

*Like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.*



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The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association | Fall 2010



Feel free to contact me with any suggestions, questions or concerns you might have.

Irene Q. Powell, coordinator  
Mount Family Association  
ipowell@msmary.edu  
301.447.3156

## College—A Foreign Land

Our students are intelligent, spiritual, engaged and energetic. Mounties, especially this year, are also diverse. Beyond race and gender, this crop of first year students comes from all over with a variety of backgrounds.

### BY THE NUMBERS, THE CLASS OF 2014 IS 72% CATHOLIC, AN INCREASE FROM YEARS PAST.

Though 2% of the incoming class chooses not to categorize themselves, almost a quarter say they are a member of a minority group: approximately 10% Hispanic, 8% African American and 4% Asian. This year we also have six American Indian students attending the Mount. Our Board of Trustees is pleased that we have reached a new high in enrolling minority students.

The Class of 2014 includes four international students from Canada, Australia, Ghana and Vietnam. It is not always politically correct today to use the term foreign students. Foreign does mean “pertaining to another country,” but it also implies alien, strange or unfamiliar and that is where perception can become a problem.

Bear with me as I digress for a moment—this summer, my husband and I enjoyed a marvelous week in Ontario, fishing and listening to the loons on the lake, but we could have been in any number of states in the U.S. Except for the occasional differences in spelling and the Tim Horton signs instead of Dunkin’ Donuts, we didn’t feel like we were in unfamiliar territory.

Yet, we have all felt like strangers at times even in our own country. For two first-year students, that may very well be the case. Let me introduce Andrew from rural Oregon and Dominique from New York City. I suspect that, for both of them – and many of their fellow students entering Mount St. Mary’s this fall, they are stepping into strange territory when they come to Emmitsburg.

### FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Andrew Roy’s home is the ranchland of eastern Oregon where it is 130 miles to the closest Walmart! He lives there with his parents who are transplanted Vermonters and his seven siblings. The family itself is quite diverse; some are adopted, some have disabilities, two are Native American brothers from the Paiute tribe and one is African American. None of them travel much further than beyond their bedroom door to get to school because they are a Catholic home-schooled family. Andrew brings his entrepreneurial skills to the Mount; he already has his own coffee roasting business and sells the beans at the local Farmer’s Market. Apparently this is not the only skill for Andrew, even though home-schooled, he made the Mount’s Division 1 Lacrosse Team with his outstanding play in Oregon’s excellent club Lacrosse league. The Mount is a long way from home but the good news for his Mom? He won’t be bringing home his laundry on the weekends.

*Continued on page 4.*

# Our Family

**STUDENT:** Louis D. Gibilisco, C'11, aka "Gigi"(for Luigi, Italian for Louis)

**MAJOR:** Music with minors in Theater and History

**HOMETOWN:** Newtown, Pennsylvania

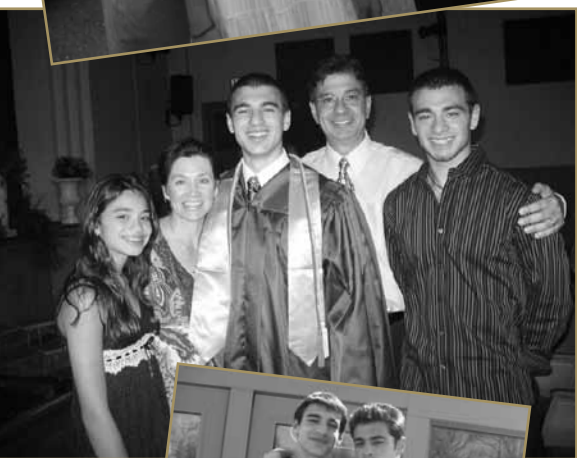
**HIGH SCHOOL:** Notre Dame High School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

**CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:** Track Team, Mount Theatre, Mount Chorale

**FUTURE GOALS:** A Masters degree in Music Education at the Mount before trying to break into "showbiz."

**PARENTS:** Lou and Debby Gibilisco. Lou is the performing arts administrator and music director at Notre Dame High School with plenty of personal stage and professional musician experience. Debby is an insurance adjuster by day and on the side is a choreographer, dance instructor, costume designer and professional singer.

**SIBLINGS:** Jenna (13) and Jaime (19)



## THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

The Gibilisco family is involved in playing both sports and instruments. They are all athletes and musicians. They could form a sports team as easily as a band. In high school, Gigi played football and basketball in addition to track, but also excelled musically. He plays all woodwind instruments, piano, percussion and is majoring in voice. Gigi comes by his talents honestly. Dad played four sports in high school. Mom was a NJ state runner up in gymnastics. Whether it's one of Lou's concerts or Debby's dance shows, the whole family is involved whether as performers, musicians, production staff, and/or audience supporters.

## THE BALANCING ACT FROM A MOM'S PERSPECTIVE

"Being an athlete has many demands and in itself can be a full time job. Adding the responsibility of academics and the workload that results from a student's course load can make things pretty dicey. The straw that breaks the camel's back is when you are also a performing artist. It has been a juggling act for both boys in high school and now for Gigi in college but it taught them the skill of time management. They've also learned to treat their bodies properly with rest and nourishment. Whether it's getting ready for a show, a track meet or an exam, it's all basically the same: practice, train, rehearse and study both the mental and physical skills and strategies needed.

We have told our children that God is the giver of all good gifts and He has blessed them in many areas. They are to use them for His glory and not to bury them. But with that comes a great responsibility. You can't use one and abuse the rest. When opening night is Friday, the track meet is Saturday, and your Prof schedules an exam for Monday, we tell them to take the time to look ahead at each day and plan each day so that there's a time to study, rehearse, practice, rest and eat....and maybe call us too!"

## MOUNT AS HOME—FROM A DAD'S PERSPECTIVE

"Gigi was a highly publicized and heavily recruited high school athlete so there were many visits to colleges and with coaches. We had a great time at the Mount with Coach Stevenson and loved the school but it appeared that the Mount didn't offer Gigi's major so the Mount was put on the back burner.

After a summer and fall of more trips, visits, and craziness, Gigi kept talking about the Mount. When we found out that a new M.A. Music Education Program had just been added, we immediately scheduled an official overnight visit with the track team. On the second day of the visit we toured the Fine Arts department in Flynn Hall and when we

*"Gigi has found excellence and success in a variety of pursuits as an outstanding student, musician, singer and athlete. I firmly believe that Gigi's family and their commitment to each other has instilled core values that have made Gigi the person he is today. He is a mature, well rounded citizen with a great moral compass and sense of commitment. He is certainly a person who we are extremely happy to have enrolled at the Mount and are anxiously awaiting his brother Jaime to arrive in the fall."*

*—Jim Stevenson, Track coach*

came out of the building, Gigi looked across campus at all of the sprawling farms and beautiful open landscape. He stopped for a moment, turned and calmly said to us, ‘I want to go here, this is it!’ He continued walking towards Patriot Hall. I walked over to see what abruptly brought this crazy process to a sudden halt! As I looked across Rt. 15, I realized Gigi saw the same things he has seen since he was a little boy from our front yard looking across Rt. 532 in Bucks County, Pa. I turned to my wife and said, ‘He saw home!’ And that’s what the Mount has been ever since...home! So much so that his younger brother Jaime told us earlier this year that he wanted to run, sing, and perform with his brother at the Mount. The same way they did when Gigi was home with him at Notre Dame High School.”

#### FROM THE STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE:

“I feel that keeping yourself busy in college is best; there is a lot of down time even for a student athlete,” according to Gigi. Academically, life at the Mount seems to agree with him, he’s improved his GPA to 3.75. Athletically, he is coming into his own. His Mount coach James Stevenson calls him, “quite an athlete.”

“Gigi was the #1 ranked indoor 500m and 800m runner in the Northeast Conference,” said Stevenson, and he was the number 1 ranked 400m hurdler in the conference.”

His ran his personal best in the 800m at the IC4A championships and became the second fastest of all time in Mount history in the 400 hurdles.

(The Mount track and field program spans 102 years, so that is no small feat or feet.)

#### COACH STEVENSON THINKS HE KNOWS WHY:

“Gigi has found excellence and success in many areas; as an outstanding student, musician, singer **and** athlete. I firmly believe that his family and their commitment to each other has instilled core values that make him the person he is today.”

#### CONTINUING THE TRADITION

When Gigi’s brother Jaime joins the Mount track team this year as a hurdler, he will bring along his musical talents as well – clarinet, trombone, piano, and voice. Jaime plans a history major and is already plugged into the Mount’s Pre-law program. Their younger sister Jenna, still in middle school, is keeping up the hectic family legend both on the athletic field and on stage.

#### TELLING TALES:

Home cooked meal I missed the most: “my Mom’s Buffalo chicken with broccoli. It is still the best thing anyone has ever cooked for me!”

#### HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION:

“I work for my old high school as head of an instrumental camp and as an acting teacher at the Performing Arts Summer Session. I also substitute and sometimes teach some of the music classes. It’s such a great experience; it’s what I love to do. I’m constantly surrounded by music and theater. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Coach Stevenson said it all, “We are extremely lucky to have Gigi (and soon his brother) enrolled at the Mount.” He’s a wonderful person with great talent.

We are all “extremely lucky” to have this wonderful family as part of our Mount Family Association.



*He is currently ranked in 4 of our all time top ten lists (and for a program that has existed at the Mount for 102 years, that’s quite an accomplishment). He is #2 in the 400m hurdles, #4 in the indoor 800m run, #6 in the indoor 500m run and still has 2 more years of eligibility and competition ahead of him.*

*He qualified for the IC4A (Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America) in the 400m hurdles, indoor 500m, indoor 800m and was a member of the indoor 4x800m relay team that qualified. The IC4A is a huge post season championship meet (also super-conference meet because it includes teams from many conferences including the Big Ten, ACC, Big East etc.) which includes 103 Division I programs in the east region between Maine and the Carolinas. Qualification standards are very high, way beyond what most athletes can achieve so for Gigi to participate in several events demonstrates his excellence and athleticism.*

*—Jim Stevenson, Track coach*

*Continued from cover.*

#### OUR CITY SAVVY STUDENT

Dominique Ridley is from the Big Apple; actually a Brooklyn brownstone to be more accurate. She is the middle child of five (plus 2 cats). Her school bus was the subway to Bishop Loughlin Memorial HS, a Catholic school with a reputation for successfully graduating many high achieving minority students. Dominique and her friends took full advantage of living near the “City” for dining out, movies and basketball games. In high school she was on the varsity track and field, cross country, and softball teams where all practices and events must be held in shared facilities located away from school grounds. Dominique was also a member of the band, debate and ambassadors clubs. She gets *her* coffee from Starbucks!

Embarking on college is unfamiliar turf for almost all freshmen. The experience can be unsettling. It can be foreign. This is a time for meeting new people; discovering what binds people together and learning ways to celebrate variety and diversity. College is especially a time for young people to reach out beyond their comfort zone. At the Mount we try and make every student feel at home as we welcome all students to the Mount!

What can you do as parents to help be supportive? Now is the time for you to simply listen more to your young adults and pray that all your talking and preaching from the past 4 years of high school has not fallen on deaf ears. The good news is you no longer have to be the problem solver! You are moving into new relationship territory with your offspring – a foreign land. This opens an exciting chapter in their lives and in yours. Enjoy it as we do, watching these young men and women be transformed. It is not easy but during this time may you find the strength of faith and may the Holy Spirit infuse us all with the wisdom and patience we need especially during these months of transition.



# Q and A

## THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

*Dear Ms. Ferpa*

*I recently overheard my daughter on the phone with a friend and she mentioned that she had to meet with the Dean of Students this past spring because of a Code of Conduct violation. I was shocked to hear this because when my son was caught with a beer as a freshman several years ago, I received a letter stating he had gone through the student conduct process. Why wasn't I contacted this time? How can I find out what happened? I am afraid this may be something very serious!*

*Sincerely,*

*Concerned and Confused*

Dear Concerned and Confused,

First, take a deep breath! You were not contacted because your daughter is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This federal act protects everything from your daughter's grades and transcripts to her student conduct record. You were contacted about your son's situation because FERPA and the Department of Education encourage universities to contact parents/guardians in underage-drinking situations, drug-involved situations, or when the student's health and safety may be in jeopardy. This means that in your daughter's situation she is either over the age of twenty-one, or her policy violation did not include drugs, alcohol or her personal health/safety.

I am surprised to hear that your daughter did not speak to you about the situation, because every time a student meets with officials about a conduct concern, the conversation includes how the student can and should speak with their parents. (Perhaps she was asking her friend about the best time to bring that up with Mom and Dad!) Your daughter could sign a waiver to allow the university to speak with you about the situation, but it is her choice and she must initiate that process.

You also may feel a little better when you consider that FERPA was not designed to keep secrets from parents, rather its intent is to protect your student's information from anyone who might be looking for her information without permission. Just as you would like to protect your personal information (i.e. social security number, financial information) universities need to protect all of your daughter's information. To learn more about FERPA, please visit the website for the Department of Education ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)) or the Mount's FERPA information page at [www.msmary.edu/ferpa](http://www.msmary.edu/ferpa).

Sincerely,

Ms. Ferpa



#### STAYING CONNECTED

*Recent alum Kyle Barbeau, C'10 attended the New York Generations Campaign Kick-Off Event with this parents.*

*L. to R.: Jennifer Soller, Dan Soller, Cindy Barbeau, Kyle Barbeau, C'10 and Terry Barbeau*

*Dear Ms. Ferpa,  
I'm still confused what if my son or daughter fails a class; will I be notified?*

Dear Concerned and Confused,  
No. Students will be notified of semester grades by mail at the end of the term (provided there are no financial holds on the account). Grades are also posted on your students' portal accounts.

You should encourage your student to contact his or her academic advisor regarding academic assistance at Learning Services as well as information on whether or not a student can (or should) repeat the course. The repeated course grade will be factored into the cumulative gpa; the original will be factored out (although the F grade will always stand on the transcript). No one can speak with a parent about academic matters (including grades) without the written consent of the student on the Permission to Release Educational Records form.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ferpa

*Ms. Ferpa,  
I thought we already signed a FERPA release?*

Dear Hopefully Less Confused,  
This does cause confusion because all students sign FERPA releases for Accounting and Finance, but the academic waiver is a separate document that governs academic issues only.

These forms are available on the website at [www.msmary.edu/academicforms](http://www.msmary.edu/academicforms).  
Again, I hope that clears up the confusion. I know it's complicated but the safeguards are in place to protect your son or daughter and the Mount does everything possible to make sure these important guidelines are followed.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ferpa

**A FAMILY'S MOUNT CONNECTION LIVES ON**  
Laurie Cotter (yearbook photo), Robert Nowicki and Therese Mullaney Draddy were all in a car accident on April 17, 1985. Laurie and Bob perished and Therese survived. Their deaths had a huge impact on this class preparing to graduate the next month. For the class' 25th reunion, the class raised funds and dedicated the St. Matthew window in the Kane Chapel. The Cotters attended the dedication service.

Peggy Tripp, C'85, and the sole survivor of the accident, Therese Mullaney Draddy, C'85, get together with Mr. Cotter for lunch every December to visit.

*Family members in attendance included Tom and Mary Cotter, daughter Colleen and her two children.*



## Contact Info

### Executive Vice President

301.447.7407  
Dan Soller  
soller@msmary.edu

### Academic Affairs

301.447.5333  
David Rehm, Provost  
rehm@msmary.edu  
Leona Sevick, Assoc.VP for Academic Affairs  
sevick@msmary.edu

### Accounting and Finance Office

301.447.5353  
Millie Valentine  
valentin@msmary.edu

### Admissions

301.447.5214 or 800.448.4347  
Mike Post  
admissions@msmary.edu

### Athletics

301.447.5296  
Lynne Robinson, Director of Athletics  
lrobinso@msmary.edu

### Campus Activities

301.447.5849  
Ken McVearry  
mcvearry@msmary.edu

### Campus Operator

301.447.6122

### Dean of Students

301.447.5848  
Mike Taberski  
taberski@msmary.edu

### Financial Aid

301.447.5207 or 800.448.4347  
David Reeder  
reeder@msmary.edu

### Health Services

301.447.5288  
Sue Sanders  
sanders@msmary.edu

### Office of the President

301.447.5600  
Thomas H. Powell  
powell@msmary.edu

### Public Safety

301.447.5357  
Barry Titler  
safety@msmary.edu  
\*Emergency # is 301-447-5911 (Please encourage your student to program this # into their cell phone.)

### Residence Life

301.447.5274  
Jen Lenfant, Assoc. Dir. of Residence Life  
lenfant@msmary.edu

### Transportation

Amtrak: 717.232.3313  
Greyhound: 301.663.3311, 717.255.6970  
BWI Airport Paging: 800.435.9294  
Van Shuttle Service to BWI is available through Public Safety. Stop by their office or call (301) 447-5357 to make a reservation or for more information. Round trip, \$80. One-way, \$50

### Medical

Frederick Hospital: 240.566.3300  
Gettysburg Hospital: 717.334.2121  
Poison Control: 800.492.2414

**Want to order a cake or care package for your son or daughter?**

Contact Dining Services at 301.447.5276

**Want to add money to your son or daughter's MountCard?**

Contact the MountCard Office at 301.447.5276



## MOUNT FAMILY ASSOCIATION CHAPLAIN

The National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes, is home to Fr. Bill Kaufman, chaplain for the Grotto and for the Mount Family Association. We are so happy to have Fr. Bill, not only is he an asset to the MFA but he is also an important part of the renaissance at the shrine above the campus.

If you have never seen the Grotto, take time on your next trip to walk the same pathways as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mount St. Mary's Founder, Fr. John DuBois. It is a truly sacred place devoted to Mary, our Mother, with gardens, walkways, and chapels; places for reflection and prayer. And while the Grotto doesn't claim to have miraculous water, many pilgrims believe there is truly healing power in underground springs running through the Shrine. Pilgrims from all over the world come to the Grotto to attend mass with Fr. Bill in the glass chapel and bring with them containers to take the water home with them.

Executive Director Bill Tronolone with help from Fr. Kaufman, are in the midst of an ambitious \$2.1 million fund raising campaign which will expand the Grotto to include a Visitor's Center, a plaza dedicated to Pope John Paul II and several more gardens and fountains. If you are interested in learning more about the Shrine, or to donate to this important project email Bill Tronolone: Tronolone@msmary.edu

All the seasons are beautiful on our scenic campus, but Fall and Spring at the Grotto give an especially spectacular view of the surrounding valley's from the top of Mary's Mountain. So, on your next trip to campus, make sure to visit the Shrine.

# Proyecto Elizabeth

A MOUNT SERVICE TRIP IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH DINUNZIO C '09

Elizabeth was a future Spanish teacher. Tragically, she lost her life in a jogging accident in April 2009 just two weeks shy of her graduation from Mount St. Mary's. There is no doubt in the minds and hearts of her family, friends and professors of her love of the Spanish language or the country of Costa Rica.

Her family, Melissa, Eric and Emily Painter, her aunt and cousin Beth and Brian Shoaf, formed the nucleus of a Mount sponsored group of travelers. We were intent on building sidewalks at a rural school in the Caribbean jungle in the tiny village of San Francisco. Blessed with favorable weather and infused with the spirit of the Mount, the work force labored in the heat and humidity of Costa Rica.

The crew included a diverse group from current Mount students, Gavin Masters and Jessica O'Connor all the way up to an alum from the Class of '66, Al Vertino.

Working alongside the local citizens the Mount force built a network of sidewalks to connect four small buildings. In the center, a plaque was placed to forever tie this tiny community with all its people, to Elizabeth DiNunzio and Mount St. Mary's.

Current elementary school teachers, Caitlin Masters, C'09, and Christina D'Agostino, C'09, appreciated the opportunity to interact in the three classrooms with 72 students ages 5 to 13. Caitlin had her Hispanic students from the States write and illustrate a book about the U.S. to share with the Costa Rican students. In return, the San Francisco "estudiantes" used their new supplies to write and illustrate something about their lives for Caitlyn to bring to her students back home.

A memorial service in honor of Elizabeth was held in the shade of the school grounds attended by the children and their parents. The local families arranged fresh tropical flowers which set the tone for the hymns and prayers and tears.

The group left the small village to continue following in Elizabeth's "footsteps" visiting the Arenal Volcano area; her favorite vacation spot in Costa Rica.



*Clockwise, starting left: Emily Painter distributing gifts of school supplies; Marvin Stocker and Mrs. Giovanny Cubillo; the plaque in place with flowers; work group with locals*



# Mount Family Association Summer Scrapbook



WASHINGTON, D.C. MIDSUMMER MOUNT MINGLE  
August 1, 2010, hosted by Msgr. Godfrey Mosley at St. Ann's Catholic Church.  
L. to R.: Kristin O'Donnell, C'12; Hilary O'Donnell, C'83; Maria Caro, Parent; Antonio Caro, C'14; Ana Caro



PHILADELPHIA MIDSUMMER MOUNT MINGLE  
August 8, 2010  
L. to R.: Ed Egan, C'77, Director of the Mount's Pre-Law program and proprietor of Shanachie's Pub in Ambler, PA, Tim and Judi Dunn parents of Rachel Dunn (C14), Denise and Maureen Howard (C14), and Irene Powell, coordinator of the Mount Family Association.



BALTIMORE MIDSUMMER MOUNT MINGLE  
August 8, 2010, hosted by Denise Whiting at Café Hon  
Members of the Class of 2014 in attendance—back row: Lindsay Diaz, Martina Howard, Olivia Kramer, Sean Katchmar, Phil Dunsdon; front row: Lauran Howard, Katie Ray



## NY MIDSUMMER MOUNT MINGLE

July 18, 2010

Above: James Mahoney C'14 on left, Mary Henry C'14 and Drew Carrick C'14; On deck, from left: James Mahoney, Mary Henry and Drew Carrick; On grass, from left: parent Cathy Henry, Mike, dean of students, & Melissa Taberski, parents Greg & Carol Griffiths, Theresa Mahoney behind parent Jim Carrick, also seated, Mary Griffiths C'13, and standing to the right of banner; young alums, Matt McSherry C'08, Liz Trentacoste C'09, Erin Canning C'09

# Fall 2010 Schedule

**October 9-17: Fall Break**

**October 25-29: Advising Week**

**November 24-28: Thanksgiving**

**December 13-17: Final Exams**

## FALL BREAK IS OCTOBER 9-17

Residence Halls close at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 8.

## THANKSGIVING BREAK IS NOVEMBER 24-28

Residence Halls close at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23.

## FINAL EXAMS ARE DECEMBER 13-17

The campus has a very different feel and tempo during finals week. The quiet hours for residence halls are in effect 24 hours per day beginning Friday, December 10. We strive to work with students to be respectful of the needs of the community in preparation for exams.

# New Fitness Facility

Students come to the Mount in much better shape than they used to and they want to stay that way. So, when the Student Government Association asked to if it was feasible to increase fees to build a new fitness facility at the ARCC, the answer was an overwhelming thumbs up.

Today it is a reality. Doors opened on the Mount's new two story Fitness Center in what used to be three of four racquetball courts. Crews began in May and worked day and night to complete the center by the time school opened.

"We had a goal to get this project finished this summer and thanks to all the hard work and dedicated workers, we did it," says Denise Ditch, the Mount's Director of Recreational Services & Operations.

The new facility includes 21 cardio machines and a designated stretching area with stability balls, stretching mats and tubing. The lower level includes free weights, two half cages for squats, workout machines, a fixed barbell area and two functional trainers.

"People are really going to like the new space and accessibility to the equipment," says Lisa Martin, the Mount's Fitness Coordinator.

When on campus stop over and check out the new facility. You will be impressed on what the Mount accomplished in just one summer.



- A New Fitness Facility
- Mount Family Association Chaplain Trip
- Proyecto Elizabeth, a Mount Service Q&A with FERPA
- Our Family: Louis D. Gibilisco, C'11
- Letter from the Coordinator

*Fall 2010 Issue*

The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association



Faith | Discovery | Leadership | Community

16300 Old Emmitsburg Road  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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