

Misericordia today

WINTER 2020

Volunteers in Medicine
"Helping Hands, Caring Hearts"



Medical Clinic
Felix Pr...

The heart of medicine

American Medical
Association honors
founder of Volunteers
in Medicine Clinic

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AICUP outlines economic impact of private higher education

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It is an atypical late fall afternoon in Northeastern Pennsylvania, bright sunshine glistens off the windshields of passing motorists along state Route 415 in Dallas Borough. A couple, enjoying the unseasonably warm weather, walks their dog before taking a short break and sitting on a bench in the new community park at the intersection of the state thoroughfare and Lake Street to monitor the changing of the seasons.

Nowadays, it is a common site to see passers-by and pedestrians alike appreciate the greenery of freshly laid sod and leaves following seasonal tradition in the newly completed Misericordia University Community Park.

An institutional initiative almost three years in the making eliminated neighborhood blight, and improved traffic and pedestrian safety as the University purchased underutilized properties and land to create welcoming green space and additional parking for campus. Nearby, a state program cleaned up traffic patterns with the construction of a round-about at the five-ways intersection and eliminated a long-abandoned service station.

The park and cleaner sightlines are a fine example of how town-and-gown projects can have a host of beneficiaries, most notably for host communities.

There are many ways, though, to measure the true impact of private

higher education in regions across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A well-educated workforce is the most tangible and expected result of the 90 private colleges and universities in the Keystone state. Also, consider the influx of cultural events that enrich the region; the employment of countless neighbors and friends, and



Mercy Hall

investment in infrastructure that eliminates urban decay.

See **STUDY**, page 29

Go green with MU Today

The Office of Planning and External Relations publishes Misericordia Today in February and August. The award-winning publication shares exciting developments, such as new academic programs, expansion of campus and additional title runs for our athletics teams.

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For more information, please call Paul Krzywicki, editor, at 570-674-6372 or email him at pkrzywicki@misericordia.edu.

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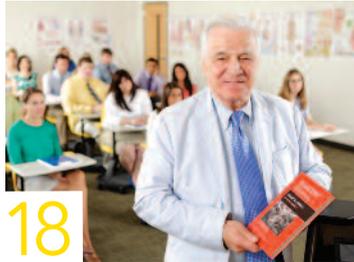


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University acknowledges milestone with Henry Science Center.



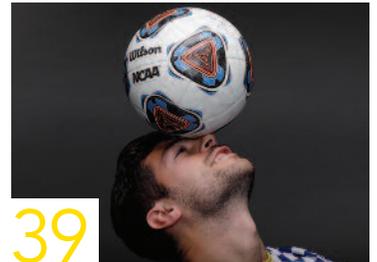
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ON THE COVER

Earning her medical degree at age 50, alumna Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., recently garnered accolades from the American Medical Association Foundation and Misericordia University for her service to the community as the founder of the Volunteers in Medicine clinic in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The clinic treats more than 3,200 "working poor" in Luzerne County each year.



President
Thomas J.
Botzman,
Ph.D.

President Botzman to assume presidency at Mount Union in July

President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., announced Jan. 23 his intent to resign from his post at Misericordia effective June 2020. Dr. Botzman, an Ohio native, has accepted the president's position at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Dr. Botzman previously served for 15 years as a member of the faculty at Mount Union, where he held the posts of associate academic dean during the 2003-04 academic year and director of international studies from 1993 to 1997. He will begin his service as president of Mount Union on July 1, 2020.

"It has been my privilege to serve Misericordia University for the last seven years," says Dr. Botzman. "The University is well positioned to prosper and deliver excellent academic programming in a collaborative and caring environment in the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of Mercy.

"I cherish the relationships I have made here with students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and the community," he adds. "As I return to my home state to be closer to my family, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Misericordia community for the hospitality they have shared with Vanessa, Gabriela and me. I wish everyone associated with Misericordia University all the best in the years to come."

Information regarding a search to replace Dr. Botzman will be released at a later time after review by Board of Trustees leadership.

Dr. Botzman officially became the 13th president of Misericordia University on July 1, 2013. During his time, the University undertook its largest fundraising campaign in history. The *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, which has raised more than \$35 million to date, is funding a large portion of the ongoing construction of the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center that is slated to be completed in late spring 2021. It will be the University's largest academic building.

Other notable accomplishments during his seven years include increasing the size of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children program from 10 to 16 families, with a scheduled increase to 20 families in August 2020 thanks to the addition of a fourth dedicated home on campus.

Misericordia also purchased and renovated two academic buildings, Mary and Allen Erwine Hall and Trocaire Hall, and acquired the adjacent Payne Printery building for future use by student life and academic programs.

In addition, several faculty-led initiatives to add new academic majors were approved during his tenure, including a Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate degree as well as undergraduate degrees in statistics, sonography, medical and health humanities, and patient navigation. His administration also added the popular Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program in which more than 100 students have collaborated on complex scientific and scholarly research with faculty mentors in the three colleges.

The number of full-time faculty increased from 111 to 145 while the percentage of courses taught by adjuncts decreased from 40 percent to 30 percent. Athletics added men's volleyball, and, in 2019, an intercollegiate esports program began.

The campus enjoyed increased visibility of academic excellence, ranging from a substantially higher number of student research presentations to welcoming of scholars, such as the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Program. **h**

Gala honors Manetta, Soyka, Friedman and Noll

The Board of Trustees honored four people at the annual Trustee Associates Gala in September, whose leadership, generosity, dedication and benevolence has enabled the institution of higher education to fully live its Catholic mission and evolve into a nationally ranked University.

Trustee emeritus Sherry A. Manetta '72 and Barbara A. Soyka received the Trustee Associates Award for demonstrating outstanding dedication, service and generosity in support of Misericordia. Manetta served her alma mater for 15 years as a respected trustee. Soyka, a generous benefactor to several initiatives, passed away in March. Agnes A. Toloczko Cardoni '69 accepted the award.

Sidney Friedman, a local businessperson and philanthropist, and Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Rienzo Noll '47 received the inaugural Mercy Mission Medals for their lifetime commitment to the University.

Ms. Manetta earned her Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, cum laude. Throughout her career in the insurance and financial services industries, Ms. Manetta has given back to her communities through her volunteer work, advocating for criminal and social justice reform. At Misericordia, she and her husband endowed the Brian Harvey and Sherry Manetta '72 Scholarship for the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. In addition, they continue to support many other worthwhile programs and initiatives.

Misericordia will forever know Ms. Soyka as a great friend and benefactor. A certified master gardener and an expert on Shakespeare, her love and devotion to MU began when she helped design the authentic Sister Regina Kelly Shakespeare Garden on campus. She subsequently

established the Soyka Endowed Fund for care of the garden.

She also established the Soyka Women Endowed Scholarship for the Bourger Women with Children Program, collaborated on the Soyka/Charlotte Newcombe Endowed Scholarship for Mature Women, and founded the Soyka Fund for the Humanities.

Mr. Friedman, his late wife, Pauline "Pauly" Friedman, and their children have been among MU's most dedicated benefactors. The art gallery and a home for the Bourger Women with Children Program bear the family name.

The family endowed the Sidney and Pauline Friedman Scholarship for students and the Pauly and Sidney Friedman Excellence in Service Award for faculty. In 2004, the University recognized the couple's generosity and leadership by awarding them the Trustee Associates Award. The family has remained engaged with Misericordia, as the couple's son, Rob Friedman, served on the Board from 2011-14.

An active alumna, Mrs. Noll is a storyteller who loves returning to campus and speaking with current students about how her years at Misericordia changed her life. Since earning her bachelor's degree in sociology, cum laude, she has participated in as many as 116 alumni gatherings. A scholarship recipient, she credits MU for positively influencing her future, and her 10 children and 48 grandchildren.

Mrs. Noll's sister Bernadette Rienzo '59, late daughter Alma Noll '75 and grandchildren, Lynn Babbitt Urban '01 and Michele Melillo Babbitt '05 also are alumni. In honor of her 80th birthday, Mrs. Noll's family established the Dean and Liz Rienzo Noll '47 Scholarship.

Misericordia previously recognized Mrs. Noll's dedication by presenting her the Mission and Mother Mary Catharine McGann Alumni Achievement awards. [h](#)



The Board of Trustees recognized businessperson and benefactor, Sidney Friedman, and dedicated alumna Mary Elizabeth 'Liz' Rienzo Noll '47, seated from left, by awarding them the inaugural Mercy Mission Medals. Participants, from left, include Lili Glauber, Mr. Friedman's granddaughter, presenter; President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., Vanessa Botzman, Trustee Christopher L. Borton, chairperson, and Bernadette Noll, daughter, presenter.



The Board of Trustees recognized Sherry A. Manetta '72, trustee emeritus, and the late Barbara A. Soyka, posthumously, by presenting them with the Trustee Associates Award. Participating in the program, from left, are Mari Kennelly '72 presenter; Sherry A. Manetta '72, honoree; Agnes A. Toloczko Cardoni '69, who accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Soyka; Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D., professor of English, presenter; Vanessa Botzman and President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

University names three to Board of Trustees

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education elected Linda Thomas-Hemak, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.P., Barbara A. Maculloch '94 and Mark J. Oberstaedt '89, J.D., to the University's Board of Trustees. They began their three-year terms in October.

Dr. Thomas-Hemak is a triple board-certified internal medicine, pediatrics and addiction medicine primary care physician, and medical educator who teaches and practices medicine concurrent with her responsibilities as an executive.



Thomas-Hemak

She currently serves The Wright Center for Community Health as chief executive officer and The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education as president.

Dr. Thomas-Hemak graduated as a Michael DeBaakey Scholar from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and completed Harvard's Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Maculloch is the president of Pennsylvania Banking for Community Bank, N.A. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in banking from MU. Prior to becoming president, she was the senior vice president and Pennsylvania market director for Community Bank Wealth Management.



Maculloch

During her notable career, she has held various positions throughout her more than 30 years in the banking industry. Prior to joining Community Bank in 2011, she was

University recognizes second Sister Glennon Scholarship Class

Misericordia University recognized the second class of students to receive the full-tuition Sister Mary Glennon '62 Scholarships during an October reception in the Catherine Evans McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

The 2019 Glennon Scholarships recipients and academic majors are: Brooke Chronister '24, Gardners, Pa., Biglerville High School, philosophy; Casey Franzreb '25, Staten Island, N.Y., Notre Dame Academy High School, speech-language pathology; Cecelia Heidelberger '25, Lincroft, N.J., Communications High School, speech-language pathology; Caitlyn Henry '24, Burlington, N.J., Burlington Twp. High School, biology; Peyton Kimmel '24, Prince Frederick, Md., Calvert High School, biology, and Patrick Rother '24, Mountain Top, Pa., Crestwood High School, business.

Named in honor of the University's longest serving academic dean, the

merit-based scholarship program awards six competitive scholarships annually to qualified incoming first-year students. Every first-time, full-time student who is admitted by Jan. 1, 2020 to the private, four-year Catholic institution is eligible for the scholarship program that covers four years of tuition as long as the students meet established academic criteria.

Students who apply to the University and meet or exceed eligibility criteria (1250 SAT or 26 ACT and 3.7 GPA or 1250 SAT or 26 ACT and top 5 percent of their graduating class) will be invited to participate in the competitive selection process. The University invites eligible applicants to participate in a tour of campus, have lunch with faculty and students in their field of study, and to write an essay.

A five-member committee reviews the completed essays and narrows the field to about 12 students. Committee members interview finalists and make



English major Alex Skopic '20 of Springville, Pa., seated, received recognition in October for his essay, *This Means War: Antisemitism, Fascist Rhetoric, and the Duty of Opposition*. The English major received an honorable mention in the 2019 Prize for Ethics from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Skopic, the son of Tim and Linza Skopic, is with Associate Professor Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of English.

Continued on page 7



Sister Mary Glennon '62 Scholarship recipients, from left, are Peyton Kimmel '24, Caitlyn Henry '24, Patrick Rother '24, Cecelia

Heidelberger '25 and Brooke Chronister '24. Absent from photograph is Casey Franzreb '25.

scholarship offers to students who plan to major in academic programs available in each of the University's three colleges – College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and College of Health Sciences and Education. Overall, the program will

award no more than three scholarships to any one college and not less than one each.

For more information about the Sister Mary Glennon '62 Scholarships, please visit www.misericordia.edu/GlennonScholarships. [h](#)

Wiesel Foundation recognizes student's essay about antisemitism and fascism

English major Alex Skopic '20 of Springville, Pa., received national recognition in October for his essay, *This Means War: Antisemitism, Fascist Rhetoric, and the Duty of Opposition*, in a writing contest sponsored by The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.

The son of Tim and Linza Skopic received an honorable mention in the 2019 Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest. The foundation, established by the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, combats indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding and equality.

The essay contest is open to college juniors and seniors in the United States who wish to articulate an ethical issue they have encountered and analyze what it has taught them about ethics

and themselves. Overall, the contest works to increase public dialogue on ethical matters of importance.

In his 19-page essay, Skopic outlines the first time he heard about the mass shooting in 2018 at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh that killed 11 people. The loss of life, while tragic, did not surprise him. The rise of antisemitism, alt-right movement and modern Nazism leading up to the 2016 presidential election contributed to the violent and deadly riots in Charlottesville, Va. in 2017.

The national events "jolted" him out of "complacency" and inspired him to research the very nature of fascism, antisemitism and the Holocaust.

Skopic dedicated the essay to Max Levitas, a veteran antifascist fighter and activist who died in 2018. [h](#)

Continued from page 6

vice president with M&T Bank, where she was responsible for its private banking division in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Attorney Oberstaedt, a partner in the law firm, Archer & Greiner in Haddonfield, N.J., graduated with a bachelor's degree in history, summa cum laude.

A shareholder in the firm's litigation department and assistant chairperson of the business litigation group, his practice covers all aspects of trial and appellate work relating to commercial litigation and business disputes in federal and state courts throughout the country.

As an undergraduate student, he was the first student to receive the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship. [h](#)



Oberstaedt

New dean for College of Health Sciences & Education

The University named Barbara Schwartz-Bechet, Ed.D., as dean of the College of Health Sciences and Education.

She previously served as the interim dean and professor in the College of Education and Rehabilitation at Salus

University. She was actively engaged in an interprofessional education-forward culture that included programs in low vision, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology, as well as education, special education and rehabilitation.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Brooklyn College, her M.S. in education with a specialization in special education from the College of Staten Island, and her doctorate with specializations in emotional disturbance and applied behavior analysis from Columbia University Teachers College. [h](#)



Schwartz-Bechet

Student fellows discover value

Twenty-eight members of the Misericordia University academic community addressed heavy metal oxidants, nuclear proliferation, super foods, Autism spectrum disorder and more during the 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

The 10-week SURF program pairs student fellows with faculty mentors in the College of Business, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Health Sciences and Education in complex scientific and scholarly research.

“Mentorship demonstrates to students that we care about them individually and we see them individually versus just as a number,” said Orley A. Templeton, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., assistant professor of occupational therapy. “With mentorship, we are helping students to enhance their strengths and address their weaknesses in order to become advocates for everyone. Mentoring teaches foundation skills of being, not only a professional, but also a community member that investigates and advocates for all.”

In October, faculty mentors and student fellows presented their findings to the learning community during the annual Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Presentations Program.

“Scholarship and research are practices,” said George W. Shea, IV, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, outlining why it is important for students to seek new knowledge through research. “Ultimately, I think participating in these practices is paramount if students are to move beyond the somewhat naïve, if even dangerous, view that education is the mere reception of information and instead to the more mature view that education involves the active production of understanding and knowledge – that to care for the truth is to take responsibility for its production.”

The SURF program provides fellows with opportunities to grow by collaborating with other student researchers, faculty and outside scholars. Students develop their critical thinking and independent learning skills further as they explore and push the boundaries of what they know, seeking to develop new

understandings using innovative technologies and methodologies.

“This type of intensive research program provides students with the opportunity to focus intently on their work in the laboratory,” Anna Fedor, Ph.D., chairperson of Chemistry and Biochemistry, added. “It also includes professional development opportunities that prove invaluable for fellows applying to graduate school or going to work in their fields of study.”

The following student fellows and faculty mentors collaborated on research and scholarly work for the 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship:

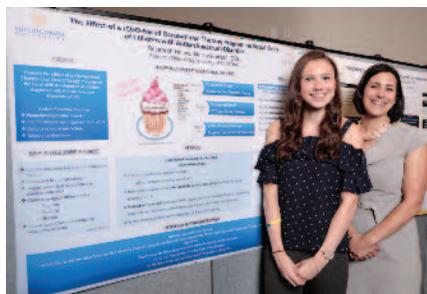
- George W. Shea, IV, Ph.D., assistant professor, philosophy, and Fellow Nico Araneta '21: *Machiavellian Tactics and It's Toxic Effect on Contemporary Democracy*.
- Angela Asirvatham, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor, biology, and Fellow Amanda Bohn '19: *The Effect of Neuronal Growth Factors on Merlin and Ezrin Expression in Immortalized Schwann Cells*.
- Dr. Asirvatham and Fellow Kyle Kenney '21: *The Effects of Rolipram, a Selective Phosphodiesterase Inhibitor, on Immortalized Schwann Cell Proliferation*.
- John Morgan, Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry and biochemistry, and Fellow Alex Brody '21: *Green Chemistry: The Oxidation of Benzaldehyde with using Heavy Metal Oxidants*.
- Christopher Stevens, Ph.D., associate professor and chairperson, history and government, and Fellow Hunter Glidewell '20: *U.S. National Security: An Examination of Grand Strategy and Nuclear Proliferation*.
- Dr. Stephens and Fellow Ian Silfies '20: *Smart Policies in an Unclear World: American Hegemony and Chinese Intentions*.
- Anna Fedor, Ph.D., associate



Assistant Professor Steven J. Tedford, Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of Mathematics, right, mentored student research fellow Lindsay Kane '20.



Associate Professor Anna Fedor, Ph.D., chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, left, collaborated with research fellow Kyrza Grzymiski '20 and on the research poster.



Orley Templeton, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., assistant professor of occupational therapy, right, collaborated with student research fellow Kelsey Hadsall '20, '21 on two scholarly research projects.

of research and mentorship

professor and chairperson, chemistry and biochemistry, and Fellow Kyra Grzymiski '20: *Investigating the Health Promoting Properties of Super Foods Using Extraction and Characterization Methods.*

- Orley A. Templeton, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., assistant professor and program director for the Masters of Occupational Therapy program, and Fellow Kelsey Hadsall '20, '21, O.T.S.: *Integrating Community-Based Clinical Practice into an Academic Curriculum.*

- Dr. Templeton and Fellow Hadsall: *The Effect of a LEGO-Based Occupational Therapy Program on Social Skills of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.*

- Kriszta Sajber, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor, philosophy, and Fellow Sidney Kabinoff '20: *An Existential Analysis of Ellen West: A Movement from Heidegger to Binswanger.*

- Steven J. Tedford, Ph.D., associate professor and chairperson, mathematics, and Fellow Lindsay Kane '20: *Expected Pond Size in a Game of Go Fish.*

- Glen Tellis, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., professor and chairperson, speech-language pathology, and Fellow Quinn Kelley '21: *Psychophysiological and Cortical Responses of Listeners Observing Persons Who Stutter Self Disclose.*

- Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D., professor, English, and Fellow Noni Silas '20: *There's Rosemary, That's for Remembrance: Remembering Barbara Soyka and the Shakespeare Garden.*

- Cari Tellis, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., professor, speech-language pathology, and Fellow Chantal Whiteduck '20:



The 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program featured 15 students participating in research with their faculty mentors. Participating in the program, first row from left, are Nico Araneta '21, Alexis Wyandt '20, Noni Silas '20, and Lindsay Kane '20; second row, Sidney Kabinoff '20, Ian Silfies '20, Kyra Grzymiski '20, Gianna Williams '22, Amanda Bohn '19, and Kyle Kenney '21; third row, Beth Haas, Ph.D., Hunter Glidewell '20, Quinn Kelley '21, Kelsey Hadsall '20, '21, Alex Brody '21, George W. Shea, IV, Ph.D., and Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D.; fourth row, Christopher Stevens, Ph.D., Anna Fedor, Ph.D., Orley Templeton, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., Charles Saladino, Ph.D., Kriszta Sajber, Ph.D., John Morgan, Ph.D., and Steven J. Tedford, Ph.D.

Implicit Explicit Approach to Voice Training in Children.

- Beth Haas, Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry and biochemistry, and Fellow Gianna Williams '22: *It's the Fizz: Investigating Bath Bomb Reaction Rates via pH.*

- Charles Saladino, Ph.D., professor, chemistry and biochemistry, and Fellow Alexis Wyandt '20: *A Comparison of Luminometry vs. Fluorimetry in Assessing the Structural/Functional and Thermal Properties of Antioxidants.*

The SURF program began in 2014. It has continued to grow in the depth and breadth of research, and in the number of participants. "A program like SURF encapsulates the spirit of a Misericordia education," Dr. Shea said. "We pride ourselves on our student-centered

education and close-knit community, and the SURF program affords students the truly remarkable and rare opportunity to push that experience to its fullest potential by working one-on-one with a faculty member to practice and develop the scholarship and research skills essential to intellectual and scientific inquiry.

"The benefits of the SURF program extend beyond the individual students who participate to the whole Misericordia community too since many of the students who participate are sophomores and juniors, and they utilize what they learn over the summer in their classes during the regular academic year modeling academic rigor for their peers. In this way, the SURF program enhances the quality of education for everyone at Misericordia University," he added. [h](#)

A good cup of tea

Misericordia dedicates,
blesses new statue of
Catherine McAuley

BY MARIANNE
TUCKER PUHALLA

Catherine McAuley's courage, foresight and commitment to help others serves as the foundation of Misericordia University.

More than 200 members of the University community came together on the sunny and brisk day of Nov. 6, 2019 to honor her memory, and bless a striking, new statue on campus of the woman from Ireland who founded the Sisters of Mercy.

Installed under the watchful eyes of Sisters Jean Messaros '73, RSM, and Cynthia March '80, RSM, of the Office of Mission Integration, the 350-pound, 5-foot, 6-inch bronze sculpture was placed in a circular garden on McAuley Hall's lawn. Set so her gaze overlooks nearby Mercy Center, the glinting statue greets visitors as they approach the interior of campus on Misericordia Way.

The swirl of her skirt, crossed hands and demure smile are the handiwork of internationally known artist Sister Marie Henderson, RSM, a member of the art faculty of the School of Architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy. In addition to teaching, Sister Marie developed McAuley Images, a business that creates Catherine McAuley replicas for Mercy education and medical facilities around the world.

The complex casting process took about four months using the lost wax method. Sister Marie started with 30 clay sculptures representing different portions of the body, before covering them with silicon and plaster, and filling them with layers of wax. Each wax mold was covered with a ceramic shell to create a new mold that was then filled with the molten bronze. The bronze casts were subsequently welded together to create a most realistic replica of a standing Catherine

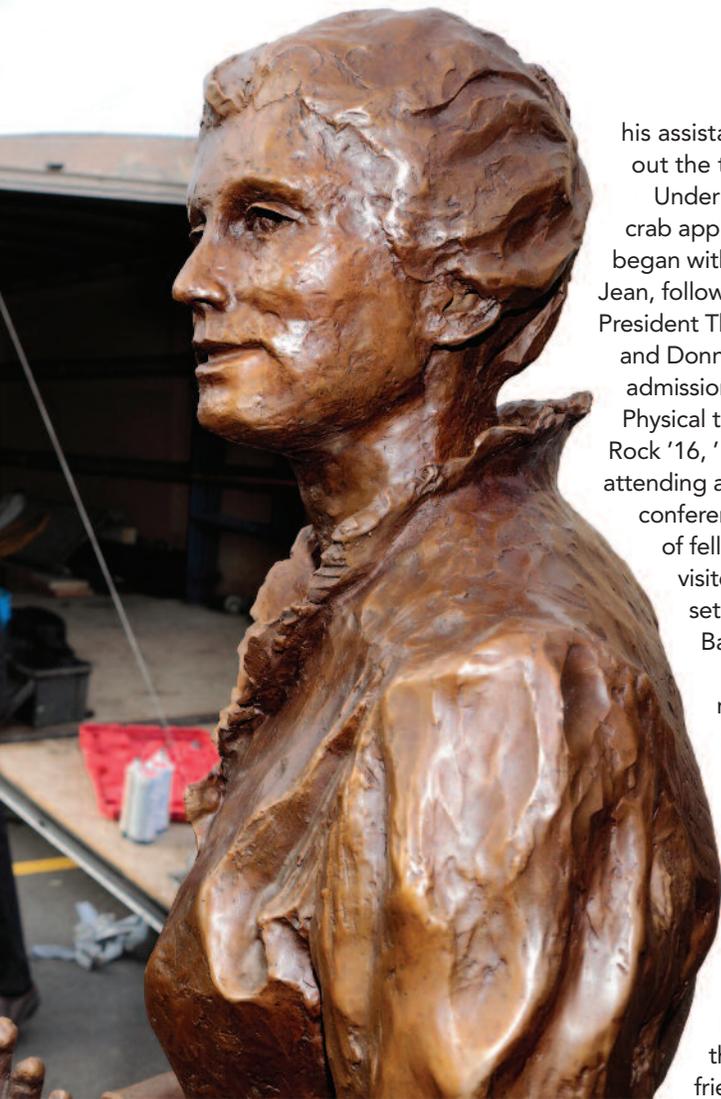


Religious Sisters of Mercy, from left, Cynthia March '80, Marie Henderson and Jean Messaros '73 proudly watch the installation of the statue.

McAuley in a traditional Irish dress of the 1830s. The casting was done at the Pappas Art Foundry, Ypsilanti, Mich., 30 miles from Sister Marie's home in Farmington Hills.

Sister Marie is seemingly nonchalant when asked about the delivery process, which involves her driving halfway across the country with the statue wrapped in padding in the back of her sport utility vehicle. The installation process was much more delicate, hinged upon the painstaking





his assistant, Rick Swire, carried out the three-hour process.

Under the shade of the garden's crab apple tree, the dedication began with a welcome by Sister Jean, followed by remarks from President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., and Donna Cerza '94, director of admissions and a Mercy Associate. Physical therapy student Mitchell Rock '16, '19 shared his story of attending a Mercy leadership conference in Ireland with a group of fellow students. The students visited McAuley's gravesite, set in a rose garden on Baggot Street in Dublin.

The inspirational moment moved the students to examine the possibilities of creating a similar garden, complete with a sculpture, on campus. A staff-leadership-development class undertook the fundraising campaign and helped raise money for the project. An anonymous friend donated the majority of the funds needed to complete the nearly \$40,000 project.

"We hope that this space will grow into a place where students can come to escape the stresses of college life, reflect on what it means to carry out

placement of stainless-steel rods to secure the statue to a pre-poured concrete base. Experienced installers Brian Regula, owner of Church Services Group of Freeland, Pa., and

Catherine's mission, and learn about the great works of a woman who made it possible to be a proud Misericordia Cougar," Rock told the gathering.

Prior to performing the blessing, Sister Cindy read remarks from the artist, Sister Marie. "Having read the book, *Catherine McAuley, in her Own Words*, I wanted those who would view this sculpture to see what I saw in Catherine, a woman who cared for the poor, sick and uneducated in her world. I wanted them to see Catherine when she began her ministry. I hoped they would be attracted to a person who inherited considerable wealth and chose to share it with others who were in need," Sister Marie wrote. "Two years after sculpting my first sculpture of Catherine McAuley, I entered the Sisters of Mercy.

"May you always know that when you come to this campus, there is a warm, affectionate smile waiting for you in the presence of Catherine McAuley."

A bench and table will be added in the spring offering visitors a place to "have a good cup of tea," a signature refrain of the Catholic laywoman who opened the First House of Mercy in Dublin in 1827. She then assembled a corps of Catholic social workers to continue her ministry, officially establishing the religious order in 1831. Since then, Sisters of Mercy have been sheltering and educating women and girls of need around the world. In 1924, they founded Misericordia University with the mission of educating the daughters of the miners in the region.

"May Catherine's spirit inspire us to be true to our roots and serve those most in need with compassion and tender care," Sister Cindy said, as she raised her hands during the blessing. **h**

Bonus materials

Please type this bit.ly/mumcauley into your web browser to access the event program, speeches and a special Catherine McAuley bookmark created especially for the occasion.

PHOTO GALLERY: Please log on to bit.ly/McAuleyDedication to see a complete array of photos from this historic event.



Installers, far left, Brian Regula and Rick Swire, top, carefully lower the statue in place; President Botzman, left, and Sister Marie Henderson, RSM, watch as Regula unwraps the statue; Sister Marie explains the fine details of the 5-foot, 6-inch statue to Sisters Cynthia March '80, RSM and Jean Messaros '73, RSM; Regula and Swire of Church Services cart the statue of Catherine McAuley to its permanent home, and Laurie Finnegan, Sister Cindy and Sister Marie discuss the proper placement of the statue on its foundation.

'How do we ensure that Mercy stays real? We need to carry the integrity of the institution ... and keep their journey of service alive.'

– Lauren Gorney '12, '19



MISSION *of* MERCY

As number of women religious decline, laypeople work together to preserve core values of order

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

There are plenty of reasons to be proud of Misericordia University. Students carry out more than 196,000 hours of service annually, U.S. News and World Report, the Princeton Review and Money Magazine consider the campus among the best in the country, and the athletics teams frequently make headlines as title contenders.

There is one statistic Sister Cynthia March '80, RSM, associate director of Mission Integration, considers just as important, as Misericordia has the largest contingent of Mercy Associates at any one employer or at any of the Mercy colleges in the country.

Misericordia's 45 Mercy Associates features men and women from all walks of life, who believe strongly in the core values of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality of the Sisters of Mercy. Upon signing on, they dedicate themselves to supporting the topics deemed by the Sisters as Critical Concerns: Immigration, Racism, Equality of Women, Care for Earth and Nonviolence. Associates go through an eight-month

orientation process before committing to living these values in their everyday lives.

Their strength in numbers and commitment to goal has never been more important as the Sisters work to shore up sharply declining numbers in the religious order founded by Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831, and secure plans to make sure their mission is carried out well into the future. Statistics from the National Religious Retirement Office show a 75 percent decline in the number of women religious in the United States across all denominations from a peak of 181,421 in 1965 to 47,160 in 2016. At the time of the study, as many as 77 percent of the women religious were over the age of 70. Planning for the future has become a top priority.

"Within the past year, the leadership of the Sisters of Mercy made the bold and necessary step to realign, combining the Mid-Atlantic Region with the other five North America regions and those in South America, Central America and the Caribbean," says Sister Cindy. "By creating one Sisters of

For more information about Mercy Associates, contact Kathy Schiro at kschiro@mercymidatlantic.org.

Misericordia University has the largest contingent of Mercy Associates at any Mercy college in the country. The group includes, first row, from left, Sister Jean Messaros '73, RSM; Christine Somers, Rebecca Steinberger, Thomas J. Botzman, Amy Caruso '05, '12 and Sister Cynthia March '80, RSM; second row, Lauren Gorney '12, '19; Lailani Augustine '16, Amy Lahart '95, Maureen Rinehimer, Vanessa Botzman, Lindsey Riddell '06 and Jean Dobinick '77; third row, Jessica Nelson, Sharon Hudak, David Pasquini, Stephen Broskoske '85, Colleen Newhart '75, '09; Loretta Martin, Gail Wyberski and Georgia Young; fourth row, Donna Cerza '94, Chuck Edkins, Joseph Cipriani '88, Allen Austin, Maureen Cech, Ellen McLaughlin '86, '89, Kit Foley and Brenda Nowalis '05, '07.

Mercy of the Americas umbrella, we were able to streamline the organization's management by bringing all 2,500 Sisters in the Americas under one leadership team."

Helping alleviate some of her concern for the future is knowing that there are more than 3,000 Mercy Associates helping to carry on their mission in the Americas region. Seeing a need to embolden and empower the group to make sure the work it has done over the last 40 years carries on into the future, Sister Cindy asked for help.

Staff members and Mercy Associates Donna Cerza '94 M.S., director of admissions, Amy Lahart '95 M.S., dean of students, and Lauren Gorney '12, '19 M.S., associate director of alumni and annual giving, agreed to form a three-member team, known as the Misericordia Mercy Association Council.

With pictures of the Sisters who founded Misericordia looking down from the mahogany paneled walls of the adjoining Founder's Room, the three met recently in Mercy Hall to discuss their mission to work with Sister Cindy and Sister Jean Messaros '73, RSM, vice president of Mission Integration, to channel the group's energy and expand its horizons.

"We don't have a blue print on how this should happen, so even as we work to determine an organizational structure to make Mercy Associates an organized group on campus, we each need to examine what Mercy means to us and how we can carry it out in our respective roles," says Lahart. "As a Mercy Associate, how do we impact the culture of Misericordia every day? It isn't a component of our job – it is a component of who we are and how we live out life. As dean of students, for me it means that I can be a part of something bigger than myself. It means making sure that the justice I carry out in my role is merciful."

Lahart's words make Cerza and Gorney nod in agreement.

"As director of admissions and a Mercy Associate, I take pride in making sure people understand Mercy and what it means," adds Cerza. "I see our role as Mercy Associates making sure we as an institution are following mindfulness in our mission, and are staying true to ourselves by who we enroll. Who we are as an institution will be determined by our next generation of students. We share stories about Mercy in admissions and because of that, students are drawn to us – we tug on their callings to help others."

Gorney explains the process to become a Mercy Associate begins each fall with eight once-a-month orientation sessions

Sister Pat McCann '69 shares Mercy heritage with FYE class

Sister Patricia McCann '69, RSM, Ed.D., associate professor emeritus of teacher education, shared what it means to be a Sister of Mercy when she met with students during a First-Year Experience (FYE) class taught by Stephen Broskoske, Ed.D., associate professor of education. During her visit, held in conjunction with Mercy Heritage Days in September, Sister Pat shared the history of her religious order, explained the University's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality, and showcased how the religious order interfaces with the Misericordia University community today. She also discussed the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, focusing on the earth for her presentation.

Sister Pat began her career at Misericordia University in 1985. Upon her retirement in 2014, the Teacher Education Department established the Sister Pat McCann Award, which is bestowed annually to an education student who embodies and embraces the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy. [h](#)



Participating in the Mercy Heritage Days program, front row from left, are Zoe Chekan '24, Syracuse, N.Y., speech-language pathology; Nicole Joers '21, Saugerties, N.Y., psychology, pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy, peer educator; Jordan Bennett '25, Scranton, Pa., occupational therapy, and Mackenzie Rinehart '24, Hunterdon County, N.J., speech-language pathology; second row, Sarah Badorf '23, Mechanicsburg, Pa., undeclared; Victoria Grochowski '23, New Egypt, N.J., biology, pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy; Steven Broskoske, Ed.D., associate professor, education; Sister Patricia McCann '69, RSM, Ed.D., associate professor emeritus; Sean Lee '23, Center Valley, Pa., business; Bridget Jubon '24, Clarks Summit, Pa., speech-language pathology, and Jessica Trindle '23, Sweet Valley, Pa., undeclared.

An exciting opportunity

What an honor it is to be elected Alumni Board president. I would like to thank Mark Oberstaedt '89 for his work as the immediate past president and for the guidance he provided to me. Secondly, I cannot do this alone so it is my pleasure to introduce Christelle Patrice '13 as president-elect.



Grzech '13, '17

The Alumni Board is here to serve more than 19,000 alumni. As a group, we are dedicated to preserving and living our charisms, and being innovative as we look to and plan for the future. One of our goals is to increase the number of voices on our board to 35. If this sounds like you, please nominate or self-nominate online at misericordia.edu/alumniboard. We also want to increase alumni engagement and increase donor support.

As we begin our New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone, and celebrate the impact of their support for the *Now for Tomorrow Campaign*.

We have plenty of exciting events scheduled for 2020, including regional events, Giving Day, Arch Madness, Alumni Weekend and more. For more information, email alumni@misericordia.edu or call 570-674-6764.

Our accomplishments are only possible with committed volunteers and support from alumni. I am excited to serve as president. Together, we make MU stronger by promoting lifelong relationships, and helping one another to become ambassadors and advocates for our University. 

Adam J. Grzech '13, '17
Alumni Board President

CLASSNOTES

Stay in touch with friends and classmates by posting updates about your career, family and other noteworthy accomplishments on cougarnet.misericordia.edu or facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni. Please submit *Class Notes* to alumni@misericordia.edu.

1965

Dr. Marie Noel Keller '65, RSM, was honored as one of the 50 outstanding alumni from Catholic Theological Union College. Sister Noel is the director of the Institute for Sacred Scripture at Misericordia and also director of Tours with a Difference.



1968

Dr. Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., was selected as a recipient of the 2019 Excellence in Medicine Awards by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation. On June 7, 2019, she was awarded the Jack B. McConnell, MD Award for Excellence in Volunteerism at the AMA VIP Reception in Chicago, Ill. Dr. Sordoni was also honored with the second-annual Misericordia University Excellence in Health Care Award on Oct. 17, 2019.

1970

Marilyn Dillon Krall '70 was highlighted in a Round Table event at the Pittston Memorial Library in August 2019. At 87, Marilyn said the blessings of her own life motivate her to help those who are struggling.

1973

The Honorable Karen Passarella Boback '73, '00 and her husband, Bernard, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 2019.

1977

Atty. Judy Price '77 made the presentation, *Strategies for Effective Negotiations*, at the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce's Women's Network 2.0 Luncheon on Jan. 15, 2020.

1985

Bob Lizza '85 was the artist behind the

35-piece mural that now fills the back of the Dietrich Theater in downtown Tunkhannock, Pa.

1987

Michael Filipowicz '87 and his wife, Dawn, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 8, 2019.

1992

Janet Fisher Tomcavage '92, previously the chief population officer, was promoted to the role of chief nursing executive for Geisinger Health in Danville, Pa. She has been with Geisinger since 2014 and most recently helped launch Geisinger at Home, a home-based care model for medically complex clients. Janet is also the first Geisinger nurse to receive the Pennsylvania Nightingale Award for clinical excellence.

1994

Russ Keeler '94 won first place in La Festa Italiana's cannoli eating contest on Sept. 2, 2019 in Scranton, Pa. He retained his La Festa title by finishing 13 ricotta-filled Italian pastries in five minutes.

1996

Atty. Brian Egan '96 was the recipient of the 36th Annual Good Deed Award from the Boy Scouts of America, Trailblazer District of the Suffolk County Council. He is a partner in the Law Firm of Egan & Golden, LLP, with offices in Patchogue and East Hampton, N.Y.



1999

Trevor Woodruff '99 was named head women's basketball coach at Bucknell University. He spent 11 highly successful seasons as the head men's basketball coach at Misericordia and then moved on as the head women's basketball coach at the University of Scranton.



Relive the winter commencement ceremony by looking through the special photo album at bit.ly/mugraddec19.



Alumni and friends served as marshals at the ninth annual winter commencement ceremony in December. Participating in the program, first row from left, are MC Yatsko '77; Tabitha Bolinsky; Maureen Rinehimer, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy, and Rachel Oberg '07, '10, assistant director of admissions; second row, Heather Fritz '97, D.P.T., assistant professor of physical therapy; Matthew Hinton, assistant director, Student Success Center; Xiaochuan Song, Ph.D., assistant professor of business; Thomas Sweetz '01, and Breanna Gorski '19.

2001

Loriann Ruddy Hoffman '01 and her husband, Keith, welcomed their daughter on June 5, 2019.

Stacey Sudul '01 and Emory Ishley were married May 4, 2019.

2004

George LoPresto '04 and his wife, Christina, welcomed their daughter on July 18, 2019.

Jennifer Yurkon Hetro '04 was nominated for Northeastern Pennsylvania Influencer of the Year at the 4th Annual Young Professionals Awards, which recognizes amazing young professionals who help move the region forward. She is the executive director of the Back Mountain Chamber.

2005

Andre Little '05 and Pamela Metellus were married Dec. 15, 2018. The couple resides in North Lauderdale, Fla.



2007

Stephanie Crunkleton Isenock '07 and her husband, Patrick, welcomed their second son, Jack Ellis Isenock, on April 4, 2019.



Jaime Runnels Heintzelman '07 has been promoted from manager of production and operations to director of production and operations at Altitude Marketing in Emmaus, Pa.

Amanda Strish Shipula '07 and **Anthony Shipula '07** welcomed their son on Sept. 28, 2019.

Misericordia Proud!

The Misericordia Proud Alumni Referral Grant is a program that provides accepted students a \$500 annual grant for up to four years. Prospective students have to indicate on their application that they were referred by an alumnus. For more information, please log on to misericordia.edu/MUProud.

2008

Stacey Niemotka '08 and Ronald Blackledge were married May 11, 2019. Stacey is the director of admissions and marketing at Mountain View Care and Rehab Center in Scranton, Pa.

Kara Kuncio Lukachinsky '08 and her husband, Jason, welcomed their daughter on Sept. 20, 2019.

Michele Mazur '08 and Scott Bonar welcomed their son on July 10, 2019.

Eric Rogers '08 and his wife, Megan, welcomed their son on July 25, 2019.

Dr. Michael Evans '08 was promoted at Penn State Scranton to assistant dean of undergraduate nursing education at the Commonwealth Campuses.

2009

Dr. Ashley Wolanski Wagner '09 and her husband, Joseph, welcomed their daughter, Mackenzie Marie, on July 9, 2019. Logan, age 2, loves being a big brother. The family resides in Dallas, Pa.



2010

Lauren Kurkowski '10 and Brian Williams welcomed their daughter on June 21, 2019.

Continued on next page





Alumni, students and family participated in Homecoming activities in October. Please log on to bit.ly/muhomecoming2019 to see the memorable images.

Continued from previous page

Dr. Dane Kozlevcar '10 and Kristine Casarella were married July 28, 2018. Dane is an account executive at Young's Medical Equipment. The couple resides in Jessup, Pa.

Katherine Eiden '10 and Robert Spager were married Sept. 8, 2018. The bridal party included **Dr. Siobhan Spager Yatko '11, '14** as one of the bridesmaids and **Justen Yatko '07, '10** as one of the ushers. Katherine is a special-education teacher in the Scranton School District.

Ann Gownley '10 and Jason Hutira were married Oct. 28, 2017. The couple welcomed their son, Jack Robert Hutira, on Nov. 21, 2018.

2011

James Ready '11 and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their daughter on June 21, 2019.

Kelly Smith Winkler '11 and her husband, Robert, welcomed their daughter, Louisa Bec Winkler, on June 29, 2019.



Jean Conroy Bantell '11 was highlighted in a Round Table event at the Pittston Memorial Library in August 2019. When Jean retired from a full-time position, she stepped into the role of substitute school nurse and began volunteering in several settings, including the Care & Concern Clinic.

2012

Julia Truax Leighow '12, '15 and **Matthew Leighow '11** welcomed their son on Sept. 19, 2019. He joins brother, Theo.

2013

Marina Orrson Martino '13 led a record field of more than 120 runners in the Wyoming Valley Striders 2-Mile Run at Murphy's Pub in Swoyersville, Pa., on July 6, 2019. Marina won top female honors with a third-place overall finish in 11:36. Marina's husband,

John Martino '07, placed second overall in 11:08.

Taylor Lawler '13, '16 and **Jeremy Williams '08, '15** were married June 22, 2019.

Christelle Patrice '13 and Frank Hoffman welcomed their first child, Luciano Andre Hoffman, on Sept. 18, 2019.

Marisa Wagner '13 and **Dr. Andrew Tucker '13, '16** were married June 29, 2019.



Jenna Georgia Silverman '13 and her husband, Matt, welcomed their daughter, Shaina Michele

Silverman, on Aug. 16, 2019. Shaina Michele was born at Newton Medical Center and weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz.

2014

Dr. Chelsea Boyer Shade '14, '19 and her husband, Benjamin, welcomed their daughter on July 25, 2019.

Mikayla Gillette '14 and Chris Knight welcomed their son, Connor, on Oct. 31, 2019.

2015

Brianna Brodt '15 and Marc Boriosi were married May 10, 2019.



Mark Johndrow '93, '12 and his wife, Paula Kmiec Johndrow '92 received a tour of campus after traveling from Fort Worth, Texas to visit his brother, David Johndrow, Jr., '89, '14, manager of PC Services at Misericordia University, and family for the holidays. Family members, from left, Mitchell Johndrow, 14, David Johndrow, Jr., Sean Johndrow, 10, Mark Johndrow and Paula Johndrow, gather for a picture outside the Geraldine Ruth Daley Anderson Bell Tower.

Heather Rothman Bender '15 was named strategic marketing manager at CornellCookson. She is responsible for company growth through the management of a diverse portfolio of new products in the research and development stages.

Maura Pellegrini '15, '16 and Matthew McAndrew were married Sept. 7, 2019.

Dr. Danica Kuti '15, '18 will be leading the Cawley Physical Therapy clinic in Carbondale, Pa.

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ALUMNI WEEKEND 2020

Celebrating the Class of 1970, 50th Reunion

MAY 29-30

Register online: www.misericordia.edu/aw20

SAVE THE DATE!



Deborah “Debbie” M. Fries

May 5, 1950 – May 24, 2019

Debbie Fries leaves lasting legacy

Known as a mentor, friend and tireless advocate for adult students, Misericordia mourns the loss of longtime staff member and alumna Deborah “Debbie” M. Fries ‘81, ‘85 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who passed away from cancer on May 24, 2019. A member of the staff for 22 years, Mrs. Fries is sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues, as well as alumni, who have contacted the family to remark about how instrumental she was in helping them achieve their goals.

The Philadelphia, Pa., native was a single mother on welfare when she enrolled at Misericordia. She earned bachelor’s degrees in history and English, magna cum laude, also receiving honors in American history and literary achievement. She subsequently earned a master’s degree in human services administration. She was hired in 1984 by the college’s Alternative Learners Program and in two years was named alumni director, the only person of the Jewish faith to hold the position. She is credited with instituting Alumni Tea and fall Homecoming celebrations.

Mrs. Fries was named assistant director of Adult Education and Community Service in 1992, where for 14 years she called upon her own experiences to help adult learners balance academic, family and work obligations.

She also served on committees that developed the Expressway Accelerated Degree Program, Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program and expansion of Elderhostel.



“Debbie was an embodiment of the charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality,” said friend and colleague Tom O’Neill, retired dean of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education. “She was a perfect fit with Misericordia’s mission – committed to making positive differences in the lives of others. While we miss her deeply, we are comforted by sweet memories of her and the wonderful legacy that she left us.”

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Donald O. Fries, Ph.D., retired professor and chair of the Department of History. Dr. Fries is among the most highly honored faculty members. He received five Judge Max and Tillie Rosenn Excellence in Teaching Awards, along with a Pauly Friedman Excellence in Service Award, during his 37-year career. The two retired within months of each other in 2006.

Mrs. Fries also is survived by her daughter, Jubilee Wested Hillman ‘98, who holds a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies; son, Charly Wested; step-daughters, Kiersten Zweibaum and Ingrid Bowers, and 10 grandchildren. [h](#)

1945 Annette Trzcinski Billmeyer June 30, 2015	1954 Dorothy Anne McLaughlin, RSM July 8, 2019	1958 Catherine Mack Hoitsma Dec. 28, 2018	1964 Suzanne Dunbar Aug. 15, 2019	Patricia Whalen Fosko Oct. 22, 2019	Sheryl Lenz Nov. 14, 2019
1946 Sarah Breslin Monson Nov. 19, 2019	M. Elizabeth “Betty” Cronin Moylan Dec. 5, 2019	Ann Povilaitis Levin May 10, 2019	1965 Lyndell Wertman Julio Oct. 6, 2019	1971 Barbara Swartz Kunec June 19, 2019	1987 Virginia Sweezy Curtis July 9, 2019
1949 Shirley Fischer Regan June 29, 2019	1955 Ann Marie Hayko Huntz Oct. 31, 2019	Veronica Veljacic Muzic June 18, 2019	1966 Catherine Devigili Jan. 12, 2019	1975 Richard Peard June 23, 2019	1992 James Sedorovich July 18, 2019
Jane Carroll Rymer Sept. 5, 2019	Ellen Gradley Gelnow Nov. 6, 2019	1960 Jeanne Toltowicz Capriotti July 28, 2019	Judith Makravitz Gallagher Aug. 1, 2019	1975 Margaret “Peggy” Reinhard Sosnak Aug. 24, 2019	1998 Donna Gallagher Brislin June 21, 2016
1950 Alfreda Konopinski Sajeski June 1, 2018	1956 Marilyn McHale Duke July 14, 2019	1961 Patricia Ridzon Gerstle July 18, 2019	1967 Ann Marie DeGennaro Roche Aug. 16, 2019	1976 Ann Kostic Dolan Sept. 27, 2019	2000 Christina Cables, SCC Nov. 13, 2019
1952 Sheila Kelly McCarthy June 14, 2019	Maria Wrubel, RSM July 27, 2019	Alice Doggett, RSM Sept. 16, 2019	Rosemary Haduch Kozlowski Oct. 8, 2019	1980 Patricia Flanagan June 29, 2019	2002 Jeffrey Magda June 25, 2019
Carmella Santasania Cannon July 24, 2019	Ann Marie Bender Shallow Oct. 27, 2019	1962 Sally Healey June 28, 2019	1968 Ann Marie Murphy Koch Oct. 10, 2019	1984 Laura Reider Novakowski Dec. 5, 2019	2009 Janet McMurray Kaczmarczyk Aug. 2, 2019
Kathleen Guyette Nelson Sept. 15, 2019	1957 Cheta Bortz Malvizzi July 3, 2019	Ann Patrice Wassel, RSM Aug. 16, 2019	1970 Ruth Martin July 12, 2019	1985 Joyce Volpicelli Oct. 12, 2019	2014 Michelle Groves Zerpa Aug. 1, 2019

Medical and campus communities honor world-renowned medical pioneer's life and legacy

Misericordia PA Program's founding medical director saved millions of lives by developing intravenous feeding

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., F.A.C.S., a world-renowned medical pioneer, and the Robert S. Anderson endowed chairperson and founding medical director of the physician assistant program at Misericordia University, passed away on Jan. 18 at his home in New Hampshire after an illness. He was 84.

Known as the "father of intravenous feeding," Dr. Dudrick developed total parenteral nutrition or TPN, while he was serving as a surgical resident at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital from 1961-66. The technique, which allows people who cannot eat to be fed through a tube that bypasses their intestines, is credited with saving the lives of millions of acutely ill people, according to the American College of Surgeons.

"Stan Dudrick was internationally known as a physician who changed the lives of countless people through his pioneering work," Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman said. "Moreover, he was a lifelong teacher of others as he sought to share his excitement and enthusiasm for bettering the lives of others. He was an incredible friend to all at Misericordia University and will fondly be remembered as a humble physician from Nanticoke who changed the world to be a better place. We send our prayers to his wife, Terri, and their family."

Dr. Dudrick's wife, Theresa "Terri" Keen Dudrick '55 earned her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Misericordia.

"With the passing of Dr. Dudrick, medicine has lost one of its most inspirational leaders," American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) President Lingtak-Neander Chan, PharmD., B.C.N.S.P., said about the first president and founder of ASPEN. "Dr. Dudrick will be remembered as a healer and visionary whose kindness has deeply touched many people, and whose achievements have changed the lives of many."

During his career, Dr. Dudrick trained tens of thousands of medical students, thousands of surgeons, established a medical school in Texas, and also became internationally known as an expert in fistula surgery, complex re-operative

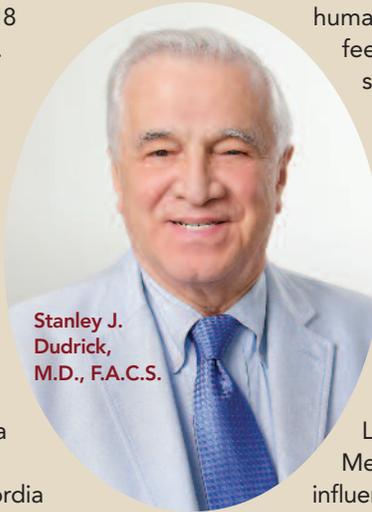
surgery, intestinal failure, surgical metabolism and nutrition, and much more.

Many of his medical colleagues from around the world acknowledged his contributions to medicine and humankind. His development of intravenous feeding is recognized as one of the four most significant accomplishments in the history of the development of modern surgery and one of the three most important advancements in surgery during the past century along with open heart surgery and organ transplantation.

ASPEN, which he established with 34 other health care professionals in 1975 as an interdisciplinary association for the purpose of providing optimal nutrition to all people, presented him with the organization's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. In 2016, Medscape named him one of the 50 most influential physicians in history, ranking him 42nd among his historical peers in medicine. The American College of Surgeons named him a "Hero in Surgery" in 2014, one of only four people to receive the distinction.

Many other national and international medical societies and related affiliations have honored him for his contributions to medicine. Among his many illustrious honors, the ASPEN established the annual Stanley J. Dudrick Research Scholar Award in 1985. St. Mary's Hospital, a Yale associated teaching hospital, named its Department of Surgery after him in 2009. The American Surgical Association bestowed its highest honor in 2009 by awarding him the Medallion for Scientific Achievement for Distinguished Service to Surgery. In 2011, Dr. Dudrick received the Legends of Neonatology Award and the Nathan Smith, MD Distinguished Service Award from the New England Surgical Society for his scientific and clinical contributions.

A hospital in Skawina, Poland was named the Stanley J. Dudrick Hospital in 2012. The City of Nanticoke and local state legislators celebrated Dr. Dudrick Day in his hometown on July 19, 2017, celebrating the 50th anniversary of his invention of TPN. They presented him with a street sign and historical marker honoring his accomplishments.



Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., F.A.C.S., a world-renowned medical pioneer, and the Robert S. Anderson endowed chairperson and founding medical director of the physician assistant program at Misericordia University, is shown in one of his physician assistant classes in 2012.



In a 2012 interview, Dr. Dudrick reflected on his remarkable career and the work that remains to improve medical care and training of future health care professionals. "I am humbled by how much more needs to be done," he said for an article that appeared in the Misericordia University Research Brochure, 2011-12. "I get frustrated at times by the attitude among many of my fellow human beings who question why I am still pushing. What you did was great; wasn't that enough?"

"They have a hard time understanding that I am not happy enough with the way things are. I would like to see health care and education continue to progress and advance. What drives me is the philosophy of Benjamin Franklin, which is to work every day to discover and produce new, useful knowledge. I'm addicted to the basic concept of producing new knowledge overall, but especially if we can make it useful and relevant to maximally improve the human condition.

"That is the fundamental reason that I am here at Misericordia – investing in educating and training our future leaders who will take us to the next level of excellence in serving humanity," Dr. Dudrick concluded.

Dr. Dudrick graduated cum laude with his Bachelor of Science degree in biology with honors from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster. His medical degree was conferred by the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. After his residency training, he joined the faculty at Penn and ascended in rank from instructor to professor of surgery in five years. In 1972, he was recruited to Houston as the first professor and founding chairperson of the



Dr. Dudrick unveils a plaque that names a hospital in Skawina, Poland in his honor. Stanley J. Dudrick Hospital was dedicated in May, 2012 for the breadth of his medical research and contributions to humanity, the Polish Surgical Society and Polish Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

Department of Surgery at the new University of Texas Medical School, and chief of surgical services at Hermann Hospital/The University Hospital.

He has also served as chair of the Department of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital, and surgeon to the hospital, director of the Residency Training Program in General Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Dudrick later was appointed surgeon-in-chief of the Center for Cardiovascular Disease and director of the Hermann Nutrition and Human Performance Center, the Nutritional Support Service and the Nutritional Science Center at Hermann Hospital.

Dr. Dudrick began serving as associate chair of the Department of Surgery and director of the Program in Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, and as a professor of surgery at Yale University School of Medicine in 1994. One year later, he became director of Graduate Medical Education at Saint Mary's Hospital. Dr. Dudrick also served two years as chair of the Department of Surgery and director of Surgical Education for the newly integrated Bridgeport Hospital/Yale New Haven Health System.

In addition, he was professor of surgery at Geisinger Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton; chairman emeritus in the Department of Surgery and director emeritus of Program in Surgery at Saint Mary's Hospital, and professor emeritus of surgery at Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Dudrick also authored or co-authored more than 2,500 scientific reference citations in Current Contents; served on more than 15 editorial boards of scientific journals and professional publications; received more than 120 honors and awards, and produced several books. [h](#)

Continued from page 16

2016

Leah Davis '16 and **Dr. Thomas Machi '14, '17** were married May 25, 2019.



Gabby Holko '16 was named head coach of the women's basketball program at Susquehanna University.

Katherine Strahosky Martin '16 and her husband, Ralph, welcomed their daughter, Camden Elyse Martin, in January 2019.

Victoria Bast '16 and **John Ameen '16** were married June 14, 2019.

2017



Mary Boyle Pheasant '17 and **Michael Pheasant '16** welcomed their son, James Michael, on June 14, 2019.

Alexa Kerecman '17 and Mark Siderowicz were married June 17, 2019. Alexa is a certified registered nurse practitioner at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pa. The couple resides in Archbald, Pa.

Nicole O'Connor Doty '17 and her husband, Travis, welcomed their daughter on Aug. 26, 2019.

Jeffrey Kriasiak '17 enrolled in the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School to become a commissioned officer shortly after graduating. He earned his promotion to ensign after completing Officer Candidate School in April 2018. He proudly secured his *Wings of Gold* and first military assignment in August 2019 after graduating from the U.S. Navy's Aviation Training School.

2018

Wendy Popeck Hinton '18 was appointed director of advancement communications at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Wendy is a member of Sigma Beta Delta, the International Honor Society in Business, Management and Administration, and is a 2013 graduate of the Leadership Lackawanna program. Active in local arts organizations, she has served on the board of directors for the Gaslight Theatre Company.

Sarah Rybitski '18 and Scott Kotula welcomed their daughter on March 16, 2019.

Jennifer Sobolewski Alu '18 and her husband, Anthony, had their marriage blessed on Nov. 18, 2018 during the baptism of their daughter, Amelia.

Louise Keller '18 spoke at the Scranton Chamber's Women's Network Luncheon 2.0 on Sept. 18, 2019. Louise's presentation was on the Reboot of yourself and ways to get ready and stay positive through the fall and winter seasons. She currently serves as the service-learning specialist at Misericordia University.

Emily Gurtizen '18, '19 and **Bailee Hymers '18, '19** were commissioned on Aug. 10, 2019 to begin serving in the Mercy Volunteer Corps.



Emily is serving in Georgetown, Guyana and Bailee is serving at Pittsburgh Mercy.

Christine Seidita '18 opened a yarn store at 826 Main St., Avoca, Pa. on Nov. 30, 2019. She will be selling yarn, and in 2020, she will be adding crochet and other classes as she finds instructors.

2019

Christina Solomon '19 and Brady Butler welcomed their daughter on May 1, 2019.

THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY AND BEYOND

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- A performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau with dinner
- Coffee in Trento and lunch in Verona
- The glass blowing shops in Murano and the lace shops of Burano
- A tour and farewell dinner in Venice



TOURS WITH A DIFFERENCE

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Patient Juana Vergara-Sosa shows her appreciation for the care offered by Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., at the Volunteers in Medicine clinic in Wilkes-Barre.

'Life is short – Be good, do good, have fun'

Alumna who earned her medical degree at age 50 honored by the AMA for volunteerism

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

There are few awards that exemplify selflessness and valor more than being honored for outstanding volunteerism by the 200,000-member American Medical Association (AMA). However, alumna Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., says the Jack B. McConnell, MD Award for Excellence in Volunteerism she received in June 2019 was extra special given that the late Dr. McConnell was the pioneer of the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) movement in the United States and helped inspire her to establish a VIM clinic in her hometown of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in 2008.

Dr. Sordoni insists that the credit for the AMA award belongs to the original group of community notables, the

Continued on next page

Heart of Medicine

Continued from page 21

talented professional staff and most importantly, the team of more than 150 volunteer health care professionals – including doctors, dentists, nurses, social workers, college students and citizens – who have provided free medical, dental and behavioral health services to about 25,000 uninsured and underinsured patients since the clinic opened.



Alumna Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., left, says the heartbeat of the Volunteers in Medicine clinic at 190 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre, is Executive Director Kelly L. Ranielli, who has been at her side managing the facility since 2008.

"Susan had a vision that there was a need for affordable health care in the community for the underinsured," says Kelly L. Ranielli, VIM executive director. "She did a feasibility study in 2005 and determined that 35,000 people in Luzerne County who were employed did not have health insurance. Along with a few community minded colleagues, she invited 70 local leaders to a meeting to talk about establishing a VIM in Wilkes-Barre and 69 invitees showed up.

"That says a lot about the respect they had for her and her idea. It also says a lot about the need for relief from the increasingly exorbitant cost of health care, which many businesses were no longer able to provide, and concern for people who worked more than one part-time job and did not have health care benefits through their employer," Ranielli adds.

Dr. Sordoni emphasizes that the 8,000-square-foot clinic is for the "working poor," low-income residents too old for the state's Children's Health Insurance Program and too young for Medicare. Patients must provide income statements as part of a comprehensive application process. There is no charge for any of the clinic's services.

"At a national conference, we learned that of the 100-plus VIMs in the country, we are one of a few that are open five days-a-week, and most importantly, we have the fourth largest clinic in the country operating on one-fourth of the budget of others our size," Dr. Sordoni says, revealing the clinic receives no federal funding and occasionally receives contributions

from patients' employers who do not offer health insurance. Other funding comes through grants and donations. "How do we do it? Our volunteers and donors make it happen."

She is quick to give credit to paid VIM staff members Ranielli, Frances Feudale, D.O.; Kathleen Hirthler, D.N.P.; Kimmy Nguyen, Pharm.D.; dental hygienist Shelby Goss, R.D.H.; dental clinic manager Darcie Schaffer; nursing director Chris Gaughan, R.N., and fellow Misericordia alumna April Lennon '17, M.S.W., social care manager, for operating the clinic in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the community while also being fiscally responsible.

The space is purposefully warm and welcoming. Sunshine streams through the vertical blinds of large front windows into the waiting room, where a table offers bags of food and canned goods for the taking. Patient services cover all things; medical, dental and behavioral, ranging from urology, orthopedics and dermatology to cancer care, psychiatric evaluations and counselling, teeth cleanings and free glasses.

Some patients are so ill, they need more services than the volunteers can provide. "In those cases, we work very closely with medical service providers to get X-rays, surgery and tests as needed," Dr. Sordoni says. "For example, diagnostic medical sonography Professor Sheryl Goss at Misericordia provides echocardiograms, and hospitals provide inpatient services when necessary – for which we are eternally grateful."

The clinic served more than 3,200 patients during about 8,000 office visits last year, earning Dr. Sordoni and her team additional accolades for service to those members of society most in need. In October, she received the 2nd annual Misericordia University Excellence in Health Care Award at the 2019 Health Care Symposium. The award honors an exemplary alumnus who has advanced the field through medical research, executive leadership, the healing arts or scientific discovery.

Presenter Alfred Casale, M.D., associate chief medical officer for Geisinger, and a member of the Misericordia

“It was not me – it was the timing and the need. It was the hearts and souls of so many people who loved and supported my idea. I have them all to thank for making this happen.”

– Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D.

University Board of Trustees and Health Care Advisory Board, offered high praise for Dr. Sordoni’s work in the community and in the field of medicine. “We consider Susan a member of the pantheon of medical professionals,” he said. “She is a perfect example of a Misericordia family member who has exemplified the best characteristics of compassion and care in medicine. She defines what this award represents.”

Dr. Sordoni credits Misericordia with providing her with good mentors, as well as a compass and a sense of Mercy and community that guides her to this day, even though the path that took her from Misericordia into the AMA history books is decidedly unconventional.

Winding her way past boxes of supplies being organized for one of the VIM’s mission-critical fundraisers, Dr. Sordoni takes a break from seeing patients to candidly admit she was not entirely happy when she decided to enroll at College

Misericordia. It meant the tap-dance loving teenager had to turn down a temporary placement on the high-kicking dance line of New York City’s Rockettes. Her father, a career medic in the U.S. Army, thought her time would be better spent accepting the scholarship she was offered at Misericordia and earning the family’s first college degree.

Exhibiting a talent for math, she followed the suggestion of Sister Jane de Chantal, RSM, to put music and arts to the side and major in the sciences. “Unsure in my first class, chemistry Professor Irma Ressa, a true Misericordia mentor, was the one who told me, ‘You can do this,’” Dr. Sordoni recalls. Inspired by her dad’s ability to help people, she switched to biology and remained connected to the arts as president of both the Biology and the Glee clubs. “Sister Regina Kelly in English and Sister Miriam Theresa O’Donnell, president, were role models who taught me I could do anything I wanted. They really made a difference in who I have become.”

Unsure of a career path when she earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in 1968, she held two jobs in public relations before returning to Misericordia as director of admissions from 1970-71. Parenting took center stage over the next 20 years following her 1971 wedding to Andrew J. Sordoni, III,

Alumna Susan Fort Sordoni '68, M.D., center, received the Misericordia University Excellence in Health Care Award in the fall. She is flanked, from left, by Joseph J. Grilli, M.P.A., D.P.A., director, Corporate and Institutional Recruitment, and President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., Misericordia University; Alfred Casale, M.D., associate chief medical officer, Geisinger, and David B. Rehm, Ph.D., vice president, Academic Affairs, Misericordia University, during the award presentation in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery.

Continued on next page



Heart of Medicine

Continued from page 23

president of the Sordoni Construction Co., and the birth of their five children, Claire, Patricia, Andrew J., Laura and Maria.

Throughout the time, she was active with numerous organizations, including the Pennsylvania Ballet and Commonwealth Medical College, and honored by First Lady Barbara Bush for her efforts in support of the Osterhout Free Library and the Pennsylvania Library Association. She also served as chairperson on the Misericordia Board of Trustees and *Leading from the Heart* capital campaign chair, among various appointments, from 1974-82.

Dr. Sordoni admits most people thought she was crazy when, with Andy's encouragement, she decided to take the MCATs – the first step to medical school – on her 20th wedding anniversary. After taking a series of refresher biology courses, and experiencing what she calls “a brutal interview process due to my age,” she was accepted at the Medical College of Pennsylvania at age 45.

With her family by her side, she earned her medical degree at age 50, completing her residency at the Hahnemann Family Practice Program in 2000. She returned to Wilkes-Barre where she established a private practice, yet weekly trips to volunteer at a VIM clinic outside Philadelphia planted the seed for a similar facility in her hometown.

Ironically, it was her love of tap dancing that came into play on her introduction to VIM's founder Dr. McConnell. “I had read about him in a magazine article, and it said his son,

“She is a perfect example of a Misericordia family member who has exemplified the best characteristics of compassion and care in medicine. She defines what this award represents.”

*– Alfred Casale, M.D.
Associate Chief Medical Officer,
Geisinger*

Paige, was in the band Phish and that Dr. McConnell had tap danced on stage during one of their concerts,” she recalls. “So, I asked a mutual acquaintance to tell Dr. McConnell that I was a family practice physician, that I graduated from College Misericordia, that I wanted to start a voluntary medicine clinic and that I tap dance.



Dr. Sordoni discusses a treatment plan with fellow alumna April Lennon '17, M.S.W., a graduate of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program, who has been the social care manager at the Volunteers in Medicine clinic in Wilkes-Barre since earning her master's degree in social work in May 2019.

“Dr. McConnell called me back five minutes later, stating, ‘So, I hear you tap dance.’”

After visiting with him at the VIM in Hilton Head, S.C., she was inspired by “this incredibly talented, driven, funny and devoted physician.” With his encouragement and some guidance from the national VIM office in Vermont, Dr. Sordoni began the journey of the of establishing a clinic just blocks from where she grew up.

“With all the inspiration from this wonderful man and many colleagues in the community, and the foundation of giving back which came from my family and College Misericordia, it all came together,” Dr. Sordoni says. “It was not me – it was the timing and the need. It was the hearts and souls of so many people who loved and supported my idea. I have them all to thank for making all of this happen.”

Her mantra of “life is short – be good, do good and have fun,” which she admits came about spontaneously during a newspaper interview, continues to ring true. There is no slowing down for the 73-year-old motivator. She spends 10 hours a week at the clinic, travels weekly to Philadelphia to ballroom dance – frequently competing at the national level – and says she is not done with her medical mission. She hopes to transform the vacant space on the second floor of the VIM clinic to a wellness center, providing exercise, nutrition and mindfulness classes for the community.

As always, volunteers are welcome. [h](#)

HENRY SCIENCE CENTER MILESTONE

Ceremony marks last steel beam being put into place

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The Misericordia University community celebrated an important milestone in the construction of the \$45 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center by holding a beam signing ceremony on Aug. 25 to commemorate the last beam being ready to be put in place for the 57,400-square-foot academic building.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Mercy institution of higher education signed the steel beam throughout the day in front of the construction site, with the highlight being a late morning ceremony featuring special remarks from President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs David B. Rehm, Ph.D., Trustee emeritus Sandy Insalaco, Sr., Trustees Mary Erwine, Chris Borton and Marjorie Marquart, chemistry major Ricky Averill of Harrisburg, and more.

“When I was first approached to co-chair the ‘Now for Tomorrow’ campaign, along with Sandy Insalaco, my immediate reaction wasn’t why, but rather, why not?” Trustee Erwine said. “I really hadn’t given much thought to the fact that we had recently undertaken and successfully completed two major campaigns within the last 10 years. Nor did I give any consideration to the reality that this campaign, with an unprecedented fundraising goal of \$30 million, will be our most ambitious – ever.”

“As a trustee emeritus, I am honored to share the Misericordia

A student, at right, places his signature on the beam. Misericordia University Trustee Marjorie Henry Marquart, below, explains the importance of the Henry Science Center for the University and region.



story and message about how transformational this campaign can and must be,” Mr. Insalaco added. “But the narrative isn’t completely written just yet. We still have work to do and other fundraising thresholds to achieve. Nonetheless, special thanks must be offered to all those whose remarkable commitments of time and talent are bringing to life the Henry

Science Center – a 21st century facility that will embody superior teaching, learning and research.”

Students and faculty will begin to use the new wing of the Henry Science Center during the 2020 fall semester, with the renovation of the existing 28,500-square-foot Science Hall wing to commence shortly thereafter.

The overall 85,900-square-foot construction and renovation project will be the largest academic building on campus when it is completed for the 2021 fall semester.

“What an exciting day,” President Botzman said, following remarks from Trustee Erwine. “It was just a few short weeks ago that the



Continued on next page

To monitor progress on the construction of the Henry Science Center, please go to www.misericordia.edu/henryscience to watch a live stream of the construction site.

Henry Science Center Milestone

Continued from previous page

first steel beam arrived on campus, and today, we are already installing the last one. The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center is no longer just a dream. If you have not signed the beam, be sure to do so and be part of history in the making.

“For each and every person who has made this building possible, we are thankful. It has been years in the

The late Frank M. Henry provided the lead gift for *Now for Tomorrow: The Campaign for Misericordia University*, which supports construction of the comprehensive Henry Science Center, and provides significant investment in the Misericordia Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

“Our community friend, Frank Henry came forward at the start of the campaign with a leadership gift unlike any other Misericordia had seen, along with a challenge,” President Botzman added, quoting the late Mr. Henry as saying ‘this is a big one (project) for Misericordia. I know you need my help. Please use my gift to challenge others.’ “And we promised Frank we would do that, and I know all of us here are doing our best every day to be sure we are meeting his expectation.”

The Henry Science Center puts science clearly on display while meeting the demands of the 21st-century model of learner-based and discovery-based teaching, which requires a deliberate mix of modern

Misericordia University Trustee Mary Hudack Erwine, co-chair of the ‘Now for Tomorrow’ campaign, offers remarks at the beam signing ceremony for the Henry Science Center.

laboratories, technologies and learning spaces. A two-story glass curtain-wall on the north façade of the new wing will permit views from the center of campus into the new teaching labs.

Rich in technology, the Henry Science Center’s design will provide a number of dedicated laboratories and workspaces for specific areas of inquiry, including a small mammal vivarium, aquatic/invertebrate vivarium, computer building lab and 10 new teaching labs in

Members of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees and leadership team show off the celebrated beam during the ceremony at the Henry Science Center on Wednesday, Sept. 25.



Misericordia University students sign the beam before the official ceremony to commemorate the last steel girder being placed in the Henry Science Center.

planning, and many faculty and staff have been beyond patient. I am confident your patience is going to pay off, as the new Henry Science Center promises opportunity to students and faculty beyond what we can even imagine,” President Botzman added.





Misericordia science faculty and staff pose by the historic beam.

‘What an exciting day! It was just a few short weeks ago that the first steel beam arrived on campus, and today, we are already installing the last one. The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center is no longer just a dream. If you have not signed the beam, be sure to do so and be part of history in the making.’

*– Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.
President, Misericordia University*

biology, chemistry and physics. An organic chemistry lab will be adjacent to the learning center dedicated to the nuclear magnetic resonance instrument, better known as an NMR. A new cold room will enable advanced molecular experiments, while a cadaver suite – complete with an integrated control room, Anatomage room, and laboratory and preparatory space – will expand learning opportunities for students in the health and medical sciences, which comprise about 54% of the study body.

“It seems like only yesterday that my fellow trustees and I approved the most ambitious and consequential construction project ever to occur on our campus,” Trustee Chairperson Borton said. “Our

approval was validation of the exceptional teaching and learning that occurs within our classrooms, clinics, laboratories and other settings. It was confirmation of our belief that when – not if – we build it, students will come and excel.” 

For more information about the *Now for Tomorrow: The Campaign for Misericordia University*, please log on to nft.misericordia.edu.



Members of the campus community sign the beam.

To watch the beam signing ceremony, please type this URL into your web browser: bit.ly/mubeamsigning.

‘NFT’ campaign turns attention to endowment

Having secured the funds necessary to break ground on the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, Misericordia is focusing its fundraising attention on the second of three *Now for Tomorrow* campaign priorities: growing the University’s endowment.

In the public sector, taxes subsidize educational institutions whereas the endowment supports private universities, such as Misericordia University. With invested endowment principal providing ongoing financial security, and a percentage of interest spent to supplement key University priorities, a thriving endowment generates resources that enrich the education of today’s students while accruing the financial security for a promising future.

Misericordia’s endowment, though steadily growing, is smaller than competitor colleges, which forces it to rely on tuition revenue to a greater degree than is desirable. Compensating by raising tuition and balancing the budget with tuition increases is not an option, as the University remains committed to its mission of maintaining affordability for families at a wide range of income levels.

Ultimately, endowment is about people and is an investment in students and faculty. Accordingly, Misericordia is raising endowment funds to support student scholarships, University programs and both endowed chairperson and professorship faculty positions. For more information about the *Now for Tomorrow* campaign, please log on to nft.misericordia.edu. To contribute to the *Now for Tomorrow* endowment campaign, please contact the campaign coordinator at 570-674-6333.



Aerial view shows demolition work in 2017.



The completed park is a welcoming gateway to campus.

Then & Now

Rave reviews for Lake Street park

A town-and-gown project almost three years in the making has transformed the busy intersection of state Route 415 and Lake Street in Dallas Borough into an inviting gateway by replacing blighted commercial properties with green space, sidewalks and parking.

From the wrecking ball of the former Himmler Theater and neighboring structures sprung a Misericordia-branded area replete with matching benches, light standards and sidewalks. In place of the buildings, the University planted fresh sod, trees and shrubs to compliment new sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting and paved parking.

The additional lighting and safety features also tie Machell Avenue, where the University owns a student residence hall at 10 Machell Ave., to Lake Street and the downtown business district and campus community.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber recognized the project by awarding Misericordia University a Pride of Place Award at its annual dinner in November. The award recognizes new construction, renovation or environmental enhancement projects in the local community.

The vision for the beautification project began in August 2016 with the purchase of 24, 30 and 32 Lake Street, as well as ancillary structures and land. The nearly one-acre, pie-shaped park is adjacent to the new PennDOT roundabout, a safety measure incorporated at the five-way intersection downtown that also rid the area of an abandoned gas station.

The project incorporates the University-owned Old House Café into the design, as the parking lot extends past the Autism Center and Sandra Dzczewski Maffei Painting & Drawing Studio at 50 Lake St., up to John J. Passan Hall at 100 Lake St., to create 35 additional parking spaces for the campus community. The project was completed Aug. 31, 2019. [h](#)



Construction crews work on the park.



The park benefits the community and campus.

Ribbon cutting marks completion of Lake St. project



Misericordia University officials and special guests officially dedicated the Lake Street sidewalk project during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the North Gate of campus. The more than \$1 million project resulted in more than 3,000-feet of sidewalk along the busy state roadway to improve safety for pedestrians. Participating in the ribbon cutting, first row from left, are Thomas Caffrey, Northeast Regional director, Gov. Tom Wolf's Office; Mayor Tim Carroll, Dallas Borough; state Rep. Karen Boback '73, '00; Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., president, Misericordia University; state Sen. Lisa Baker, and Atty. Thomas Mosca, solicitor, Dallas Twp.; second row, Atty. Tom Brennan, former solicitor, Dallas Twp.; Bill Grant, supervisor, Dallas Twp., and Carol Warholak Sweeney, Office of Rep. Karen Boback.

Study

Continued from page 2

The Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) took it a step further when it commissioned a study by Parker Phillips, Inc., to examine the overall economic impact of the private institutions of higher education based on 2018 data.

These same institutions may award more than 75,000 academic degrees, certificates and diplomas annually, but they also generate \$24 billion in economic impact, support 195,525 jobs, produce \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue, spark \$3.4 billion in spending by 290,000 students, and donate \$58.9 million to charities, according to the 2019 report.

Northeastern Pennsylvania is fortunate to have 10 private institutions that offer diverse educational opportunities. The regional impact approaches \$1.3 billion annually, while employing more than 11,500 neighbors, friends and family members. Those jobs result in \$60 million in state and local tax revenue, the report states.

In the Back Mountain, Misericordia's economic impact on the Pennsylvania

economy is \$130.9 million, which supports 1,268 jobs in the state through direct and indirect employment created by supply and equipment vendors, contractors, and jobs created in the community, according to the report. The activity also generates about \$6.1 million in tax revenues for state and local governments.

"Unlike many businesses, higher education is not only for the benefit of our students, but also for the advancement of our local, regional and state communities in an ongoing perpetual fashion," Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., said. "Misericordia is pleased to grant traditional degrees while being agile enough to innovate and serve those who need an opportunity to learn a skill, get a job, and be a part of our growing and prosperous regional economy."

Collegiate rankings and recognition

Media that examine the effectiveness and quality of colleges and universities in the United States also recognized Misericordia University. The following is a summary for 2019-20:

U.S. News & World Report: Misericordia achieved national

recognition in the 2020 edition of Best Colleges report, moving from a regionally recognized institution of higher learning to one that tied Ball State, Oklahoma State, Louisville and Seattle Pacific universities for 192nd place out of the 399 colleges and universities that received national ranking.

Chronicle of Higher Education: MU has a Top 10 national ranking for one of the best four-year graduation rates (71.2%) in the "primarily residential" category among four-year private, nonprofit colleges and universities.

Money Magazine: Misericordia is the second highest ranked college in the region based on quality and affordability.

The Princeton Review: The national college admission services company recommends Misericordia, based on a student survey that addresses academics, administration and student body.

Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education: The first four-year college in Luzerne County is among the Top U.S. Colleges, according to this ranking.

College Consensus: Misericordia is 17th in the northeastern United States and 245th nationally in the report. [h](#)

Mercy

Continued from page 13

at Mercy Center. The discerning process ends with a simple welcoming ceremony, during which the new associates sign a formal covenant declaring their intention to work as partners of the Sisters of Mercy to make a difference in the world. It is important to note that no religious affiliation is needed. Participants of all faiths, or no faith, are welcome.

"The facts are that the Sisters of Mercy are at a transitional point, and moving forward we need to make sure someone will be there to pick up the torch," Gorney offers. "How do we ensure that Mercy stays real? We need to carry the integrity of the institution ... and keep their journey of service alive."

In addition to holding a gathering

for Mercy Associates every semester, the Leadership Council is working to create more opportunities to engage current associates and involve new members. They held a special commissioning service for four student Mercy Associates before they left campus at the end of the 2019 spring semester. They also hosted a half-day retreat for the entire team of Mercy Associates in the summer, where they discussed the critical concerns of the Sisters and the work that they do. Continuing a plan to host a service project every semester, the group collected more than 1,000 shoelaces in the spring for immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. The reason: Border agents take away immigrants' shoelaces when they enter the country as a purported safety precaution, and the new laces are needed once they

are cleared for entry into the country.

A highlight of the fall semester, the Mercy Associates worked closely with Sisters Jean and Cindy to organize a formal dedication of the new statue of Catherine McAuley on campus. The successful Nov. 6 event attracted more than 200 participants including more than two dozen Sisters of Mercy. In addition, they also conducted a collection of personal care gifts for the Sisters for the 2019 Christmas holiday.

"Catherine McAuley was a lay person in Ireland in the 1830s who wanted nothing more than to help people," Cerza adds in summary. "People were attracted to that, so they offered to work with her. That is how the Sisters of Mercy came about. Our job and mission as Mercy Associates is to make sure we never lose sight of Catherine or her vision." [h](#)

THE NEED FOR SPEED

Alumnus receives his 'Wings of Gold' after graduating from the United States Navy's Aviation Training School

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI



Jeffrey Krisiak '17 knows the value of speed, whether he is on a collegiate gridiron tossing 50-yard go routes to a wide receiver or working to get his wings as a Student Naval Flight Officer (SNFO) in the United States Navy.

A four-year letterman on the Misericordia University football team, the Long Pond, Pa., native enrolled in the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School to become a

Jeffrey Krisiak '17

.....

GOVERNMENT,
LAW AND
NATIONAL
SECURITY

commissioned officer shortly after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government, Law and National Security in the spring of 2017.

Eleven months later, SNFO Krisiak earned his promotion to ensign after completing Officer Candidate School in April 2018. He proudly secured his "Wings of Gold" and first military assignment in August 2018 after graduating from the U.S. Navy's Aviation Training School. Many of the less tangible lessons he learned in the classroom and on the field of play – teamwork and perseverance – he applied successfully at the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," otherwise known as Naval Air Station Pensacola's flight

school in Pensacola, Fla.

"A large majority of the teamwork aspect of football plays a role in my career," says, Krisiak, who was named to the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom Sportsmanship Team and MAC Academic Honor Roll in 2016. "I think that is why I love what I do. Aviation takes a lot of preparation and communication. You plan and prepare for every imaginable scenario in the sky, and then when you go out and execute the mission – there is a lot of communication required to be successful.

"There are so many moving parts that play a role in a mission. It takes a lot of input from many different sources for a mission to go right. Just like football, one player does not make a team. In order to be successful on the field, you have to work together as a team. The same applies to the Navy."

A member of the winging squadron VT-4 Warbucks as an SNFO, Ensign Krisiak's first assignment has taken him to Strategic Communications Wing One at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Okla., where he chose his platform training for the E-6B Mercury – a nuclear deterrence aircraft that has been dubbed the "doomsday plane" by the website, The Aviationist.

The aircraft features 22 crewmembers and, according to Business Insider, enables the president and defense secretary to communicate with submarines, bombers and missile silos during a nuclear war. During his 18 months of training aboard the E-6B Mercury, he received training as a navigator before graduating to mission commander.

In the interim, Ensign Krisiak compares his role in the aircraft to that

of fictional character, Lt. (Junior Grade) Nick "Goose" Bradshaw, from 1986's *Top Gun*. He directs the pilot, while also being responsible for the overall completion of the mission, including the safety of the aircraft and crew, and navigation and sensor utilization.

His quick reference to the Hollywood blockbuster, aside, the "wild blue yonder" has fascinated Ensign Kriasiak since childhood. With his father, Jeff Kriasiak, Sr., working at Newark Liberty International Airport and his uncle, Joseph Kriasiak, also enjoying a career as a Naval Flight Officer, reaching for the sky seemed natural.

"I have been around planes all my life," says Ensign Kriasiak, who tossed the game-winning touchdown pass on Senior Day in 2016. "So when I learned I had the opportunity to fly in the Navy – I jumped at it."

That opportunity has propelled the Pocono Mountain West High School graduate to speeds of up to 316 knots or 0.67 Mach in naval training aircraft during his 38 hours of training in the cockpit.

"I love flying," he says. "There is nothing like it being cloudy on the ground, and taking off and climbing through the clouds and finally breaking out on top of them and the sun is shining. No matter how dull it is on the ground, in the sky above the clouds, the sun is always shining."

He parlayed his hard work and naturally positive disposition into consequential minutes on the gridiron and meaningful academic accomplishments in the classroom despite acknowledging several setbacks along the way – many of which the University's standards alleviated.

"If it was not for the personal attention professors showed me, I do not think I would have done well (academically)," he says, reflecting



Jeffrey Kriasiak '17 led the Cougars to a dramatic victory over FDU-Florham in his career finale in 2016. He says the skills he utilized on the field and in the classroom enabled him to become a United States Naval Flight Officer and achieve the rank of ensign. He earned MAC Player of the Week honors for his overall performance.

back on one of the chief staples of a Misericordia education. "Going from high school to college was a big adjustment for me in the sense of how much more demanding the academics became. The personal attention I received allowed me to develop the habits and skills necessary to succeed in the classroom."

It also enabled him to handle setbacks on the playing field after he became the back-up quarterback during his four years on the Cougar football team. Losing the head-to-head competitions to be the top signal caller, though, did not sour him on his team-first approach to the sport. His teammates rewarded his attitude and leadership qualities by naming him a team captain for his senior year.

"He always placed others, in this

case, the team's needs, before his own desires," says head coach Mark Ross. "I think that is one of the secrets to being a leader. I also think he uplifts those around him. He may not have the stats of other people who have played for us, but because of his ability to connect with teammates, and the example he set for them, he has made as significant contribution to this program as anyone who has been a part of it to date.

"Jeff will be a significant leader of this nation before all is said and done," Coach Ross adds.

The way those bumps in the collegiate road were assuaged also reinforced why Ensign Kriasiak chose his alma mater in the first place. "I picked Misericordia because of the community and the people. When you walk on campus, it feels like home," he says.

"Just the little signs of hospitality made it feel like home. I also picked Misericordia because of the athletic department. Between the success of other sports and the support teams receive from the community, Misericordia is the place you want to play a sport at."

And also reach for the sky. [h](#)

About Ensign Kriasiak

A four-year letterman from 2013-16, he started four games at quarterback as a senior in 2016, including the dramatic 40-36 win over FDU-Florham in the season finale. He threw the game-winning touchdown pass with 1:11 remaining in the game. Overall, he was 26-36 for 284 yards and 2 TDs, and added 91 yards rushing and a TD in the Senior Day win.

On the season, he was 78-144 (54.2%) with 7 touchdowns as a senior.



Janet F. Tomcavage '92, M.S.N., R.N.

CARING FOR FAMILY

Adult learner becomes chief nursing executive for Geisinger Health System

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

DANVILLE, Pa. – Family is important to Janet F. Tomcavage '92, M.S.N., R.N. It partly explains the career she envisioned for herself by her mid-teens and the dedication she has exhibited for the health and well-being of the communities served by Geisinger Health as an adult.

For most of the last 38 years, Tomcavage has been instrumental in developing health care programs and personalized insurance plans for

one of the nation's most innovative health services organizations. Novel ideas like Geisinger at Home, Proven Health Navigator, community health assistants and others reflect the growing influence of Geisinger's new chief nursing executive.

Janet F. Tomcavage '92, M.S.N.

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NURSING

"Nurses make a huge difference every day in the lives of our patients, and this new position reflects our ongoing commitment to nurses and to their professional growth," says Jaewon Ryu, M.D., J.D., president and chief executive officer of Geisinger. "Janet brings outstanding experience in the full scope of nursing and all aspects of inpatient and outpatient care, and I'm excited for her and for all our nurses as she transitions into her new leadership role."

That successful path to assisting Geisinger achieve high quality, affordable services for more than 1.5 million patients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey has a simple beginning: Diabetes. More than 30 million people in the United States had the debilitating disease in 2015, according to the National Institutes of Health, including Tomcavage's late mother, June Fisher, late grandmother, Marguarite Derr, and her first nursing patient.

“The very first patient that I took care of in nursing school was a dear woman with Type 2 diabetes who had pretty significant complications,” recalls Tomcavage, whose mother also dreamed of becoming a nurse, but instead raised seven children. “It left a definite mark to this day – I know her name and I know where she was and how long I treated her in the clinical rotation.

“It definitely left an imprint, and then because of my family history of diabetes, it was a natural progression.”

Shortly after earning her undergraduate degree, Tomcavage joined Geisinger Health in Danville as a diabetes nurse educator. The role ultimately tested her ability to develop the type of pioneering programs Geisinger has built its national reputation on, such as a High-Risk Obstetrical Clinic for pregnant patients with diabetes and an Insulin Pump Program.

Tomcavage acknowledges she was happy professionally, knowing her ideas truly were having an impact. The time had come, though, to advance her career – and she needed a master’s degree to achieve her next goal. Her next stop was Misericordia and its Master of Science in nursing degree program.

“The faculty was very helpful and willing to work with the students, and because there were small classes you got to know your colleagues,” she says. “That environment was very effective in allowing students to learn beyond the coursework. From a professional perspective, whether it be leadership approaches or styles, many of us were in middle management roles. It allowed us to look at the opportunities we had in nursing and think through some of the challenges.”

For 2½ years, she carpooled one to two times a week from Danville to Dallas with two classmates who quickly became lifelong friends. They studied and passed the time together during their long rides to opening up the door to new opportunities.

“Misericordia gave me an opportunity to tackle community-based clinical programs from a nursing perspective,

not just a medical perspective. It allowed me to look more broadly at community health,” says Tomcavage, who earned her degree while working full time. “It also provided a strong foundation for leadership-skill development. I did not walk out of the graduate program with everything that I needed, but it laid the groundwork

“Misericordia gave me an opportunity to tackle community-based clinical programs from a nursing perspective, not just a medical perspective. It allowed me to look more broadly at community health.”

— Janet F. Tomcavage '92, M.S.N., R.N.
Geisinger, Chief Nursing Executive

for my interest in developing more of a leadership role.

“That allowed me to develop several clinical programs within the diabetes arena where I worked, while it gave me an opportunity to hone those leadership skills,” she adds.

The advanced degree amplified Tomcavage’s voice, enabling her to join the leadership teams that spearheaded the type of population health programs she has long envisioned. Through the years, she has served as the manager of care coordination, director of medical home, vice president of health services and chief administrative officer for the Geisinger Health Plan. Most recently, she functioned in a system role as chief population health officer.

In each instance, she focused on driving the transformation of how Geisinger delivers value-based care to its 13 hospital campuses and nearly 600,000-member health plan. “I’ve stayed at Geisinger for 38 years and I have had the opportunity to grow in nursing in many different ways and

serve in many different capacities,” she says. “This experience brings an important foundation for what I want to do in my new position.”

Tomcavage now is expanding her reach as Geisinger’s new chief nursing executive, adding responsibilities for key clinical strategies, and advancing nursing practice and roles. Most

recently, those innovative ideas created the home-based delivery care model for seniors known as Geisinger at Home and an advancing-illness strategy to “help make patients be better prepared for the journey of their disease and chronic conditions.”

Almost four decades later, Tomcavage’s passion for tackling the challenges associated with the national health care system and improving the lives of everyday people remains vibrant, if not omnipresent. After all, her notepad remains prominently situated on her bedroom table so she can spring out of bed at all hours of the night to jot down the next transformative idea in health care.

“I think it started with my family, but I’ve grown up in this area and now my whole career has been at Geisinger in serving the communities,” Tomcavage says. “To me, it really is about helping to improve the health of friends and neighbors, and ultimately the community. And, if Geisinger, as a result can influence the care others across the nation give, that is grand.”

Awards and Memberships

Janet F. Tomcavage '92, M.S.N., R.N., the chief nursing executive at Geisinger Health, was the first nurse in the system to receive the Pennsylvania Nightingale Award for clinical excellence in an advanced nursing role. She is an active member in several professional societies and has served in various leadership roles in the American Nurse Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Alliance of Community Health Plans.

A CHAMPION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Alumna builds allies for people with developmental disabilities

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

Andrea Brognano '11, L.M.H.C., L.P.C., N.C.C.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Andrea Brognano '11, L.M.H.C., L.P.C., N.C.C., left, and Alexa Donnelly, L.M.S.W., deputy executive director of Person Centered Care Service, show their awards from 2019's top '20 Under 40' program for the Staten Island Economic Development Center.



Andrea Brognano '11, L.M.H.C., L.P.C., N.C.C., says supporting and being inclusive of people with disabilities does not necessarily take a "big heart." It requires understanding and recognizing the value of every person – and treating people as people first.

Fostering that understanding and building allies for people with developmental disabilities is part of the work Brognano does now with the nonprofit Person Centered Care Service (PCCS), based in Staten Island, N.Y. A 2011 Misericordia University graduate, Brognano is division director of Development and Community Relations for PCCS, where she has worked since receiving her bachelor's degree in professional studies.

"I think in society we see people with disabilities as people that are this charitable thing," she offers. "But we need to recognize people are people first and recognize a person as who they are."

PCCS provides services and supports for nearly 1,000 people of all ages, primarily in Staten Island but also throughout New York's five boroughs and Long Island. Those can include direct care and support, counseling, helping clients be involved in their community, finding a job or a place to live, and more.

"It varies and that's why we are so true to our name, because any two people that have the same diagnosis, they are still two different people," Brognano says. "So it is going to look different how we provide services to

those people based on what their individual needs are. We can offer a variety of different supports to a variety of different people."

PCCS also provides trainings to community members and organizations for how they can support those with disabilities. Brognano has worked in several different roles for PCCS. In her current position, she builds both employee and community engagement.

Brognano works with staff and community members on a range of PCCS initiatives and provides trainings, such as Mental Health First Aid. A unique training that PCCS offers is the Disability Ally Initiative, which Brognano has the opportunity to provide not only in New York, but also around the country.

"That training is pretty much exactly what it sounds like," she says. "It is a training of how to be an ally to people with disabilities and better engage with those that identify as disabled. I have been given the opportunity to travel for that training to national conferences."

Brognano also developed the Disability Ally Advisory Committee, which brings together PCCS staff and a diverse group of community members to find the best ways to deliver trainings and build support for individuals with disabilities.

"We realized that we really do not want to be doing this alone," she says. "We want to have the input of those in the community. We see things in the local newspaper or on the news about how people with disabilities are being treated and we really want the

Business venture

Andrea Brognano '11, L.M.H.C., L.P.C., N.C.C., recently launched the online group therapy practice, Therapy Connection, at www.therapyconnectiononline.com to help people find peace and happiness through compassionate psychotherapy. The online resource is for busy people who have been seeking support with anxiety, personal problems, regaining control of their lives, and much more. For additional information, please email her at info@therapyconnectiononline.com.

community to come together and help us out with the way in which we should be implementing this training and who should be getting it. Every social network has different people they connect with, so having the help from the community helps us connect in areas that maybe we would not otherwise be able to connect with.”

“When her mom told me she had this opportunity for me to work with her I was like, ‘You know, this kind of fell into my lap and it’s something I should just explore a little bit,’” she says, recalling the offer she received after returning to Staten Island in 2011. “I’ve known her since she was 3 and she’s now 18, so it’s really cool to

also helped me grow as a person and connect with other people,” she says.

Her career has taken a different path than the one she envisioned when she started as an undergraduate at Misericordia. She was looking to pursue a career in occupational therapy, and coming from a small, private high school, Misericordia was the perfect fit.

While Brognano was glad to be at Misericordia, she discovered that occupational therapy was not a good fit for her. A service trip to Jamaica during her senior year proved to be a life-changing experience.

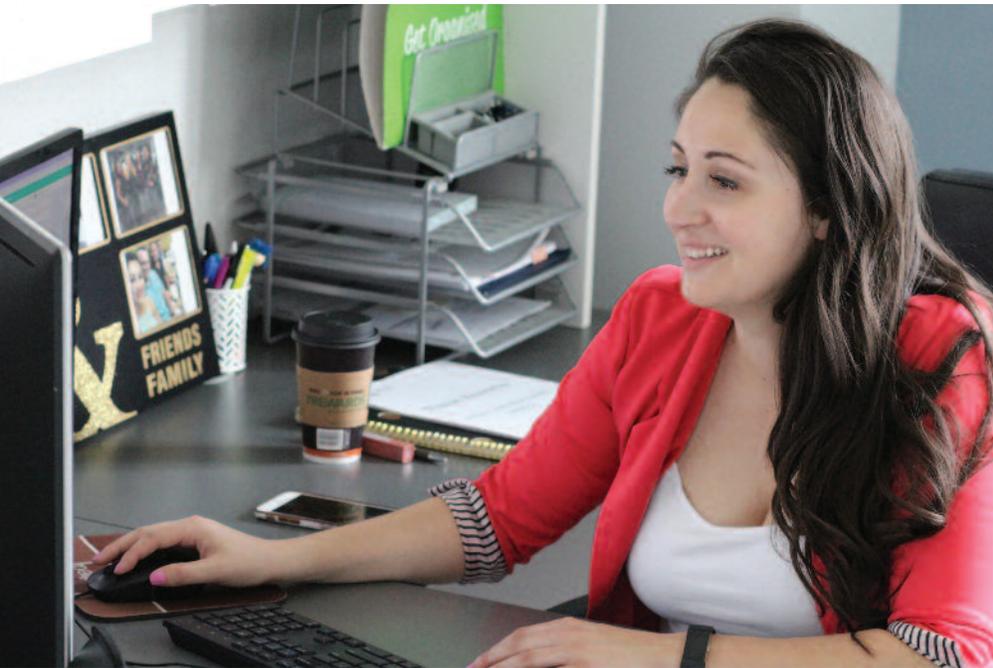
“One of the sites we went to was for people with disabilities and it is so interesting to me ... I knew I wanted to do something to help other people, because I just find people so interesting,” she says. “After that trip, I started to explore other options. I’ve always wanted to connect with people and understand people, to get into their minds.”

Brognano redirected her degree to professional studies, and the psychology courses she took helped her to refine her career path and develop as a person, she says.

In addition, when it came to changing direction, Misericordia faculty and staff helped her feel at ease. “Misericordia allowed me to be comfortable with who I was as a person,” she says. “There was never a time I felt like I did not have anyone to turn to, including administration-wise, whether it be a teacher or the counseling center. Wherever I turned, I always knew I would have someone.”

Misericordia’s charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality remain with her because of her work and desire to help others, Brognano says. As she completed her undergraduate degree, learning more and beginning to work in the mental health field, she came to understand herself better and the importance of being compassionate to other people.

“‘People will say, ‘Oh, you have to have such a big heart to do what you do.’ You really do not. It is not necessarily that I have a big heart,” she says. “It’s just the path that I chose.” 



Andrea Brognano '11, L.M.H.C., L.P.C., N.C.C., follows up on outreach items and networking connections as the division director of Development and Community Relations for Person Centered Care Service in Staten Island, N.Y.

Among the most enthusiastic and consistent participants, she says, is the chief financial officer of the minor league baseball Staten Island Yankees, Jay Nazzaro. “He is adamant about coming. That has been helpful for us because some of the people we support go there for volunteer and job opportunities,” Brognano says. “He really understands the value and that the community needs to come together and recognize all people.”

Brognano, a licensed mental health counselor, has held a variety of positions at PCCS over the past eight years. She began as a direct support professional, first working with a young girl, Taylor, whom she had babysat earlier in life. She worked with Taylor in her home providing support for things such as daily living skills and schoolwork.

see her grow and how the supports she’s received have impacted her life.”

From providing one-on-one support, Brognano moved on to new roles including Medicaid service coordinator, director of community habilitation and director of education and discovery before starting her current position.

In 2015, Brognano also earned her master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from Walden University. Outside of PCCS, she has done counseling in private practices and is currently a licensed clinician for the online therapy service, Talkspace, which gives her the opportunity to work with people of different backgrounds and with different diagnoses.

“For me, having my master’s and license in mental health counseling has provided the opportunity to continue to grow in my role within (PCCS), but

THRICE AS NICE

Medical imaging alumnae establish careers as radiation therapists at Duke Cancer Center

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Odds are Kaitlin B. Fink '16, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), does not consider herself a trendsetter in the truest sense of the word. Nevertheless, when it comes to establishing a tendency at one of the top medical centers in the country few people have her beat.

The daughter of Joel and Deborah Fink is a radiation therapist at Duke University Hospital's Cancer Center in Durham, N.C. – and the linchpin to establishing a pipeline for graduates of Misericordia University's medical imaging program into the University of North Carolina (UNC) Cancer Hospitals' certificate program and Duke Cancer Center.

Today, Jaclyn Hajec '18, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), Shelby Rinaldi '17, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), and Fink work together in interprofessional teams at the Durham, N.C., facility as radiation therapists, after completing the 12-month postgraduate program in radiation therapy at UNC.

**Kaitlin B. Fink '16,
B.S., R.T., (R)(T)**

**Shelby Rinaldi '17,
B.S., R.T., (R)(T)**

**Jaclyn Hajec '18,
B.S., R.T., (R)(T)**

.....
**MEDICAL
IMAGING**

senior year. With this advantage coming into an actual program, we already know the basics of clinical with setting patients up and the basics of how radiation therapy works."

Although each alumnae shared a mutual interest in radiation therapy, Fink forged ahead first, documenting and sharing every step she took in the academic, clinical and professional processes with Rinaldi. A year later, Hajec leaned on Rinaldi and Fink when she was ready to matriculate to the Tar Heel State.

"I'm very humbled that I was able to help them get to where they are today and see how their paths are also



Misericordia University alumnae, from left, Shelby Rinaldi '17, B.S., R.T., (R)(T); Kaitlyn B. Fink '16, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), and Jaclyn Hajec '18, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), show the linear accelerator at Duke Cancer Center.

similar," adds Fink. "Coming from Misericordia, we did not plan to work together, it just happened that way."

A radiation therapist works with radiation oncologists, dosimetrists, nutritionists, oncology nurses, social workers and other professionals to deliver precise radiation treatment programs, using both high-energy photons and electrons on a linear accelerator to patients of all ages, who have cancerous and non-cancerous diagnoses – a scenario they became intimately familiar with when their own loved ones battled cancer.

"Because I was unable to help her, I want to help others like her," says Fink, whose aunt lost her cancer fight. "Every day at work, I say to myself, 'if this was my aunt, I would want her to be treated this way.'"

These life experiences also explain the career path each of them chose eventually, as the Misericordia academic program affords students an opportunity to observe three different modalities during their junior year. Hajec, for example, wanted to know more about interventional radiology, cardiac catheterization and radiation therapy. In her senior year, she gained an additional 30 weeks of clinical experience in radiation therapy at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center's Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Cancer Center – which proved invaluable in the postgraduate program.

"My mother is a cancer survivor, so I think that initially sparked my interest in the medical field and then more specifically medical imaging," says Hajec, who had the pleasure of meeting and talking with patients during her day of observation in radiation therapy, adding, "I think that was my 'aha' moment, when I knew this was my calling. This was what I wanted to do and I have never second-guessed that decision."

The radiation therapist's role also attracted them to the specialty field, as they forge meaningful relationships with their patients throughout the six-week treatment process. "Cancer is very scary when it is first diagnosed, but by being empathetic and kind to every patient you can help them on the road to a

cure or at least pain relief," says Fink, who also earned a minor in mathematics. "By being a helping hand to patients and making their atmosphere feel comfortable, it helps them to open up and make this unenjoyable experience tolerable."

The daughter of Willy and Nicole Rinaldi agrees, saying, "I love getting to see and help my patients on a daily basis. It is so exciting when they come back for a follow-up appointment and stop in to see us and tell us good news. They are such an inspiration."

"You are able to form relationships with your patients and walk them through their journey," adds Hajec, a dual-sport student-athlete in golf and basketball at MU. "I think most people think radiation therapy is a depressing career. I learned very quickly that it is the complete opposite. I have discovered so much about myself based on the interactions I have each day with my patients. This is a very rewarding, compassionate and humbling career."

One that began with an undergraduate program that has routinely experienced higher pass rates than the national average for more than 30 years on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification examination. Since October 1988, 559 graduates have taken the radiography examination and 545 have passed on their first attempt, resulting in an overall pass rate of 97.5%. Over the past five years, first-time test takers hold a 96.3% pass rate. The national average for the examination is 89.4%, according to 2018 ARRT data.

"I cannot stress enough how prepared I felt for UNC's program based on my education at Misericordia," says the daughter of Steve and Joanne Hajec. "The medical imaging program fosters success both in the classroom and in the clinic, and I was able to bring that mentality to Chapel Hill. The countless hours I spent studying, in the lab, writing lab reports, rotating through clinic, and juggling extracurricular activities really set me apart from my classmates." **h**

The graduates of the Bachelor of Science degree program in medical imaging recently had scholarly research papers published in national journals. They are:

Kaitlin B. Fink '16, B.S., R.T., (R)(T): American Society of Radiologic Technologists Radiation Therapist journal; *Shortfall of Dementia Education in Radiation Therapy*, Fall, 2017, Vol. 26, Number 2 issue.

Jaclyn Hajec '18, B.S., R.T., (R)(T): American Society of Radiologic Technologists Radiation Therapist journal; *Preventing Secondary Breast Cancer in Survivors of Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma*, Fall 2019, Vol. 28, Number 2 issue.

Shelby Rinaldi '17, B.S., R.T., (R)(T): American Society of Radiologic Technologists Radiation Therapist journal; *Tailoring Cancer Treatment to Patient Genetics*, Spring 2019, Vol. 28, Number 1 issue.



Misericordia University medical imaging alumnae, from left, Kaitlyn B. Fink '16, B.S., R.T., (R)(T); Shelby Rinaldi '17, B.S., R.T., (R)(T) and Jaclyn Hajec '18, B.S., R.T., (R)(T), work at Duke University Hospital Cancer Center.

Athletics Hall of Fame welcomes 17th class of inductees

Misericordia inducted its 17th Athletics Hall of Fame class, honoring Max Campbell '09 (soccer), Kristi (Devens) LaVorgna '06 (softball), Cody Hack '09 (soccer/track & field/baseball), Mike Murphy '09 (baseball), and Ali (Ostrum) Schappert '09 (cross country/ track & field), during Homecoming Weekend in October.

Campbell was a three-time all-conference selection, including twice being named first-team, and was a two-time all-region selection. He was the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) Player of the Year and Wendy's Athlete of the Year as a junior. He ranks second in school history with 32 assists and is tied for fourth with 88 career points. He shares the school single-season record with 13 assists and is tied for fifth with 28 career goals. He received the Coach's Award as a senior.

LaVorgna was a two-time softball team MVP and MVP of the PAC Tournament as a senior. A three-time All-PAC selection as a pitcher, she ranks fourth in school history with 50 career wins and fifth with a 1.44 career earned run average. She owns the



The Athletics Department inducted its 17th Hall of Fame class in October. The inductees, from left, are Kristi (Devens) LaVorgna '06, Max Campbell '09, Mike Murphy '09, Cody Hack '09 and Ali (Ostrum) Schappert '09.

school's single-season record with 189 strikeouts and is second with 26 complete games and 194.2 innings pitched in a season. She is third in single-season wins with 21.

Hack earned nine varsity letters, including four each in soccer and baseball. He was Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom Player of the Year in soccer and the Wendy's Athlete of the Year as a senior. He shares the school record with 13 assists in a season and is second with .65 assists per game. He ranks eighth with 17 career assists. In addition, he owns the school indoor track & field record at 55m and was a four-year

starter in baseball.

Murphy was a two-time baseball team MVP and two-time first-team all-conference selection. He was named all-region twice and was an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) all-star as a senior. He holds school single-season records with 71 hits, 30 stolen bases and seven triples, and shares the mark with 60 runs. Murphy owns the school record with 12 career triples and ranks third in career

batting average (.377) and on-base percentage (.510), fourth with 91 walks and fifth with 45 stolen bases. In addition, he holds the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III single-game record with eight hits and ended his career on a 67-game on-base streak.

Schappert was a four-time all-conference finisher in cross country, including four top-five finishes, and a two-time all-region performer. She was a four-time cross country team MVP and earned All-ECAC honors in three events in track & field: 1500m, 3000m and 5000m. She owns school outdoor records in the mile and 3000m. [h](#)

Luzerne County Sports HoF inducts Wadas

Misericordia University cross country and track & field coach Chris Wadas '05, '12 was enshrined into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. Wadas was a four-time MVP of the cross country team and was a three-time Pennsylvania Athletic Conference

individual champion while leading the Cougars to three team titles.

In track & field, he was named team MVP as a senior and holds the school record at 3000m and owns the indoor record at 1500m.

In his 13th season as coach at his alma mater, Wadas has guided the women's cross country team to four Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC)

championships while the women's track & field squad has captured nine MAC titles. He has coached numerous All-Americans including NCAA champions Ashlee Ward and Juwan Petties-Jackson.

Women's soccer team places second

The women's soccer team finished second in the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom after reaching the conference title match for the eighth time in nine seasons. The Cougars finished 11-6-2.

Kaylee Sturans '21, '24 was named first-team all-region by the United Soccer Coaches, while teammates

Eighth annual golf tournament set for Sept. 14

The Athletics Department honored former golf coach Arnie Garinger at the seventh annual Golf Tournament at Huntsville Golf Club in September. More than 100 golfers, including 30 alumni, participated in the event that also featured generous sponsorships.

The eighth annual Athletics Department Golf Tournament is Monday, Sept. 14 at Huntsville Golf Club. To be a sponsor or participant, please call 570-674-6374.

Continued on page 40



**STUDENT ATHLETE
SPOTLIGHT**



Levi Roberts '19, '22

Levi Roberts '19, '22 of Perkiomenville, Pa., recently finished his exceptional career with the men's soccer team. A fourth-year student, he earned his Bachelor of Science in health care management and is pursuing his doctorate in physical therapy.

The son of Kyle and Jane Roberts was a four-year starter at back and was a four-time Middle Atlantic All-Conference (MAC) selection while anchoring a defense that allowed just 1.54 goals per game during his career. The Boyertown High School graduate capped his career with All-MAC Freedom second-team honors in 2019 after receiving honorable mention in each of his first three seasons.

Roberts helped the Cougars to three postseason appearances during his career, including a trip to the MAC Freedom championship match in 2016.

He was named MAC Freedom Rookie of the Year for his performance during his first season, as the Cougars went 12-5-3 overall, 6-1 in conference play, and allowed just 1.05 goals per game.

During the 2019 season, Roberts and the Cougars allowed just 1.32 goals per game and the senior back added two goals and five assists, which led the team in scoring.

In addition to receiving All-MAC Freedom honors, Roberts was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America All-District Team following the 2019 season. Roberts will be a member of the men's volleyball team during the 2020 season. **h**

– By Parker Abate '19

Continued from page 38

Michaela Fasolino '21, '24 and Jordyn Martini '20 made third-team.

Football team earns 2nd straight postseason berth

The football team made its second straight postseason appearance with a berth in the 2019 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Centennial Bowl. The Cougars finished 5-5 overall and were fourth in the MAC at 5-3.

Six Cougars were named to the All-MAC Team, including first-team selections Sam Gillison '20 and Michael Anderson '23. Isaiah Williams '19 was named to the second team, while Brady Williams '20, Michael Gawlik '22 and Chris Lynn '20 earned honorable mention.

Gillison was selected at wide receiver after leading the Cougars in receptions, yards, yards per game and touchdowns. He tied the school single-game record with three touchdown catches against Wilkes University and broke his own record with 230 receiving yards against Alvernia. In addition, he set school records for single-season (11) and career (28) touchdowns, and set career records with 190 receptions and 2,814 receiving yards.

Anderson started all 10 games at guard while paving the way for a rushing attack that finished second in the MAC.

Visaggio qualifies for NCAA Championships

The women's cross country season was highlighted by Olivia Visaggio '20, '23 qualifying for the NCAA Championships. She finished sixth at the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Championship meet and was joined on the All-MAC first team by Rowan Pepe '20, '23. Alexa Thompson '22, '23 earned second-team All-MAC honors in 13th place, while Corinne Mulhearn '21 finished 30th to make third-team All-MAC.

Visaggio ran the fourth-fastest time in school history (21:50) to finish seventh at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships. Thompson finished 23rd to earn all-region status.

Isaiah Williams plays in all-star game

Football standout Isaiah Williams '19 played in the Free Agent Football (FAF) D-3 Senior Classic All-Star Game in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in December. A senior wide receiver, Williams joined 80 of the top D3 seniors in the nation at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium.

Williams is a two-time All-Middle Atlantic Conference selection and led MU to back-to-back postseason appearances. He had 55 receptions for 746 yards as a senior, while averaging 13.4 yards per catch and 74.6 yards per game. He had at least three receptions in all 10 games in 2019.

A three-year starter, he caught at least one pass in all 31 career games played. Williams set the single-season school record with 66 receptions in 2017, and his 81-yard reception against Merchant Marine in 2017 is the longest pass play in school history.



Isaiah Williams '19

Women's volleyball earns 2nd straight playoff berth

The women's volleyball team qualified for the postseason for the second straight season. The Cougars were 22-18 and finished fourth in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom.

In addition, the team made its second straight trip to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships where the Cougars defeated Brooklyn and Grove City before falling to NYU in the semifinals.

Tara Welliver '19, '21 and Fiona Pyfer '23 both earned second-team All-MAC Freedom honors, while Pyfer was also named Rookie of the Year.

Men's soccer places third in MAC Freedom

The soccer team qualified for the postseason for the second consecutive

year. The Cougars finished third in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom during the regular season before falling at Eastern in the first round of the championships.

Levi Roberts '19, '22 and John Caracappa '21 were named second-team All-MAC Freedom, while Dominic Pizzi '20, '23 earned honorable mention.

Field hockey qualifies for Freedom championships

The field hockey team qualified for the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom championships after finishing fourth during the regular season. Katelyn Campbell '20 and Brynn Lansenderfer '21 were both named first-team All-MAC Freedom.

Esports teams debut with solid seasons

The esports teams made their debut during the fall 2019 semester.

Rocket League team finished 6-6 and qualified for the National Association of Collegiate Esports Fall Championships playoffs. Hearthstone finished 2-5 in the NACE Fall championships. [h](#)



Olivia Visaggio '20 '23

ALUMNI EVENTS

MISERICORDIA MILE TOUR

The Villages, Sarasota,
and Boca Raton, Fla.
The week of Feb. 23

2020 SPEAKEASY TOUR

Scranton, Pa.
Thursday, March 5 • 6–8 p.m.
Madame Jenny's

MISERICORDIA MILE TOUR

Bethesda, Md.
Thursday, March 19 • 7–9 p.m.
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery

MISERICORDIA LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION SPECIAL RECEPTION

Dallas, Pa.
Friday, March 27 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Mary Kintz Bevevino Library

OT ALUMNI RECEPTION

Boston, Mass.
Friday, March 27 • 7–9:30 p.m.
LIR on Boylston

ALUMNI TEA IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Bethlehem, Pa.
Tuesday, April 21 • 4:30–6:30 p.m.
McCarthy's Red Stag Pub and Whiskey Bar

2020 SPEAKEASY TOUR

Pittston, Pa.
Thursday, April 30 • 6–8 p.m.
The Joint 53

2020 SPEAKEASY TOUR

Johnstown, Pa.
Thursday, May 14 • 6–8 p.m.
Tap 814

MISERICORDIA MILE TOUR

Binghamton, N.Y.
Thursday, May 21 • 7–9 p.m.
Water Street Brewing Co.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Save the Date:
Friday, May 29 – Saturday, May 30

MISERICORDIA MILE TOUR

Jersey City, N.J.
Thursday, June 11 • 7–9 p.m.
The Ashford

For more information or to register
for alumni events, please visit
[misericordia.edu/alumni/events](https://www.misericordia.edu/alumni/events)
or call (570) 674-6764.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

50 NIGHTS TO COMMENCEMENT

Thursday, March 26 • 6 p.m. on campus

ALUMNI PIE

Tuesday, April 28 • 8 p.m. on campus

Register to volunteer at [misericordia.edu/alumnivolunteer](https://www.misericordia.edu/alumnivolunteer) or call (570) 674-6764.



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MisericordiaAlumni

WHAT IS STAF? *Students Today, Alumni Forever* (STAF) is a student-run philanthropy organization at Misericordia University. As philanthropic ambassadors, it is their mission to educate, engage, and excite classmates and the campus community about all things philanthropy at Misericordia University.



**STUDENTS TODAY
ALUMNI FOREVER**



STAF STUDENT PROFILE • MEET MADDIE HUNT '22, '23

HOMETOWN: Mickleton, N.J.

CLASS YEAR(S): 2022/2023 (BS/MS)

CURRENT CLASSES: Anatomy and Physiology II, Human Development Through Occupation II, Occupation: Theories and Perspectives II, Context and Environment, and Psychopathology

ACTIVITIES: Campus Ministry Leader for the Kids on Campus program, Campus Ministry Mercy Leader program, Dance Ensemble member, Misericordia Student Occupational Therapy Association (MSOTA) member, Cougars for Autism Awareness club member, Phone-a-thon, Open House Tour Guide, and Statistics Tutor in the Student Success Center

MAJOR: Occupational Therapy

STAF POSITION: Vice President

FAVORITE SERVICE EXPERIENCES: Dorothy Day Catholic Work Farm, Special Olympics Bowling, and Campus Ministry Spring Break Service Trip 2019 to Frenchville, Pa.

FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS: The Phone-a-thon room, Mercy 2nd floor

HOBBIES: Drinking coffee, hanging out with friends and family, watching Law and Order SVU, hiking, volunteering, and hammocking

SURPRISING FACT: During the summer, I am an overnight summer camp counselor for 10 weeks at the camp I grew up at, Camp Mount Luther, in Mifflinburg, Pa.

THE MISERICORDIA FUND

MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

The Misericordia Fund provides immediate impact for the areas that need it most. In any given year, this annual fund can support student service trips, athletic field repairs, and scholarship for students in need.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY MONTH

Recurring gifts make a big impact. By giving what you can monthly, your annual giving adds up to a sizeable donation. Come on a journey with us into the next century at Misericordia University. Leave a legacy with a gift of any size. Your generosity could provide a student with meals on a service trip, transportation for a family emergency, or textbooks for a semester.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



\$4.25 = \$50



\$8.50 = \$100



\$20 = \$250

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I/We wish to make a commitment of a TOTAL amount of \$ _____.

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Payments beginning _____ month _____ year
 All multi-year/installment gifts will receive reminders.

METHOD OF PAYMENT Make a gift online today at misericordia.edu/cornerstone



Enclosed is our payment of \$ _____
 Please make checks payable to Misericordia University.

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Signature _____

Please return this form to
 Misericordia University Advancement Services
 301 Lake Street, Dallas PA 18612 • (570) 674-6293

GIFT DESIGNATION

- Immediate Impact** supports scholarship, student services, athletics, campus beautification, and student emergencies
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Routing # _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Deduct funds monthly on the:
 5th or 20th

This gift is anonymous.

Signature _____

(Please sign this form before mailing it to us).





Sister Mary Carmel McGarigle
University Archives and Special Collections

Members of the 1928 women's basketball team flank director of Athletics Agnes M. Berry, center, on her left and right.

SAVE THE DATE ...

MARCH 26 50 Nights to Commencement
Misericordia.edu/50nights20

MARCH 19-22 Misericordia Players Theater
Play On

APRIL 4 Bunny Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt
Register: Misericordia.edu/bunnybrunch

APRIL 15 Misericordia Community Choir Concert

APRIL 17-18 Relay for Life
RelayforLife.org/pamisericordia

APRIL 18 Admissions Open House
admissions.misericordia.edu/openhouse

MAY 2-3 Misericordia Players Theater
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

MAY 9 Spring Commencement
Misericordia.edu/commencement

MAY 20 Pathways Out of Poverty Conference
Misericordia.edu/pathways

MAY 29-30 Alumni Weekend
Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/aw20

SEPT. 14 Athletics Department Golf Tournament
Reservations: 570-674-6374

SEPT. 19 Admissions Open House

For more information, please log on to Misericordia.edu or call 570-674-6400



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THEARTS&MORE

Misericordia University Box Office (570) 674-6719 – misericordia.edu/theartsandmore

Feb. 22–May 10

Women Artists: Four Centuries of Creativity

Exhibition examines works on paper by some of the most important women artists of the last four centuries. Scott Schweigert, exhibit curator, will offer a talk on Sat., Feb. 22 from 4–5:15 p.m. followed by a reception from 5:30–7 p.m. Friedman Art Gallery, misericordia.edu/art.

Feb. 27

Navigating a Biology Career Path: Experiences, Challenges, and Advice

A panel presentation of the Biology Seminar Series, featuring lab assistant Jill Dillon, and assistant professors Linda Aufer, Ph.D., and Mateusz Wosik, Ph.D., Biology Department. 5:30–6:30 p.m. 206 Science Center. Contact: gchen@misericordia.edu

March 5

Humanities Academic Day

Open house event for high school students featuring interactive learning to gain a better understanding of the Humanities fields. 216–219 Insalaco Hall, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Contact: Rachel Oberg, roberg@misericordia.edu

March 12

That's So Cool! Why Have I Never Learned That?: Bringing Women Scientists into the Light

Biology Seminar Series featuring Leah Horton, Ph.D., lecturer in biology and



*Ella
Sophonisba
Hergesheimer
(American,
1873 – 1943),
Magnolia
Seedpods,
woodblock
print, Museum
Purchase,*

Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa., will be among the works on display from Feb. 22–May 10 at the Friedman Art Gallery.

director of the University Scholar Program in Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas. 5:30–6:30 p.m. 206 Science Center. Contact: gchen@misericordia.edu

March 17

Autism and the Hierarchy of Senses

Author Anand Prahlad, Ph.D., discusses growing up black with undiagnosed autism. 7 p.m., 218–219, Insalaco Hall. Contact: 570-674-8113.

March 18

Women's Issues Forum

Women's History Month event. 12–1 p.m. McGowan Room, Bevevino Library. Info: misericordia.edu/whm. Contact: jblack2@misericordia.edu

March 20

Guitar Fest

Featuring guitar professor Pat Temple

for a series of workshops and concerts. Contact: misericordia.edu/guitarfest.

March 20

Women's History Month Poetry Reading

McGowan Room, Bevevino Library, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Info: misericordia.edu/whm.

March 30

Eight Women who Changed the World

A Women's History Month event. McGowan Room, Bevevino Library, 6 p.m. Info: misericordia.edu/whm. Contact: Jennifer M. Black, Ph.D., jblack2@misericordia.edu.

April 2

Pledge to Preserve Human Dignity

Center for Human Dignity presents Michael Robinson, Ph.D., on medical ethics. 7 p.m., Lemmond Theater. Info: Misericordia.edu/humandignity.

April 16

Live and Let Die - PAK2 a Molecular Switch in Cancer

A presentation of the Biology Seminar Series, featuring Frank DiPino, Ph.D., professor of biology at Misericordia University. 5:30–6:30 p.m. 206 Science Center. Contact: Dr. Grace Chen, gchen@misericordia.edu

May 29-30, 2020

Alumni Weekend

SEE NEW PLACES! MEET NEW PEOPLE!

Tours with a Difference 2020

Misericordia.edu/tourswithadifference

Aspects of Malta and Rome

March 24–April 4

Featuring Valletta, The Three Cities, Marsaxlokk, Gozo, The Blue Grotto, Mosta, Dingli Cliffs, Rome, Tivoli and the Vatican. \$2,995 double occupancy

London and Beyond

June 18–29

Featuring London, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Plymouth, Cornwall, Bath, Stonehenge, Windsor and more. \$2,995 double occupancy

The Oberammergau Passion Play and Beyond

Sept. 16–26

Featuring Stresa, Zermatt and the Matterhorn, Lucerne, Bern, Lichtenstein, The Passion Play in Oberammergau, Verona and Venice. \$4,195 double occupancy

Christmas Magic at the Markets

Nov. 29–Dec. 9

Featuring markets in Rothenberg, Regensburg, Nuremberg, Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Salzburg, Linderhof Palace, Oberammergau, Innsbruck and Munich. \$2,995 double occupancy

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