

February 13, 2009

Sent via email to:  
The Merion Community Coalition via Stephan Crainic

I am writing in response to your November 20, 2008 letter to me, as well as your subsequent letter to Father Timothy Lannon on February 5, 2009.

A number of the issues you raise are under consideration by the Lower Merion Township Zoning Board and will, therefore, be decided in that forum.

The purpose of the four neighborhood meetings hosted by the University and attended by nearly 100 neighbors (some came to more than one meeting) was to discuss and answer questions about the University's land development application. The University worked with our Township Commissioner, Brian Gordon, to identify our near neighbors and invite them to learn more about our plans. A number of the Merion Community Coalition leaders and members who signed in at those meetings identified themselves as members of the MCC.

At the four meetings, the University provided experts in landscape architecture, civil engineering and sound as part of our land development to discuss plans for Maguire Campus. A senior representative of the University's Athletic Department attended each meeting and answered questions about the baseball, softball and field hockey schedules.

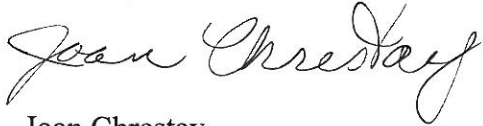
Presentations were also made at the Merion Civic Association (MCA), the York Lynne Manor Condominium Associations, the Latches Lane Condominium Association and the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd.

In addition, Father Lannon and other members of his senior team attended a meeting with four members of the MCC hosted by Representative Mike Gerber. You asked that we demolish the former Christ Chapel, now our Campus Commons, rather than play baseball on the former Episcopal Academy baseball field. In my letter of October 15, 2009, we declined that request.

For those members of the community who may have missed the various meetings we hosted, and who are not aware of our plans, we refer you to the public Township records, which include the completed land development application. In addition, you will also find the public testimony at the various Township meetings where our plans were discussed. The public record will also eliminate any confusion about content of our plans that may have resulted from the dissemination of inaccurate information.

The Univeristy has been a part of Lower Merion Township since 1958. We have worked hard to collaborate with our neighbors on mutual concerns. We shall continue to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Chrestay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joan Chrestay  
Vice President for External Affairs

cc: Timothy R. Lannon, S. J.