

Misericordia

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

today

Imparare All'estero

Study abroad program takes students to Florence, Italy to experience the region's rich history and contemporary ideas

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Photo by Simone Bacchi

President and First Lady to retire in 2013

Michael and Tina MacDowell Hall to be dedicated in August after Trustees pledge \$1 million to University

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It's late summer and President Michael A. MacDowell is enjoying a new vantage point to look over the sprawling campus. The longtime leader of Misericordia University is not prone to reflect on the success northeastern Pennsylvania's newest University has enjoyed under his leadership for almost 1½ decades, but the breathtaking view from the second floor "lantern" area of the upper campus' newest academic building causes him to pause and breathe it all in.

President and Mrs. Tina MacDowell announced in April they will retire June 30, 2013 after serving 15 years and helping Luzerne County's oldest private institution of higher education to become regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized for providing the challenging academics and opportunities students need to succeed.

Two months after their formal announcement, the Board of Trustees expressed their gratitude for the couple's unwavering commitment and tireless work by naming the new building in their honor. Michael and Tina MacDowell Hall is being made possible by a \$1 million pledge to the University by the Board, according to John Metz, chair of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees.

"The hallmark of his presidency has been his passion for excellence," said Mr. Metz. "When the MacDowells first arrived here nearly 15 years ago, they had to navigate us through some challenging times. Misericordia's secure future and its strong academic reputation today are their legacy. This building honors their steadfast commitment to Misericordia, its mission, the Religious Sisters of Mercy and our academic community."

The 37,000-square foot, three-story structure near the North Gate of campus will bear the couple's name after a formal dedication ceremony on Convocation Day, Thursday, Aug. 23.

"I appreciate and applaud President MacDowell's efforts on behalf of Misericordia and the Sisters of Mercy," added Sister Catherine McGroarty '74, RSM, a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Class of 1974. "As



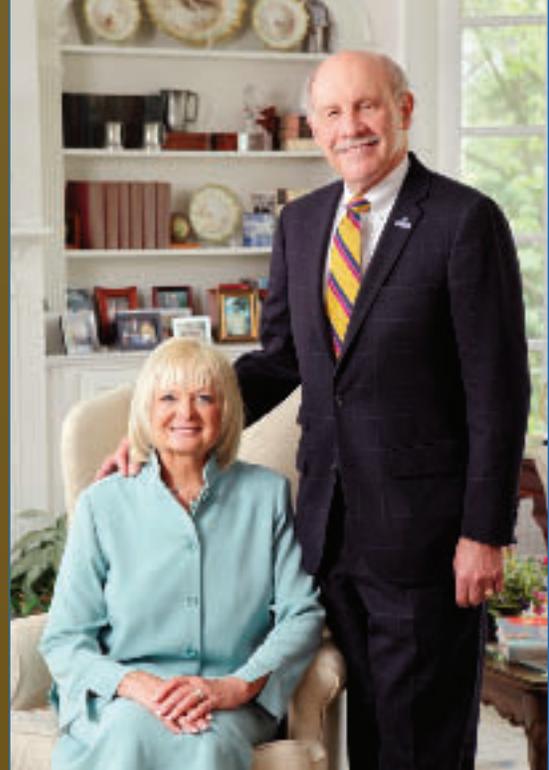
Use a QR-code enabled smartphone to watch a video about the BOT's surprise.

Misericordia's prestige has continued to grow, he has been able to balance our responsibilities as an institution of academia, while also remaining true to our tenets. He also has never lost sight of our moral responsibilities to assist those most in need and to imbue in each of our students a sense of service to others.'

MacDowell Hall adds 118 beds for student housing and three academic classrooms. The \$6.2 million building provides suite-style residence space with kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and appliances. Each floor also contains laundry facilities and architecturally significant study lounges at the east end. The glass enclosures, otherwise known as "lanterns," face McHale Hall and illuminate the sprawling green space of the upper campus at night.

President MacDowell became the 12th president of Misericordia in 1998 after serving Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. He has led MU into the top tier of the Best Regional Universities North category of U.S. News and World's Report's annual edition of Best Colleges, and successfully managed its evolution from a college to a university on Aug. 24, 2007 featuring master's and clinical doctorate degree programs. Misericordia also has been recognized regularly by the Princeton Review as one of the top universities in the northeastern United States; by Washington Monthly magazine for community service; and has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. MU's own students routinely give the institution high marks in the National Survey of Student Engagement.

"Michael MacDowell is the hardest working person in higher education. His contributions to Misericordia have been



Michael and Tina MacDowell

nothing short of extraordinary," said Trustee Sandy Insalaco, Sr., who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2001-06. "He provided unparalleled leadership, guidance and vision to the University, and challenged the Board of Trustees to do the same."

"I don't think anyone can deny the immense progress Misericordia has experienced thanks to the leadership Mike and Tina have provided on so many levels," added Kelly McAndrew '79, '06, Alumni Board president. "They have given additional meaning to being Misericordia Proud! to our alumni of today and tomorrow."

President MacDowell has overseen a remarkable and continuous rise in traditional and non-traditional student enrollment, student quality and the transformation of the upper and lower campuses. MU has established a true "town-and-gown" relationship with Back Mountain communities as the University has repurposed vacant buildings.

"It is unfortunate in many ways that the president of an institution receives many of the accolades for its progress," President MacDowell said. "Clearly this credit is hardly ours alone. The Trustees, the faculty, the staff, the alumni and friends of the University have made the difference here. Misericordia is a very special place because people care deeply about it and because they have internalized its mission. These are institutional attributes that will serve Misericordia's new president exceedingly well."

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12 Summer



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Misericordia Today

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ON THE COVER

Misericordia University students, from left, Hilary Hoover '15, Amanda Sutton '14 and John Meholic '14 listen to Dr. Scott Blanchard talk about the fresco painting by Fra Angelico in the monastery of San Marco in Florence, Italy, during the summer study abroad program.

Photo by Simone Bacci



Share your story ideas by contacting *Misericordia Today* at editor@misericordia.edu

An inspiring message

Our May 2012 commencement ceremonies were highlighted by the remarks from our commencement speaker, Kerry Robinson. Kerry is the executive director of the National Leadership Round Table on Church Management. She received an honorary degree from Misericordia as did her husband, Dr. Michael Cappello, who is a professor of medicine and director of the World Fellows Program at Yale University. Dr. Cappello's international work in the study and prevention of communicable diseases among young children has earned him many awards and wide recognition.

Kerry's remarks to our Class of 2012 encouraged them to follow the precepts of the Sisters of Mercy and to demonstrate their dedication to the charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality. It was an inspiring presentation for several reasons. The couple's great aunt was Sister Mary Florita Maloney, who served as Misericordia's president from 1975 to 1977. As a young boy, Michael visited Sister Florita in the Mercy Center.

Throughout their time on campus, Kerry and Michael commented on how the charisms were so much a part of this wonderful University. These sentiments were echoed in Kerry's commencement address. She stressed the cohesive nature of the charisms in creating a sense of mission at Misericordia which is distinctive among the many campuses they have visited.

Throughout the pages of this issue of Misericordia Today you will read stories about service among our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. You'll also learn about many of the exciting activities, including the study abroad programs and service trips in and outside the U.S. Finally, you will read about the progress that has been made here on campus both in terms of new facilities and new programs.

As you read these stories and think about the progress and changes taking place here, you might also pause to recall what Kerry and Michael said about Misericordia. While the physical campus has changed considerably, some key constants remain. The adherence to our central mission – the values so well articulated by our tenets – remain very much intact. They are the glue which holds this rapidly growing and evolving University together. This serves as the foundation for all that we undertake.

Our student body continues to grow and the campus continues to expand. We should remember that at its base, Misericordia is still very much the special institution where Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality remain an essential part of all that we undertake and always will.

MA MacDowell

mmacdowe@misericordia.edu

President, First Lady to embark on *Journey Among Friends Tour*



Use a QR-code enabled smartphone to keep up-to-date on the national tour.

Those acquainted with Misericordia President Michael A. MacDowell know that even though he has announced he will retire in June 2013, there is little chance of him taking it slow. In fact, he and his wife, Tina, are embarking on an enthusiastic, year-long alumni tour, *A Journey Among Friends*, hoping for the chance to say "so long" in person to as many of the Misericordia faithful

as they can at events across the country.

Alumni will be able to get the latest on the MacDowells' travels with an interactive online map on CougarConnect, aptly named TrackMac (<http://bit.ly/trackmac>), which will track their progress and offer event details.

Tour stops, which continue to be added

See *Journey*, next page

Field house to carry the name of John and Mary Metz

New athletics facility to be dedicated Sept. 29

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Long known as some of Misericordia's most stalwart supporters, Board of Trustees Chairman John C. Metz, his wife, Mary, and their family have stepped up to the plate with the leadership gift in the Pursuit for Acclamation Campaign. Misericordia Athletics' 21,750-square-foot field house will be named the John and Mary Metz Field House, and will be formally dedicated on Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. as a part of Homecoming Weekend festivities.

Their exceptional support of Misericordia is fueled by a strong affinity with the Sisters of Mercy that began when Mr. Metz moved to the Wyoming Valley in the late 1960s and took a job as director of food service at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. "I was a young businessman and the Sisters were so supportive. And they did a lot of praying for me," Mr. Metz said. "They have been a great influence on my family and me, and I have long been committed to doing something for them in return. That is how I became affiliated with the University.

"I feel strongly that the new field house is a part of a momentous time in



Rendering by Williams Kinsman Lewis Architecture, P.C.

Misericordia history, providing support for the new football team and all the sports that have consistently done so well. Mary and I, along with my sons, John and Jeff, and daughter, Maureen Metz Gallagher, see this as a great way for us to be a part of this historic happening," he added.

"The John and Mary Metz Field House is the crowning jewel of our athletic program at MU," stated Michael A. MacDowell, president. "The University has distinguished itself in both men's and women's sports by placing first in the Freedom or the MAC conference numerous times. The varsity field house will serve students in many of our 23 varsity sports and, of course, will be helpful to Misericordia's new football team. We are delighted that John and Mary have helped make this wonderful facility possible for MU students."

The \$4.1 million state-of-the-art facility includes athletic training rooms, expanded locker facilities for men's and women's field sports, team meeting rooms, a weight room, shower rooms and

public restrooms. A \$3-million state grant helped fund the new construction, which is located between Mangelsdorf Field and the newly constructed baseball diamond, which will be named in honor of the Robert Tambur family.

"This has been an outstanding year of fund raising for Misericordia thanks to unprecedented support of members of our Board of Trustees, led by John Metz, and a number of key donors," noted Sue Helwig, vice president of University Advancement. "As of July 1, we stand at 98 percent of our \$7.5 million Pursuit of Acclamation Campaign goal, and have high hopes of reaching 100 percent by our first home football game."

The Campaign funds support more than \$14 million worth of projects across the campus including the field house, the baseball field, the expanded fitness center, the new Michael and Tina MacDowell Hall, and the newly resurfaced Mary Ellen "Mac" McGeehan all-purpose turf field adjacent to Mercy Hall, near the townhomes.

Journey, from previous page

regularly to the schedule, include alumni gatherings associated with Misericordia's inaugural football season, such as the first game at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa. (Sept. 1); MU's first home game - Widener University at MU (Sept. 15); Homecoming Weekend - Stevenson College at MU (Sept. 29); MU at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (Oct. 6); MU at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Pa. (Oct. 20); Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham at MU (Oct. 27); MU at Albright College, Reading, Pa. (Nov. 3); and Lycoming College at MU (Nov. 10).

Additional tour stops include a Philadelphia event on Oct. 20 and a Delaware regional event in the Wilmington area on Oct. 21. The MacDowells will head north to the Boston area for a reception on Dec. 5, followed by an alumni event in Connecticut on Dec. 6. The East Coast swing will continue in Baltimore, Md.

on Jan. 31, taking them to Washington, D.C. on Feb. 2, and to Naples in early March. Stops in Atlanta and Savannah, Ga., Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Va, California and Colorado are being planned, based on alumni interest. The final leg of the tour will include events in April in New York City, and northern and southern New Jersey. The latest details and links to the TrackMac application are available on CougarConnect and via the MU Alumni home page at www.misericordia.edu/alumni.

Roast of President MacDowell to benefit MU

Misericordia University and the Board of Trustees are hosting a special dinner and roast of President Michael A. MacDowell, who will retire at the end of the 2012-13 academic year, on June 1, 2013 at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in Plains Township, Pa.

For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please call (570) 674-6768.

Students learn the 'value of a person cannot be overstated' during service trips

A reason

America's most famous literary icon, Mark Twain, once said, "Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been." For Jennifer Kates '12, of Dallas Borough, Pa., her radiant smile is a sign of where she's going and where she's been in her short life.

A single mother since the age of 16, Kates' contagious smile and enthusiasm to serve inspire fellow Misericordia University students who know her complete story. That sincere expression serves as a window into her past, one dominated by tragedy, heartbreak and homelessness. It also has provided her with direction in the form of an academic major and the passion to deliver "hope" to as many people as possible.

The senior biology major and active Scholar in Service to Pennsylvania participated in her second service trip abroad to help the most underserved in society. "Jen has been a very active and eager participant in Campus Ministry, especially on social justice issues. Her ministry is service to those most in need, and it is very near and dear to her heart," explains Christine Somers, D.Min., director of Campus Ministry at MU.

Kates, 22, was one of 11 Misericordia students and two chaperones who volunteered from Jan. 2-8 to help the residents of Manchester, Jamaica. It's an annual mission MU students undertake through Campus Ministry. For Kates, though, it is a lifestyle and struggle she can identify with personally. "I like to connect with the people I serve with because it reminds me where I've been, how far I've come and then it gives me hope other people can do it. I hope to instill that sense of hope into others," says Kates, who as a high school senior and new mother was homeless for six months. "I like to make people smile literally and that's what got me through life.

"I always try to smile no matter what," adds the mother of Lissenda Sutton, 5½, a kindergarten student.

Kates was nine months pregnant with Lissenda when her life began to spiral out of control due to no fault of her own. Her older



Jennifer Kates '12 holds a young Jamaican child during the University's annual service trip to the island nation.

to smile



Caitlin Day '11, '14, center, takes a moment from playtime to pose with two Jamaican children she befriended during the service trip in January.

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Quick Info:

The following members of the Misericordia University campus community participated in the service trip to Jamaica:

Students: Sean Vitale, West Pittston, Pa.; Mark Werger, Oakland, N.J.; Joe Layman, Binghamton, N.Y.; Tom Messner, Teaneck, N.J.; Kaitlyn Synoracki, Lancaster, Pa.; Caitlin Day, Oak Hill, Va.; Sarah Munley, Sussex, N.J.; Katie O'Hearn, Scranton, Pa.; Jennifer Kates, Dallas, Pa.; Victoria Florman, Prospect, Conn.; and Lauren Brague, West Wyoming, Pa.
Chaperones: Kit Foley, dean of students; and Lalit Shah, professor, occupational therapy.

sister, Amanda Leigh Kates, was murdered outside of their Wilkes-Barre, Pa., home and the tragedy caused her mother to find solace in alcohol. Shortly thereafter, her father evicted them from his home. "It was sad," adds Kates, who plans to earn a certificate as a dental hygienist before seeking her master's degree. "All I had with me was a hamper full of clothing and diapers, and hoped somebody would let me stay at their house every night."

For six months, Kates and her newborn found comfort and shelter through the generosity of others. She later found hope and inspiration from an acceptance letter to Misericordia University's novel Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. "When I was homeless, the fact that I knew I was accepted into the program gave me the motivation I needed to get through the last few months of high school," she recalls.

Since then, Kates has been a regular

contributor to campus service projects largely because it is important to help those marginalized in society, she believes, and it's a tangible way to express her gratitude to those who have made the Women with Children program possible.

"Growing up in Wilkes-Barre, I am very familiar with the lifestyle of the girls (that are mentored in College Kids for Girls), particularly the ones I work with," says Kates, who also aided homeless men during a spring break service trip to Washington, D.C., last year. "I know when I was their age I wanted someone so bad to listen to me and be a friend."

Every January, a group of Misericordia volunteers travels to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jamaica for a series of assignments. Their service comes in many forms as physical and occupational therapy majors provide therapeutic services, while teacher education majors tutor young children. Other students provide their brawn for routine maintenance projects or offer a simple shoulder to lean on.

"My dad (Rev. David Brague of the Second Presbyterian Church in Pittston, Pa.) is a minister so we've always been about Church and giving back," says Lauren Brague '12, who began a year of mission work overseas in August for the Presbyterian Church of the United States after graduating in May. "There was an opportunity for spring break service last year in Philadelphia that set everything in motion. I did that and I felt good about it. It completed me and I knew I needed to do more of this kind of service. It makes me feel like I'm learning something new. I feel good. It's hard to explain — meeting new people and learning from them."

Mustard Seed Communities was established in 1978 outside of Kingston to serve as a home for abandoned and disabled children, according to the

organization. Residents receive life's basic necessities, but more is needed, such as specialized clinical services. Oftentimes, those services are provided by volunteers from around the world — like Misericordia University.

Lalit Shah, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy at Misericordia, partnered with Sean Vitale '15, who is working for his undergraduate degree in psychology and his doctorate in physical therapy, at Mustard Seed. During their visit, Dr. Shah encouraged Vitale to apply his special training for the benefit of a young child.

"Dr. Shah handed to me a young girl with a severe spinal deformity, looked at me and said, 'You can do this,'" Vitale says, acknowledging the profound impact it had on him. "He put her on my lap and had me rotate her shoulders to align her spine and she looked up at me with a huge smile and she giggled — and I knew that I was providing relief. I gave her something she needed and more than that, deserved."

"It was pretty much a career blessing because I found a lot of joy in working with this severely physically handicapped community," adds Vitale. "It made me confident that physical therapy is the right direction for me."

Service trips also reinforce the value of volunteering for the betterment of others. "In Texas we built a house," Vitale says, comparing the Jamaica experience to his spring break service trip to Texas with Habitat for Humanity. "Someone lives there now. In Jamaica, we built relationships. The construction of a friendship and the trust and reliance on others that the Jamaicans exhibited trump any simple relationship I've seen to date. Overall, caring for individuals is what I learned from the experience."

"The value of a person cannot be overstated," Vitale concludes.



John Metz

Board of Trustees

John Metz, Chair of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees, contributed significantly to the success of Misericordia during the 24 years he's spent as a Trustee. In fact, the evolution of Misericordia during Mr. Metz's time on the board very much parallels the evolution of his own business.

Mr. Metz may be best known today for his company, Metz Culinary Management, which manages food services for school districts, colleges and universities, corporate clients, and major health care entities. In addition, his company, Northeast Restaurant Group, Inc., operates many award-winning franchise locations for national brands such as Ruth's Chris Steak House, Wolfgang Puck Express, and T.G.I. Friday's.

Mr. Metz entered the food service industry by founding Custom Management Corp. in 1967. Initially Custom Management was known as a small, regional provider of food services, which developed a reputation for quality and consistency. Over time, Custom Management emerged from its "regional provider" designation to take a place as an industry leader.

In 1987, Custom Management was acquired by Morrison's Hospitality Group and Mr. Metz was named chairman of Morrison's Custom Management. During his tenure, he oversaw a growth of more than 900 accounts. In 1994, he formed Metz & Associate, Ltd., which was later re-branded as Metz Culinary Management, and has become one of the fastest-growing regional food service providers in the nation.

In the 1980s, many would say that Misericordia was a small regional provider of quality higher education. At Misericordia, Mr. Metz witnessed and

helped guide incredible growth since he first joined the board in 1988. Today, MU is widely known and enrollment is at record levels. Thanks to Mr. Metz's financial support, students dine in the John and Mary Metz Dining Hall in the Banks Student Life Center and named a field house in his and his family's honor.

"I am very pleased to have contributed to the growth and success of Misericordia over the last 20 years," says Mr. Metz. "My companies have always been family driven, friendly and committed to hospitality. I know that is what Misericordia believes in and has practiced for over 88 years under the guidance of the Sisters of Mercy."

Mr. Metz garnered a variety of awards in the food service industry such as the International Foodservice Manufacturer Association's Silver Plate Award and Restaurant Business magazine's Leadership award. In 1997, Johnson & Wales University honored him with a Doctor of Business & Administration degree in Food Service Management, Honaris Canusa. Mr. Metz was awarded the prestigious MUFSSO Operator of the Year Award in 2002 and, later that year, he received the Nation's Restaurant News's Golden Chain Award. He is a trustee board member and past chair with the National Restaurant Association's Educational Foundation, the same organization where he also served as a board director. In addition, Mr. Metz has remained an active member of the Culinary Institute of America. He also joined the Board of Overseers of Harvard University. Most recently, he was named the Walter J. Conti Professor of Hospitality Management by Penn State University.

"I am very pleased to have contributed to the growth and success of Misericordia."

**— John Metz
Chair, Board of Trustees**

By Jim Roberts



CAMPUS VIEWS

SLP student receives Von Drach Memorial Scholarship

Maria Kidron '13, a speech-language pathology (SLP) graduate student, was awarded the 2012 Von Drach Memorial Scholarship by the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association at the 53rd annual convention in Lancaster, Pa.

The 2012 award marks the fifth straight year a Misericordia SLP student has received the prestigious \$1,000 scholarship, which is awarded annually to an outstanding student from one of Pennsylvania's 14 SLP schools in honor of Dr. Robert Von Drach.

Cougars for Change raise awareness for environment

Cougars for Change, the University's environmentally-focused student group, asked everyone in the regional community to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8:30

p.m. Saturday, March 31 as part of a world-wide initiative to draw attention to responsible energy

use and global warming. Earth Hour 2012 was expected to have more than 1 billion participants worldwide turn off all non-essential lights for the hour — at a time chosen to coincide with the Spring Equinox — and when the most places on the globe are suitably dark.



Homeland security subject of symposium

The Government, Law and National Security (GLNS) Program hosted the symposium, "Homeland Security: Where We Are, Ten Years Later," featuring experts in national security, law and diplomacy.

Hosted by Brian F. Carso, J.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of history and director of the program, the symposium featured Duncan Campbell, the former chief of staff to Secretary Tom Ridge at the Department of Homeland Security and currently the



Supervisory Special Agent Andrew Bringuel, II talks to MU students Gabrielle Giello '13 and Christopher Schatz '14.

managing director of operations at Ridge Global, as the keynote speaker, and panelists Andrew Bringuel, II, an agent supervisor instructor at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.; Brig. Gen. Keith Martin (Ret.), Pennsylvania's first director of Homeland Security; state Sen. Lisa Baker; Lt. Douglas J. Burig, commander of the Analytical Intelligence Section in the Pennsylvania State Police's Criminal Intelligence Center; Michael A. Falcone, deputy chief counsel of the Arlington Office of the Chief Counsel for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Ann Hansen, Office of the Secretary General at the U.N., and Edmond Hansen, supply officer in the Department of Field Support at the U.N. Headquarters in New York City, N.Y

Student journalists capture Keystone Press Awards

Student journalists of The Highlander were awarded two Keystone Press Awards by the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association. Writers April Dulsky '12, Josh Horton '14 and Julia Truax '12 received a second place award for On-Going News Coverage for a series of reports on evacuation and student recovery efforts by the Misericordia University campus community following the historic flooding in September 2011.

Amber Gulla '12 received honorable mention in the category of Public Service/Enterprise Package for her article, *Where the Green Grass Shouldn't Grow*, which was published Oct. 20, 2011. It

inspired a student campaign that led to improvements to the building that houses a large the campus lounge.

The Highlander can be accessed online at www.highlandernews.net.

Students experience dangers of texting while driving

The National Save a Life Tour sponsored by Student Activities provided a six-hour anti-texting/distracted driving program with multi-media that offered shocking video presentations coupled with two multi-million dollar texting and driving simulation experiences.

It also served as a reminder for Pennsylvania's March 8 law that bans the use of any kind of hand-held texting device by people operating a vehicle.



Cory Balco '15 tries to text and drive while operating a simulator on campus.

RESNA recognizes ATRI's student researchers

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) named a team of student researchers as the winners of the 2012 Student Scientific Paper Competition. The occupational therapy majors received their award at the 33rd annual RESNA Conference in Baltimore, Md.

Student researchers Yun Chung '12, Lorraine Beebe '12, Lori Berends '12 and Marissa Hardcastle '12, under the guidance of Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R., director of research and development for the Assistive Technology Research Institute (ATRI) and Lalit Shah, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of OT, submitted the research paper, *Screendoors 2000 Versus Windows 7's Built-In On-Screen Keyboard: Speed and Accuracy*.

MISSIONS of *Mercy*

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

This spring, 77 members of the Misericordia community fanned out across the country to offer their time and talent for the betterment of others.

Their Alternative Spring Break efforts, sponsored and coordinated by Campus Ministry, impacted people of all walks of life and all ages. They are representative of the spirit of service found at the campus that is responsible for Misericordia again being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, recognizing the University as a leader in service nationwide.

The following stories provide a short recap of the travels that took students to Sacramento, Calif., Schenectady, N.Y., Spokane, Wash., Philadelphia, Pa., and Benson, Vt.

PHILADELPHIA Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

A team of 12 Misericordia volunteers provided young children with homework help and after-school care, and assisted an adult day care program at the Mercy Neighborhood Ministries in north Philadelphia, Pa. The Sisters of Mercy-operated facility is a partnership with the working poor of the Tioga and Nicetown communities, providing adult and childcare programs for more than 35 years under the mission statement, "Neighbor helping neighbor — transforming lives one person at a time."

Catie Becker '14, worked with the preschoolers doing puzzles, taught them their numbers and letters, and even helped them make Rice Krispie treats for a science project. She also assisted middle school students with their homework, and more importantly, simply listened to their stories. "Everyone there came from a different background, some more difficult than others, but Mercy Neighborhood gave every child hope



Sarah Nelson '15, left, and Sarah West '14 share time with a guest at the Mercy Housing Community Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

that they could be something greater and do something amazing," she said. "We took part in something larger than ourselves and because of that we were able to further understand the Mercy charisms and the mission of service we hear about so often on our campus."

"My favorite part of the trip was getting to know the adults in the adult day program," added Sarah Nelson '15. "I spent every morning with them and we became very close. They were so good spirited and full of life, you could see how much they really enjoyed life and appreciated our being there."

SPOKANE Habitat for Humanity

For Amanda Howatt '12, the spring break journey to Habitat for Humanity in Spokane, Wash., was her fourth service trip and it was every bit as rewarding as the first three. Twenty-five students and chaperones armed themselves with hammers and paintbrushes as part of Habitat's Collegiate Challenge, a national alternative spring break program. They completed the framing, trusses and roofing, and put the finishing touches — such as painting and woodwork — on two townhouse-style buildings where four families in need now live.

"We were able to work with the homeowners and learn what it means to have a home. It made us feel thankful for everything we have," said Howatt. "Being involved with service at Misericordia has impacted me so much. It has taught me that I want service to be part of my life and that I will always live through the four charisms of the University."

"It was awesome to see what a small group of people could do in a short amount of time," added Shannon Joyce '14. "It didn't matter what job you had, every little bit mattered. At Misericordia, service is everything and through service, a family can be formed ... and that is what we became at the end of the trip — a family."

SCHENECTADY City Mission

Unanticipated lessons in acceptance and understanding were part of the experience as 12 members of the Misericordia campus community ventured

See **SERVICE**, next page



Standing proudly in front of a home they helped construct in Spokane, Wash., are, front row, from left, Joy Peterson, Habitat for Humanity Spokane Vistacorp volunteer, and Misericordia students Ashley Benz '14, Christelle Patrice '13, and Mark Werger '12; and Arthur Dowell '14 in the second row.

Service, from previous page

to the City Mission of Schenectady, N.Y., to assist the hungry, homeless and others most in need in this central New York community.

The group helped provide meals at the Mission's Family Life Center, an organization that served 175,156 meals and provided 32,861 beds to homeless men, women and children in 2011. "We were able to not only serve meals for the City Mission, but were also able to eat with the residents and community members, and get to know their stories," noted senior Amanda Pernot '12. "Everyone has a story and they all need to be heard.

The Misericordia volunteers also assisted at a food bank and clothing distribution center, planted seeds at a farm for the food bank and helped with disaster recovery at two houses that were



Deborah Keys '15 and Megan Lage '14 wish everyone would tie shoes together before they donate them, a lesson learned while sorting thousands of pairs of shoes at the charity distribution center at the City Mission of Schenectady.

impacted by the September flooding.

"This work has definitely impacted me in many ways," Pernot added. "I learned that no matter what road we took to get where we are, we are all the same. Someone who is unfortunate is no less important than any one of us."

SACRAMENTO

Loaves and Fishes

With a flight itinerary that took them from Philadelphia, Pa., to Atlanta, Ga., to Sacramento, Calif., and back via Salt Lake City, Utah, 15 Misericordia volunteers spent their spring break at Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, a source of hope, help and shelter to the homeless of Sacramento, Calif. Located on a four-acre compound, this agency has provided survival services, such as housing, food and education, to the homeless since 1982. The Misericordia students became teachers as they assisted at the agency's Mustard Seed School, where children up to age 15 find a safe and nurturing environment and a library available for study, writing and research. They also assisted with child care at Maryhouse, a center for homeless women with children, and at Friendship Park, where the homeless can pick up supplies such as tarps and a hot bowl of soup.

"It was the spirit of the staff that impressed me the most," said Shannon Kowalski '12. "You could tell that the director, Sister Libby, loves what she does and loves the people she works for and with. Her passion radiates throughout the entire community and made us truly feel welcomed and needed. Everyone at Loaves & Fishes valued the people that they were serving ... you could feel the bond of community they shared."

BENSON, VT

Mercy Farm

The lessons went far beyond what one might expect as 13 Misericordia students and chaperones traveled to Benson, Vt., to help the Sisters of Mercy prepare the Mercy Farm barns, farmlands and gardens for planting. The Sisters own and operate the farm, which acts as an eco-spiritual center for all to explore the interconnectedness of all life. As both a

sustainable working farm and a space for contemplation, guests have an opportunity to accept their place in the universe and to discover and learn how to live responsibly as a member of earth.

The Misericordia volunteers did routine



Brittany Luzik '13, Courtney Knipe '12 and Alina Busch '14 display the baby strollers they put together for Maryhouse, a daytime hospitality center for homeless women and children run by Sacramento Loaves & Fishes.

maintenance, such as painting and repair work, tended to chickens and goats, and helped prepare the organic gardens and fields for planting. The produce from the gardens, including a variety of vegetables, berries and herbs, supports the farm community.

"I knew we would be working on a farm and learning about the land but I didn't know the extent of beauty that the land and environment could provide," offered Christina Tucci '14. "My favorite part of the experience was forming the relationships I did with the students, chaperones and sisters on the trip. Along with providing service such as mucking the stalls, gardening, and clearing numerous trails, we also formed bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime."



Sarah Munley '13 and Courtney O'Malley '13 smile while tackling the chore of mucking the goat pen at the Mercy Farm in Benson, Vt.



Misericordia University students volunteer and work at the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Department (DF&A) to give back to their adopted hometown community. Participating as emergency responders with DF&A, atop fire apparatus '11, from left, are James Miller '11, '14 of Ashland, Pa.; Shawn McArdle '13 of Nesquehoning, Pa.; Suzanne Nowalk '12 of Hop Bottom, Pa., and Jonathan Weiss '12 of Minersville, Pa., as well as DF&A President Mark Van Etten '93, below.

DEFINING COMMUNITY

Students give back to 'adopted hometown' by volunteering with Dallas Fire & Ambulance Department

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

What is a community?

It's an ambiguous question, but the answer can define a region for better or worse. Take James Miller '11, '14 for example. He's an active member of several communities at Misericordia University, in Ashland, Pa., and at the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Department (DF&A). He's "not out to save the world" as an emergency responder, he acknowledges, but he does believe he should use the skills he's acquired as an occupational therapy student, volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician for the betterment of others.

It's a common theme among many collegians on campus. They give their time tutoring school-aged children, raising money for worthwhile charities or by simply working to raise awareness about important issues. For Miller, an Ashland, Pa., native, and his fellow MU students and colleagues, Suzanne Nowalk '12 of Hop Bottom, Pa., Jonathan Weiss '12 of Minersville, Pa., and Shawn McArdle '13 of Nesquehoning, Pa., their community is defined by the assistance they provide to people while responding to emergency calls as members of the DF&A.

Misericordia really tries to instill these traits (of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality) in each and every one of its students," says Weiss, who also volunteers as an EMT with Good Will Fire Co. No. 1 in Minersville, Pa. "They can be seen each and every day on campus. The school really tries to get people out into the community with the various service projects through academic clubs and Campus Ministry. Volunteering for DF&A is just my way of trying to integrate myself into the wonderful Back Mountain community. The Back Mountain community is very welcoming to the college students, so it doesn't take very long until it feels like home.

The town-and-gown relationship is obvious on the upper and lower campuses of Misericordia University, but especially outside the student residence halls. Working with the University's administration, Mark Van Etten '93,

Log on to [Misericordia Today Extended](#) to find out why MU's service is nationally recognized.

director of budgets and accounting at MU and president of the DF&A, had special parking signs erected for the student volunteers to make it more convenient for them to respond quickly to emergency calls around-the-clock.

Besides volunteering, the students also fill available shifts. The relationship reduces the department's overtime budget and also provides a stipend the students can use to offset the cost of their education. In 2011, students responded to 200 emergency ambulance calls in the community and earned about \$9,000

Fast Facts:

DF&A provides the primary fire service to Dallas Borough and Dallas Township. DF&A's paramedic services are also the primary service provider for Dallas Borough, and Dallas, Kingston, Lehman, Jackson and Lake Townships, covering about 75 square miles and 29,000 people.

It also has mutual aid agreements with all Back Mountain communities, including Hunlock Creek, Sweet Valley, Harveys Lake, and Kingston, Franklin, Lehman, Jackson, Lake, Ross and Noxen Townships.

collectively. They also participated in 454 response calls for the fire department, many of them being storm related.

"Without our student volunteers we would have manpower shortfalls, particularly during the daytime hours which would leave a void in public safety," says Van Etten, who also volunteered with the DF&A when he was a student at MU. "Overall, student involvement over about the last seven years has put us in a position to increase our ambulance license from basic life support to advanced life support. Our ambulances are staffed with paramedics who are able to administer medicine, and we now have more advanced heart monitors for heart attack and stroke patients.

"Thanks to the quality of Misericordia's student volunteers we are able to provide the community with a higher level of medical care," Van Etten adds.

The value of their service was never more evident than last fall when Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused millions of dollars in damage to homes and infrastructure in regional communities, and resulted in countless others being evacuated to higher ground. Like many residents, Misericordia's student responders answered the call.

"There was such a great need for assistance in the Back Mountain and very few people to provide assistance," says Miller, who joined DF&A in 2007 and has been a volunteer firefighter with the Washington Fire Co. Community Ambulance since 2005. "The response from Misericordia was very impressive, during and after the flooding. During the evacuation of the Wilkes-Barre area, I was given the task to help set up the evacuation shelter at Dallas High School. I made phone calls to a few of my friends at Misericordia and we soon had over 20 people who came out to help set up."

"It is a wonderful feeling," adds Nowalk, who is also a private 1st class in the National Guard and volunteers with the Hop Bottom Hose Co. "I was amazed during the flood to see the people pouring into the middle school to drop supplies off. It really helped me appreciate and be proud of my adoptive community."

It also seems natural for these students to volunteer at DF&A. After all, they each majored in an occupation that strives to make the world a better place for humankind. Miller earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and is working toward his masters in occupational therapy. Weiss majored in biology with a minor in chemistry and will begin his graduate studies at MU in the fall as a physician assistant student. McArdle is a psychology major and Nowalk earned her B.S. in nursing in May.

"Giving back to your community, whether it's your hometown or your adoptive community, really instills a feeling of satisfaction in you," says Weiss, an EMT since 2008 and a member of DF&A since 2010. "You feel good knowing that you were able to help someone and you know it means a lot to them."

SPLENDORS of ITALY

Students learn more about themselves while studying country's rich history as part of study abroad program

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It's early summer and 15 Misericordia University students and a chaperone are immersed in the rich history and culture of Italy as part of MU's Study Abroad Program at the Santa Reparata International School of Art in the Via Gallo in Florence.

Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor of English at Misericordia, engages his students in in-depth discussions and readings about Italy during their 32-hours of classroom instruction for the three credit course, *ENG 185: Italy in Literature and Film*. Select books, oral presentations and written reports encompass their required work, but this class is as much about the experience itself as it is about the academic coursework.

"Study abroad helps students become more independent," says Katie O'Hearn '14, who is working toward a master's degree in occupational therapy and a minor in English. "It also helps individuals become more aware of themselves. I had always thought that I wanted to move away after college, but I wasn't sure if I would be able to because I come from a small city and have strong familial ties. This trip taught me, however, that I can move away and live on my own."

The Santa Reparata International School of Art arranged for O'Hearn and her classmates to live in two-bedroom apartments in the urban center of Florence, where they could easily tour historically significant museums and other local sites. They also hopped aboard trains to nearby cities in Tuscany to explore such places as the Cinque Terre.

The long-term impact on students who study abroad is undeniable, according to Dr. Blanchard, who says the opportunity oftentimes influences careers and world views, while also building self-confidence

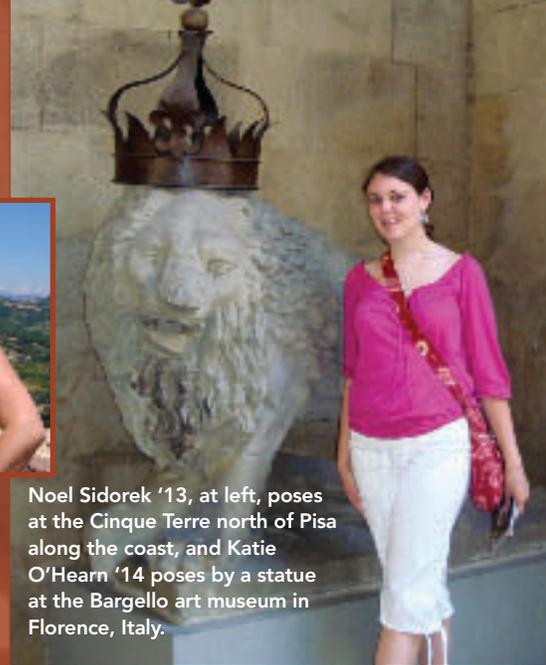
Log on to MU's Flickr account at <http://bit.ly/MUItaly> to experience the Florence study abroad program.

and a sense of understanding. "The traveler's mindset is necessarily open-minded, and if there is one thing that the liberal arts experience should foster, it is open-mindedness," says Dr. Blanchard, who has studied Italian history extensively during his 22-year career at MU. "Italy's history is so fantastically rich and multi-layered, and studying it exposes students to cultural, political and social worlds that are quite different from those that characterize the American perspective."

Studying Italy and getting a true sense of its colorful history can be a challenge because of a myriad of deep-rooted, complex issues that are part of Italian culture, according to Dr. Blanchard. He worked to ensure that many points of view were sketched out and represented throughout the academic program, and that students addressed them in their written works and oral presentations.

"I wanted to make sure that in introducing students to Italy, I was not going to whitewash the country or its history," he says. "It has a very troubled history—a north-south problem, immigration problems and it currently has one of the lowest productivity rates in Europe. It had earned the nickname 'the sick man of Europe' long before the recent fiscal crisis of Greece and other European countries that border the Mediterranean. Students who tour its architectural wonders and its breathtaking scenery need to know that."

To accomplish his goals, Dr. Blanchard used texts by modern authors like Italo Calvino, Ignazio Silone and Antonio Gramsci, films by Federico Fellini, and works by classic authors like Machiavelli and Boccaccio. After four weeks of instruction, his students could identify



Noel Sidorek '13, at left, poses at the Cinque Terre north of Pisa along the coast, and Katie O'Hearn '14 poses by a statue at the Bargello art museum in Florence, Italy.

notions of the avant-garde in Italian literature and film, and understood the role of class systems in shaping culture, especially Italy's traditions of patronage, paternalism and maternalism.

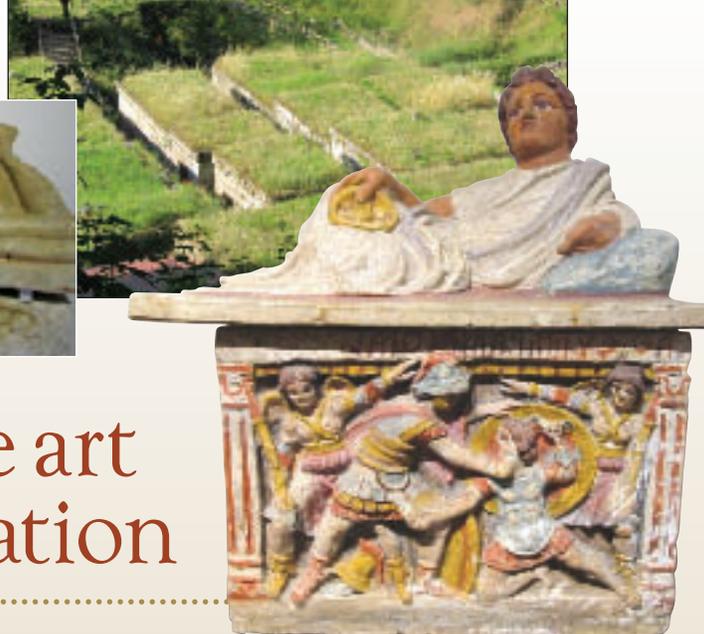
The June 4-July 3 course also evaluated the role of intellectuals in Italian culture, including Italy's cult of the artist and their reverence for genius figures. Additionally, students explored the complex relationship Italy has had with the concept of authority, both in relation to traditional institutions such as the Church, and in more radical tendencies that developed in the 20th century, like communism and fascism.

"I believe studying abroad really opens the eyes of students, no matter what country they are from or what country they are studying in," says Noel Sidorek '13, an English major. "It is an experience like no other because you really get the chance to immerse yourself in a different culture."

The cultural competency students derive from study abroad also plays an integral role in their professional and personal development. Auraleah Grega '13, an English and secondary education major, is working to become an English teacher. The study abroad program, she believes, will make her more marketable, and, more importantly, a better teacher.

"As a high school teacher, I hope to open the diversity of the world to my students," she says. "I think it is important that future generations come to learn that we are all different, but because of this, we each have something very special to contribute to one another. By traveling to several countries, I have experienced the various passions that drive people, whatever their nationality, especially in regards to poetry and literature."

Misericordia University religious studies professor participates in National Endowment for the Humanities research into ancient Italian cities of Etruria



Viewing the afterlife art of an ancient civilization

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Between the Iron Age and the Roman Empire, the ancient cities of Etruria flourished in what is today's modern Tuscany. The Etruscan people built vast cities, traveled the high seas, spoke and wrote a unique language and developed commerce with the Greeks and the Phoenicians in which they traded their precious metals for artistic treasures.

For an empire that stretched hundreds of miles and included 12 major cities across modern-day Italy, many mysteries remain. That's why a team of 28 scholars, including Stevan Davies, Ph.D., professor of religious studies at Misericordia University, participated in the 2012 National Endowment Summer Institute, "The Legacy of Ancient Italy: The Etruscan and Early Roman City," from June 5-25 under the direction of P. Gregory Warden, Ph.D., president of Franklin College, Lugano, Switzerland.

"The Etruscans are part of the history of Western Civilization," says Dr. Davies. "They are the principal civilization before Rome. They ruled Italy before the Romans established themselves as an independent civilization that eventually became the Roman empire."

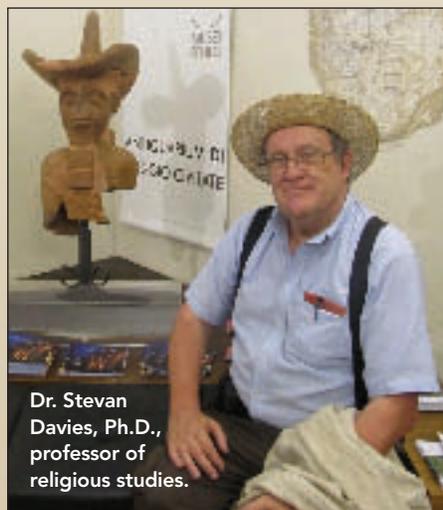
The institute's research was based on four major themes: archaeology and urban identity in early Italy; Etruscan and Roman urbanization; economy, trade and cultural formation in the early Mediterranean; and the consequences of assimilation, appropriation and conquest of the Etruscans by the Romans, according to the NEH.

As the lone religious studies professor participating in the three-week program, Dr. Davies decided to focus his research on how the Etruscans depicted the afterlife in burial chambers, and on tombs and ash urns after discovering extremely

violent images on them in museums and at archeological sites.

"It's well known that the Etruscans bought classical art depicting the epic stories of the Greeks," says Dr. Davies, an author of seven books himself. "They appreciated beautiful attic vases and imported them from the Greeks."

The Etruscans, for example, took on Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey* as their own, but they also adopted the epic *Story of Oedipus* in which brothers, Eteocles and Polynices, kill each other while battling for control of the ancient city of Thebes. The Greek and Etruscan bond becomes more obvious upon closer



Dr. Stevan Davies, Ph.D., professor of religious studies.

examination of Etruscan tombs and ash urns, as they are adorned with depictions of the ill-fated brothers of Greek mythology fighting each other with daggers in the presence of the Vanths of Etruscan mythology — almost as if they were "combining the two civilizations," Dr. Davies suggests. "Why are people placing such a violent scene on a box

Dr. Davies examined, from top left, a 4th century Etruscan coffin, an Etruscan tomb complex in Orvieto and a cremation urn featuring Eteocles, Polynices and Vanths.

containing the ashes of their relatives?" Dr. Davies wonders about the urns in the city of Chiusi. "There are hundreds of them in this place, so it is something that appealed to these people."

Inside large underground burial vaults dated about 500 B.C., the Etruscans added bright colors and imagery to the walls that depicted the afterlife as being filled with parties, banquets and various amusements, such as juggling, hunting, dancing and music. Those lighthearted images in Tarquinia, though, are a stark contrast to the violent imagery contained on the tombs stored inside. The limestone tombs marry the sculpted images of a peaceful human figure lying across the top, acting as a lid for the caskets, which feature "intense violence inscribed" across the front of them. Many ash urns for the cremated also contained similar images of violence, says Dr. Davies.

What is the significance of the contrasting images? Dr. Davies says it is a challenge to completely understand the intended message because there is no written history of the ancient civilization, and by the 2nd century B.C. their culture began to be absorbed by the Romans.

"We don't have writings from them," says Dr. Davies, unlike the Babylonians who carved their writings into clay tablets. "We don't have books or letters. They wrote on papyrus and linen, but the Italian environment was too moist to preserve anything."

Dr. Davies said he will continue to conduct research on the Etruscans and their views of the afterlife. He plans to publish a paper on his theories.



Misericordia student researchers, from left, Lawrence Paddock '12, Nicholas Sulzer '12 and Jonathan Weiss '12, '14, collect data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH level, flow rate and specific conductance from Bowmans Creek by using the PASCO GLX data logger.



Students Safeguard Local Creek

Biology majors study if water withdrawal by natural gas drilling industry affects health of Bowmans Creek

STORY BY PAUL KRZEWICKI

EATON TWP. — About 13 miles from the Misericordia University campus, Bowmans Creek gently flows as it meanders through rural Eaton Township, Wyoming County before snaking its way into the mighty Susquehanna River. Remnants of recent high-water events still scar the countryside, but the 26.4 mile tributary remains a popular fishing hole for regional residents, teaming with trout and bluegills.

It's a breezy early spring afternoon and a team of Misericordia University student researchers return to the banks of the freestone stream armed with fishing waders and low- and high-tech equipment to measure the health of the creek, which originates from Mountain Springs Lake. The climb down the ragged edges of the banks was made more difficult by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, which widened and rerouted the stream in dramatic fashion in the fall and forced the students to shorten their detailed study.

Upstream, representatives of the natural gas industry have set up a staging area for its workers in the region, while two pumping stations have also been established on the creek to remove surface water for use in natural gas drilling. The site along Bowmans Creek is similar to many other rural communities throughout Pennsylvania in areas of the Marcellus Shale as natural gas companies have been utilizing hydraulic fracking methods to extract natural gas pockets from deep inside the earth. Besides the chemicals and drills that are used on many sites in the region, another byproduct of the new technology is the need for water to complete the process.

Misericordia University biology students Lawrence Paddock '12, Nicholas Sulzer '12 and

See CREEK, page 18

Area creek subject of research

from page 17

Jonathan Weiss '12, '14, as part of their senior research project, decided to examine if the health of Bowmans Creek was affected below the pumping stations due to the withdrawal of water.

"I am looking at a career in the environmental science/ecology field and have conducted many small-scale stream assessments in the past," says Sulzer. "I enjoy working with stream ecosystems. When looking for a topic of research, we came across the surface water removal and thought it would be an interesting and very current issue."

"We chose this project because it was real field work and was relevant to what is happening in our backyards," adds Paddock. "Everyone has strong opinions on the gas wells being put in place, but until real data has been collected and examined for many years, we will not truly know the impacts on our stream health and water supply."

Student researchers, under the direction of Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, chose two locations upstream and downstream to conduct their study and began collecting their data in May 2011. Measuring 20 meters along the shore and extending across the width of the creek, students collected data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH level, flow rate, specific conductance, and ammonium and phosphate levels. Through kicknetting, they also gathered macroinvertebrates, such as mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies, because the organisms are important indicators of



Misericordia University biology majors, from left, Jonathan Weiss '12, '14 of Minersville, Pa.; Nicholas Sulzer '12 of Lehighton, Pa., and Lawrence Paddock '12 of Millerton, Pa., collect data for their scientific study and senior research project.

stream health. "There has not been any research done on something like this as far as I am aware of and I feel it is a really neat subject to examine," says Weiss. "The scientific community is calling for numerous amounts of research to be conducted surrounding the natural gas industry and the impacts on the environment."

Overall, the research was the first step in a long process to measure what, if any, impact water withdrawal can have on a stream like Bowmans Creek. Students acknowledge it's a process that could take years of data collection to reach a proper, scientific conclusion. In this case, data collection was delayed by the historic flooding in the fall and it limited students to nine data collection dates, which prevented them from drawing any conclusions. The preliminary data that was collected, though, showed no major differences between the upstream and downstream sites, the students said.

"We conducted the study to the best of our ability, but nature didn't cooperate with us," adds Sulzer. "We learned valuable lessons: How to design and carry out the experiment, and how to

gather the data and how to present it."

The next step in the study, according to the students and Dr. McCraith, is to have another group of MU students continue their good work in the fall. It is important to consistently monitor the stream's health during the natural gas drilling boom and it also offers students a chance to experience field research.

"It is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in so many fields of biology," says Paddock. "It is also important in learning the proper way to do research. Since it is a sensitive topic where so many people have extremely biased opinions, it's a great way to practice unbiased research."

Students also presented their findings at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science in Allentown, Pa. "I am proud of our students because they tackled a new and emerging environmental issue in rather difficult circumstances," Dr. McCraith says. "The flooding prevented them from completing their data collection, but they tackled a project that had never been tackled before and gained invaluable field experience."

Fast Facts:

Misericordia University student researchers utilized some of the following equipment to monitor the health of Bowmans Creek in Wyoming County, Pa.:

1. Kicknet
2. Meter stick
3. PASCO GLX data logger
4. Flow meter
5. Colorimeter
6. Collection jars

THE LESSONS BEHIND THE CAPED CRUSADERS

Comic book collection supports pop culture course on race, ethnicity

STORY BY JIM ROBERTS

Hundreds of thousands of people assembled in theaters around the world in May to propel *The Avengers* movie past the \$1 billion revenue mark in just 19 days. Superheroes are flying high in modern pop culture.

Allan Austin, Ph.D., professor of history, and Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D. associate professor of English, team teach a popular course on race and ethnicity in post World War II graphic narrative. They are fans of comic books, and combine that interest with academic exploration of the societal issues woven into the comics' plots.

"Every student should take a class in pop culture," says Dr. Austin. "The things you see and read are not just trying to entertain, they are selling you something."

Dr. Austin isn't talking about marketing candy bars or soft drinks. He explained that the stories in pop culture, including superhero movies and books, contain themes and reflect prevalent attitudes in society put into the works by their makers — often with intent.

For instance, Superman became hugely

popular following his debut in 1938. During World War II, Superman fought the Japanese and German forces in his comics and cartoons. "There were shocking depictions of race in Superman comics and animation during the war. The Japanese were shown as ugly and evil which reflected popular feelings at the time," says Dr. Hamilton.

The comic movies of the last 10 years also contain pervasive commentary on society that many may not notice. "Post 9/11 anxieties and stresses can be seen in today's movies. The villain in *Avengers*, Loki, says freedom is bad — much like what we believe terrorists say. Our fictional heroes wage war against terrorists for us as we struggle to define terrorism amidst all its ambiguity," says Dr. Austin. "In our class, we want students to understand racial attitudes and we use comics to do it."

Dr. Hamilton likes what he sees from the students. "Discussions in class are great. Some students hesitate to take the comics seriously, but once exposed to the content it is nice to see them wrestle with the issues."



Drs. Allan Austin, kneeling, and Patrick Hamilton team-teach a course on race and ethnicity using graphic narratives.

Dr. Hamilton, who owns a complete set of *Avengers* comics, points to something interesting in the movie, "There is one black character in Nick Fury and one woman on the team. Is that representative of modern society?"

In future classes, the professors will utilize an in-house comic book collection at the Bevevino Library that the professors helped to obtain as a gift to the University. The donation of more than 10,000 comic books has yet to be fully cataloged, but it is hoped that it will be on display during the 2012-13 academic year.

DARE TO BE WISE

Applied Philosophy Project encourages critical thinking

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

It is as simple as a young child always asking the question "why?" Youngsters are encouraged to ask questions and apply what they learn in one area to all the other areas of their thinking. Yet, that type of freethinking is an educational tool that Misericordia philosophy department chair Mark Painter, Ph.D., feels is lost as students grow older and enter their high school years.

In an effort to spur more critical thinking at all levels of education, the Misericordia Department of Philosophy, under Dr. Painter's direction, has established the Applied Philosophy Project (APP). "Applied philosophy is a discipline utilizing the theory that people were born to think for themselves, but it is a concept that is not encouraged enough in academics," says Dr. Painter. "Too many people think that learning is the acquisition of specialized skills to do a specialized job, but in seeking these

specializations, people actually forfeit their natural born ability to think deeply and for themselves. They confuse education with conformity and in the process they lose the basic human instinct to question, to wonder, to not accept things at face value — they lose the childlike virtue of asking why."

The APP is intended to rejuvenate that wonder, that critical edge, by bringing the basic analytical and questioning skills of the philosopher to many disciplines and social concerns. Those disciplines include, but are not limited to, religion, politics, law, ethics, health care, economics, the environment, business, art, literature, cultural studies and social policy creation. One example of applied philosophy and how it relates to social policy can be found in the on-going discussions over gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, and the philosophical issues raised regarding property rights such as whether water is a commodity and, if so, who has the right of ownership.

"The project is dedicated to the belief that philosophy, by its very nature, does not stand above and apart from human affairs, but rather, in the words of George Dennison, wishes us to draw near and to empower us to think and do for ourselves," Dr. Painter adds. "In addition to raising the level of discussion above the simple out-gassing of opinions, doing and applying philosophy creates a flexibility of mind that allows people to better weather the storms of change, both professionally and personally,"

Scott L. Massey, Ph.D.

Darci Brown, P.A.-C.

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D.

Patient Advocates

Physician assistant program works to educate highly trained clinicians

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Misericordia's dedication to training and educating students in the rewarding and challenging fields of health sciences began in 1944 when it introduced the first Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in northeastern Pennsylvania. MU's role in preparing the next generation of health care practitioners gradually expanded through the years. Today, MU is considered the region's leader in health care education.

It only seemed natural when national studies showed a critical need for highly trained physicians that Misericordia would work toward filling that void for the betterment of all. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that by 2015, the year after health care reforms are scheduled to take effect, the shortage of doctors across all specialties will quadruple. The report also states there will be a substantial shortage of non-primary care specialists.

In the fall, Misericordia's first graduate class and second class of undergraduates will begin their studies in the five-year combined Bachelor of Science in Medical Science and Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program. The PA program is welcoming 12 freshman undergraduates and 20 graduate students. Overall, 42 students are enrolled in the program after MU accepted its first class of undergraduates last fall.

"We have an outstanding physician assistant program that will receive recognition for innovative learning methods and high graduation outcomes," says Scott L. Massey, Ph.D.,

P.A.-C., the founding department chairperson, program director and professor. The program will offer opportunities to participate in applied research activities with faculty and unique opportunities to experience an elective clerkship in PA education."

The curriculum for the program also was designed and will be taught by leaders in the health care industry. Dr. Massey is known nationally for his strong track record of scholarship and publishing related to student learning and faculty development. He is also recognized for his ability to improve the certification pass rates and scores for PA programs, and is widely sought after as a PA program development consultant for national and international programs that are accredited and are beginning the accreditation process.

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., chairman emeritus in the Department of Surgery and director emeritus of Program in Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, a Yale-affiliated teaching hospital, and professor of surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine, is the medical director and Robert S. Anderson Endowed Chair, the first such academic position offered by Misericordia. As medical director of the program, Dr. Dudrick works to ensure the curriculum meets current patient care practice standards and is active in teaching and evaluating student and program performances.

An eminent surgeon, research scientist and educator, Dr. Dudrick's innovative development and successful clinical application of the specialized central venous feeding technique has been

described as one of the four most significant accomplishments in the history of the development of modern surgery. It also has been acknowledged as one of the three most important advancements in surgery during the past century.

Dr. Dudrick most recently received the Nathan Smith, M.D., Distinguished Service Award by the New England Surgical Society. He also was an honored invited lecturer and panelist of the Congress of the Polish Surgical Society in Łódź, Poland, where he presented a research paper and served on a panel of surgeons discussing complex abdominal surgical problems.

The program also features Darci Brown, P.A.-C., as the director of clinical education and assistant professor, and Abigail Davis, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C., as the director of didactic education and assistant professor.

Brown is a board-certified physician assistant with 20 years of clinical practice, laboratory testing and management experience. She has also been a representative for the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants for the past seven years and continues to practice clinically with experience in family medicine, orthopedics and plastic surgery.

Davis graduated from Marywood University in 2005 with a B.S. degree in health science and a master's degree in physician assistant studies. Shortly after graduation, she began working in emergency medicine at a Level 2 trauma center. She has been a clinical preceptor to PA students at multiple regional programs. Davis is a member of the Pennsylvania Society of PAs and American Academy of PAs.



Anthony J. Grosek, Jr.
1926 - 2012

Trustee Emeritus Anthony J. Grosek, Jr., an ardent and longtime advisor of Misericordia University as a Trustee and Trustee Emeritus, passed away May 29, 2012 at the age of 86.

A Trustee from 1990-2005, Mr. Grosek provided the University guidance in a plethora of construction projects, and generously supported many worthwhile programs and projects, including the annual Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival and the Annual Fund. His philanthropy also extended to capital campaigns that have enabled MU to meet the rigorous academic challenges of the 21st century.

In 2007, Misericordia honored Mr. Grosek and his wife, Helen, by awarding them the Trustee Associates Award for their steadfast commitment to their community and Misericordia.

"Tony was an exceptional Trustee," said President Michael A. MacDowell. "He cared deeply about Misericordia and exercised that feeling in his volunteer work for the University and in his understanding support of its students. He was dedicated to his NEPA home and he will be sorely missed by all of us at Misericordia for he was a dear friend, advisor and dedicated Trustee."

An architectural engineer and businessman, Mr. Grosek lent his considerable professional acumen to several important construction projects on campus. His tenure on the Board of Trustees was punctuated by the University's growing academic reputation, record enrollment, expanding campus and achieving university status. "This great community and the young kids deserve having something like Misericordia," Mr. Grosek stated in 2007. "I am grateful being on the Board to do it. I'm proud of all the things we are doing; the way we are building this up to be a great place."

Mr. Grosek is survived by his wife of 61 years, Helen Hayduk Grosek of Dallas, Pa., a nurse who also was dedicated to her community, five children, including Andrea Grosek Sordani '73, 13 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

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Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.
1929 - 2012

Charles D. Lemmond, Jr., long-time Pennsylvania State Senator and community leader, died May 30, 2012 following a brief illness. He was 83.

"Sen. Lemmond was a friend to Misericordia in every sense of the word," says University President Michael A. MacDowell. "He was a scholar of the law and government and yet he was very much a man of the people and knew what was important to his community, his state, and his country. Sen. Lemmond revered higher education, particularly private higher education. It was an honor to name the newly renovated theater in Walsh Hall for Charlie and his family. Their dedication to Northeast Pennsylvania, and their Dallas home, remains an inspiration to all."

Sen. Lemmond lived in Dallas with his wife, Barbara, for more than 50 years. The couple has four children: Charles, John, Judith, and David Lemmond, and three grandchildren.

Born in Hazleton, Pa., Sen. Lemmond grew up in Forty Fort, Pa., graduated from Forty Fort schools and served in the U.S. Army in Italy. He returned from service and earned his undergraduate degree in government at Harvard University. He went on to receive his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Early in his career, he was named a principal in the firm of Silverblatt and Townsend, and served as solicitor for a number of municipal entities. He subsequently was appointed as assistant district attorney of Luzerne County, and in 1980, was tapped by Gov. Dick Thornburgh to serve as a judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Sen. Lemmond began his distinguished career in the State Senate in 1985 representing the 20th Senatorial District. Among his many awards, the 2006 Sister Siena Finley Ethics Award, presented by the Ethics Institute of NEPA, recognized him as a person who demonstrated exemplary ethical behavior in his personal, civic, and professional life, a fitting tribute for a man known by his colleagues as "The Gentleman of the Senate."

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MAKING memories

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Alumni Weekend 2012 was a true celebration of the friendship and camaraderie that makes Misericordia so special. Among those gathered were seven members of the Class of '47, who celebrated the milestone 65th anniversary of their graduation with a class luncheon. Octogenarian Gladys Port '47, traveled from Asheville, N.C., to join in the festivities.

The Class of '47 group was also among the 100 who took part in the ever-popular Golden/Golden Plus Luncheon, lovingly hosted by President Michael and Tina MacDowell. The honorees included 40 members of the Class of '62 who gathered to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Their enthusiastic turnout earned the class the Bettis Jaeger 1968 Award for the largest percentage of classmates coming home for the weekend. Classmate Rosemarie Romanowski Daily '62 earned the bragging rights for coming the farthest — traveling from Clarksville, Texas for the celebration.

Highlights included President MacDowell's "Back to the Future" presentation, giving alumni an overview of all that is new at MU as well as a look at how students carry out the time-honored traditions inspired by the Sisters of Mercy.

"We happily exceeded last year's attendance numbers," says Denise Miscavage, director of Alumni, Community and Donor Relations. "In an attempt to best serve the growing number of Misericordia alumni, we decided to focus this year's reunion, and all coming reunions, on those celebrating their 30th anniversaries and earlier. We are encour-



Members of Misericordia's Class of 1972 relive their collegiate years at Alumni Weekend.



Janet Fritz Michael '62, left, and Dorothy Keiff '62 examine items on display in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

aging our more recent alumni to attend Homecoming Weekend, which is held each year in the fall."

Details on Homecoming 2012, set for Sept. 29, can be found on CougarConnect and on page 32.

CAC raises \$12,910 for American Cancer Society

The Misericordia University Colleges Against Cancer Chapter (CAC) raised \$12,910 from its Relay for Life event on campus. Students in the organization presented a ceremonial check to the American Cancer Society that was nearly double the amount the student organization raised in 2011. Students in the University's CAC hosted the annual Relay for Life event on April 13-14 in the Anderson Sports and Health Center and easily surpassed the \$7,000 they raised last year.



Students, kneeling from left, Kara Munley '13 and Kayla Darcey '13; standing, Julia Truax '12, Amanda Tomaselli '13, Megan Rogan '13, Mark Walbert '14, and Amanda Peslak '14, present a check to Jef Bauman of the American Cancer Society near the main gate of campus.

Bernstein addresses students, public in two presentations



Mr. Bernstein addresses history and communications students at MU.

The inaugural Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series at Misericordia presented famed journalist and author Carl Bernstein for two special events on campus April 17.

Mr. Bernstein spoke to 27 MU students in a special master class that addressed the "cult and culture in Washington." Students participated in a question-and-answer session with the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and also posed for pictures and asked additional questions after the one-hour class. Communications major Mary Bove '15 was among the students who participated in the special class. She took pictures for The Highlander, the university's campus newspaper, and also addressed a question to Mr. Bernstein.

In the evening, Mr. Bernstein presented, *His Holiness, John Paul II*, in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall to a capacity crowd. A question-and-answer session followed and then he signed copies of his books in the lobby.

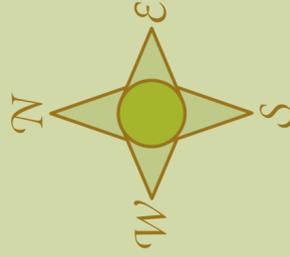
Few journalists and authors in American history have had the impact on their era and their craft as Mr. Bernstein. He has written, among other works, the definitive accounts of the lives of three of the dominant figures of the past half century: President Richard Nixon, Pope John Paul II and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In the early 1970s, Bernstein and Bob Woodward broke the Watergate scandal for The Washington Post.



MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

Campus Map Pull Out



Anderson Field.....	30
Alumnae Hall.....	15
Student Success Center.....	15
Anderson Sports and Health Center.....	8
Metz Field House.....	6
Mangelsdorf Field.....	
Tambur Baseball Field.....	28
Art Studios.....	28
Banks Student Life Center.....	4
ATM.....	
Bookstore.....	
Campus Ministry.....	
Cougar's Den.....	
Metz Dining Hall.....	
Post Office.....	
Bevino Library.....	10
McGowan Conference Center.....	10
Facilities Building.....	22
Print Shop.....	
Creative Services.....	
Anderson Bell Tower.....	11
Gildea Hall.....	5

Hafey-McCormick Science Building.....	2
Insalaco Hall.....	3
Pauly Friedman Art Gallery.....	3
MacDowell Hall.....	9
Main Entrance Arch.....	21
McAuley Hall.....	13
Insalaco Center for Career Development.....	13
McGeehan Field.....	19
McGowan Hall.....	16
Counseling Center.....	16
McHale Hall.....	7
Mercy Hall.....	1
Administrative Offices.....	1
Admissions.....	
Adult Education.....	
Campus Safety.....	
Chapel.....	
Diversity Institute.....	
Financial Aid.....	
Registrar.....	
Student Financial Services.....	
Off Campus Housing.....	25
Off Campus Housing (Machell Ave.).....	29

Passan Hall.....	26
College of Health Sciences.....	26
Pauly House.....	27
President's House.....	24
Rasmussen House.....	23
Rosenn Plaza.....	14
Sr. Kelly Shakespeare Garden.....	18
Tennis Courts.....	31
Townhouses.....	20
Walsh Hall.....	12
Lemmond Theater.....	12
Wells Fargo Amphitheater.....	17

Parking.....	
Employee Parking.....	
Handicap Parking.....	
Handicap Entrance.....	

MISSION accomplished

Bill Jones '85 is the president and CEO of the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Misericordia alumnus Bill Jones '85 spent the past 12 years as the chief operating officer of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, a statewide organization that helps others — from needy children and the homeless to the elderly. He helped orchestrate more than \$7 million a year in critical services such as transportation and housing. Of that, program revenue dedicated to services in and around the Wyoming Valley, his hometown community, grew to more than \$2.4 million.

It wasn't until he found himself saying yes to another position that would give him an even bigger seat at the local community table that it came to him. Who he is and the work he does was fashioned more than he ever realized by his days at Misericordia and those he came to know at the campus.

Named president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Wyoming Valley in January 2012, Jones is responsible for an organization that is dedicated to "advancing the common good." With a \$5.5 million annual budget, the United Way funded 46 community programs and served more than 32,000 residents last year in the Wilkes-Barre area.

A career in the social services arena is not at all what Jones envisioned as a business administration undergrad with concentrations in management and marketing.

Recruited in 1981 to play basketball for a Highlander team that was just three years old, Coach John Zella told Jones he couldn't offer him a winning basketball record, but he could offer him a great school and a 10 to 1 ratio of women to men. As it happens, Jones met his future wife, Janet Yenkowski, on campus while they were both freshmen. Although she transferred to another school, the two reconnected nearly 10 years later and

were married in 1994. Bill and Janet live in Mountain Top, Pa., with their daughters, Caroline and Rachel.

As a commuter student, Jones served as vice president of the Student Government Association and was the catalyst behind the campus' first Homecoming Parade in 1984. He also helped to start the first MU fraternity, Alpha Delta Kappa. His most poignant memories are of times spent with Monsignor John Bendick, campus chaplain, and Sister Siena Finley, RSM, who both remain a big influence in his life. "Business professors Don Skiff and Mary Carden were also amazing mentors," he adds. "Mary guided me to an internship with AT&T, which was a pretty big deal at the time."

His original plan was to go into banking or finance, and in fact, that is exactly where his career began. After graduating summa cum laude from Misericordia in 1985, his first position was with First Eastern Bank. While there, and working towards his MBA, Jones was assigned as a "loaned executive" to the United Way — his first opportunity to assist agency staff with fundraising efforts.

Never straying far from his alma mater, it was while he was at First Eastern that he began teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in business at Misericordia on such topics as macro and microeconomics, managerial finance and business policy. His involvement grew. He was named to the Misericordia Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1986, chaired the Alumni Phonathon Campaign in 1990 and served as the group's president from 1998 to 2000. His efforts earned him the coveted Hilda Staub Garey Alumni Service Award in 1995.

He continued to make a difference in the community in his next professional appointment as vice president and

Tenets guide alumnus to a career in helping those most in need at the United Way and Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

community development manager at PNC Bank in Scranton, Pa., where he made sure the bank met its obligations to serve low and moderate income customers through programs and community outreach.

All the while, he made time to serve as a member of the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Diversity Institute at Misericordia, and was a founding member of the Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity. He also volunteered with the Catholic Youth Center, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, the Back Mountain Library Auction, and as a Eucharistic minister in the Catholic Church.

Even with all that to his credit, his service mission was just getting started. In 2000, he started with Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania. "I am proud of the role I played in expanding critical services to those in need," he says. "In my 12 years there, we made a difference in the lives of many people."

It was no surprise to anyone that his future employer, recognized his infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy, by presenting him with the agency's highest award for volunteerism, the Rose Brader Award, in 2003.

Now at the United Way, Jones reflects back on his years at Misericordia as the building blocks that made him who he is today. "I now understand how the tenets of the Sisters of Mercy were incorporated in nearly everything we did on campus," he says. "They affirmed in us an obligation to make the community a better place."

As he heads into the first United Way fundraising campaign under his direction, he admits his anxiety level is high, but his enthusiasm and optimism are even higher.

Mr. Jones can be reached at bjones@unitedwaywb.org.

'A voice is a human gift; it should be cherished and used, to utter fully human speech as possible. Powerlessness and silence go together.'

—NOVELIST MARGARET ATWOOD

VOICE PIONEER

Misericordia SLP graduate becomes first in program's history to earn her Ph.D.

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

For the better part of her life, Jessica Lynn Sofranko, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., '07 has been enjoying the singing voice or working to better understand the science behind it and the causes of various disorders that seek to silence humankind's most important tool for communication.

Her family's interest in music initially fueled her curiosity with the human voice as she began piano lessons as a 10-year-old and eventually added classical voice lessons as well. "I come from a very musical family," Dr. Sofranko says. "The lessons sparked my interest in vocal physiology and vocal health. I began to question the many different types of singing I was experiencing and this extended to conversation and ultimately disordered voice."

Those specialized lessons also started a musical odyssey that saw her make a once-in-a-lifetime appearance at Carnegie Hall as an 18 year old and countless live performances at regional and state venues before a slight detour changed her direction and focus. After years of singing lessons and being trained as a classical pianist, the science behind the human voice took center stage.

By enrolling as a graduate student in Misericordia University's five-year Master of Science degree program in speech-language pathology (SLP), she was able to perform clinical rotations in the Speech-Language and Hearing Center on campus and participate in timely research with her mentor, Cari Tellis, Ph.D., associate professor at Misericordia. The invaluable experiences provided her hands-on experience in treating regional

clients with a myriad of communication disorders and it also returned her to center stage when she presented her collaborative research findings at state and national conferences.

"My passion to further my knowledge started at Misericordia simply observing the faculty and how motivated they were to better our field," she says. "Misericordia not only gave me an excellent education, but also provided me with numerous clinical experiences, leadership and research opportunities, and the confidence to present at large conferences, teach and supervise students."

Five years after graduating from Misericordia, Dr. Sofranko pauses at the suggestion and quickly says she does not consider herself a pioneer. But the recipient of the 2007 Misericordia University SLP Academic Excellence Award became the first graduate of the 10-year-old program to earn a doctorate, successfully arguing her thesis, "The Effect of Experience and the Relationship Among Subjective and Objective Measures of Voice Quality." She received her Ph.D. in voice and speech science with a sub-specialty in dysphagia and singing voice in August from Penn State University, one of the top doctoral programs in the country for SLP.

Four additional graduates of the MU program also have enrolled in Ph.D. programs to work on their doctorate degrees. Kelly DeHaven '08 is attending Arcadia University; Erik Raj '09 is at Wayne State University; Carly Jo Hosbach '09 is enrolling at Syracuse University; and Nicholas Barone '11 has been accepted at James Madison University.

A recipient of a full assistantship and the MaryAnn Peins Graduate Student Scholarship in Speech Pathology at Penn State, Dr. Sofranko, 28, has accepted an assistant professorship at the College of



Jessica Lynn Sofranko, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., '07 lectures at Penn State.

St. Rose, Albany, N.Y., after completing her doctorate in three years and receiving several employment offers.

"I will certainly continue doing research to contribute to our knowledge of voice and speech science in the field," Dr. Sofranko says. "Aside from this, I do have plans to teach whether it's a faculty position, guest lectures, or presentations at conferences. I will always, though, be a clinician at heart and wish to continue treating. After all, our patients guide our research and lectures."

The field of SLP continues to evolve as clinicians and scientists learn more about the science behind the human voice and the disorders that seek to silence it. Glen Tellis, Ph.D., chair and professor at MU, knows Dr. Sofranko will succeed whether she is helping a stroke patient regain a clear voice or if she is assisting a child address the spectrum of autism.

"Jessica is very hard working and self motivated," Dr. Glen Tellis says. "When she decides to complete a task she is very goal oriented and pays attention to the smallest detail. These are some of the attributes that have allowed her to successfully complete her doctorate."



An Eye *for the* Future

Alumna earns doctorate in optometry from Salus University in Elkins Park

STORY BY TOM VENESKY

Angela Burda '08, O.D., admits her recent accomplishment has yet to sink in.

In May, the 26-year-old graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University in Elkins Park, Pa., with a Doctorate in Optometry, concluding a path that originated in high school and wound through Misericordia University. Dr. Burda has dreamed of being an optometrist since her high school days at Marian Catholic in Tamaqua, Pa. There were a few things about the profession that appealed to her.

"I always wanted to do something in the medical field, and with optometry you have that patient interaction that I really enjoy," says Dr. Burda, who also earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Salus University in 2009. "When I was in high school, I used to spend time at my uncle's office (Dr. Gary Andrus, O.D.) and follow him around."

Dr. Burda, the daughter of Mike and Gloria Burda of Barnesville, Pa., graduated from Marian Catholic in 2004 and, with the decision made to follow in her uncle's footsteps to become an

optometrist, she had to choose a school to start her on her academic journey.

Majoring in biology was a must, Dr. Burda says. After she participated in an open house at Misericordia and spoke with Frank Dipino, Ph.D., professor of biology, her mind was made up quickly. "Dr. Dipino was very encouraging and the Misericordia science program really appealed to me," says Dr. Burda. "I also liked the smaller class sizes and the chance for more one-on-one instruction. I just felt comfortable with Misericordia."

During her four years at Misericordia, Dr. Burda did more than just excel in class. She served as a resident assistant for two years, earned an achievement award for her peer tutoring efforts and taught study skills to students with learning disabilities.

In the end, Dr. Burda not only earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from MU, but she also left Misericordia as a well-rounded person. And that, she says, is what helped her get into Salus University to pursue her doctorate degree. "Your grades and the school that you went to are important, but Salus really looks for well-rounded students," she says.

As part of her graduate studies, Dr. Burda was required to complete six externships at Advanced Eye Care, Limerick, Pa.; Wilkes-Barre Veterans Association Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; The Eye Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.; Edmonds and Associates, Drexel Hill, Pa.; Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., and Great Valley Eye Associates, Frazer, Pa., in which she also was awarded clinical

honors at each assignment. Dr. Burda worked in primary care, hospital and emergency room settings where she performed comprehensive eye examinations for various age groups and concentrated on the diagnosis and management of ocular diseases, as well as providing specialty services in neuro-optometry, anterior segment, glaucoma, corneal refractive therapy and more.

"You can have a 4.0, but if you don't have any people skills you're not going to survive in a clinic," she acknowledges. "A big part of optometry isn't only diagnosing and treating, but also educating your patient and communicating with them. That's one of the skills I gained from the peer programs at Misericordia."

Her Misericordia experience will also pay dividends as Dr. Burda begins her career as an optometrist. Those years she spent helping her peers not only made Dr. Burda a better student, but a better person as well.

Now that she has her doctorate degree in hand, Dr. Burda is ready to begin her career as an optometrist. She has accepted a position as an associate optometrist with Visionworks of America Inc. It's a step the Wyncote, Pa., resident has been looking forward to since she followed her uncle around in his optometry office years ago.

"It's neat to look back over the last 12 years and realize I accomplished the goal I set back then," Dr. Burda says. "It's been a lot of years and work, and I'm really excited to get started."

Alumni News



Kelly Spencer
McAndrew '79

For more information about alumni events and news, visit the MU website: misericordia.edu/alumni

As your new Alumni Board President, I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself. I received my Bachelor of Social Work in '79 and my Master of Science in Organizational Management in '06. Returning to graduate school brought renewed pride in Misericordia as well as an intensified interest to get involved with various volunteer projects. For the past six years, I have served on the Alumni Board. I also have worked for five of those years at Hospice Community Care as its Volunteer Coordinator. More than ever, I now understand the vital importance and energizing value of volunteers. Recently, your Alumni Board agreed to promote MU Alumni volunteering. So many ways exist to add your vigor and viewpoint as Alumni. If you live nearby, I invite you to help serve pizza to students during finals at Alumni Pie. Other hands-on options include Freshman Move-in Day and the collection and counting of class donations. You don't live nearby? Please consider hosting a gathering in your area. Volunteers are always needed at college fairs close to your backyard. Please contact our Alumni Office at (570) 674-6768 to seek ways to volunteer.

Misericordia is in the midst of exciting times. Do plan soon to visit our beautiful and ever-changing campus. Our new football program has generated yet another construction boom. By fall, we will have a new field house, multi-use field, baseball field and a new dormitory. Thanks to the class gift from 2012 graduates, a Victory Bell will now ring for every score made by any of our sports teams at home games. Construction always offers support ideas and naming opportunities, too. Please consider this wonderful way to leave your legacy. Your "woodland home on Dallas heights" invites you to cheer on one of our teams' games. I hope to see many of you at Homecoming. Remember, in football, we are still undefeated since 1924!

Bittersweet times are also on the horizon. As you may know, our beloved President Michael A. MacDowell and his First Lady Tina will retire in June 2013. Words cannot express our gratitude for the countless positive changes and amazing growth over the 15 years of their tenure. I speak for all Alumni in affirming that we will always consider the MacDowells members of our family. We hope they will enter through the Tudor Arch often to be welcomed again to this magnificent campus, where they have left an enduring imprint.

My special thanks to Helene Flower Reed '66, our outgoing Alumni Association Board president. Not only has she been an exceptional leader, but she has helped me tremendously. I look forward to her mentoring in the year ahead.

I say with every confidence that we, the Alumni, can truly be, "Misericordia Proud!"

Class Notes

Stay in touch with friends, classmates and the Misericordia University campus community throughout the year by posting updates about your career, family and other noteworthy and fun accomplishments on cougarconnect.misericordia.edu or [facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni).

'63 Donna Kaylor '63 recently retired from St. Anne School in Lancaster, Pa., after teaching there for 47 years. She earned her BS degree in elementary education at MU.

'67 Rosemary Dvorsky Gido '67, Ph.D., received the 2012 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Corrections Section John Howard Award in recognition of her lifetime of service and scholarship in corrections. She was also the recipient of the 2011 Irish Penology Symposium and Network Award for her contribution to the disciplines of criminology and penology. Dr. Gido retired in September 2011 as professor of criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa. Rosemary is the editor of *The Prison Journal* and she is an active member of the Pennsylvania legislature's task force on the needs of children incarcerated. Dr. Gido earned a BSW in social work from MU. She lives in Boalsburg, Pa.

'77 Elizabeth Connery '77 was named the 2011 Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Outstanding Fund Raising Executive in November 2011. She earned a Bachelor of Science cum laude in home economics with a minor in business administration.

'85 Theresa Kelly Long '85 was named superintendent for Danville State Hospital in October 2011. She received her BSN in 1985. She lives with her husband and two children in Drums, Pa.

'98 Kevin Walter Poplawski '98 and Elizabeth Ann Gersuk were united in the sacrament of marriage July 16, 2011 at St. Ignatius Church, Kingston, Pa. Kevin is employed as a physical therapist by Emory Health Care, Atlanta, Ga., and is also a certified golf fitness instructor. After a honeymoon in Costa Rica, the couple resides in Atlanta, Ga.

Eric Barlett '98 and Courtney Harris were married on Aug. 24, 2002.

'99 Maribeth Matlowski '99 and her husband, Robert Artman, were married in 2011.

Erin Clough '99 married Roy Arndt on April 24, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Dr. Andrea Johnson-Davis '99 appeared on NJTV Channel 23 and WHYY Channel 12 as an expert on bone health and joint replacement. She is employed by STAR Physical Therapy in N.J., as the clinical director.

SAVE THE DATE!



HOMECOMING 2012
SEPTEMBER 28 – 30

David M. Kozich, D.P.T. '99, '10 was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate to the State Board of Physical Therapy after being nominated by Gov. Tom Corbett. Dr. Kozich is the coordinator of outpatient physical therapy at St. Luke's Miner's Memorial Hospital, Coaldale, Pa. He is married to Erin McDermott Kozich, P.T., '99. The couple and their five children live in Mountaintop, Pa.

'01 Jessica Delamater '01 and her husband, Eric Brigham, were married Aug. 27, 2011.

'04 Ronald Studd '04 wed Susan Jones on Aug. 6, 2011 at the Rockwood Carriage House, Wilimington, Del. Ronald is employed at Connolly Health Care, Philadelphia, Pa., where he is an associate business systems analyst. The couple honeymooned in Santorini, Greece.

Melissa Savage '04 and Stephen Luebbert were married Nov. 12, 2011. Melissa is a veterinarian at Millis Animal Hospital, St. Louis, Mo. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica. They reside in Webster Groves, Mo.

Joseph J. Musto '04, '07, was named director of regional development and strategic planning with the Platte, Neb., hospital.

'05 Amy Marie Buydos '05 and David Grabinski were united in holy matrimony on Oct. 8, 2011. Amy is employed as a senior product specialist for Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. They honeymooned in Aruba and live at Harveys Lake, Pa.

Christine Marie Homcha '05 graduated as a doctor of medicine with high academic honors from the Penn State College of Medicine in May 2011. She began her residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. She earned her B.S. in health sciences and M.S. in physical therapy from MU.

Shawna Selena Lizbinski '05 and Bradley Klatka were united in marriage April 28, 2012, at Bentley's, Ashley, Pa. Shawna is employed in the quality

assurance department at Web.com. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico. They now reside in Drums, Pa.

Christine Marie Homcha '05 and Kyle Jones were united in marriage during a Mass and wedding ceremony on May 28, 2011 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Nesquehoning, Pa. Christine is a resident in plastic surgery at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. The couple resides in Hershey, Pa.

Tianna Pauline Rizzo '05 and Joseph John Bolinsky III were married Oct. 1, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church, Weston, Pa. Tianna is a physical therapist and clinic manager at Pro Rehabilitation Services in Hazleton, Pa., and is pursuing her doctorate degree in physical therapy. They honeymooned in Aruba and live in Bloomsburg, Pa.

'06 Nicole DeLucia '06 and John Nemic III were married Sept. 10, 2011, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, Pa. Nicole is a RN and case manager for Geisinger Health Plan. They honeymooned in St. Lucia and reside in Plains Township, Pa.

Cheryl Marie Bolesta '06 and Brandon Michael Jayne '08 were united in marriage July 9, 2011 at All Saints Parish in Plymouth, Pa. Following a honeymoon to the Caribbean, the couple resides in Plymouth.

'07 Daniel Michael Liuzzo '07 and Taryn Melody Liuzzo chose St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dumore, Pa., as the setting for their June 16, 2012 wedding. Daniel is employed by Cigna Healthcare.

'08 Angela Marie Petrilla '08 and Charles Osenkarski III were married Oct. 22, 2011. Angela is employed by Dish Network as a strategic area manager for the Northeast. The couple resides in Plains Township, Pa.

Jennifer Lynn Opel '08 and Michael Huntzinger, Jr. were married Oct. 8, 2011, at Fox Hill Country Club, Exeter, Pa. Jennifer is employed as a pharmacy technician by Cook's Pharmacy, Shavertown, Pa. They honeymooned in Montego Bay,

Jamaica, and live in Trucksville, Pa., with their dog, Bear.

Michael M. Evans '08 had his scholarly evidence-based practice project published in the journal, Medical-Surgical Nursing. He graduated from the clinical nurse specialist track and is an instructor of nursing at Penn State University – Worthington, Dunmore, Pa.

'09 Alison Ostrum '09 and Francis Jude Schappert '10 were married June 25, 2011. Alison is employed by the Hazleton Area School District and Francis is employed by Kraft Foods. They honeymooned in Hawaii on the islands of Maui and Oahu. They live in Hanover Township, Pa.

'10 Mallory Jones '10 and Michael Devaney chose the The Inne of the Abingtons, Dalton, Pa., as the setting for their Aug. 6, 2011 garden ceremony. Mallory is a speech-language pathologist at Allied Services, Scranton, Pa. Following a wedding trip to Las Vegas, Nev., the couple resides in Clarks Summit, Pa.

Kerri Jean Stephens '10 and Mark Michael McKeown II were married Aug. 20, 2011. Kerri is employed by Blue Cross of NEPA as a senior product specialist. They live in Dallas, Pa., after honeymooning in Nashville, Tenn.

Megan Mary Baker '10 and **Nicholas DeStefano '09** were married Aug. 13, 2011 at St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, Pa. Megan is employed as a radiologic technologist at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center and Nicholas is employed as a resident director at Coastal Carolina University. They honeymooned in Walt Disney World and live in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Matthew Edward Vitale '10 was awarded a M.S. degree in school psychology by Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in July 2011. He earned a B.S. in psychology at MU.

'11 Amanda Brown '12 and **Nicholas Barone '11** were married May 26, 2012 in the Misericordia Chapel.



Carol Bessette '60 gives a tour of the nation's capitol for her business, the Spies of Washington Tour.

Alumna enjoys career as military intelligence officer, world traveler and tour guide

BY TOM VENESKY



ifty-two years after Carol Schaeffer Bessette '60

in Springfield, Va., wears her class ring. It's cracked, but the stone is still in place and, most importantly, it reminds her of the college that prepared her for a lifetime of accomplishments.

Bessette is a retired Air Force intelligence officer and a Vietnam veteran. She had a long career in military intelligence, including three assignments overseas.

Today, Bessette owns and operates the Spies of Washington Tour, a position she has held since 1994. Using the knowledge she gained from her career in military intelligence, Bessette takes visitors to all the hotspots in the nation's capitol where spying and espionage took place as early as the Civil War. "Spying is a fact of life," she says, matter-of-factly. "Businesses and industries do it. It's not just limited to governments."

Bessette's career in intelligence concluded in the mid-1980's and she said the methods of spying and espionage have changed dramatically since that time. The biggest change, she says, is the

advancement of technology. "Back then, we had satellites. Today, they have GPS,

Dallas, Pa., to begin her academic career at Misericordia.

Quick Info:

For more information about Carol Bessette's business, the Spies of Washington Tour, please log on to spiesofwashingtontour.com.

"The four years at Misericordia were my stepping stone into a wider world," says Bessette, who also shared her memory of her favorite Misericordia drink of Coke and chocolate milk mixed together, and memories of the new gymnasium in the lower level of McAuley-Walsh — later named McGinty Gym after Sister Eloise McGinty.

"Out of the quiet, we suddenly heard the voices of perhaps several dozen young women down below singing traditional Christmas carols," says Bessette, recalling a time while teaching at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.,

when the student body of the all-women's undergraduate school celebrated the season through song. "As the sound wafted up from the downstairs lobby area, it immediately took me back to a similar tradition at Misericordia. The sound was the same."

When Bessette was nearing graduation, she decided to pursue a career with the military — an unusual choice for women at the time, she says. But the faculty members at Misericordia were encouraging, and with that vote of confidence, Bessette joined the Air Force for what would be a 25-year career that included eight years in Germany and a year in Vietnam. "Each of those years has led to a thirst for travel that has yet to be abated," she says.

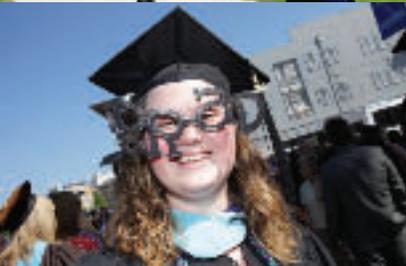
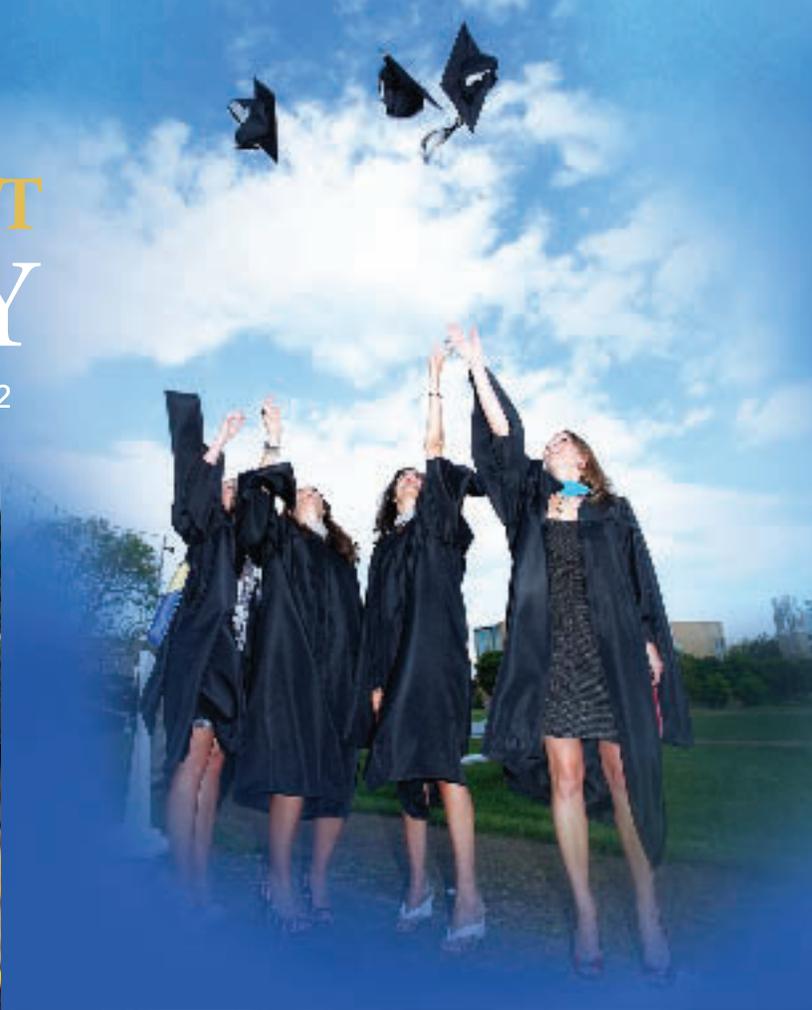
While Bessette spent the last 50-plus years traveling the world and delving deep into the world of espionage, she has never forgotten her Misericordia roots. She still keeps in touch with some of her classmates and follows the paths they have all taken in life.

"I know there have been more than a few novels examining the divergent paths of a group of young college friends, but I have long thought that a great book could be written about our group of young women graduating in 1960 into a world that would change radically in the next decade," Bessette says. Misericordia opened a wider world to us all."

86TH ANNUAL

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

More memories at: <http://bit.ly/MUSpringComm12>



Maintain your MU friendships for a lifetime by registering on CougarConnect

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at: alumni@misericordia.edu or visit: cougarconnect.misericordia.edu

Alumni Volunteer Program: Contact Denise Miscavage '97 at (570) 674-6248 to be an admissions, alumni/development or career services volunteer.





O.J. Anderson poses with the Cougar and members of the cheerleading squad.

Super Bowl MVP headlines fundraiser for football program

Former New York Giants standout Ottis O.J. Anderson was the special guest at Misericordia University's VIP All Access football kick-off celebration on June 29 at The Seasons Ballroom at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, Plains Township, Pa. Misericordia begins its first season of varsity football competition in the MAC, Sept. 1 at Gettysburg and will host its first home game against Widener, Sept. 15.

"We're excited about the upcoming football season," says David Martin, director of athletics. "This event was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Misericordia football program and meet one of the best running backs in the history of the NFL."

Anderson, a 14-year NFL veteran, was a first round draft pick of the St. Louis Cardinals and was the 1979 NFL Rookie of the Year when he rushed for a career-high 1,605 yards. He went on to help the New York Giants to a pair of Super Bowl victories and earned MVP honors in a win over the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXV. Anderson amassed 10,273 career rushing yards and is one of 26 NFL running backs to rush for more 10,000 yards. He had six 1,000-yard seasons and scored 81 career touchdowns.

In addition to meeting Anderson, attendees met head coach Mark Ross and the coaching staff, and they heard about their game plan for the inaugural football season. A silent auction featuring an impressive array of sports memorabilia was also featured at the dinner. Some of the items that were up for bid, included a Reggie Bush autographed football; Yankees jerseys signed by Yogi Berra and Don Mattingly; and much more.

The \$13,000 in proceeds realized from the dinner and auction will be used to support the Pursuit of Acclamation campaign.



ATHLETICS & ALUMNI EVENTS

WELCOME HOME!

Homecoming includes dedication of field house

There will be plenty of excitement when Homecoming 2012 gets underway the weekend of Sept. 28-30. Come and be a part of history in the making as Misericordia University shows off its new buildings, newest sports team, new fields and dedicates its new field house! Join the fun at MU's new tailgating venue as we celebrate the Cougar's first Homecoming football game.

The weekend of alumni activities will get underway with the Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Friday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

On Saturday, Misericordia will dedicate the new John and Mary Metz Field House with a ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

The University community and members of the Board of Trustees will be there to recognize their chairman, his wife and his family for their dedication to the University and, in particular, MU athletics.

The new Cougars football team will battle Stevenson College at nearby Mangelsdorf Field at 1 p.m. for their first Homecoming Football Game. The festivities will continue at an alumni and friends *After Game* party, hosted off-campus at the Metro Bar and Grill in Dallas, from 5-8 p.m.

MU's newly named turf field, "Mac" McGeehan Field, adjacent to the Townhouses on the upper campus, will also see action. The newly resurfaced venue, named after Mary Ellen "Mac"

McGeehan '46, will host field hockey at 11 a.m. The women's soccer team will also compete at 5 p.m., men's soccer at 7:30 p.m., and the men's tennis team will take to the courts adjacent to the Anderson Center at 11 a.m.

A *Spirit Tent* will be set up on the lawn of McHale Hall where there will be plenty of pre-game activities, including a *Best Fan Outfit* contest, face painting, and green screen photos with the Cougar.

The Class of 1987 will also mark their 25th Anniversary with a Homecoming Mass celebrated at the University Chapel at 5 p.m. and a gala reunion dinner with dancing from 8-11 p.m. in Insalaco Hall.

For students, a series of Spirit Week activities will precede Homecoming and includes a *Meet the Teams* bonfire on Wednesday, a *Spirit Dance* on Thursday, and the introduction of the *Homecoming Court* at a Talent Show on Friday. A Casino Night will take place on Saturday at 8 p.m. The *President's Cup Volleyball Tournament*, where the students take on faculty and staff, will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. near McHale Hall.

Wrapping up the weekend, students and parents will be treated to a special brunch on Sunday (registration required).

For additional details and to register, go to CougarConnect or the Alumni home page at www.misericordia.edu/alumni.

— By Marianne Tucker Puhalla

Cougar Village pumps excitement into football season

There will be plenty of camaraderie on Saturdays this fall as alumni and friends build support for their new football team at Misericordia's new *Cougar Village*.

The designated tailgating area will be set up in the parking area adjacent to the Hafey-McCormick Science Center three hours prior to every home football game. Designed to offer a fun and family-friendly environment, parking spaces will be available by prior registration only.

There is a \$10 charge per space, \$5 for MU students, with the limited number of

spaces allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The University has established stringent regulations regarding cooking grills, the consumption of alcohol and behavior in the name of good sportsmanship. The full set of rules and registration forms can be found at CougarConnect, at www.misericordia.edu/alumni, or at the Athletics home page, www.misericordia.edu/athletics.

For away games, check with the host schools for their policies on tailgating.

Misericordia notes historic milestones in new athletic conference

TOP MAC MOMENTS

STORY BY SCOTT CRISPELL

There have been many outstanding accomplishments throughout the history of Misericordia athletics. As the oldest sports on campus, the winning traditions in field hockey and women's basketball date back to the 1930s. With the addition of men's sports, the baseball and men's basketball teams won championships during the 1980s.

Individual successes like Eric Sweeney's '99 NCAA Swimming Championship and All-American performances by Heather Dougherty Holdredge '97 and Frankie Redmond '11 and Willie Chandler's '03 scoring records were certainly impressive.

In more than eight decades of athletics competition, the Misericordia Cougars/Highlanders have held numerous conference affiliations including membership in the Middle Atlantic Conferences/Freedom since 2007-2008. Although their time in the MAC has been brief, the Misericordia University Athletics Department is joining in the 100th anniversary celebration of the MAC by highlighting its greatest moment in the MAC.

In addition to being Misericordia's top MAC moment, Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 may go down as the greatest day in the history of the school's athletics program as the men's and women's basketball teams swept the Freedom Conference basketball championships. Facing local rivals and with multiple media outlets in attendance, the Misericordia women's and men's basketball teams won a doubleheader that sent them to the NCAA Division III Tournament and perhaps gave both programs the credibility they have long deserved.

The women's team broke a 21-21 tie late in the first half and dominated the final 25 minutes en route to a 64-54 win at King's to earn the first NCAA bid in the program's history. Not to be out done, the Misericordia men's basketball team used a second-half outburst to beat Wilkes, 69-42, and earn its first NCAA berth.

It marked the first time that two Misericordia teams claimed NCAA berths on the same day. The day was made possible by the vision of two separate administrations at Misericordia and the hard work of numerous coaches and



The men's, left, and women's, right, basketball teams enjoyed historic seasons last year.

student-athletes.

It started in the summer of 1990 when then president Dr. Pasquale DiPasquale announced that Misericordia would seek membership in NCAA Division III and that Dr. Michael Mould would become the school's director of athletics. In turn, Mould hired Dave Martin as Misericordia's men's basketball coach and the quest began.

The Cougars began Division III competition in September of 1992 and the Anderson Sports and Health Center opened a year later.

Misericordia won its share of PAC titles, but they didn't include the prize of an automatic NCAA berth.

Finally, the 2000 men's soccer team broke down the NCAA barrier with the school's first trip to the NCAA Championships. The softball and women's soccer teams followed suit and all three teams made multiple NCAA appearances over the next decade.

In the late 2000s, with Martin now serving as director of athletics, Dr. Michael MacDowell steered the Misericordia athletics program to membership in the Freedom Conference. Days like this were certainly on MacDowell's

conscience when he engineered the switch as he envisioned intensifying the local rivalries with King's and Wilkes.

It all came to fruition on a Saturday afternoon in February with a pair of games in front two energized crowds featuring teams from three institutions located just nine miles apart.

The women's basketball team, under Martin's guidance as interim head coach, knocked off King's for the second time in two weeks. Playing in front of the biggest Anderson Center crowd since opening night almost 20 years ago, the men's basketball team didn't disappoint as they took control of the game early in the second half and never looked back while taking down Wilkes.

As evidenced by the on-court celebration, it certainly was a great day to be a Cougar!

2012 Football Schedule

Sat. Sept. 1	at Gettysburg
Sat. Sept. 8	at Lebanon Valley *
Sat. Sept. 15	Widener *
Sat. Sept. 22	at King's College *
Sat. Sept. 29	Stevenson * (Homecoming)
Sat. Oct. 6	at Wilkes University*
Sat. Oct. 20	at Delaware Valley *
Sat. Oct. 27	FDU-Florham *
Sat. Nov. 3	at Albright *
Sat. Nov. 10	Lycoming *

* MAC opponent



Alumni return to campus to serve pizza as part of Alumni Pie, which is the kick-off event before the week of finals.



Lawrence Paddock, Nicholas Sulzer and Jonathan Weiss participate in the Alumni Welcoming Ceremony.



The campus community comes together at the Wells Fargo Amphitheater as part of the Alumni Welcoming Ceremony to honor the Class of 2012.

ALU Photo

Make more alumni connections.
Visit cougarconnect.misericordia.edu
by using your unique log in ID located above
your address on Misericordia Today.



Members of the Class of 2012 add their signatures to a class sign that is posted during the Commencement ceremony.



Alumni and friends celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Mercy Center.



December 2011 Class valedictorians Krista Shenk and Cassandra Fox pose for a picture before receiving their degrees.





Soon-to-be graduates toast MU at the Alumni Welcoming Ceremony.



Alumni prepare gifts bags that are presented to members of the Class of 2012 at Commencement.



Members of the Class of 2012 reflect on their years at MU at the Alumni Welcoming Ceremony.

M N I Album



President MacDowell lights a candle at the Alumni Welcoming Ceremony.



ParenteBeard hosts a networking event in April.



Fifteen alumni acted as marshals for the 86th Annual Commencement Ceremony in May.



Alumni participate in a March 2012 event in Stroudsburg, Pa.



Alumni and friends renew acquaintances during an event in South Carolina in March.



Career comes into focus for biology graduate student

Erin Evans '12 was like a lot of other young children growing up. She enjoyed playing at the neighborhood park with her best friend and taking piano lessons. As a softball player, though, something always seemed amiss or out of focus for her on the field.

When she was fitted for glasses in third grade, a lot of things came into focus for Evans, the daughter of David and Kathleen Evans of Kingston, Pa. — including her future career.

"From a young age, I was very familiar with going to see the eye doctor," says Evans, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in biology. "I was always intrigued by all of the equipment in the exam room. My optometrist was always very patient as he fielded my numerous questions about everything he was doing. This is how I became interested and fascinated by optometry, and hoped one day I would be able to change other people's lives by improving their eyesight."

A member of the TriBeta Biological Honor Society and an active volunteer in the Biology Club and Dead Alchemist Society, Evans says the personal attention she received at Misericordia University helped instill in her the confidence she needed to pursue her graduate degree. "Misericordia's biology program really developed and fine-tuned my science foundation," says Evans. "I'm a hands-on learner, so the laboratory work helped me reinforce and understand the lecture material. This thorough education helped me develop personally by giving me the confidence to apply to optometry school, which before I thought it was something I could not attain."

With her undergraduate degree in hand, Evans will begin the second leg of her academic journey in the fall at Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University, Elkins Park, Pa., where she will pursue her four-year doctor of optometry degree. In 2011, the prestigious graduate school received 1,089 applicants for the optometry program and accepted 162 students.

"I would absolutely choose Misericordia University again," Evans adds. "Their strong programs have proven to be able to prepare students and give them confidence to expand their education and develop future successful careers."

— By Paul Krzywicki



COM graduate takes talents to Widener Law School

Recognized as a talented broadcaster, dancer and actress, Communications Department graduate Shana Weinstock '12, was fascinated when she was placed on assignment in a courtroom during a television news internship and she saw the drama of criminal prosecution play out. Almost instantaneously, the would-be news journalist made up her mind that she would rather be making news happen as a litigator than covering the results as a reporter.

She is well on her way. Weinstock was accepted to Widener University School of Law, and began classes this summer at the campus in Harrisburg, Pa.

"I saw how important the presentation of the case was to the outcome," Weinstock says of her internship experience. "I know that I want to use the communications skills I learned as an undergraduate to be in the courtroom as a litigator, possibly pursuing a specialty in arts and entertainment law." Misericordia classes in government, law and national security and business law also helped her prepare for law school.

A Dallas, Pa., native, Weinstock also spent time last summer as a volunteer in the Bankruptcy Court in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where she assisted Judge John Thomas with his research for pro bono work and she sat in on the adjudication of several cases.

Weinstock was an anchor and reporter for the Cougar Cast student television station, and frequently hosted 'Miseri Minute' reports that aired on campus and the Misericordia website.

A dance student since she was a young girl, Weinstock had years of theatrical and voice training that she put to good use as a member of the Misericordia Players theatrical troupe, appearing in productions of "The Hollow" and "The Curious Savage" on campus and in numerous community theater productions. She was also a writer for The Highlander student newspaper and a four-year member of the Misericordia Dance Team, in addition to completing an internship with the Misericordia Marketing Department, where she contributed to an award-winning radio commercial.

— By Marianne Tucker Puhalla



Alumnus finds ‘own path’ to doctorate in pharmacy

Kristine Paddock always had a sense her only son would enjoy a career in the medical field because of his strong interest in math and science. During Lawrence Paddock’s ‘12 junior year in high school, she suggested a career in pharmacy. Unsure of this career path, he chose to major in biology at Misericordia.

The career path seemed natural for the eldest of Larry and Kristine Paddock’s three children as he developed an early fascination with the sciences. Even though he matriculated to Misericordia to major in biology and minor in chemistry, Lawrence had “no hopes or expectations of dealing with future plans” in pharmacology — until his junior year of college.

“I was resistant and I wanted to find my own path,” he says. “It wasn’t until my junior year during winter break that I realized I wanted to pursue being a pharmacist. During the fall semester, I took Biochemistry 1 and I really enjoyed the material and learning about pathology associated with biochemical dysfunction.”

It took Lawrence a little time to find his niche in the sciences, but it certainly did not hinder his academics or graduate school placement. He applied to and was accepted by Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine’s School of Pharmacy (LECOM), Thomas Jefferson University School of Pharmacy and Albany College of Pharmacy. In the summer, he began the year-round, three-year Doctor of Pharmacy program at LECOM, which accepted only 140 students out of 1,700 applicants for last year’s class.

“I hope that what I have learned here at Misericordia carries over to LECOM’s teachings and that the holistic approach to medicine comes naturally to me,” he says. “I think one of the major contributing factors to my acceptance at these schools is not being afraid to speak to a professor or really just anyone important. I believe the small class sizes and close relationships you gain with the professors at Misericordia makes being personable in a professional manner much easier elsewhere.”

The first two years of the program are didactic and his final year will consist of six rotations in different fields of pharmacy. After that, he will decide whether he wants to work in a hospital setting, a research facility or become a community pharmacist.

— By Paul Krzywicki



Biochemistry grad to pursue career in missionary medicine

Inspired by the culture of service to others that she found at Misericordia, Kelsey Daum ‘12 chose to continue her education at a medical school that specializes in rural and missionary medicine.

Daum earned her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry in May and selected Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, an affiliate of the Virginia Tech Carillon School of Medicine, in Blacksburg, Va., for her graduate education. The school offers students the opportunity to travel to South and Central America as part of their studies to treat indigent populations.

As a Misericordia undergrad, the Orwigsburg, Pa., native served as a tutor in the Student Success Center and worked in both the history and chemistry departments. Under the guidance of Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, she conducted computational chemistry research on ionic liquids and presented the results at a regional research symposium.

Her passion for health care was confirmed after completing a shadowing experience with her older sister, Dr. Breanna Henry, a doctor of osteopathy in family practice. Yet, it was a spring break trip to Wichita Falls, Texas, where she helped build a Habitat for Humanity house from the ground up that eventually determined the direction of her career.

“Medicine is about caring for people’s health and well-being,” she explains. “Service work is about meeting people at any stage in their lives and doing what you can for them. When you bring the two together ... you can change lives. I decided to become a doctor because I’m committed to a lifelong journey of helping as many people as I can in as many ways as I can and the mission medicine program at VCOM will allow me to do just that.”

She credits Dr. Fedor for helping her look inside herself at who she was and what she wanted in life. “I could bounce any idea off her and know she’d not only listen, but reflect back and get me to evaluate what I was thinking about. That kind of insight, faith and trust was more valuable than any pointers I received along the way,” she says.

— By Marianne Tucker Puhalla

Misericordia University student Patrick Martino '13 is participating in chemistry research at the University of Oregon.



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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Making a difference



Chemistry student's research may lead to reducing the world's energy usage

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Fertilizer is used around the world to help speed plant growth and increase food crop yields. So if scientists can design a more energy-efficient way to make the ammonia that goes into fertilizer, they can have an impact on decreasing global energy usage.

That is just what Misericordia University chemistry/secondary education major Patrick Martino '13 is attempting to accomplish during a summer internship in organic chemistry research at the University of Oregon (UO).

The 10-week summer program, "Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)," is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and supports undergraduate research projects for students in physics, chemistry, environmental chemistry, optics and material science. UO is a highly respected teaching and research institution with more than 25 research centers and institutes.

Martino is working closely with faculty advisors and graduate students in the David Tyler Lab where they are attempting to develop an alternative method of making ammonia. The current method requires very high temperatures and very high pressures that account for approximately 2 percent of the annual

"It will be a long process of both thinking logically and trying a variety of methods, but in the end it will be worth it to make a difference in the world."

— Patrick Martino '13,
Chemistry/Secondary Education
Jim Thorpe, Pa.

global energy usage. "The demand for fertilizer is expected to drastically rise over the next few decades, thus, a more affordable, energy-efficient alternative process is necessary. The goal is to be able to produce an organometallic catalyst that will allow the synthesis of ammonia in normal, room like conditions drastically reducing the amount of energy used," explains Martino.

"The graduate student I am working

with, Alex Kendall, has been very helpful in showing me the proper and most efficient techniques in organic chemistry. Distillation, thin layer chromatography, column chromatography, and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy are just a few of the techniques that we have employed thus far. It will be a long process of both thinking logically and trying a variety of methods, but in the end it will be worth it to make a difference in the world," he says.

Teaching chemistry at either the high school or collegiate level has always been a dream of Martino. "My education at Misericordia and the lab experience that I received there have definitely helped me out in this research experience. My advisor, Dr. Charles Saladino, Dr. Fedor, Leo Carr, and other faculty members in different disciplines all helped me in the process of applying to and gaining acceptance to the REU program." The internship includes a \$5,000 stipend, free housing and free transportation between Martino's home in Jim Thorpe, Pa. and the UO campus in Eugene, Ore.

Martino also took the opportunity to explore the Pacific Northwest. His itinerary included whitewater rafting and the chance to hike in the area of Oregon's second highest mountain, Mt. Jefferson.

Log on to *Misericordia Today Extended* at Misericordia.edu/MUTodayExtended for more stories

HELPING STUDENTS *find their* INNER VOICE

Adult learner participates in writing education fellowship

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

As a 9th and 11th grade English teacher, Kelly Lenahan Mulhern '08 knows that she is involved in an important time in her students' academic lives, when many of them are preparing to write those all important college application letters and essays. That made it all the more special when she was invited to become a writing fellow through the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP), a facet of the National Writing Project (NPW).

As a fellow, she completed an intensive four-week writing institute that offered best-practice strategies for teaching writing and literacy to students. The program was held at the West Chester University Graduate Center, in West Chester, Pa.

It is so important, particularly at this age, to help students find their voice and style, while at the same time, assist them with the mechanics of writing," said Mulhern, who earned her bachelor's

degree in English at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pa., and returned to her hometown of Dallas, Pa., to earn her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Misericordia in 2008.

The institute included sessions on how to breathe life into tired writing and write in diverse genres, with the opportunity to share writing and teaching strategies for all students, kindergarten through 12th grades. "PAWLP challenged me to think like a writer and a teacher of writing in a completely new way, and I can honestly say that I use the knowledge I gained through the Writing Project every single day in my classroom. Through PAWLP, I learned that everyone really does have a story to tell, and I now have the tools to help my students find theirs."

A member of the faculty at Garnet Valley High School, in Glens Mills, Pa., Lenahan previously taught at Summerville High School, in Summerville, S.C. There she was named the school's 2010 Rookie Teacher of the Year, which recognized her efforts to go above and beyond her duties in the classroom.

She says she chose Misericordia's graduate program because of the flexible schedule that allowed her to complete her master's degree in just 1½ years.

Kelly is married to Dan Mulhern, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who is pursuing a law degree at Widener University.

Kelly Lenahan Mulhern '08 uses the techniques she learned as a fellow of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project, to help her students at Garnet Valley High School find their own voice in their writing.

McNally Petrillo named Outstanding Adult Learner

The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education has named Melissa McNally Petrillo, 47, of Hanover Township, Pa., as the University's 2012 Outstanding Adult Learner. McNally Petrillo works full time as a consulting underwriter for Coventry Health Care and as a full-time student is also on track to complete her bachelor's degree in health care management this summer through the Expressway Accelerated Degree program. Misericordia University recognized her perseverance and dedication as a lifelong learner.



McNally Petrillo

"I realized I needed to repurpose my life following the death of a loved one," she explained. "I enrolled at Misericordia shortly thereafter in January 2011, and I am full time, carrying 12 credits per semester. Luckily, I work from home and enjoy the support of my company in my educational pursuits so I can convert commuting time to study time."

McNally Petrillo has been employed by Coventry Health Care for 13 years. She felt it was appropriate to bring her health care administration skills and knowledge portfolio up to speed to stay current with the changes happening within the health care industry.

"Misericordia's approach of studying traditional and necessary foundations of health care administration, including finance and management, was a perfect fit for my needs," she said. "I am amazed at the creativity of the learning culture and the desire to prepare students to become critical thinkers, ready for professional success with emphasis on service to the world."

Inspired by the religious studies courses she has taken as part of the Misericordia liberal arts curriculum, she plans to pursue a master's degree in theology and divinity, which she feels will help her care for the spiritual needs of those in health and hospice care.

For more information about the Center for Adult and Continuing Education, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/adulted or call (570) 674-6791.



HCI Executive Master's program begins in fall

The Health Care Informatics (HCI) Program has added a Master of Science degree to complement its undergraduate certificate program to meet the need for skilled workers in the expanding field of health care informatics in Northeastern Pennsylvania and across the nation. Classes for the 39 credit Health Informatics Executive Master's Degree Program begin in the fall.

The master's degree is geared toward mid career working professionals that want to advance their careers by preparing for senior management roles in health care informatics. The program can be completed in as little as 12 months.

CACE introduces certificate in PACS

The Center for Adult and Continuing Education has introduced an 18-credit certificate program in Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) Administration beginning with the fall semester. The certificate program prepares students to take the Certified Imaging Informatics Professional examination.

The PACS Administration certificate is designed for medical imaging or health care IT professionals who want a career in health care imaging informatics.

OT pass rate exceeds national average

Members of the Occupational Therapy Program's 2011 graduating class achieved a pass rate higher than the national average among first-time test takers for the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy examination.

The 93-percent pass rate by the graduating class exceeds the national average of 84 percent for first-time test takers who took the national licensure examination when it was administered between January and December 2011. MU's test takers also had a higher average total score — 480 to 477 — than the national average.



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored **President Michael A. MacDowell** by presenting him the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award at its annual dinner.

President MacDowell also was appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett to a state panel that will study how to make higher education more accessible and affordable to the students and taxpayers.

H. Jeremy Packard, M.A., an adjunct professor of history, unanimously was elected as the fifth member of the Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration for a four-year term. He will also serve as chair of the board.

Ann C. Roman, M.S., C.C.C.-S.L.P., clinical supervisor, was appointed by Gov. Corbett to the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing.

Kathy Scaler Scott, Ph.D., assistant professor, **Glen Tellis, Ph.D.**, professor and chair, students and alumni Maria Kidron '13, Danielle M. Cino '11, Amanda Tomaselli '15 and Nicholas Barone '11, had their research presented at the 7th World Congress on Fluency Disorders at the Vinci International Convention Center in Tours, France in July.

Jeffrey Becker, O.D., a part-time instructor in the occupational therapy program, and Robert Bohlander, Ph.D., have developed the Oculomotor Therapy Program for the iPad to use in their private practice at the Neuro Sensory Center of Eastern PA in Kingston, Pa.

Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D., associate professor of English, presented his paper, *Out of Sequence: Temporality in Graphic Narrative*, at the 2012 International Society for the Study of Narrative Conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

Amy Lamb, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., a part-time instructor in the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Program, has been elected vice president of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Carolyn Yencharis Corcoran '08, assistant director of the Insalaco Center for Career Development, has been named president of the Middle Atlantic Counseling Association.

Misercordia University awarded tenure to faculty: **Brian F. Carso, J.D., Ph.D.**, promoted to associate professor of history; **Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D.**, promoted to associate professor of English; **Steven Tedford, Ph.D.**, promoted to associate professor of mathematics; and **Cari Tellis, Ph.D., C.C.C./S.L.P.**, named associate professor of speech-language pathology.

Occupational therapy student researchers **Hannah Muller '12, Courtney Otto '12, Jenna Rakowsky '12, Melissa Templeton '12, O.T.S.**, and **Alicia Bryk '12**, who graduated from the Weekday Entry-Level Master of Science Program, and the Assistive Technology Research Institute collaborated with Cleankeys, Inc., to develop a completely cleanable keyboard through the use of touch technology to prevent the spread of bacteria.

Student researchers **Christine Brandon '12, O.T.S.; Amanda Davis '12, O.T.S.; Melanie Hill '12, O.T.S.; Brittany Michalik '12, O.T.S.**, and **Courtney Sennett '12, O.T.S.**, under the direction of **Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R.**, presented their study, *Swype versus Conventional On-Screen Keyboards: Efficacy Compared*, at the 33rd Annual Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference in Baltimore, Md., in June.

Student researchers **Caitlin Cavanaugh '12, O.T.S.; Meghan Franz '12, O.T.S.; Nicole Iaconetti '12, O.T.S.**, and **Kiersten Whitaker '12, O.T.S.**, had their findings about the reliability of the Americans with Disabilities Act — Compliance Assessment Toolkit presented at the California State University, Northridge Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference in San Diego, Calif.

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America named the team of student researchers, **Yun Chung '12, Lorraine Beebe '12, Lori Berends '12**, and **Marissa Hardcastle '12**, as the winners of the 2012 Student Scientific Paper Competition.

Christine Somers, D.Min., M.S.W., director of Campus Ministry, had an essay about Catholic social teaching published on the website, *Mercy Word*.

The Finer Things in Life

STORY BY JULIA TRUAX '12

John Mellon, Ed.D., C.F.C.S., C.D.E.P., associate professor of business, is an artist. Instead of painting or writing poetry, he uses the finer points of etiquette as his palette for instructing professionals and students about the lost art of polite behavior, social skills, dining insights and networking. His goal is to help individuals appear polished and professional, so they are viewed as knowledgeable and confident.

Dr. Mellon recently registered and incorporated his special teaching skills into the new business venture, Dr. John Etiquette, LLC, after presenting dining etiquette and social skills for more than 25 years. He believes knowing the rules is liberating, not restrictive. While society has become more casual and manners and propriety may seem less important, Dr. John Etiquette maintains they are far from obsolete.

"One of the reasons etiquette is having a revival right now is because about 30 percent of job interviews in the United States are being conducted during a meal," Dr. Mellon says. "Have you ever gone to a meal and you wonder is that your coffee cup or is that the next person's when it's a round table?"

A simple way to answer that often-asked question is to use the "B-M-W" method. "When you sit down at the table, the first thing you do is

Learning and exploring etiquette and decorum provides a benefit to students

scout out your territory," he says. "B stands for your bread-and-butter plate, M stands for meal and W stands for your water, so any food to your left is yours and your liquids are to your right."

Dr. Mellon has been instructing MU students on the do's and don'ts of successful dinner meetings, interviews and other related social functions during etiquette workshops as part of the University's Guaranteed Placement Program. "Etiquette training is similar to playing a sport," says Dr. Mellon. "You need to know the rules to win the game."

He believes reverting back to the practice of proper decorum is an entry back to verbal and personal communication, something that is lost among Generation Y and many in the business world. "E-mail and technology contribute to the success of business, I don't downplay that," he says. "But the well-roundedness of individuals has depleted due to technology."

Dr. Mellon is offering etiquette lessons and training sessions to students of all ages, from youth through adulthood. In addition, he also frequently posts tips on his website, www.drjohnetiquette.com. He also has formed partnerships with local hotels and restaurants. Through these associations, he plans to offer different packages to engaged couples.

For more information about Dr. John Etiquette, LLC, please call (570) 899-1861.

Misericordia students, from left, Jasmine Busi '14, Alyssa Bazink '15, and Alyssa Leonard '15 participate in an etiquette program with Dr. John Mellon.



Professor's book outlines boundaries for touching

Hunter Manasco, Ph.D., assistant professor of speech-language pathology, has had the book, *An Exceptional Children's Guide to Touch: Teaching Social and Physical Boundaries to Kids*, published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers of London, England.

The book is illustrated by his wife, Katharine Manasco.

The 80-page paperback is available at Amazon.com for \$17.95. The purpose of the friendly picture book is to educate children with special needs on social rules regarding appropriate and inappropriate forms of touching. It can be used to empower children to recognize abuse and to encourage them to reach out for help if they feel they are being abused. The book also has an adult section with information for caregivers and professionals regarding how to recognize child abuse and who to contact if they believe a child is being abused.

Dr. Manasco began to conceptualize his latest book project in 2004 shortly after he started working with children as a speech-language pathologist. In a matter of months, he became aware of the many dangers and social difficulties that children with special needs encounter in their daily lives.

"I saw all these situations, which centered on issues of physical touch and a lack of knowledge or misunderstanding on the part of the child for what was acceptable and what was not acceptable, and possibly even problematic," he said. "For the parents, caregivers, teachers and other professionals working with children with special needs, these issues arise often. Yet, when I searched for the materials needed to address these problems, I found little or no materials tailored to fit the cognitive and communicative needs of these children.

This book was born out of the necessity to educate the smallest and most vulnerable members of our population. It should be more often acknowledged that to make our children safe and successful later in life, we must keep them safe and successful early in life," the husband and father added.

He specializes in treating children with autism and other neurological disorders. He has extensive professional experience working with children in schools, hospitals and university health clinics.



In Memoriam

Jane Croop Carey '40

August 28, 2008

Rose Mary Reilly '53

February 21, 2012

Nancy Kelly '67

April 17, 2012

Claudette Hudak Harris '57

January 2, 2009

Suzanne Holahan '56

March 10, 2012

Dr. Steven Ash '96

April 23, 2012

Margaret Daring Grose '52

June 10, 2011

Dr. George A. Stolarick '80

March 16, 2012

Miriam Newcomb Barth '44

April 27, 2012

Sandra Peters Weyhenmeyer '97

January 27, 2012

Matthew Davis '06

March 18, 2012

Sister Dorothy Gayden, OSBM '67

April 27, 2012

Helen Jacobs Logan '69

January 28, 2012

Natalie Brookus Peabody '54

March 18, 2012

Michele Mittner '04

May 5, 2012

Constance Bush '76

January 30, 2012

George Williams '80

March 22, 2012

Irene Stofila Krivak '49

May 12, 2012

Patricia Dormer Rosini '68

February 8, 2012

Sharon Maher Eddy '91

April 1, 2012

Joan Daley Mulligan '56

May 15, 2012

Theresa Yavorski Nelson '51

February 15, 2012

Ann Walsh Middleton '59

April 2, 2012

Genevieve Kaminski Palencar '75

May 17, 2012

Anne O'Donnell Boroski '46

February 15, 2012

Sr. Ann Miriam Gallagher, RSM '53

April 10, 2012

Joanne Lukasavage Duval '54

May 27, 2012

Irene Loftus McLaughlin '57

February 16, 2012

Mary Reap Kelly '49

April 10, 2012

Janet Cooper Gunster '59

June 5, 2012

Regina Dreisbach Taylor '77

February 17, 2012

Lillian Olenechak '53

April 14, 2012

MU's Speech-Language-Hearing Center helps student regain her singing voice

MUSIC to her EARS

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

On an early spring evening, Gia Mazur '13 struts across the stage at Tomaino's Lounge in Archbald, Pa., singing one of the many Top 40 hits the band will play that evening. It's obvious that singing and performing are second nature for the Dickson City, Pa., native, as her raspy voice captures the essence of hits from Rick Springfield to Lady Gaga.

Mazur, a communications major at MU, has been performing with 1 Hot Mess, since she graduated from high school in 2009. The five-person band tours northeastern Pennsylvania like most other cover bands, seeking gigs that satisfy their creative and musical sides while also putting a little cash in their pockets. As the band's colorful stage lights fill up the room in this smoky, corner tavern, Mazur takes center stage, dressed in leopard-print shorts and a black top, and begins to bang out hit and after hit.

A few short months ago, though, Mazur's powerful voice was almost silenced by a hemorrhagic vocal fold polyp that caused severe pain after singing. She received four medical opinions, changed her diet, and rested her voice for a month with little success.

"I was in denial at first," she admits. "I would notice pain and problems here and there, but I ignored it because I was too afraid to face it. Finally, it hit me. I was extremely depressed. I cried a lot. I thought I would never be able to sing again."

An initial medical consultation with an ear, nose and throat specialist did not find any noticeable problems. During her second consultation, the doctor discovered "very little" soft nodules on her vocal folds, according to Mazur. "These nodules are like blisters on my vocal folds—they form when the folds repeatedly come in contact with each other in a harsh manner," she explains. "After a few months of singing, my voice was only getting worse."

The third doctor found soft nodules as well as irritation from acid reflux, and prescribed rest, reflux medication, and a special diet. Shortly after she resumed singing, though, the pain returned and it persisted. "The doctor found that I had hemorrhaged on my vocal folds, meaning a blood vessel burst inside of my vocal fold," Mazur says. "It was basically like I had a bruise on my vocal fold."

Upon that diagnosis, Mazur was referred to the Misericordia University Speech-Language and Hearing Center in John J. Passan Hall, which provides complete diagnostic and speech, language and hearing services for children, adolescents, adults and the elderly with communication disorders. In January, Mazur began the process of diagnosis and treatment with Cari Tellis, Ph.D., associate professor of speech-language pathology and a voice specialist.

"We diagnose voice disorders in combination with a laryngologist using visual and auditory perceptual measures,

Misericordia student Gia Mazur '13, center stage, performs with her band, 1 Hot Mess, after receiving therapeutic services at the University.

as well as acoustic and aerodynamic measures that tell us about the functioning vocal folds," Dr. Tellis says about the evaluation and treatment process.

"I design treatment based on what I hear and see. I figure out how people use their voice and then I use techniques to change their physiology so the person can use their voice more efficiently."

Hemorrhagic vocal fold polyps are very serious for singers, according to Dr. Tellis, but performers, such as Adele, the Grammy Award-winning singer, can overcome the condition "with the right voice therapy and compliance on the part of the client," Dr. Tellis says. "It's not rare because of the type of singing she (Mazur) does. She's more at risk than others.

She just needs to learn how to sing the right way."

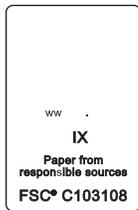
Mazur began a series of weekly therapeutic sessions Jan. 26 and took the special voice class, Estill Voice Training Levels 1 and 2, at the MU clinic in August. In the fall, she will resume her weekly appointments with Dr. Tellis. The initial therapy enabled Mazur to return to the stage singing the songs she loves. She says there has been a noticeable difference in how her voice recovers after a night of singing. "Before, my voice was hoarse for two to three days after shows," she says. "Now, the next day there's a slight raspiness and only because my voice is usually just tired."



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Authors Nancy and Lawrence Goldstone

Oct. 3 4
The Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone Lectures

Funded by the Catherine and Daniel Flood Endowment for the Humanities, and sponsored by the Misericordia Departments of English and History.

Oct. 3 – Nancy Goldstone discusses her book, "The Maid and the Queen: The Secret History of Joan of Arc."

Lemmond Theater. 7:30 p.m., no charge.

Oct. 4 – Larry Goldstone discusses his book, 'Inherently Unequal: The Betrayal of Equal Rights by the Supreme Court, 1865-1903.'

Location TBD, 11 a.m. 12:15 p.m., no charge.

Oct. 4 – Roundtable discussion, 'Literature, History, and the Imagination,' with authors Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone,

Location TBD, 7:30 p.m., no charge. MU Box Office.

Oct. 13 - Dec. 9

George Mummert and Michael Tymon — Form & Process: Sculpture in Stone, Bronze and Steel!

Pauly Friedman Art Gallery.

Elizabeth Fulton: Glycee Landscape Prints

MacDonald Gallery.

Opening Reception: Oct. 13, 5-8 p.m.



Nov. 15-17

Misericordia Players Theater

Title of play TBA. Lemmond Theater. 8 p.m. Adults \$5; students and senior citizens \$3. MU Box Office.

Nov. 19

Winter Holiday Concert

Shelley Oliver Tap Dancers with the David Leonhardt Jazz Group offering holiday classics with a jazz beat! 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater. Tickets: \$5; no charge for MU students with student ID. MU Box Office.

Nov. 29

Ensemble Evening: Dance

Student performances in dance. 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater. No Charge.

Dec. 1

14th Annual Brunch with Santa

Enjoy brunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and afterward have a professional photo taken with them. Hosted by the Misericordia University Alumni Association, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Banks Student Life Center. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 children 5-12; and free for children under 5. Reservations required. Alumni Box Office.

Dec. 5

Ensemble Evening: Music

Student performances in music. Lemmond Theater, 7:30 p.m. No charge.

Dec. 16

Winter Commencement

Anderson Sports and Health Center. 2 p.m.

2013

June 1

President's Retirement Roast

Roast at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, Plains Township, Pa. For more information or to make reservations, please call the Alumni Box Office.

Dr. Noel Keller's Trips with a Difference

2013

February 25 March 3, 2013

Walking and Praying with Catherine McAuley
Dublin, Ireland

March 11 21, 2013

Splendors of Eastern Europe
Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest, Prague and Munich

April 25-May 4, 2013

British Landscapes
England, Scotland and Wales

Sept. 25 Oct. 4, 2013

Treasures of Tuscany and Provence
Including Avignon, Monaco, Cinque Terre Florence and Siena

Oct. 26 Nov. 3, 2013

Tropical Costa Rica

Nov. 29-Dec. 7, 2013

Classical Christmas Markets
Featuring markets in Strasbourg, Wurzburg, Nuremberg, Munich and Innsbruck

Book early for a an early bird discount!

FOR INFO OR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT:

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Center for Adult and Continuing Education
(570) 674-6776, (570) 674-6924 or
srnoel@misericordia.edu