

# Misericordia today

FALL 2009

## Learning to succeed

Quality academics, superb career preparation give students the tools they need to thrive in their personal and professional lives. **Page 13**

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## U.S. News & World Report ranks MU among the very best

Misericordia University ranks in the top tier, 45 out of 179 colleges and universities, in the Best Universities Master's North category of U.S. News & World Report's 2010 edition of America's Best Colleges, which includes institutions of higher education in the northern United States that offer master's degrees.

The individual data elements that comprise the overall ranking should be carefully reviewed. Misericordia's graduation rate (69 percent) — a key factor in the rankings — equals or exceeds that of other colleges and universities with overall higher rankings. Other MU data used to calculate the rankings that match or exceed other highly ranked institutions include the percent of classes under 20 students (58 percent), student faculty ratio (12 to 1), and percentage of alumni giving (27 percent).

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, students give MU high marks in areas such as applying theories and concepts to practical problems, acquiring job related skills, having quality interactions with faculty and learning to work effectively with others.

## MU achieves 'Best of NE' designation by Princeton

Misericordia University has been named one of the best colleges and universities in the Northeast, according to The Princeton Review. The New York City-based education services company selected MU as one of the 218 institutions it recommends in its *Best in the Northeast* section of its PrincetonReview.com feature, *2010 Best Colleges Region by Region*.

The Princeton Review says Misericordia "provides a solid education for the outside world while giving excellent opportunities for service." Founded and sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 1924, the student survey says "students really do perform a lot of community service" which the school "encourages." MU students are also "very serious about their studies," as the academics are also "very high level and all the instructors help you to think above and beyond what is in the books."



## Dedication acknowledges significance of Insalaco Hall

Misericordia University officially dedicated Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, the newest academic building, on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The beautiful 28,500-square-foot building has proven to be an invaluable addition to campus since its unofficial opening in April. Insalaco Hall is a wireless, technologically smart learning center that offers additional classroom and conference space, computer labs, business faculty offices, the InterMetzo Cafe and the 2,600-square-foot Pauly Friedman Art Gallery.

Besides offering additional learning amenities for the growing student population, the \$7 million facility also offers meeting space to serve the regional community. In a few short months, Insalaco Hall has hosted Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, U.S. Rep. Chris Carney and more than



Participating in the ceremony, from left, are Michael Insalaco, Paul 'Chip' Siegel, chair, Board of Trustees; Michael A. MacDowell, Sandy Insalaco, Sr., Gerelyn Insalaco and Sandy Insalaco, Jr.

500 Sisters of Mercy who gathered for the Mid-Atlantic Communication Convocation. The Back Mountain Community Partnership, a consortium of Back Mountain municipalities, has also utilized the added conference space to discuss important issues like regionalization and good government.

Innovation and imagination converge in Insalaco Hall, as the Assistive Technology Research Institute develops and tests new and enhances existing assistive technology devices to ensure that people with limited function are able to participate in their personal lives and communities to the greatest extent possible.

## Alan, Evelyn Finlay receive TA Award

The path that Misericordia has taken over the past decade has been a collaborative effort by a leadership team comprised of administration, faculty, staff, students and the Board of Trustees.

For the past 10 years, Misericordia was fortunate to have Alan Finlay as a key player of that team. A dedicated and involved member of the Board of Trustees, his knowledge of construction and real estate proved invaluable as MU experienced a period of unsurpassed growth. Together, Alan and his wife, Evelyn, have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and generous support to the Misericordia mission of providing a strong liberal arts education based on the charisms of mercy, service, justice and hospitality.

Misericordia University, the Board of Trustees and the Religious Sisters of Mercy acknowledged the couple's devotion to the Misericordia way at the



Representing the Finlay family at the event, from left, are Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Evelyn Finlay, Mrs. Stephanie and Mr. Rob Finlay, and Mrs. Wendy and Mr. Terry Casey.

annual Trustee Associates Dinner in October by presenting them the Trustee Associates Award.

"Alan Finlay has been a mainstay of the Board," notes University President Michael A. MacDowell. "His caring approach; his dedication to its mission and his practical application of excellent business practices to the issues with which college trustees must deal have made him an invaluable board member and friend of the University. His and Evelyn's dedication to their adopted NEPA home has also served as an inspiration to all of us at Misericordia and throughout the region."

# Misericordia

Volume XII, Number 2

Today

# 09 Fall



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Misericordia Today is published twice a year by Misericordia University. The magazine is distributed free of charge to alumni, parents, and friends of the University. To request a subscription, call 570-674-3341. Postmaster: send address changes to Alumni Office, Misericordia University, Dallas, PA 18612-1090. © Misericordia University 2009

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Students live MU charisms while helping he underserved in Peru.



## ON THE COVER

At Misericordia University, more than 90 percent of our students secure valuable professional internships in their fields of study. Courtney MacDowell '10, pictured on the cover, completed her clinical experience at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



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## An engaging experience

During the 2009 opening Convocation ceremony Aug. 28, we welcomed our largest-ever freshman and transfer class to Misericordia. Before these 530 first-year and transfer students graduate, more than 90 percent of them will have engaged in experiential learning through an internship, clinical experience or student teaching assignment. This is by far a larger percentage of students than most colleges and universities of Misericordia's size — a fact that helps make Misericordia distinct.

Misericordia's Trinity of Learning emphasizes quality academics, superb career preparation and hones within each student the passion to serve others. It is fascinating for me to see how the internships, clinicals and student teaching experiences undertaken by students reinforce our Trinity of Learning.

The cliché that you "learn by doing" is practiced daily at Misericordia. Each semester, hundreds of students experience firsthand the rigors of the elementary school classroom, the emergency room, a newsroom and the long hours of a small entrepreneurial business person. The students see what they have learned in an English class, the biology lab, the speech-language pathology clinic and many other classes can be readily applied to their first job and eventually their entire career.

Those students who intend to go on to professional or graduate schools also benefit significantly from internships coordinated by Misericordia's Insalaco Center for Career Development. For instance, the Center's staff was very helpful in facilitating senior Kris Pfirman's six-week summer internship in Washington, D.C., with Trustee John Queenan, M.D. Kris shadowed Dr. Queenan and his colleagues three days a week in a variety of settings in Georgetown Hospital. He spent the other two days seeing how articles submitted to the international medical journal, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, where Dr. Queenan is deputy editor, are reviewed and selected for publication. This kind of experience will be invaluable to Kris as he seeks admission into medical school and pursues his hoped-for career as a physician.

Many good colleges and universities offer internships, but what makes Misericordia's experiential learning distinctive is that almost all of the clinicals, internships and other experiences allow students to see how their intellectual lives and professional careers can foster meaningful efforts to serve others. Our physical and occupational therapy students spent four weeks in Guyana helping youngsters with physical disabilities. And our business and communications majors have helped local communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania develop tools to enhance their own economic development. These are just a few examples of the myriad of ways Misericordia students not only make their own lives better, but in the tradition of our Founders and Sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy, those of others as well.

*MA MacDowell*

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## 'Balance in life' leads to success in business, family life

As a top Las Vegas, Nev., lawyer representing a wide range of developers, from home and apartment builders to commercial and industrial to casinos, Robert J. Gronauer's days can often be filled with administrative hearings with local officials, government agencies and area residents stretching well into the evening. But one of the strongest values he holds — one which he had instilled during his undergraduate education at Misericordia University — helps him to balance the most important aspects of his life.

"Professors and the people I met at Misericordia taught me the value of balance in life," he explains. "You can't just put 24 hours a day into work and ignore family, and you can't put 24 hours into family and ignore work. The formula of success I learned at Misericordia is the balancing of those two as you go through life."

Gronauer is managing partner of Kaempfer Crowell Attorneys at Law, and in addition to his work with clients he oversees the day-to-day operations of the Las Vegas firm's two offices and its 55 employees. After graduating from Misericordia in 1991 with a bachelor's in history, the Wilkes-Barre native earned his law degree from Thomas Cooley Law School in Michigan. In Nevada, he met

his wife Liz, and today they have four children ranging in age from 3- to 8-years-old.

Along the way, Gronauer has become an elite attorney, twice recognized as the best in his field by Best Lawyers in America. In Business named him as one of the top 40 business people under 40 years old in Las Vegas. He credits his Misericordia experience for shaping his success, a key reason he remains involved with the University through giving, student mentoring and alumni leadership.

"I'm a firm believer that Misericordia has shaped me to be who I am today and feel that I owe it as an obligation to the University to contribute as much as I can," Gronauer says.

He is in the process of establishing a \$25,000 scholarship, and he said seeing Misericordia's growth motivates him even more to stay involved.

"I go back at least once a year with my family and I'm so proud of the expansion of Misericordia," he says. "The leadership is on target and there's been so much positive change. When you see positive steps, you get yourself excited and motivated to do something. I'm proud to be a part of that change."



Bob Gronauer poses for a picture with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children Sagan, Ariana, Serene and Demi.

## Loyal to the mission

Mary Alice Lawlor Harrington '61 has spent a career as teacher and volunteer, raised two children and traveled through a lot of the world, including a six-month stay in India. But, some 48 years after graduating from Misericordia, the Cambridge, Mass. resident still stays active and connected with the University.

"I guess it's because I think you owe something back to the university and I like to keep friends and contacts," Harrington says.

Now a member of the Alumni Board, Harrington came to Misericordia in 1957 through a chance connection. As a high school student in Brooklyn, N.Y., she saw many of her classmates preparing to go away to college. Because of family finances, she figured — with disappointment — her only option would be to attend a college near home.

Her mother, however, was friends with the sister of registrar Sister Eloise McGinty, RSM, and Harrington was encouraged to apply for a scholarship to Misericordia. With a partial scholarship and help from family, she was off to Misericordia.

Harrington went on to marry the late Joseph J. Harrington, a professor with whom she raised two daughters, Karen Basinas and Beth

Harrington. For more than 30 years she was an elementary and secondary school teacher in New York and Massachusetts, and she continues to substitute teach today.

The friendships she made have persevered over decades through all she's done. In September, she took a trip to Alaska with one former classmate and last year she traveled to Tuscany with another.

"The friendships I formed at Misericordia have meant a great deal to me," she said.

"For many years we didn't see each other often, but as we had more free time our little group that lived on Lake Street as juniors and seniors began to meet two or three times a year."

Meanwhile, as an alumna and supporter, she has been impressed with the growth and improvement at Misericordia since her student days. She lauds the university for its Women with Children program ("I think that's a need that often slips through the cracks in life") as well as overall development and transition to university status.

"It's almost unbelievable," she says of the school's transformation from when she attended to what it is today. "I am so proud of the progress and growth of my alma mater."





## CAMPUS VIEWS

### Nursing student receives AICUP scholarship



Nursing student Kimberly Stephenson '10 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was awarded the McLean Scholarship for physician assistant and nursing majors by the Association of Colleges

Stephenson and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP).

Each of the 84 AICUP institutions in Pennsylvania was eligible to nominate one student for the \$2,500 award.



### BM Community Partnership meets at Misericordia

The Back Mountain Community Partnership, conceived by state Sen. Lisa Baker, state Rep. Karen Boback '73 and President Michael A. MacDowell to better serve the needs of residents in the region at a more economical cost, hold monthly meetings on campus.

Like other regions, the Back Mountain has many small municipalities. By combining their purchasing, planning and grant application processes, the municipalities can have greater impact in servicing the needs of their constituents and on lowering the costs of equipment and other services each would pay for individually.

A formal partnership among Dallas Borough, and Dallas, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships now exists. The organization is working cooperatively on

a variety of purchasing agreements and grant applications.



Paul Lumia, David M. Payne, Jr., '85 present the award to President MacDowell.

### NBLT presents award to President MacDowell

The North Branch Land Trust presented President Michael A. MacDowell with the annual Stewardship Award at the 10th Annual Dinner and Auction in May.

The award is in recognition of President MacDowell's commitment to being a steward of the community and for fostering an environmentally friendly campus that is open to all residents and serves as a model for development throughout the region.

### 400 teenagers participate in Summer Youth Rally

About 400 regional teenagers participated in the Combined Youth Ministry's day-long Light the Fire 2009 Summer Youth Rally at Misericordia University in June.

The rally featured the combined youth ministries of St. Jude's Church, St. John Bosco Church, Good Shepherd Church, Our Lady of the Snows and St. Benedict Church, and teens from as far away as Harrisburg and Williamsport.



### Medical imaging graduates score 100 percent pass rate

Sixteen medical imaging majors who completed the program in May passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists national certifications exam in radiography.

The class' 100-percent pass rate continues a 21-year tradition for the program which has routinely experienced higher pass rates than the national average. Since 1988, 323 graduates have taken the ARRT examination and 310 have passed on the first attempt — a 95.98 percent pass rate.



### Insalaco Hall receives Pride of Place Award

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce presented Misericordia University with the Pride of Place Award for new construction at the annual business awards luncheon in June.

MU was recognized for Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, the new academic building that opened in 2009.

### SLP students obtain noteworthy scholarships

Laura Bauman '10 was awarded the 2009 Von Drach Memorial Scholarship by the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Christina Santhouse '10 received the 2009 Jessie Hall Hemispherectomy Scholarship from the Hemispherectomy Foundation.

# Strategic planning guides Misericordia into the future

BY JIM ROBERTS

The ability to fold road maps is a lost art. In fact, when was the last time you saw someone use a paper map?

## 2009 TIMELINE

January: Organization  
Jan.-April: Data Gathering  
June-Aug.: Sense Making  
Sept.: Vision Conference  
Oct.: Goals Conference

Global Positioning Systems or GPS now dominate dashboards. Our maps, either neatly folded or maliciously mashed, are relegated to

the glove box.

Misericordia University had its own metaphorical road map. The strategic plan, developed in 2004, set the tone for organized growth at MU through 2009. In fact, many of the key goals were met or exceeded a year early — including freshman and total full-time enrollment. Arriving successfully at our destination, that plan expired and the entire MU community needs a

new strategic plan.

MU's new plan or GPS for the future is being developed with a highly inclusionary process. In January, a planning task force was formed consisting of 35 representatives from the faculty, staff and administration. Co-chaired by Allan Austin, Ph.D., and Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of student affairs, this group spent much of the 2009 spring semester gathering input from students, faculty, staff and community members about Misericordia's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as well as what this institution might look like in the future in the minds of those groups.

The data gathering phase surfaced seven reoccurring themes: Mission and Catholic identity, resources, 21st century curriculum, marketing and branding, trust, multicultural experiences and Excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Task force members wrote concept papers elaborating on each theme. Those papers now serve to guide the planning task force and additional advisors such as alumni, students, members of the Board of Trustees and Council Misericordia as a new organizational vision is developed. In October, task force members used that vision to develop specific goals that will be the focus of campus efforts for years to come.

Watch for additional updates on the strategic plan in future editions of Misericordia Today. Information is also posted online at [misericordia.edu/stratplan](http://misericordia.edu/stratplan).

## U.S. Rep. Carney touts success of the Yellow Ribbon Program

U.S. Rep. Chris Carney of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania held a press conference at Misericordia University on Sept. 8 to speak to the campus community and media about college financial aid and the GI Bill's updated Yellow Ribbon Program.

Rep. Carney recognized three veterans of the armed services who have enrolled at MU through the program. United States Marine Corps veterans, Sgt. Jessica Pugliese of Scranton and Sgt. David Gates of Edwardsville, and Navy veteran, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Frank of Kingston, have served their country and now are receiving all or part of their education funded by the program.

"Many of us remember the GI bill and how it provided financial aid to people like my father who was a Korean War veteran," said Rep. Carney, who is an active reservist with the U.S. Navy. "We have an entirely new generation of veterans who are returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. They bring with them lots of raw talent."

Congress approved an expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program last year, allowing Post 9/11 veterans to attend private colleges as well as public colleges. Misericordia University is one of 100 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania participating in the program and has made a commitment to provide funding for 25 students in the



U.S. Rep. Chris Carney poses for a picture with veterans, Joe Frank, David Gates and Jessica Pugliese.

program. "It was shortsighted to only support state schools. This expanded program is an investment in this nation, a chance to help the most dedicated, disciplined and brightest men and women by making college affordable to them," Rep. Carney added.

Rep. Carney commended Misericordia University for its commitment to health care education and for helping the country fill the current shortage of health care workers. More than 42 percent of Misericordia students are in the health sciences field.

# Yellow Ribbon Program

thanks returning GIs

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

**T**he terrorist events of Sept. 11, 2001 changed the lives of many Americans, both directly and indirectly. Some families lost loved ones during the attacks and the ongoing global War on Terror, while others felt compelled to act through their own sense of patriotism.

For Jessica Pugliese of Scranton, Pa., it was her strong sense of duty to country after 9/11 that prompted her to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 2003 and serve her country. "We declared war on Iraq and I believed that it was my opportunity to be a part of history," Sgt. Pugliese says. "Looking back now, it was my chance to find out what I was made of. The Marine Corps allowed me to really grow into the person I am today."

Many military men and women are returning home after serving their country during this time of war and are looking forward to the next phase in their lives. A grateful country is thanking them through the post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act, which will provide them an opportunity to attend participating public or private colleges and universities at little or no cost to them.

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions of higher education, like Misericordia University, to voluntarily agree to pay an amount of tuition that Veterans Affairs will then match so veterans can attend the school of their choice. The bill also includes a housing allowance and \$1,000 a year for books and supplies.

"The new GI Bill and its Yellow Ribbon component are a wonderful way for Americans to say thank you to our service men and women for a job well done," says Michael A. MacDowell, president. "We can give our veterans a college education and by doing so, improve their lives, those of their families and the economic future of America."

See **YELLOW**, next page





Misericordia is providing \$4,500 in tuition benefits for up to 25 eligible veterans. Sgt. Pugliese, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Frank of the U.S. Navy and Sgt. David Gates of the Marine Corps are the first veterans to enroll at MU under the program that was enacted Aug. 1. Two students — Stephanie Horn of Washington, D.C., a health care management major, and James Hamlin of Warminster, Pa., a business administration major — are attending MU through the program after their parents transferred tuition benefits to them.

"I am so appreciative for Misericordia choosing to participate in such a program," says Sgt. Pugliese, who was stationed on Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina as a maintenance management officer (MMO). "Their decision is allowing me to have a quality education, one I wouldn't be able to afford any other way."

During four years of active duty, Sgt. Pugliese did her best to ensure her unit's readiness by working closely with the supply and commodities sections. As an MMO, she made sure the parts that were needed to fix broken gear were ordered and received in a timely manner by the



"The academic reputation was the first thing that drew me in, but the more I learned about the University the more I felt that this

is a place that believes in not only educational growth but values personal growth as well."

— Sgt. Jessica Pugliese

supply section while also getting the gear fixed in accordance to the priority assigned to them.

The experience and training in the Marine Corps enhanced Pugliese's qualities of "dependability, decisiveness, integrity, endurance, unselfishness, courage, knowledge, loyalty and enthusiasm" she received from her parents, Robert Jr. and Connie Pugliese. It also unknowingly provided her the direction for her future occupation.

"I have always felt that I was meant to be a part of the medical profession," says Sgt. Pugliese, a medical imaging major. "I just never knew in what capacity. During my time in the Marines, I sustained a few significant injuries that required me to have a number of MRIs, ultrasounds and X-rays which brought this field to my attention.

"I love the fact that this field is one that allows me to be a lifetime learner. The academic reputation and past history is the reason I chose Misericordia for my education now that I have the financial means. I know that I will be the competent and confident professional that one needs to be to succeed in this profession after graduation," she says.

Returning veterans began their lives as collegians when classes officially began Aug. 31 at MU. "From the moment I stepped on campus, I felt welcome, which is a big change from some of the other colleges and universities I have attended in the past," Sgt. Pugliese says. "The academic reputation was the first thing that drew me in, but the more I learned about the University the more I felt that this is a place that believes in not only educational growth but values personal growth as well."



Mrs. Tina MacDowell and Amy Burke of Walnutport, Pa., an occupational therapy major, watch as Sarah Munley of Sussex, N.J., an OT major, reads to students at the annual Dallas Harvest Festival. Ninety-seven MU students volunteered at the annual community event in downtown Dallas in September.



The campus community formed a human peace sign on the lawn of McHale Hall in observation of the International Day of Peace on Sept. 21 and to raise money for the Catherine McAuley House in Plymouth, Pa.

## University names four to Board of Trustees

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education elected Christopher L. Borton, P.E., Harold E. "Hal" Flack, II, Scott Lynett and alumna Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan '71 to the University's Board of Trustees. They began their three-year terms in October.

Ms. Sullivan is the senior vice president and portfolio manager for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in New York City. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business education from Misericordia in 1971 and a Master of Education in business and distributive education from Trenton State College in 1978. The New York, N.Y., resident has been a financial consultant for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney since 1981.

Mr. Borton of Forty Fort, Pa., is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and Ohio. He is the CEO of Borton-Lawson and plans business objectives. A graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, Mr. Borton has more than 25 years of experience in general civil engineering.

Mr. Flack of Dallas, Pa., has been affiliated with Diamond Manufacturing — North America's leading and largest producer of perforated metals — for more than 30 years. He's also president of Exeter Architectural Products which manufactures hurricane barrier screens, security screens and security doors for government, public housing, educational and related markets. Mr. Flack holds six U.S. patents relating to security and storm protection products. He earned a bachelor's degree from New England College in 1981.

Mr. Lynett of Shavertown, Pa., is CEO of Times-Shamrock Communications and publisher of the Times-Tribune in Scranton, Pa. Prior to joining Times-Shamrock, Mr. Lynett was an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia and served as law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge William J. Nealon, Jr. Mr. Lynett earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston College, a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of Business Administration degree from Villanova University. Before attending law school, he spent a year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Buffalo, N.Y., working with victims of domestic abuse.

# Landscapes of Light at Misericordia

BY DR. JULIE KUHLKEN

First impressions are sometimes called the truest, but they are not sufficient to appreciate the beauty and technical mastery of Christopher Ries' glass sculptures that were on exhibit at MU from Aug. 22 to Oct. 25.

When one first walks into the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, one is welcomed by the glimmering surfaces of these large pieces, varying from the elegance of *Spirit* to the imposing magnificence of *Ambiguity*. Nevertheless, if one stops at these surfaces, one has missed the real magic of Ries' sculpture. As one approaches each of these crystal forms, one's vision pierces its spotless, blank surface to espy a rich inner universe.

The exhibit is carefully presented so as to invite this intimate inspection. Many of the pieces are mounted on rotating pedestals, which the viewer can turn in order to reveal a quickly changing kaleidoscope of lines and curves. The captivation of this shifting landscape of light is all the more artistically intriguing when one realizes that none of it — materially speaking — is there. What one sees once one penetrates the inner world of *Guiding Light* are just refractions that change with the time of day and position of the sculptures. The phenomenon recalls Theodor Adorno's characterization of artworks as "afterimages." Like the traces of light left in the mind by fireworks, these sculptures' afterimages redefine our notion of what glass can do. As familiar as we are with refractive properties of glass, we cannot help but touring the exhibit with the feeling that these refractions exceed what should be materially possible.

A particularly nice illustration of this

impression is made by *Falling Petals*. This delicate, tear-shaped sculpture catches one's attention by an interior alternation of light and dark. Then as one turns its pedestal, the light and dark patches coalesce into a series of falling petals. However, if one thinks at this point that one has "got it," and has understood the meaning of the title, one is stopping too soon. Just another subtle shift of the pedestal and there is an explosion of light that restores the whole of a bold flower etched in striated light.

This experience of surprise and mystery should not lead one to believe that chance is guiding the result. It is evident from the variety of effects Ries achieves that he is a skilled artist with years of experience in observing patterns of refraction, and he uses this knowledge with precision. In *Bouquet of Light*, for instance, one discovers another flower, this one soft and expansive. With a little detective work one also discovers the source of the flower. On the short end of the piece, there is a small etched petal that refracted light fills out into a full bloom. Armed with this knowledge one then turns to confront *Life*, a large, egg-shaped sculpture in the top of which floats a small image of the earth.

One knows the secret. One knows that there is an earth etched on the base that is throwing up this planetary apparition, but one cannot actually see it. The joy of the mystery remains precisely because one knows it is there to be discovered. It was an artistic adventure well worth the trip to Misericordia University and its new contemporary art gallery.



Alyssa McEntee '14, Brittany Kneal '13, Erin Bombay '13, Sara Blasi '13, Leann Terpstra '13 and Gia Mazur '13 enjoy the campus picnic.

## Picnic celebrates largest class of first-year students

MU hosted more than 2,000 students, staff and faculty at an opening day picnic on the lawn of the Banks Student Life Center to celebrate the first day of classes for the largest enrollment in the campus' 85-year history — more than 2,700 full- and part-time students.

Everyone was treated to a picnic style luncheon and entertainment.

# A Bright Future

N.J.-based trust awards \$1 M challenge grant in support of Women with Children Program

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

In college years, Lissenda Sutton is a second-year student who has lived on the campus of Misericordia University for two years. The collegiate experience has more than quadrupled her family in the form of 18 adopted brothers, sisters and aunts, and more importantly, introduced her to the opportunities of higher education.

At the tender age of three, the daughter of Sam Sutton and Jen Kates '12 has attended classroom lectures, eaten dinner in a bustling college dining hall and has had a 124-acre campus as her backyard playground.

Lissenda's exposure to the academic world has been limited by her age, but the introduction, nonetheless, has offered her a firsthand glimpse of a future filled with endless possibilities. Lissenda and her mother are enrolled in the Misericordia University Women with Children (WWC) Program. It is one of only eight similar programs in the country to provide academically eligible single mothers the opportunity to attend college full time while living on campus with their children.

Established in 2000, the program has eight women and 10 children currently enrolled and boasts 10 alumni who are succeeding both personally and professionally thanks to their own determination and the program. The students and their children reside in Rosary Hall and the Pauly Friedman House.

Both WWC homes are modest by modern standards, but the program's supportive structure offers ample guidance and a strong foundation to succeed. The families in the program interact and share household responsibilities in the common living areas, like the living room, playroom and kitchen, but they also have individual bedrooms when privacy or a quiet moment warrants.

The program offers single mothers the opportunity to earn their bachelor's degree while providing free housing for them and their children. It also offers significant financial aid,

**"There are so few programs in the country and there are so many girls with children who need a program like this."**

**— Jen Kates '12**

subsidized childcare and a built-in support system. The program's goal is to break the cycle of poverty that sometimes ensues when single women raise their children without the benefit of a college education.

"There are so few programs in the country and there are so many girls with children who need a program like this," says Kates, 19, a sophomore, pre-dentistry major at MU. "It's definitely something that is needed in a lot of communities because a lot of girls don't have any hope without a program like this."

That's why Misericordia University is working to fully endow the program to provide more opportunities for single mothers and their children. The B and B Trust recently pledged \$1 million to the novel program challenging the University to raise \$2 million more from other philanthropic sources. B and B Trust supports creative solutions to problems facing the less fortunate, with a special interest in those that involve education, job training and job creation. The \$3 million in total giving will allow MU to continue to expand the program.

"When we heard about the Women with Children Program, we said that's pretty much perfect — that's exactly what we're looking to support," says Brenda Bourger McGinley, a member of the B and B Trust. "Women with Children breaks the cycle of poverty and we want to see it grow. These women get their education and get support raising their children. And the program touches both generations — the kids see that their moms can

accomplish their goals. When these children get older, the question won't be if I go to college. It will be when I go to college, and where."

In nine years, WWC has grown from a fledgling program to a nationally recognized model for social responsibility. Among its graduates are physical therapists, elementary school teachers, social workers and accountants. Each academic year, new students enroll in the program with one common goal: to realize their academic dreams and provide for their sons and daughters.

For Lissenda and Jen, the program has been a literal lifeline. Homeless for periods of time during her senior year in high school, Jen survived through the kind-hearted efforts of others while Lissenda lived with her father. "It was pretty tough," Jen adds softly, "but the people involved at my school really helped me out a lot. I thank God for that."

Today, Misericordia's program has Jen a few steps closer to realizing her dream of becoming a dentist and has helped Lissenda develop positive social skills. "I think I would have enrolled in another school that didn't have a program, but I probably would not have lasted long," says Jen. "The support that you get from the program and on campus is very helpful."

The built-in support system provides an outlet for the program's students because the other women and their children "are going through the same thing you are," Jen adds, like late study nights and sick children. Plus, the children and MU students bond with each other to form one, big happy family, according to Jen.

"Lissenda loves it here," her mother says. "It's so inspirational. She always asks, 'can I come to college with you, mommy.' She loves coming here."

To find out how you can help Misericordia secure the B and B Trust challenge grant, please contact Vicki Austin, WWC program director, at (570) 674-6728.

Tuchana Ford '08, spends time with her daughter, Amber, outside Rosary Hall. Tuchana earned her Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology. Today, the Women with Children program graduate works for EBS Health Care in South Carolina as a licensed SLP.



May Peace Prevail On Earth



# Between Cultures

Member of BOT taps MU's international resources for educational trip to China

STORY BY  
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

What is the appropriate attire when addressing a conference of professionals in Shanghai?

How do I overcome the language barrier? Is there a common thread I can use to link the educational systems in the United States and China?

These were just some of the questions that crossed the mind of Ruth A. Connolly, Ed.D., a member of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees, when she learned she had been chosen as one of six representatives of the regional Middle States Association to attend the Quadrennial Conference of Leaders and Educators in Shanghai, China, in May. Dr. Connolly, development director of EOTC in Scranton, Pa., was asked to present a seminar on "Differentiated Education," which focused on methods for tailoring classroom instruction to meet the individualized learning needs

of diverse students. Among others in attendance would be members of the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation.

Upon learning of her invitation, Dr. Connolly called Mari King, Ed.D., vice president of academic affairs at MU, who put her in touch with Ruixia Yan, Ph.D., assistant professor of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). Dr. Yan is a native of China who has an undergraduate degree in foreign languages and who specializes in cross-cultural and cross-linguistic issues in communicative disorders in the SLP department.

"Given the topic I was asked to speak on, I knew that it was a sensitive subject and that I would need to break the ice so as to relate to them as educators and not just conference participants. Rachel (Dr. Yan) was a tremendous help," she says.

Diversified instruction is a philosophy of education that focuses on the student as an individual. "This philosophy of working with students in groups and in a personalized format is very different from the current Chinese educational system in which curricula is standardized across the country," Dr. Connolly says. A

student in the north currently takes the exact same tests as a student in the southern part of the country regardless of their ability, with standardized exams at certain grade levels nationwide.

"When I talked with Dr. Yan about the learning process in China, I mentioned that youngsters here learn their alphabet in a musical form, the ABC Song. Her eyes lit up and she said that Chinese children learn their letters the same way, to the same melody and cadence," she adds. "At that moment, I knew just how I was going to start my presentation. As soon as I started by singing A-B-C-D, everybody was immediately nodding and singing, and I knew I had crossed the language barrier and made a connection."

Dr. Connolly says Dr. Yan was a wonderful help in everything from translating her presentation to tips on the weather.

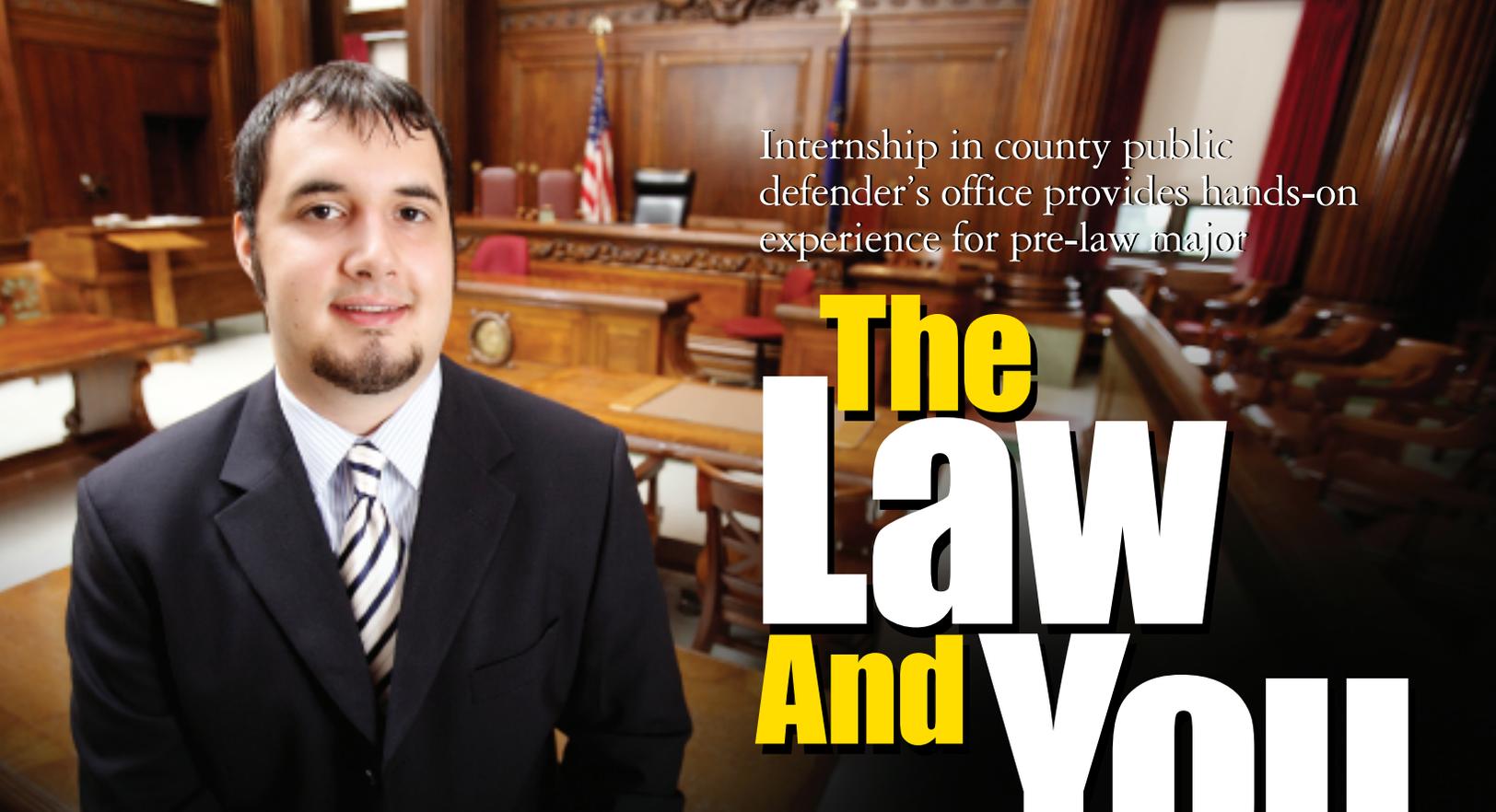
Dr. Yan says she was proud and pleased to help a fellow educator. As a teacher in the U.S., she says the biggest difference she sees between the two cultures is the reverence people in China have for the educational process.



# *On-The-Job* **TRAINING**

At Misericordia, students learn by doing. More than 90 percent of them secure the hands-on internships they need to succeed.

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Internship in county public defender's office provides hands-on experience for pre-law major

# The Law And You

**P**opular prime-time television shows like *Law & Order* and *JAG* have to condense sensational investigations and prosecutions into 60 action-filled minutes for their viewing audience, but they also oftentimes fuel a curiosity for the legal profession among their viewers that can last a lifetime.

Michael Perlock '10, a senior pre-law major, remembers watching his favorite "ripped from the headlines" programming as a teenager and wondering to himself what it would be like to cite case law and argue a criminal case before a jury and jurist.

While he did not get to argue a legal case, Perlock did get to experience both sides of the legal aisle during a summer internship with the Luzerne County Public Defender's Office. "Students in the pre-law program undertake internships in order to gain a real sense of what lawyers do," explains Brian Carso, J.D., Ph.D., assistant professor and director of the pre-law program.

"The Luzerne County Public Defender's Office is a great place to get an up-close look at the legal profession, since a student interning there will encounter lawyers, judges, judicial clerks, legal assistants, law enforcement officers and defendants — from the not guilty to the very guilty," Dr. Carso adds. "The

PD's office is where the rubber hits the road, where the intellectual content of law is applied to real-world situations."

Perlock gained invaluable insights into different types of criminal cases from sexual assault and narcotics possession trials to a civil suit that involved a woman suing a fast-food restaurant because she spilled hot coffee on herself.

"I feel like Misericordia's program and Dr. Carso prepared me very well for this internship," says Perlock, who wants to apply to reputable law schools at Villanova and Temple universities.

"There were two other interns working at the office and both of them had just completed their first year of law school. While I don't feel I was on par with their legal knowledge, I also do not believe I was two years behind them either. Most of the cases they were familiar with I had in my law seminar classes. While none of us had that much experience with legal procedure, what little we had was fairly comparable."

After the June trial sessions, Perlock participated in Luzerne County Central Court, a county-wide system for certain preliminary hearings that deal with felony cases like murder and major drug arrests. The Seton Catholic High School graduate also gained hands-on experience by taking applications and interviewing potential clients for the office.

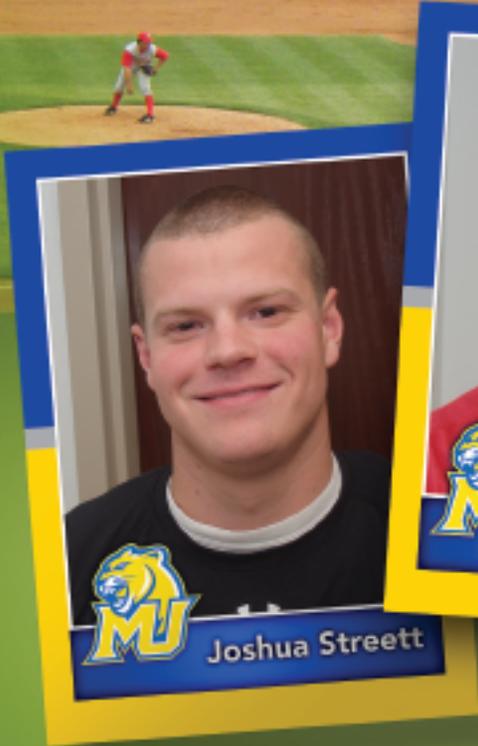
STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

"The pre-law program with Dr. Carso is great," the son of Michael Sr. and Barbara Perlock says. "I feel like it's given me great experience. I've written briefs, done in-depth studies on cases, presented a mock appeal to the Sacco and Vanzetti case and defended Queen Gertrude from Hamlet in a mock trial.

"I also feel that the Honors Program courses will be helpful to me in the future because they are discussion based rather than lectures. The practice of arguing and defending points will be especially helpful in the future," Perlock adds.

The experience with the PD's office also enabled him to closely examine what role he wants to fill in the legal field. An attorney who specializes in business, personal injury or family law does not appeal to him. Once he passes the bar, Perlock envisions working as a public defender.

"An internship is an invaluable opportunity for a student like Michael to get a sense of how his own career might take shape," adds Dr. Carso. "The lawyers at the Luzerne County PD's Office are very generous with their time and knowledge. MU students gain a great deal from the experience with them."



Joshua Streett



Jamie Philippi

## Ripken Baseball a hit for Streett and Philippi

STORY BY MARIANNE  
TUCKER PUHALLA

**A**n outfielder on the Misericordia Cougars baseball team, Jamie Philippi '10 would love nothing more than to work for a major league team someday. The senior business administration major is one step closer to his field of dreams, having spent the summer working at Ripken Baseball — sometimes alongside Hall of Famer Cal Ripken, Jr.

Philippi and Joshua Streett '10, who has a double major in sport management and marketing, both participated in 10-week internships with the company owned by one of Major League Baseball's most famous families.

Ripken Baseball is headquartered in Aberdeen, Md., and owns the Aberdeen IronBirds, a Short-Season Class A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles and the Augusta GreenJackets, a Class A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Philippi spent most of his time at the company's baseball summer camps, teaching fielding and hitting skills to youngsters in Aberdeen, Augusta, Ga., and at Turner Field, the

Atlanta Braves home stadium.

"My favorite part was getting to work with the kids," Philippi reports. "Having them come up to me and tell me I was their favorite coach really had an impact on me."

Philippi also spent time behind the scenes, learning facilities and team management, and customer service skills. "Misericordia prepared me well for what I had to do. Whether we were coaching, organizing equipment or helping prepare the stadium for a game, teamwork was really important. I had a great experience," he adds.

The son of Jim and the late Caren Philippi of Rome, Pa., is a member of the MU Student Athletic Advisory Council and has been recognized academically as a Wittman Scholarship recipient and member of the dean's list. On the MU diamond, he has earned two PAC all-conference awards and was named team MVP and PAC Rookie of the Year in 2007.

Streett was based at Ripken headquarters for his internship, just 10 minutes from his hometown of Bel Air,

Md., and says he enjoyed getting to interact with the fans on game days. "I really enjoyed helping set up for games and being out in the stands," he explains.

Most of his internship focused on group ticket sales, a job that he said was made harder by the current economy. "I learned about the behind-the-scenes challenges of professional baseball and how hard sales can be," Streett adds about his personal experiences.

He says he was able to see first-hand the rigors of the industry. "This experience opened my eyes to the long work hours involved. We put in 15 hours a day on game days and that lasted throughout the entire season," says Streett, recalling his summer internship. "Yet it was great, and I loved it."

The son of Kim and David Streett is also a regular member of the dean's list, helps to broadcast home basketball games on Cougar Radio and has served as the vice president of the Sport Management Club. He says he feels well prepared by both his Misericordia education and his internship as he begins applying to law schools for next fall.

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI



Nicole Moore '10 has been waiting for this opportunity for more than eight years, since her freshman year at Charlotte Valley Central High School

in Davenport, N.Y.

A mandatory job shadowing experience with a licensed occupational therapist introduced the daughter of Todd and Jaci Moore to a health care profession that features characteristics that appeal to her own outgoing and caring personality.

"I loved it from the minute the session started," Moore says, recalling her first exposure to OT in the school system, "and I decided to look into this more as a career choice for me. I like the holistic aspect of the profession and in my opinion it is very personable and more intimate than other health professions.

"A big part of our profession is actually getting to know the person and what makes them who they are. That is very important to me both personally and professionally. Probably the best advice I've received thus far in life came from my dad about choosing a career. He always told me: 'Take what you're good at and what you love and try to find a career that incorporates both.' I feel OT does that for me," she adds.

The Misericordia University occupational therapy graduate student completed her first Level II field experience at HealthSouth Treasure Coast Rehabilitation Hospital in Vero Beach, Fla., during the summer. The East Meredith, N.Y., native performed her second Level II clinical at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. this fall.

"It is absolutely necessary that aspiring OTs have clinical experience in the field prior to graduation," Moore believes. "MU does an excellent job of teaching us, but there is only so much you can read in books. Dealing with real-life patients is so different from practicing on peers and faculty. There are many things our peers and faculty just can't imitate and therefore we would never experience if we never had clinical experience prior to graduation."

Misericordia's five-year, master's degree program requires five fieldwork clinical experiences for OT students

# A Step Ahead

Graduate student's summer clinical experience reinforces decision to major in OT



Nicole Moore works with a client at HealthSouth Hospital in Vero Beach, Fla.

over two years, beginning in the last semester of the student's junior year. The focus of fieldwork is to transform academically acquired knowledge into professional practice by using in-depth experiences in providing OT services to clients, according to Dawn M. Evans, M.S., O.T.R./L., academic coordinator of fieldwork education.

"It is the culminating piece to the academic experience," Evans explains, adding, "and it is based on the philosophical beliefs of occupational therapy," says Evans, adding that fieldwork experiences gradually focus on higher levels of performance and requirements.

The hands-on experience MU provides its students allows them to translate their classroom lessons and labs into real-world situations in challenging fields, like OT, physical therapy, nursing, speech-language pathology, medical imaging, sport management, teacher education and many more.

As an inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation hospital, HealthSouth offers clinicians the opportunity to experience and provide diverse care to varied populations. Moore was able to

work with adult and pediatric patients, see a variety of diagnoses and build treatment regimens.

"The main focus of OT at this facility is to increase the person's independence in their activities of daily living," says Moore, who experienced clients with hip fractures, spinal cord injuries and congestive heart failure to name a few. "So while a good part of my treatment focused on building their upper body strength and endurance, it was my job to be creative and come up with ways to do this while incorporating occupations and activities that were meaningful to each personal individually."

To develop a therapy routine for her patients, Moore began with an initial Activities of Daily Living Assessment or ADL and an evaluation. From there, she incorporated range of motion, manual muscle and sensory testing and more in order to design a treatment plan.

The overall experience — and her first patient — have reinforced her decision to become an occupational therapist. "The first patient I had on my own was the one that touched me the most," says Moore, who also participated in a service-learning trip to Jamaica at MU. "He would tell me on a daily basis that he could not thank me enough for what I have done for him and hoped that others appreciated me as much as he did.

"It reassured me that I had chosen the right profession and that no matter how many difficult patients or bad days I may have, it's moments like this that make it all worth it," she adds.



# Living The Dream

Nursing student gains invaluable experience  
at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Courtney MacDowell '10 was a patient at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) when she was 17 years old and her experience made her vow to work in pediatrics there some day. That dream came true this summer as the Misericordia nursing major completed an eight-week externship in the renowned hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

The chance to work with the tiniest of infants and assist their families with their care has left an indelible mark on the 20-year old Misericordia nursing major from Springfield, Pa.

"I really went into the externship with the priority of gaining hands-on knowledge," says MacDowell. "It was more than I ever imagined it would be. I really wanted to witness medicine in an ICU firsthand and it was a tremendous learning experience."

Working as an extra pair of hands for the nurses in the 70-bed NICU, MacDowell was able to help with holding, feeding and caring for the

critically ill infants. She also had the opportunity to take a role in documentation and worked with the nurses learning about medicine calculations and ways to calculate different dosages when dealing with infants sometimes weighing just a few pounds.

"I have learned so much in such a short period of time," says MacDowell, whose mother, Lisa, also works at the hospital. "My firsthand knowledge will be extremely helpful as I prepare for my career. I have enjoyed every moment of my experience."

MacDowell transferred to Misericordia in her junior year, having previously attended Mansfield University and Rosemont College. She also took classes in Ireland. "It took me awhile to find my place, but I ended up right where I was supposed to be," she reports.

When on campus, MacDowell's caring spirit has lead her to become involved with the Circle of Friends program and Campus Ministry. "I rely on my faith for a lot of things and going to Misericordia

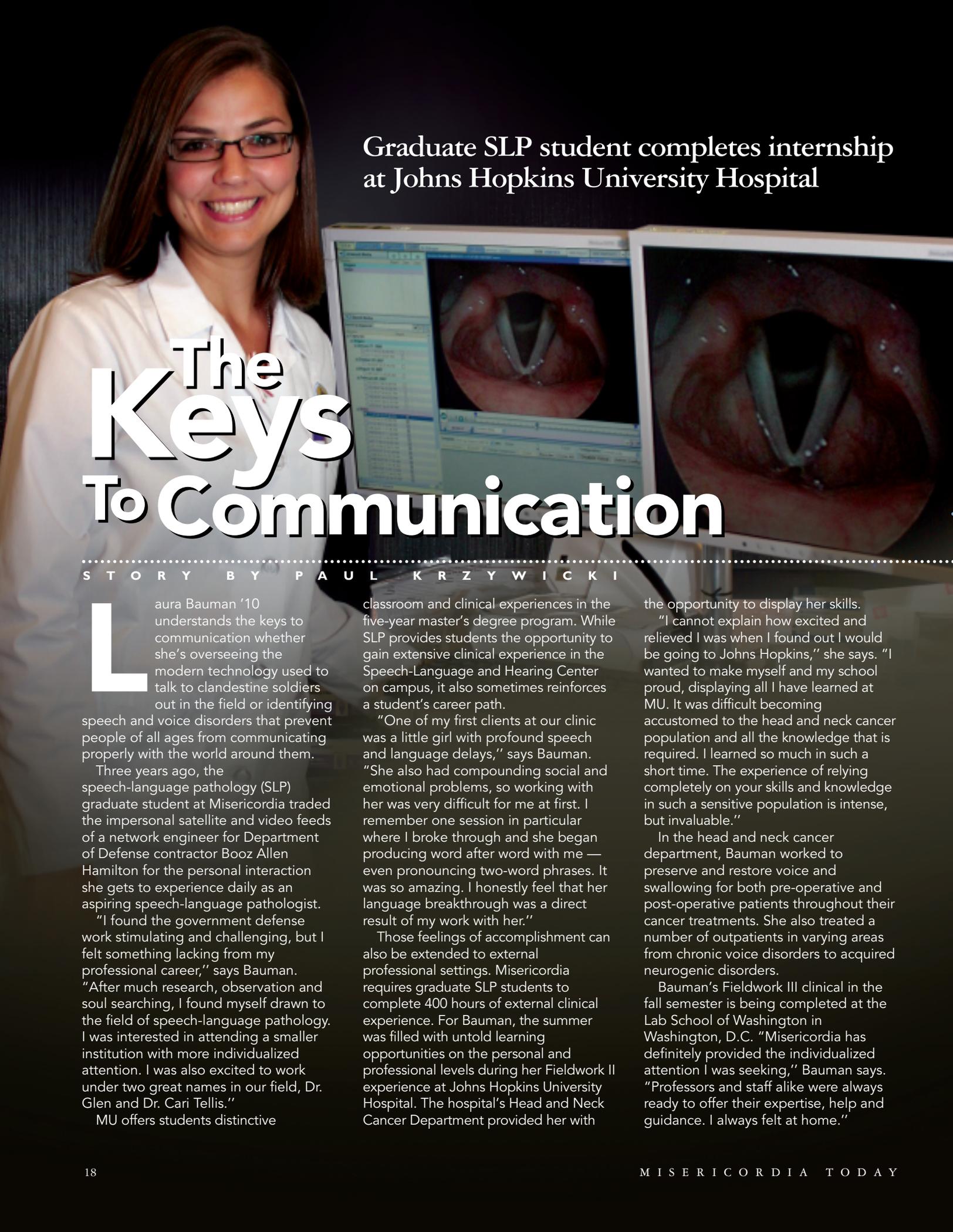
“My firsthand knowledge will be extremely helpful as I prepare for my career.”

– Courtney MacDowell '10

gave me a base of confidence and a feeling of support. My growth as a student here gave me the confidence to pursue my career dreams. I know medicine is my career calling," she says.

"The instructors in the Nursing Department at Misericordia University have been amazing," she adds. "I feel as though the knowledge they have provided really helped me to prepare for my externship as well as my future career in nursing. I really can't thank them enough for all of their knowledge and support."

She has been invited to continue working at CHOP throughout the school year when she is home on weekends and holidays and would love nothing more to be employed there after graduation next summer.



## Graduate SLP student completes internship at Johns Hopkins University Hospital

# The Keys To Communication

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

**L**aura Bauman '10 understands the keys to communication whether she's overseeing the modern technology used to talk to clandestine soldiers out in the field or identifying speech and voice disorders that prevent people of all ages from communicating properly with the world around them.

Three years ago, the speech-language pathology (SLP) graduate student at Misericordia traded the impersonal satellite and video feeds of a network engineer for Department of Defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton for the personal interaction she gets to experience daily as an aspiring speech-language pathologist.

"I found the government defense work stimulating and challenging, but I felt something lacking from my professional career," says Bauman. "After much research, observation and soul searching, I found myself drawn to the field of speech-language pathology. I was interested in attending a smaller institution with more individualized attention. I was also excited to work under two great names in our field, Dr. Glen and Dr. Cari Tellis."

MU offers students distinctive

classroom and clinical experiences in the five-year master's degree program. While SLP provides students the opportunity to gain extensive clinical experience in the Speech-Language and Hearing Center on campus, it also sometimes reinforces a student's career path.

"One of my first clients at our clinic was a little girl with profound speech and language delays," says Bauman. "She also had compounding social and emotional problems, so working with her was very difficult for me at first. I remember one session in particular where I broke through and she began producing word after word with me — even pronouncing two-word phrases. It was so amazing. I honestly feel that her language breakthrough was a direct result of my work with her."

Those feelings of accomplishment can also be extended to external professional settings. Misericordia requires graduate SLP students to complete 400 hours of external clinical experience. For Bauman, the summer was filled with untold learning opportunities on the personal and professional levels during her Fieldwork II experience at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. The hospital's Head and Neck Cancer Department provided her with

the opportunity to display her skills.

"I cannot explain how excited and relieved I was when I found out I would be going to Johns Hopkins," she says. "I wanted to make myself and my school proud, displaying all I have learned at MU. It was difficult becoming accustomed to the head and neck cancer population and all the knowledge that is required. I learned so much in such a short time. The experience of relying completely on your skills and knowledge in such a sensitive population is intense, but invaluable."

In the head and neck cancer department, Bauman worked to preserve and restore voice and swallowing for both pre-operative and post-operative patients throughout their cancer treatments. She also treated a number of outpatients in varying areas from chronic voice disorders to acquired neurogenic disorders.

Bauman's Fieldwork III clinical in the fall semester is being completed at the Lab School of Washington in Washington, D.C. "Misericordia has definitely provided the individualized attention I was seeking," Bauman says. "Professors and staff alike were always ready to offer their expertise, help and guidance. I always felt at home."



Kristopher S. Pfirman examines an ultrasound with Mine O'Zkul, the chief sonographer at Georgetown University Hospital.

# A blessing in disguise

Childhood accident leads MU student to the field of medicine

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

**M**edicine is not like riding a bicycle, but for Kristopher S. Pfirman a misadventure on a two-wheeler 13 years ago has steered him to a future in medical research and caring for the sick and needy.

The senior biochemistry and pre-med major at MU completed the institution's competitive Health Care Science Summer Internship program at Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Green Journal of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Washington, D.C. under the guidance of John T. Queenan, M.D. The unique opportunity introduced him to Georgetown University Hospital, a not-for-profit, acute care teaching and research hospital, and a publication that communicates the latest research and studies to practicing obstetricians and gynecologists across the country.

"Kris is a self-starter who has high aspirations for a career in medicine," says Dr. Queenan, professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown University and a member of the MU Board of Trustees. "He has the ability to learn quickly and an extraordinary skill of relating to people, which is very important in the medical profession."

His circuitous route to medicine,

though, began in the summer before the third grade after a bicycle accident lacerated his spleen and led to a shocking diagnosis. Ultrasounds and CT scans performed for the injury led to additional testing that discovered Pfirman also suffered from vesicoureteral reflux, which meant his kidney function was dangerously reduced.

"Had I not had this unfortunate accident and my condition gone unnoticed, I would have experienced renal failure and might not have made it to see my 21st birthday," he explains. "At a young age, I was so fascinated that doctors had the ability to look inside my body without utilizing invasive maneuvers. It is because of this traumatic experience that I want to give that same little boy who comes through those hospital doors the chance to enjoy life and the ability to change the lives of others."

Today, Pfirman is a dean's list student at Misericordia with a 3.89 grade point average who has ambitious goals to discover cures through his research and offer sound medical advice as a practicing physician. At MU, he has already completed research on organic synthesis and antioxidants and is intent on applying to a graduate school that features both M.D. and Ph.D. programs.

"This should provide enough education to enable me to become a research scientist, which will allow me to

construct the bridge between research concepts and clinical practice," says Pfirman. "This idea is critical and valuable to propel the field of medicine into the future."

In the meantime, MU has provided the challenging academics and opportunities Pfirman says he needs to prepare for graduate school and beyond. The first summer internship program introduced him to genetic abnormalities, nuchal translucency tests, the process of publishing a scientific manuscript and much more. "Misericordia provides all of the tools required to succeed," he says. "I encourage all of the students to become proactive in their education. Be willing to take a chance, step up and take advantage of the opportunities available — never settle for mediocrity. Set the bar high; never stop learning and keep after your dreams and goals in life."

The internship helps prepare an undergrad for a career in health care by providing the opportunity to experience how various aspects of medicine are performed. Two days a week are spent at the Green Journal and students learn clinical and didactic medicine by rotating with third-year medical students in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, where MU's student attends clinic, ultrasound laboratory and gains learning experiences in the labor and delivery suite.

Internship at TV station enables communications major to find his niche in exciting field

# Lights, Camera... **Action**



John Peruso '10 works in the TV control room at WEIU-TV in Charleston, Ill.

WEIU-TV in Charleston, Ill., is more than a Public Broadcasting Service station: It is an award-winning proving ground for undergraduate student journalists looking for real-world experience and direction in a growing field that offers many opportunities.

For John Peruso '10, a Misericordia University communications major, a summer internship at the television station allowed him to experience his future profession. The Warwick, N.Y., native worked in all facets of the broadcast news industry, including editing, reporting, writing, directing and being a videographer.

"Real-world experience is the most important thing there is besides having a degree," he says about his internship. "I don't even know where to begin explaining how much more I learned from doing this rather than learning about it in the classroom. Overall, deadlines became very real to me. When

we go live, that's it — you have to be ready for it because whether you're ready or not the newscast begins at 5:30, there are no extensions."

The PBS affiliate reaches one million households in the 16 counties it serves in Illinois and attracts 20,000 viewers nightly. The audience at home receives a live news broadcast in the afternoon and a five-minute, pre-recorded update that is aired in the evening, along with a pre-recorded news brief that provides viewers with the top story of the day and latest weather forecast. The station also pre-records a morning edition for the next day.

Off camera, Peruso also learned to adapt to a new environment and he received valuable lessons in news judgment, and life and people skills. "Over the past few months, I have realized how important interning truly is," he acknowledges. "Being out in Illinois has helped me see how vast the workplace can be. For the first time in my life, I was in a real career situation working full time in a foreign place.

"I was introduced to new teaching methods, equipment and personalities completely strange to me. I was working more than 40 hours a week and being paid hardly anything. I was completely on my own with no one I had ever met

before or who knew my background. I had to provide for myself entirely for the first time, which was a second job by itself. The whole experience definitely matured me," the son of John and Lynn Peruso adds.

Tight deadlines, long hours, exhilarating news stories, new media and emerging technologies all are part of the field of communications. Thanks to his professional experience, Peruso knows he wants to work behind the scenes to produce, videotape and edit various broadcast productions — and hopefully own his own video production company some day.

"We stress the importance of internships because these authentic learning experiences enable our students to grow a deep understanding of the field and workplace," says Melissa Sgroi, M.A., assistant professor and chair of the communications department.

"As they refine and apply their knowledge and skills, they generate real-world work examples they will include in the professional portfolios they will present to prospective employers. The portfolios are important because the samples of their work prove they have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the professional media environment."

# A Recipe for Success

National media professionals present awards to COM students for print, broadcast media work

STORY BY MELISSA SGROI  
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

It is a running joke, almost literally, that communications majors Sarah Hite '10 and Ann Gownley '10 used a broken cart to haul camera equipment from shoot to shoot. As they dragged it through the snow and slush, they – and the cart — would slip and slide along the little paths that connect Mercy Hall to buildings around campus. Upon their return from one shoot, they brainstormed to find an easier route to the equipment storage room in the lower level of Munson. So they coaxed the uncooperative cart from Banks Student Life Center, to the far side of Mercy Hall, to the wheelchair ramp outside Lemmond Theater, to the elevator inside and finally down to the storage room.

A few days later, the pair recalled the ordeal to Amanda Janiga '09, who asked, "Why didn't you just take it down to the Mezzanine level and then to the elevator?"

"Our brains were so fried from prepping for finals and trying to get this video done on time, all we could do was laugh at ourselves," Hite said.

No one's laughing now. Gownley and Hite were awarded a 2009 bronze Telly Award in the student online division during the 30th annual Telly Awards competition for their production of the University's holiday greetings video.

The Telly Awards is the premier award

honoring outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, video and film productions, and online file and video.

That's not the only production award communications majors can list on their resumes. "Winter Wonderland," a segment of the campus magazine show, CougarCast, won a bronze Telly in the student film/video division. The segment was created by executive producers Janiga and Elizabeth Guarnieri '09. The CougarCast staff served as producers, production crew and on-air talent.

The staff of The Highlander student newspaper has won an award during each of the past three years. Editors Janiga, Mallory Vough '08, Rachel Decker '10 and Jennifer Gomez, '08, were presented with a second place award for ongoing news coverage in the 2009 Pennsylvania Newspaper Association's Keystone Press Awards. The staff also won three National Scholastic Press Newspaper Contest awards, including first place with special merit in spring, 2008.



Telly Award



Dan Kimbrough

## Professor earns Award of Distinction

Dan Kimbrough, assistant professor of communications at Misericordia University, was presented an Award of Distinction from The Videographer Awards for a documentary that chronicles service work by MU students in Slidell, La.

Kimbrough accompanied a team of volunteers to document the service-learning course, "Theology of the Church," available through Campus Ministry. It marked the second spring break service trip for the MU community since Hurricane Katrina damaged the Gulf Coast states.

The 26-minute documentary, "Planting Seeds of Change," highlights the volunteer work of 19 college students who visited East and West St. Tammany in south Louisiana. It aired on WVIA-TV 44 on Nov. 5.



MU alumnae, far left, Amanda Janiga '09 and Elizabeth Guarnieri '09 pose with the bronze Telly Award the University received for 'CougarCast.' It can be viewed on YouTube in two parts at [www.youtube.com/misericordiaU](http://www.youtube.com/misericordiaU).

Ann Gownley '10 and Sarah Hite '10 pose with the bronze Telly they received for the MU holiday greeting card. To view it, visit the MU YouTube site.

# Students examine Life in Peru

Misericordia students get a different look at life in Peru

STORY BY BARBARA J. FRASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Rachel Roa '10 had visited Peru before, but on a trip with fellow U.S. university students she discovered her parents' homeland in a new way.

"I see the tourist sites when I come with my parents," Roa, 21, told Catholic News Service, but the visit to shantytowns, a hospice and a low-income parish off the tourist trail "let me see a different side" of the South American country.

In a matter of days, the nine students from Misericordia University met women whose lives revolve around waiting for the water truck to arrive; were mobbed by schoolchildren who wanted to touch their fair skin; received a warm welcome from women in a shantytown; and helped a group of confirmation students clean and paint their parish center.

They learned as much about themselves as about Peru and returned to Pennsylvania determined to stay



Student Julianne Curry '12, left, Erica Acosta, center, multicultural student outreach coordinator, and student Lauren LaSala '12 paint the parish center at Christ the King Parish.

**Editor's Note:** A reporter from the Catholic News Service was embedded with Misericordia students during their service trip to Peru. She filed these following stories.

connected with the people they had met.

"There's no better way to learn about a culture than to be out of your element" said Julianne Curry '12, 19, a speech language pathology major. The experience in Peru was "different from what you'd see on TV," she said.

It was also a chance to encounter God in a new way.

"Young adults are searching for God. Part of our job is helping them connect with God in everyday experiences," said Christine Somers, 41, Misericordia University's campus ministry director, who organized the trip and

accompanied the group. "We help them grow in spirituality."

While most of the students had participated in service trips in the United States, including helping rebuild homes in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, many had not traveled abroad. A few were nervous about the trip to Peru, because instead of doing a specific task, they would be immersing themselves in other people's lives.

They learned that relationships are as important as service and that it is crucial to listen to people before taking action.

"We have a lot of resources, but if we don't know what people need," those resources cannot be used effectively, said Roa, an accounting major.

The trip also gave the students a close look at the work of the Mercy Sisters, who founded Misericordia.



Olga Cortijo Aguilar, right, cares for her mother, Maria Jesus Aguilar Moya, 93, who receives visits from outreach workers.

## Hospice program in Peruvian coastal city proves to be a real gift

STORY BY BARBARA J. FRASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In a third-floor walk-up apartment in this Peruvian fishing port, Misericordia University student Caity Bryson '10 gently massaged lotion into Maria Aguilar Moya's paper-thin skin.

Bedridden and partly paralyzed since

suffering a series of strokes, Aguilar, 93, greeted her visitor cheerfully. Outside the door, a candle glowed at the feet of a statue of Our Lady of the Gate, the patroness of the city of Otuzco, where Aguilar farmed, ran a store and raised her family until poor health forced her to move in with her daughter and granddaughter in Chimbote.

The tiny, frail woman is one of the oldest people in the St. James the Apostle Hospice program, which has been caring for terminally ill patients and their families since 2002.

"I'd like to see them go back and make life decisions out of this, to choose careers that can be somewhat free of the materialistic environment they live in," said Sister Deborah Watson, 65, a Mercy Sister from Burlingame, Calif., who hosted the group in Lima, the Peruvian capital, and Chimbote, a fishing port on the north-central coast.

After making home visits with hospice workers in Chimbote, Andrew Roccograndi '11, 20, a nursing student, said the trip reaffirmed his decision to study nursing and gave him new insight into the problem of poverty.

"The least we have is more than the most they have," he said of the families he visited. "We should be appreciative of what we have, even if it's not a lot."

Despite the poverty, however, the students found the Peruvians they met welcoming and hospitable. Lauren LaSala '12, a 20-year-old speech language pathology major, and several classmates visited a family in a dirt-floor shack with straw mats for walls and the roof. A member of the family had just celebrated a birthday, and the mother welcomed the students warmly and offered them bowls of "mazamorra," a pudding-like desert made from fruit and purple corn.

The students were hesitant, knowing the family had little money for food, but when they finished, the woman filled their bowls again. "They have so little, but they're so giving," LaSala said.

The students said they realized that poverty limits people's lives.

"We always say anybody can do anything if they work hard enough," said Jill Rafferty '10, 22, a physical therapy major. But she and other students fear that some dreams may be out of reach for the young Peruvians they met.

At an elementary school they visited, children said they wanted to grow up to be doctors or lawyers, LaSala said, but

**Student Julianne Curry greets Sharon Capcha, a 7-month-old baby girl in Peru.**

**There's no better way to learn about a culture than to be out of your element.**

**— Julianne Curry '12**

the odds are against them in a country where people must struggle just to get water and electricity in low-income neighborhoods on the edges of cities like Lima and Chimbote.

"One of the things that surprised me was that (so many) people don't have running water," Curry said.

In a shantytown in Los Olivos, on the northern edge of Lima, the students visited Mercy Sisters who manage a clinic and help women find ways to earn money to support their families. The public water system has not reached that neighborhood, so every few days the women gather their buckets and wait for the water truck.

Besides suffering inconvenience, families in low-income neighborhoods pay four or five times as much for water from trucks as residents of wealthier districts pay for water from the public system.

"Each person can learn something if they're open to learn from the

devastating poverty" in much of the world, said Caity Bryson '10, 22, a physical therapy major. Bryson gave the Mercy Sisters \$1,160 collected from her home parish of St. Francis Xavier for projects in Peru.

By the end of the 10-day trip, the students were talking about how to share what they had learned with their peers at school and at home and practical ways of helping the people they had met, such as selling handicrafts made by the women with whom the Mercy Sisters work.

Somers said making those connections was one goal of the trip.

"They go back with a different perspective — they try to live simpler, and they become more aware of the world. The important thing is they go back and educate their friends," she said.

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Bryson, 22, a physical therapy student at Misericordia University, was accompanying hospice outreach worker Amparo Cordoba Carbajal on her rounds to learn about the program. Cordoba, 45, has been making home visits since the program started.

A doctor visits regularly, and an outreach worker comes several times a week to bathe Aguilar, give her a massage, and help Cortijo change her bedding. The hospice also provided the adjustable hospital bed that makes it easier for Cortijo to make her mother

comfortable. Before the St. James the Apostle Hospice program began, there was no special service for the terminally ill in Chimbote or the rest of Peru.

In the public health system, "when a patient can no longer be helped, the doctors says, 'Go home and die,'" Sister Juanita said. "They're cut off from whatever services could be available."

On a recent morning, Bryson and eight other Misericordia students accompanied the outreach workers on their rounds. Some of the students, who are studying nursing or physical therapy,

helped with massages or changed dressings on wounds. The circumstances were different, and language was sometimes a problem, but the patients reminded them of the ones with whom they had done internships at home.

Andrew Roccograndi '11, 20, a nursing student, was impressed by the staff's dedication. With salaries of just a few hundred dollars a month, the Peruvian doctors "barely earn enough to maintain themselves," he said. "They do it because they love it."



# The Road Ahead

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

## Honduran service trip introduces Misericordia OT students to the challenges of developing countries

Looking over CasAyuda in Comayagua, Honduras, a reaffirming smile slowly emerges from the stoic expression on Misericordia University undergraduate occupational therapy student Courtney Otto's face. It's the middle of summer in this Central American country and the heat and humidity oftentimes can be overbearing even for the Honduran people.

Otto '12, though, knows why she has traveled halfway around the world during her summer break. A determined student and humanitarian, she's here to help the underserved children in this impoverished section of the country and to learn and

appreciate new cultures, languages and religions in a foreign setting.

"Before going on this trip, I knew it was important to understand other cultures and communities," says Otto, who was in Honduras when a military coup overthrew President Manuel Zelaya. "But after this trip I realized how important it truly is. Learning about other cultures' values and beliefs, and seeing it firsthand can affect your own thoughts. Even as a future therapist, some of my viewpoints changed as I saw therapy with several different children in the country. Understanding the country can help someone grow personally and then you can take what you learned and apply it to your profession."

The lack of modern technology and treatment facilities did little to dampen the enthusiasm of Otto and her four colleagues from Misericordia University who traveled to Comayagua as part of the service-learning course, "Childhood Development in an International Setting." The course provides MU students an opportunity to expand clinical knowledge in several specialty areas, like early childhood development,

psycho-emotional development and program development.

"OTs are the perfect fit for this type of service," says Joan Surfus, OTR/L, who along with Kimberly Weigle, MOT, OTR/L, were the instructors for the first Misericordia service-learning trip to Honduras. "As a profession, we have always looked at the whole person and what is important to them overall. We help them regain or attain the abilities that are preventing them from participating in occupations.

"For children, this is often play or being a student and participating in school," she adds. "I think if you have the opportunity to participate in an elective like this it may be life changing and in the long run you will continue to volunteer in some capacity."

For the underserved children of Comayagua, CasAyuda, a non-profit, private Christian organization, is an oasis in a country where opportunities are few, and health care and education are limited by their ability to pay. About 11/2 hours from the nation's capital of Tegucigalpa, the organization is the symbol of hope for children who work



with educators and therapists to overcome various physical challenges, like Down syndrome and hearing impairments. Teachers employed by CasAyuda at St. John of God School and Mary Mother of the Poor boarding house provide an education for children ages 3 to 21 and a home for about 20 students from the rural mountains to stay during the school week.

With the assistance of outside organizations, like Hands in Service and Misericordia University, the school is able to provide a full curriculum for hearing impaired students, and group and individualized therapy sessions with licensed and student occupational therapists.

"I was excited to be able to go to Honduras and see OT at its best — helping children who need it most," says Otto, who has participated in other service trips at MU. "I learned about myself both professionally and personally throughout the trip. I was able to see OT and learn from every experience as I saw therapists have to adapt and be creative with the limitations in Honduras."

From June 26 to July 5, Otto, post-professional students Janine McWilliams and Chrissy Mancia, and Surfus and Weigle provided therapy sessions to CasAyuda school students and to children in the neighboring communities who are physically unable to attend classes. For many of the children, the early summer therapeutic sessions were the first ones they had received from practicing or aspiring OTs.

"Some of the families were eager for ideas and strategies on increasing their child's participation in life," explains Weigle, who has also conducted two needs assessment trips to Nicaragua for MU and volunteered in Cairo, Egypt and

Chang Mai, Thailand. "We would spend time with the children and the parents and collaborate on the families' main concerns. There was often comfort in knowing there are other children in other areas of the world who face similar challenges as their own child."

Volunteering in a developing country is demanding and a patient's progress sometimes is measured simply in terms of hope. Visiting therapists work with large groups of students in understaffed and underfunded clinics, and they are able to apply their time and talents to their patients' well-being for only 10 to 14 days a year before returning home. Whether clinicians are looking for tangible or intangible results, the improvement they seek sometimes takes years to realize.

"Every year, I work with a student who has cerebral palsy," says Surfus, who has volunteered for five years. "He is now walking! I know that I am an OT and walking is not my primary concern, but the world this opens up for the child — not only in his school environment, but in the community, which is not wheelchair accessible. He is now able to access his environment in his home and for short distances in the community. It was amazing — and both brought tears to my eyes."

Surfus has been volunteering at CasAyuda through Hands in Service. Each year, she notices how the global community has assisted the Honduran people and how clinical services continue to grow. CasAyuda has received donated walkers, mats, therapy balls, developmental toys and other therapeutic equipment. Plus, "CasAyuda now has a therapy room," she announces proudly. "This may not seem like a big deal, but each year I

have been provided a room to work in during my stay. However, now, the room is a designated therapy room."

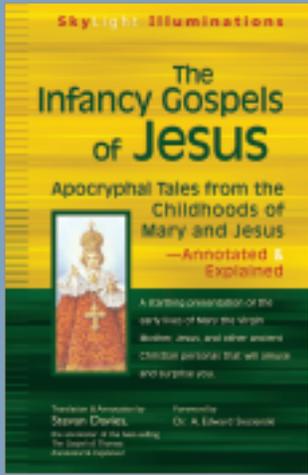
Surrounded by lush, green mountainsides, the city of Comayagua is a paradox of poverty and prosperity. In rural areas, families live off the land, mixing mud and sticks together to build huts while struggling to earn a living wage. In smaller communities, the urban poor erect cinder block homes with dirt floors, and no doors, windows or sanitation systems. Situated among the impoverished are lush family homes that offer comfortable features like stucco, tile floors, windows, screens and running water.

"Awareness and sensitivity to culture is imperative in working in the world of health care today," Weigle says. "To really understand what, why and how to help the people you are working with you must taken into account the culture, community and environment. This respect will often foster trust and increase follow through creating success of the child, person and family. Often to fully understand the situation and create the best treatment plan or recommendations, one must be open, aware and respectful of the client's culture, beliefs and values."

Despite the obvious disparities between haves and have-nots, the Honduran people openly embrace foreign volunteers who are there to improve their quality of living and life. "The people in Honduras are some of the most welcoming people I have ever met," says Otto. "They are so open to other cultures and were very accommodating. The staff members at the school were so willing to learn and benefit from our visit and they took every ounce of information we could offer."



Occupational therapy students Courtney Otto, far left, and Chrissy Mancia participate in a therapeutic session with a Honduran child at CasAyuda in Comayagua, Honduras.



Dr. Davies recently published his 7th book, *The Infancy Gospels of Jesus: Apocryphal Tales from the Childhoods of Mary and Jesus Annotated & Explained*.

## Davies interviewed by History Channel

Stevan Davies, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, was interviewed by the History Channel in New York City for a documentary that is scheduled to air in spring, 2010 to coincide with the public display of the Shroud of Turin in the cathedral of Turin, Italy.

Producer Frank Koughan, the former associate producer of "60 Minutes," asked Dr. Davies about the Gnostic religion, a form of Christianity that flourished from about 100 to 500 A.D. The Gospel of Thomas is an ancient document from the late first century A.D. that was discovered in Egypt in 1945 and is considered gnostic by many. Dr. Davies was asked about the main themes of the Gospel of Thomas.

"Thomas is a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus, several of which point to the existence of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world now," he said during the interview. "The Gospel of Thomas' sayings assume that the Kingdom of Heaven has been in the world since the first seven days of creation, but that it is hidden and people must strive to find it even though it is present right in front of them."

Dr. Davies was also asked about whether early Christians thought Jesus' sayings were coded and mysterious. "That is the point of view in the Gospels of Mark and of John and of Thomas, although in three different ways," he replied.

# Understanding the stories of Jesus

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Stevan Davies, Ph.D., does not question long established dogma because he is the vanguard for any particular cause. Rather, he is a lifelong learner whose own curiosities fuel his desire for more information and a greater understanding of the world around him.

So when it was time to conduct research for his seventh book, the author of the acclaimed 2002 book, *The Gospel of Thomas: Annotated & Explained*, followed centuries-old evidence that revealed the fundamental interest of early Christians in stories of the birth and early lives of Jesus Christ and of his mother, the Virgin Mary, as seen through three fictional Gospels.

Following two years of research, the religious studies professor at Misericordia University published *The Infancy Gospels of Jesus: Apocryphal Tales from the Childhoods of Mary and Jesus Annotated & Explained* with SkyLight Paths Publishing of Woodstock, Vt., in early summer. The book takes an historical rather than theological look at the views of ordinary Christians in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries and shows how interested they were in the way the youthful Jesus handled his divine powers to heal and produce miracles.

Known for dispelling long-held theories about the Sayings Gospel of Thomas being gnostic, Dr. Davies "walked in the footsteps of Jesus" while conducting research in Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem for his latest book. He utilized the personal viewpoints and experiences he gained in the Holy Land to probe deeper into the Infancy Gospel of James, the Infancy Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of the Infancy — all Christian folktales that arose in the 2nd through 4th centuries A.D.

Dr. Davies has a national reputation for his research and insightful writing. According to

Ronald F. Hock, professor of religion at the University of Southern California, "Davies' translations are appropriately idiomatic, and his comments are informative and insightful by comparing these stories not only to pagan, Christian and Jewish parallels but also to versions of some of the stories in the Quran."

At times, the folk religious materials tell different stories than are found in the Bible, according to Dr. Davies, especially in the story of Jesus' birth found in the Infancy Gospel of James. In that story, Joseph describes a moment in which time stopped when Jesus was born in a cave outside of Bethlehem. "It's one of the most poetic pictures in all of early Christian literature," he says. "Joseph goes to find a midwife and all of a sudden everything completely comes to a halt ..."

"This is the moment of Jesus' birth. This is the moment between B.C. and A.D. And then suddenly time starts again."

While the Infancy Gospel of James begins by focusing on Mary's birth and how she was raised in a "totally holy atmosphere," the Infancy Gospel of Thomas is mainly interested in the relationship between Jesus and the village residents of Nazareth, telling stories of the divine powers and knowledge that the little boy who was Son of God needed to learn how to control. "It's really an interesting set of stories about how a child is growing up with godly powers and doesn't yet know how to control them," he says.

The Gospel of the Infancy was written some 200 years after the other two Infancy Gospels. Its fictional accounts say "miracles were happening all over the place" when a less than one-year-old Jesus was being carried around Egypt. "It's the tremendous miracle power of this being who has come to earth that count, not what anyone preaches about him," Dr. Davies adds.

**Dr. Aldrich receives Pauly  
and Sidney Friedman  
Faculty Award for Service**

# Life in Tune

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STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Looking over her orienteering map, Lynn Aldrich, Ed.D., associate professor of physics at Misericordia University, can quickly find the exact location of her favorite trail at Frances Slocum State Park in the Back Mountain.

Being in tune with the environment comes naturally for Dr. Aldrich, a self-described environmentalist and humanitarian, who has been making a second home for herself in Mother Nature's environs since her early teens. "I feel at peace, I feel renewed," she says about being in the great outdoors. "I just feel in touch with the natural world that God created and we are the stewards of."

Dr. Aldrich has taken the lessons she learned at an early age from her father, Clare Aldrich, and siblings, Thomas Aldrich and Nancy Vogel, and applied them to her life's work — both inside and outside the classroom. The early childhood hikes in her hometown's woodlands eventually led her to climb to the top of a volcano in Mexico and to trek along scenic paths in the mountains of Nepal in South Asia as an adult.

"To realize you are looking at the tallest mountain on earth is very awe-inspiring," she says about Mount Everest. "This is the tallest place on the planet. I don't know how to describe it."

Others, though, certainly know how to describe Dr. Aldrich's dedication to her profession, the environment and especially those most in need. "She is

truly a woman of Mercy who understands and lives the charisms of this institution in her daily life," says Christine Somers, director of Campus Ministry at MU.

"Dr. Aldrich's students gain experience in volunteerism within their community while learning the practical application of physics in everyday life," adds Carol Blundell, coordinator of Service Learning at Misericordia.

And Patrick McKamy, coordinator of student activities at MU, says she has "distinguished herself as a role model within the university community and with her devout care for humanity and the environment."

In a way, Dr. Aldrich has found a synergy between her ideals and education that benefits Mother Earth and humankind. "I did some self reflection about 10 or 15 years ago and realized that my purpose is to use my abilities to help others," she says. "I think anyone who teaches has some of that."

Since 1993, Dr. Aldrich has been volunteering for the North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) and today serves as the chairwoman of the board of directors. NBLT works with property owners to maintain Northeastern Pennsylvania's open spaces and to preserve scenic and environmentally sensitive properties in perpetuity through conservation easements. The trust has preserved more than 8,600 acres in eight counties.

Whether it was recovering from the

wrath of Hurricane Katrina or building better lives for families in impoverished countries or neighborhoods, people in Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nepal, New Mexico and North Carolina know about Dr. Aldrich's compassion.

"A big part of me likes to do things like build trails or houses because you can see the physical result of what you did," says Dr. Aldrich, who has chaperoned Misericordia service-learning trips and participated in projects for Habitat for Humanity and the Jimmy and Roselyn Carter Work Project. "I feel a sense of accomplishment that I did do the right thing because it's verified in what they're thinking was done.

"If they're happy or a student gets it, then I know I succeeded. When a student tells you that your help was important to their understanding, that's the feedback that tells you what you're doing worked," she adds with a smile.

Misericordia University recognized Dr. Aldrich, the chair of the physics department, by presenting her the Pauly and Sidney Friedman Faculty Award for Service for the 2008-09 academic year. The annual award is given to a member of the faculty who has been selected by the Faculty Awards Committee in recognition of their service for the college and greater community. It takes into consideration the depth, impact, degree and longevity of the service activities.

# Alumni News

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



**Helene Flower Reed '66**

Just want to take this opportunity to tell you how happy and honored I feel to be asked to serve as President of your Alumni Association. These are truly exciting times at Misericordia — times that have brought about significant changes at our school through what, on occasion, seemed to be monumental challenges.

These past several months have seen the opening of the exquisite Pauly Friedman Art Gallery in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall as well as the addition of on-campus housing with the opening of Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Student Residence Hall. The former Walsh Auditorium has been given a rebirth in the form of the beautifully remodeled Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Events can now be held in climate-controlled comfort.

The Center for Health Sciences, located in the former Commonwealth Telephone building on Lake Street, will provide much needed space for the expanded medical-related science programs.

All of these buildings with their current need and their implications for the future were made possible in large part because of the generous support of you — the Alumni. Thanks to your loyal support, the “Leading from the Heart” campaign was an overwhelming success. You can all be Misericordia proud.

Having had the delightful opportunity to meet many of the incoming freshmen on “Move-in Day,” I must say that the true excitement on campus comes not from the addition of these wonderful new buildings, but from the students themselves. Many members of the freshman class are at MU because of the financial aid you provided through your support of the Annual Fund. Buildings, after all, may be spectacular interpretations of concrete and steel, and brick and mortar, but they really come to life only when they are filled with the vibrancy of these fine young men and women. It is not until they echo with innovative ideas, impassioned discussion, new discoveries and spirits made to soar through the arts that these buildings achieve their full glory.

Misericordia today may not be the Misericordia you remember, but, it is not one you will soon forget. Misericordia is very much alive and well. The students, faculty and staff all are dedicated to the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy — mercy, service, justice and hospitality, and are the promise of the future. You can be proud of Misericordia; of the traditions from which we came, of what we have become and of the promise we will carry to the future.

**Helene Flower Reed '66**

# Class Notes

**'68 Cathie McAndrew Stevens** and her husband, Bob, along with Ann Gleason Kerwin and her husband, Tom, attended an event on Sept. 10 in Red Bank, N.J., to honor Maria Grilli Gatta '68. While Maria passed away from cancer in 2005, her dedication to community service remains. By partnering with the Wellness Community, Cheers to You!, Maria continues, in her memory, to support the programs dedicated to children dealing with cancer in their lives. The event raised \$12,000 for the Wellness Community in Maria's name.

**Karen Passarella Boback** and her husband, Bernard “Buzz” celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7. They were married on Sept. 7, 1974, at Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas. The Bobacks are the parents of two children: a daughter, Karen C., and a son, Bernard.

**'77 Margaret Burns** and Jeffrey Andrews were united in marriage on June 27 at Trucksville United Methodist Church, Trucksville. She is employed as a supervisor at AllOne, Wilkes-Barre. The couple resides in Shavertown.

**Lynn Shields** received her Master of Science in Nursing, as well as acute care and family nurse practitioner degree from the University of Colorado-Pueblo in December 2008. She and her husband reside in Colorado City, Colo.

**'87 Theresa Ann Middleton Brosche, RN,** has recently published a book with Jones and Barlett Publishers entitled *The EKG Handbook*. Terry currently is teaching as an adjunct professor for both Germanna Community College and SUNY Delhi online program. She continues to work in the ICU as a CCRN certified staff nurse. Theresa and her husband, Dr. William Scott Brosche, live in Spotsylvania, Va., with their two sons.



**Georgia Kokos Edmunds** was nominated by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission's Office of Education for the 2009 Governor's Teacher Recognition Program.

**G. Patrick Williams** was recently named vice president for University Relations and executive director for the Foundation for Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In his position, he has responsibility for providing leadership and direction for the university relations program, training and stewardship for the foundation for the IUP Board of Directors overseeing the operation of the foundation, and serving on the president's senior administrative cabinet. The

university relations division is organized primarily to position, direct and coordinate private resource acquisition.

**Kim Collotty** and Charles Augustus Jobst III were united in marriage on Feb. 14 at the Hazleton Faith Assembly of God Church. Theresa is an operating room nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The couple resides in Mountain Top.

**'93 Dominic Toraldo '93** and his wife, Allisha, recently had an addition to their family on Aug. 12 as their son, Gaetano Dominic Toraldo, was born. The couple resides in Mountain Top.

**Kristine Desmet Gavrilis** and her husband, George, welcomed a daughter, Nicolette Grace, on Aug. 18. Kristine is employed by Upper Chesapeake Medical Center as a senior physical therapist at their out-patient site. Kristine, George and Nicolette Grace reside in Perry Hall, Md.

**'97 Jack Volpe** was recently honored with the Award of Appreciation at the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Conference. Jack, while serving his tour of duty in Iraq, brought occupational therapy stress management services to soldiers serving on the front lines of combat.

**Bobbi Strawser-Butch** was recently a guest presenter at Kirby Episcopal House, Mountain Top. The program was hosted by the Early Intervention Program of the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties MH/MR Program. It involves helping children with disabilities to participate with their family members and peers in everyday activities and routines in home, school and community as a necessary component and outcome of contemporary therapy services. Bobbi is the assistant dean of instruction at Delaware Technical & Community College. She has extensive experience in early intervention working for non-profit organizations and as an independent contractor.

**Jeffrey Paone** and Lisa Stefursky chose St. Thomas Church, Archbald, as the setting for their Sept. 5, 2008 wedding. Jeffrey is employed by SPRINT Physical Therapy and Traditional Home Health Care. The couple resides in Peckville.

**'99 Allison Banta Hauer** and her husband, **Steve Hauer '97,** welcomed their third child, daughter Lauren Elizabeth, on Nov. 11, 2008. The Hauer family resides in Elysburg.

**Michael J. Blasi** and his wife, Colleen, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Sept. 6. Michael is vice president of Blasi Printing Corporation.

**'00 Danielle Seibert** moved to Maui, Hawaii, and is working as an occupational therapist in several schools there.

**Laura Palanzo Sholly** and her husband, Andrew, welcomed a son, Ryan Andrew, on April 23. Ryan joins proud sister, Addisan, in the family.

**Stephanie Stachura** and Michael Conaghan chose Sacred Heart of Mary Church, Jermyn, as the setting for their Aug. 22, 2008 wedding. Stephanie is a first grade teacher at William H. Ziegler School in the Philadelphia School District.

**Kelly Ann Hutchings** and Shaun Bucchere were married on May 2. Kelly and Shaun are living in Vernon, Conn.



**Amy Ayres Wiedlich** and her husband, **Carl '99**, welcomed a daughter, Chloe Melissa, on March 21, 2009. Chloe has an older brother, Alexander James, who was born on Jan. 25, 2005.

**'02 Joanne Szoke** and **John Vetashick '99** were married on Sept. 19 at St. Theresa's Church in Shavertown. After the ceremony, the wedding party had their formal

pictures taken on the Misericordia University campus. Joanne works in the Human Resources Department of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Wilkes-Barre. John is employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a senior CM analyst. Joanne and John reside in Dallas.

**Nicole Dorish** and Michael Chad Zekas were united in marriage on Aug. 5 at the Excellence Riviera Cancun Spa and Resort in Mexico. Nicole is employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit as a special education teacher. The couple lives in Wilkes-Barre Township.

**Dave Hurley** and Krista Foley were married on July 17 at The Inne of the Abingtons, Dalton. The couple resides in Forty Fort.

**Jennifer Jarolen** and Thomas John Jones were united in marriage June 21, 2008, at Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Nanticoke. Jennifer is employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit as an occupational therapist. Jennifer and Thomas reside in Edwardsville.

**Ernest Taylor** and his wife, Cindi, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 28. They were married in the Forty Fort United Methodist Church. Ernie is a radiologic technologist at Wayne County Memorial Hospital, Honesdale.

**Kimberly Joan Luck** and Christopher Wayne Kostelnik were united in marriage on May 24, 2008 at the Misericordia University chapel. Kimberly earned a master's degree in social work from Marywood University in 2006.

**'05 Amanda James Cubas** and husband, **Jeremy,**

welcomed the birth of a daughter, Monica Adalguisa, on March 6, 2009. The family resides in Eagle River, Alaska.



**Jeffrey Francis Murray** graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on May 31 with the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. He has now launched his professional career and will begin his graduate medical education very shortly.

**'06 Nicole Winter Buglino** and her

husband welcomed a daughter, Kaylee, born on Nov. 3, 2008.



**Cara R. Devine** and Joseph J. Homza Jr. were united in marriage on May 23 at The Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Kingston. Cara is pursuing a master's degree in special education at Misericordia University. She is employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 as a special education teacher and a water polo and swimming coach at Wyoming Valley West. The couple resides in Forty Fort.



**Jill Guyette** and **Jared C. Widman '07** were united in

marriage on June 27 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. Jill is employed as a kindergarten teacher for the Wyoming Valley West School District. Jared is an investment banker and financial consultant

with offices in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The wedding party included **Joseph Rogers '06, Robert Dmuchowski '06, Matthew Rowland '07, James Ward '07,** Christopher Brauch (former Misericordia student), **Kelly Guyette '11, Kari Rogers '06 and Jen Adams '10.** Dr. and Mrs. Michael MacDowell, as well as Dr. Mari and Mr. David King were there to share in the festivities. Jared and Jill reside at Harveys Lake.



**'07 Sara Bray** and **Brian Ulrich '06** were married on July 25. They reside in Saylorsburg.

**Edward T. Brown** served in Operation Enduring Freedom from December 2007 to December 2008. He is employed at Universal Printing Company, Wilkes-Barre, as an IT Production Specialist.

**Amy Hobby** and Gary Johnson were married on June 28, 2008. Amy is employed as a physical therapy supervisor at Sullivan ARC in Monticello, N.Y. They recently bought a house in Liberty, N.Y.



**Danielle N. Lytwyn**, a resident of South Plainfield, N.J., has joined the staff of Matheny Medical and Educational Center as a physical therapist. Lytwyn was previously a staff physical therapist at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. She has also worked at the Trinitas Children's Therapy Center in Cranford, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton and Concentra Medical Center in Edison. Lytwyn has a BS in health sciences and an MS in physical therapy from Misericordia. Matheny is a special hospital and educational facility for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities. Physical therapists at Matheny take a personal and client-specific approach to addressing each person's individual needs. Matheny's PTs play an active role in evaluating the positional and adaptive equipment needs of patients.

**Kimberly Marie Perlock** and Joseph Chorey were united in the sacrament of marriage on May 23, 2009 at St. Johns the Baptist Church, Larksville. Kimberly is employed by the Social Security Administration, Wilkes-Barre field office.

**Melissa Risboskin** is an elementary school teacher in the Duval County School District in Jacksonville, Fla. She was a first grade teacher in her first year and now is teaching kindergarten.

**Danielle Stone** and **Richard Ainey Jr. '09** chose The Inne of the Abingtons, Dalton, as the setting for their June 20 wedding. Danielle is a registered nurse for Heartland Health and Hospice. Richard is a network engineer for Lightspeed Technologies. The couple resides in Archbald.

**'08 Dana Gehling** and James P. Healey were married on July 26, 2008. Dana is the front coordinator for Pro-Care Therapy, Dickson City. They reside in Scranton.

**'09 Laura Mushinski** and Drew Lambert were married on Sept. 27, 2008. They recently bought a house and are in the process of remodeling it. Laura and Drew reside in Hummelstown, Pa.

**Stephanie Ann Pacovsky** and Thomas Shone were united in marriage April 7, 2008, on the beach in Negril, Jamaica. They reside at Harveys Lake.

**Ashley Wolanski** is enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University after the pre-optometry major received her undergraduate degree in biology at the 83rd annual Commencement ceremony. She is studying to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming an optometrist.



# A Milestone in Service

Monsignor James T. Clarke served 24 of his 71 years in priesthood as campus chaplain

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

From his suite just off the lobby of Mercy Hall, Monsignor James T. Clarke didn't put up with what he called any "monkey business" during the 24 years he served as chaplain of Misericordia.

When he started at the all-girls college in 1944, freshmen needed to be in their rooms at 7 p.m., sophomores at 8 p.m., juniors at 9 p.m. and seniors were afforded the luxury of staying out until 10 at night. The senior class consisted of 28 students and the entire class, administration and commencement speakers all fit on the stage of the auditorium for graduation. He knew that he could cause them to scurry into their rooms just by walking down the halls of what were the campus' only two buildings at the time, Mercy and Walsh Halls. "They were here to learn, not to be entertained," he says with a stern voice and a twinkle in his eye. "The students were always very good. They never gave me any trouble. They wouldn't dare," he quips.

This former chaplain and beloved faculty member who taught religious studies and philosophy at Misericordia from 1944 to 1968 will soon celebrate the 71st anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood, which occurred Dec. 8, 1938.

Monsignor says he has fond memories of the days he spent on campus and gives

profound thanks and commendation to the Sisters of Mercy who established the college and created what he called a wonderful learning environment. "The campus went from 200 students to nearly 1,200 while I was there and I credit the nuns for fulfilling the mission of providing an affordable college education for the daughters of the miners in the area," he reports. "The sisters worked for nothing enabling us to keep the tuition very low."

Among his favorite memories are those of vivid discussions over philosophy and religion in the classroom and of the two Masses offered daily at the campus, the first for the sisters and their students in the religious order, including postulants, novices, and junior Sisters of Mercy. The second was for the student body. "At that time, 90 percent of the students attended Mass every day. Can you imagine?" he opines. "It was a very important part of their lives and their college experience."

He says he loved teaching and despite having as many as 80 students in class at one time, Monsignor Clarke can seemingly remember most of them by name. Mary Elizabeth O'Connor '60 of Bethlehem, Pa. returns the sentiment. "I remember him as a bright and dedicated priest who was a strong advocate for Misericordia and had a significant role in building my interest in philosophy and

theology," notes O'Connor. "He was a superb teacher and had a view of religion that was far ahead of his time."

Monsignor Clarke decided to pursue parish work in 1968, resigning from the campus and taking up residence at Holy Savior Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He was assigned later to St. Ignatius Church in Kingston, Pa., before retiring in 1989.

Not looking a day over 70, the dapper 95 year old has lived for the past 20 years at Villa St. Joseph, a diocesan home for retired priests in Dunmore, Pa. Despite having a heart operation that set him back five years ago, he says Mass daily at the facility. While on a walking tour, he points out the exquisite stained glass windows in the Villa chapel that he says bring him great joy during prayer and meditation.

"I am happy to still be able to walk and get around at 95, even though I don't go out much," he says. "You need to make your life work for you, whatever the situation. Although I can't read like I used to and need the help of a magnifying glass at times, I can enjoy this beautiful facility and appreciate the time I have here."

You can reach Monsignor James T. Clarke at the Villa St. Joseph, 1600 Green Ridge St., Dunmore, PA 18509-2102.



## Novroski family donates chalice to campus chapel

The family of the late Henry Novroski Sr. recently donated a chalice to the Misericordia University Chapel in his memory.

Please contact Campus Ministry at (570) 674-6495 if you are interested in contributing monetary donations to the chapel for vestments, liturgical books or liturgical supplies as a memorial.

Presenting the chalice to Father Donald Williams, campus chaplain, from left, are Dr. Henry C. Novroski, son; Rev. Williams, Mrs. Ann Novroski, wife; Carol Matinas, daughter; and Jean Jagodzinski, daughter.



# Sallyann Cusma

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

**W**hen Sallyann Cusma '09 arrived on the campus of Misericordia University in 2005, she knew she

wanted to major in biology because "there was so much more to learn about the sciences," she explains.

By the time she graduated summa cum laude in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree, the daughter of Gregg and Maryellen Cusma had earned the prestigious Professor Kenneth J. Rockensies Award, provided leadership for the pre-med, chemistry and biology clubs and volunteered at a Geisinger inpatient hospice unit. But perhaps more importantly, she found the future occupation that balances her desire for lifelong learning and service to others.

"I decided I really wanted to learn more and a career in medicine would allow me to do that," says Cusma, who made that determination during her sophomore year at MU after taking anatomy and physiology with Dr. Anthony Serino. "It combines a lifetime of learning with a practical application of that knowledge through helping people."

In the fall, Cusma began graduate

school at the West Virginia University School of Medicine where she will study to become an ophthalmologist. Advancing technology and the complexity of the eye, intrigues the aspiring medical doctor.

"All the technology they are using now and the way it's advanced is amazing," says Cusma, citing the advances in LASIK surgery. "It's a great field to get into."

An ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who specializes in eye and vision care. They provide a full spectrum of eye care, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to complex and delicate eye surgery. After four years of medical school and a year of internship, an ophthalmologist spends about three years in residency. During residency, they receive special training in all aspects of eye care, including prevention, diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of eye conditions and disease.

Cusma transferred to Misericordia University after initially attending St. John's University in New York, where she majored in photography and English. The small classroom sizes, challenging academics and personalized attention at MU immediately appealed to her.

"I think the professors in all of the

sciences are absolutely great," the 23-year-old Cusma says. "They care about their students. They always go the extra mile to give the students any help they need. I think the small class sizes help because you get to know your professors on a personal level instead of just being a number in a classroom. The number one thing that helped me to succeed at Misericordia was the personal attention."

Once Cusma graduates from medical school, she wants to have a small private practice that maintains the same personal attention and service she grew accustomed to at Misericordia. "A small practice with a few other physicians would be ideal," she says, "so you get to know your patients on a personal level."

**"The small class sizes help because you get to know your professors on a personal level..."**

— Sallyann Cusma '09



Frank Casano, Jr. '93, left, poses for a picture with Paige Hemmis, a designer with the ABC show, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, and Hollywood writer/producer, Randy Wallace, on the set of a construction project in Los Angeles.

**F**rank Casano, Jr. '93 says the day he visited Misericordia as a high school junior, he knew this was the place where he wanted to attend college.

He could feel a strong sense of Catholicism and faith, and a spirit of mercy and service in the people he met, Casano says, so it was the only place he applied.

Twenty years later, his initial feelings were validated further when he made an impromptu stop on campus on his way from Michigan to New Jersey after taping a segment of "Good Buy, Bad Buy" for HGTV. President Michael MacDowell welcomed him by name, and left his busy office to offer an on-the-spot tour of the campus and its new buildings. Along the way Casano ran into many familiar faces he credits with giving him his start in the business world.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies from MU, Casano is a contractor whose life has been a litany of service to his community. Shortly after graduating from Misericordia he went to work for the Boy Scouts of America. He later spent three years teaching religion at St. Monica Catholic High School in Santa Monica, Calif. The church is also where he started a Habitat for Humanity ministry, often working with celebrities to build numerous homes for those in need in the Los Angeles area. In 2007, after prayerful

## Misericordia tenets lead to life of service, mercy

reflection, and a desire to help the people of the Hurricane Katrina stricken gulf coast, Casano orchestrated numerous trips to New Orleans, La., to help rebuild the area. He is currently the director of field operations for MBP, LLC, a construction/real estate company that renovates foreclosed homes in some of the most economically challenged areas of the country, including Detroit, Mich., and areas of Indiana and Ohio.

"Where I am living right now, in the Detroit metro area, there is a 17 percent unemployment rate," says the recipient of the Mother Teresa Walsh Award. "The people working on our crew are dependent on these jobs to raise their families. Making these homes livable is something extremely important to this community."

Casano freely credits those he met while at Misericordia for inspiring him to make a difference. "I can trace it all back to my work with Campus Ministry, working with disadvantaged children at a Wilkes-Barre housing project through the 'College Kids' program, and a spring break trip to the Pius X school and church in the South Bronx where we painted numerous buildings that were in need of a facelift.

"I will never forget that trip where I worked side by side with David Payne who later would become my English professor, as well as Father John

Petrasko, the director of Campus Ministry at the time, who was a great friend and influence in my life."

He credits Jane Dessoye, currently executive director of enrollment management, for helping him land his first job working in the Misericordia maintenance department. "Although not too glamorous, my first assignment was to pick up trash on campus," he remembers. Another summer, Sister Robert Marie Lockman and Gail Barry helped him get a job painting the dorm rooms in McAuley Walsh Hall. They were humble beginnings that would eventually lead to bigger and better opportunities as Casano set his sights on California, where he would meet numerous celebrities and possibly become one himself.

Little did he know that this inauspicious start would eventually lead to two appearances on the HGTV show, *Good Buy, Bad Buy*, that aired on Aug. 23 and Sept. 6. Casano used his expertise in construction to help two couples evaluate the renovation needs of two homes and determine if the purchase price and projected renovation costs made each house a good buy or a bad buy.

"The first couple was a pair of professional dancers. The husband, Nick Kosovich, appeared a few seasons back on *Dancing with the Stars*. It was pretty cool," he adds.

# F.A. Fitting Career

**Alumna uses fashion design expertise  
as a master clothier in New York City**

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Heart surgeon Joseph J. Stella, M.D., had no problem exuding confidence in the operating room, but when it came to his wardrobe he required the expertise of a specialist to be sure his clothing was appropriate and met his many lifestyle needs. Dr. Stella is one of many well-dressed professionals who have engaged the services of fashion designer Mary Theresa Sciandra '80, a master clothier in New York City. Sciandra proffered her fashion design talents to custom-tailor his wardrobe to best fit his physical frame and his varied schedule and coordinate the fashion needs of his family.

Sciandra works on Madison Avenue in NYC, which is considered the fashion capital of the United States, and offers her master clothier services throughout the mid-Atlantic region. A native of Pittston, Pa., Sciandra earned her bachelor's degree in home economics at MU, specializing in fashion design and merchandising.

"I have always had a love for design and color. Misericordia was the only local school that offered a program that had a fashion design component," she says. "I used to love doing the annual fashion show where all the students would show the pieces they had made throughout the year. I would never have imagined back then that I would be working and living in Manhattan."

Her client base includes high-level

professionals who lack the time and know-how to look their best. "It is that love of fashion that led me to custom-tailored men's fashions. The truth is that very few men really like to shop and I can save them valuable time and energy that they need to focus on other important details in their lives," Sciandra adds.

Sciandra's process is simple and ultimately time saving. An initial visit held at a client's home or office includes a detailed measurement session and an assessment of the client's lifestyle, clothing needs and color preferences. She brings fabrics with her from the top mills in Italy and England that can be used for everything from suits and shirts to sport coats and trousers — both dressy and casual.

All the clothing is custom tailored, requiring a follow-up fitting about six weeks from the initial order. Sciandra is often called upon to coordinate an entire family's wardrobe for special events and functions, including weddings and Bar Mitzvahs.

Her business has recently expanded to include work as a wardrobe stylist in the film industry. She has been asked to design the wardrobe for a short promotional film involving actor Steven Bauer, best known for his role in Scarface.

Mary Theresa Sciandra can be reached at (646) 675-9603 or [mtsciandra@verizon.net](mailto:mtsciandra@verizon.net).



John Urbanski, '79, Ph.D., poses for a picture with his wife, Lisa, and children, Eloise and Johnny.

Alumnus travels coast-to-coast to remain involved with alma mater

# Giving Back

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

**J**ohn C. Urbanski, '79, Ph.D., is a married father of two young children who teaches management and international business at Sonoma State University, serves on the board of a psychological services center, and volunteers for Rotary International and his children's PTA.

His busy schedule, though, does not preclude him from acknowledging through service how grateful he is to Misericordia for the support he received as a student. Oftentimes, Dr. Urbanski has to take a red-eye from his home in California's wine country to Pennsylvania in order to attend the university's bi-annual Alumni Board meetings.

"If I can make it twice each year from the West Coast, any alumni from the East Coast can get to their reunion every five years," says the Wyoming Valley native and Alumni Board member who received his MU Bachelor of Arts degree in English. "I truly feel I owe the school something in terms of service. They took a chance on a kid from Pringle who

hadn't applied himself very well in high school and gave me the support I needed to end up doing well in the private sector and then academia. If they hadn't admitted me, my life might not have turned out so great.

"Misericordia was more than academics. I learned about service to the community; I learned how to relate to and appreciate 'strong' women, and eventually married one; I even learned how to treat my own students," Dr. Urbanski adds.

After high school, Dr. Urbanski worked at the local Veterans Administration Hospital where he met Misericordia students doing clinical rotations as well as graduates from the nursing program and became interested in attending the Dallas campus in that major. Once at MU, he found himself gravitating toward English literature and changed majors, crediting, among many others, professors Dr. Donald Fries and Sr. Ruth Kelly, RSM, then chair of the English department, for taking him under their wings.

"The faculty and administration cared

more than just about filling seats in a classroom. They really kept an eye on me and helped me through," he says. "Regina Kelly wanted to toss me out — and rightly so — but Ruth saved me."

As a student representative of the Student Government Association, he was a member of committees that helped to develop the institution's mission statement, find a college president and put together the college's first bluegrass festival.

He went on to earn his MBA at Hofstra University and his doctorate in business at the University of South Carolina.

"If you have not been back to MU in 20 or 30 years, you will be amazed by how it has grown and changed," he says. "I am proud to say we've become a premier regional institution and I believe we can now become a nationally ranked University."

Dr. Urbanski challenges his fellow alumni to attend their reunions and take the time to "go back" and "give back" to their alma mater. Contact him at [john.urbanski@sonoma.edu](mailto:john.urbanski@sonoma.edu). He looks forward to hearing from fellow alumni.

OT Weekend Program  
graduate receives POTA  
Award of Appreciation

# An OT's Approach To WAR

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Serving in the armed forces was never a question for Jack Volpe '98, O.T.R./L., just the timing. That's the way it is when you are born and raised in a military family. Mementoes, stories and pride inspire younger generations to follow the patriotic lead their grandfather, father and uncles provided so many years ago.

The story is similar for Volpe, a graduate of Misericordia University's Occupational Therapy Weekend Program. "I always felt I had to follow in their footsteps after growing up listening to their stories and seeing photographs of them in uniform," he says, recalling his father and uncles who served during World War II.

Volpe, 58, though, did not enter the military in a traditional sense. When his father, Jack J. Volpe, passed away, he enlisted in the Air Force Reserves when he was in his early thirties and later transferred to the Army Air National Guard. After 13 years of service, he briefly changed career paths by enrolling at MU.

A career in occupational therapy has enabled the Penfield, Pa., resident to continue his military career, but on a more personal level. The OT profession is known for its holistic approach by examining the whole person and what is important to them overall. Combining the two service fields appealed to Volpe, who also has a background in drug and alcohol addictions counseling and mental health.

"I've found my career as an OT to be the most fulfilling of any job I've ever had," he says. "It was a privilege to have served in Iraq and have the opportunity to apply the OT approach to such difficult and far-reaching problems that so many of our troops are suffering from in this unusual war. My job was to try and make their

"I've found my career path as an OT to be the most fulfilling of any job I've ever had."

— Jack Volpe '98, O.T.R./L.

lives a little better in a bad situation. We helped each other over there. There were times those soldiers helped keep me balanced. It's not different back here. Being an OT is the same as being a soldier in my mind — selfless service is what we provide.'

The Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association (POTA) presented Volpe with its distinguished Award of Appreciation at the annual POTA conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Oct. 30-31 for bringing OT stress management services to soldiers serving on the front lines during his 10 month tour of duty in Iraq.

"I was surprised," Volpe says in a modest tone about receiving the award, "and to be honest, humbled. I don't know if I truly deserve this award because there are so many other OTs I feel have done so much more to promote our profession. I never saw myself as someone who outwardly reflects OT values. I know I have them inside me."

Upon graduation, Volpe accepted a commission in the Army Reserves Medical Program and was assigned to the 355th Minimal Care Detachment out of Kenova, W.V. He was cross-leveled later to the 1835th Medical Detachment, Combat Stress in Aurora, Colo., for deployment to Iraq, where he was assigned to a Prevention Team. Combat Stress units provide mental health services, pharmaceutical support, and psychiatric and

prevention services in combat zones. Additionally, they also operate a restoration clinic in rear areas, which provide rest and nourishment in a safe environment to give soldiers a brief respite from the rigors of combat operations.

Volpe's responsibility as a Prevention Team member was to identify at-risk soldiers in forward areas of combat. Soldiers that exhibited any symptoms of depression, post traumatic stress disorder, suicidal or homicidal ideations, sleep deprivation and stress management issues were provided with confidential counseling sessions and offered classes to learn how to adjust to combat stress.

"As soldiers, we all have given up a part of our individuality in order to accomplish the mission and be a part of an organization that is bigger than any one of its parts," says Volpe, who attained the rank of captain. "We are trained to overlook our own needs most of the time to become a team. It's always: mission first, the needs of the Army first — personal issues may not even be second or third.

"Unfortunately, when a soldier is broken, these values offer little in the way of comfort and healing," he adds. "An OT's outlook allows us to see the soldier as an individual, a person under the uniform. This is what I gained from MU — that ability to see through the outward appearances of my patients to the person underneath."

A veteran of 22 years, Volpe is looking forward to retirement from the military. His daughter, Sara, continued the family's legacy of service by enlisting in the U.S. Army Reserves as a water purification specialist. She served in Iraq in 2004-05.

# Edkins achieves milestone win

STORY BY SCOTT CRISPELL



**Coach Edkins, left, receives congratulations from MU Athletic Director Dave Martin.**

Nineteen years ago, a young man fresh out of Cortland State arrived on the Misericordia campus to coach soccer.

We didn't tell him during the interview process that the biggest challenge of his rookie season would likely be finding enough players to field a team. No matter — Chuck Edkins wasn't going to let minor details get in his way.

He went door-to-door in the residence halls and rounded up enough able bodies to fill the roster. With the likes of baseball convert Scott Garabedian and stellar freshman goalkeeper Rob Johnson in the line-up, Edkins and the Cougars survived his first season.

To the amazement of many, they even managed to win four games. It wasn't easy, but it sure was entertaining. Like the time after an official's call went against the Cougars and Edkins wondered aloud, "does anyone in this state understand the game."

Fast forward to 2009.

Now in his 19th season as head coach at Misericordia, the wins have come much more regularly for Edkins and the Cougars. In fact, with a 7-0 win over Baptist Bible, Sept. 19 at Mangelsdorf Field, he became one of just 50 active Division III men's soccer coaches to reach the 200-career win milestone.

Along the way, the Rochester, N.Y., native has compiled an impressive resume, including four conference championships and two NCAA Tournament berths. Edkins has guided the Cougars to the postseason 15 times and has

been voted Coach of the Year by his peers five times. During their 16-year tenure in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference, Misericordia reached the PAC championship match 10 times — more than any other school — including three championships.

A year ago, in their first season in the Freedom Conference, Edkins and the Cougars claimed Misericordia's first title in their new league. Oddly enough, some of Edkins' biggest victories aren't factored into his win total. Since they came via a penalty shootout, they are among the 21 ties on his record.

In addition to last year's Freedom Conference championship, the 1994 ECAC's produced a tie when the Cougars knocked off host and top-seeded Gettysburg in a semifinal shootout. A stunned veteran coach was quick to inform the young Edkins that the game was officially a tie. Call it what you want, but the Cougars were playing in the ECAC title game the next day and on the way to establishing a winning program.

They've been piling up victories ever since, with players from Ash to Zaengle.

## Athletics Briefs

### Misericordia athletics remembers Michael Crisci

The Misericordia University community lost a close friend and neighbor with the death of Michael Crisci.

Mr. C., as he was affectionately known, passed away August 23, 2009.

A long-time fan and supporter of the Cougars athletics program, he could be seen - and heard - on the sidelines at most home games for decades.

Born in nearby Pittston, he played football at Upsala College in New Jersey. A Navy veteran, he proudly served his country during World War II. He was an avid golfer and could often be seen walking around the Anderson Center track with his trusty seven iron in hand.

His daughter, Rose Ann Crisci, granddaughter, Lori (Carter) Coyle, and her husband, Brian, are Misericordia graduates.

### Athletics Hall of Fame welcomes 7th class

MU welcomed the seventh class into its Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 3 as part of Homecoming Weekend.

This year's honorees included Willie Chandler '03, Kelley (Flynn) Cianci '02, Chris Mathews '95, Jason Perry '04 and Suzanne

(Brzozowski) Smith '79.

Chandler, one of the most prolific scorers in NCAA Division III basketball history, led the nation in scoring twice and finished second all-time with 2,898 points.

He was a three-time All-American and a four-time Player of the Year in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference and was a four-time Misericordia/Wendy's Athlete of the Year.

He holds nine school career records and five school single-game records.

Cianci, a standout swimmer, led the team in scoring four times and was a four-time team MVP. She set 11 school records and still holds five school records and one pool record. She earned the High Points Award at the 1998 Grove City Championship meet and was Misericordia's NCAA Woman of the Year as a senior.

Mathews is the first golfer inducted into the Misericordia Hall of Fame. He was a three-time team MVP and is third in career scoring average.

He was the 1994 Pennsylvania Athletic Conference champion and finished in the top six twice. He shares the second-lowest single round in school history and was part of the lowest team round in school history.

Perry was a men's basketball standout and is the second-leading scorer in team history. He was a four-time all-conference player and

teamed with Chandler to form the highest-scoring duo in D-III history with 4,523 points.

He is second all-time in games played, field goals, free throws and rebounds and is third in career scoring average.

Smith earned nine varsity letters in field hockey, basketball, softball and volleyball and was a member of the first volleyball and softball teams at Misericordia.

A team captain in field hockey and volleyball, she was a leading scorer on the field hockey team. She served as vice-president of the Misericordia Athletics Association and was instrumental in the start of men's athletics teams on campus. In addition, she initiated the school's change to the Cougars mascot.

### Slocum honored at dinner for 30 successful seasons

Athletics Hall of Famer Charlotte Slocum was honored at a dinner in recognition of her many years of service as head softball coach.

Slocum, who serves as Student Health Services Director, retired as softball coach earlier this year after 30 seasons at the helm. Her team's amassed a record of 676-307 and a .688 winning percentage. She ranks fifth all-time in NCAA Division III in victories and 29th in winning percentage.



# Alumni Weekend

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



Reminiscing was on the menu when more than 300 Misericordia alumni and friends came together for an invigorating Alumni Weekend, May 28 through 31. Enjoying the new Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall and Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, the group was treated to a sneak peek on the plans for the nearby Shakespeare Garden and enjoyed the chance to return to the classroom for academic workshops by professors Allan Austin, Ph.D. and Stevan Davies, Ph.D.



There was an outstanding turnout as students and alumni of the Expressway Program gathered for a wine and cheese reception celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the accelerated degree program, started by the Center for Adult and Continuing Education in 1999.



Always a weekend highlight, the Golden/Golden Plus Luncheon was moved to the Catherine McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library due to inclement weather, yet still provided the classes of 1949 and earlier the chance to mix and mingle with gracious hosts President Michael MacDowell and his wife, Tina.



And what would Alumni Weekend be without the annual awards ceremony? This year's honorees included a wonderful selection of outstanding alumni and community leaders that Misericordia is proud to call their own: State Representative Karen Passarella Boback, Ph.D. '73 and '00, Mother Mary Catherine McGann Alumni Achievement Award; Agnes Toloczko Cardoni, Ph.D., '69, The Mission Award; Helen Louise Baum Lawrence '54, Hilda Staub Garey Award; John E. Krupp '99, Young Alumnus Award; Nadine Kuderka Howe '69, Alumni Medallion Award; and two faces particularly familiar to the Misericordia campus, Vice President of Student Affairs Sr. Jean Messaros, RSM '73, Sisters of Mercy Award; and Assistant Director of Admissions Joan Smith Foster '79, Alumni Medallion Award. Congratulations all!



**Mark your calendars now. Anyone who has ideas for workshops or who would like to arrange a class or program luncheon during next year's Alumni Weekend on June 4-7, 2010, is invited to contact Virginia Conrad '05, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at (570) 674-6228.**





# A L U Photos





# M N I Album



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STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

For more than 10 years, Brother Barry Smith, MSC, of Canberra, Australia, has wanted to explore whether or not the next phase of his life would include caring and administering to elders in religious congregations.

As a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Order, Brother Smith had to wait until he was eligible for his second sabbatical at the private secondary school he works at as a business administrator so he could attend the 32nd annual Elder Religious & Diocesan Priests (ERDP) workshop at Misericordia University in June. The nationally renowned workshops are offered annually in Florida and Pennsylvania, and feature expert presenters who speak to a cross section of body, mind and spirit approaches to ministry and the care of elder religious and diocesan priests.

"I thought and still think that it's a good way of being with people in the work to get a feel from them on whether I could be successful in the work," Brother Smith said, adding, "I wanted to know for myself if I'd be able to work in the field and be comfortable and to see if I had anything to offer. I'm quite convinced this is where I need to go next."

Religious communities across the country mirror the demographics of an aging society. Due to advances in health care, nutrition and preventative care, people are living longer, healthier lives. The same can be said of brothers, sisters, fathers and priests who spend the majority of their lives tending to the religious and spiritual well being of their congregations.

In retirement, the religious communities deal with the same challenges other health care facilities face, specifically a shortage of health care professionals and funding. That's one of the reasons why attendance at the ERDP continues to grow and is considered vital to many professionals in the ministry.

## ERDP workshop helps prepare ministries to care for aging religious communities

"I believe the growth in the workshops is parallel to the demographics of religious life and diocesan priesthood," said Wayne Fitzpatrick of the Maryknoll Missionary Society. "There are larger numbers in that area that need wellness health care. It's the driving force that motivates. The fact that we're living longer we are going to have more and more elder and religious clergy to care for."

Although the overall population in religious communities nationally has declined drastically in recent years, one demographic has remained steady — elder religious and diocesan priests. In 1989, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C., estimated there were about 130,000 religious people and about 32,000 of them were 75 or older. By 2007, the population in religious communities was estimated to be 67,500 with about 30,000 of them being 75 or older.

As of December 2008, there were 12,934 elder religious and diocesan priests in the nation who needed either assisted care (7,036) or skilled care (5,898), according to NRRO data.

ERDP is mainly an educational workshop related to body, mind and spirit that features a series of topics. It is also an important networking opportunity where participants build professional relationships and exchange proven ideas.

Suzanne Mullarkey of Wilmington, Del., is an assistant administrator at a retirement home for the Sisters of St. Francis. A professional nurse, Mullarkey has attended two ERDP workshops at Misericordia and one in Florida because the content of the workshops keeps her abreast of new thinking, changes in technology and current research in the clinical area. "In the area of spirituality and emotional healing, the presentations here are enriching and thought

provoking," Mullarkey said. "The workshop is broad based and has a basis in spirituality. It touches on every aspect of the services that I oversee. It is comprehensive. It allows you the opportunity to interact with your peers and when you listen to other people's stories you learn that your challenges are not unique."

Fitzpatrick has been a member of the ERDP planning committee for 15 years and has been instrumental in coordinating workshop topics and securing speakers along with Mary Hopkins of the Order of Preachers, Sinsinawa, Wis.; Tom O'Neill, dean emeritus of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at MU, and other administrators at Misericordia.

"The aging experience among religious and diocesan priests is not much different than that of their peers," said Hopkins. "There are workshops offered here that would apply to any person and quite possibly nurses, administrators, social workers and counselors from health care facilities in the area could be involved as well."

Many of ERDP's presenters are personally involved in the ministry of caring for the nation's aging fathers, brothers and sisters, and are aware of the challenges associated with their growing numbers. They also know that the men and women who enter the ministry are "entering the culture of religious life with a particular charism," Fitzpatrick said.

In order to remain current and relevant, workshop organizers also utilize evaluation forms from workshop participants to cater to needs in the field. The Misericordia event attracted 69 people and the North Palm Beach, Fla., event featured 50.

For more information about the 2010 ERDP, please log on to [www.misericordia.edu/adulted](http://www.misericordia.edu/adulted) or call (570) 674-6161.

## Expressway expands into Northumberland

### MU offers only bachelor's degree program in the county

Thomas P. Leary, president of Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) and Michael A. MacDowell, president of Misericordia University, signed a formal partnership agreement to bring the Expressway Accelerated Degree program to Northumberland County during a ceremony at LCCC's Northumberland Regional Higher Education Center in Shamokin.

The Expressway Program is the first full bachelor's degree program offered in the region.

Misericordia University announced in May that in cooperation with LCCC it would begin offering the Expressway Program in Northumberland County in the fall. Classes in business administration, professional studies, and the RN to BSN nursing degree programs began Aug. 27, according to Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D., dean of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at MU. Classes are offered online and on-site one day a week on Thursday evenings at the Northumberland Center. The Expressway nursing classes are offered at the Kulpmont Center.

"This was a chance for our two institutions of higher learning to sit down with the area's legislators and community leaders to discuss furthering educational opportunities for adult learners in this portion of the state," said President MacDowell. "The initial response to this has been extremely positive. There are 15 students already



**Participating in the signing, front row from left, are John Politis, LCCC President Thomas P. Leary, MU President Michael A. MacDowell, and Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D.; standing, Rose Marquardt, state Sen. John R. Gordner, and Steve Bartos.**

enrolled in the Expressway program in Shamokin for the fall and more than 70 others have expressed interest."

"We're pleased that Misericordia University is joining with us to offer higher education opportunities to the residents of Northumberland and surrounding counties," added President Leary. "Expanding the Misericordia Expressway program to our Northumberland Regional Center will give the local LCCC graduates the ability to earn a bachelor's degree close to home."

The Expressway Accelerated Degree Program offers adult learners the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in just two and a half years at an affordable \$320 per credit. Students can enroll eight times during the year, helping them fit shorter class sessions into their schedule.

## Alpha Sigma Lambda inducts 14 adult learners

Misericordia University inducted 14 graduates into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society during a brunch and induction ceremony at the Banks Student Life Center.

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the honor society for continuing education students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. The honor society is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship and recognizes high scholastic achievement in an adult student's career. By doing so, it encourages many students to continue toward and earn associate and baccalaureate degrees.

The following students were recognized and inducted into the national honor society: Cheri Balmer of Dallas, Pa., psychology; Robin Bulzoni of Clarks Summit, Pa., business administration; Andrea Burmeister of Luzerne, Pa., health care management; Dorothy Cannon of Taylor, Pa., business administration; Christopher Davis of Scranton, Pa., nursing; Frank DiBuo of Luzerne, Pa., management; Krista L. Dymond of Tunkhannock, Pa., elementary education; Christine Porzucek of Pittston, Pa., social work; Rebecka Puza of Kingston,



**Participating in the Alpha Sigma Lambda induction ceremony, first row from left, are Andrea Burmeister, Dorothy Cannon, Madelyn Salaman, Cheri Balmer, Robin Bulzoni, Madelyn Roote, second row, Rebecka Puza, Tracey Scialpi, Krista L. Dymond, Frank DiBuo, Toby L. Soward and Christopher Davis. Missing from photo are Christine Porzucek and Margot Shipman.**

Pa., history; Madelyn Roote of Trucksville, Pa., business administration; Madelyn Salaman of Scranton, Pa., business administration; Tracey Scialpi of West Pittston, Pa., special education; Toby Soward of Scranton, Pa., medical imaging; and Margot Shipman of Plymouth, Pa., nursing.

## Medical imaging available in Expressway Program

Misericordia has added a hybrid version of its successful traditional bachelor's degree program in medical imaging to the Expressway Accelerated Degree Program for radiologic technologists (RTs) who come from hospital-based or associate degree programs and who want to complete their bachelor's degree in the field.

The part-time program allows RTs who are unable to attend college in the traditional daytime format the opportunity to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree through a combination of online courses, and evening and weekend courses at convenient satellite locations. To complete the post-professional program, medical imaging courses are delivered on the Misericordia campus on weekends.

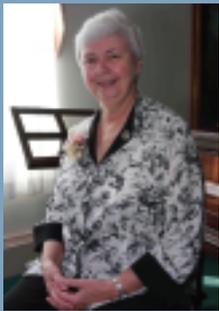
A new feature to the program is the opportunity to cross train in an advanced modality of the student's choice, such as CT, MRI or nuclear medicine to name a few. Students can experience this portion of the program in a professional setting at any clinical site they choose because they are not limited by geographic region. Clinical placements are arranged by the student and must be approved both by the facility and MU medical imaging department. The innovative program also affords students the opportunity to minor in management, if they choose.

## Expressway introduces 1st BS in sonography in state

Misericordia University is providing a unique opportunity for professionals in the medical sonography field to advance their education and career paths by introducing a Bachelor of Science degree in diagnostic medical sonography through the Expressway Accelerated Degree Program.

The degree program is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania and one of only 20 nationwide. Classes for the first session began Aug. 31.

"This program is for practicing sonographers to advance their education and is open to all RDMS or ARRT(S) credentialed sonographers regardless of their previous education," said Sheryl E. Goss, MS, RT, RDMS, RDCS, RVT, program director. "The degree program is designed to take into account the variety of backgrounds and education of those in the field, for instance those coming from hospital-based education as well as those holding certificates and associate degrees."



## Sister Anne Devaney, RSM, '64 Celebrates 50th Jubilee

Sister Anne Devaney, RSM, was among the members of the Class of 1964 who returned to Misericordia on Sept. 19 to celebrate their 50th jubilee of entering the Sisters of Mercy.

Due to incorrect information received at Misericordia, Sister Anne was listed as deceased in the Spring 2009 edition of this magazine. Misericordia deeply apologizes for the error to Sr. Anne, her family and friends.

Sister Anne earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Misericordia. She holds master's degrees in English from Shippensburg University and in Adult Education from Syracuse University, and has professional certificates in Hispanic Ministry from the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas, and in Culture and Spirituality from Holy Names University in Oakland, Calif. She returned to Misericordia to serve as director of the Act 101 Program from 1976 to 1979.

She currently resides in Berkeley, Calif., and is involved in a number of environmental projects in the San Francisco Bay area.

Misericordia honored Sister Anne, known during her student years as Sister Joan Marie, in 1995 with the Sister of Mercy Alumni Award. The award recognizes a Sister of Mercy who has rendered exceptional service to the University and who has demonstrated sustained professional achievements. Sister Anne is widely recognized by many dioceses across the country for her work with the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services and with refugees from Southeast Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. She also served with the Guatemalan Bishops Conference in Guatemala City as Special Representative in their Ministry to Refugees and Migrants.

Sister Anne has two sisters who are also Misericordia alumnae: Sister Jeanne Marie Devaney, RSM, '58, who resides at Mercy Center, in Dallas, Pa., and Eileen F. Devaney '64, who lives in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

# Campus notebook ...

Misericordia University welcomed nine new full-time faculty members to campus for the 2009-10 academic year.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, **Evelyn Neunteufel, Ph.D.**, has been named an assistant professor of biology; and **Michael Turner, Ph.D.**, has been appointed as an assistant professor of religious studies.

In the College of Health Sciences, **Amy Gerney, O.T.D.**, has been named an assistant professor of occupational therapy; **Michelle Hawkins, M.S.N.**, has been appointed as an assistant professor of nursing; **Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D.**, has been named an assistant professor of speech-language pathology; **Elizabeth Senczakowicz, M.S.N.**, has been named an assistant professor of nursing; and **Kathleen Sheikh, M.S.N.**, has been appointed as an assistant professor of nursing.

In the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences, **Sungick Min, Ph.D.**, has been named an assistant professor of business; and **John Sumansky, Ph.D.**, has been named professor of business and chair of the business department.

Misericordia University recognized the contributions of four longtime members of the Board of Trustees who capably served MU for a combined 41 years.

**Frank H. Bevevino, Alan J. Finlay, Rusty Flack and Douglas A. Gaudet** were presented lamps featuring the Misericordia seal and an engraving marking their years of service.

The American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias online and print editions published a research paper by **James Siberski, M.S.**, assistant professor at MU, and Margie Eckroth-Bucher, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor at Bloomsburg University.

Their research paper, *Preserving Cognition Through an Integrated Cognitive Stimulation and Training Program*, was posted through Online First and published in the July print edition.

**James Siberski, M.S.**, was recognized in October by the

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius at a ceremony in Danville, Pa., for his commitment to elder care. He received the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award. The award is named after Father Matthew Jankola who founded the religious congregation in Scranton, Pa., in 1909.

**Elaine Halsey, Ed.D., R.T.(R)(QM)**, professor and chair of the medical imaging department, and **Toby Soward, B.S.R.T.(R) '09** collaborated on the article, *Prostate Cancer: What Every Patient Should Know*. The in-depth research article was published in the peer reviewed online journal, *Radiation Oncology Online Journal*.

The manuscript contains statistics relative to prostate cancer as well as a review of the related literature. It also provides information on the different types of treatment options available for the disease. Most importantly, it may serve as a reference for current or future patients undergoing treatment for prostate cancer as it describes the process a patient may experience.

Occupational therapy students **Hillary Gross '09** and **Shannon Gleason '09** and **Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L.**, professor of occupational therapy, presented their research at the American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Houston, Texas.

The research poster presentation, *Altruistic Activities with a Resident of Limited Mobility Living in a Long-Term Care Facility*, focused on how researchers helped a 99-year-old resident engage in activities at the center that were helpful to others. The research is part of a series of projects on the topic of needs of nursing home residents being conducted by Dr. Cipriani and occupational therapy students at MU.

**John N. Mellon, Ed.D.**, associate professor of business, revised the chapter, *The Quest for Quality*, in the third edition of the book, *Leadership and Management in the Hospitality Industry*, written by Robert H.

Woods, Ph.D., CHRE and Judy Z. King.

In Dr. Mellon's chapter, he underscores the importance of quality to the hospitality industry. One problem confronting the industry, according to Dr. Mellon, is that hospitality employees are typically not aware that they are manufacturing a product — service. Oftentimes, hospitality employees have no perception of their work being a product or that their jobs have an impact on the success of the property, according to Dr. Mellon.

**Jean A. Dyer, Ph.D.**, dean of the College of Health Sciences, had her research published in the book, *Field Dependent and Independent: Self-Reported Characteristics in Immigrant and Adult Learners*.

The study focused on the cognitive learning style preference of three culturally diverse populations — Russian, Sudanese and Dominican — in an effort to expand upon present teaching and learning information related to community health promotion and disease prevention education.

**Dan Kimbrough, M.S.**, assistant professor of communications, is among 20 people who have been chosen to participate in the 21st Annual Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation Faculty Seminar (ATAS) in Los Angeles, Calif., on Nov. 10-14.

A selection committee chose 20 faculty members for the five-day seminar.

**Joe Curran, Ph.D.**, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, participated in a roundtable discussion on Jesuit higher education at Boston College in October.

The symposium was part of a weekend tribute to Rev. Michael J. Buckley, SJ, one of the country's leading Catholic theologians and educators.

**Charles Zola, Ph.D.**, executive director of the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University, presented the paper, *End of Life Ethical Decision-Making for the Elderly*, at the *Resources for Ethical Health Care Decision-Making* program sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Association Hospice & Home Health of Lackawanna County.

# In Memoriam

**Peggy Smith Adams 1980**  
June 19, 2009

**Anne Rose Aldridge 1949**  
June 8, 2009

**Helen Ruddick Bentley 1952**  
June 21, 2009

**Sister Virginia Bertschi RSM 1964**  
September 25, 2009

**Dorothy Burak Bozentka 1951**  
August 14, 2009

**Claire Mullins Carey 1944**  
April 23, 2009

**Virginia Flanigan Condon 1940**  
July 27, 2009

**Kathryn Schilling Conerty 1964**  
April 28, 2009

**Maurice Coyle III 1992**  
June 22, 2009

**Joan Bruns Evans 1955**  
June 20, 2009

**Kate Reinert Fleisher 1964**  
October 9, 2009

**Margaret Gaunt Gendreizig 1975**  
June 29, 2009

**Sister Annette Hlivak OSBM 1978**  
May 24, 2009

**Mary Gallagher Hopkins 1937**  
October 12, 2009

**Ruth Jackson 1953**  
October 13, 2009

**Louise Stanton Johns 1975**  
August 30, 2009

**Jean Drapiewski Lacy 1962**  
April 23, 2009

**Sister Mary Theresa LaRose RSM 1958**  
September 12, 2009

**Juel Loughney 1961**  
July 10, 2009

**Angela Hajduk Naber 1941**  
August 27, 2009

**Lenore McGowan Rosica 1944**  
September 14, 2009

**Marilyn Turon Schevets 1949**  
October 28, 2009

**Anna Shovlin 1935**  
June 22, 2009

**Marilyn Williams Smith 1962**  
June 3, 2009

**Patricia Gallagher Testoni 1951**  
April 28, 2009

**Rosalie Nolan Thomas 1943**  
May 8, 2009

**Eleanor Heal Todd 1944**  
July 12, 2008



## Stars come out for Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival

The annual Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival at the Wachovia Amphitheater featured nationally acclaimed band leader Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks for the Jazz in July concert. They paid tribute to the Big Band sounds of the Scranton Sirens, which featured the talents of Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey between 1918 and 1930.

Andy Sordoni and Frank Nissel of Welex Inc. helped support the concert. The concert was also the first performance at MU to be videotaped so it can be rebroadcast on television. It is in the preproduction and editing phase. WVIA-TV 44 will air it in 2010.

The Starlight Concert attracted more than 1,500 people to campus to listen to folk music icon, Joan Baez.



## Show off your Misericordia Pride

University Advancement at Misericordia University and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are offering the University's alumni another avenue to display their Cougar Pride everywhere they go through the new Misericordia University license plate.

Now available through Alumni Relations for \$30, the plate features Misericordia's historic arch and University icon.

For more information or to order a license plate, please contact Denise Miscava, director of Alumni, Community and Donor Relations, at (570) 674-6248 or e-mail her at [dmiscava@misericordia.edu](mailto:dmiscava@misericordia.edu).

**Secure your special number** by placing the highest bid! Bid on numbers 1-100. License plates are sold in number sequence order, so bidding on a higher number may postpone receipt of your plate.