

# Misericordia

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

today

A photograph of three people in a forest stream. A young man in a teal shirt and waders is on the left, holding a long wooden pole. A woman in a purple jacket and glasses is in the center, looking at a folder. A young man in a grey shirt and waders is on the right, holding a paper bag. They appear to be conducting field research.

## INNOVATION, **COLLABORATION** & EXPLORATION

University's inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program brings students and faculty together in search of new knowledge

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NEW STUDY AWAY PROGRAMS PREPARE TO TAKE FLIGHT ... Page 12



# isericordia

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

## Today



**INNOVATION,  
COLLABORATION  
& EXPLORATION**

**THEARTS&MORE** Alumni Box Office (570) 674 6768 | Misericordia University Box Office (570) 674 6719  
[www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore](http://www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore)

**March 14 April 26**  
**Jose Luis Corella: Paintings**  
Introductory lecture by Tim Reynolds, March 14, 5 p.m. in Lemmond Theatre with opening reception to follow. Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, Insalaco Hall. (570) 674 6250.



Imagine and other paintings by Jose Luis Corella will be on display in the Friedman Art Gallery.

**March 17 90th Anniversary Event**  
**Human Trafficking**  
Lecture by Indonesia native Shandra Woworuntu, founder of the survivor leadership group, *Voices of Hope*, and an advocate to end human trafficking. Noon, 218 219 Insalaco Hall, Chris Somers. (570) 674 6314.

**March 23**  
**Dr. Yamanouchi Lecture Series**  
Polar explorer Tim Jarvis for a lecture, Q A and book signing. 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater. No charge, but tickets are required. Call Cultural Events Box Office.

**March 24 90th Anniversary**  
**An Evening with Retired Faculty and Staff from Across the Decades**  
Guest speakers include Drs. Patricia Lewis, social work; Michael Mould,

athletics; Donald O. Fries, history, and Sister Anne E. McLaughlin, RSM, religious studies. 218 219 Insalaco Hall, 4 5:30 p.m.

**March 28**  
**14th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch with the Easter Bunny**  
Sponsored by the Alumni Association, brunch seatings are at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Egg hunt at 11 a.m. outside Banks Student Life Center, \$10, adults; \$5, 5 12 years; no charge under 5. Reservations required. Call Alumni Box Office or register online at <http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/bunny>.

**National Library Week April 12 18**  
**April 14**  
Marybeth Zeman '72, author of critically acclaimed *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian: Challenging the Juvenile Justice System One Book at a Time*. 4 p.m., Catherine Evans McGowan Room, Bevevino Library.

**April 15**  
Salty Ferguson, original member of the Georgia Peaches women's baseball team and subject of *A League of their Own* movie will talk about her life. Noon, McGowan Room, Bevevino Library.

**April 22 90th Anniversary**  
**Earth Day**  
Volunteers collaborate with Multiple Sclerosis Society to work in people's homes who have M.S. To volunteer, contact Christine Somers, (570) 674 6314.

**May 2 June 30**  
**Sudden Intuition: Paintings by Sharon Cosgrove**  
Opening reception, Saturday, May 2, 5 8 p.m., Friedman Art Gallery.

**May 29 31**  
**Alumni Weekend 2015**  
Enjoy a slate of events, campus tours, alumni Mass, workshops, and games. Call Alumni Box Office for information or register at [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/alumniweekend15](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/alumniweekend15).

**May 29**  
**OT Conference: Creating a Quality Fieldwork Program and Cognitive Rehabilitation**  
To demonstrate appreciation for OTs who supervise MU OT students on fieldwork experiences, department is sponsoring the conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the McGowan Room of the Bevevino Library. Speakers include Grace Fisher, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., chair, and Suzanne Lennon, M.S., O.T.R./L., fieldwork coordinator. Registration at 8 a.m. For more information, please call (570) 674 8015.

**May 30**  
**Women in Peacekeeping by Marguerite Roy '82**  
As visiting professor of history and government, Roy will outline how women play an essential role in peacekeeping. As humanitarian intervention becomes increasingly important in post conflict rebuilding efforts, the need for more women in the

field of peacekeeping continues to grow. Insalaco Hall, 10 11 a.m.

**July 22 Aug. 9**  
**Performing Arts Training Academy**  
Explore the magic and excitement of total theater immersion with 90 hours of vocal, dance, drama and music training for boys and girls ages 7 17 in Lemmond Theater. For information, contact Dr. Cari Tellis at (570) 674 6207 or at [pata.ctellis@gmail.com](mailto:pata.ctellis@gmail.com).

JOIN IN ON THE ADVENTURE  
**Dr. Noël Keller's Trips with a Difference**  
2015

**June 10 21**  
**Delightful Scotland and Ireland – 11 days**  
Explore the rich history and culture of Scotland and Ireland with visits to Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Inverness, Glasgow, Belfast, Giant's Causeway, Donegal, Galway, Cliffs of Moher, Limerick and Dublin. Departure from JFK. \$3,285 per person, double occupancy.

**Aug. 30 Sept. 10**  
**12-Day Grand Tour of Poland**  
Visit Warsaw, Częstochowa, Kraków, The Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Poznań, Wrocław, Malbork Castle, Toruń and Gdańsk. Departure from JFK. \$2,885 per person, double occupancy.

Dr. Marie Noël Keller, RSM, Th.D., is a veteran of more than 100 overseas trips. Center for Adult and Continuing Education (570) 674-6776, (570) 674-6924 or [srnoel@misericordia.edu](mailto:srnoel@misericordia.edu).

# Frank and Dorothea Henry, Blythe Trust recognized at Trustee Associates Gala

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees presented the Trustee Associates Award to Frank M. Henry and his late wife, Dorothea, and the Founders Medal to the Brenda Blythe Trust in recognition of their outstanding commitment and support of the University at the 2014 Trustee Associates Gala.

Northeastern Pennsylvania residents and fellow philanthropists know Mr. and Mrs. Henry very well. They have supported worthy endeavors that have touched nearly every life in the region through their unwavering support of higher education and innovative health care initiatives.

The Trustees honored the couple's philanthropy, leadership and overall dedication to maintaining and strengthening the quality of the University.

Most recently, the Henrys supported the renovation of the former Black Top Lounge, a 1960s-era building that was renovated to accommodate the needs of a growing campus population and the need for additional office space. The 2,100-square-foot, one-story lounge received a comprehensive facelift. It was renamed the Frank and Dorothea Henry Student Lounge in 2013.

The Henry family's philanthropic spirit, though, has been evident at Misericordia for many years. Mrs. Henry, a Trustee from 1980-86, served with her husband on the feasibility study committee that

led to the construction of Insalaco Hall. The couple's daughter, Marjorie Henry Marquart '85, has served on the board since 2013.

Mr. Henry is the CEO of Martz Trailways, a historic motor coach company that was founded in 1908 by his grandfather, Frank Martz, Sr., in Plymouth, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Henry's son, Scott E. Henry, is president of the company today.

In recognition of its commitment and support of the University and Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program, MU awarded the Founders Medal to the Brenda Blythe Trust.

The University was founded 90 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy to serve as an educational resource for women and children in the community. Inspired by the tenets of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality, there is no better example of the Sisters' outreach than the novel Women with Children Program, which has provided housing and support for academically qualified single mothers and their children while they pursue their degree.

The Blythe Trust has been instrumental in providing the support that has helped the program become what it is today. The trust was established by John T. (Jack) Bourger, son of Ruth Matthews Bourger.

The Blythe Trust issued a challenge grant in 2005 that offered to provide a \$1 million gift to the program if MU were to raise \$2 million. Misericordia named



Misericordia recognized Frank M. Henry and his late wife, Dorothea, by presenting them the Trustee Associates Award. Members of the Henry family, seated from left, are Scott Henry, Frank Henry, Sr., Marjorie Henry Marquart '85 and Hank Henry; second row, John Henry, Olivia Marquart, Samantha Marquart and Lauren Henry.



Misericordia honored the Brenda Blythe Trust by awarding it the Founders Medal. Participating in the presentation of the award, from left, are John Metz, chair, Board of Trustees; Brenda Bourger McGinley, Blythe Trust; Blythe Bourger, Blythe Trust, and President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

the program the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program during a special dinner in 2011. At that time, the Trust committed another \$500,000 pledge if the University could raise a total of \$3 million for the program. Misericordia is just \$322,000 short of meeting that goal.

# Misericordia Today

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## HONORS

Misericordia Today is a winner of the 2014 gold CUPPIE AWARD in the cover category for the Winter 2013 edition.



Have a story to share? Contact Misericordia Today by calling (570) 674-6372 or by e-mailing at [editor@misericordia.edu](mailto:editor@misericordia.edu).



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## ON THE COVER

Misericordia University undergraduate student researchers Timothy Kennedy '16, left, and Michael Pheasant '16, right, engaged in research with Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, as part of the inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program.



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## Reflecting on our past shapes our future

The 2014-15 academic year promised to be an exciting and engaging one right from the very beginning. Our campus community came together for a wide range of activities and programs during the fall semester that reinforced our mission, served as a springboard for in-depth dialogue regarding important issues, and simply celebrated 90 years of doing it the Misericordia Way.

During the fall semester, we welcomed preschool children to campus for reading programs, organized service adventures to Caribbean and Latin American countries that reinforced our tenets of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality, witnessed the impact a speaker of Dr. Temple Grandin's magnitude can have on people at the annual Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series, and celebrated the graduation of 370 students in December. The College of Arts and Sciences even sponsored a delightful Madrigal dinner celebration as a part of our ongoing remembrance of College Misericordia's traditions.

Students have been very engaged in their studies, and are enjoying the addition of four more group study rooms in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library. While we used to be told to keep our eyes on our own paper and to keep quiet, the library is now a place where we collaborate and share our work and talk to each other about new ideas and concepts.

As we continue to develop a plan for an expanded and renewed science facility, our new ideas of how to enhance the academic traditions continue to move us to examine our history and our future. To that end, we have begun the initial stages of discussing our mission and vision statements as we prepare to create the strategic plan that will guide our future. Fortunately, we have 90 years of experience, the Sisters of Mercy's Ideal Aim, and the more recent mission and vision statements to guide us.

Misericordia is maturing as we near our second century. As a young university in the Mercy tradition, we continue to emphasize the teaching and learning experience as a key to developing the whole person. Teaching and learning, moreover, are being supplemented by research and scholarship on our campus. Eight students and six faculty colleagues participated in our inaugural on-campus summer research fellowship program.

Student presentations demonstrated work that pushed forward the boundary of what it means to be a university student. It was simply amazing to be able to understand how much was accomplished as a result of very specialized research.

The topics were new to most of us. They touched upon important issues in the environment, medicine, and so much more. Several faculty members are taking this research back into the classroom in the form of enhanced laboratory experiences and new ways to teach. The fellowship program is going to more than double in size next summer as the natural sciences projects are joined by scholarship in the humanities.

With the spring semester underway, please take the time to come to campus and participate in another program we planned for our 90th anniversary celebration. Our campus is alive even in the middle of winter, and certainly will be ready for your next visit. I hope to see you soon as you visit Misericordia University!



President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

## Hearst Foundations invest in 'a better tomorrow' -

Americans didn't invent the idea of philanthropy, but our people and our institutions embrace it. The William Randolph Hearst Foundations illustrate this profoundly.

A legacy of William Randolph Hearst, an influential American newspaper publisher and entrepreneur during the first half of the 20th century, the foundations are guided by a mission that reflects the philanthropic interests of their founder: identify outstanding nonprofits in the fields of culture, education, health, and social services.

Misericordia University earned multiple awards from the foundations over the years for scholarships, improvements to John J. Passan Hall, and most recently, for the acquisition of sophisticated radiology equipment for the Department of Medical Imaging.

"Higher education has always been important to the foundations," says George Irish, eastern director of the Hearst

Foundations. "We've always felt that private higher education is providing some of the critical skills and support to our culture and our democracy."

Applicants engage in a rigorous process to earn awards from the foundations. Hearst officials review important metrics such as graduation rate, retention rate, and tuition. Representatives then visit campus to assess culture.

"When we review the numbers, we want to see if the university is performing as efficiently as possible," explains Irish. "When we get to a site, it is different. We meet with students and faculty to get a sense of the campus. Our discussions are less about numbers and more about the place and the proposed project."

The Hearst Foundations provide \$40 million in funding each year, with 30 percent going to higher education. Maybe the phrase "for a better tomorrow" is cliché; however, that may be the whole point of philanthropy and why Americans and the Hearst Foundations embrace it.

For more information on the William Randolph Hearst Foundations, visit [www.Hearstfdn.org](http://www.Hearstfdn.org).

- Jim Roberts



The Department of Medical Imaging has ordered the Samsung GF 50 digital radiography system through the most recent grant from the Hearst Foundations.

## Retired English teacher 'pays it forward' -

Over a 26-year period, students in the Wilkes Barre Area School District received guidance from English teacher Marianne Baloga '63. Those students experienced quality education because their teacher received a similar gift at Misericordia.

My parents were working class, says Baloga. I would not have been a teacher without College Misericordia. She notes that student loans as we know them today were not available during her collegiate career.

Baloga overcame everyday challenges to complete her degree. She shared rides with other young women to get to campus. Five of us would ride with a woman whose father bought her a car. I would pay 25 cents to cover my share, one way. They rarely cancelled classes back then, so we traveled in all kinds of weather, she says.

Baloga's teaching career began in Boyertown, Pa., but an opportunity arose back home. She returned to Wilkes Barre, Pa., and taught multiple grade levels and classes during her career.

She is a long-time donor to her alma mater and established the Marianne R. Baloga '63 Scholarship. She retired from teaching, but her desire to help young people remained strong.

I read an article in Misericordia Today about an accomplished physician and Misericordia alumna who made a donation, and I said, I can do that, too. It led me to speak with the development office and make a gift where it could be used immediately. I wanted to help students who are there now achieve their goals.

Her gift helped purchase sophisticated science equipment that was acquired for the laboratories and classrooms in Hafey McCormick Science Building.



Anna Fedor, Ph.D., chair and assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, poses with the Agilent Technologies Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GC MS) that was purchased with the support of Marianne Baloga '63.

If you want to take up the challenge to help MU students, please contact Michele Zabriski, director of Development, at (570) 674-6433.

Jim Roberts



## CAMPUS VIEWS

### Three join Misericordia Board of Trustees

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education elected Tina Polachek Gartley '88, J.D., Plains Twp., Pa.; Philip H. Johnson, M.B.A., Williamsport, Pa., and Lt. Mark A. Van Loon, Retired, J.D., LL.M., Dallas, Pa., to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Gartley has been a Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas judge since 2010. She earned her BA summa cum laude in history and English with minors in writing and Russian area studies from Misericordia. Judge Gartley received her Juris Doctorate degree from Syracuse University College of Law in 1991. MU presented her with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in 2013.



Mrs. Gartley



Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson is the group vice president for M&T Bank Corp., and regional president for the M&T Bank Northern Pennsylvania Region that encompasses 20 counties. He holds a BA degree in political science and an MBA with a specialization in finance from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.



Mr. Van Loon

Mr. Van Loon is a partner at Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, L.L.P., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The attorney and counselor at law is chairman of the Real Estate & Banking Department, a member of the Labor Department, and chair of the Environmental Practice Group. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in economics and political science from Wilkes College. He received his Juris Doctor and Master of Laws degrees from Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, Pa.

### Administration accepts ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Kit Foley, vice president of student affairs, and Amy Lahart, dean of students, accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that was made by student orientation coordinators. Each were doused in a bucket of ice-cold water in the Wells Fargo Amphitheater during the annual Opening Day picnic.

A few days earlier, Misericordia University welcomed 446 first-year students to campus during move-in day and for the annual Convocation ceremony, which officially marks the beginning of the new academic year for the campus community. During the weekend, first-year students participated in orientation activities, including the annual Orientation Day of Service in Back Mountain communities.

The campus community came together on Monday, Aug. 25 – the first official day of classes – to have an old-fashioned picnic in the campus

quad to celebrate the start of classes and to renew friendships and make some new ones as well. Misericordia featured a record enrollment of 3,141 undergraduate and graduate students in full- and part-time formats for the fall semester.

Misericordia orientation coordinators Zachary Sabaday of Saint Clair, Pa., Tori Dzieziak of Shenandoah, Pa., and Julie Bogaert of Bangor, Pa., – who had earlier issued the challenge – slowly poured the buckets of ice water over the heads of President Botzman, Vice President Foley and Dean Lahart. In turn, President Botzman challenged student leaders in the Student Government Association to participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in order to raise additional funding for research and to continue to increase awareness about the disease that afflicts some 5,600 people annually in the United States, according to the ALS Association.



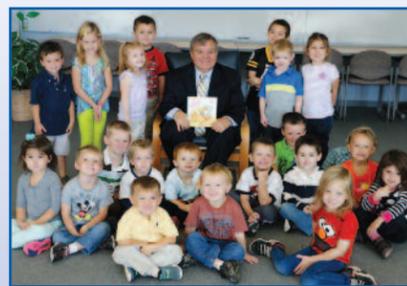
Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge from student orientation coordinators. Amy Lahart, dean of students, first row at left; President Botzman, center, and Kit Foley, vice president of student affairs, get ice water poured on them by orientation coordinators, from left, Zachary Sabaday of Saint Clair, Pa., Tori Dzieziak of Shenandoah, Pa., and Julie Bogaert of Bangor, Pa.

### Preschoolers participate in Mercy Week programming

Misericordia President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., participated in a story-time session with preschool children from the Lake-Lehman Early Learning Center as part of Mercy Week and 90th anniversary celebrations.

He talked to the students while he sat on a chair in the middle of the Catherine Evans McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library, and had them gather around him while he read, *Time for School, Mouse!*, by Laura Numeroff. Afterward, MU students, faculty and staff did arts and crafts with the guests.

Mercy Week is an annual event that



President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., center, participated in a special story-time session with pre-school children.

honors the history of Misericordia and its founders, the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

### Misericordia earns numerous plaudits from Princeton Review, Washington Monthly

Misericordia University has been recognized for providing the "Best Bang for the Buck" by Washington Monthly magazine, and as one of the top colleges and universities in the northeastern United States, according to The Princeton Review.

MU is one of 226 institutions The Princeton Review has recommended in its *Best Northeastern Colleges* section of its website feature, *2015 Best Regional Colleges*, that posted on PrincetonReview.com.

In Washington Monthly, MU is among the top 41 percent of all master's degree-granting institutions

in the country in a survey that stresses community service and social mobility of students. MU ranks 279th overall among 671 other institutions in the nation that were recognized in the 2014 *Master's Universities* category. MU was ranked 19th in the nation for student participation in service.

The "Best Bang for the Buck" designation recognizes "colleges that do the best job of helping nonwealthy students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices."



### Misericordia continues ascent in U.S. News rankings

Misericordia University ranks in the top tier, 41st out of 135 colleges and universities, in the Best Regional Universities – North category of U.S. News and World Report's 2015 edition of Best Colleges, which includes institutions of higher education in the northern United States that offer master's degrees and some doctoral programs.

MU's 41st ranking is up 26 places from 2007, including a two-point improvement from 2014. In the latest rankings, MU is included in a tight grouping of 13 colleges and universities that are separated by five points for the rankings of 37 through 50, respectively.

### Military Advanced Education recognizes Misericordia

Misericordia University has been awarded the designation of a Top Military-Friendly University by Military Advanced Education (MAE) in its 2015 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities. MU is the only college or university in Luzerne County to be recognized in the annual publication. The complete guide is available online at [www.mae-kmi.com](http://www.mae-kmi.com).



Misericordia was the first institution of higher education in the region to sign-up to participate in the federal post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act's Yellow Ribbon Program that was launched in 2008. It is one of about 120 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania participating in the program and has made a commitment to provide \$5,000 in tuition benefits for each academically qualified veteran that makes application and is accepted to MU.

For more information about the Yellow Ribbon Program, visit [www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_BILL\\_Info/CH33/Yellow\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_BILL_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm).

MU also automatically offers military students enrolled on a full-time basis a \$2,500 annual McAuley Award, which rewards students for records of service.



# minimizing RISKS

Business students develop Internal Controls & Federal Tax Exemption Basics for AVOs Resource Manual for all-volunteer organizations

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

In these cases, the headlines in the media do not tell the entire story. Throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania and across the nation, nonprofit and all-volunteer organizations (AVO), such as fire companies, youth sports leagues, churches and large national groups have been victimized by theft, embezzlement and even poor record keeping.

The embarrassment for the entity is nothing when it is compared to the loss of

revenue, theft of services, and trust by the community. AVOs in particular are affected the most, as, by and large, they do not have paid staff to oversee bookkeeping and day-to-day operations, and therefore are reliant upon people from the community who have a particular skillset to monitor its operations.

What happens when an AVO is tarnished when one of its own steals from the organization he or she swore to

**Fred J. Croop, Ed.D., M.B.A., C.P.A., dean of the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences, talks to business students about the resource manual.**

serve? Would-be volunteers steer clear of it; donations decline; services are negatively affected, and, in worst-case scenarios, sometimes they are shuttered, according to Fred J. Croop, Ed.D., M.B.A., C.P.A., dean of the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences at Misericordia University.

"It's the practical side of it," says Dr. Croop, a strong advocate for checks and balances. "This affects everybody. It goes beyond the person, the organization, and people who benefit from the organization. It hurts all nonprofits because of the violation of trust."

The College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences is working to mitigate damages from theft and embezzlement, and to reduce human temptation by offering the Misericordia University Internal Controls and Federal Tax Exemption Basics for All-Volunteer Organizations Resource Manual to all interested nonprofits and AVOs. Auditing and taxation students Linda Murphy '15, Merissa Reap '15, Tia Miller '14, John Olenik '15, Sara Hogan Rutt '15, Taylor Miller '15, David Smolsky '17, and Kevin Fitzgerald '15 collaborated with Dr. Croop on the manual.

"I think the all-volunteer organizations are taken for granted and people do not realize all they do for the community," says Reap, explaining why as an accounting major she volunteered for the project. "It is really important for them to have internal controls."

"This project really gave me more knowledge of internal controls," adds Reap, "and how they can be used in other organizations and not just all-volunteer."

Chock-full of easy-to-understand information, the manual provides lay AVO presidents, treasurers and other officers with an introduction that outlines the bare minimum requirements to safeguard assets. In subsequent chapters, it builds upon the introduction by reviewing real-world examples of how inadequate bookkeeping and internal controls led to poor public relations and massive financial losses at regional AVOs. The manual also includes sections on general controls, cash disbursements, purchases, cash receipts, events (bake sales, bazaars, etc.), bank reconciliation, internal (treasurer's report) and external (IRS) reporting, tax exempt status, registering as a charitable organization,

incorporating as a nonprofit, and other best practices.

The resource manual is available as a free download to interested parties at [www.misericordia.edu/nonprofitcontrols](http://www.misericordia.edu/nonprofitcontrols) or in hard copy for select AVOs. More than 500 organizations have expressed an interest in the manual, including agencies in Canada, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, California and throughout the Keystone State.

"We need checks and balances put into the smallest PTO (parent teacher organization) and the largest nonprofits," stresses Dr. Croop, an accountant, auditor and educator. "There is a need for this. We need internal controls in small organizations. Every organization is different and every situation is different."

## NONPROFIT AND AVO INTEREST

Shortly after the auditing project was announced publicly, representatives of the Dallas Area Fall Fair Association requested a meeting with Dr. Croop. Their interest was simple, as the organization handles more than \$300,000 in receipts from its annual Luzerne County Fair, which welcomed more than 35,000 people through the gates for the 52nd annual edition in fall 2014.

"The biggest thing for me is the safeguarding and helping the public feel secure that the money is protected," says Brenda Pugh, chair of the association board and a 13-year member. "They want to make sure you're not running away with the money."

At the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Services Facility in Lehman Twp., 19 members of the association's board of directors joined Mrs. Pugh and Dr. Croop at an early evening meeting to learn more about the auditing manual, and to also receive professional advice. Many of these community volunteers are not limited to the fair board, and serve in other capacities with church groups, volunteer fire companies and more.

Standing before the board, Dr. Croop explained why he chose to tackle the project with the assistance of eight students. As an auditor, he has seen familial relationships and lives ruined after he uncovered missing money and was forced to testify against individuals. "It bothers me a lot," he says matter-of-factly about the instances of missing money and the abuse of services. "It's unnecessary. The outcomes of these things occurring are devastating."

In recent years, he recounted where several local volunteer fire departments,

## FORENSIC AUDITING

**The Department of Business features forensic auditing as a minor to complement its accounting program. The five, two-credit courses focus on fraud and what distinguishes fraud from the non-criminal errors and irregularities that auditors typically encounter.**

a state prison system, and an educational center became embroiled in controversy because of lax controls or lack thereof. In some cases, the poor internal controls afforded people the opportunity to steal tens of thousands of dollars and, in some, cases more. It also prohibited other suspects from possibly clearing their names.

"It doesn't have to be a lot of money," Dr. Croop stresses, using as a possible scenario gate receipts falling below expectations at a local event and then allegations of misappropriation being leveled. "If you do not have controls in place that (allegation) can't be proven or disproved. We need to also protect the innocent and people from being human."

Poor record keeping can also result in jail time for volunteers even if they did not steal "a dime," according to Dr. Croop, "because they were irresponsible in their bookkeeping."

Using his own volunteer fire department as an example, a treasurer in the audience wanted to know if quarterly internal audits and an external annual audit provided enough security for the department's funding. Another community volunteer wanted to know if officers would be liable because they unknowingly were in violation of the organization's bylaws by not rotating the treasurer, president and vice president positions periodically. One person asked what happens when an organization does not perform an annual audit even though the bylaws clearly state that it is required.

These few, but important questions exemplify why such a resource manual is needed. "You can't take the risk for yourself; you can't take the risk for your family, and for the community," he says. "It hurts the reputation of the organization. These kinds of things hurt well beyond the organization itself."

## INTEREST

Tish Mogan is the director of the Standards for Excellence® at the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO), which supports the implementation of a strong infrastructure in nonprofit organizations,

and promotes accountability and ethical practices. When she heard about Dr. Croop's project, she began to spread the word statewide and then came to campus to review it.

"We need it statewide," she acknowledged during her campus meeting. "It is an expansion of what we provide in regards to tools, internal controls. I experience this almost every day as I do a lot of training with nonprofit organizations. There are a lot of things that they don't realize they need to know."

In the late 1980s, the public's confidence was shaken by a series of scandals in national nonprofit organizations. Shortly thereafter, Maryland Nonprofits established the Standards for Excellence program. PANO became a licensed partner with the program through the national Standards for Excellence Institute. As a licensed partner, PANO is able to offer the program in the Keystone state.

"The confidence in the sector has been affected by all the scandals," says Mogan, who estimates there are about 60,000 nonprofits in Pennsylvania and 1 million nationwide. "We are trying to get everybody to implement appropriate practices so it doesn't happen."

She acknowledges that some of the problems associated with AVOs and, to a lesser extent, at nonprofits are time and expertise. No matter its size, volunteering to be the treasurer of any organization is a taxing commitment of time and talent. At AVOs, for instance, most do not have paid employees, offices or supplies. Therefore, reconciling the checkbook or doing an internal audit must be done at home when other family or professional matters may be more pressing.

"People who serve on these boards do so because they are compassionate and committed to the mission. How many join boards and embrace fiduciary and legal responsibilities?" Mogan asks, before assuring, "People are not getting worse. There are just as many good, good people out there as have been there before. The media attention on those that step out of line is what has increased."



Misericordia University social work majors Frederick Collier '15 of Kutztown, Pa., far left, Brianna Pasterchik '15 of Forty Fort, Pa., center, and Susan McDonald, Ph.D., M.S.W., L.C.W., assistant professor and director of field education, right, assist other volunteers at Ollie's Restaurant package meals for the Dinners for Kids program.

Social work majors address poverty by working with Dinners for Kids program

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BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. – One by one, they gather near a back table in a corner of Ollie's Restaurant and begin to make preparations. They strap on their aprons and begin to put on their latex gloves, while simultaneously exchanging afternoon pleasantries. For them, "it's their social hour for the week," according to Edna Tevet, co-owner of the restaurant. Alongside their table, sits a serving cart with containers of fresh fruit, lettuce and cherry tomatoes, and prepared ingredients for a hot meal, including pasta, spaghetti sauce, meatballs and chicken.

The elongated table and these thrice-weekly helpers are as much an assembly line as a group of friends who volunteer together as a sort of lifeline for the Dinners for Kids program that delivers six free meals weekly to school-aged children in the West Side communities of the Wyoming Valley West School District. Together, they package the food in

Styrofoam and microwave-safe containers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

David and Edna Tevet founded the year-round Dinners for Kids program in 2011 shortly after watching a commercial about hungry children. Mr. Tevet thought the advertisement was referring to hunger in Third World countries. They found out differently.

"We've been here for 33 years and we didn't think there were hungry people here in our community," says Mrs. Tevet. "We thought we were very connected to what was going on here."

"It really bothered me," adds Mr. Tevet, who spoke with teachers and representatives of Luzerne County's Children and Youth agency about the issue. "I decided if I can find a solution to the problem I would help. The best solution is to provide the children with a nutritious and balanced dinner in a microwave-safe container so the kids heat the meals themselves.

"It makes us feel great. That's my reward. I am really helping the children. Not only don't the kids go to sleep hungry, but they do better in school and they behave better," he adds.

When the Tevets sprang into action, they wanted to make sure they could build a sustainable, cost-effective program that provided nutritious meals for many years. They consulted with nutritionists, educators and others in the community who were familiar with the plight of the working poor in the area. The restaurateurs donated space and the cost to cook the food before setting out to secure additional volunteers to package and deliver the meals.

As the program fast approaches a milestone of serving 100,000 meals, Mr. Tevet realized that providing these hot meals only scratched the surface of poverty in the region. He turned to the Department of Social Work at Misericordia University to expand services to families in need that were identified through the Head Start program, Children and Youth, Commission on Economic Opportunity, and regional educators.

"We already gave them the food, but they have other needs," Mr. Tevet says, while watching the program's volunteers package 120 meals on this early afternoon in November. "The kids and their families need help and other services, and they are not aware of all the community programs available to them. They (Misericordia students) are really doing well by the families. It's a good experience for the students and it is good for the families that we serve."

For more information about the Dinners for Kids program or to make a contribution, please contact Dr. McDonald at [smcdonal@misericordia.edu](mailto:smcdonal@misericordia.edu) or Mr. Tevet at [dotevet@epix.net](mailto:dotevet@epix.net).

Margaret A. Rapp, Ph.D., M.S.W., L.S.W., A.C.S.W., chair and associate professor, and Susan McDonald, Ph.D., M.S.W., L.C.W., assistant professor and director of field education, assigned Brianna Pasterchik '15 of Forty Fort, Pa., and Frederick Collier '15 of Kutztown, Pa., to the program for their field work experiences. Together, the Misericordia University social work majors essentially became case managers under the direct supervision of faculty, and worked to assess the families' needs and in turn connect them with the appropriate social service agencies in the community. The Misericordia students continue to assess the needs of 10 families in the Dinners for Kids program, working 200

hours each in the fall and spring semesters. "It's a unique opportunity for the students to start applying the skills they learned in the classroom," says Dr. McDonald. "On a bigger picture, they begin to see how poverty impacts families in so many different ways."

In 2011, the new Dinners for Kids program began operations by providing meals to 40 children. Now it provides about 35,000 meals annually to about 120 children. The nonprofit program continues to expand thanks to the generosity of volunteers who package the food and deliver it at no cost to the program, various financial donations from the community and foundations, and the program's cost effectiveness. Mr. Tevet's model enables the program to deliver meals at \$2.20 each.

"Part of the reason I am in social work is when I do good, I feel good," Collier acknowledges. "When I see the kids, it's like looking at our future. It's an obligation. Every kid is entitled to have the resources they need to fully develop. Anybody can make a difference. I think it really just takes a lot of people working together."

"It makes me feel great," Pasterchik adds about the work they have accomplished together. "It is important to realize that every person has the potential to make a difference in the lives of others in the community."

Misericordia University social work majors Brianna Pasterchik '15 of Forty Fort, Pa., left, and Frederick Collier '15 of Kutztown, Pa., were assigned to the Dinners for Kids program to complete their field work experiences. The program was founded by the owners of Ollie's Restaurant in Edwardsville, Pa.



# Study Away takes flight

Programs available in Italy, England, Australia, Washington, D.C.

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Misericordia University has approved affiliation agreements with four study away programs that will allow students to spend semesters abroad in Australia, Italy and England, and at the Washington Semester Program at American University in Washington, D.C. The Study Away Committee and Faculty Senate approved the agreements that were signed by President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., at a ceremony on Dec. 12.

The foreign partner institutions include The Umbra Institute, Perugia, Italy; Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia; and St. Mary's University, Twickenham, England.

In addition, three new faculty-led programs have been approved that will be offered in the summer and range from one to four weeks. They include *Selected Studies in History: French Canadian History and Culture*, a four-week program that will be held every two years in Montreal and Quebec City, Canada, with David Wright, Ph.D.; *Occupational Therapy and International Service Learning: The Jamaica Experience*, an annual weeklong program under the direction of Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., and Jennifer Dessoie, O.T.D., M.S., O.T.R./L., and *World Music: Perceptions and*

*Misperceptions of Irish Culture*, a three-week program that will launch in July 2015 under the direction of Ryan Weber, Ph.D.

The summer programs join an established program offered every other year in Italy that is directed by Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English.

Held in collaboration with the Santa Reparata School of Art, the three-credit course, *Italy in Literature and Film*, involves a four-week stay in Florence to experience an immersion in the culture. The program's next session runs May 21 to June 21.

MU will continue to offer annual service-learning trips to Jamaica and Guyana. The University also hosts service trips to Peru every other year.

In November, Misericordia joined the Generation Study Abroad Initiative of the Institute of International Education to form a coalition of colleges and universities, study abroad organizations, foreign governments, and related associations committed to doubling the



Misericordia University Study Away Committee members, standing from left, Corina Slaff, Ph.D., assistant professor of business; Marguerite Roy, visiting professor of government, law and national security; Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor of English; David Wright, Ph.D., professor of history; Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy; and Christine Somers, D.Min., director of Campus Ministry, watch as President Botzman, Ph.D., signs agreements.

number of American students who study abroad by the end of the decade. By pledging its support, Misericordia has committed to increasing the number of its students who study abroad by 50 percent by 2019.

Additional agreements are being explored with National University of Ireland - Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland; the University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland; and University of Wales, Trinity St. David, United Kingdom, in the near future.

Other programs are being looked at in France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

## University of Reading England, MU collaborate on MA in English

The Department of English at Misericordia University has formed a partnership with the University of Reading in Reading, England, that offers early acceptance and a seamless transition into Reading's renowned Master of Arts in English program. The University of Reading is ranked in the top 1 percent of universities in the world, according to the 2013-14 Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Students who choose to major in English at Misericordia can commit to the program as early as their acceptance as first-year students or as late as the fall semester of their junior year. MU students are guaranteed a seamless transition into the Reading program provided they complete academic requirements and maintain

established academic standards.

The collaboration provides Misericordia students the opportunity to take advantage of a simplified application process to the University of Reading's master's degree program



Wantage Hall on the campus of the University of Reading celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007.

when compared to most other graduate degree programs.

The Master of Arts program features five specializations: English, Modern and Contemporary Writing, Early Modern Literature and Drama, Victorian Literature and Culture, and Children's Literature. Details are available at [www.misericordia.edu/EnglishMA](http://www.misericordia.edu/EnglishMA).

To qualify for admission, students must hold a 3.5 GPA in English major courses and a 3.3 overall GPA by the end of their junior year, at which point they can apply. In addition to completing their undergraduate degree, students must take an additional six credits of English, including three credits of senior thesis, and must be approved for graduate study by members of the English faculty.

# The ART of DISCOVERY



Fellowship program enables students and faculty to conduct research and to develop new knowledge and skills. >> PAGES 14-24

# INNOVATION, COLLABORATION & EXPLORATION

University's inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program brings students and faculty together in search of new knowledge

The fall is a beautiful time of year in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Hints of color dot the landscape along the mountainside as Misericordia University researchers wade through streams to explore the impact natural gas fracking may have on the health of streams in the region. Inside laboratories, additional collaborations examine the science of nicotine as it relates to e-cigarettes, the impact of nosocomial infections on the health care system, and the possibilities of the PAK-2 gene. The diverse research is a continuation of the inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program that paired eight undergraduate students with six faculty members for an opportunity to innovate, collaborate and explore.

"The fellowship program helps us to grow in our identity as a university," says Russ Pottle, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It enables us to develop and disseminate new knowledge, and it provides transformative experiences for our students and faculty. Our undergraduate students, particularly, gain invaluable experience conducting and understanding research that, in turn, fosters necessary skills for graduate school and for their careers."



Dr. Botzman



Dr. Pottle

What began in the summer is continuing through the 2014-15 academic year in laboratories on campus and at The Commonwealth Medical Center in Scranton, Pa., at academic conferences where students and faculty shared their scholarship, and in a peer-reviewed scientific journal that published the findings of Misericordia researchers. Its success has inspired an expansion of the program so it can include research in areas of the humanities. The University has reaffirmed its commitment by increasing funding from \$32,000 to \$119,250 for 2015-16, which will enable up to 25 students and 12 faculty members across the University's three college to engage in scholarly work and scientific research.

"Thanks to the success of the inaugural fellowships, the program is drawing new research fellows from across the University's academic community," Dr. Pottle says. "The commitment in resources and dollars demonstrates that, as a young University, Misericordia embraces the production of new knowledge as a main component of its identity."

The 2015 fellowship program will provide free on-campus housing, stipends of \$4,000 each to undergraduate fellows, and pay for the materials and other related costs associated with the research program. The expanded program includes students and faculty in biology, history, occupational therapy, chemistry and biochemistry, physics, and speech-language pathology.

"Important scientific research is being conducted at Misericordia," President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., acknowledges. "The fellowship program has been designed to provide our students with the opportunity to develop new skill sets, such as troubleshooting the unknowns that are involved in any type of academic research, and to work with new technology."

"Misericordia continues to grow and evolve for the betterment of its students and society. These advances provide excitement to the academic community and has us all looking forward to what they develop and discover," the president adds.

## GAUGING HEALTHY STREAMS

DALLAS TWP., Pa. – Having spent much of the summer in waders with fishing nets in hand, one might not imagine that third-year biology undergraduates Timothy Kennedy '16 and Michael Pheasant '16 are in the pre-med track and have plans



to go to medical school. Wedged in between classes in anatomy and physiology, the two took their love of science outdoors and spent the summer as research fellows examining the diversity of organisms in two Luzerne and Wyoming County creeks under the guidance of Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology. Dividing their time between Trout Brook and Leonard's Creek – each just a few miles from campus – the team collected data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH level, flow rate, and ammonium, nitrate, and phosphate levels, and gathered fish and macroinvertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies and caddis flies – organisms seen as important indicators of stream health.

A focus of their study was to examine leaf decomposition and what impact the leaves that fall into the water have on the biodiversity of the water.

Continued on page 16



Misericordia University student researchers Timothy Kennedy '16 and Michael Pheasant '16, kneeling, collaborated with Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, on the diversity of organisms in two local creeks.

"Thanks to the success of the inaugural fellowships, the program is drawing new research fellows from across the University's academic community."

Dr. Russ Pottle

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA AND PAUL KRZYWICKI



Biology major Alice Messler '14, left, and Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, collaborated on the research project, *Antimicrobial Activity as Related to Alkaloid Composition of Root Extracts from Berberine Containing Plants*, using the High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) instrument.



Chemistry major Megan Toda '16, foreground, and Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, utilized the Frontier FT IR/FIR Spectrometer for their research.

**Continued from page 15**

From their data, they developed two complementary research projects: one looking at the composition of the water and the impact it has on which macroinvertebrates live there, and the second, assessing the impact it has on the diet of various fish species.

Kennedy's project, *A Comparison of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Diversity in Trout Brook and Leonard's Creek, Pennsylvania*, assessed the biodiversity of the macroinvertebrates in the two water systems in order to further understand the relationship between biodiversity and stream ecosystem structure and function.

"As a pre-med major, I think of myself as more of an indoor scientist, doing anatomy dissections inside a lab, but this fellowship has given me the opportunity to explore my love of science out in the field," says the son of Timothy and Tina Kennedy. "It has given me a whole new perspective on ecology, the natural sciences and research—and the chance to work with and learn from amazing people."

Born and raised just miles from the two streams, Kennedy admits having a vested interest in the quality of the watershed and the research that he, Pheasant and Dr. McCraith are conducting. "I know what we are doing is important. The data from our projects is complementary, so it makes perfect sense that we work together."

After graduation, Kennedy plans on attending medical school and becoming a doctor of osteopathic medicine with a specialization in radiology.



The expanded 2015 fellowship program will provide free on-campus housing, stipends of \$4,000 each to undergraduate fellows, and pay for the materials and other related costs associated with the research program.

In his project entitled, *A Two-dimensional Analysis of Fish Stomach Contents and Benthic Macroinvertebrates in Trout Brook and Leonard's Creek, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, Pa.*, Pheasant also examined the diversity of macroinvertebrates present in the two water systems and focused on the distribution of fish species as well as what macroinvertebrates made up the diets of fish living in the streams.

Pheasant is also a biology major in the pre-med track. The East Stroudsburg, Pa., native always has loved the outdoors, and is passionate about the research he has had the opportunity to conduct at Misericordia. "I love the fact that I can take my interest in ecology and science, put them together and be a part of important research on local water systems. It is such a great opportunity to be able to work with Dr. McCraith and other students who are so equally committed," he says.

The summer projects are an extension of Dr. McCraith's ongoing research regarding the impact of the natural gas industry on surface waters of the region. There is a natural gas pipeline that crosses Leonard's Creek above where the research is being conducted, and one below the Trout Brook site. Taking comparative samples is an important part of the study.

"It has been interesting to watch how the collaboration between Mike and Tim has developed, and how they complement each other's research," says Dr. McCraith, a member of the Misericordia faculty since 1999. "The two

**Continued on page 18**

Misericordia University undergraduate biochemistry major Adaline Predmore '15 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., foreground and Charles Saladino, Jr., Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, prepare the luminometer for their ongoing research, *A Novel Method for Undergraduate Biochemistry Students to Detect Free Radicals and their Elimination of Vitamin C*.



Continued from page 16

began the project as sophomores when they started studying leaf decomposition as a result of the leaves falling into the water. Their two separate projects developed from those preliminary studies.”

“I started out in the summer of 2013 doing a vegetation study, but that lead to more questions,” Pheasant adds. “My family has always been into fly fishing so it is natural that I want to know about what is in the water and what bugs the fish like to eat.”

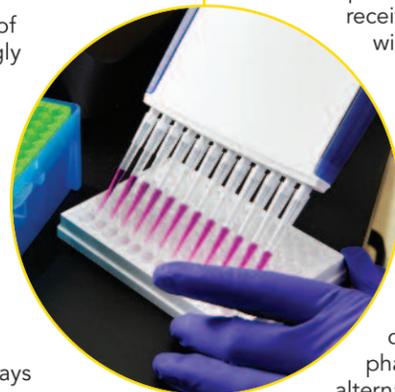
Highly motivated both inside and outside of the classroom, Pheasant maintains a seemingly impossible schedule. In addition to his pre-med academics and biology research commitments, he is president of the Student Government Association, and as such is leader of the student body and student liaison to the University’s president and Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the Misericordia Cougars football team, where he has made his mark as a starting wide receiver and back-up quarterback.

The son of Steven and Dorothy Pheasant says his goal is to go to medical school. He has not determined a specific area of interest. “I take my life one day at a time and I pray about it,” he says. “It has gotten me where I am today.”

Forced inside by the winter weather, Pheasant and Kennedy go to the stream when they can. Their research will continue through the spring. They are processing their data and plan to present their findings at the Pennsylvania Academy of Science Meeting in April at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa.

## SEARCHING FOR ANTIBIOTIC ALTERNATIVES

Just weeks away from receiving her bachelor’s degree in biology, senior Alice Messler ’14 took a moment during a laboratory session in November to reflect on the opportunity she had as a Summer Research Fellow and to work one-on-one with Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, in an effort to help explore a plant-based alternative to pharmaceutical antibiotics. The intensive research experience, she says, confirmed what brought her to Misericordia in the first place – the opportunity to be in small classes and receive individual attention from faculty who are willing to share their research expertise.



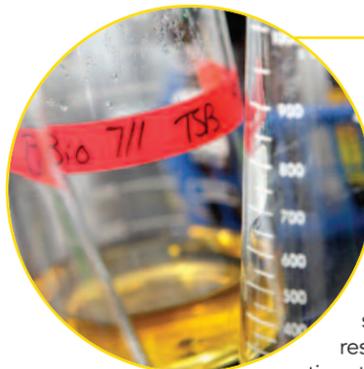
MU students have been conducting their research in the labs at Misericordia and TCMC.

The Waverly, Pa., native collaborated with Dr. Wiese on the project, *Antimicrobial Activity as Related to Alkaloid Composition of Root Extracts from Berberine Containing Plants*. The purpose of the work was to evaluate the antibacterial activity of root extracts from several different plant species that include berberine compounds to determine whether they might be effective in the development of antimicrobial compounds. Their work will go towards helping pharmacologists develop plant-based antibiotic alternatives to help combat the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a highly contagious, acute respiratory bacterium.

The daughter of Bruce and Virginia Messler is enthusiastic when she talks about her experiences as a fellowship researcher. “Being able to collaborate on research with a professor of my choice, one-on-one, was the most rewarding experience of my undergraduate career,” she shares. “Dr. Wiese has provided me with an immeasurable

amount of knowledge, helpfulness, support and inspiration. I know everything I have learned from her will benefit me greatly throughout my graduate education.”

Dr. Wiese is equally pleased. “For our faculty, summer is the best time to do research because we have the time to delve into more extensive projects and provide our students with a



more relevant research experience – they get to develop a project, carry it out and troubleshoot when things do not go as planned,” says Dr. Wiese. “It is exciting for us to be able to work with them on a full-time basis, 40-hours-a-week. There is absolutely no need for them to go elsewhere when we are doing important research right here in our own labs.”

As a student, Messler was a member of the Biology Club and the Dead Alchemist Society (chemistry club) and was treasurer of the Tri Beta biology honor society. She also was drawn to the empathetic nature of the Misericordia campus, and became involved with Campus Ministry. She was among the first group of students inducted as a Mercy Associate, a group of volunteers who help carry out the mission of the Sisters of Mercy, the religious order that founded the University. She took part in a Spring Break service trip to inner city Philadelphia to serve at the Mercy Neighborhood Center in her sophomore year. As a junior, she went on a Misericordia service-learning mission to help the Sisters of Mercy serve the disadvantaged in Georgetown, Guyana – one of the most impoverished countries in South America. What she saw and experienced in the hospitals and orphanages of Guyana shaped who she is now, and the road she expects to follow in the future.

Armed with her Summer Fellowship experience, Messler plans to continue her research into plant-based pharmaceuticals, and pursue a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. She is scheduled to present her research at the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences symposium in Harrisburg, Pa., in April, and at the northeast regional meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists in Boston, Mass., in May.

The December 2014 graduate is most excited to have the opportunity to submit the work for publication in a scientific journal. “Publishing research was never something I expected to be able to accomplish as an undergraduate,” she adds. “Planning to pursue a career in research, it was always a dream of mine to have a publication. But I didn’t imagine it would be possible so early on in my research career.”

Messler has applied to six graduate schools and hopes to have a decision on her next academic step by April.

## UNDERSTANDING BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES

At age 24, third-year chemistry major Megan Toda ’16 of Olyphant, Pa., has an even greater appreciation for the opportunity that Misericordia’s Summer Research Fellowship

program afforded her. The non-traditional student spent the summer working on two computational research projects with Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

The daughter of Mark and Ruth Toda started her college career at Misericordia at age 18 right out of high school and became acquainted with Dr. Fedor through some early chemistry classes. When faced with the need to put her college career on-hold for personal reasons, it was Dr. Fedor who urged her to keep the door open for a future return to campus. After a four-year leave of absence, it was Dr. Fedor’s encouragement that helped her make the decision to return and continue her studies.

Now a junior, Toda spent the summer working side-by-side with her mentor on two infrared spectroscopy and computational chemistry research projects using a new PerkinElmer FT-IR (Fourier Transform Infrared) spectroscope – cutting-edge spectrometry equipment that recently was purchased through

“We don’t have a big program; we don’t have a lot of equipment, but we have a lot of solid educators. I used the word educators on purpose. Here we have people who are dedicated to student education and how their students learn. There isn’t a member in the biochemistry faculty who hasn’t helped me or improved my research in some way.”

— Undergraduate biochemistry major Adaline Predmore ’15 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

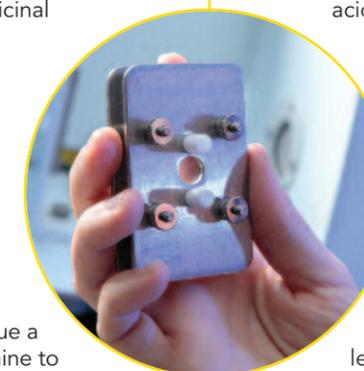
philanthropic support to enable more accurate and reliable test results.

Dr. Fedor and Toda studied the behavior of simple hydrogen-bonded molecules. The research team’s goal was to gain a better understanding of biological processes. They combined computational chemistry and infrared spectroscopy to study hydrogen-bond formation in phenol, which acts as a model for tyrosine – one of 22 amino acids that are used by cells to synthesize proteins.

The first project was entitled, *Investigating Hydrogen Bonding in Phenol Using Infrared Spectroscopy and Computational Chemistry*. The groundbreaking research resulted in the first scientific paper based solely on data produced by natural sciences faculty at Misericordia University being accepted for publication in a scientific journal. The article appeared in the Dec. 9, 2014 edition of *The Journal of Chemical Education*.

The journal article also was adapted into a laboratory experiment so other students can learn from the research conducted at Misericordia. It includes supporting materials so instructors can easily implement the experiment in their classrooms.

The second research project, *Applying FT-IR/FIR Techniques to Analyze the Intermolecular Hydrogen Bonding Interactions of Biological Models in Solution*, is currently underway. “The new PerkinElmer spectrometry equipment allows us to see into a new region of the infrared spectrum to help determine



Misericordia University student and faculty researchers, Frank DiPino, Jr., Ph.D., professor of biology, left, and Jessica Moss ’15, seated, and Alexandra Wagner ’15 and ’17 are collaborating with Jun Ling, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and director of the Office of Research Compliance at TCMC on two research projects.

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the fingerprint of a compound," Dr. Fedor explains. "Each peak in the spectrum indicates a specific interaction in the molecules under study."

Also a member of the Dead Alchemist Society, Toda has deep gratitude for the fellowship research opportunity. "I sincerely benefitted from my experience as a research fellow this summer," she offers. "I discovered that I really enjoy the research process, especially the troubleshooting aspects of research. It has been by far the single most important and fulfilling undergraduate experience for me."

Toda is appreciative of the *esprit de corps* that the fellowship offered, and says she learned just from being in the lab at Misericordia with other focused students, who all have the same goal of going to graduate school. "We learned from our research, our faculty mentors and we learned from each other," she says. "I have been so fortunate to have faculty support throughout my very untraditional college experience. Dr. (Charles) Saladino was the first chemistry faculty member I met at Misericordia, and he has been a constant support and inspiration for me. Dr. Fedor has been instrumental in my life. I will never forget the conversation that I had with her when I had decided to step away from school for a time, and I will never forget the conversation I had with her when I decided to return. Needless to say, I have been reminded of and relied upon her encouraging words as I dived back into student life."

Toda says she looks forward to the prospect of going to graduate school after she graduates from Misericordia in 2016. "I learned to appreciate computational chemistry very much, as it was one of the major tenets of our research this summer. I have really enjoyed my biochemistry and inorganic chemistry courses, and bioinorganic research is very intriguing to me. I am looking forward to taking physical chemistry next year so that I can further hone those skills."

### FREE RADICAL DAMAGE AND THE HUMAN BODY

As an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Misericordia University, Charles Saladino, Jr., Ph.D., has a philosophical way of examining and reflecting upon the physical world. Perched in the corner of his third-floor office in Hafey-McCormick Science Building, he readily acknowledges how he enjoys holding court and brainstorming with his students and undergraduate researchers. Oftentimes, the veteran academic says he revisits a poster that features a sketch of a monument and a simple statement below it: "To the unknown scientist who did some important groundwork."

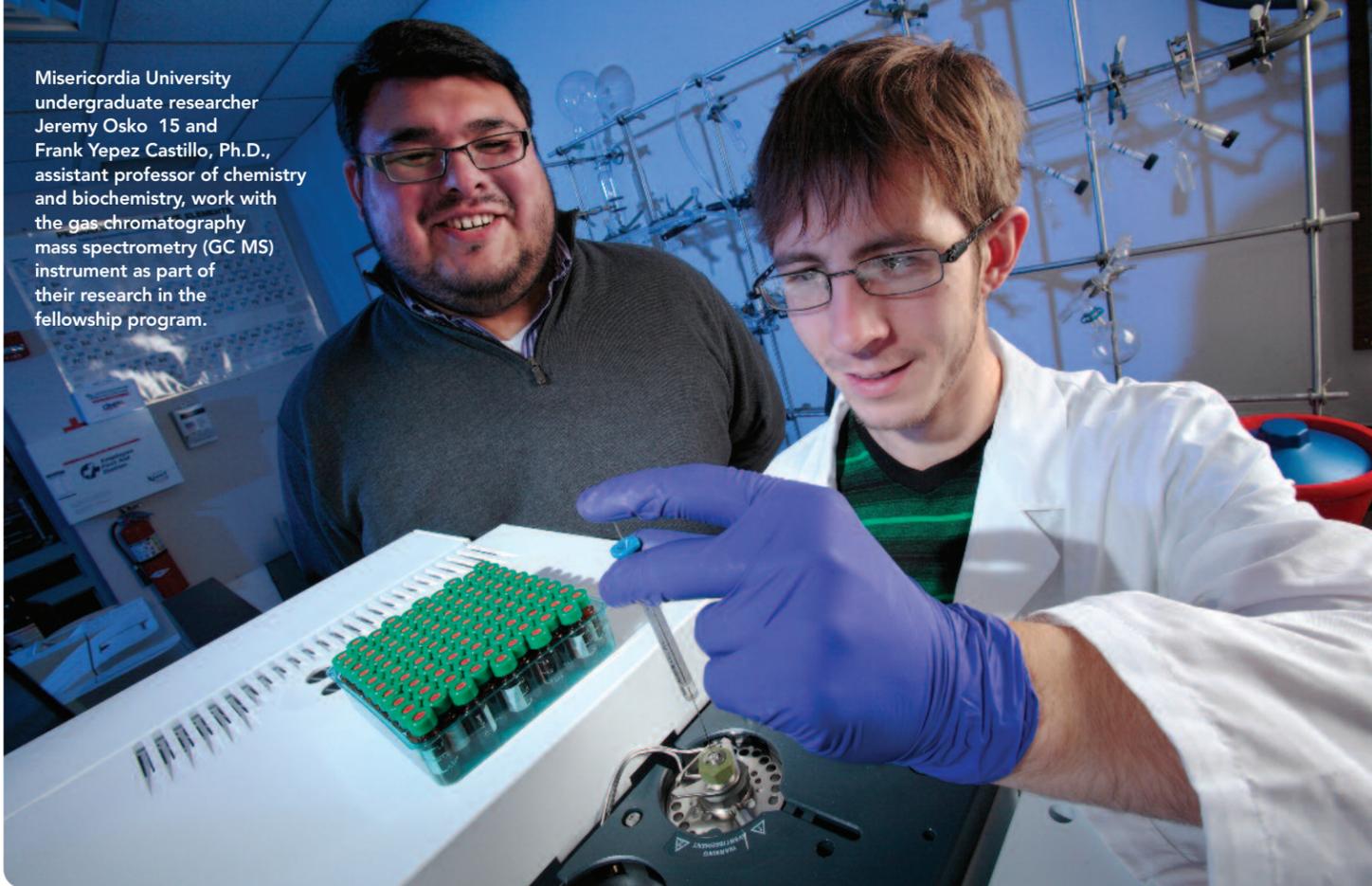
It is a simple lesson for sure, but one he has referred to often. It's a mission statement, he says, the vast majority of scientists and researchers live by because it takes an army of these dedicated professionals to realize a significant breakthrough in pharmaceutical, scientific or any other related research.

"When you start getting into biochemical mechanisms, it takes great perseverance," Dr. Saladino states. "I could argue that a lot of research is 90 percent perspiration and 10 percent inspiration."

In the Misericordia University laboratories, Dr. Saladino partnered with undergraduate biochemistry major Adaline Predmore '15 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for the ongoing research project, *A Novel Method for Undergraduate Biochemistry Students to Detect Free Radicals and their Elimination of Vitamin C*, as part of the Natural Sciences Summer Research Fellowship Program.

"The program fosters independent learning and critical thinking," Predmore says. "When you work in a lab for a class, you are handed directions and just about everything you need

Misericordia University undergraduate researcher Jeremy Osko '15 and Frank Yopez Castillo, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, work with the gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC MS) instrument as part of their research in the fellowship program.



to do to make it work. When you do research, you encounter problems. Sometimes it doesn't work at all, and it is your job to figure out why. Dr. Saladino gave me a lot of freedom in the lab. He tells me this is what I want as a general idea, and I have to apply that."

Together, they developed a chemical model system that enables them to study antioxidants and free radicals – an atom, molecule or ion that has an unpaired electron. The system allows Misericordia researchers to gauge antioxidants' efficacy, compare different combinations of antioxidants, and to determine how they work in combination with free radicals.

"It (the interaction of antioxidants and free radicals) is so fast it is difficult to measure," acknowledges Predmore, who will receive her degree in May 2015 and plans on attending graduate school for a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, "but they are highly reactive molecules and they cause a lot of damage."

Free radical damage in the human body is responsible, at least in part, for Alzheimer's disease, atherosclerosis, cancers, aging and more. The hope with the ongoing research at Misericordia University is to gain a better understanding of the free-radical reaction and how antioxidants react to inhibit them – and eventually lead to some form of treatment.

"It is hard to make the big leap to the human system," says Dr. Saladino, explaining the difficulty in measuring their success. "Antioxidants have completed their work in a nanosecond. You have to extrapolate what is going on in the body even if we cannot directly measure it. The closest they have come is measuring substances in the blood that tell us free-radical reactions have occurred, but we cannot measure what's really happening in a given instant."

Instead, Misericordia researchers relied upon chemical reactions of antioxidants and free radicals with luminol to measure the effectiveness of antioxidants. Luminol generates

free radicals in which blue light is given off. An antioxidant inhibits free-radical generation by luminol with less light being produced, according to Dr. Saladino and Predmore. This light, however, can only be detected by a sensitive instrument called a luminometer.

"What we are doing will allow us to dissect the chemistry that is probably going on in the body. The more we learn about that the more we can suggest modulating that, manipulating it," Dr. Saladino says. "It allows us to suggest which antioxidants will really be most effective in preventing cellular damage and the conditions (temperature, pH, etc.) in which they act."

During their research, Predmore reviewed more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, operated new instrumentation (GloMax 96 Microplate Luminometer from Promega), learned precision measurements, like nanomolar concentrations, refined her pipetting techniques, and discovered clean glassware makes all the difference in getting reliable data.

"We don't have a big program; we don't have a lot of equipment, but we have a lot of solid educators," Predmore says, reflecting on the research that fellow Misericordia biochemistry majors will continue after she graduates. "I used the word educators on purpose. Here we have people who are dedicated to student education and how their students learn. There isn't a member in the biochemistry faculty who hasn't helped me or improved my research in some way."

### NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS AND CLONING

The PAK-2 gene and nosocomial infections have little in common other than the unknowns that are being explored about them in the laboratories of Misericordia University and The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) in Scranton, Pa.

Together, faculty and student researchers are collaborating on projects that may one day broaden the understanding of the possible transmission of bacteria, viruses and infections from health care workers' uniforms or scrubs to others, and may lead to the development of anti-tumor drugs to battle diseases such as breast cancer.

For Jessica Moss '15 of Hunlock Creek, Pa., as a biology and pre-med major it is easy to see why she chose to become immersed in research that may affect so many aspects of the health care system. About 1 in 20 patients or more than 1.6 million infections (nosocomial) annually are being treated in U.S. hospitals, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The cost in dollars and lives is staggering: More than 23,000 deaths and up to \$33 billion in associated costs are attributed to the transference of infections in clinical settings, according to Moss' research. "I find it to be very interesting," the daughter of Richard and Charlotte Moss says about her ongoing research. "I have learned a lot about nosocomial infections. I would really like to know how aware people are that this (transmission of viruses, etc.) could potentially be happening."

"I'm usually a pretty quiet person, and I don't usually like to go out and collaborate with people, but by doing this research it has taught me that collaborating with other people makes you understand more about your surroundings and more about people," adds Moss, who plans on earning a master's degree in biology before attending medical school.

Jun Ling, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and director of the Office of Research Compliance at TCMC, is collaborating with Misericordia University researchers Frank DiPino, Jr., Ph.D., professor of biology; Brenda Pavill, Ph.D., C.R.N.P., associate professor of nursing; Elizabeth Barilla, M.S.L.I.S., information literacy and assessment librarian, and Moss on the research.

"We are much more sensitive to it (nosocomial infections) after what happened in Texas with Ebola," Dr. DiPino acknowledges. "It's a much more extreme example, but

it makes her research that much more timely."

In the end, researchers want to measure health care workers' awareness of nosocomial infection transference and to find out how easy is it to transfer organisms from one patient to another. Do they know their attire can be a source of transmission in clinical settings and in the public? Poor hygiene, for example, also plays a significant role as doctors, physician assistants and nurses oftentimes go from patient to patient in the emergency room and from

hospital room to hospital room during their day. Are they washing their hands properly? Do they de-glove and then transfer contaminants to another part of their body or gowns?

**"I discovered that I really enjoy the research process – especially the troubleshooting aspects of research. It has been by far the single most important and fulfilling undergraduate experience for me."**

— Megan Toda '16,  
Summer Research Fellow

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**Continued from page 21**

Can health care workers wear their scrubs in public places after work without spreading pathogens?

The answers to these and many other questions will begin to take shape thanks to a piloting survey that has been developed by researchers. The survey tool is being tested on students enrolled in the health and medical science programs at Misericordia University. Survey questions are expected to be revised, re-tested and validated by May 2015.

"This project is an extension of my laboratory research on the control of antibiotic-resistant bacteria infection," Dr. Ling explains. "Through discussions with Dr. DiPino and the involvement of public health department faculty at Misericordia, Jessica has been able to finish some preliminary studies. Jessica will be presenting her research at the American Medical Student Association Conference. This project represents a good model for TCMC to collaborate with local universities on multi-disciplinary research to promote medical education."

The next step in the process is to have professional health care workers participate in the survey. Once this data is analyzed, researchers would like to develop protocols that will help limit the transmission of nosocomial infections. The final part of the research will involve testing hospital attire to determine what, if any, pathogens are being transferred from patients and hospitals to health care clothing, and finally to others.

"We can look for and culture these organisms and quantify them and get a number to get a better sense of the likelihood for transfer," says Dr. DiPino, who says this research may drive a policy agenda that results in health care workers changing their clothing in and out of the hospital. "The timing is correct to re-examine that policy."

In other research facilities at Misericordia and TCMC, Alexandra Wagner '15, '17 of Tamaqua, Pa., is exploring the potential for the PAK-2 gene to be used as a therapeutic target in the development of anti-tumor drugs with Dr. Ling and Dr. DiPino. Wagner understands the importance of the research, as 40,000 women die of breast cancer annually and 50,310 people die of colon cancer each year, according to their research documents.

"It's really amazing that I am working on this type of research," says Wagner, who will receive her undergraduate degree in medical science before matriculating into the physician assistant program at MU. "My Aunt Kathy passed away from colon cancer. I watched her suffer. Nobody should have to suffer like that. It definitely motivates me that there has to be a way to cure it."

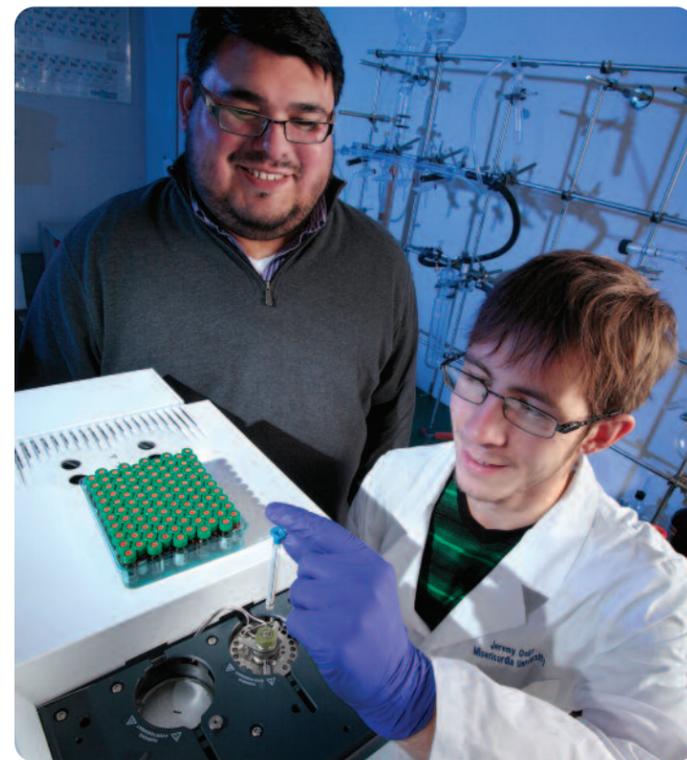
Since the summer, Wagner has been cloning and mutating the PAK-2 gene through the use of vectors and primers researchers made and designed over a period of months. A protein known as a kinase is encoded by the complex gene, which acts as a switch to turn cellular activities on and off. When this switch short-circuits, the cell divides and grows uncontrollably. The abnormal growth in the cell leads to tumors and metastasis, according to the research team.

"This is an important project to study the molecular mechanism of cancer development," says Dr. Ling. "The involvement of students not only provides a chance to train

(top, left) Dr. Charles Saladino and student researcher Adaline Predmore '15 examined the impact of antioxidants.

(center, left) Jeremy Osko '15 developed laboratory experiences for future students with Dr. Frank Yepez Castillo.

(bottom, left) Alice Messler '14 and Dr. Cosima Wiese examined antimicrobial activity with the HPLC.



them how to do research, but also enhances the educational collaboration between TCMC and Misericordia University, therefore facilitating the advance of academic programs in both institutions. The students have passed broad technical trainings from the summer research program, now they are at the stage to prepare PAK-2 mutants for further functional studies in cancer cells."

By cloning the PAK-2 gene into a vector – which carries the gene of interest – researchers were able to analyze the DNA using restriction enzyme mapping. With gel electrophoresis, researchers confirmed the presence and position of the PAK-2. Primers also were used to insert the PAK-2 gene into the vector, which are circular DNA molecules that have specific sites for enzymes. The process enables researchers to choose restrictive enzymes depending upon where they want to insert the DNA into the vector.

"The plasmid is going to make it more amendable to mutagenizing the gene," Dr. DiPino explains. "We can target the kind of changes we want to make in the gene and it alters the protein. One approach to understand the function of a component of the cell is to alter it – in other words, break it – and then examine what the cell can no longer do. We alter key sites on the protein in order to understand how the protein is controlled. We are trying to identify key places in the protein that controls that switch."

The collaboration between MU, TCMC and student researchers began in September 2013, and is scheduled to continue through the spring 2015 semester.

"I think it is a great learning opportunity," adds the daughter of Craig and Karen Wagner about the fellowship program. "I would definitely recommend it to students who are not happy with textbook definitions and want to expand their knowledge of science outside the classroom."

**DEVELOPING LABS BY EXAMINING NICOTINE**

Long after Jeremy Osko '15 of Ashley, Pa., receives his bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Misericordia University in May, students at his alma mater will be learning about cell metabolism and chromatographic and mass spectrometry techniques in laboratory experiences he designed with Frank Yepez Castillo, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, as part of the inaugural Summer Research Fellowship Program instituted by the College of Arts and Sciences.

The collaborative research project the student-faculty team designed, *Bringing Metabolomics into the Organic Chemistry Classroom: Developing New Laboratory Experiences to Explore the Chemistry of Nicotine in the Human Body*, resulted in three new laboratory experiences built around a single molecule – nicotine.

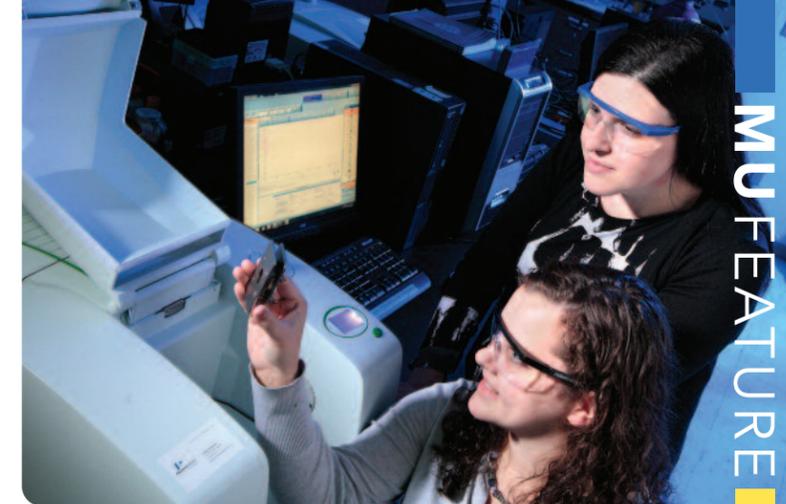
The three new organic lab experiences examine the relatively new electronic cigarettes or e-cigs, and the chemicals contained in liquid cartridge refills; nicotine and its effects on the production of dopamine in rat cells, and how nicotine interacts with cells.

**Continued on page 24**

(top, right) Dr. Anna Fedor and student Megan Toda '16 utilized computational chemistry and infrared spectroscopy in their work.

(center, right) Undergraduate students Timothy Kennedy '16 and Michael Pheasant '16 worked with Dr. Barbara McCraith to examine stream health in the region.

(bottom, right) Dr. Frank DiPino, Jr., collaborated with students Jessica Moss '15 and Alexander Wagner '15.





**"It is definitely worth all the hard work to know that other people are going to learn from my experiences."**

Undergraduate researcher  
Jeremy Osko '15 of Ashley, Pa.

everyone's favorite subjects, but maybe this will give them a change of heart."

The Misericordia research team chose to explore e-cigs and nicotine in their laboratories because of the new product's popularity in society and its lack of regulation by the Food and Drug Administration. Battery-powered e-cigs contain nicotine and emit a smoke-like vapor. The recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also illustrates how the usage of tobacco products, including e-cigs, among teens has increased. Last year, 4.5 percent of high school students said they used e-cigs in the last 30 days, according to the report.

Misericordia's newly developed labs enable students to learn different aspects of organic chemistry by various hands-on experiences. For example, participants will learn the delicate process of cell culturing by placing media onto cell plates and then into incubators so they can be split to grow enough cells for experiments. In another experiment, students will examine the molecular dynamics of PC-12 cells interacting with nicotine, as the drug binds itself to a receptor in the cell membrane. Lab participants will then be able to see how binding takes place and what would happen if they slightly changed the structure of nicotine.

"I never grew cells before," Osko says about the added knowledge he gained as a fellow and from the ongoing research. "I actually had to show three other people how to grow the cells. That was kind of cool."

In the second lab, Dr. Yopez Castillo and Osko chose to use PC-12 cells to measure the release of dopamine since they can be used as a simple model of mammal brain cells. The release of the chemical dopamine in the human brain is what gives the addictive effect to cigarettes. By using the Agilent gas chromatography mass spectrometer, lab participants can measure the concentration of nicotine and also determine if higher concentrations of the addictive drug results in the release of more dopamine. Misericordia researchers concluded that as nicotine increases so does the release of dopamine in PC-12 cells.

Through the use of the new technology, Dr. Yopez Castillo, Osko and future students can also measure media and determine the formulation in refills for e-cigs, such as compounds, ions and fragments, as part of the third lab experience.

In order to determine if the lab experiences are successful, the collaborative team had to document if students retained the information. Through the development of the labs, Dr. Yopez Castillo and Osko adjusted their teaching methods and certain aspects of the labs to ensure their overarching goal was achieved: To help students learn and retain the information in the organic chemistry laboratory experience.

"It could be frustrating at times with the amount of work that's involved," acknowledges Osko, who wants to conduct pharmaceutical research after earning his Ph.D., "but at the end of the day it was motivational to see just how much I could accomplish. I was about to work at a fast food restaurant again for the summer, so I was extremely happy to see a job opening in my position of study that would benefit my education."

**For more information about the Misericordia University Summer Research Fellowship Program, please contact Dr. Russ Pottle at (570) 674-1484 or at [rpottle@misericordia.edu](mailto:rpottle@misericordia.edu). For additional information on the College of Arts and Sciences at Misericordia University, log on to [www.misericordia.edu](http://www.misericordia.edu) and click on the academics tab.**

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"My passion has always been teaching," says Dr. Frank, the name his students use to address him at MU. "Students have a hard time seeing what's going on in the lab and how it relates to their day-to-day lives. With this project, we wanted to bring technology and protocols that are used in the health sciences into the labs so they would actually see how this works."

In this case, the son of Daniel Osko and Donna Meck of Ashley, Pa., learned more than how to conduct basic scientific research. He had to prepare documentation to receive approval from the Misericordia University Institutional Review Board; write a grant and develop a budget to support the ongoing project financially; learn new techniques on the Agilent gas chromatography mass spectrometer in order to properly measure media; review scientific literature to determine best practices; assess the efficacy of labs as a learning tool, grow pheochromocytoma rat cells (PC-12 cells), and to make poster and oral presentations about the work before his peers and at state conferences, like the 45th Central Regional American Chemical Society Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., in the fall.

"It is definitely worth all the hard work to know that other people are going to learn from my experiences," says Osko, who will attend the University of Pennsylvania for graduate school. "Science classes aren't

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF ESPN

### IT graduate manages digital analytics for Worldwide Leader in Sports

If you have ever doubted the value of an updated LinkedIn profile, Matt Hopkins '09 has a story for you.

While working with tracking software for a consulting company in Philadelphia, Pa., Hopkins was sitting at his desk when he listened to a voicemail on his cell phone. The message was from ESPN, and the Worldwide Leader in Sports was interested in possibly bringing him on board. It took all his effort to contain his excitement in front of his then co-workers.

"ESPN actually found my profile on LinkedIn (the popular social networking site) and found my resume from years ago when I had applied," recalls Hopkins. "I applied for a totally different job a few years before and never heard anything back. There was someone I think in HR that saw I had the skills I needed for the position."

After phone conversations, ESPN flew him to Bristol, Conn., for an interview – a flight that, he said, took less time than getting through airport security. Now two years later, Hopkins is the manager of digital analytics for ESPN.

A 2009 Misericordia graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology, Hopkins works with two other staff members to manage tracking software across all of ESPN's digital properties. That means he is collecting data, and fine-tuning how data is collected, about how users are consuming ESPN products on desktop, mobile and devices such as Roku and Apple TV.

"Basically all the internal analytics data and all the decisions that get made about those products are made from the data our software collects," Hopkins explains. "We are in charge of making sure the software collects the data accurately and has all the requirements our clients need. We manage that across everything on every platform ESPN exists on."

Big data is a big deal for major enterprises such as ESPN. It can be a highly technical realm, but its results play a major role in how media content, advertising and marketing are presented and how the user consumes the content. So while the games and personalities may be the face of ESPN, Hopkins' behind-the-scenes role is a significant one.

It was, however, a circuitous road that led him to that role, more than three years after graduating from Misericordia. An internship during his undergraduate career led to a full-time position post-graduation with Ken Pollock Chevrolet in Pittston, Pa. Eager to explore new opportunities, a short time later he moved to Philadelphia, where his then girlfriend and now wife, Maura Musial '10 (a graduate of MU's five-year master's degree program in occupational therapy) had an internship and soon a full-time position at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania.

Hopkins landed at Urban Outfitters, the hip and sometimes-edgy South Philadelphia-based clothing corporation, where he



Matt Hopkins '09 is the manager of digital analytics for ESPN.

worked on a start-up project "that kind of fell apart." Though the company told him there may be a job for him if he waited a few months, he wanted to keep his career moving. Next he'd work for Charming Shoppes, a women's fashion company with operations such as Fashion Bug and Catherines. He became manager of e-commerce and settled in for three years.

"After deciding I didn't want to do women's fashion, I applied with a consulting company called Maass Media in Philadelphia, and that's where I honed a lot of my technical knowledge about tracking software," he says.

In a little less than a year, he got the call from ESPN.

"It was pretty crazy, and I had mixed feelings at the same time," Hopkins says "At this point, I had just gotten engaged and my fiancé had a great job with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. It's the number one children's hospital in the country. I was excited, and she was excited for me. She gave up a great opportunity to move up here with me."

Maura is now happily working as an occupational therapist for Bristol Public Schools, and the two married in September 2014.

When Hopkins, a Scranton, Pa., native, started at Misericordia, he had no idea this is where his studies and career would lead him. "I went to my career counselor and said I like to do things with computers and I like business. Do you have anything that's a mix of that?" he recalls. "That's how I got to the IT program. The work I did in my major helped me get my first job out of college and has been the base for everything I have learned since then."

In his current position, he focuses much of his time working with mobile apps, tracking architecture, and running quality assurance on architecture that's about to be put into production. His career, though, has featured a wide-range of IT experiences, and he says his Misericordia experience has left him well-prepared.

"When I got to Urban Outfitters, I fell back on a lot of the stuff I learned at Misericordia to do my job," he says. "At that point, I was a front-end web developer, so I leaned on a lot of the principles I learned, the coding classes and labs I had while at Misericordia. They were a huge help."

Now at ESPN, when he is not deep into analytics software, he gets to enjoy some unique benefits. Employees all have small flat screen TVs in their cubicles. "We have to be kept up to date on all the sporting news of the day, Hopkins says. And he never knows who he will see in the cafeteria at lunchtime.

"I go to lunch and see people like Jerome Bettis and Jerry Rice in line to get cheeseburgers," he adds.

# ACTING THE PART

Sport management graduate finds career with Flyers suits him well

Jason Tempesta '06

SPORT MANAGEMENT

On Monday, Jason Tempesta '06 is with members of the Philadelphia Flyers Stanley Cup Championship teams of the 1970s – the famed Broad Street Bullies – buying food and donating it to a Philadelphia, Pa., soup kitchen.

On Tuesday, he's speaking to students at a Cherry Hill, N.J., elementary school – some of the 30,000 children he will talk to this year through the Flyers School Assembly program.

On Wednesday, he has coordinated 30 staff members from the Flyers' front office to donate food and volunteer their time at the Camden (N.J.) Neighborhood Center.

And on Friday, he'll put in a 13-hour day that finds him running from office to ice to luxury suites to arena concourse to team locker room at the Wells Fargo Center.

It's all just a part of the job he loves, the one he's held almost since he finished his time at Misericordia University in December 2006. Tempesta is the senior manager of community relations for the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers. "In what I do there really is no typical day, and I love that about my job," says Tempesta, who earned his Bachelor of Science degree in sport management. "I feel the same seven years later as I did as an intern just getting started in the business. Right now, I get paid to do what I love every day. The best part of my job is seeing the positive impact our team can have on our community."

Tempesta's career path started when he came to Misericordia. Growing up and through high school he played a multitude of sports, and arrived at Misericordia as a soccer player. He knew, however, that his days as a player were coming to an end. "My freshman year I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do so I went undeclared," he acknowledges. "I soon realized that I wanted to continue to be involved in sports after college in some way and a great opportunity to do that was to study sport management at Misericordia."

That led to an internship with the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers – at the time owned by Comcast Spectacor, the same parent company

as the Flyers. As an intern, and later part-time staff member, he helped coordinate offseason activities, such as team visits to more than 40 summer camps throughout the tri-state area as well as appearances by the Sixers dancers, alumni and mascot.

Still needing a semester to complete his degree, Tempesta returned to Misericordia with an offer from the 76ers to continue working for the team while he finished school. "The opportunity presented itself for me to continue to keep my face and name around the Sixers organization, and it wasn't one I was willing to pass up," Tempesta says. "I'd finish class at 2 (p.m.), drive down to Philadelphia and work the Sixers game that tipped off at 7. I'd finish my responsibilities at the arena around 10, hop back in my car and head home to Dallas – often getting back to my apartment after midnight. Then I'd get up and go to class the next morning."

Tempesta's hard work and commitment would pay off. After completing his degree, he moved to Philadelphia where he continued to work for the 76ers, doing on-court promotions during games and community relations events. By the end of that summer, the 76ers didn't have a full-time position available, but the Flyers were looking for a community relations coordinator, and 76ers management encouraged the hockey club to take a look at him. By the time the Flyers' home opener came that fall, he had the job.

"The only things I had to offer were my sport management degree from Misericordia and my work ethic. Those two things are what got me to where I am today," Tempesta says proudly.

Tempesta says more people have his cell phone number than his office number because much of his work takes him outside the Flyers offices in the Wells Fargo Center. Between 80 and 100 times per year, he and Flyers' players visit schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware with school programs that focus on the importance of literacy, education and fighting childhood obesity. He coordinates monthly visits to hospitals and charitable events, and is responsible for handling more than 3,600 charitable donations sent from the team to a wide variety of causes each year.

For 41 days a year, though, he's orchestrating a wealth of activities inside the arena for Flyers' home games. "I put in a few miles around the Wells Fargo Center," he says of game nights.

Though he often has duties starting early in the morning, "game mode" begins at 4 p.m. For each home game, he invites a different nonprofit organization to set up on the arena's main concourse to share information about the charitable organization with fans entering the arena. "Simply by opening our doors to them, we are able to build a relationship and raise awareness for a different cause at each game," Tempesta adds.

For each game, Tempesta also invites a local Hometown Hero – a returning military

serviceman or servicewoman – to be a guest of the Flyers and receive recognition for their service during the game. He meets that night's honoree at 6 p.m. and takes him or her to special seats along the glass to watch the team warm up. At 7, he brings the Hometown Hero onto the ice to join the Flyers National Anthem singer as they salute while the "Star Spangled Banner" is performed.

At the conclusion of the National Anthem, the puck drops and Tempesta returns the Hometown Hero to their seats before heading to a private club suite in order to visit a group of special guests in attendance for the evening.

At the start of the season, Flyers Captain Claude Giroux came to Tempesta and asked him to invite a different nonprofit children's organization to be his personal guests in the suite he purchased for each Flyers home game. "I get to call up the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia, the Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia and offer them a once-in-a-lifetime experience on behalf of our captain," Tempesta explains. "We recognize their organization on the scoreboard for the positive things they do for children in our community and really just try to provide them the VIP treatment with 18 suite tickets, food, beverage and parking all taken care of for them."

As the horn sounds to end the first period, Tempesta is on his way to the Flyers Fan Zone



Jason Tempesta '06 is the senior manager of community relations for the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers.

main concourse to assist the nonprofit organization close up for the night. At the start of the third period, it is off to Giroux's suite again to make sure everything is going smoothly with the captain's guests. If it's not too late in the evening for the families, Tempesta will bring the group to meet Giroux and other members of the team in the locker room at the end of the game to take photos

and sign autographs. After the meet and greet, he'll escort the group out and close the door to his office. Near 11 p.m., Tempesta is on his way home.

"I found out quickly it is my true passion," he says. "If I were doing something else here I don't know if I'd be as successful. We have several different departments on my floor for the Flyers. I was lucky enough to find my way into community relations. I found a position that fits my personality best as well as my strengths. It honestly doesn't feel like work because I love what I do every day."

Tempesta said at Misericordia the quality of classes in the sport management program combined with business classes

prepared him well. A lasting lesson from his time at MU is to take the pursuit of the career you want seriously.

"One of the major things I learned at Misericordia is you should always dress the part," he shares. "If you're coming in as an intern taking it like it's just a class for credit, you might not do as well as someone who comes in prepared like they already work here. From day one at Misericordia, I learned to dress the part, act the part and take it as a profession you want to do for the next 30-plus years of your life."

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retail store to pick up a personalized Flyers jersey he had made for the Hometown Hero of the night. During the second period, he takes the honoree to meet a Flyers Alumni player as part of a two-minute presentation displayed on the scoreboard that summarizes their military service.

"For us to be able to say thank you and to give something back to them for the sacrifices they've made is one of the more rewarding parts of the job," he says.

After paying tribute to the evening's Hometown Hero, it is back to the arena's

# ALUMNI NEWS

For more information about alumni events and news, visit the MU website: [misericordia.edu/alumni](http://misericordia.edu/alumni)



Kelly Spencer McAndrew '79

Hello to my fellow Misericordia alumni. I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas season and you all are enjoying good health in the New Year. Personally, 2014 was a year of big changes for me and my husband, Patrick. In November, we moved to North Carolina so he could accept a position with a company in Wilmington. I join the ranks of many of our alumni who live a distance from our beautiful home on woodland heights.

I hope that you seriously consider joining us for Alumni Weekend, which will be held from Friday, May 29th and ends with a lovely champagne brunch on Sunday, May 31st.

Is your class celebrating a milestone year? Perhaps you would like to act as a class agent, or wish to plan a special event for your classmates during our Alumni Weekend. Please contact the Alumni, Community and Donor Relations Office at [alumni@misericordia.edu](mailto:alumni@misericordia.edu) or at (570) 674 6764.

If you do not foresee a trip to Dallas in the near future due to your schedule, would you consider hosting a gathering for alumni and friends of Misericordia? Once again, our Alumni Office is ready to assist you. Another way you can connect with your alma mater is to volunteer to represent it at a college fair in your community. Our admissions office would be more than happy to supply you with all the information and handouts you would need.

Do not forget our *Misericordia Proud* program. An alumni referral for a prospective student eliminates the application fee and offers a \$500 scholarship upon admission.

I want to congratulate Mary Ellen Gullotti '87 for her nomination of president elect. She has served as our MUAA president in the past. I am confident she will effectively lead our board which represents you.

Would you or anyone you know like to join the board? Do you know of anyone who is a good candidate for one of our awards? Please take the time to complete the nomination form(s) located on the bottom of the alumni home page at [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/alumniawards](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/alumniawards).

It has been my pleasure to serve as your board president. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board and seeing you all at Alumni Weekend!

*Kelly Spencer McAndrew*

# CLASS NOTES

Stay in touch with friends and classmates by posting updates about your career, family and other noteworthy accomplishments on [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu) or [facebook.com/MisericordiaAlum](https://www.facebook.com/MisericordiaAlum). Please submit *Class Notes* to [alumni@misericordia.edu](mailto:alumni@misericordia.edu).

## 1954

**Anna Mae Adamkevicz Lacey '54, Sandra Rothstein Krieg '55 and Dr. Mary Stockman Smith '56** enjoyed for lunch and a game of bridge with



members of the Association of Family and Friends of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pa. The organization promotes and supports medical education, research, clinical care and scholarships.

**Matoto '81**, financial services-food services and quality of Fairfax County, Va., Public Schools, met while on a cruise to Nova Scotia. Twenty years separate them in graduation, yet they had a great time comparing notes and reliving memories from their respective days at Misericordia and the visionary Sisters of Mercy, who gave them the confidence and the tools to believe that they could do anything they set their minds to.



## 1959

**Betty Tomolaitis DiAndriole '59** and her husband, Frank, participated in a pilgrimage to visit Catholic shrines in France with a group from their parish, St. Agnes Church, Naples, Fla. They visited Lourdes, Carcassonne, Avignon, Lyons, Nevers, Chartres, Rouen, Lisieux, Mt. St. Michel, Normandy and Paris. This was the couple's fourth pilgrimage with their local parish. Previous trips included visits to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Italy and "Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul" in Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Malta.

## 1965

**Mary Louise Zurenda Austin '65**, the president and CEO of USO of Georgia, Inc., was recognized by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair General Martin Dempsey at the United Service Organizations (USO) Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., in October for the work she has been doing with the USO. More than 1,000 people were at the event. To hear the remarks, please type this link into your web browser: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?322172-1/uso-awards-gala>. Mary Lou graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in general studies.

## 1962

**Dr. Marie Pachence Reeves '62**, the retired senior scientist and vice president for quality at Science Applications International Corp., and **Ruth Degavage**

**Mary Louise Zurenda Austin '65** also was presented with the Marvin Myers Leadership Award by the Georgia Veterans



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Day Parade Association of Atlanta, Inc., at the Freedom Ball in the Georgia Aquarium Oceans Ballroom in November. She was recognized for her dedication and leadership in serving military and military families, as well as for her inspiration for those she serves and leads. In the picture, Kevin I. Miller, president of the association, presents her with the award.

## 1968

**Judy Walsh Daley '68** self-published a book on the Misericordia mascot entitled, *Were There Always Cougars at College Misericordia University*. The children's book is available for purchase in the campus bookstore and at Mercy Center, Dallas, Pa. Proceeds from the book benefit the Sisters of Mercy.

## 1972

**Marybeth Cavanaugh-Zeman '72** wrote the critically acclaimed book, *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian: Challenging the Juvenile Justice System One Book at a Time*. Visit: <http://talesofajailhouse librarian.com> to read reviews and recent articles.

## 1985

**Sue Kluger '85** was presented with the Donchess Distinguished Service Award by Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pa., for demonstrating service to the community and the school. She earned her Master of Science in human service administration. She also holds a BA from Goucher College.

## 2004

**Michael A. Krauson '04, '10** and his wife, Mary Blair, welcomed their son, Zackary Michael, on July 9, 2014.



## 2004

**Desiree McDonough '04** and her fiancé, Mark, welcomed their first child, Sage Elizabeth, on July 23, 2014.



## 2007

**Krystal Bernardyn '07** and Brian Finneran were married in a double ring ceremony on July 5, 2014. Krystal is employed at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Hazleton, Pa. The couple honeymooned in the Riviera Maya, Mexico, and now reside in Mahanoy City, Pa.



Sister Paulette Berrang, RSM, '70, lives at Mercy Center, and frequently walks on campus to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the manicured grounds. She has made friends with the grounds staff and makes a point of offering them high praise and enthusiastic support. Knowing of her love for the campus, the grounds staff, lead by Laurie Finnegan, asked Green Valley Landscaping in Plains, Pa., to donate a tree that they planted in Sister Paulette's honor near the water feature at the center of campus, a place she identified as one of her favorites. The staff donated the funds for a plaque that reads, "Gifted in honor of Sr. Paulette Berrang. Mercy Forever. Thanks for your positive energy everyday. Gratefully, Your MU grounds friends." Shown with Sister Paulette, in pink, are groundskeepers, from left, Rich Walker, John Mokychic, Ryan McAnney, Edgar Tapia and Laurie Finnegan, grounds manager.

## 2008

**Robert Aten '08** and his wife, Leah welcomed their daughter on Sept. 28, 2014.

**Jason Jolley '08** has been named assistant branch manager at PNC Bank. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in communications. He earned his MBA in 2012 from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

## 2009

**Danielle Renee Adams '09** and Steven Ricki Lutz Jr. were united in holy matrimony on Oct. 12, 2013 in an outdoor garden ceremony. Danielle is employed by Jersey Shore Hospital, Jersey Shore, Pa., and works as a physical therapist at the Tiadaghton outpatient clinic in Lock Haven, Pa. The couple enjoyed a beautiful and romantic honeymoon in Barbados. They currently reside in Beach Creek, Pa.

**Wayne Kogoy '09** and his wife, **Kristina Bach '09** welcomed a baby boy, Remington James, on June 6, 2014.

## 2010

**Maura Kathleen Musial '10** and **Matthew Hopkins '09** were married Sep. 6, 2014.



Maura is a pediatric occupational therapist and is employed by the Bristol School District, Bristol, Conn. Matthew is a manager of digital analytics at ESPN, Bristol. Following a wedding trip to Hawaii, the couple resides in Plainville.

**Heather Fitch '10** and her husband, William Clark, were married Oct. 5, 2013. Heather is the director of human resources for Huntzinger Management Group Inc., Plains Twp., Pa. The couple took a wedding trip to Aruba and resides in Tunkhannock, Pa.

**Sarah Hite Hando, '10** and **Dennis Hando Jr., '02**, were married on Dec. 28, 2013 in Geneva, N.Y. The Handos spent their honeymoon at Seneca Lake, N.Y. Dennis is

a teacher for the Wyoming Area School District, Exeter, Pa. Sarah is an assistant editor for Civitas Media's community news

Continued on page 30

**Continued from page 29**

group in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The couple resides in Harding, Pa., with their cats, Mittens and Droopy.

## 2011

**Gina Urbon '11** and **Brenden McArdle '10** were married Oct. 19, 2013. Gina is employed as a physical therapist with St. Luke's Health System. Brenden is employed by Lehigh Valley Health Systems.

**Kaitlyn Huttman '11** has been named marketing director at Belle Reve Senior Living, Milford, Pa. She is responsible for sales and marketing of the retirement community, community outreach and networking with area agencies and businesses. Kaitlyn graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a focus in management. She is a member of the Sigma Beta Delta National Business Honor Society and is a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

**Jamie Dougherty '11** and her husband, Robert Pugliese, were married Oct. 12, 2013. A wedding reception was held at Fiorelli's in Peckville, Pa.

**Melissa Gavin '11** and her husband, Coty Wright, were married Aug. 10, 2013. Melissa is employed by Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates, Scranton, Pa. The couple took a wedding cruise to Bermuda. They reside in Greenfield Twp., Pa.

**Brian E. Burd '11** has been named assistant vice president and loan operations supervisor at The Honesdale National Bank. Prior to his promotion, he had served as a branch manager and loan officer since joining the lending institution in 2007. He earned his Master of Business Administration at MU.

**Jonelle Marie Lasky '11** and Corey Robert Kime were married June 29, 2013. Jonelle is employed as the head toddler teacher by Wyoming Valley Montessori, Kingston, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Los Angeles, Calif.

**Ronald Augelli '11** and Grace Mae Piconi were married June 22, 2013. Ron owns Augelli Printing, Jessup, Pa. Following a wedding trip to Matlacha, Fla., and Walt Disney World Resort, the couple resides in Lake Henry, Pa.



Alumni returned to campus to act as Commencement marshals for the 4th annual Winter Commencement ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 14. Participating in the event, first row from left, are Marianne Guarnieri '11, Kara Golden '99, Carol Gulla Williams '67 and Marcella Leo Morgan '96; second row, Thomas Sweetz '01, Aaron Orchard '13, Robert Linskey '14, Adam Grzech '13 and John Berti '10.

**Erin Kramer '11** and **Marc Ingoglia '11** were married Aug. 30, 2014. Erin is employed at Englewood Hospital & Medical Center in Englewood, N.J., as an occupational therapist. Marc is employed at the Valley Hospital at Ridgewood in Ridgewood, N.J., as a nursing supervisor. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica, and currently reside in Bergenfield, N.J.



**Amy Hartman '11** and **Andrew Rocograndi '12** were united in holy matrimony on July 11, 2014 in an outdoor ceremony. They met during one of Misericordia University's mission trips to Jamaica. Andrew is employed by Children's Service Center as a family therapist. Amy is the co-founder of Reaching Beyond Limits, which is an adult day program for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities. Amy and Andrew reside in Shavertown, Pa., with their daughter, Camryn.

## 2012

**Brian Joseph Bechtold '12** and his wife, Mary Kathryn Dudascik, were married Aug. 2, 2013. Brian is employed by Lankenau Hospital, Wynnewood, Pa., where he works

as a registered nurse in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit. The couple built a new home in Drexel Hill, Pa.

**Aimee DiLucido '12**, a member of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Pacific Region Education Team – Gold 8, was recognized as a 2013 National Service Impact Award honoree by the Corporation for National and Community Service during the AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary kick-off ceremony in Washington, D.C. The awards recognize the demonstrable impact made by everyday citizens who serve their communities and exemplify the best in national and community service. Aimee graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Misericordia University.

**Kaitlin Marino Garvey '12** and Gregory Scott were married Nov. 30, 2013. Kaitlin is a speech therapist with Genesis Rehabilitation Services. The couple honeymooned in Mexico, and reside in Scranton, Pa.

**Lauren Klug '12** and Vito Malacari were married June 28, 2013. Lauren is employed by New Story School as an occupational therapist. They honeymooned in the Dominican Republic and reside in their new home in Hanover Twp., Pa.

**Julia M. Guzman '12, O.T.D.**, was named faculty specialist in occupational therapy at

- 1938**  
**Teresa Smigelski Domkowski**  
Nov. 1, 2014
- 1940**  
**Mollie Moore**  
Oct. 22, 2014
- 1942**  
**Mary Briscoe**  
Oct. 21, 2014
- Gertrude Kostrzewa Seman**  
Nov. 3, 2014
- 1946**  
**Mary Ruth Merrigan Conroy**  
Aug. 21, 2013
- 1949**  
**Marilyn Stahl Sager**  
Sept. 11, 2014
- Irene Schilling Bednowicz**  
Sept. 16, 2014
- Helen Ruane**  
Oct. 30, 2014
- 1950**  
**Mary Denise Beatty**  
Dec. 16, 2014
- 1951**  
**Sister Mary Siena Finley, RSM**  
Aug. 29, 2014
- Clare Foley Mocek**  
Sept. 16, 2014

- Sister Helen Mary Nagle, RSM**  
Nov. 29, 2014
- Sister Catherine Rose Hill, RSM**  
Dec. 13, 2014
- 1952**  
**Sister M. Ignatia Clatch, DM**  
July 9, 2014
- 1953**  
**Louise Switch Hudak**  
Aug. 11, 2014
- Mariclare Gallagher Ryan**  
Aug. 16, 2014
- Sister Mary Paulinus Magill, RSM**  
Sept. 18, 2014
- 1954**  
**Helen Bednar Oliveri**  
Aug. 15, 2014
- 1955**  
**Marilynn G. Kriedler Amory**  
Nov. 17, 2014
- 1958**  
**Regina Bellas Rahl**  
Aug. 1, 2014
- Sister Cecilia Meighan, RSM, Esq.**  
Sept. 12, 2014
- Sister Cor Mariae Mulhern, RSM**  
Dec. 9, 2014

- Marie Corgan McDonald**  
Dec. 7, 2014
- 1959**  
**Iola Pisaneschi Denby**  
Sept. 2, 2014
- 1960**  
**Sister Stella Maris Ozimkowski, RSM**  
Aug. 19, 2014
- Marilyn White**  
Sept. 10, 2014
- 1963**  
**Margaret Pugh**  
June 23, 2014
- 1966**  
**Judith Shortz Skovish**  
July 30, 2014
- Catherine "Katie" Bailey**  
Aug. 13, 2014
- 1968**  
**Joanne Balas**  
Dec. 5, 2014
- 1970**  
**Patricia Allman Littleton**  
Aug. 31, 2014
- 1971**  
**Linda Turnock Ryan**  
Jan. 7, 2014
- Michaeline Loughrey**  
May 1, 2014

- 1975**  
**Carol A. Waver Downey**  
Jan. 2, 2015
- 1983**  
**Eileen Baloga Bernoski**  
Dec. 6, 2014
- 1984**  
**Donna Lynn Bryant**  
Jan. 1, 2015
- 1990**  
**Bernardine Lingousky**  
March 14, 2014
- Patricia Holland Amato**  
Aug. 8, 2014
- 1993**  
**Lori Strohl Zerbe**  
Feb. 14, 2014
- 1994**  
**Lynn Wargo**  
Sept. 22, 2014
- 1998**  
**Susan Hayik**  
Aug. 21, 2014
- 2009**  
**Isaiah "Ike" Sunanday**  
Sept. 18, 2014

the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa. She was previously employed as an assistant professor at Rutgers University, Piscataway, N.J., where she also supervised the OT clinic faculty of Newark Therapy Services. Dr. Guzman earned her clinical doctorate in OT at Misericordia.

**Laura Kingston '12** and **Dustin Labar '11** were married Aug. 16, 2012.

**Alicia Bryk '12** and Howard Coolbaugh exchanged vows on Sept. 13, 2014. She is employed as an occupational therapist by Allied Services, Scranton, Pa.



**Koryn Gallagher '12** has been named director of resident care at Belle Reve Senior Living, Milford, Pa. She is responsible for managing the residents' needs, including their health care.

**Kathleen Mangan Fey '12** has been named the executive director of the Pennsylvania Credit Union Foundation.

Kathleen graduated magna cum laude from the Expressway Program with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

## 2013

**Amanda Nodes '13** and her husband, Christopher Farina, were married June 14, 2013.

**Caroline Azzarelli '13** shared her story about her personal experience with kidney disease with the Sunday Times newspaper in Scranton, Pa. The story also outlined how she has become an advocate for organ donation. The story was featured in the Lifestyle section on Sept. 28, 2014.

**Karen Smith '13** and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their daughter, Kayla Lynn, on Aug. 6, 2013.



**Keith Lashinski '13** and Megan Biduck were married June 1, 2013. Keith is a certified registered nurse practitioner at Great Valley Cardiology, Scranton, Pa. They

honeymooned in Antigua, and live in South Abington Twp., Pa.

**Alexandra Jane Przewlocki '13** and **Kevin Barry Feifer '13** were married May 24, 2014. The couple is employed at Misericordia University, where Alex is a staff accountant and Kevin is the director of service learning. They honeymooned in Hawaii, exploring Honolulu, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii. They reside in Kingston, Pa.



## 2014

**Donna Castelblanco '14** has been named Stylus Editorial Board member at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. She earned her Bachelor of Science in professional studies summa cum laude and received the Service-Learning Leadership Award at the annual Honors and Awards ceremony.

## Sister Siena Finley, R.S.M., M.S. '51

May 13, 1922 – Aug. 29, 2014

"Every time one of us makes an ethical decision, we are better for it, and our community is better for it," Sister Siena Finley said upon accepting an award in 2010. Then, as she often did, she turned the mundane to the profound with simple insight.

"But above all, we grace the planet with the hallowed truth."

I didn't talk to Sister Finley often, but you didn't have to. Her commitment to a principled existence was glaring. The compassion that drew her to a life of service with the Sisters of Mercy for more than six decades showed in every sparkle of her eyes, every crinkle in her face, and every word she spoke.

The good sister started the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University in 1987, focusing on an issue that she had helped families grapple with repeatedly in hospital work: When do you demand life support, and when do you pull the plug?

The institute's role expanded, launching an annual ethics award in 1994. After Sister Finley stepped down as executive director in 1994, the institute honored her by dubbing it The Sister Finley Ethics Award.

But the ultimate recognition might have come at the award banquet in 2010. Luzerne County had been rocked by the federal corruption investigation's success in exposing vile behavior by certain judges, county commissioners, school district officials and business leaders. The institute opted that year to forgo an individual honoree, and gave the award to everyone in Luzerne County not tainted by the probe.

Officially, the Sister Finley Ethics Award went to "the people of Luzerne County who strive for an ethical community." The idea was to symbolically provide "an affirmation of the widespread integrity and honesty that reside in the community."

A noble, and perhaps even needed gesture in the darkest hours of our age of endless corruption. But of course they weren't going to dole out some 300,000-plus awards, so they chose Finley to accept the honor on behalf of everyone. As affable and wry as she was dedicated to her order, the slip of a woman stood barely visible behind a hefty podium and quipped, "They told me I had one minute, so relax."

Then, true to her word, she might have given one of the most succinct

acceptance speeches in history, capped by the quote at the top of this column.

While the Ethics Institute ostensibly gave that 2010 award to all of us, I like to believe the real intent was to honor her, to give Sister Siena Finley the one thing she surely would never accept yet unquestionably deserved: the ethics award bearing her name.

I could probably count on one hand the number of times I talked to Sister Finley, yet I tear up when I think of our loss upon her recent passing at the age of 92. She worked in the background on matters that should always be on our front burners. She deflected any praise; she deferred inevitably to the accomplishments of others. And she truly "graced this planet with the hallowed truth."

*Editor's note: Times Leader newspaper columnist Mark Guydish published this article Sept. 5, 2014. It is being reprinted with permission of Civitas Media.*



Sister Siena Finley

## Sister Cecilia Meighan, R.S.M., Ed.D., J.D. '58

Oct. 29, 1933 – Sept. 12, 2014

Sister Cecilia Meighan, R.S.M., Ed.D., J.D. '58, a revered member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy and founder of the Institute of Law and Religious Life, passed away Sept. 12, 2014 after a brief illness.

Sister Cecilia was of counsel with the law firm of Gallagher, Brennan and Gill, Kingston, Pa. She began her career as a teacher in the Brooklyn, N.Y., and Scranton, Pa., dioceses, and subsequently served as president and member of the faculty of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa. She returned to

Misericordia and helped lead the institution as a valued member of the

Board of Trustees for 17 years and as a member of the faculty, teaching law courses in the organizational management master's degree program. She joined the University Advancement staff in 1999 and served as director of planned giving prior to her retirement in 2008.

Under Sister Cecilia's direction for more than 20 years, the Institute of Law and Religious Life at Misericordia educated religious leaders both nationally and internationally. Misericordia University celebrated Sister Cecilia's leadership by naming the institute in her honor in 2008.

In recognition of more than 57 years of dedicated service to the University, she was awarded the Catherine McAuley Medal – Misericordia University's highest honor – at the 83rd commencement in 2009. Sister Cecilia also received a McAuley Medal from Mount Aloysius College for her contributions as president.

Sister Cecilia was born Oct. 29, 1933,

in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and was baptized Marie Anne. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas on Sept. 9, 1951, and professed her vows on March 12, 1954.

Sister Cecilia earned a Bachelor of Arts in English at Misericordia University, a master's degree in English at the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa., a doctorate in administration of higher education at Columbia University, New York, N.Y., and a doctorate in law from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. She was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in 2005.

She is survived by her sister, Rosellen Meighan Garrett, and the Sisters of Mercy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sister Cecilia Meighan Endowed Scholarship Fund, and mailed to the Development Office, Misericordia University, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612.



Sister Cecilia Meighan

## 'TALES OF A JAILHOUSE LIBRARIAN'

Alumna publishes critically acclaimed book about the juvenile justice system

Marybeth Cavanaugh Zeman '72

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

transitional counselor for boys and young men aged 16-21 in the incarcerated youth program at Nassau County Correctional Center, East Meadow.

She had planned to work for a museum. Through the Laura Bush Foundation, she received a scholarship to pursue a master's degree in library science from St. John's University. She wanted to use that degree to develop curriculum for museums to offer to teachers of ESL students using information technology.

The transitional counselor position appealed to her. Her job is to prepare incarcerated youth for their reintroduction to the community or their transfer to an upstate prison, and to help connect them with educational and vocational programs. But when she began, the challenges quickly revealed themselves.

Few programs are in place to match the number of incarcerated youth in her county jail. She also noticed that the boys were faced with "sheer boredom and monotony" everyday.

"The reality is these students eat three meals alone in their cells," she explains. "They are let out for an hour a day for recreation. They are let out for a half hour to shower. And then they are let out for school, and I think for the first time in their lives they really want to go to school, just for that reason. It's three or four hours out of their cells when they have nothing else to do."

It occurred to her that books were a way in and something that, with a little effort, she could provide. She first contacted a friend's son who was an editor at DC Comics. The first offerings were a hit with the students. "We started to build a little library, albeit an informal one," she says. "I started to seek donations from various people, and even publishers who started to send me galley copies. I started to build an eclectic collection – urban fiction, mystery, some low-level reading of high interest. These young men just started to clamor for reading."

"I discovered this was my perfect connect in terms of counseling," Zeman adds.

She never thought that library degree would be particularly useful in her role as a transitional counselor. Now, her book

### AUTHOR TALK

Marybeth Zeman '72, author of *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian: Challenging the Juvenile Justice System One Book at a Time*, will talk about her book and role as a transitional youth counselor for a National Library Week event on Tuesday, April 14 at 4 p.m. in the Catherine Evans McGowan Room.

Marybeth Zeman is the most popular person in jail.

For 30 years, the former Marybeth Cavanaugh '72 was a teacher. The majority of that time had her teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in the East Meadow, N.Y., Public School System, and English composition to college students after earning her degree in elementary education. A second career, one that had been largely unforeseen, found her as a

cart and makeshift library had become essential. "What this has shown me and what I say to people is no part of your education is ever wasted," she says.

Zeman is trying to reach her students at a critical time. Though most think of county jails as a temporary stop before an individual faces trial and sentencing or is released, many of her students are there for up to two years because they are unable to post bail and their cases linger in the system. Meanwhile, those who are convicted of various felonies face steep obstacles in gaining eligibility for federal student aid, should they want to pursue higher education.

The book cart has for many sparked an interest in reading that has the potential to ignite further interest in education once they leave. Zeman often finds students eagerly asking, "When are you coming in with the book cart?"

"On average some of these kids are reading five to six books a week," Zeman says. "I can't tell you empirical research data on how much their reading level is going up, but their literacy level is improving by leaps and bounds. Their love of reading is increasing. Some of these kids had never visited their local public library; many of them didn't have a library card."

It's no surprise that Zeman has a deep-rooted sense of social justice and obligation to service, something she said was galvanized during her time at Misericordia.

"Misericordia has come a long way since I was there, but it did lay the foundation for me to have the Christian values and sense of social justice that has always framed whatever career choice I have made," Zeman says.

"Those values have been transferred into every aspect of my life – teacher, mother, wife and friend. I received much more than an academic degree when I attended Misericordia. I received a design for living by learning that service is the key to living an enriching and rewarding life."

Her endeavor to improve literacy, meanwhile, has turned into a book of her own. In 2014, Zeman authored *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian: Challenging the Juvenile Justice System One Book at a Time*. The book offers vignettes about individual boys, their experiences in the correctional center and their growth as readers. Prominent New York Times writer Nicholas Kristof called it "a poignant look at what these kids go through – and how literacy programs can help."



Marybeth Cavanaugh Zeman '72, wrote the book, *Tales of a Jailhouse Librarian: Challenging the Juvenile Justice System One Book at a Time*.



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October 2-4

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December 14, 2014

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More MU Homecoming memories can be found at <http://bit.ly/muhomecoming14>

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# GLOBETROTTING PEACEKEEPER

## Visiting Professor of History and Government 'recreates' herself after tending to global crises for the UN

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

**Marguerite R. Roy, J.D., '82**

.....

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Thirty-two years, 12 countries and numerous global conflicts later, Marguerite R. Roy, J.D., '82, returned to her alma mater for the 2014 spring semester. She did not enroll as a graduate student, but rather embarked on another career as a visiting professor in the Department of History and Government to develop international programs and internships. Roy knows firsthand how "you can recreate yourself at any age." In her twenties, she established a career in sales before returning to France to perfect the language she studied and first honed while studying abroad during her junior year at Misericordia. All along, Roy knew she would have to speak another language in order to realize her ultimate goal of working overseas in developing countries. At the age of

30, she officially began her journey when she signed up with the Peace Corps of the United States as a volunteer and technical advisor in Guinea, West Africa.

Roy remains especially fond of her time in Guinea. It is the place where her journey as an international peacekeeper began in 1990 and it is also where she started doing secondary projects in her free time. In this case, she worked to secure funding and oversaw the completion of lavatory facilities for a primary school that was housed in a ramshackle, half-completed building.

Upon the completion of the project, she witnessed the impact relationship building and good intentions can have on people in any part of the world – no matter their race, nationality or ethnicity. "I accompanied the governor and the mayor of the area to visit the school on the opening day of classes and we walked into a first-grade classroom to say hello to the kids," recalls Roy, who shares the anecdote often. "The primary school director pointed first to the governor and asked if the kids knew him, to which they responded in unison, 'no!' He did the same for the mayor

**Head of Regional Office Marguerite Roy '82, center, accompanies the Under Secretary General of the United Nations to the Province of Gardez, Afghanistan in 2010.**

and received the same response.

"When it came my turn, the kids all responded emphatically, 'yes, we know her! She's the lady who built our toilets! Leave it to kids to humble even a governor."

Before she departed Guinea, Roy managed to complete many more "secondary projects," including three classrooms in the Fria area where 180 children can now attend school and a medical post in Fandjeta where, beforehand, women had to be carried on stretchers or walk nearly 10 miles to a medical facility to have a baby.

"These are things that directly impact people – their health and their families," adds Roy, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration magna cum laude at MU. "For the most part, though, I get on with the job and do not really think about this aspect, but

it is one of the main things that motivates me."

Since then, she has served as somewhat of a troubleshooter for the Peace Corps, the United Nations and other international programs that aid developing countries, and assist displaced citizens and rebuilding countries due to internal political strife and war, like Kosovo, Afghanistan and the Ivory Coast.

Those short- and long-term assignments also have had Roy in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Haiti, Ethiopia, Senegal, Morocco and Albania. Each country presented its own unique set of challenges and rewards, as Misericordia's magna cum laude, business administration graduate set out to complete her matter-of-fact assignments, while also working on the human elements of the job.

"When you commit to do the type of work peacekeeping involves, you need to become familiar with a situation in a short period of time," Roy explains. "You see what is in front of you, and you use your best instincts to do the job you were sent there to do. The main motivation is to assist the innocent people suffering in the midst of the chaos. It pushes you to want it to end – to be able to reach

them and help to alleviate their suffering."

After years of war and ethnic cleansing, the United Nations entered Kosovo with the arduous task of reuniting a country divided largely along ethnic lines and rebuilding its infrastructure. Roy was assigned initially to Elbasan, Albania, working with Kosovan refugees as a community rehabilitation specialist with her responsibilities growing with the U.N. in Kosovo to education and health officer, municipal administrator, deputy regional administrator and regional administrator in Vitina, Kamenica, Peje, and Mitrovica.

The dank weather remains vivid to this day for Roy, as Vitina, Kosovo lacked running water, heat and the comfort of safety. "Within the first month after I arrived there were a number of anti-tank explosions in close proximity to where I was working," says Roy, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Misericordia in 2008. "The main reason for these attacks was to intimidate the remaining Serbs to force them to leave."

Despite the challenging conditions, Roy and her staff worked tirelessly with the Serbs, Romas and Albanians to re-establish access to hospitals, schools, employment and more for all citizens. "One of the most challenging situations I had to deal with as municipal administrator in Kamenica, Kosovo, was how to convince the Albanians to make one school available for the Serbs so that they too could send their children to school," says Roy, who was shot at and a U.S. soldier killed in the municipality in which she worked to re-establish relations among the formerly warring ethnic groups. "If this had not happened, many more Serbs would have been forced to return to Serbia to educate their children."

Roy spent the better part of three years in Kosovo working to make life better for everyone. By the time she accepted a new assignment in another troubled part of the world, she had established pre-electoral and post-electoral phases in the Municipality of Kamenica, oversaw the transition to self-governance, negotiated with Albanian and Serbian political leaders to form inclusive municipal government structures, ensured implementation of strategic plans with U.N. agencies, NATO

**(Top) Marguerite Roy '82, center, meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel (not pictured) and the German Commander of the NATO Forces, left, in the north of Afghanistan and the colonel in charge of civil affairs, at right.**

**(Bottom) Marguerite Roy '82 poses for a picture following a meeting with a Special Representative of the Secretary General, Bert Koenders, and a delegation from the Youth Wing of the PDCI Political Party.**



Continued on page 38

Marguerite Roy '82 meets with the head of the Faryab, Afghanistan Provincial Office, left of Roy, and a group of elders following an attack on their village.



Continued from page 37

forces and law enforcement, and was recognized with the Commander's Award for Public Service Medal from the U.S. Department of the Army, the Medaille Commemorative from the French military, and numerous other citations and awards.

Her peacekeeping role expanded in Afghanistan, as she served as the head of office for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Mazar-e-Sharif and in Gardez from 2007-10. She coordinated and managed programs that fostered human rights and prevented conflict, and also facilitated dialogue and cooperation between diverse groups. The overall goal of her work was running U.N. operations in both regions and acting as the area security coordinator.

The Ivory Coast has been plagued by political crises for generations. For more than three years, she served as the head of the political affairs division and then as principal advisor to the special representative of the secretary general for the United Nations' operations that worked to establish and maintain political dialogue among senior government officials and members of the majority and minority political parties.

Reconciliation or inclusiveness remains the common thread that binds these nations to the United Nations and the work of peacekeepers, like Roy. They work side-by-side with government leaders, citizens and religious groups in these troubled nations. Is the United Nations accomplishing its overarching goal in today's challenging world?

Roy says that is a difficult question to answer as deadly civil wars and conflicts erupt

seemingly on a daily basis around the globe. The better question to ask, she says, is what is the alternative? "There needs to be a system of international checks and balances," she says. "The U.N. appears to be the one organization able to do this, so in this regard, it has a duty to at least work toward accomplishing its goals."

In the meantime, Roy is sharing the knowledge she gained working in international hot zones with MU students. Leaders from

"I would love to be able to inspire a few of them into pursuing an international career. I would not trade my life. It has been rich and there is still more to come and I want students to understand that you can recreate yourself at any age. Life is a journey and it can be very exciting. It is not easy to say that a person has to move away to have this, but there is a whole other world out there and it is very exciting to see and experience other places and people."

the Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, NATO and the Democratic Republic of Congo have shared their country's unique stories with students.

"I would love to be able to inspire a few of them into pursuing an international career," she says. "I would not trade my life. It has been rich, and there is still more to come. I want students to understand you can recreate yourself at any age. Life is a journey, and it can be very exciting. It is not easy to say that a person has to move away to have this, but there is a whole other world out there and it is very exciting to see and experience other places and people."

## Women's soccer coach surpasses 200-win mark

When Mark Stauffer '97 took over as head coach of the Misericordia University women's soccer team in 2000, he inherited a team with a solid winning tradition. The Cougars were coming off a trip to the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) title game and their first trip to the ECAC championships.

It didn't take long, however, for Stauffer to take the program at his alma mater to new heights.

After two more PAC runners-up finishes in the next two seasons, the



Women's head soccer coach Mark Stauffer '97 surpassed the 200-win plateau in October when the Lady Cougars defeated Eastern, 7-0.

2002 team went 19-2, won the PAC title, and made the program's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Stauffer and his Cougars have been winning ever since, and he went over the 200-win mark for his career in a 7-0 win over Eastern, Oct. 16.

Along the way, Stauffer's teams have claimed seven conference championships and earned eight NCAA Tournament berths, including Misericordia's first Final Four appearance in 2012. The Cougars followed that performance with Sweet 16 appearances in 2013 and 2014.

In addition to the team's success, the Cougars have enjoyed their share of individual accolades under Stauffer, with eight conference player of the year awards, and 83 players earning All-Conference status.

While hundreds of players have played for the Cougars over the last 15 years, the one constant has been Stauffer. He has guided the Cougars to the postseason 13 times, including eight NCAA championship berths, one trip to the Final Four, and two trips to the Sweet 16.

### THROUGH THE YEARS

#### Women's Soccer, Head Coach

2000:	12	5	2	
2001:	14	3		
2002:	19	2		PAC Champions, NCAA Tournament
2003:	11	6	2	
2004:	11	6	3	PAC Champions, NCAA Tournament
2005:	15	5		NCAA Tournament
2006:	16	7		PAC Champions, NCAA Tournament
2007:	13	9	1	
2008:	5	14		
2009:	8	12		
2010:	12	7	2	
2011:	14	5	2	Freedom Champions, First NCAA Tournament Win
2012:	20	3	2	Freedom Champions, NCAA Final Four
2013:	19	3	2	Freedom Champions, NCAA Sweet Sixteen
2014:	19	3	1	Freedom Champions, NCAA Sweet Sixteen
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>17</b>	

## Field hockey goalie recognized for excellence

Field hockey player Angela Pasquini '16 was named Freedom Defensive Player of the Year. She was joined on the All-Freedom first team by Colby Eldridge '19 and Lindsay Hischak '16. Danika Watto '17 and Samantha Partington '18 were second-team All-Freedom. Hischak and Pasquini were second-team All-Region.



Goalie Angela Pasquini '16 was recognized by the Freedom Conference.

## Cheerleading

The cheerleading team finished fourth at the Universal Cheerleading Association national championships in Orlando, Fla.

The Cougars competed in the Division III All-Girl category.

Team captain Cara Hill '15 echoed her coach's sentiments. "It's such a great feeling to reach the UCA finals again," she said. "I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of such an amazing four years."

## Volleyball

The volleyball team made its second consecutive trip to the Freedom Conference playoffs. Head Coach Kelly Fry was named co-Coach of the Year in the Freedom after leading the Cougars to third place during the regular season.

Shelby Brochetti '15 was named first-team All-Freedom and Meghan Stack '18 was second-team. Stack was named to the MAC All-Academic team.

## SPECIAL LECTURE

Marguerite Roy '82, J.D., is going to offer the special lecture, *Women in Peacekeeping*, as part of Alumni Weekend 2015 on Saturday, May 30 from 10-11 a.m. in Insalaco Hall. To register, please visit <http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/aw15>.

## 12th class inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

The Athletics Department inducted its 12th Hall of Fame class during Homecoming 2014. Honorees included Steve Haluschak '83, Shelly (Lyons) Kostoff '95, Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, '73, John McGovern '97, and Danielle (Morcom) Mills '99.

Haluschak earned seven varsity letters in basketball and baseball as the first male dual sport student-athlete in school history. Kostoff was the women's basketball team MVP as a sophomore and was a two-time All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference selection.

McGovern was the men's basketball

team MVP and earned first-team All-PAC honors as a junior when he averaged 17.9 points and 8.0 rebounds per game.

As dean of students and vice president of student affairs, Messaros played an integral role in the growth and success of the Misericordia athletics program in the first two decades of NCAA membership.

Mills was a four-time first-team All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference outfielder while leading the softball team to three consecutive PAC championships and two ECAC South titles. She earned all-region status as a senior and owns the career record for runs scored (169).



Misericordia inducted its 12th class into the Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend. Members of the class, from left, are Shelly (Lyons) Kostoff '95, Danielle (Morcom) Mills '99, Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, '73, and Steve Haluschak '83. Missing from photo is John McGovern '97.



## FACULTY & STAFF NOTEBOOK

Misericordia welcomed 19 new full-time faculty members to campus for the 2014-15 academic year.

In the **College of Arts and Sciences**, **Jennifer Arnold, M.H.S.**, assistant professor of physician assistant studies; **Maria Balcells, Ph.D.**, visiting assistant professor of philosophy; **Jennifer Black, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of history and government; **Nicola Edwards, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry; **Diane McAvoy, M.S.**, assistant professor of physician assistant studies; **David Perkins, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics; **Marguerite Roy, J.D.**, visiting professor of history and government, and **Jeffrey Stephens, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of physics.

In the **College of Health Sciences**, **Laurie Brogan, D.P.T.**, assistant professor of physical therapy; **Rita Carey-Nita, M.S.N.**, assistant professor of nursing; **Lori Charney, O.T.D.**, assistant professor of occupational therapy; **Kristen Karnish, M.P.H.**, assistant professor of physical therapy; **Suzanne Lennon, M.S.O.T.**, assistant professor of occupational therapy; **Allison Maloney, M.S.N.**, assistant professor of nursing; **Patty Maloney, M.S.N.**, assistant professor of nursing; **Wilton Remigio, P.T., D.S.c.**, assistant professor of physical therapy, and **Adina Rosenthal, M.S.**, assistant professor of speech-language pathology.

In the **College of Professional Studies**, **Charles Makar, M.B.A.**, instructor of business, and **Thomas Sweetz, M.S.**, instructor of business.

**Ryan Weber, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of musicology, published, *Burgeoning Modernisms and Multisong Gestures: Cosmopolitan Identities in Turn-of-the-Century Scandinavia*, in the May 2014 edition of *Ars Lyrica*, Vol. 22. In Canada, he presented, *Collective Affinities, Conflicting Identities: Delius, Grainger, and the Transatlantic Imagination*, at the 18th Biennial International Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music at the University of Toronto, Toronto. Dr. Weber also offered, *Tracing Transatlantic Circles: Manufacturing Cosmopolitanism in Music and Literature*,

at the Conference on Music Literature, Historiography, and Aesthetics Institute of Musical Research at The University of London, London, England.

**Russ Pottle, Ph.D.**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; **Matthew Nickel, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of English, and **Brian F. Carso, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of history and government, presented at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Ernest Hemingway Society in Venice, Italy. Dean Pottle presented, *Gangrene and White Medicine in Indian Camp*, Dr. Nickel offered, *As long as Hope shows Something Green: Colonel Cantwell's Canto*, and Dr. Carso presented, *I became known as Mr. Capa Hemingway: Robert Capa and the Hemingway Image*.

**Matthew Nickel, Ph.D.**, presented the paper, *Thy quiet House: Images of Light and Veneration in Ezra Pound and Ernest Hemingway*, at the VIII International Richard Aldington Society & IV International Imagism Conference, in Venice and Torcello, Italy.

**Leamor Kahanov, Ed.D., A.T.C., L.A.T.**, dean of the College of Health Sciences, had her research, *Ultra-Endurance Athletes At-Risk*, published in the *International Journal of Athletic Therapy and Training*. Dr. Kahanov also offered the research papers, *Lower Trapezius Muscle Thickness and Strength in Patients With and Without Scapular Dyskinesia*, *Paget-Schroetter Syndrome in a Sprinter: A Case Study*, and *Repetitive Commotio Spinalis in a Football Player*, at the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy World Congress 2014 in Dublin, Ireland.

**Anna Fedor, Ph.D.**, chair and assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and chemistry major Megan Toda '16 had their research, *Investigating Hydrogen Bonding in Phenol Using Infrared Spectroscopy and Computational Chemistry*, published in *The Journal of Chemical Education* in October.

**James Siberski, M.S., C.M.C., CRmT**, assistant professor and coordinator of the Gerontology Education Center for Professional Development, presented, *Brain Rehabilitation and Alzheimer's Disease*, at the 2014 Alzheimer's Association Fall Education and Research Conference in Grantville, Pa.

**Christine Somers, D.Min., M.S.W.**, director of Campus Ministry, received the 2014 Sister Siena Finley, RSM Ethics Award from the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University at the 23rd annual Ethics Institute Dinner in October.

**Skip Sensbach**, ceramic instructor and artist-in-residence, had his sculpture, *Leverage*, in the nationally juried exhibition, *Given Form*, at the Foundry Art Center in St. Charles, Mo.

The Teacher Education Department named a student award in honor of **Patricia Marie McCann, RSM, Ed.D.**, associate professor emeritus of teacher education. The Sister Pat McCann Award will be bestowed annually upon an education student at the student awards ceremony beginning in May. The award will be presented to a student who embodies and embraces the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy and to honor and celebrate her legacy and the legacy of Catherine McAuley.

**Lorie Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR)**, associate professor of medical imaging, was nominated by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to be its academic representative on the board of directors of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

**Brenda Pavill, C.R.N.P., Ph.D.**, director of the Master of Science degree program in nursing, made the podium presentation, *Stop, Redesign, and Proceed: Incorporating Current Global Health Care Issues in Curricula*, at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2015 Master's Education Conference in St. Petersburg, Fla.

# Battling infectious diseases

## Workshop focuses on Personal Protective Equipment training

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Family nurse practitioner students in protective gear with little more than their eyes showing became the teachers when the College of Health Sciences held the workshop, *Back to Basics: Germ Protection*, a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training program during the fall semester.

The workshop offered instruction to students in a wide range of majors, including nursing, physician assistant studies, medical imaging, and other health and medical science professionals, on how to properly gear up with PPE in response to infectious diseases, such as Ebola. The students had the opportunity to go through different stations where they were able to practice CDC protocol under the direction of Brenda Pavill, Ph.D., C.R.N.P., associate professor of nursing, and a certified family nurse practitioner. Graduate students from the Family Nurse Practitioner Program were instrumental in making the 10 stations interactive and informative. More than 75 students and faculty members participated in the program.

"This was a great opportunity for all the students in the health and medical sciences," said Allison McIntyre, a junior medical imaging student. "We all work together as a team in the hospital, so it is important to know the techniques of getting the protective gear on and off. It is also important to be

aware of how easily infectious diseases can spread. I was most surprised at how much protection is needed for something like Ebola, and that there are approximately 30-steps in the procedure for the decontamination process."

"Conceptually, you know what to do, but applying it in a hands-on practicum, as we did here, helps the knowledge to coalesce," added Jackie Zabresky, a graduate student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. During the simulation, Zabresky served as the doffer, and demonstrated what the person, armed with a walkie-talkie, would do to help a colleague through each step of the decontamination process. "I have read about the buddy system, and this simulation really helped me take what I read in a book



Misericordia University graduate family nurse practitioner student Tricia Slusser demonstrates the complex stages of suiting up in Personal Protective Equipment, according to the latest CDC standards.

The smile behind the Hazmat suiting is from Jackie Zabresky, Dallas, Pa., a graduate family nurse practitioner student at Misericordia University, who helped demonstrate CDC protocol during the *Back to Basics: Germ Protection, a Personal Protective Equipment Workshop* that was held in John J. Passan Hall on campus.

and practice what needs to be done to keep a person from re-contaminating themselves and others."

Manning the station that addressed the procedures for what to do if a health care worker is exposed to an infectious disease, Victoria Romano, a fellow student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program from Shohola, Pa., presented information on who is most at risk, and the signs and symptoms of infectious diseases. "As a health care worker, any one of us could be exposed to an infectious disease and not know it. That's where education comes in," she said. "The important thing to remember is not to panic. We all need to know and follow the CDC guidelines."

Dr. Pavill emphasized the importance of having the graduate family nursing practitioner students serve as teachers during the process. "There is no better way to absorb the information than to walk through the process. By teaching others, they were also educating themselves. It was a valuable learning process for all of us, students and faculty alike."

# DEFINING DIFFERENCES

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



Misericordia University students Emily Power '18, left, and Kali McCornac '19, right, participated in the study.

paper analyzing the principles, theories and concepts from their course, and keep a reflection journal to help them record the hypotheses and feelings that developed based on the experience. The MU students also participated in surveys at the beginning and end of the project to assess whether their attitudes toward those in different cultures had changed.

Emily Power '18, a first-year nursing major, chose to contact her two British subjects via Facebook message. Power learned about a 34-year-old married woman who is a majorette instructor and native of South Africa, who has moved back and forth between the two countries numerous times. Power's second subject was a 23-year-old single mother who is a volunteer in a women's support program that provides counseling, financial guidance and job placement assistance. The two were quite different in their willingness to participate and the amount of information they provided.

"I've always been a people person and I really liked getting to know people from other countries – it was a great way to learn about them and their culture," Power says. "Even though there was an age difference with many of the people, I am most surprised at how similar we are. There wasn't as big a cultural gap as I was expecting."

Kali McCornac '19, a first-year speech-language pathology student, also was surprised by the similarities she found – even though her British counterparts had what she considered misguided views of America. "They grew up the same way we did. There wasn't much difference. But they seem to think America is a lot different than it really is. We were able to open doors of information in both directions," she says.

To learn more about the Voices Project: [www.misericordia.edu/voices](http://www.misericordia.edu/voices)

## Students study social norms on two continents

Remember having a pen pal as a child and how exciting it was to learn about their life in a distant land? A Misericordia University psychology project is based on a similar process. Studying social norms on two continents, students in the fall Introduction to Psychology Honors class were paired with students in a similar class at Blackburn College in Lancashire, England, to learn about life in the United Kingdom for a research study on stereotypes and prejudice.

The project, *Voices US/UK*, is the third phase of a research project of Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D., professor of psychology. Her assignment to her students each time is to get to know people from "groups of difference," including sociological or cultural groups with which they might not be familiar. By getting to know them and hearing

their stories, the students can critically analyze the stereotypes and the roots of prejudice and discrimination that are prevalent in social norms and how they affect people's lives. The data collected with the British project will be added to Dr. Nordstrom's research that began in 2009. She hopes the project will develop into a student exchange program in the 2015-16 academic year.

The students in *Voices US/UK* project were assigned two British partners. They conducted interviews via e-mail, Facebook, and Skype to gather information about each other's lives. They also asked about stereotypes and discrimination to assess how the subject feels about whether they fit or do not fit within the social norms of their society.

Based on the information gathered, MU students were required to write first-person biographical narratives on the people they interviewed. They also were required to write a psychology concept

## Turning 90 with style

From a Comfortable Cup of Tea in honor of Catherine McAuley to a sold-out lecture by famed autism expert Dr. Temple Grandin, Misericordia is celebrating its 90th Anniversary in fitting style with a series of special events during the academic year that honor its rich heritage and promising future.

Throughout the fall, special guests to campus included the vice chair of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education



Dr. Grandin signs autographs, above, and President Botzman accepts citations from state legislators.

Board, Sister Anne E. McLaughlin '63, RSM, D.Min., who shared her insights on the Mercy mission at Convocation; Leila Nadya Sadat, an expert on international human rights laws, and Karen Schneider, RSM, M.D., of the

Johns Hopkins Children's Center, who discussed her ministry – the Mercy Medical Mission.

Complete with birthday cake and balloons, Mercy Week celebrations included the Sept. 24 anniversary day dedication of the Founders Circle and the launch of the Random Acts of Kindness Campaign that provided a coupon to use to *Pay it Forward* on the 24th of each month. Mercy Week concluded with a Comfortable Cup of Tea in honor of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. At the tea, Sen. Lisa Baker and Rep. Karen Boback presented citations from the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives that acknowledged the 90th anniversary of Misericordia.

A panel discussion on how the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy relate to the work of Misericordia faculty was held on Oct. 23, and featured the topics of



non-violence, diversity, immigration, sustainability, and women and children. A highlight of the fall semester was the sold-out appearance by Dr. Temple Grandin, known as one of the most accomplished and highest-functioning adults with autism in the world.

To get a Random Acts of Kindness coupon to share, go to [www.misericordia.edu/rak](http://www.misericordia.edu/rak). Share your good deed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using hash tag #MUKindacts.

## 90 for Misericordia's 90th

We want to help make Misericordia's 90th year its best yet! Help us celebrate 90 years of education in the Catholic tradition, begun by our founders in 1924. The charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality remain strong on campus, thanks in part to the generous support of our benefactors. Now, we are positioning ourselves to move forward, but we need your help.

Make your gift in any multiple of 90 by June 30, 2015 to be a part of 90 for 90. So, give \$90, \$900 or \$9,000 (or more)! Your gift goes directly to deserving Misericordia students through scholarship aid, program support, and classroom equipment, amongst other important needs. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this landmark year and make your gift today at [www.misericordia.edu/makeagift](http://www.misericordia.edu/makeagift).



Misericordia University students benefit directly from the generosity of benefactors.



## Celebration Continues

Misericordia University has scheduled additional 90th Anniversary celebratory events throughout the spring semester. The complete details are available at <http://misericordia.edu/muturns90>. Please check regularly for the most up to date information.

### March 17

**Human Trafficking Modern Day Slavery**, a 90th Anniversary lecture on human trafficking presented by Indonesia native Shandra Woworuntu, founder of the survivor leadership group *Voices of Hope*, and an advocate to end human trafficking. 12 noon. IH 218 219. Contact: Christine Somers, D. Min., M.S.W., (570) 674 6314, [csomers@misericordia.edu](mailto:csomers@misericordia.edu)

### March 24

**A Conversation with Misericordia's Past: An Evening with Retired Faculty and Staff in Honor of Misericordia's 90th Anniversary**, an opportunity for campus family, friends and alumni to look back and reminisce with beloved staff and faculty from across the decades, including Sister Anne E. McLaughlin, RSM, and Drs. Patricia Lewis, Michael Mould and Donald O. Fries. A light reception will follow. IH 218 219, 4 5:30 p.m.

### April 20-25 – EARTH WEEK

90th Anniversary events will focus on sustainability one of the critical concerns of the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

### April 22

**Earth Day project, What a Difference a Day Makes**, a cleanup with the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Volunteers will go out in groups to work in the homes of people with MS. To volunteer, contact Lindsey Riddell, community outreach coordinator, at (570) 674 8041 or [lridell@misericordia.edu](mailto:lridell@misericordia.edu).

### April 22

**Farm to Table Dinner** in the John and Mary Metz Dining Hall.

### May 30

**Women in Peacekeeping by Marguerite Roy 82**. As visiting professor of history and government, Roy will outline how women play an essential role in peacekeeping. Insalaco Hall, 10 11 a.m.

### WISH US A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To follow 90th Anniversary activities on social media, go to Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MisericordiaU](https://www.twitter.com/MisericordiaU) and use the hash tags #MUturns90 and/or #MUKindacts.