



## **GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY**

**THE MERCY UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY**

900 Lakewood Avenue  
Lakewood, New Jersey 08701  
732-987-2373 or 732-987-2345  
[georgian.edu/arboretum](http://georgian.edu/arboretum)

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Open 8am to dusk daily (during non-pandemic times) except during major university events.

Admission is free. The public is welcome to visit.

Policies and information about the tree collection are on our website.

**May 2021 Edition**



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### DEDICATION OF THE ARBORETUM SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR BOOKLET

This edition of the self-guided walking tour booklet is dedicated to longtime Georgian Court art faculty members, painters, and Department of Art chairpersons, Sisters Mary Christina Geis and Mary Phyllis Breimayer. Sister Christina was The Court's longstanding art historian, authoring *Georgian Court: An Estate of the Gilded Age*, sharing her watercolor skills with hundreds of students, and spending countless hours supervising groundskeepers as they worked to keep the historic gardens in immaculate condition. Sister Phyllis was best known for being a constant source of cheerful encouragement for her students, instilling confidence in them, pushing them to do their best, showing them how to paint nature, and bringing them to the annual Arboretum Ceremony to explain their paintings of plants to the audience.

### DEDICATION OF THE ARBORETUM

Sister Mary Grace (1901-1988) was the chairperson of the Department of Biology and a professor of biology from 1927 to 1968. She earned a bachelor's degree from Georgian Court College, and master's and doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of America. She was an excellent and enthusiastic teacher, whether she was teaching an entrance-level biology course or a research seminar for senior biology majors. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and she shared it with her students. In 1968 Sister Marcy Grace left Georgian Court to teach at Mount Saint Mary in Plainfield, New Jersey, but she kept her keen interest in Georgian Court, even commuting from Plainfield to teach a histology course.

It is appropriate that this arboretum be named in her honor because Sister Mary Grace knew so much about the trees at Georgian Court and taught so many students how to identify them. But she had more than scientific knowledge about the trees; she cared about them and about all the other plants on campus. Graduates will remember her planting flowers in window boxes outside her laboratory in the spring and raking the leaves in the fall. She worked hard to make the Japanese Garden beautiful, planted trees behind the Casino, and trimmed the lawns of Hamilton Hall. Most of the courses she taught were in advanced biology: Histology, Comparative Anatomy and Genetics. In addition to her thorough and dedicated teaching, Sister Mary Grace will be remembered by her colleagues and by her students for her love of God's creation and the outdoors, and in particular her love for the Georgian Court campus.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Sister Mary Grace Burns Arboretum of Georgian Court University, acting in harmony and interdependence with all creation through sustainable landscaping practices, has the mission of preserving and enhancing the unique botanical heritage of the former Georgian Court estate and the historic landscape elements of its gardens, while promoting its use for education, research, enjoyment and inspiration. Species added to the four historic gardens augment the gardens' authenticity. The New Jersey Pinelands flora is maintained and expanded. Additions to the arboretum include species that provide interesting colors, textures and fragrances throughout the year. Collections are developed that build upon the botanical strengths of the grounds and are integrated with the historic statues, sculptures, fountains, and other elements that give the landscape its unique character.

## INTRODUCTION

Lakewood, New Jersey, is situated in the northeastern corner of the Pine Barrens, or Pinelands, a unique natural area covering over 1 million acres of the Outer Coastal Plain in southern and central New Jersey. The soils are sandy, acidic, and nutrient-poor. The native vegetation is dominated by a pine-oak forest and a shrub community of ericaceous plants such as mountain laurel and blueberry.

European settlers displaced the Lenni-Lenape people from the land starting in the 1600s. In the late 1800s, Lakewood was a fashionable winter resort. It was close enough to New York City and Philadelphia to be easily reached by rail, and offered “fresh pine air” and lakes for recreation. The Vanderbilts and Rockefellers, among others, spent much time in Lakewood.

Georgian Court University was formerly the winter home of George Jay Gould, millionaire son of railroad tycoon Jay Gould. The land for the estate was purchased by George Gould in 1896. Bruce Price, the famous New York architect, was hired that same year to transform the newly purchased land into a lavish country estate. Gould and Price agreed that the style of the buildings and surrounding grounds would be that of an English estate of the Georgian period; therefore, it was named Georgian Court.

Groundbreaking for the Georgian-style Mansion took place in January 1897. The Goulds moved into the incomplete building in December 1897, and work was finally completed in December 1898. The Stable Complex (now Raymond Hall) and the Gatekeeper’s Lodge (now called the Gatehouse) were part of the original construction. The Casino was completed in December 1899.

Bruce Price also designed three of the four major gardens within the estate. The natural surroundings dictated the form of the gardens, and the gardens tied the buildings together harmoniously.

The **Classic** or **Italian Gardens** extend from the Casino to Lake Carasaljo. The design of the gardens was influenced by formal European gardens, particularly those of Versailles in France.

The **Sunken Garden** or **Lagoon** was designed around its connection to Lake Carasaljo. It is next to the south end of the Italian Gardens, between the Apollo Fountain and the Mansion.

The **Formal Garden** is between the Mansion and what was then the Stable Complex. Flower beds enclosed by boxwood hedges are connected by mazelike paths and hold perennials.

As a birthday gift for his wife Edith, George hired the noted garden designer Takeo Shiota to design the **Japanese Garden**. Shiota came to the United States in 1907 and was considered to be the best in his field. The garden covers less than an acre next to (south of) Maria Hall and west of the Italian Gardens.

The sandy soils of the New Jersey Pine Barrens were not conducive to the cultivation of the exotic, non-native plants the Goulds had planned for the estate gardens. To provide the rich topsoil needed, 5,000 train carloads of fine loam were brought to Georgian Court from Monmouth County. Although the gardens contain non-native plants, they also contain native pinelands trees dating from the same era. Thus, the Gould-era gardens were planted around native trees, which are integrated into each garden.

George Gould died in 1923, and Kingdon Gould, the eldest heir and executor of his father's estate, proceeded with plans to sell Georgian Court. The Sisters of Mercy of North Plainfield, New Jersey, were looking for a larger campus to house their growing College of Mount Saint Mary, which had been founded in 1908. When advised of the availability of the land and buildings in Lakewood, they bought the estate from the Gould heirs and moved the college to Lakewood. The family is said to have requested that the name of the estate be retained. So, in spring 1924, the Gould estate became Georgian Court College. The entire campus became a National Historic Landmark in 1985. Georgian Court College became Georgian Court University on February 27, 2004.

## HOW TO USE THIS SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR BOOKLET

When the arboretum walking tour was originally established in 1989, a series of Stations were established, each marked by a wooden post with a large letter on a black plaque, beginning with "A" and continuing through "O". Station A is located along the sidewalk from the large parking lot (parking lot "A") to the entrance of Jeffries Hall. Following the introduction below, the text of this booklet is arranged by Station in alphabetical order. If you follow the stations you will see the historic features of the George Gould estate's gardens and will finish in Oak Knoll, close to parking lot A. Because the arboretum is an integral part of the university campus, there are few signs marking arboretum features. It is recommended that you bring with you, or access online, a copy of the arboretum two-page color brochure, which includes a map showing the location of the stations and other landscape features of interest, available at [georgian.edu/arboretum](http://georgian.edu/arboretum). You may also wish to use a copy of the Georgian Court University campus map showing building and parking lot names, downloadable from [georgian.edu](http://georgian.edu). Maps may also be available from the Security Gatehouse at the Main Entrance of the university off of Ninth Street in Lakewood. The arboretum website is [georgian.edu/arboretum](http://georgian.edu/arboretum). If you need emergency assistance while on the grounds, please contact Georgian Court University Safety at 732-987-2611.

## Station A

# JEFFRIES HALL

*(formerly the Arts and Science Center)*

The Arts and Science Center was constructed in 1964 to meet the needs of the rapidly growing college. It has been the main academic building since that time. It was renamed Jeffries Hall in honor of Sister Rosemary E. Jeffries, who served as the eighth president of Georgian Court from 2001 through 2015.

We begin our tour here. Opposite the front entrance of the building is a **Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)**. Just across the road from the entrance to Jeffries Hall is the university's Peace Pole, installed in 2001 as part of the inauguration events for Sister Rosemary Jeffries. "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is written in a number of languages representing the ancestry of the university's faculty, staff and students. The large, open grassy expanse of large trees behind the Peace Pole is known as Oak Knoll and contains a wide range of tree species, including **White Oak (*Quercus alba*)**, **Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana* = *Q. prinus*)**, **Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)**, **Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)**, and **Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)**. There are also several old **Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)** trees. The predominance of old individuals of oaks and pines makes this part of the arboretum similar to the oak-pine forest typical of natural areas in this part of the New Jersey Pinelands. The **White Oak** trees labeled (***Quercus alba* 'Edith Gould'**) are offspring of the giant **White Oak** that is next to the library and visible at Station B. As part of the university's sustainability program, most of the Oak Knoll is being mowed infrequently to allow more plant species to flourish and to provide a more natural habitat for wildlife.

To get to Station B, follow the sidewalk in front of Jeffries Hall to the covered brick walkway. You may want to stop at the NJ Native Plant Garden to your right. Then, go to the left around the large building in front of you, which is the library/student lounge complex. When you go past the library entrance, enjoy the small deer-resistant library garden in front, created and maintained by library staff members. Station B is along the road just past the west end of the library.

## Station B

# OLD GOLF COURSE

Standing on a portion of the former polo field and golf course are Jeffries Hall (1964, formerly the Arts and Science Center), Mercy Center (1988), Sister Mary Joseph Cunningham Library and adjoining Patrick and Julia Gavan Student Lounge (1993) and Court Cafe (expanded 2006), and Wellness Center and adjoining University Bookstore (2008). In the Gould era, George Bellows was inspired to paint three paintings after watching polo matches played here. One, *Polo Crowd*, was sold to Bill Gates for over \$27,500,000 at a Sotheby's auction in 1999.

Adjacent to the Wellness Center, bookstore and library is a large field in the center of which stands a **White Oak (*Quercus alba*)** that dates from the mid-1700s. This is believed to be the largest white oak in Ocean County. It is protected by a fence. Some of its offspring are planted in Oak Knoll and elsewhere on campus. George and Edith Gould spent many a happy afternoon

playing golf in this field. In 1921, however, Edith collapsed on the fifth tee not far from the oak and died shortly thereafter.

Standing at the Station Marker, look to your left and notice the **Bigleaf Linden** trees (*Tilia platyphyllos*) that line the road behind the Casino. Most were planted around 1930. The former golf course now serves as soccer fields.

Leaving Station B, with your back to the Station Marker, slightly to your left is a small garden known as the Puny Garden, created by Sister Mary Bilderback. Between the Puny Garden and the Casino are four types of deciduous woody plants that deserve mention: the shrub **Deutzia** (*Deutzia sp.*), and the small trees **Sapphireberry** (*Symplocos paniculata*) and **Japanese Tree Lilac** (*Syringa reticulata*). All three have white flowers. **Sapphireberry** has beautiful sapphire-blue fruit in early autumn. Proceed along the road next to the Casino. The Casino will be on your right, and the Oak Knoll will be on your left.

The Casino was at first called Bachelor's Court and was formally opened in December 1899. The exterior is English Georgian, like the other buildings on the estate, with trim in terra-cotta brick, marble, and wood to match the Mansion. Above the huge wooden doors, notice the large sculpture, which is a replica of Henri Regnault's 1868 painting of *Automedon with the Horses of Achilles*. Inside the Casino was a huge tanbark ring where the polo ponies could exercise. This area is now a gymnasium with a stage at one end. Over this ring are archways and balconies where guests can watch the activities below.

In this same building were bowling alleys, a racquets court, a tennis court for court tennis, a squash court, a billiard room, and a swimming pool with marble walls and benches. There is also a ballroom with crystal chandeliers. Generous donors enabled the ballroom, bowling alleys, and tennis court to be restored between 2000 and 2010.

As you walk along the road, notice the **Chestnut Oak** (*Quercus montana* = *Q. prinus*), **Black Oak** (*Quercus velutina*), and **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*), three native species very common in the Pine Barrens. As you follow the road, it curves to the right to pass in front of the Casino. On your left will be a lion, a Gould family symbol.

Continuing along the road leading to Station C (before you get to the brick path leading to the entrance of the Casino), notice a lamp designed by Bruce Price.

On either side of the brick path leading to the Casino there are two different cultivars of **Moss** (**Sawara**) **Cypress** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*). The cultivar on the left is 'Aurea', and the one on the right is 'Squarrosa Cyano-viridis'. As you admire the Casino building exterior, notice the numerous small lions that are part of the top exterior Casino wall.

## Station C

# ITALIAN GARDENS

The Italian Gardens were inspired by the famous formal gardens of Italy. Notice how flat, symmetrical and open the gardens are. From the Apollo Fountain, which can be seen at Station F, three roads radiate toward the Casino. Smaller paths, originally bordered with arborvitae, lead to a smaller circular area in the center of the garden in which the giant Eagle and Dragon

Sculpture now stands, mounted on large boulders. According to *The American Blacksmith* (Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 1901), this wrought iron sculpture was ordered by Emperor William II for the German Section at the Paris Exposition of 1900. The journal says that the sculpture was conceived by Fritz Hausman and forged by the Armbruster Brothers of Frankfurt. It adds that the eagle represents liberty and truth triumphing over oppression and superstition, represented by the dragon. Tiffany & Company bought the sculpture, and then sold it to the Goulds. You'll see it again at Station D.

In these gardens are original and replicated art works from several European countries, including fountains, ornate chairs, figures symbolizing the seasons, and floral urns mounted on marble pedestals. The urns are planted with geraniums during the growing season. Near the Casino are two large semicircular pergolas with Tuscan columns, marble benches and statuary.



As you face the Station Marker, on your right there is a large **Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)**.

Behind you, on the Casino side of the road, is a **Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)**, and to its left, next to the Casino wall, are tall male and female **American Holly trees (*Ilex opaca*)**, side by side.

Proceeding toward the west side of the gardens just as the road turns in front of Saint Joseph Hall (built in 1961), pause and admire the grove of **Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*)** on the left, and the large straight **Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)** on the right side of the road. Just south of the front door of Saint Joseph Hall are a **White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)** and **Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)**. North of the door is a **Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)**.

As you walk down the hill, don't miss the old, large native **Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)** and **White Oak (*Quercus alba*)** trees in the Italian Gardens. In the open space of the gardens, their true natural shape can be enjoyed.

## Station D

# EAGLE AND DRAGON SCULPTURE

As you stand facing the Station Marker, you can see the Eagle and Dragon Sculpture, which is in a small circular area at the center of the Italian Gardens. Although not classical in nature, it blends in beautifully with the garden as a whole. The statues around the sculpture represent the four seasons.

Behind you is Maria Hall, built in 1967. In the Gould era, there was a row of **Norway Spruces (*Picea abies*)** lining the entire length of the roads on both sides of the Italian Gardens. Over the years, many have died and have been replaced by a variety of other conifers.

As you face the sculpture, you see nearest you in the grove to the right some **Moss (*Sawara*) Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)**. Two groves of **Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)** were planted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Italian Gardens. One was planted just beyond and northeast of the Eagle toward the building facing the road (Farley Center), and the other was

planted to your right, next to the walking path that is just south of the fire hydrant near the fish fountain. In the 1990s, these trees became infected with the **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** (*Pseudotsuga tsugae*), an Asian insect accidentally introduced into the United States many years ago. At this writing, some of the trees in these groves have been killed by the adelgid, and the rest are in decline. To replace them with trees that would not be killed by the insect, **Italian Cypress** trees (*Cupressus sempervirens*) were planted underneath the dying hemlocks in 1999. This was the first species native to Italy that was planted in the Italian Gardens. Most of the other young trees in this and the other gardens, fenced to protect them from deer, are offspring of the old garden trees, and are therefore genotypes adapted to this environment.

Before you turn right to go to the Japanese Garden, on your left, against a grove of short, dense conifers, you will see a large ornately carved old dry fountain topped by a small bronze chubby male child figure with wings. This figure is a replica of Andrea del Verrocchio's *Putto with Dolphin*, which was sculpted in the late 1400s for the Medici Villa at Careggi, Italy.

## Station E

# JAPANESE GARDEN



Please phone GCU Safety at 732-987-2611 if the entrance gate is locked during hours it is supposed to be open.

As was mentioned in the introduction, this beautiful garden was designed by Takeo Shiota and given as a birthday gift to Edith Gould by her husband George.

Leave the Station Marker and walk toward the garden entrance. On your right you will pass some of the many **Common Lilac** shrubs (*Syringa vulgaris*), then a **Goldenchain Tree** (*Laburnum anagyroides*). Open the gate in the fence, erected in the mid-2000s to keep out deer, and enter the garden. Please close the gate behind you. A **Paperbark Maple** (*Acer griseum*) with its unusual bark is to your right. In front of you are a variety of Japanese maples. A few are old and date from the Gould era, whereas others were planted in 2013 to replace three Japanese maples killed during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Several old, native oak and pine trees at the entrance and on the sides and back of the garden were left standing when the garden was created, providing shade and the illusion that the garden had been present long before the 1900s.

Cross the large bridge to your right (the first of four in the garden) and walk through the gateway or *udegimon*. Notice the stone lanterns along the way. The teahouse, or *sukiya*, is genuine, and is believed to have been purchased from the Japan-British Exhibition of 1910. To your right, before you reach the teahouse, is an arrangement of rocks and stones called a *tsukubai*. The bowl-shaped indentation in the large rock is called a *chozubachi* and is for washing hands and face. Between it and the front stone, on which a guest stands, is a “sea” of chestnut-sized pebbles (*kuri-ishi*) for drainage. The large stone on the left is for the placement of a handheld candlestick (*te-shoku*), and that on the right is used to hold a bucket of warm water for replacing the water in the basin. Behind the *tsukubai*, between the teahouse and the fence, is a **Japanese Cherry** (*Prunus serrulata*).

The small structure that resembles a bus stop on the left of the gate, along the fence, is a waiting area, or *machiiai*, meant for people to sit in while waiting for the tea ceremony. In front of it is a

**Hinoki Falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*)**. On the island in the center of the garden is an unusual **Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*)**. Behind the teahouse is a **Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*)**.

The garden path or *roji* passes over a stone bridge as it continues toward the back of the garden and around to the left. The stone bridge extends over a streambed. A system of water pipes makes it possible to create a small waterfall that cascades over the rocks on the small hill behind the umbrella pine and runs into the streambed. The rocks you see are not native to the sandy Pine Barrens and are part of the topographic diversity common in this garden.

Continue around to the south side of the garden. Walk up a few steps and you will pass through a small grove of Asiatic maple trees, yucca, and camellias, and to your right, you will note several **Weeping Higan Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*)** trees. On your left is a **Korean Rhododendron (*Rhododendron mucronulatum*)**, whose beautiful purple flowers open as early as February.

Once you have left the garden and are back at the Station Marker, look across the road to the Italian Gardens. Along the gravel path are two different species: **Oriental Arborvitae (*Platycladus orientalis*)**, with its flattened golden branches, to the east next to the Putto with Dolphin, and **Moss (Sawara) Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)**, which is greener, to the west. The *C. pisifera* cultivar 'Filifera' has long, filamentous, fingerlike drooping branches.

Turn and walk toward the fountain, and proceed past Founders' Grove, which is to the right. This grove was established by the founders of the arboretum, whose work culminated in the dedication of the arboretum in 1989. Trees planted by the founders include **Japanese Pagodatree or Chinese Scholar tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)**, **Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*)**, **Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*)**, **Weeping Norway Spruce (*Picea abies f. pendula*)**, **Franklinia (*Franklinia alatamaha*)**, **Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)**, and **Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)**. The *Franklinia* deserves special mention: discovered growing along the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia and named for Benjamin Franklin, this species has not been seen in the wild since the early 1800s. A member of the tea family, the tree has large white fragrant flowers in late summer and outstanding fall leaf color.

Further back in Founders' Grove are trees that came from the American Forests Famous and Historic Tree collection, which contains the offspring of trees that played a part in famous historic events or were associated in some way with famous people. The arboretum has an **Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)** [Clara Barton's home in Maryland], **Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*)** [Patrick Henry's home in Virginia], **Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)** [Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Virginia], **Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)** [tree in Mississippi that grew from seeds taken into space as part of Apollo XIV's mission], and **Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)** [George Washington Carver's birthplace in Missouri].

As you walk toward the Apollo Fountain and the next station, notice the centuries-old ornate urns at the end of the Italian Gardens. On your right, you will pass part of the **Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)** collection. Other members of the collection are located in Founders' Grove.

## Station F

### APOLLO FOUNTAIN



This was another birthday gift from George to Edith Gould. It was unveiled at her birthday party in 1902. The statuary, containing the Apollo figure, chariot, sea horses, cherubs and fish, was sculpted by John Massey Rhind. The Apollo Fountain in the gardens at Versailles apparently had a strong influence on the design. Water for the fountain, which is turned on for special occasions, is drawn from Lake Carasaljo. To your left, behind the exquisitely detailed Renaissance-style bench, is the **Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)** collection, which offers sweetly fragrant flowers from July through September.

As you walk to your right around the circle, notice another Renaissance-style bench. To the right (west) of the circle is a huge old candelabra-shaped **Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)**, and a **Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*)** donated in honor of the first 90 years of sponsorship of Georgian Court University by the Sisters of Mercy. Directly behind the fountain (south) are two **Flowering Crabapple (*Malus* sp.)** trees, donated by the Class of 1969.

## Station G

### SUNKEN GARDEN AND LAGOON

The Sunken Garden, with its lagoon connecting it to Lake Carasaljo, is the most lavish of the three gardens designed by Bruce Price. As you approach the entrance to the garden, look at the interesting sculpted details near the base of the four eight-foot marble urns on either side of the road. Turning into the garden from the main road, notice the pair of lions facing each other at the entrance. Lions are a recurring symbol throughout the estate; they can be seen at the main entrance to the garden and at the lower level of the lagoon. Continuing to the first level of the garden, you will come upon a 17th-century marble fountain. This fountain is an original, from a garden in southern France. As you move to the lowest level or lagoon level, you are descending part of a double marble staircase flanked again by lions. The lagoon itself connects to Lake Carasaljo under a bridge designed by Bruce Price. Notice how appropriately the bridge fits into the garden setting. Also of interest in this area are the carved marble benches, which are copies of benches in the Vatican Garden. A part of the 1974 *Amityville Horror* movie was filmed here.

Standing at the Station Marker on the road, you will see **Moss (Sawara) Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*)** on either side of the garden entrance. Also notice the **Oregon Grapeholly (*Mahonia aquifolium*)** at the base of the *Chamaecyparis* at the left.

With your back to the Station Marker, look across the road and you will see two **Crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*)** on either side of the shrine. In the sunken grassy area behind the shrine is the holly collection, plus a **Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)** and **Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)**. The **Striped Maple** is named for its green and white striped bark. The university's only female **Ginkgo biloba** is to the far end of the grassy area behind the shrine.

Continuing on your tour, look to your left to see the giant-leaved **Ashe's Magnolia (*Magnolia ashei*)**, which produces dinner-plate sized fragrant white flowers in late May and early June. Detour to the left past this magnolia if you want to see the Magnolia collection, which is next to the road, then return to the **Ashe's Magnolia**.

After you pass the "one way" sign, you will notice the Mansion on your right with its distinctive circular lawn in front. Part of the road is a driveway leading to the Mansion door, and the other continues on your left, bringing you to the Formal Garden and Station H, from which you can view the Mansion exterior in its entirety from a distance.



## Station H

# MANSION

The Mansion was the residence of the Gould family during the winter. The exterior of the fifty-room Georgian-style building features broken pediments, wrought-iron balconies and terra-cotta. The windows and doorways are accented with white wood and marble trim. The high French-style roof with pedimented dormers and tall brick chimneys allows for a roomy third floor and a smaller, additional fourth floor. The north façade or front of the Mansion features a "porte-cochere." This protects the main entrance-way, which is constructed with wrought-iron grillwork and heavy glass.

If you wish, you can follow the brick sidewalk to the right around the Mansion to view the south side (back) of the building, where a spacious veranda overlooks a broad lawn, dominated by **White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)**, **Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)**, and **Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)**. The pines were planted and maintained for the "healthful" pine-scented air sought by the Gould family. On this side of the mansion, don't miss the two bronze sculptures of falconers, which date from 1876 and 1878 and were made by the Russian sculptor Eugene A. Lansere (Evgeni Alexandrovich Lanceray).

The interior of the Mansion is in itself a work of art, but that is the subject of another tour. Once used as a residence for students and for the Sisters of Mercy, the Mansion is now the setting for many university functions. The front of the Mansion is lined with a fenced row of azaleas and rhododendrons, which produce a spectacular show of color in April and May.

Standing at the Station Marker, notice the two **American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)** trees in front of you inside the Formal Garden. A female holly tree is on the left and a male is on the right.

This might be a good time to take a leisurely walk through the garden, which we'll learn more about at the next Station. If you do, return to Station Marker H to continue the tour.

Walking around the circle toward Station I, notice the tall upright **Yew (*Taxus*)** on your left.

## Station I

# FORMAL GARDEN AND SEVENTH STREET GATE

At this Station, the Seventh Street Gate, which was the entrance for guests and family, is to your right. To the left of the gate is the Gatekeeper's Lodge. It was the first building completed at Georgian Court. The gray stucco building with white wood trim and marble balustrades housed the Gould butler and general overseer of supplies for the estate. To the right of the gate is a rose garden that was created and maintained by Sister Maria Cordis Richey until 2015.



The Formal Garden is an elliptical flower garden with 18 small flower beds. Mazelike walks and boxwood hedge borders add to the precise layout of three identically-sized groups of five beds to the north, east and west. In the center of the east-west groups of beds is a group of three beds encircling a bronze sculpture of three satyrs holding a sundial. The sculpture of the satyrs is a replica of part of a pair of identical fountains cast in 1670 by Pierre LeGros and found in the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles along the Allee d'Eau between the Dragon Fountain and the Bath of the Nymphs of Diana. Daffodils, irises, peonies, Russian sage and lavender are the main plantings in the Formal Garden.

Continue around the Formal Garden toward Raymond Hall and the next Station. On your left, between the Formal Garden and the road, are one male and one female holly tree that grew up so close together that some of their branches have fused to each other. If you look carefully, you will see that some branches (from the male tree) have no berries, and others (from the female tree) have many berries. Further along, on your right, you will pass a **Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)**.

## Station J

# RAYMOND HALL

As you stand facing the Station Marker and the Formal Garden, notice that the Mansion, Formal Garden and Raymond Hall are in perfect alignment on a north-south axis. The Seventh Street Gate, Formal Garden and Apollo Fountain are also in perfect alignment, but on an east-west axis. This was part of Bruce Price's symmetrical design for the estate.



Turn and face Raymond Hall. During the time of the Gould family, this building was the Stable Complex. The second floor housed numerous coaches and carriages, and an elevator moved the vehicles downstairs when they were needed. When the building was finished in 1897, there was a huge water-storage tower over the main entrance. In 1932, fire destroyed the tower and the central part of the building. The damaged part of the building was rebuilt with an altered entrance but without a tower. Raymond Hall now houses dining facilities, classrooms, and offices.

As you approach the glass doors, notice the two **Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)** on either side of the entrance. They were planted in the 1950s.

Walk through the double set of glass doors into the courtyard. This was originally the paddock for the horses. The buildings on either side were part of the original structure, and the McAuley Heritage Center at the opposite end was originally the Catholic church of Lakewood. It was donated to the Sisters of Mercy in 1924 by Monsignor R. Spillane, and moved to its present location on a series of broad-treaded wheels pulled by 10 teams of horses. It was attached to a permanent foundation, and trim was added to match the existing buildings. In the center of the courtyard is a bust of Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy.

Pass to the right of the McAuley Heritage Center. If you then make a sharp right, passing behind Raymond Hall, you will see a demonstration Rain Garden installed in 2012 to retain stormwater on-site instead of having it go into a storm drain that empties into Lake Carasaljo and, ultimately, Barnegat Bay. To continue on the arboretum tour, go up the concrete steps next to the right (east) side of the McAuley Heritage Center, and you will pass a **Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)**, **Amur Chokecherry (*Prunus maackii*)**; notable for its coppery bark), and large **Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)**. Stop to admire the small fenced garden donated by Jose Lopez. Continue walking to Station K.

## Station K

### BACK OF McAULEY HERITAGE CENTER/ MERCEDDES HALL

As you stand facing the Station Marker, Mercedes Hall is directly behind you. This house was donated to then-college in 1929 and modified to match the other buildings. It now houses classrooms and offices.

In the center of the circle beside Mercedes Hall, notice the circular fenced Chapel Garden (tended by Sister Maria Cordis Richey for many decades, until 2015) with a variety of annuals and perennials, and tall **Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)**. The east side of Mercedes Hall along the ramp is planted with hydrangeas, rose, **Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)**, hellebores, irises, and other perennials. Again facing the Station Marker, notice the **Winged Euonymous (*Euonymous alatus*)** to the left, and the dogwoods in the vicinity. Continue walking up the road, uphill, stopping at Station L next to the short concrete walkway.

## Station L

### SISTER MARY GRACE BURNS MEMORIAL

This station is the memorial to Sister Mary Grace Burns, the first chairperson of the Department of Biology. As was mentioned in the dedication, Sister Mary Grace spent many hours planting, maintaining, and identifying trees on the campus. This site was chosen because of the many beautiful and unusual trees in this area.

Next to the Station Marker is a **Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)**. To your right, notice the **Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)**. To the left is a beautiful old **Atlas Blue Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* var. *glauca*)**, native to Africa. Behind the memorial, a **Dunstan Hybrid** of the **American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)** was planted in 2000. The **American Chestnut** was virtually eliminated by a fungus accidentally introduced to the United States in 1904. A specimen of the species that is the other parent of the Dunstan Hybrid, the **Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*)**, is planted a short distance away, southeast of the memorial. Just beyond the **Dunstan Hybrid** is a small fenced garden featuring about a dozen plant species native to the New Jersey pinelands, including **Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)** and **Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*)**. Among the trees in the grassy area between Mercedes Hall and Farley Center behind you are a **Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)**, so named for its bottlebrush-shaped white inflorescences, **River Birch (*Betula nigra*)**, **Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)**, **Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)**, **Pigmy Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida* 'Nana')**, **Planetree Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)**, and **Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)**.

Continue along the road past the **Atlas Blue Cedar** until you come to a sidewalk on your right. A short distance down this path is Station M.

## Station M

### CONIFERS

Many conifers are nearby, including a **Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)**, **Korean Pine (*Pinus koraiensis* 'Morris Blue')**, **Lacebark Pine (*Pinus bungeana*)**, **Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)**, **Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*)**, **Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)**, **Shortleaf Pine**, and the very unusual **Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*)**. See if you can find the conifers native to five continents in this area.

Continue walking a short distance uphill on the sidewalk to the exit road. Notice a variety of trees lining both sides of the road. Walk to the right down the road to the corner before the stop sign. Station N is on the right.

## Station N

### NINTH STREET GATE

In the time of the Goulds, this gate was used by sportsmen and their horses. Today it is a secondary exit from the university, often open during the day. The small modern building at this site used to be a security post for this entrance. The large urn next to this building was in the center of the Italian Gardens before the Eagle and Dragon Sculpture was put there.

## Station O

### OAK KNOLL

From Station N, cross the exit road to the sidewalk that leads uphill back to Jeffries Hall and Parking Lot A. You will be passing through a grove of various species of oak trees. When you arrive at Jeffries Hall, you have completed the arboretum tour through the historic part of the campus.

### AUTUMN WOODS

*Leaves aflurry in the sunshine,  
Carpets on the forest floor;  
Trees a-bared, sad, in the moonlight,  
Ghosts of things that are no more,  
Strips of sunshine red and glistening;  
Touched with sunsets, dyed in gold;  
Birds have gone to southward winging  
Sylvan all too soon is old.*

Elizabeth M. Casey, Class of 1935



## TOUR EXTENSION—WELLNESS CENTER AREA

In 2008, the university completed the Wellness Center/University Bookstore/Athletic Field complex just west of Jeffries Hall (then the Arts and Science Center) and north of the library. As part of this project, a Wellness Center Garden, designed by biology students, was installed in Summer 2009 by the Department of Biology to feature plants that were historically used for medicinal or herbal purposes. Enclosed by a fence to keep out deer, the garden includes sweetgrass, stinging nettle, wild strawberry, sage, thyme, rosemary, mint, coneflower (*Echinacea*), pussytoes, goldenrod, cranberry, cardinal flower, Christmas fern, prickly pear cactus, and many other species. The front of the Wellness Center itself has a "living roof" planted with sedums and other drought, heat and high-light tolerant species. As part of Georgian Court's sustainability/wellness initiative, a trellis of the native vine **Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)** provides summer shade and transmits winter's light to the east-facing classroom at the front of the Wellness Center. Trees around the Wellness Center include many native species, including **Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)**, **Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)**, **Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)**, **Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)**, **Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)**, and **Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)**. Non-native **Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*)** trees provide early spring flowers. There is a small native grass and sedge garden in front of the Wellness Center to showcase deer-resistant, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance species that can be used in landscaping. To reach the Wellness Center area, follow the sidewalk that goes along the front of Jeffries Hall, climb the brick steps at the end of the sidewalk, and continue on the covered brick walkway. After you pass Jeffries Hall, follow the curvy concrete path on your right. The University Bookstore, Wellness Center Garden, and Wellness Center are accessed by the sidewalk on the left, which passes by the Plants Native to New Jersey Garden (created in 2019) and then passes by the Court Café patio and under a canopy of **Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)** trees planted in 1993.

# THE ARBORETUM PROJECT

Georgian Court University's Lakewood campus sits on 156 acres in the Pine Barrens and is home to a wide variety of native and non-native species. Over the years, many faculty members, staff members, and students have planted, cared for, and identified the trees, including former faculty members Sister Mary Thais McCorristin, Sister Mary Nicholas Farley, and Sister Mary Grace Burns.

However, it was not until the late 1980s that a comprehensive effort to identify, plot the location of, and label the trees enabled the university to establish its Sister Mary Grace Burns Arboretum and join the American Public Gardens Association (APGA; [publicgardens.org](http://publicgardens.org)). This "arboretum project" was led by Ms. Mary Stockton, a biology faculty member who worked at Georgian Court from 1974 to 2001 and was the founding director of the arboretum. She and several biology research students (Audrey Tatko Wendolowski, Maryann Smith, Debra Garthwait Unkow, and Karen Dirkin Hopson) plotted the trees by means of a grid system. The campus was divided into 100 meter quadrats, and each tree was identified, numbered and plotted inside a particular quadrat. The arboretum was dedicated on April 23, 1989.

The improved accuracy of geographic positioning that the United States government made available to the public in 2000 led to a decision to completely re-map and re-number the trees using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) unit that provides latitude and longitude information without using an artificial grid. The tags on the woody plants in the arboretum list accession numbers generated as part of this ongoing tree mapping project.

Consistent with the arboretum's mission statement, trees are added to the collection each year. To preserve the university's botanical heritage and its genetic diversity, and to help ensure that the plants in the arboretum are adapted to their environment, where possible the offspring of campus trees are used to replace their aging parents. In addition, a better representation of native biodiversity is being achieved by planting more individuals of underrepresented native species.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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***Georgian Court: An Estate of the Gilded Age***

*and*

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