots when the cemetery was started," says Green.

Although he didn't expect to bury his wife so soon after purchasing the plots, Green says he feels consoled to know his wife is laid to rest in a peaceful and familiar environment.

Although alums may think this is a great opportunity to go back to their glory days, some students don't see the connection. "College is a rite of passage; it's not the same thing as going back to your hometown," says sophomore John Miller. "I don't think college defines you as a person. I know I wouldn't want to be buried here."

By Gina Girardot, John Carroll U., Ohio / Illustration by Chris Hutchinson, U. of Oregon



It was Mrs. Peacock in the kitchen with the revolver.

The victim's body lay strewn in a bloody mess on the floor. The door lock had been jimmied, and the room was ransacked.... Murder has made its way into a college classroom, but it's not what you think.

Deputy coroner Ronald Holmes teaches Profiling Homicide at the U. of Louisville, Ky., to give students firsthand experience in viewing a crime scene.

"Even though it's a mock crime scene, we try to make it as realistic as possible," he says. "We have stage blood. We dress the mannequin exactly as the

victim was dressed or undressed."

At the scene, students must diagram the crime area, take photos and record witness statements in an investigator's handbook.

Reconstructing real murder cases helps crime-fighters understand the mental process of the criminal, so students are taught to look for nonphysical evidence. Holmes teaches his pupils what it means when a victim's head is turned a certain way, the significance of the position of the corpse and why certain parts of the body may or may not be covered.

"Just walking into a crime scene that he set up really gave me some insight into what type of criminals are out there and

what their train of thought is," says Melissa Sweeny, a 1995 U. of Louisville graduate. She says Holmes' class prepared her well for her current job as a deputy clerk at the Louisville Hall of Justice.

Grad student Carl Jennings took the course because he hopes to become a lawyer or work for the FBI. "Even if you don't decide to get into that field, having the knowledge could help you."

While the mock crime can be somewhat gruesome, Holmes says the training is beneficial for those who can stomach the brutality.

But one question remains: Do the students call him Sherlock?

By Soren Baker, Xavier U., Ohio / Photo by Bryan Stevens, UCLA

Some college students can distinguish between a stout and a light beer in a single sip. However, most couldn't tell you whether a merlot or a pinot grigio is recommended for chicken or which fork is for the salad.

Real Students Eat Quiche

For the etiquette-impaired, Marshall U., W.Va., has a cure — a one-day, two-hour course teaching the ins and outs of fine dining.

Participants sit down to a seven-course meal complete with finger bowls and napkins you don't throw away. As they dine, Marriott Hotel staff teach students the correct way to eat.

"Later in life, when they go to fine restaurants, we would rather our graduates be familiar with the fine dining experience," says Ray Wetly, Marshall's auxiliary services director.

By the time students head for the coat check, they'll know how to properly butter a roll, set the table and eat a gourmet dessert.

The program started six years ago and turns 25 to 35 people each month into experienced eaters. Mastery of fine dining sets them back about \$20, but Marshall students can charge the class to their meal cards.

Tootie Carter went through the program a few times as an undergrad, and says he learned a few new things every time. It's okay to spit out food you don't like (as long as you do it discreetly), and it's not a food faux pas if you pick up chicken to eat it, he says.

"Now, I wouldn't pick up a Cornish game hen or anything, but you can just pick up fried or baked chicken and go to town on it," he says. "You have to use a knife and fork for everything else."

Senior Jarrod Keely dined as a requirement for another class.

"It's a good refresher course, even though I'll only use what I learned for special occasions. It will come in handy when I eat with a boss. No one wants to be a slob at the table."

Mom would be so proud.

By Sam Kusic, U. of Pittsburgh, Johnstown / Photo by Jon Rogers, Marshall U., Va



Murder by the Book

• **Culture of Caffeine** — Rutgers U. — Students perked up for this course chock full o' info about coffee, tea, Coke and chocolate.

• **Intercultural Communications** — California Polytechnic State U., Pomona — Give a shout out to all the stu-

dents in this class who compiled a dictionary of campus slang. For \$2, you too can have a copy of *Da Bomb! Dis Is Dope, Dude! Dig It!*

• **The Beatles: Their Music and Their Time** — U. of Southern California — We imagine it's a hard day's night in this class about the Fab Four.

• **Memoir Writing** — City U. of New York, Hunter College — Professors who write books about themselves teach students how to write books about — who else? — themselves. The diary must be dead.