

Special Edition

*“Scientists have  
become the bearers  
of the torch of  
discovery in our quest  
for knowledge.”*

– Stephen Hawking

# NOW *for* TOMORROW

## *The Campaign for Misericordia University*

More than a century ago, the Religious Sisters of Mercy invested in 100 acres of Pennsylvania land. Ten years later, they dedicated Misericordia. In the fall of 1924, there were just 37 students, but the Sisters knew there would soon be many more.

From the beginning, Misericordia has been shaped and animated by the absolute conviction that a wide-ranging Catholic liberal arts education would prepare students for professional and personal lives of achievement, service and consequence. Year by year, student by student, success by success, Misericordia grew, adding diversity and strength. Academic programs were expanded; new and inventive ways to teach and learn were developed.

Misericordia has grown to almost 3,000 students, and so much at the University has changed – but not the institution’s heart and soul – two distinct, timeless principles. Misericordia believes with engaged mentorship, students are the authors of their own liberal learning and professional narratives. And the University believes lives of personal consequence are animated by the enduring moral values that Misericordia’s students embrace.

Now, for tomorrow, the University’s opportunities and strengths have aligned to take a strategically clear, focused and purposeful leap forward. Facilities must match aspirations, opportunity must match talent and drive, access and support must equal need. Now, and always, facilities must match aspirations, opportunity must match talent and ambition, access and support must equal need.

The *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign will power and accelerate students and faculty to the next stage, the

next breakthrough, the next achievement. The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center will embody Misericordia’s commitment to technology that is advanced and infrastructure that lends itself to superior teaching, learning and research.

The *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign’s goals encompass three essential priorities. Together, for Misericordia, the University will: Build upon the strength in the sciences with a premier facility designed for cross-disciplinary and collaborative teaching, learning and research; open doors with increased endowed scholarship funding, and through the Annual Fund, accelerate the ability to move quickly on outstanding opportunities to better the University and help shape success for graduates.

*Now for Tomorrow* is the largest and most ambitious campaign to date. It will usher Misericordia into an exciting new era of advanced teaching, learning and scientific research. The University welcomes the devoted family of benefactors – alumni, parents and friends, corporations and foundations – as well as new friends to help make history.

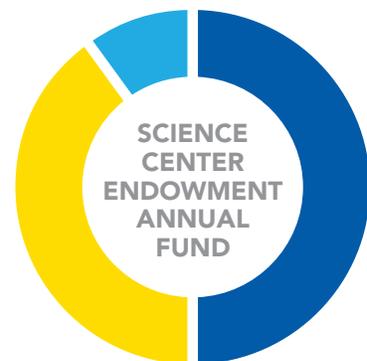
There are many ways to make a gift. Please go online at [Misericordia.edu/henrysciencecenter](http://Misericordia.edu/henrysciencecenter) or [Misericordia.edu/pabuilding](http://Misericordia.edu/pabuilding) or contact Jeanne VanDuzer, campaign coordinator, at (570) 674-6333 or [jvanduzer@misericordia.edu](mailto:jvanduzer@misericordia.edu) to see how what you do now can shape, inform and power the future.

MU cannot do it without support from many friends. The University invites you to travel forward in time, to do something important *now*. Every gift, of any size, moves the institution closer to the goal. The result will be remarkable and meaningful. **h**

## NOW *is your* MOMENT

Our campaign encompasses three essential priorities. Together for Misericordia, we will:

- Build upon our strength in the sciences with a premier facility designed for cross-disciplinary and collaborative teaching, learning and research – **Henry Science Center**.
- Open doors with increased endowed scholarship funding – **Endowment**.
- Through the Annual Fund, accelerate Misericordia’s ability to move quickly on outstanding opportunities to better the University and help shape success for the University’s graduates – **Annual Fund**.



# Misericordia

SUMMER 2018

## Today



Frank M and  
Dorothea Henry  
Science Center

## NOW *for* TOMORROW

*The Campaign for Misericordia University supports construction of the Henry Science Center, and investment in the endowment and Annual Fund. Coverage begins on Page 21*



**Campus community rededicates historic archway ... Page 5**

# University recognizes philanthropy, leadership of Frank M. Henry and John C. Metz, Sr.

## Trustee Associates Gala marks official launch of 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign in support of Henry Science Center, scholarships and program endowment

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees honored the philanthropy and leadership of the late Frank M. Henry and John C. Metz, Sr., by presenting them with the Founders Medal during the annual Trustee Associates Gala at the Beaumont Inn.

The Founders Medal is one of the highest honors bestowed by Misericordia, as the trustees award it only when merited. Trustee Marjorie Henry Marquart '85 accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Henry, who passed away in June. Mr. Metz, who retired from the board in June, accepted the award with his family by his side.

"Misericordia University is grateful for Frank's generosity," President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., said, "and for including us in the eleemosynary spirit of the Henry family."

"John has served on our Board of Trustees for 30 years," President Botzman added. "During that time, he has had many roles, including a term as board chair, and has supported a great number of forward-looking improvements to the physical plant and campus programs."

Known for a lifetime of benevolence,

Mr. Henry was the chairperson emeritus of Martz Group in Wilkes-Barre. He had guided and grown the business as CEO since 1964. He used the same transformative approach with his motor coach companies to address the needs of



Mr. Henry



Mr. Metz

his community. He invested his time, talent and treasure in quality of life issues that touched everyone.

Trustees honored Mr. Henry and his wife, Dorothea, in 2014 by presenting them with the Trustee Associates Award for their philanthropy, leadership and dedication. The Frank and Dorothea Henry Student Lounge bears the couple's name in recognition of their benevolence.

Mr. Henry also was the first major benefactor to commit his support to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign.

Mr. Metz, executive chairperson of Metz Culinary Management, has been a stalwart member of the Misericordia community for many years, serving the institution since 1988 as a trustee and continuing in his new role as trustee emeritus.

His foray into the restaurant and hospitality business began in 1967 when he founded Custom Management Corp., in Kingston, Pa. Today, the family-driven company is headquartered in Dallas, Pa., and has about 7,000 employees in 19 states.

In 2002, Misericordia recognized Mr. Metz and his wife, Mary, for their philanthropy and leadership by awarding them the Trustee Associates Award.

The family's impact on the institution is obvious campus wide, as they supported the remodeling of the John and Mary Metz Dining Hall. More recently, the University dedicated the John and Mary Metz Field House in 2012. The fieldhouse was named in honor of the couple and their three children, John Jr., Jeff and Maureen, in recognition of their exceptional dedication and support. [h](#)

## Misericordia Today earns two CUPPIE Awards

Misericordia Today magazine was the recipient of two 2018 CUPPIE Awards for Creative Excellence in Marketing and Communications in Education from the College and University Public Relations and Associated Professionals (CUPRAP).

The Office of Public Relations and Publications received a gold award in the print category for the cover of the summer 2017 issue, *The Arch AND So Much More*, which focused on the restoration of the historic archway entrance to campus. CUPRAP also awarded a silver award in the print



category for the cover of the winter 2017 issue, *UNRAVELING Mysteries of the Brain*, which highlighted efforts by researchers in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology to better

understand communication disorders by studying blood flow in the human brain.

Forty-nine organizations received an award from among the 495 entries submitted from colleges, universities, and providers of private, specialized, and secondary education in seven states. Judges represented experts in the field of communications and included designers, writers, educators, corporate executives, and media professionals.

Institutions receiving CUPPIE Awards included, Bucknell, Duquesne, Kutztown, and Temple universities, and Franklin and Marshall and Swarthmore colleges. [h](#)

# Misericordia Today

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20  
Summer construction prepares for science center's groundbreaking.



05  
Dedication ceremony honors alumna's dedication to MU.



19  
Take the Pledge to Preserve Human Dignity in Health Care.



69  
Meet women's basketball player and DPT student Rachel Carmody '18, '21



74  
Education alumna earns teacher of the year recognition in Florida.



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## ON THE COVER

Misericordia University is planning to break ground on the new state-of-the-art Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center in the spring. Construction of the 80,500-square-foot building is being supported by the Now for Tomorrow Campaign, the largest capital campaign in the institution's history. The campaign also will provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for scholarships.



## The electromagnetic 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

**T**wo years ago, the Board of Trustees approved the formal launch of the quiet phase of the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, which we are using as a vehicle to raise \$30 million in support of the new science center and endowment, particularly scholarships in support of students with financial need.

We were hopeful of raising the funds needed for a better and more exciting tomorrow because Misericordia University is blessed with friends who support our many academic and student life programs. We are making substantial progress and are now moving into the open phase of the campaign with optimism of achieving and surpassing our goal.

The late Frank M. Henry, a longtime friend of many nonprofit agencies and organizations in the Wyoming Valley, quickly stepped up to make the lead donation on what is to become the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. We plan to break ground in spring 2019, and spend about two years renovating the current building and building an addition that will house new classrooms, and laboratories. Our dream of having the best natural sciences facility in the area is becoming a reality, thanks largely to Mr. Henry and the Martz Group of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., their family business for more than a century.

The science hall was built in 1957. I spent my undergraduate years studying science and engineering in a similar building that had the names of great scientists along its perimeter. Thinking back, I remember the names of the greats in science: Newton, Einstein, Pauling, Bohr, Heisenberg, Curie, Maxwell, and of course, Boltzmann (no relation and not even spelled the same).

I also remember that the work of Michael Faraday on electromagnetic induction was important. It turns out that Faraday's scientific contemporary was the American scientist Joseph Henry, whose work was fundamental to the invention of the electromechanical relay. Most of us refer to the EM relay as a switch, and some of us have seen them in larger equipment, such as pinball machines and motor vehicles. It is a given that there have been many EM relays in the multitude of Martz buses that have taken each of us from here to there and back again. They even take us to Washington, D.C., to visit the Smithsonian Institution where the same Joseph Henry served as the first secretary of the world's largest museum. It is only fitting, then, that Mr. Frank M. Henry's support for our largest-ever campaign is recognized with the name Henry on our new science building.

In this issue, you will be reading about our ambitious *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, the stories of those who are supporting it, and our efforts to enhance the science learning environment. Thank you to our many friends and benefactors as we move toward our second century of learning and service as envisioned by the Sisters of Mercy. [h](#)



President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

#MisericordiaProud

# University rededicates historic arch

## Campus clock honors alumna Bettsi Jaeger '68 for service to Misericordia and graduating class

The Misericordia University community officially rededicated the historic archway on Lake Street during a ceremony on Alumni Weekend in June that featured remarks from the Sisters of Mercy, students, alumni and administration.

Surrounded by more than 100 members of the alumni and campus communities, President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., student Lia Ruggerio '19, '20, alumna Sara Ervin Walser, Ed.D. '63, Board of Trustees Chair Christopher L. Borton, and Sister Martha Hanlon, RSM '60 touched upon the meaning of the arch and the significance of restoring it to its former grandeur.

"The arch is one way, always one of entering the university, and symbolically is never closed," President Botzman said. "Our arch also is located far from Mercy Hall and requires an effort to climb the hill to the university that sits at the top. The years spent earning a Misericordia degree have plenty of uphill climbs, but the view when one gets to the top is truly amazing."

Masonry Preservation Service, Inc., of Bloomsburg, completed the six-month restoration project in late November. The delicate process required the removal of bricks, cupola arch sections, terra cotta, and bluestone, and an interior examination of the embedded steel and backup brick elements that provide the structural integrity for the main arch and piers.

Overall, almost 100 pieces of carved natural bluestone were removed and replaced, and more than 150 terra cotta units were removed, replicated and replaced. The company also salvaged and replaced nearly 5,000 tan bricks and refurbished the historic copper lanterns that illuminate the entranceway of the arch.

The Tudor Gothic-style arch has been an inviting symbol of Misericordia's hospitality since its design by noted architect F. Ferdinand Durang of New York, N.Y., and its completion by Andrew J. Sordoni Construction in the 1930s.

During Sister Martha's presentation, she reflected upon the Sisters of Mercy establishing a foothold in the Wyoming

Valley, first traveling from Pittsburgh in 1875 before arriving for good in Wilkes-Barre in 1884. "The Sisters had ideals and dreams to help people conquer poverty and hardship through education," she said. "It was during that period that a handful of Sisters of Mercy recognized a need to alter the intellectual environment of the area and envisioned an academic institution for young women."

The arch's importance also has not been lost on today's generation of students. "To me, the arch is meaningful for many reasons," said Ruggerio, a junior speech-language pathology major. "Most importantly, it means, 'welcome.' It means, 'you are home.' It is our mark. Even if you pass the arch to enter at the North Gate, seeing this landmark makes you say, 'We're here!'"

"It is the most important thing you want to be pictured by at graduation. Why? Because the arch is Misericordia," she added.

More than five decades ago, Dr. Walser graduated magnum cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. The storied "woodland home on Dallas heights" that inspired a career in human resource management services was the furthest she had traveled from her childhood home in New Jersey. The next four years, though, left an indelible impression upon her. "We can view this

beautiful, strong monument as a reminder of our initiation into the life of Misericordia and also as a symbol of renewal," said Dr. Walser. "We come here to renew our connections – to our classmates and to the merciful heart of the University. Perhaps there have been many turning points in our lives, in addition to our first pass through the arch. Some have been happy transitions, some of sorrow. The arch remains and is renewed, as we are."

The Misericordia community also dedicated *Bettsi's Clock*, named in memory of Bettsi Jaeger '68, as a reminder of all the time she gave to the institution and the impact she had on the Class of 1968. The clock is situated between Mercy Hall and the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library. [h](#)



Members of the media and alumni and friends, above, gather at the historic arch during the rededication ceremony in June.

Misericordia, right, officially dedicated the *Bettsi Clock* during Alumni Weekend in memory of Bettsi Jaeger '68 and all the time she gave to the institution and the impact she had on the Class of 1968.



## Trustees honored by Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania honored three members of the Board of Trustees during the annual Business Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony in June.

Board of Trustees' chairperson Christopher L.

Borton, P.E., senior advisor and founder of Borton-Lawson, and Trustee John C. Metz, Sr., of Metz Culinary Management, were inducted into the Junior Achievement's Hall of Fame. Trustee Kristopher B. Jones of KBJ Capital was named Entrepreneur of the Year.

Mr. Borton established Borton Engineering Associates, Inc., in 1988 to provide general civil engineering services. Under his leadership, the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., firm has grown into a nationally recognized engineering and architectural firm.

Mr. Metz has been in the food service management industry since 1967, when he founded Custom Management Corp. The small regional provider grew into an industry leader and innovator. In 1994, he launched Metz Culinary Management in Dallas, Pa., which specializes in providing dining management solutions in health care, educational and corporate accounts.

Mr. Jones, a best-selling author and accomplished entrepreneur, is the founder of Pepperjam, which he sold in 2009. He established KBJ Capital in Wilkes-Barre, an early-stage technology investment fund that boasts 20 portfolio companies, including Special Guest App and LSEO.com.



Borton



Metz



Jones

## Relay for Life raises more than \$34,000 for battle against cancer

The Misericordia University Colleges Against Cancer Chapter surpassed \$230,000 in fundraising during the eighth annual Relay for Life by raising more than \$34,000 during the campus event in April.

The student-run fundraiser for the American Cancer Society has grown incrementally since it raised \$7,000 during its inaugural effort in 2011. Overall, the annual event has raised \$230,741.45 since its inception.

The 2018 Misericordia University Relay for Life in the Anderson Sports and Health Center featured 41 teams, including Misericordia University Field Hockey, \$3,502; Misericordia University Women's Soccer, \$2,628; Build the Fun, \$2,054; R-Killin' Cancer, \$1,848, and the Misericordia University National Student Speech Language

and Hearing Association Chapter, \$1,811. Sponsors included T.J. Cannon, Toyota of Scranton, WOC Energy, Nativity of Our Lord, and the Coughlin High School Key Club.

Participating in the ceremonial check presentation with the American Cancer Society, first row from left, are Zach Moody '18, Clarence, Pa.; Elizabeth Pedro, advisor, Misericordia University Colleges Against Cancer Chapter; Olivia Sumeriski '20, Toms River, N.J., and Kailee Crockett '20, Smithtown, N.Y., second row, Elizabeth Mosier '20, Towanda, Pa.; Cassy Silveri '19, Plains Twp., Pa.; Olivia Johnson '19, Jamison, Pa.; Michaela Daley '21, Doylestown, Pa.; Liz Perfetti '18, Bangor, Pa.; Agripina Torres '20, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Alyssa Acker '20, Palmerton, Pa.; third row, Trinity Sprague '18, Bel Air,

## Occupational therapy students defend AOTA Knowledge Bowl

Misericordia University occupational therapy students successfully defended the University's 2017 title and captured first place in the American Occupational Therapy Association/EBS Healthcare Knowledge Bowl at the 2018 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entry-level occupational therapy students Lauren Apgar '18, Milford, N.J.; Elizabeth Pfisterer '18, Wellsboro, Pa.; Jillian Robinson '18, Quarryville, Pa.; Kaitlin Sauder '18, Leola, Pa., and Kyle Soldevilla '18, Swedesboro, N.J., beat eight other teams in the annual competition. Members of the winning team received their master's degrees at spring commencement in May.

Collegiate teams randomly chosen to participate in the competition

included Duquesne University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, East Carolina University, Medical University of South Carolina, Allen College, Adventists University Health Sciences, University of Indianapolis, and the University of Southern California.

The Knowledge Bowl prepares students to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam through a fun game-show format that also allows participants and audience members to display their school spirit. Teams simultaneously answer seven rounds of questions, featuring five questions per round during the two-hour competition. The questions test student knowledge of key information related to OT practice, including medical conditions, evaluation, and intervention services. [h](#)



Md.; Kaitlyn Burridge '18, Barton, N.Y.;  
Kristen Solowiej '20, Wyalusing, Pa.;  
Katie Bowman '19, Hegins, Pa.; Shayne

Postiglione '19, Washingtonville, N.Y.;  
Katrina Giacumbo '19, Holmdel, N.J.,  
and Talyor Webb '19, Clark, N.J. [h](#)

## NEH awards grant to Medical/Health Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a \$99,985 Humanities Connections Implementation Grant to the Medical and Health Humanities Program. The funding will assist in the revision of the program's curriculum under the direction of Assistant Professor Amanda Caleb, Ph.D., as it addresses urgent global health issues through expanded experiential learning opportunities in a transdisciplinary curriculum.



Dr. Caleb

## Nursing professor chosen for AACN's program

Lisa Shustack, Ed.D., M.S.N., M.S.Ed., R.N., assistant professor of nursing, participated in the inaugural *Digital Innovation*

*Bootcamp: From Concept to Action*, sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and Apple in July.

Dr. Shustack, a first-year faculty member in the undergraduate nursing program, was one of 30 people chosen for the highly competitive program through a nationwide application process.



Dr. Shustack

## Philosophy professor studies ancient Greece

Melanie Shepherd, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy, was one of 20 professors nationwide chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges and Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies to participate in the Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom seminar, *Traveling with Pausanias through Greece*, from July 17-25.



Dr. Shepherd



Students in the Department of Occupational Therapy successfully defended the university's 2017 title and captured first place in the American Occupational Therapy Association/EBS Healthcare Knowledge Bowl at the 2018 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members of the winning team, from left, are Jillian Robinson '18, Quarryville, Pa.; Lauren Apgar '18, Milford, N.J.; Kyle Soldevilla '18, Swedesboro, N.J.; Kaitlin Sauder '18, Leola, Pa., and Elizabeth Pfisterer '18, Wellsboro, Pa.

## ALUMNI NEWS

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

### Raising a glass to the Class of 1968

It is fitting our alma mater has chosen to announce its most exciting capital campaign ever in 2018 – the same year we celebrate the golden anniversary for the Class of 1968. If you have ever been involved in Alumni events here, you know the legend of this Class. Led by the incomparable Bettsi Jaeger '68, they set the standard for keeping its class together and for supporting progress and advancement.

They stuck together better than any graduating Class before or since, and they financially supported (and continue to support) Misericordia in record numbers. At our recent Alumni Weekend, these classmates came out in full force to celebrate their 50th anniversary and to honor Bettsi's legacy by dedicating the new campus clock that bears her name. Bettsi's Clock now serves as a tribute to the timelessness of friendship, while simultaneously reminding us that progress is both inevitable and necessary.

The first step nurtures lifelong friendships. The University makes it easy to stay in touch with our classmates. Homecoming Weekend – with a focus on our younger Alumni – is a perfect opportunity to return to campus, tailgate before the football game, take the field in an alumni game, or just share laughs with friends. My fraternity brothers and sisters in Alpha Delta Kappa (yes, we did have a fraternity!) are planning a reunion this Homecoming and you can as well. For our older Alumni, Alumni Weekend is a celebration you should not miss.

The next step ensures that progress never stops by financially supporting Misericordia's present and future. I encourage all of you to learn as much as you can about the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign and to provide as much support as your budget allows. The Science Hall we all know and (perhaps) love was built in 1957. While she has served us well, modern technology and medicine require more than she can give and our programs have grown to the point that the existing space can no longer accommodate.

The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center is exactly what our alma mater needs if it is going to continue to prepare students for the challenges of modern health care and STEM careers.

The last step is to express our gratitude to a trailblazing class of amazing women. The next time you think of Misericordia, raise a glass to Bettsi and her classmates – the best alumni class we have ever known.

Misericordia Proud,



Mark Oberstaedt '89, Alumni Board President



Mark Oberstaedt '89

## CLASS NOTES

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

### 1959

**Marlyn Strongoski Zlotek '59** and her husband, Donald, welcomed their 20th grandchild. Marlyn and Donald are now the proud grandparents of 16 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

### 1968

**Elaine Serafini Rogan '68** and her husband, Dr. Joseph Rogan, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 27, 2018.

### 1969

**Mary Jenkins Dvoroznak '69** was honored as Citizen of the Year at the Knights of Columbus Councils' Annual Award Ceremony on June 20, 2018.

### 1970

**Dr. Ann Marie Frank Kolanowski '70** delivered a lecture discussing the difficulties of delirium during the University of Buffalo School of Nursing's 21st Annual Bonnie Bullough Lecture. Dr. Ann's lecture was the keynote event.

### 1977

**Rosemary Lane O'Dea '77** received the Carolyn Sebastianelli Award from the New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on May 11, 2018. The award is the highest bestowed on a member and is in recognition of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the nutritional needs of the community. Rosemary is currently a faculty member at Rowan College at Gloucester County in Sewell, NJ.



Relive the spring commencement ceremonies by looking through the special photo albums at [bit.ly/mugradmay18](http://bit.ly/mugradmay18) and [bit.ly/muundergradmay18](http://bit.ly/muundergradmay18)

## 1978

**Dr. Mary-Pat Torres Maciolek '78** was recognized by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, as a Fellow. The designation recognizes Dr. Mary-Pat's commitment to the field of dietetics and celebrates her professional accomplishments and pursuit of life-long learning. She is a professor and the chairperson of the Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics Department at Middlesex County College in Edison, N.J.

## 1989

**Dr. Sharon Hartnett Kurfuerst '89** was appointed chief operating officer of Christiana Care Health Services in September 2017. In addition to her role at Christiana Care, Sharon sits on several local boards, including Brandywine Counseling, Delaware Military Academy, and the HOPE Commission.

## 1994

**Sarah Dempsey '94, '04, '12** and Joseph Desmarteau were united in marriage on June 30, 2018. Sarah is currently an instructor at The Pennsylvania State University and will pursue a doctorate in the fall.

## 1995

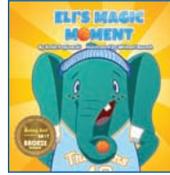
**Dr. Darlene Kuchinski-Donnelly '95, '99** earned a Ph.D. in nursing from Widener University. During her doctoral studies, she received the National League for Nursing Jonas Scholar Award from 2016-18 where she presented her research in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Darlene is an assistant professor of nursing at Misericordia and resides in Wapwallopen, Pa., with her husband, Joseph, and three children.

## 1996

Attorney **James Shrimp '96** was installed as president of the Rotary Club of Central Chester County in June 2017. He is the Chapter's 29th president since its founding in 1988. Jim is currently a partner at High Swartz law firm.

## 1998

**Dr. Kevin Poplawski '98** released his first children's book, *Eli's Magic Moment*, which was published on Nov. 26, 2017. It sold 400 copies in less than two months from its release. Kevin and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Atlanta, Ga., with their two little girls, Hailey and Emily.



## 1999

**Donn Hoosack '99** and his business partner, Todd Hunt, recently opened ManaFirkin Brewing Co. on May 21, 2017 in Manahawkin, N.J.

## 2003

**Kristen Pizzano Eviston '03** and her husband, Eric, welcomed their son on April 23, 2018.

## 2004

**David Martin '04** was named a 2017-18 recipient of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year Award. David is one of 28 directors from across the country to receive the award for 2017-18, including four directors at the NCAA Division III level.

**Jennifer Yurkon Hetro '04** and her husband, Christopher, welcomed their daughter on June 15, 2018.

**Elizabeth Powell Cain '04** and her husband, Brendan, bought their first home and are expecting their first baby in October 2018.

## 2005

**Melissa Martin Lawless '05** and her husband, Glenn, welcomed their daughter, Livia, on June 20, 2018.

## 2006

**Theodora Higgins McCoy '06**, D.A.T.S.S., was promoted to specialist supervisor in the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Department for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections at Mahanoy City Correctional Institution. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology.

## 2007

**Megan Heibeck Heggland '07** and her husband, John, welcomed a daughter, Harper Elise, on April 23, 2018. Harper joins big brother John Aleksander, 2. Megan teaches third grade. The couple resides in Bethel, Conn.



**Jennifer Byrnes-Chulick Peiffer '07** and her husband, Brian, welcomed their son on June 22, 2018.

Continued on next page

## Misericordia Proud!

Beginning with the 2019 fall semester, prospective undergraduate students have to indicate on their application that they have been referred by an alumnus to be eligible for the Misericordia Proud Alumni Referral Grant. Upon acceptance, referred students would be eligible to receive \$500 a year for up to four years.



Continued from previous page

## 2008

**Rebecca Bicking '08, '17** and John Woodring were united in marriage on Nov. 15, 2017 at the Crane Beach in Barbados. Rebecca is a certified registered family nurse practitioner working for the Lehigh Valley Physician Group in outpatient neurology. The couple resides in the Hazleton area with their son, Gavin, and daughter, Olivia.



## 2009

**Rachel Hasay '09, '13** and Wayne Lauer were united in marriage on June 5, 2017. Rachel is employed as a special education teacher by New Story in Berwick, Pa. The couple resides in Huntingdon Twp., Pa.

**William "Max" Campbell, IV '09** received "Teacher of the Year" honors at the Milton School District in Milton, Pa., where he is a life skills teacher. The school board's speech included how Max goes above and beyond as a teacher for his students and peers.

**Dr. Ashley Wolanski Wagner '09** and her husband, Dr. Joseph Wagner, welcomed their first child, Logan Joseph, on Aug. 16, 2017.



Look for your friends and classmates in this special 2018 Alumni Weekend photo album at [bit.ly/mualumni18](http://bit.ly/mualumni18)



Alumni and friends served as marshals at the Spring Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. Participating in the program, first row from left, are Vanessa Mayorowski '96, Aubre Mayorowski Snyder '12, '15 Tabitha Bolinsky, Tiffany Wiernusz '04 and Colleen Newhart '75, '09; second row, Elizabeth Murdock '12, '15, Jessica Randall, Jennifer Luksa, Heather Fritz '97, Jennifer Corey '13 and Thomas Sweetz '01.

**Lindsay Smith Stavish '09** and her husband, John, welcomed their daughter on April 25, 2018.

**Katrina Emerick '09** and Jose Berthe were joined in marriage on Dec. 24, 2017 with the sand beneath their feet surrounded by family and friends. Katrina and Jose reside in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



## 2010

**Maura Musial Hopkins '10** and **Matthew Hopkins '09** welcomed their daughter, Molly Kate Hopkins, on Dec. 11, 2017. She joins big brother, Gavin.



**Danielle Furnari Campbell '10** was a part of the four-person event team for Geisinger Health that pulled off the Geisinger National Symposium: From Crisis to Cure in Danville, Pa. The symposium included the greatest minds in health care, business, and innovation. The goal was to change the narrative to focus on what can be done with the health care system. Danielle helped create the production, audio visual, agenda, logistics, and all other duties to make this national event a reality. The symposium gained national and worldwide attention.



SAVE THE DATE!

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2018 OCTOBER 5-7

Register online: [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming18](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming18)



**Tara Helwig '10** and Andrew Vining were united in marriage on April 14, 2018. Tara is a speech-language pathologist, as well as owner and CEO of TeleVine Therapy. The couple met while in Williamsport, Pa. The couple resides in New Philadelphia, Ohio.



**Dr. Ashlee Leonard Berry '10, '13** and **Kelly Berry '10** welcomed their daughter on April 24, 2018.

**Dr. Charles Stevens, III '10, '13** started Mobile Therapy Services LLC—an outpatient house call therapy practice specializing in Geriatrics, MS/PD, and other neurologic diseases. **Lori Recek Cardinale '95** and **Lisa Wasilewski Pecuch '98** are also a part of the team at Mobile Therapy Services LLC.



## 2011

**Kelly Johnson Gensel '11, '16** and **Kyle Gensel '09** welcomed a baby boy on March 27, 2018.

**Theodore Giovannini '11** and Rachel Metzger were united in marriage on Sept. 9, 2017. Theodore is an account executive at Apex Dental Solutions. The couple resides in Buffalo, N.Y., with their dog, Ellie, and parakeet, Perry.

## 2012

**Koryn Gallagher '12** and Greg Mascioli were united in marriage on Sept. 12, 2017.

**Jenna Rakowsky '12** and Matthew Steltzer were united in marriage on Sept. 9, 2017. Jenna is employed by Mountaintop Senior Care as an occupational therapist. The couple resides in Shavertown, Pa.

**Julia Truax Leighow '12, '15** and **Matthew Leighow '11** welcomed

a baby boy, Theodore (Theo) Xavier Leighow, on May 17, 2017. Julia works in residence life at the University of Scranton, and Matt is an RIS PACS analyst at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pa.



**Danielle Epifano Neishell '12** and her husband, Eric, welcomed a baby boy on March 6, 2018.

**Rose Ann Scott Murray '12** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a baby boy on May 19, 2018.

**Jordan Marzani '12, '17** and Michael Connolly were united in marriage on Sept. 30, 2017. Jordan is a registered nurse at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. The couple resides in Madison Twp., Pa.

**Krystal Burford '12** and **Brett Ford '11** were married in a double-ring ceremony on June 3, 2017. Krystal is a registered nurse in labor and delivery at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N.Y. Brett is the assistant director of athletic communications and media relations at SUNY Geneseo. After a honeymoon to Italy, the couple now resides in Geneseo, N.Y.

**Jeffrey Slanovec '12, '14** has been named FDU-Florham's next men's basketball coach. Jeffrey was a four-year starter on the men's basketball team. He then served as the graduate assistant coach for the men's basketball team at MU.

## 2013

**Brandon Chambers '13** was named the director of basketball operations for the

University of Nevada. While at Misericordia, Brandon served as the graduate assistant coach for the men's basketball team.

**Courtenay Serafini McDonough '13** and her husband, Paul, welcomed a baby boy on April 5, 2018.

**Michael Impellittere '13** was named the head coach of Hood College's Baseball Program. While at Misericordia, Michael was a member of the baseball team when the Cougars twice found themselves two wins away from going to the NCAA Division III College World Series in 2011 and 2013.

**Nicole Frederick Arnal '13** and her husband, Andres, welcomed their daughter, Dakota Lee Arnal, on Jan. 16, 2018.



## 2014

**Kasey Williams '14** and Thomas Smarr were united in marriage on Sept. 9, 2017. Kasey is a registered nurse at Geisinger (PACU) in Danville. The couple resides at Hedge Lane in Coal Township, Pa.



Continued on next page



Alumni and friends served as marshals at the Spring Graduate Commencement Ceremony. Participating in the program, first row from left, are Matthew Hinton, Tiffany Wiernusz '04, Amy Caruso '05 '12, and Thomas Sweetz '01; second row, Andrea Payne, Melissa McHale '12, Tabitha Bolinsky and Colleen Newhart '75, '09; third row, Catherine Payne '88, Jennifer Luksa and Melissa Alunni.

**Continued from previous page**

**Liana Kalish '14** and **Jared Butala '14** were united in marriage on April 20, 2018.

**Chadwick May '14** and Amanda Touey were united in marriage on June 2, 2018.



**Kelsey Neumeister Blyler '14** and her husband, Andrew, welcomed a baby girl, Cora Jane Blyler, on March 21, 2018.

**2015**

**Amanda Tomaselli '15** and Elias Tohme celebrated their wedding on Dec. 30, 2016.

Amanda is employed by the Wyalusing Area School District as a speech-language pathologist. The couple resides in Trucksville, Pa.



**Heather Rothman Bender '15** brings her decade of marketing and product management experience to her current role of strategic marketing manager at CornellCookson. In this position, she is responsible for company growth through the management of a diverse portfolio of new products in the research and development stages.

**Joseph Busacca '15** was named head men's basketball coach at Curry College in Milton, Mass. Joseph was a four-year

member of the men's basketball team, and he credited his coach at MU for molding him into the coach he is today.

**2016**

**Lindsey Couturier '16** has been named Bridgewater State University's new head softball coach. Lindsey, who already holds the full-time position of coordinator for athletic external relations at the institution in Massachusetts, had served as the graduate assistant softball coach while at Misericordia.

**2017**

**Patrick Dougherty '17** was promoted to lieutenant and assigned as the staff services section commander at Troop P, Wyoming, by Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Tyree C. Blocker. He most recently served as the station commander of Troop P, Towanda.

**Megan Wilkinson '17** and Alex Sirkot were united in marriage on May 25, 2018. One of Megan's bridesmaids included fellow Misericordia alumna, **Rebecca Johnson '17**.



**Steve Filipiak '05, '15**, center, web content coordinator and **Dave Johndrow '89, '14**, left, manager, PC services at Misericordia University, presented on the importance of website accessibility at the 2018 Finalsite University conference, *What is Accessibility and Why Does it Matter?* in June. Filipiak and Johndrow shared the approach taken at Misericordia to align various web assets with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA Success Criteria and offered guidance to other attendees seeking to improve website access and usability. Misericordia University, Finalsite, and AudioEye continue to collaborate in pursuit of conforming with WCAG 2.0 principles, guidelines and success criteria. Also pictured is **Kara Franco**, product education and accessibility specialist at Finalsite.

**Philip Kaiser '17** and Christina Lake were united in marriage on June 23, 2018. Phillip is a recruiting coordinator for Next College Student Athlete Athletic Recruiting out of Chicago, Ill. The couple resides in North Ridgeville with their dog, Carmella.

**Sister Mary Glennon '62 Scholarships Program**

Misericordia University awarded the inaugural Sister Mary Glennon '62 Scholarships in February after a five-member committee comprised of faculty and administration reviewed essays and narrowed the field to 12 students. Named in honor of the longest serving academic dean, the program awards six merit-based full

scholarships annually to qualified incoming first-year students. Every first time, full-time student who applies for acceptance is eligible as long as the student meets established academic criteria. The following first-year students are the first recipients of the academic scholarships:



**Alyssa Grieco**  
Hometown: Saylorsburg, Pa.  
High School: Pleasant Valley  
Major: Government, Law and National Security



**Dana Stroup**  
Hometown: Shohola, Pa.  
High School: Delaware Valley  
Major: Nursing



**Alexa Thompson**  
Hometown: Schenectady, N.Y.  
High School: Guilderland Central  
Major: Occupational Therapy



**Alexa Monro**  
Hometown: Kinnelon, N.J.  
High School: Kinnelon  
Major: Accounting



**Tara Sweeney**  
Hometown: Jessup, Pa.  
High School: Valley View  
Major: Biology/DPT



**Thomas Weiskircher**  
Hometown: Huntingtown, Md.  
High School: Huntingtown  
Major: Business Administration

<b>1941</b> Marie Wittman Kilgallon Jan. 30, 2018	Anne Minerva Chesney June 6, 2018	Nancy McManaman Lynch April 8, 2018	Charlene Smith Servey Dec. 8, 2017	<b>1979</b> Felecia Simanovich Erhardt June 7, 2018
<b>1944</b> Marguerite Corrigan April 20, 2018	Mary Jane Klein Shea June 15, 2018	Mary Caritas Kennedy, RSM May 2, 2018	Regina Scarcella Bossig March 1, 2018	<b>1983</b> Donna Lavelle Zigmund June 13, 2018
<b>1945</b> Mary Mariella Crowe, RSM May 18, 2018	<b>1954</b> Agnes Ryan Dec. 12, 2017	Eileen Thomas Bikowicz May 15, 2018	<b>1967</b> Rosemary O'Sullivan Spadaro July 21, 2016	<b>1984</b> Maria Proch June 25, 2018
<b>1946</b> Anna Marie "Nancy" Durkin May 4, 2018	Theresa Polachek Shiner Dec. 24, 2017	Grace Powers Monaco May 17, 2018	Margaret Creamer Bonner March 15, 2018	<b>1985</b> Gail Thompson Gatusky May 2, 2018
<b>1947</b> Edith Howell Haughwout July 18, 2018	Joan Bartek Bowling May 9, 2018	Carol Schoeller Bessette May 29, 2018	Barbara Hardy Carey March 18, 2018	<b>1985</b> Joseph Munley May 10, 2018
<b>1948</b> Irene Buczewski Stadulis Feb. 28, 2018	<b>1955</b> Patricia Langan Schreitmueller May 25, 2017	Elizabeth Shannon Resavage July 4, 2018	<b>1968</b> Constance Serensits Lally Jan. 19, 2013	<b>1986</b> Lisa Marshall Feb. 9, 2018
<b>1951</b> Molly Mollahan Lyons Jan. 29, 2018	Suzanne Fletcher Moylan May 1, 2018	Catherine Williamson, RSM Jan. 19, 2018	Claire Fahey Morrow June 24, 2018	<b>1987</b> Andrea Yorina Vomero May 7, 2018
<b>1952</b> Anne Paye, RSM Dec. 9, 2017	<b>1956</b> Lucille Baron Bodosky Aug. 17, 2016	Eileen Lawrence Dec. 1, 2017	Kathleen Mongelluzzi VanderHeijden Sept. 2, 2017	<b>1990</b> Kevin Walker Nov. 16, 2017
<b>1953</b> Mary Paul Davenport Dec. 24, 2017	Virginia Brewster Faber Nov. 29, 2017	Eleanor Kaper Bellanco Dec. 21, 2017	Paula Scott Jan. 20, 2018	<b>1991</b> Robert Coniglio July 2, 2018
<b>1954</b> Theresa Brisk Hensler June 5, 2018	Ann DeSanto Morris Dec. 29, 2017	Ellen O'Connell Wagner April 22, 2018	Rosemarie Conrey Millard Feb. 17, 2016	<b>1991</b> Kevin Keyser May 13, 2018
	Josephine Zachary Castellani March 20, 2018	Sydney Mark Atkinson Dec. 23, 2017	Noreen Delaney Dec. 23, 2017	<b>1992</b> Lee Ann Beretski Sapolis May 20, 2018
	Marjorie Smith Gacha Dec. 3, 2017	Elizabeth "Betsy" Lazorick March 19, 2018	Judith Falzone Samartzis March 13, 2018	<b>1996</b> Maureen Sheekey Lucchino April 16, 2018
	Eileen Beleski Drislan Jan. 28, 2018	Ann Antonello Johns July 25, 2018	Janet Neiderer Keffer April 10, 2018	<b>2002</b> Rebecca Brown Grohowski Feb. 7, 2018
	Jo Anne Sabol Thorpe April 18, 2018	Suellen Moore Gilmore Jan. 11, 2018	Susan Baron Lazio June 14, 2018	<b>2002</b> Susan Zoike Eckroth May 11, 2018
	<b>1959</b> Mary Livezey March 16, 2018	Maryanne Toth Canavesio Jan. 12, 2018	Janice Quarteroni Miller Jan. 29, 2018	<b>2006</b> Adam Hedges May 31, 2018
	Laetitia Gillis, RSM March 18, 2018	Patricia Bronko Humphrey April 27, 2017	Mary Ellen Dunn Brice April 8, 2018	
	<b>1960</b> Maryanne Murphy Prentice June 22, 2017	Mary Ann Verbitsky Cybulski Jan. 4, 2018	<b>1975</b> Mary Alice Callahan Clifford June 11, 2018	
		Sharon Farrell Raeder Dec. 4, 2017		



[cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu)



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[Twitter.com/MisericordiAlum](https://twitter.com/MisericordiAlum)



[Linkedin.com/groups/Misericordia-Alumni-1416127](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Misericordia-Alumni-1416127)



[Instagram.com/MisericordiaAlumni](https://www.instagram.com/MisericordiaAlumni)



[YouTube.com/MisericordiaU](https://www.youtube.com/MisericordiaU)



[Misericordia.edu/mutodayextended](http://Misericordia.edu/mutodayextended)



[Storify.com/MisericordiaU](https://www.storify.com/MisericordiaU)



[Pinterest.com/MisericordiaU](https://www.pinterest.com/MisericordiaU)



[Flickr.com/MisericordiaU](https://www.flickr.com/MisericordiaU)

# 'PARIS EST UNE FÊTE'

## Hemingway Conference offers memories as indelible as his books

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

It is rare in a career when passion, family and vocation come together as well as they have for Matthew Nickel, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, who has dedicated much of his career to the study of Ernest Hemingway.

Dr. Nickel joined the ranks of preeminent Hemingway scholars when he served as co-director of the XVIII International Ernest Hemingway Conference in Paris,

English

France in July. It developed into the largest conference dedicated to Hemingway, attracting 550 academics from more than 30 countries. He co-directed the conference alongside his mentor and friend, H.R. Stoneback, a poet and author who is the leading authority on Hemingway in the world.

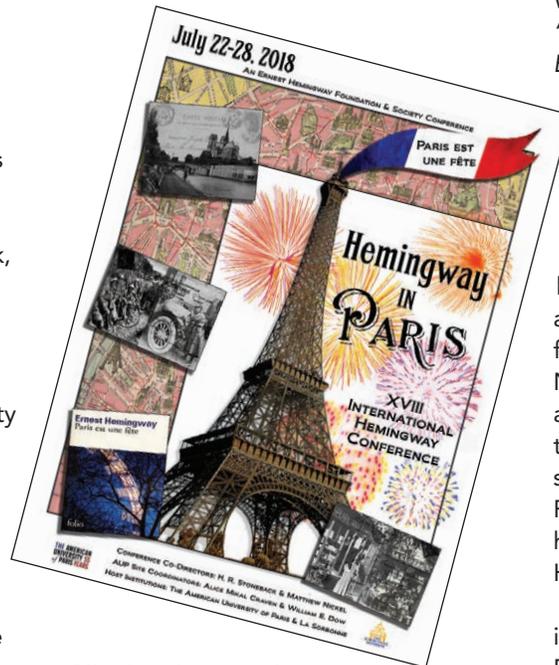
A range of University grants and fellowships allowed 16 members of the Misericordia academic community – faculty, students and alumni from a variety of disciplines – to present alongside Dr. Nickel at the conference.

With hundreds of members worldwide, the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society presents the premier Hemingway conference annually. In years past, Venice, Italy; Key West, Fla.; Madrid, Spain, and Lausanne, Switzerland have hosted the conference – locales that intertwine with Hemingway's works and travels.

Dr. Nickel's research and publications over the last decade afforded him the opportunity to take a lead role in the 2018 Paris event, overseeing nearly every detail – a process that began with Dr. Stoneback in 2015. Among his personal highlights was the opportunity to lead a special roundtable discussion of prominent Hemingway scholars on the author's first major novel, *The Sun Also Rises*,

addressing how they look at the novel now – 92 years after it was written.

Dr. Nickel also presented his research paper, *Of Wastelands & Bullfights, Pilgrimage & Love: François Mauriac & Ernest Hemingway*, an examination of the influence French Catholic writer François Mauriac had on Hemingway, a Catholic convert. The paper is an extension of the research Dr. Nickel did



Misericordia alumna Leah Santucci '16 designed the logo and poster for the XVIII International Ernest Hemingway Conference held in Paris in July.

for his 2014 book, *Hemingway's Dark Night: Catholic Influences and Intertextualities in the Work of Ernest Hemingway*, which features a forward written by Dr. Stoneback.

Alumna Leah Santucci '16, a nursing graduate who minored in English, made her mark on the Paris conference even before it took place. She melded images of the Eiffel Tower and fireworks to design the conference logo and poster used to

promote the event worldwide on the conference's website.

Although the chance to have dinner in the Eiffel Tower and take a moonlight boat ride along the Seine River was enough to entice many participants, the opportunity for students to share research with scholars from around the world was life changing.

English and pre-law major Bailey Waltman '19 hoped her research paper, *'She started all that': The Allure of Lady Brett Ashley*, helped define the "timeless and enigmatically appealing, yet morally flawed character" at the center of *The Sun Also Rises*.

"Presenting to so many scholars was daunting, but I felt prepared because I presented when Dr. Nickel held a smaller Hemingway conference at the campus in 2016," she said. "I fell in love with Hemingway in Dr. Nickel's class. He brings out so much about the intricacies of Hemingway that you can only get from someone so passionate about it. Thanks to the Paris experience, I now understand how much more there is to learn about Hemingway's writing."

Briana Scorey '19 is double majoring in history and English in the Honors Program. She was thrilled to have the opportunity to "have intellectual discussion with such great scholars in an international context." Scorey also drew on experience from the 2016 conference and confirms her research presentation, *'I Have Lasted': The Intuitive Power of Pilar in 'For Whom The Bell Tolls,'* was driven by her interest in Hemingway's women and their identity.

"Pilar stands apart from many of Hemingway's other female characters, as she is uncommonly assertive, brash, witty, and domineering while also being emotional, nurturing, forgiving, and vulnerable," said Scorey, who plans to pursue her Ph.D.



Conference presenters, first row, from left, are Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor of history; Jessica Nickel, M.A., adjunct professor of English; Charlie Nickel; Brenda Hage, Ph.D., D.N.P., C.R.N.P., professor and director of Doctor of Nursing Practice Program; Bailey Waltman '19; second row, Karen Reilly '19; Madison Cardinale '19; Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D., professor of English; Briana Scorey '19; Matthew Nickel, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; Scott M. Bargisen, Jr., '19; Rich Hancuff, Ph.D., instructor of English; Brian Carso, Ph.D., professor of history and government, and Kristen Capitano '19. Missing from photo Matthew Hinton, Melissa Milbut '19, and alumnae Emily Halbing '15 and Leah Santucci '16.

in British literature. "Her bold sense of self places her among Hemingway's more psychologically savvy and developed characters."

In a panel format, Misericordia faculty members Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor of history; Richard Hancuff, Ph.D., manager of On-Line Learning and instructor of English, and Matthew Hinton, M.F.A., coordinator of writing and assistant director of the Student Success Center, lead a discussion on how to use digital media to bring Hemingway to life in the classroom.

In addition, Drs. Black and Hancuff worked with various mapping and timeline tools to produce a collaborative exhibit contextualizing Hemingway's traverses through Paris and offering ways to study how literature, geography and culture interact.

"New online technology allows students to map Hemingway's vignettes while linking literature to history, creating an interdisciplinary conversation that enriches the students' overall understandings of Hemingway, of the historic period and of Paris," Dr. Black said.

Misericordia presentations, *Shakespeare and Hemingway: Strange*

*Bedfellows* by English Professor Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D.; *'The Spirit of Picnic': Hemingway, Capa and LIFE, 1941* by history Professor Brian F. Carso, Jr., J.D., Ph.D., and *Nursing Iconography in the Works of Ernest Hemingway*, by nursing Professor Brenda L. Hage, D.N.P., Ph.D., expanded the conference's academic parameters and fueled attendance, according to Dr. Nickel.

"Americans don't often realize how important Hemingway is in China, for instance, or Algeria, so we wanted to make the Paris conference a truly international and interdisciplinary event as a matter of inclusivity and to say simply that Hemingway is still one of the world's most fascinating writers," Dr. Nickel said. "And too, there is the Paris factor. One cannot ignore that Parisians chose the title *Paris est une fête* (Paris is a feast) as their call of resistance against the tyranny of terrorism that has plagued the city since November 2015.

"We wanted to stand in solidarity with the French and to echo the ancient Franco-American amitié (friendship) by saying, "Lafayette, we are still here," he said. **H**

## VIII INTERNATIONAL ERNEST HEMINGWAY CONFERENCE Paris, France July 22-28, 2018

### MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**Scott M. Bargisen, Jr. '19**  
Northvale, New Jersey  
Major: English Minor: Secondary Education  
*Across the Ocean and into the Trenches: Hemingway's Reverence for the Modern Warrior*

**Kristen Capitano '19**  
Pittston, Pa.  
Major: English  
Minors: Philosophy and Professional Writing  
*Order After Chaos: The Motif of Ritual in 'The Sun Also Rises' and 'The Time of Man'*

**Madison Cardinale '19**  
Dupont, Pa.  
Major: English Minor: Writing and History  
*The Mask of Masculinity in Hemingway's 'In Our Time'*

**Melissa Milbut '19**  
Dunmore, Pa.  
Major: English  
*Inventing Reality: Hemingway's Memories in Writing*

**Karen Reilly '19**  
Edwardsville, Pa.  
Major: English  
Minors: Psychology and Writing  
*The Psychological and Physical Ramifications of Jake Barnes' Wound in 'The Sun Also Rises'*

**Briana Scorey '19**  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.  
Majors: English and History  
*'I Have Lasted': The Intuitive Power of Pilar in 'For Whom The Bell Tolls'*

**Bailey Waltman '19**  
Berwick, Pa.  
Major: English Minor: Pre-Law  
*'She started all that': The Allure of Lady Brett Ashley*

### MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

**Leah Santucci '16**  
Lafin, Pa.  
Major: Nursing Minor: English  
*'A Moveable Feast' and the Wonder of Kentuck: Spirit of Place in Ernest Hemingway and Elizabeth Madox Roberts*

**Emily Halbing '15**  
Dallas, Pa.  
Majors: English and Psychology  
Minor: Writing  
*'The impossible union': Humanity and Christ in Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea' and Eliot's 'Four Quartets'*

# LIGHTS ... CAMERA ... ACTION

Department of Mass Communications & Design streams live programming on MCN 87

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It does not take long to realize Sean Lynch '18 understands what is at stake. His maturity defies his young age, as the 21-year-old understands every decision he has made and talent he has developed during his collegiate years at Misericordia University add sophisticated layers to a burgeoning portfolio worthy of him realizing his dream of becoming a director or on-air talent for professional sports broadcasts.

On this late-winter evening, the sports director of Munson Center Network 87 (MCN 87) and Cougar Radio easily navigates between the Munson Control Room and field production team in the Anderson Center, preparing for the second-ever live video streaming of a sporting event by students in the Department of Mass Communications and Design.

Mass  
Communications  
and Design

The broadcast on MCN 87's YouTube channel (<http://bit.ly/mcn87>) is not as much about the men's and women's basketball teams playing Middle Atlantic Conference rival DeSales University, as it is about the overall student production and on-air broadcast teams. Days of pre-production yield a package of sharp graphics with on-screen scoreboard, team logos and current statistics, as well as in-depth player analysis by the announcers for Cougar Radio and MCN 87 viewers – the student-run radio and television stations at Misericordia University.

"This is sports communication," says Dan Kimbrough, M.S. assistant professor, while overseeing the initial on-air broadcasts. "It gives them the real-world experience of a remote broadcast set up. This puts us teaching it (live video streaming) and doing it, so when they graduate they understand it. When our students graduate, they will be the one at the TV station who knows how to live stream shows."

In association with the Athletics Department and Department of Alumni Relations, the Department of Mass Communications and Design invested considerable capital in the necessary equipment and technology needed to live stream sporting and cultural events on

## COM's community partnership promotes, preserves history

During the spring semester, students in COM 332, the Video III production class, worked with Eckley Miner's Village to create a documentary about the history of the settlement and its impact on the region. Students and faculty, under the direction of Dan Kimbrough, M.S., assistant professor in the Department of Mass Communications and Design, offered a screening of the 22-minute documentary. To watch the documentary, please log on to <https://youtu.be/XyhowsXYzxE>.

campus. The realization of Kimbrough's long-range plan provides students with an additional layer of experience, while also engaging alumni, family and friends of the University on an entirely new level.



1. Sean Lynch '18 provides direction to Collin Zelinsky '19 and Samantha Midkiff '18 in his role of sports director for MCN 87.

2. Mass Communications and Design major Samantha Midkiff '18 operates a camera during a basketball game.

3. MCN 87 play-by-play announcers, from left, Kevin Brown '19, Tony Vega '18 and Billy Peet '18, '20 prepare to announce the DeSales vs. Misericordia women's basketball game in the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

4. Sean Lynch '18, sports director of MCN 87, directs, from left, Dan Kimbrough, M.S., assistant professor, Parker Abate '19 and Monica McManus '20 as they prepare to broadcast a basketball game.

5. Michael Diakunczak '20 operates a roving camera courtside during a basketball game.

6. The broadcast team, from left, of Kevin Brown '19, Tony Vega '18 and Billy Peet '18, '20 offer their insights into a key basketball game for the Cougars.



"It really makes me proud to know that I am in some part responsible for the creation and production of these broadcasts," says Lynch, a native of Monroeville, N.J., who was the sports director for Cougar Radio during his junior year and oversaw live-stream broadcasts during his senior year. "It is a tremendous feeling. I am disappointed, though, that I will not be able to see it at its fullest potential."

MCN 87's productions offer two different viewing experiences depending on the location of the game or event. Technology upgrades enable the station to live stream programming utilizing a wireless router known as MiFi anywhere on campus with one camera. Multi-camera broadcasts are available from the Anderson Center, Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall and Mangelsdorf Field. MCN 87 utilizes state-of-the-art NDI software to stream video and sound over the Internet and TriCaster, a multi-camera production system that enables students to direct up to three camera angles at any event.

"When it comes to communications itself, the maturity comes from the experiences I've had over my four years," adds Lynch, who also completed a 2017 summer internship at NBC Sports Philadelphia covering the Philadelphia Phillies. "I feel at this

point in my education it is more about teaching the underclassmen and showing them how to get the most out of their education here."

The 2019 spring sports season will feature live broadcasts of baseball, softball, and men's and women's soccer, and possibly select cultural events.

The busy production and broadcast schedule enables students to expand upon their varying skills, according to Tony Vega '18, MCN 87's field producer, who has also been a sports writer for *The Highlander*, the campus' student newspaper. Kimbrough directed the initial multi-camera broadcast on Feb. 3 against cross-town rival King's College, and shortly thereafter handed over the reins to his students.

"The confidence comes from Dan's belief in us," says Vega, a native of Cornwall, N.Y., who interned with the Sports Information Department at Misericordia during the spring semester and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins for the 2017 fall semester. "He would not put us in that situation if he did not think we were able to handle it. He was there to fix anything that went wrong, but it was our show from that moment on. That (confidence he has in his students) comes from our

**Continued on next page**

## Cougar sports

To watch live video streaming of Misericordia University athletics and special events, please log on to the Munson Center Network 87's YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/mcn87>. Viewers can watch live action and view archived broadcasts. The broadcasts are under the direction of students in the Department of Mass Communications and Design. For more information about the academic program, please log on to [www.misericordia.edu/communications](http://www.misericordia.edu/communications).

## Broadcasting technology

The Department of Mass Communications and Design's live streaming on MCN 87 is possible due to the investment in professional-grade technology and equipment. The following is a list of some of the gear students use to broadcast games and cultural events on campus: SDI to NDI converter; rack-mount mixer with web control; gigabit Ethernet switch with PoE; audio to SDI converter; intercom IP interface; two-channel dual listen belt-pack, single-ear lightweight intercom headset; GY-HM200SCOREBOT sports production camcorder with Sportzcast Scorebot 4100 scoreboard interface unit, seven-inch camera-top SDI monitor, NewTek advanced edition educational software bundle, and more.

# LIGHTS ... CAMERA ... ACTION

Continued from previous page

classwork because he expects a lot out of us – but it is not too much. We are going to struggle, but ultimately we are going to succeed in the end.”

The learning process does not end with the final buzzer or curtain call. Lynch and Vega consistently review game film and listen to excerpts of broadcasts as they work to fine-tune the team’s craft. Together, they selected Billy Peet ’18, ’20 and Kevin Brown ’19 to be the broadcast team for Cougar broadcasts, sharing the roles of play-by-play announcing and color commentating.

“I am thankful and honored that I can represent the University this way,” says Peet, a business administration major. “There is definitely a sense of connection when you do it. It is a good feeling when you are the voice of Misericordia. It is something where as soon as I started doing it, I fell in love with it.”

As the screen fades to dark on the first semester of live streaming, the students are proud of their accomplishments and on-air product as several hundred viewers routinely watched the games from the comfort of their homes or on portable devices.

“It’s kind of upsetting, because I am done in May,” Vega says, acknowledging his graduation. “We (the department) are growing so much and I will not be here to see where they take it next year. I am going to graduate soon and I am going to have several career paths to go down. I may want a career as a sports writer, but if I cannot find that, I am well prepared for a job doing something else.”

Junior Parker Abate ’19 is the lone underclassman among the student leaders. On this evening, he works with the production team in the Munson Control Room conducting sound and video-level checks, while also double-checking on-air graphics. Although he bills himself as a production assistant, he is more like a Swiss Army knife – filling all the

## Students earn Communicator Awards for campus work

The Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA) recognized the Department of Mass Communications and Design students for their work on the campus television station, MCN 87, by awarding them two Communicator Awards in the 24th annual competition that honors creative excellence in communications.

The award-winning television segments came from Season 10, Episode 1 of Hey You, MU! that aired Feb. 24, 2017. The entire show can be found online at <https://youtu.be/g6piC7P-Azk>.

The Hey You, MU! team earned a 2018 Award of Distinction in the Film/Video – Student category for the inaugural feature segment, Cougar Spotlight – Jeff Kelly, a profile of Kelly, the manager of cultural and special events and theater director at MU. It’s available online at [Youtu.be/Wi7j39BRpNE](https://youtu.be/Wi7j39BRpNE).



Sean Lynch ’18 goes on the wrestling mat to get a lesson on how to take a fall from Clay Drasher of Grand Slam Wrestling for a feature segment of the show, *Hey You, MU!*, on MCN 87.

The team also received a 2018 Award of Distinction in the Film/Video – Sports category for The Zone – Grand Slam, a feature on professional wrestling hosted by Sean Lynch ’18. Watch the segment at [youtu.be/08-mQ7whx7A](https://youtu.be/08-mQ7whx7A).

In addition to Lynch, the team members honored included Mike Gombita ’17, Ron Williams ’17, Destiny Anderson ’18, Connor Swagler ’18, Anthony Vega ’18, Lena Williams ’18, Samantha Allen ’18, and Collin Zelinsky ’19.

necessary voids that ensure high-quality broadcasts.

“We have so much pride in the program and how far it has come since we got here and we want to see it develop even more,” says Abate, a communications major with a specialization in sport communication and minor in political science. “The students under us are going to be here for a couple of years when we are not, so we are passing it off, almost.”

This fall, Abate’s leadership role with MCN 87 will expand. He says he is excited for the opportunity and thankful for the mentorship provided by Lynch and Vega. His overall body of work in print and broadcast journalism,

and experience in the pre-production, production and post-production aspects of live broadcasts leave little doubt the station will continue to expand opportunities for students and viewers, alike.

“I think it’s interesting how close we are to our professors,” says Abate, who completed internships at WCIA-TV 3 in Champaign, Ill., and Fox 32 in Chicago, Ill. “We call them by their first names. Dan and (Melissa) Sgroi have always wanted to take the program to the next level. We have seen flashes of it over the years, but this year we really took the next step and now because of the technology and equipment the sky’s the limit.” [h](#)

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SIGN THE PLEDGE!

## Pledge to Preserve Human Dignity in Health Care gains international support

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

At a time when human rights are being challenged in countries around the world, Misericordia University is asking all Alumni – especially those in medical or health sciences fields – to sign a pledge and join an international movement to

**The Center  
for Human  
Dignity**

“uphold the values of dignity, equality and justice within health care.”

*The Pledge to Preserve Human Dignity in Health Care* was launched by the Center for Human Dignity in Bioethics, Medicine and Health at Misericordia University at a ceremony in January. The event was timed to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. As of July 1, more than 625 students, health care professionals and concerned citizens have signed the pledge, representing 19 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 foreign countries, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Israel, Ireland, Mexico, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Since the movement was launched, Stacy Gallin, D.M.H., director of the center, has taken the pledge on the road and presented it to a wide variety of audiences. She has presented it at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland; the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities in Denver, Colo., and The Fashion Institute of Technology’s Holocaust Commemoration Program in New York City, N.Y.

The Maimonides Institute for Medicine, Ethics and the Holocaust, the Department of Bioethics and the Holocaust of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics in Haifa, Israel, and the CANDLES Holocaust Museum and

Education Center, Indiana, are pledge co-sponsors. The Aspen Center for Social Values and Polish Association for Spiritual Care in Medicine has endorsed it, while the pledge has the support of representatives from Harvard Medical School, Harvard University, New York University Langone Medical Center, New York Medical College, The Ohio State University, Virginia Military Institute, University of Southern Denmark, University of Queensland, and University of Reading, England.

Anyone signing the pledge receives



**Eva Mozes Kor, a Holocaust survivor, signed the pledge.**

a pin they can wear to show their respect for the dignity of all patients and promote a deeper understanding of medical practices and their ethical ramifications. Those who wish to support the movement can sign the pledge by going to <http://bit.ly/dignitypledge>.

Among the first 200 signers was Holocaust and Mengele twin

experiment survivor Eva Mozes Kor, founder of the CANDLES Center. Mrs. Kor is an internationally known advocate for human justice and says she is proud to wear the pin to show her support.

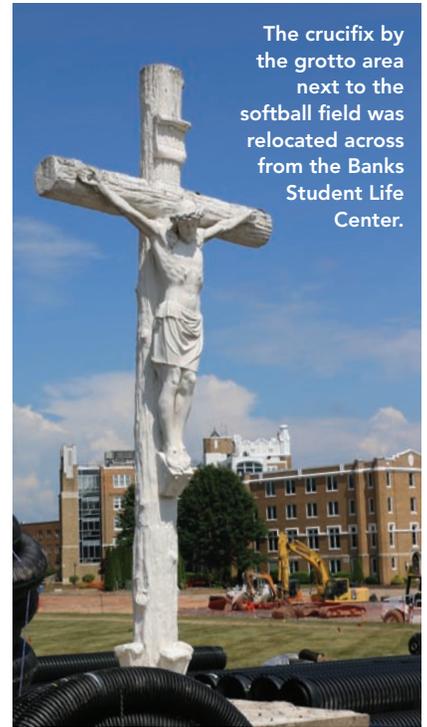
“As our pledge spreads worldwide, we are asking health care professionals and others to reflect upon what took place during the Holocaust, what has continued to take place, and use those lessons to reaffirm a societal commitment to respect the human dignity of all people,” said Dr. Gallin. “This is an opportunity for Misericordia alumni to act upon the charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality and become an agent of social change on an issue that transcends geographic borders, age and religion. This is a chance to take part in an international movement to make the world a better place.”

Drs. Gallin and Caleb will reach an international audience when they present the pledge at UNESCO’s 13th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law in Jerusalem in November. [h](#)





The North Gate parking lot was expanded and a road added to expanded lot behind Mercy Hall.



The crucifix by the grotto area next to the softball field was relocated across from the Banks Student Life Center.

### Construction realigns roadways on campus

The University completed infrastructure projects in preparation for the groundbreaking of the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center in the spring.

Projects included new roadways, parking areas, storm-water management improvements, sidewalks, pathway lighting, tree plantings, and landscaped areas.

To view a map of the projects and realigned roadways, please type this link into your web browser: [bitl.y/mucampus18](http://bit.ly/mucampus18).

The University received \$320,870 from the state Department of Community and Economic Development’s MultiModal Transportation Grant Fund to complete phase II of the Lake Street Sidewalk project. The new sidewalk is 2,142-feet long and required 160 cubic yards of concrete. Phase II connects the archway entrance to the North Gate.



Contractors expand Mercy Hall parking lot.



Contractors improve the infiltration basin on Lake Street.



A two-way roadway will connect North Gate and Mercy Hall parking lots.



An aerial view shows roadway reconstruction near Mercy Hall.



# NOW *for* TOMORROW

*The Campaign for Misericordia University  
supports the Henry Science Center and  
provides significant investment in the  
Annual Fund and endowment for  
scholarship opportunities*





# 'Something Meaningful'

## Trustee Emeritus Sandy Insalaco, Sr., co-chairs 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI



Sandy Insalaco, Sr.

**P**ITTSTON, Pa. – In the middle of the workweek, Sandy Insalaco, Sr., politely excuses himself to field an unexpected business call in his office at US Hydrations. His early afternoon appointment will have to wait momentarily. Outside, the corporate offices and tractor-trailer yard are humming with the typical activity associated with a busy beverage bottling facility.

Behind him, the framed honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree he received from Misericordia University in 2015 hangs proudly on the wall, occupying the center and most prominent location in the stately office. Among the various files and day-to-day work organized neatly on his desk, lays a file for the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign for Misericordia University.

By any definition, Mr. Insalaco is a successful entrepreneur, but he also is an ardent philanthropist who supports the arts, higher education and other community-wide initiatives that improve the lives of countless people.

Take Misericordia University, for example. The late and prominent

Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan approached Mr. Insalaco in the mid-1990s after Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church in Laflin, Pa., to ask him if he was interested in joining a local college's Board of Trustees. A Pittston-area native and businessperson, Mr. Insalaco was not intimately familiar with the Catholic college at the time. A few years before this conversation, Mr. Insalaco and his wife, Marlene, purchased a farm in Beaumont – a short drive from campus – as a summer home and he gradually learned more about Luzerne County's first four-year college.

In 1998, Mr. Insalaco formally joined the Board of Trustees and he has remained an active force for the institution ever since, even as a trustee emeritus today. "People will repeat pleasant experiences and they will not repeat unpleasant ones," Mr. Insalaco says, explaining why he continues to be a strong advocate for Misericordia and its mission. "I got more out of Misericordia than I ever gave. I made high-quality friends there; the best people you can possibly find."

Mr. Insalaco and Mary Hudack Erwine '90, '92 of Shavertown, Pa., are

the co-chairs of the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, the largest in the institution's history. The \$30 million campaign will support construction of the new \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

"Sandy is a long-time friend to everyone in Northeastern Pennsylvania," says Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D. "He often speaks about how education is the key to a successful future. With his late wife, Marlene, he has been a driving force in the philanthropic community. He has been a tireless contributor to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, working to involve others in support of the Henry Science Center and the creation of additional student aid endowment."

Continued on page 47



# A lifetime making a difference

Alumna and Trustee Mary Hudack Erwine co-chairs 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It is a simple message, but one she delivers almost daily to nursing professionals and students alike at Erwine Home Health and Hospice, Inc.: "Make a difference." The advice is subjective, for sure, but it also reveals the map Mary Hudack Erwine '90, '92 has followed successfully for most of her life.

"It is very rewarding to know that you have made a difference in someone's life," says Mrs. Erwine, reflecting back on the start and growth of her business. "I say that to every staff member still today. Any nurse can make a visit to a patient, but it is important that you make a difference."

That philosophical approach to life has enabled the mother, grandmother, wife, entrepreneur and benefactor to fulfill her goals in many ways. At Misericordia University, for example, she is an active trustee, leader and philanthropist who works to ensure that her alma mater meets the needs of tomorrow's students, much as it did when she earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in nursing.

"Misericordia gave me the confidence to move forward in my life

and meet the goal of starting my business," says Mrs. Erwine, reflecting upon her academic career. "I feel I had the confidence and expertise after my years at Misericordia to do what I wanted to do."

Erwine Home Health and Hospice, Inc., was established as a small home health agency in 1993 that catered to the personal attention Mrs. Erwine grew fond of as a student at Misericordia. She added the Private Duty Health Care Division in 1995, before adding hospice services in 2004.

Today, Mrs. Erwine is the president of a burgeoning business and a trustee who became the first Misericordia graduate to name a building on campus. Mary & Allen Erwine Hall and Erwine Nursing Laboratory in John J. Passan Hall are examples of the couple's benevolence and enthusiasm for Misericordia's mission and founding charisms.

"The Religious Sisters of Mercy founded Misericordia with the ideals of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality," she says. "They are not just words on paper. You can feel it throughout the campus community."

Mrs. Erwine of Kingston Twp., Pa.,



Mary Hudack Erwine '90, '92 and her husband, Allen.

and Sandy Insalaco, Sr., of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., are the co-chairs of the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, the largest in the institution's 94-year history. The \$30 million campaign will support construction of the new \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

"Both Sandy and I really appreciate the support of the business leaders in the area. I think they also understand the importance of the science building," Mrs. Erwine says. "This campaign is so important, not only to attract good students, but to continue to keep tuition low. We knew that we had to work hard."

The Erwines have been generous friends of the institution since 1998, supporting various capital campaigns

Continued on page 27



The University completed infrastructure projects during the spring and summer in preparation for the groundbreaking of the Henry Science Center in spring 2019. Turn to page 20 for complete information about campus construction projects.



# MAKING HISTORY

## Historic gift to Henry Science Center fuels 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

By Marianne Tucker Puhalla



Scholarship recipient Sarah Sporko '19 poses for a picture at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in McDade Park, Scranton, Pa. Turn to page 27 to find out how scholarship opportunities support Misericordia students' dreams of earning a college degree.

With an unprecedented donation, the late Frank M. Henry made an indelible mark on the history of Misericordia University. He provided the lead gift to help what began as a small, liberal arts college take on a University-sized challenge – *Now for Tomorrow* – the largest fundraising campaign in the institution’s 94-year history.

Light years beyond what any of the founding Religious Sisters of Mercy may have imagined, his gift is designated toward construction of what the University will proudly call the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. The gift has gone a long way to help the University wrap its arms around the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign and launch it toward its historic \$30 million goal.

Nearly five years in the making, the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign will allow the University to address three priorities: \$15 million for construction and equipment for the critically needed Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center; \$12 million dedicated to increase endowed scholarship funding, and \$3 million to support the Misericordia Annual Fund, providing the administration the ability to move quickly on opportunities to better the University.

With more than \$26 million pledged during what is known as the silent phase, the University kicked-off the community phase of the campaign at the *Discover Tomorrow Today* Trustee Associates Gala on Sept. 8.

The campus transformation is already taking place. New roads are being built, parking lots reconfigured, and infrastructure set in place, as the dream of a new science center at Misericordia University moves closer to a reality.

Each load of dirt hoisted by a pay loader represents weeks, months and years of work behind the scenes by campaign co-chairs, alumna Mary Hudack Erwine, '90, '92, president of Erwine Home Health and Hospice, Inc., and Trustee Emeritus Sandy Insalaco, Sr., chairperson of US Hydrations. They have been working in tandem with President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., and Vice President Sue Helwig, M.A., and her University Advancement team to tackle the monumental fundraising effort.

President Botzman candidly admits that there was a good amount of consternation over starting a campaign so close to the Great Recession of 2008. “When we first started the behind-the-scenes planning in 2013, we were not anywhere near over the aftereffects of the downturn of 2008-09. To be launching a campaign when people were just starting to rebuild economic success was going to be extremely challenging. Adding to that was the uncertainty about where the tax laws would go regarding donations,” President Botzman explains. “Yet, there was no doubt in any of our minds that a science center was needed – that a campaign had to be done.”

The needs of the University included more than just a science center.

“You cannot stop working on the endowment, scholarships or Annual Fund because you have to build a science building. The campaign needed to be all encompassing,” he adds, while looking out over campus from his office on the first floor of Mercy Hall. “Even though only half of the money being raised is for the science center, it has been exciting for me to see the alumni of the University get it – they see the many needs. They know Misericordia is really, really good, but they want it to be better.

“They have stepped to the plate and over performed, in my opinion, not only for the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, but to help rebuild the Arch, and so much more,” President Botzman adds.



“Being able to name the building in their honor gave us a remarkable start.”

Sue Helwig, M.A.  
Vice President,  
University Advancement

Despite having surpassed the \$15 million goal of the *Leading from the Heart* Campaign that supported construction of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall in 2009, Helwig agrees that a campaign twice the size of any done before is a daunting challenge. “Once we got approval from the Board of Trustees, we dove in head-first, and I am happy to say, ‘So far, so good.’ The University has many generous friends and alumni who are stepping forward in the most exciting ways,” she says.

What has really helped drive the campaign is the lead gift from Mr. Henry. “Being able to name the building in their honor gave us a remarkable start,” Helwig acknowledges. “Equally important is the 100-percent participation of the Board of Trustees and the science faculty – which sends a message that what we are doing is not only good for current and future students, but it is good for the community and the region.”

Helwig emphasizes that the next year may be the most critical in the campaign, as she and her team bring the campaign to goal and beyond. “We need everyone’s help to bring this to closure,” says the veteran fundraiser, who was named the 2009 Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. “At this stage in the campaign, every single dollar counts.”

She speaks from experience, as her career accomplishments include raising more than \$100 million from both the private and public sectors. Fresh off a record year for alumni giving, Helwig’s efforts have exponentially increased alumni giving at Misericordia during her tenure and placed the University in the top 10 percent nationally for alumni participation every year for the past two decades.

In addition to traditional solicitations, she and the University’s government, corporate and foundation relations

Continued on next page

## The Impact of Climate Change on Society

Lecture Series 2018

Sponsored by the  
College of Arts and Sciences

### SEPTEMBER 20

Misericordia hosted the *Impact of Climate Change on Society Lecture Series – Rachel Carson’s Environmental Legacy for Today*, lecture presented by Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., president and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council. Dr. Musil discussed how Rachel Carson developed her love of nature, writing, and social responsibility growing up in Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, and how Carson’s later education in marine biology and her exposure to the wider world of scientists, environmental leaders, civil rights figures, and more led her to develop an environmental ethic that embraces empathy, feeling, and respect for all life, in addition to scientific credibility. He also discussed how the Rachel Carson Council carries on Carson’s legacy with work on climate and environmental justice, including efforts to end the use of fossil fuels and transition to an economy based on renewable energy.

### Upcoming Events

#### OCTOBER 22

*The Impact of Climate Change on Society Lecture Series – Finding the Good News on Energy, Environment, and the Economy*, a lecture by Richard Alley, Ph.D., Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University. He will discuss the efficient use of energy and the impact it has on the climate, environment and future generations. Misericordia University and the Soyka Fund for the Humanities are sponsoring the program. 7 p.m., McGowan Room, Bevevino Library. For information, contact: Rita Molino, [rmolino@misericordia.edu](mailto:rmolino@misericordia.edu), (570) 674-8184.

#### NOVEMBER 14

*The Impact of Climate Change on Society Lecture Series – As a Society, What Can We Do about Climate Change?*, a lecture by Charlie Cray, political and business strategist for Greenpeace U.S.A., based in Washington, D.C. Cray will discuss the solutions to climate change and how to achieve them at the corporate, university and social level. Misericordia University and the Soyka Fund for the Humanities are sponsoring the program. 7 p.m., Huntzinger and Alden Trust Rooms 218-219, Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall. For information, contact Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor, English, [sblanchard@misericordia.edu](mailto:sblanchard@misericordia.edu), (570) 674-6424, or Rita Molino, [rmolino@misericordia.edu](mailto:rmolino@misericordia.edu), (570) 674-8184.



The Trustee Associates Gala featured a science theme.

## Campaign: MAKING HISTORY

Continued from previous page

team, headed by Larry Pelligrini, associate vice president of University Advancement, are working tirelessly to secure additional gifts and grants to fill the Henry Science Center labs with state-of-the-art equipment.

“More than just a working title, this campaign really represents giving to Misericordia *now for tomorrow*,” Helwig adds. “In addition to providing a technology savvy science center, and supporting the Annual Fund, it also will strengthen our endowment – imperative to Misericordia’s long-term financial health. If successful, this campaign will help raise the endowment to \$55 million, up from \$6.3 million in 1999.”

A stronger endowment will allow the University to increase need-based financial aid to well-qualified students who would otherwise be unable to afford a Misericordia education. “Nearly 99 percent of our students receive some form of financial aid, with the average student receiving scholarships and grants of \$11,500,” Helwig says. “Reaching our endowment goal will generate greater annual interest and will allow Misericordia to help hundreds of new students every year.”

Making note of Misericordia’s 94th anniversary on Sept. 24, the president says he has called upon the Sisters of Mercy for inspiration throughout his first campaign. “During the early days, the founding Sisters often found themselves praying that a donation would come at the right time to keep the place running. Luckily, it worked and those days of that kind of worry are behind us,” he says. “As we take a giant stride into the future, we have great academic programs, great people and a wonderful mission. Best of all, we have great friends and supporters willing to help. And thanks to the Sisters, we know we have the power of prayer on our side.”

For information about the campaign, please go to [nft.misericordia.edu](http://nft.misericordia.edu) and click on the Give Now for Tomorrow link. 

## Scholarship recipient preserves region's mining history

By Marianne Tucker Puhalla

SCRANTON, Pa. – Sarah Sporko '19 chose Misericordia University because of the opportunity it afforded her to pair a bachelor's degree in government, law and national security with one in history. The dual major has given her historical perspective on issues of government and law, as she looks ahead to a career in public policy once she graduates in December 2019.

A Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, she spent 10 weeks as a digital archives researcher at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in McDade Park. Her work to help the museum prepare for an upcoming photography exhibit included research and writing about the photos and photographers that will be on display. Her paid research fellowship was under the direction of Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of History at Misericordia University, and Bode Morin, the museum's site administrator.

"I come from a mining family. My great-grandfather was a miner, so I am particularly excited to be able to work with the Anthracite Museum to help preserve this area's mining history," Sporko says. Although the fellowship program ended in August, she plans to continue working to "see the project through" until the exhibit's anticipated opening in November.

Sporko also was selected to participate in the New Leadership Pennsylvania Summer Institute in June. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics, the



Sarah Sporko '19 has dual majors in history and government, law and national security.

weeklong, collegiate leadership program in Pittsburgh, Pa., encourages college-aged women to become politically active and take on leadership roles in politics and government.

A graduate of Holy Cross High School, Sporko says the fact that she receives three endowed scholarships at

Misericordia makes it possible for her to attend the University. "It is important to me that the University recognized me for my values and the work I did growing up and in high school. Without the scholarships, I am not sure I would be on a path to achieving my goals," she says.

Sporko is one of more than 180 students who received endowed scholarships in the 2017-18 academic year. 

## Mary Hudack Erwine

**Continued from page 23**

and other programs. "You want to continue to be a part of the Misericordia community (long after graduation)," she says.

"I felt that I got so much from Misericordia when I was here that I didn't want to leave and I wanted to be a part of Misericordia and help where I could," Mrs. Erwine adds. "It is like family – you cannot be away for too long. It is a place where something good is always happening."

In the greater community, the Erwines take the same approach to helping others. Mrs. Erwine received the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Athena Award in 2002 in recognition of helping women reach their full potential. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of the Blind

presented her with the Benefactor Award in 2004. One year later, she received the Spirit of Business and Industry Award from the Arthritis Foundation in recognition of her work in the fields of health promotion, advocacy and community service.

The Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce presented Erwine Home Health and Hospice with the Small Business of the Year Award in 2006, while Mrs. Erwine was named one of the Great Women of Northeastern Pennsylvania by the Times Leader newspaper in 2012. For exemplifying extraordinary spirit of service to others in the community, the Salvation Army presented Mr. and Mrs. Erwine with the Others Award.

"Mary's caring nature and thoughtfulness have touched countless families in the Wyoming Valley as they move through difficult times," Misericordia University President

Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., says. "In her spare time – and she has no spare time – Mary is a strong contributor to the community."

Mrs. Erwine also has served or continues to serve on boards in the area that have a civic mission, including Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Cancer Institute, Osterhout Library, PNC Advisory Board, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, and the President's Council of Wyoming Seminary.

In 2005, Misericordia presented Mrs. Erwine with the Distinguished Career in Nursing Administration Award.

"Misericordia is unique," Mrs. Erwine states. "Everybody is an individual; everyone gets the attention they deserve. It is not too big; you have that one-on-one if you need it, and you do not feel as if you are a number." 



# Understanding the keys to success

## University honors longtime Trustee John C. Metz, Sr., with Founders Medal

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Those who know John C. Metz, Sr., best use many superlatives when describing the person, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

The husband, father, grandfather and armed services veteran has built a legacy based on service to others. Whether he is ensuring professional opportunities for his 7,000 employees in 19 states or good dining experiences for his countless customers, Mr. Metz knows the route to success begins with people.

The word, "caring," quickly comes to mind for Monsignor John Bendik when describing his colleague on the Misericordia University Board of Trustees. "John cares very much," said the retired pastor of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Pittston, Pa., and a fellow Trustee since 1994. "When I arrived in Pittston in 1996, one of the first people I met was his mother-in-law, Marie Lauck. She was one of the most faithful volunteers and promoters of Meals on Wheels.

"John and Mary (Metz) were very supportive of her commitment to this

very valuable service for the elderly and homebound of the community," he added. "I am confident that her witness made John truly care about all the other needy causes he and Mary have supported over the years and continue to support."

**"I have always been inspired by his leadership skills, professional integrity and welcoming spirit."**

– Deborah Smith-Mileski '75

Trustee Deborah Smith-Mileski '75, D.Ed., the vice chairperson of the Board of Trustees since June 2015, uses "dedication," to describe Mr. Metz. "Throughout his distinguished tenure on the Board of Trustees, John

has demonstrated steadfast support and commitment to the mission, as well as unwavering loyalty to the core values of the Sisters of Mercy," she said, elaborating on his service. "I have always been inspired by his leadership skills, professional integrity and welcoming spirit."

"Go-getter," though, is the way Trustee Emeritus Sandy Insalaco, Sr., would describe his former colleague. "John does not only see opportunities, but also has the drive to make the most out of them," said Mr. Insalaco, who served on the Board from 1998-2014. "Look at his business career and you will see that he has done this over-and-over again several times. He is a risk taker, but mitigated the risk with hard work."

The Metz name, though, also has been synonymous with good food, quality service and hospitality since the family's patriarch founded Custom Management Corporation in Kingston, Pa., in 1967. Through the years, the food service management professional grew the family business from a small regional provider into

a national leader and innovator in the hyper-competitive industry.

Today, Mr. Metz is executive chairperson of Metz Culinary Management, headquartered in Dallas, Pa., while his son, Jeff, is president and CEO and his daughter, Maureen, is the executive vice president. The family-driven company provides food management services to corporate, health care, school district and higher education clients. In addition, Metz Culinary Management owns and operates numerous franchises, including T.G.I. Friday's, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Wolfgang Puck Express, Lucky's Sporthouse and more.

The national reputation Mr. Metz and Metz Culinary Management developed began somewhat at Misericordia University, according to Mr. Metz. Oftentimes, the soft-spoken community and business leader has given credit to the Religious Sisters of Mercy for giving him and his fledgling business an opportunity to provide dining services at the Back Mountain college when he began his first business.

Misericordia also would not be where it is today without the leadership, vision and generosity of Mr. Metz, as a longtime Trustee and benefactor. Much like Mr. Metz's business venture, the institution matured from a regional college to a regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized University during his tenure.

Mr. Metz retired from the Board of Trustees in June and assumed emeritus status after serving 30 years. His tenure has left an indelible mark on the institution in almost all facets of campus and academic life. In athletics, he and his family supported construction of the 21,750-square-foot John & Mary Metz Field House in 2012. The Metz family also spearheaded renovations to John and Mary Metz Dining Hall and the Cougars Den in 2010 and 2012.

"I feel strongly that the new field house is a part of a momentous time in Misericordia history," Mr. Metz said at the field house's dedication in September 2012. "It will provide support for the new football team and

all the sports programs that have consistently done so well.

"Mary and I, along with our sons, John and Jeff, and daughter, Maureen, see this as a great way for us to be a part of this historic event and to continue our steadfast support of Misericordia and the Religious Sisters of Mercy," he added.

Mr. Metz and his family have supported numerous other capital campaigns and programs on campus throughout the years, including *Leading from the Heart*, *Pursuit of Acclamation* and *Now for Tomorrow*. They also supported dozens of University programs and initiatives, such as the Ruth Matthews Bourger

Associates Gala in September at the Beaumont Inn. The Founders Medal is one of the highest honors bestowed by Misericordia, as trustees award it only when merited.

"John Metz served 30 years on our Board of Trustees," Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., said. "During that time, he has had many roles, including a term as Board Chair, and has supported a number of forward-looking improvements to the physical plant and campus programs."

Mr. Metz is also very active in his community and profession. He is a trustee of the National Restaurant Association's Education Foundation and a member of the state Restaurant



The Board of Trustees presented John C. Metz, Sr., with the Founders Medal at the annual Trustee Associates Gala. John and Mary Metz have been ardent supporters of the institution.

Women with Children Program, athletics and endowed scholarships.

Misericordia recognized Mr. and Mrs. Metz for their benevolence in 2002 by awarding the couple the Trustee Associates Award. Friends of the University who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and generous support are eligible to receive the award.

The Board of Trustees honored his philanthropy and leadership by awarding Mr. Metz the prestigious Founders Medal at the annual Trustee

Association. He previously served as the board director of the National Restaurant Association and member of the Board of Overseers for Harvard University.

In 2013, the Boy Scouts of America presented him with the Distinguished Citizens Award and the local Association for the Blind honored him with the Distinguished Community Service Award. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Distinguished Citizen Award in 2014. 

Students spend time together in Frank and Dorothea Henry Student Lounge.

# A lifetime of benevolence

## Trustees honor the late Frank M. Henry with the Founders Medal

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. – Outside the executive offices of the Martz Group in the city, subtle reminders decorate the hallways, offering a glimpse into the historic past of the transportation company and its civic-minded approach to the communities it serves.

Models of classic buses and black-and-white photographs in a glass display case show where the company has been, while framed citations from the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA, Salvation Army, Geisinger Medical Center and others acknowledge the corporate and family commitment to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

At the heart of the family-owned company and philanthropic spirit was Frank M. Henry, chairperson emeritus, who guided and grew the business as CEO since 1964. Founded in 1908 by his grandfather, Frank Martz, Sr., in Plymouth, Pa., the Martz Group is a fifth generation, family-operated business that provides a variety of transportation

services in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C., via the Gold Line, National Coach Works, First Class Coach and Martz Trailways companies.

Mr. Henry used the same transformative approach with his motor coach companies to address the needs of his community. He invested his time,



Henry Student Lounge

talent and treasure in quality of life issues that touched everyone. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, for example, presented Mr. Henry with the Seymour Preston Award in 2000. The Frank M. & Dorothea Henry Cancer Center at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical

Center has helped countless cancer patients and their loved ones since it opened in 1992 and expanded in 2009.

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees honored Frank and Dorothea Henry in 2014 by presenting them with the Trustee Associates Award for their philanthropy, leadership and overall dedication to maintaining and strengthening the Catholic institution's mission of fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and respect for people in an environment where all are welcome. The Frank and Dorothea Henry Student Lounge bears the couple's name in recognition of their benevolence.

The family's affinity with Luzerne County's first four-year college, though, began in 1980 with the late Dorothea Henry's appointment to the Board of Trustees, where she served until 1986. The couple's daughter, Marjorie Henry Marquart '85, has been serving her alma mater as a trustee since 2013.

The relationship they forged with Misericordia and its vital role in the

region's success made it an easy decision to invest in the college's future. In an interview with Mr. Henry shortly before his death in June, he shared his rationale for providing the lead gift to the capital campaign. "I live here, my family was raised here, and I feel you should always give back to the community you belong to," Mr. Henry said. "Misericordia is a great place and it makes sense for us to help the University continue to grow."

Mr. Henry was the first major benefactor to commit his support to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, the largest campaign in Misericordia's rich 94-year history. The campaign will support construction of the new \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

"Misericordia serves an important purpose for young men and women. It gives them something they can afford in our area, while also giving them a very well respected education," said Mr. Henry. "It's another major part of the education you can receive locally that otherwise you would have to travel to attain. Financially, you can do it here.

"It produces another feather in the hat (of the area) by providing an opportunity for young people to advance themselves," added the Wilkes-Barre native and graduate of Wyoming Seminary and Yale University.

Misericordia University plans to break ground on the new 52,000-square-foot Henry Science Center in spring 2019 and complete it in summer 2020. Refurbishing the existing 28,500-square-foot wing is planned to begin in June 2020 with work expected to last into summer 2021. Together, the two structures will form the new state-of-the-art Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center.

"It is fitting that our newest academic building will be named the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center," said Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D. "The Henry family has long been a prominent supporter of services to others. The science center will provide

the finest natural sciences facility in the region to our students for general education, science majors, and health sciences courses."

Misericordia University and the Board of Trustees posthumously recognized Mr. Henry's generosity and commitment to the institution by awarding him the Founders Medal at the Trustee Associates Gala at the Beaumont Inn in Dallas, Pa., on Sept. 8. Trustee Marjorie Henry Marquart '85 and her brother, Scott E. Henry, gratefully accepted the award on behalf of their father and family.

The Founders Medal is one of the highest honors bestowed by Misericordia, as the trustees award it only when merited.

"We like doing things in a quiet way," Mr. Henry added, responding to his feelings of having the family name adorn the future state-of-the-art academic building. "When you are born and raised here – and the community has been very good to us – if there is anything we can do to help the community we want to do it – and supporting Misericordia is another way of doing it." **h**



Frank M. Henry, at left, with his late wife, Dorothea, was honored posthumously at the Trustee Associates Gala with the Founders Medal. Presenting and accepting the award, below from left, are President Botzman, Scott E. Henry, Trustee Marjorie Henry Marquart '85, Trustee Harold E. Flack, II and Trustee Christopher L. Borton, chairperson, Board of Trustees.



**FOUNDERS MEDAL**

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees established the Founders Medal in 2002 in order to recognize philanthropic gifts that significantly transform Misericordia's ability to serve its students and advance the mission of its founders, the Religious Sisters of Mercy. A selection committee chooses the recipients based on merit.

The Founders Medal has been awarded to the following:

1. Dr. Robert Anderson – 2002
2. Frank Bevevino – 2003
3. Sandy and Marlene Insalaco – 2006
4. The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund – 2008
5. Brenda Blythe Trust – 2014
6. Frank M. Henry – 2018
7. John C. Metz, Sr. – 2018





# BUILDING *for the* FUTURE

The Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center will provide endless possibilities for learning and discovery in the sciences

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The question was simple, but one that resonates with faculty members in the natural sciences to this day, according to Assistant Professor Anna Fedor, Ph.D., chairperson of the Misericordia University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

“What can we do to improve the information on the research posters in the science building?” Dr. Fedor says, recalling the question Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., asked early in his presidency while touring the science hall in 2013.

This inquiry, though, was different, she says. Shortly after making note of their research efforts, faculty and administration began discussions about growing exploration opportunities for students and faculty, alike. Those talks yielded the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program, which began in 2014. It marked the point where the University began investing significant time, talent and resources in scientific research, scholarly work and additional one-on-one mentoring.

“I really saw that he (Dr. Botzman) was focused on improving faculty-student research projects,” says Dr. Fedor, who began teaching at Misericordia in 2008.

While SURF has been a success overall – 118 students and 68 faculty members have collaborated on 79 unique projects since its inception – it also illuminated the limitations of the science facilities. Built in 1957 and renovated in 1988, the existing building was designed to accommodate 800 students on a campus now serving close to 3,000 students.

As Misericordia examined the future of learning and discovery in the sciences, it became overwhelmingly clear the University must advance its science facilities to meet the demands of the 21st-century model of learner-based and discovery-based teaching, which requires a mix of modern laboratories, technologies and learning spaces.

To accomplish this essential goal, the University publicly launched the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign on Sept. 8 during the annual Trustee Associates Gala at the Beaumont Inn. The largest campaign in the institution’s history will support construction of the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

“As Dr. Botzman began his tenure as the 13th president of Misericordia, he was given the charge to lead the crusade to enhance the science facilities,” Christopher L. Borton, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, says. “With the full support of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Botzman, administration, faculty, and staff have come together to make the Henry Science Center a reality.”

Throughout the spring and summer, preparations for the groundbreaking in 2019 transformed the campus’ landscape, gradually unveiling the overall impact the largest construction project in the school’s history will have on the campus.

“It is exciting to see something of this scope taking hold,” President Botzman acknowledges, referring to infrastructure and site preparations for the new Henry Science Center. “It is getting to the point where we can make this happen.”

“The new building is going to open up a whole range of possibilities for us in interdisciplinary majors for different kinds of academic programs and will show the world how fantastic our students and faculty really are,” says President Botzman, who has been involved in the building and design of four science facilities during his career in academia. “That is cool. That feels good.”

### COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Once the Board of Trustees committed to the multi-year project in June 2016, President Botzman’s administration used a collaborative approach to assessing needs and designing a state-of-the-art facility that embodies the University’s commitment to advanced teaching technology and infrastructure, and lends itself to superior teaching, learning and research.

Faculty members in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry-Biochemistry and Physics actively participated in the selection of the architectural firm, the SLAM Collaborative, and project manager, Sordoni Construction, and helped to drive the building design with deans, faculty, administrators and Trustees.

“I would give the majority of the credit to the faculty, easily and deservedly so,” President Botzman says, lauding their efforts in the design phase of the project. “They really did things smartly and thought about ‘what is it we really want to do and what the long-term vision is.’

“The design is more functional for what is going to come – what we have not thought of yet,” he adds. “I believe we got it about right. There are so many moving parts to doing something like this. The faculty worked with the architects and there were things we thought we needed in there. The faculty were both pragmatic and able to maintain the vision in good balance. The challenge was always to communicate and make sure we were on the same page.”

Communication, collaboration – and compromise – played an integral role in designing a premier facility that also is affordable for a modern University that focuses on personal attention. When talk turned to research space versus teaching space, for example, the sides worked to achieve common ground.

“All faculty have been participating in the process. That is the one common theme,” Dr. Fedor says. “We really came together and found compromise in balancing research and classroom space in the new building.”

Established in 1976, the SLAM Collaborative is a full-service architectural firm with offices in Atlanta, Ga.; Boston, Mass.; Glastonbury, Conn., and Syracuse, N.Y. The firm provides architecture, interior design, planning, landscape architecture, structural engineering, and construction services. In 2016,

Building Design+Construction, a trade publication for the industry, recognized SLAM as one of the top collegiate architecture firms in the country. Most recently, SLAM has completed science facilities for Iowa State, University of Iowa, SUNY Binghamton, University of Tennessee, Providence College, Stonehill College and the University of Notre Dame.

Principals at the firm have been working with key stakeholders on campus since 2014 to develop a science center that encourages collaboration among students and faculty within an interdisciplinary environment. Beginning with a Programming and Planning Study, the architects worked with the administration and faculty to assess the existing facility and future space needs, which culminated in a conceptual building design and target project budget.

The design phase began in earnest in 2016, yielding plans for state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, research laboratories, classrooms, flexible lecture halls, faculty offices, seminar rooms, and group study rooms.

The heart of the facility will be the Science Center Commons, a generous two-story space that forms the connection between the new teaching wing and the renovated research wing. The Commons will be a unique place on campus that provides social space for the entire University in addition to collaborative space for the users of the Henry Science Center.

The University will realign Misericordia Way to pull the Henry Science Center into the heart of campus by redirecting the roadway behind the science center and creating green space between the

existing wing and Mercy Hall to the west. Additionally, the new Henry Science Center addition will help complete the quadrangle formed by Alumnae Hall, Henry Student Lounge, McGowan Hall, Banks Student Life Center, and Insalaco Hall.

“We do much more research than we used to do,” the president says. “The amount of student-faculty research on this campus has gone from very limited support and production to a solid amount. The faculty were ready to do that: they needed facilities, they needed faculty, and they needed resources to do it.

“Now there are enough faculty members and there is going to be a facility – all we have to do is finish raising the resources and let them go at it,” he adds.

### TEACHING, LEARNING & RESEARCH

Misericordia University plans to break ground on the new three-story 52,000-square-foot wing in spring 2019 and begin renovating the existing 28,500-square-foot wing in June 2020. Together, the structures will form the new Henry



Dr. Botzman

Continued on next page

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Science Center – the largest academic building on campus – and accelerate students and faculty to explore and achieve the next breakthrough.

New construction, off the north side of the science building, will take about 18 months and be complete in the summer of 2020. Completion of the renovations to the existing three-story wing is set for March 2021. The overall project is \$35 million, with the new science center addition at \$26.9 million, the renovation of the existing wing at \$6.2 million, and site preparation work at \$1.9 million.

The design of the Henry Science Center puts science on display. A two-story tall glass curtain-wall on the north façade will permit views from the quad into the teaching labs, as well as provide sweeping views out to campus from within the labs. Generous amounts of glass in the Commons provides abundant daylight and views through the building from the main second floor level entry, through to the science courtyard to the south. The use of brick, similar in color to existing campus buildings, provides an overall building composition that blends existing and new, and complements the existing campus fabric. The site design on the west completes the campus green space between adjacent buildings and on the north forms a generous front lawn adjacent to the quadrangle. The science courtyard on the south side includes features such as an outdoor classroom, rain-garden for managing storm water runoff and a new greenhouse.

The theme of the new modern science center, according to Heidi Manning, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is simple, but on point: “You learn science by doing science and that informs the students,” she says. “They will be doing science in the classrooms, in the formal laboratories and more independent research.

The separate classroom and laboratory spaces will enable research to continue throughout the year, and allow students and faculty to engage in deeper investigations and permit more students to experience scientific research firsthand.

“Instead of doing research off to the side in a teaching laboratory, there will be dedicated space for students and faculty research,” Dr. Manning says. “The dedicated research space will contain the equipment and instrumentation necessary to conduct the research and allow it to continue throughout the academic year.”

A lot of the flexibility built into the Henry Science Center is thanks to the modern concept of affinity-based research.



**“I always knew we would get it done because our students and faculty deserve the best.”**

*– President Botzman*

“As a researcher gets a grant or is pursuing a research project, they will use research bench space as it is available,” explains Kemp A. Morhardt, A.I.A., principal at the SLAM Collaborative. “Once the research project is completed that space becomes available – no researcher owns a space.”

Rich in technology, the Henry Science Center design will provide a number of dedicated laboratories for specific areas of study. An organic chemistry lab will be adjacent to the learning center dedicated to the nuclear magnetic resonance instrument, better known as an NMR. In addition, it will feature advanced chemistry, biochemistry, chemistry, ecology, general biology, gross anatomy, microbiology, molecular

biology, physics and student-project research laboratories, as well as a 4,000-square-foot outdoor rain garden.

“This building is for the community,” Dr. Fedor adds. “It is going to be a building for the campus. Everybody is going to have a better experience – the entire campus benefits from it. It really just opens up the possibilities.”

Various size classrooms, seminar rooms and a teaching laboratory wing add to the flexibility of the entire building’s design. Two large lecture-style classrooms seat 50 each and the existing tiered lecture hall in the existing building will be renovated to accommodate an audience of 75. Three classrooms can accommodate up to 30 students each, a seminar room is available for up to 24 guests, and two seminar study rooms are available for up to 20 students. A large common area is located at the intersection of the building’s two wings. In addition, many of the laboratory workstations include computer monitors tied to the main presentation wall.

“Contemporary classrooms are designed to be more flexible to allow for more contemporary pedagogy,” Dr.

Manning says. “The building’s design will allow faculty to guide students in learning and not simply pontificate from the front of the classroom. It allows students to do more and sit less. They will be more engaged in their education.”

The design of the building incorporates sustainable best practices of the green building certification system. Green aspects include daylighting into the laboratories, as the north-facing quad will capture daylight to save on artificial lighting; LED lighting, and efficient boilers and mechanical systems.

“Next summer, we are just going to have this wave of ‘oh gosh, what are you doing?’” President Botzman adds. “This is going to be something of great pride when it is done, but it is going to be a long period of work to get there. I always knew we would get it done because our students and faculty deserve the best.” 

# A window of opportunity

## Dow Chemical Company donates nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy instrument for the new Henry Science Center

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Scientists use a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instrument to obtain complex chemical information about molecules. To Assistant Professor of Chemistry John Morgan, Ph.D., though, it is also an “indispensable” window into future opportunities for students and faculty.

“We are giving students direct experience with this instrument that they are going to see in graduate school or industry,” Dr. Morgan says, explaining the importance of the University acquiring the *Bruker Avance 300 MHz UltraShield NMR*. “Experience is invaluable to an employer, as they want new hires to walk into a lab and quickly come up to speed. Our hands-on training with this NMR is a big part of that essential preparation.”

Dow Chemical Company donated the more than \$200,000 instrument to Misericordia after Dr. Morgan contacted a former colleague at the company. Decommissioned in September 2018, the instrument will be carefully stored until the first phase of the science center opens.

Dr. Morgan says he cannot overestimate the importance of the NMR to the entire curriculum, as chemistry and biochemistry students in every chemistry course are going to utilize the instrument and be able to do their own analyses.

“Here is a ‘window’ to what we have been telling you in lectures,” says Dr. Morgan. “Here you can see chemistry happen right before your eyes.”

The state-of-the-art instrument will enhance hands-on research opportunities for students and faculty. Architects for the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center have dedicated a lab for the NMR, next to the teaching organic chemistry laboratory so students will have direct access to it while making compounds.

Most importantly, though, the *Bruker Avance NMR* is going to be a game changer for the natural sciences. Most recently, researchers who made new molecules in organic and inorganic chemistry had to wait days or even weeks to confirm success because they utilized an NMR off campus. Once the NMR goes online at Misericordia, it can almost instantaneously confirm if researchers prepared the right molecules.

“It gives us the chemical fingerprint of what we’re working with,” he says. “Having a modern instrument is going to allow us to get that data, suitable for publishing in top research journals with Misericordia student co-authors.”

While the entire field of chemical synthesis at MU will be cutting-edge, it also will provide student researchers with real-time or near-instantaneous results for various biochemical or medicinal chemistry experiments.

Researchers examining a pharmaceutical drug’s impact on DNA or protein, for example, can watch the interaction in real time by doing experiments inside the NMR.

Although the donated NMR is not new, the University can upgrade it as technology advances, unlike the current teaching NMR instrument. With regular maintenance, the donated NMR will benefit generations of students.

“It’s really hard to overstate what this instrument can do,” says Dr. Morgan, adding how NMR data is utilized by the chemical industry, academia and government agencies. “Everything from identifying substances at a crime scene to developing next-generation fuels has NMR technology at its core. Even MRI imaging is NMR applied to visualizing the human body. New applications for NMR are developed every day. It is an ever-improving chemical tool going forward into the future.”

In the meantime, the architects, engineers and faculty designing the Henry Science Center are making sure this ultramodern instrument will be the centerpiece of the new academic building. A window in the hallway will provide campus visitors and students a glimpse into the world of high-tech analysis. 



Dr. Morgan

### Get to Know:

John Morgan, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, holds a doctorate in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology. The advisor for his thesis, Professor Robert H. Grubbs, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2005, and Dr. Morgan’s graduate work contributed in part to the award. He received his Bachelor of Science in chemistry with high honors from Haverford College in 1997. Dr. Morgan also completed industrial and academic postdoctoral appointments with British Petroleum in London in 2003 and at the University of Maryland with Professor Michael P. Doyle from 2003-05.



*“This campaign and science building keep Misericordia’s focus on its students by creating a better education and new avenues for innovation.”*

– Trustee Jonathan A. Brassington ’95

# Frank M. and Dorothea Henry SCIENCE CENTER



The \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center meets the demands of the 21st-century model of learner-based and discovery-based teaching with a mix of modern laboratories, technologies and learning spaces.

The University will break ground on the new three-story 52,000-square-foot wing in spring 2019 and begin renovating the existing 28,500-square-foot wing in 2020. Together, the structures will form the largest academic building on campus – and accelerate students and faculty to explore and achieve the next breakthrough in science.



## Fast Facts

The 80,500-square-foot Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center contains the following:

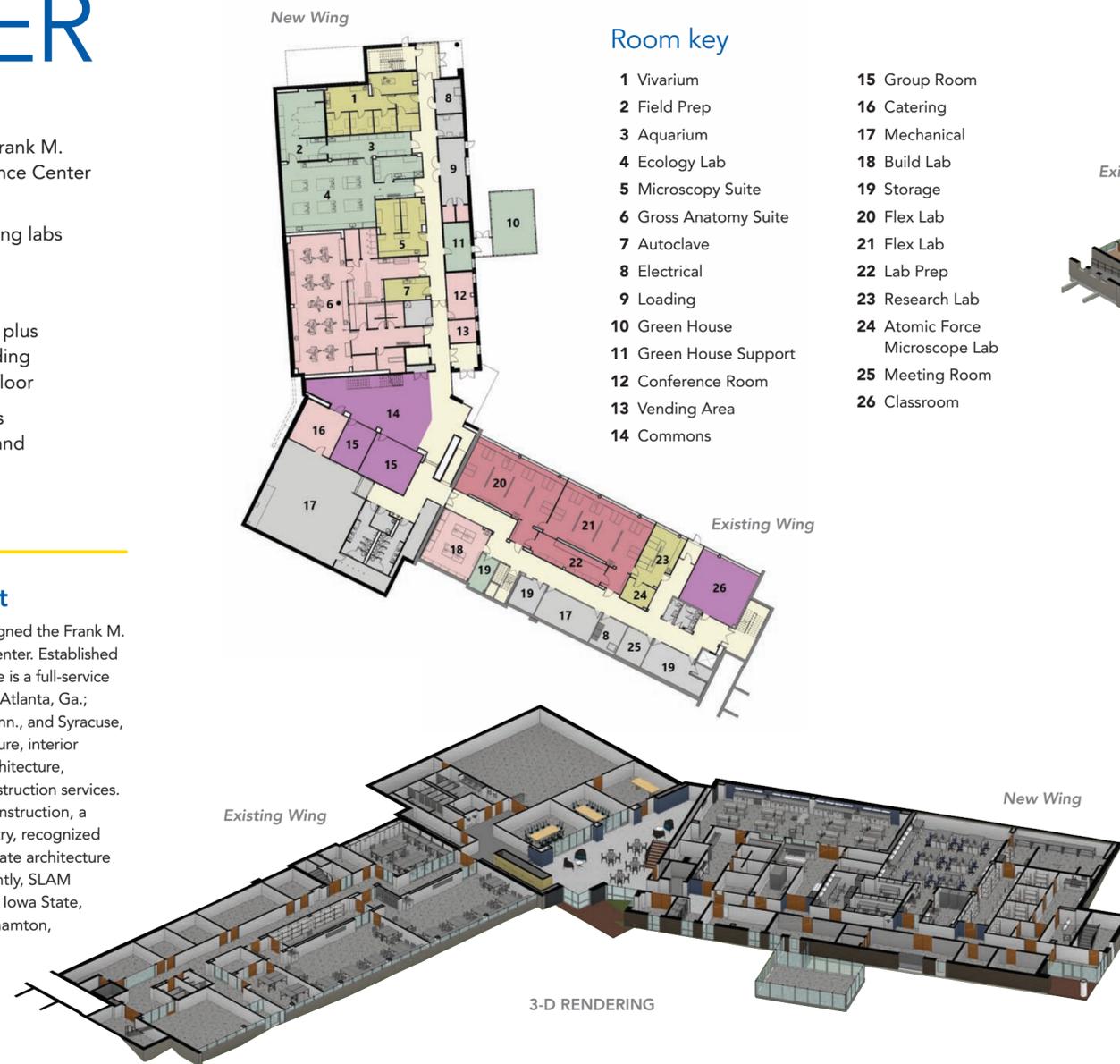
- **Laboratories:** 16 teaching labs and 9 research labs
- **Classrooms:** 7
- **Group study rooms:** 2, plus 9 break out areas including large commons on 1st floor
- **Faculty offices:** 23, plus 1 administrative office and faculty workroom
- **Conference Rooms:** 3

## About the architect

The SLAM Collaborative designed the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. Established in 1976, the SLAM Collaborative is a full-service architectural firm with offices in Atlanta, Ga.; Boston, Mass.; Glastonbury, Conn., and Syracuse, N.Y. The firm provides architecture, interior design, planning, landscape architecture, structural engineering, and construction services.

In 2016, Building Design+Construction, a trade publication for the industry, recognized SLAM as one of the top collegiate architecture firms in the country. Most recently, SLAM completed science facilities for Iowa State, University of Iowa, SUNY Binghamton, University of Tennessee, Providence College, Stonehill College and the University of Notre Dame.

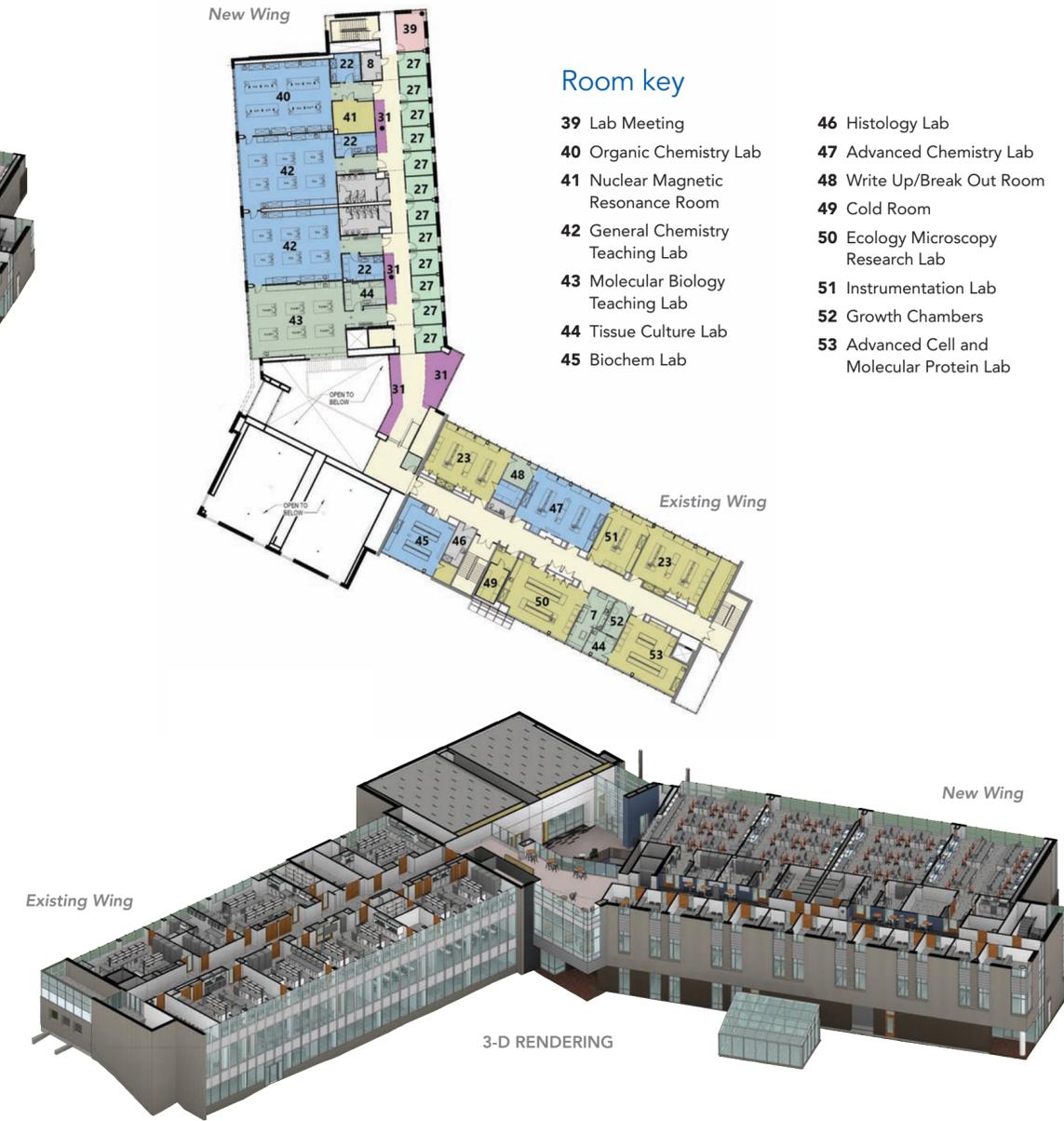
# 1ST FLOOR



# 2ND FLOOR



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# LOOKING FORWARD

Science faculty unanimously supports 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign and heralds benefits of new Henry Science Center

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

**W**ith 160 years of teaching at Misericordia University between them, it is no surprise that the 16 members of the sciences faculty and their dean are the most eager to see work commence on the new Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. Not only have they been vocal advocates of the critical need for expansion and repurposing of the existing wing of the science hall, they have been integral in the planning and design of the new facility. They also are championing the fundraising efforts by participating in the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign.

"The philanthropic support from the science faculty has been fabulous," says Susan Helwig, M.S., vice president of University Advancement. "We went to them first since they are the ones who will most benefit from the new building, and their financial support was unanimous and beyond what we expected. It has made my team's job (of asking others for support) easier knowing they are all onboard."

Heidi Manning, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, believes the new science center will open up additional opportunities for students and faculty, alike. "Our faculty are beyond excited for the new building and for what it will do for our students, particularly how we can better educate them," says Dr. Manning. "Seeing new roads being constructed and infrastructure put in place for the new building makes it all very real. It has been a long time coming."

The science hall was built in 1957 for an enrollment less than one third of what it is today. "Years ago, undergraduate students were not doing the kinds of one-on-one research that our students and faculty are doing today," says Dr. Manning. "Research at the undergraduate level is now the norm, and labs are more sophisticated. This building is something we need for all our students, including those in the health and medical sciences that have foundational classes in the natural sciences."



Looking ahead to construction of the new Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center are science faculty members, first row, from left, Nicola Edwards, Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry; Grace Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor, biology; Charles Saladino, Ph.D., professor, chemistry; Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor, biology, and Beth Haas, Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry; second row, Heidi Manning, Ph.D., dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Frank DiPino, Jr., Ph.D., professor, biology; Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor, biology; Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor, biology; Larry Corpus, Ph.D., assistant professor, biology, and Colby Tanner, Ph.D., assistant professor, biology; third row, Francis P. Kelly, Ph.D., assistant professor, physics; Jeffrey Stephens, Ph.D., assistant professor, physics; John Morgan Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry; Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor and chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Michael Orleski, Ph.D., associate professor and chair, Department of Physics. Absent from photo is Angela Asirvatham, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor and chair, Department of Biology.

project shepherd for the new science center. As such, he serves as liaison between science faculty and students and the planning and design team.

"We began this process surveying the students, faculty and alumni to assess what they would like to see in the building, and that outline was given to the architects to use for development of the master plan," says Dr. Serino. "I see my role as project shepherd making sure that those critical concepts are not lost and faculty and students are represented as the plans evolve."

"I am incredibly proud of how all the science faculty have worked together as a group, listened to the architects, and been willing to compromise when needed to move this project forward. I do believe the current design, tightened somewhat to meet budgetary concerns, is better than our original concept. Everyone has been very cooperative; I am pleased at how well it has gone," Dr. Serino added.

"We have a mission statement in biology to incorporate more research into our curriculum and the Henry Science Center will allow us to do that," says Dr. McCraith, who is looking forward to having dedicated research space outside the confines of a teaching classroom. "The conditions we have been working in are nothing short of challenging. Our students are fantastic and they are already doing fantastic things. But the ability to expand student-faculty research means even more opportunities for them to experience science, and share their findings at regional and national scientific meetings."

With a new educational emphasis worldwide on developing a Science,

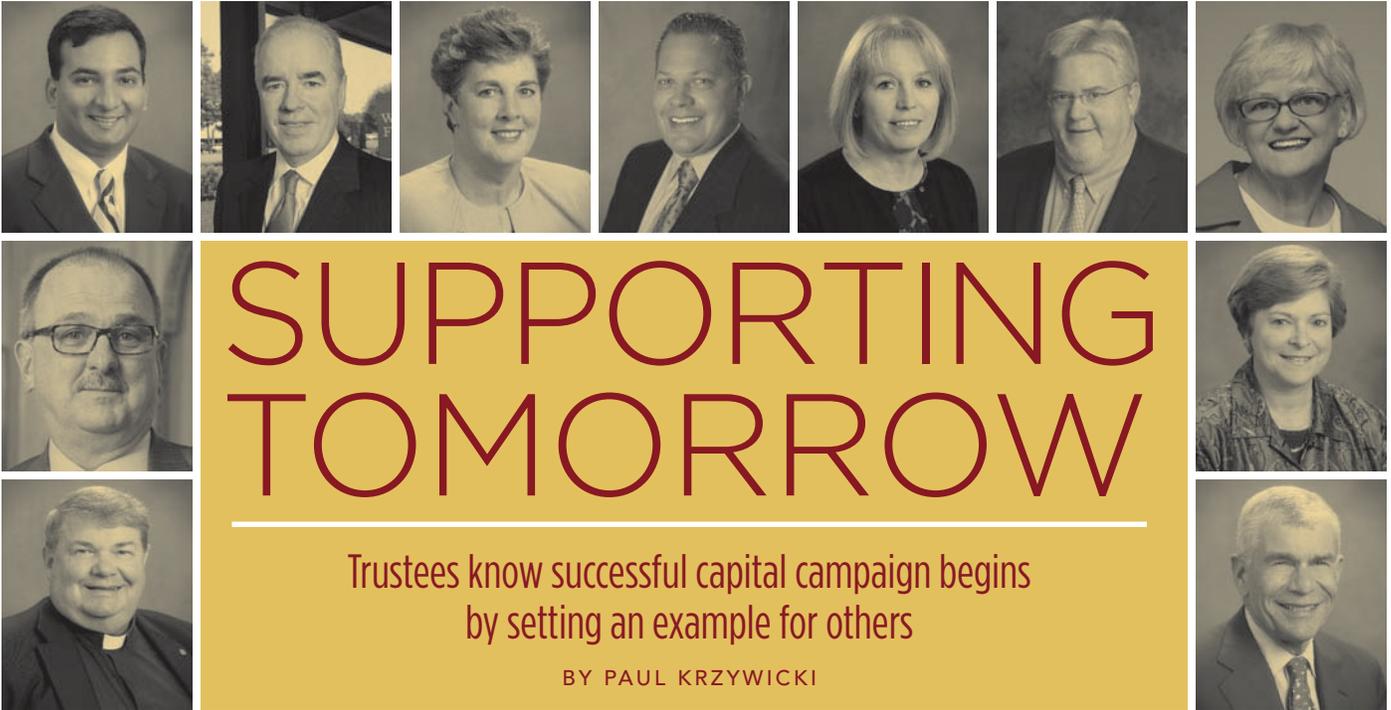
Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workforce, Dr. Manning explains the new and improved Henry Science Center will help Misericordia support that national need of more science graduates. "Simply stated, we all agree that this new building is good for the University, the region and the nation." **H**

"We have great faculty and they do great teaching despite the structure they have been working in. The new facility will reflect and improve upon that high quality of teaching already found in our classrooms and allow them to introduce new pedagogy and ways of mentoring and research," she adds.

Of the eight science faculty members with 10 or more years of service to Misericordia, Frank DiPino, Jr., Ph.D., professor of biology, logs in with the most seniority, having been a member of the faculty since 1992. Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, joined the University in 1999, and Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, has been teaching on campus since 2001. Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, is in his 16th year on the faculty and is



Dr. Manning



# SUPPORTING TOMORROW

Trustees know successful capital campaign begins by setting an example for others

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

This official supervisory relationship with Misericordia did not begin until he became a Trustee in 1994, but he had been keenly aware of its mission and academic reputation since he was a young adult growing up in the “Valley with a Heart.”

Today, **Monsignor John J. Bendik** is the larger-than-life retired pastor of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Pittston, Pa. Through the years, he has been a popular guest speaker at community events and special programs, known as much for his sense of humor and booming belly laugh as his dedication to former parishioners and the institution of higher education he has been associated with since 1981.



Monsignor Bendik became an integral member of the campus community when he served as campus chaplain. At the time, Misericordia was a small regional college in the early 1980s with grander aspirations.

“Many of my high school classmates went to Misericordia and loved the

education they received,” says Monsignor Bendik, who served as chaplain from 1981-86. “It was because of the example of the truly dedicated and delightful Sisters of Mercy that I fell in love with Misericordia. The Sisters embody the *Heart of Mercy*. They, along with our entire staff, instilled in our students a love for learning and a commitment to their future service as health care professionals, educators, business executives and many other worthwhile careers.

“Our graduates live the lessons they learned,” he adds.

More than two decades later, Monsignor Bendik continues to guide the institution he admires so. That small regional college he fondly recalls is now a regionally acclaimed University with national recognition that once again is aiming for more.

In September, the University launched the largest campaign in the institution’s 94-year history. The late Frank M. Henry provided the lead gift for the \$30 million *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, which will support construction of the new \$30 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students, and continued investment in the Annual Fund.

“I made a commitment to continue to serve for one very important reason: Misericordia has always been faithful to its mission,” Monsignor Bendik says. “The impact we have made on our students and the people they have served over the years is astounding. It is for this reason I

**“I believe that as Trustees, we have an obligation and duty to support the institution as significantly as our situations allow.”**

– *Harold E. Flack, II*

encourage support for the Henry Science Center as we continue to educate outstanding professionals to serve our community and nation.”

Over the years, Monsignor Bendik and his past and present colleagues on the Board of Trustees have dedicated

Continued on next page

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themselves to carefully guiding the Catholic institution and ensuring they do not miss an opportunity to position the University for future success. The leadership and generosity of the 36-member Board has Misericordia poised to address the future of learning and discovery in the sciences for generations to come in the form of the Henry Science Center.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE TRUSTEE AT A TIME**

**Trustee Harold E. Flack, II** has known about the *Misericordia Way* for more than 45 years. The philanthropist and successful businessperson, though, initially observed it under less than ideal circumstances. In 1972, the Wyoming Valley and surrounding communities suffered billions of dollars in damages when Hurricane Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to flood Northeastern Pennsylvania communities.



An impressionable teenager in June 1972, Mr. Flack still recalls his father, Charlie, managing communications for the Civil Defense, as evacuees and medical patients arrived to the emergency shelter and temporary hospital on campus. More than 1,000 people sought shelter on campus and Alumnae Hall became an auxiliary location for the former Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. Fifty-two babies were born on campus.

“Through that experience, he (Charlie) gained an immense amount of respect for the Sisters of Mercy, their charisms and mission,” says Mr. Flack, the former president of Diamond Manufacturing and co-owner of Diamond Consolidated industries for more than 30 years. “That is where our connection with the institution began.”

That relationship has grown exponentially since then. Mr. Flack’s wife, Jean (Payne) Flack ’81, ’82, has undergraduate degrees in nursing and psychology, and the couple’s son,

Harry Flack ’12, holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Misericordia. His late brother, Charles “Rusty” Flack, Jr., was an active member of the Board of Trustees from 1988-93 and 2000-09, while his wife, Kathi Flack, was an active member of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program’s Advisory Board.

“It is an honor for me to serve on the Board of Trustees,” says Mr. Flack, who also established the Charles Flack Scholarship in his father’s memory. “I believe that as Trustees, we have an obligation and duty to support the institution as significantly as our situations allow. It is important the University remain a high priority in every Trustee’s philanthropic endeavors. It is our duty to lead by example. Leading by example is something I learned from Frank Henry many years ago.”

In recent years, Misericordia has been fortunate to have continuity at its highest level of leadership, as 17 members of the Board of Trustees had given a decade or more of service to the institution as of the annual Board meeting in June.

Trustees **Deborah Smith-Mileski ’75, D.Ed.**, and **Christopher L. Borton** have been working side-by-side as vice chairperson and chairperson of the Board of Trustees since June 2015. Under their leadership, the alumna and entrepreneur knew what was at stake when talk turned to meeting the demands of the 21st-century model of learner-based and discovery-based teaching in the form of modern laboratories, technologies and learning spaces.



“Over the past decade, college and university boards across the nation have been challenged with a myriad of issues that have impacted institutions of higher education and ultimately generations of future leaders,” says Mr. Borton, whose

mother, Margaret (Lukasavage) Borton ’48 earned a Bachelor of Science in home economics from MU. “While forces outside of the institution spawn these challenges, the Board of Trustees must address these issues and keep an eye on the future direction, past

**“As an alumna, I am extremely proud – and quite honestly – truly excited to witness the ongoing growth of our campus ...”**

– Deborah Smith-Mileski ’75

traditions, and charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality.

“In this regard, I have been fortunate to be a member of a Board of Trustees that truly understands their role in influencing the direction of the University,” he adds.

A retired educator from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, Dr. Smith-Mileski served countless students as a certified school psychologist and director of pupil services. Her intimate understanding of what students need to grow personally and academically, and what her alma mater required to prepare these young adults for the next phase in their lives coalesced perfectly.

“Fully aware of the University’s educational mission, I believe the Board views the state-of-the-art facility as a vitally important capstone campus project that will afford our students many opportunities to engage in challenging research as well as benefit from numerous and significant science-related experiences,” says Dr. Smith-Mileski, who holds a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Misericordia. “As an alumna, I am extremely proud – and quite honestly – truly excited to witness the ongoing growth of our campus, inspired by the generosity of Mr. Henry and countless donors.

“Most importantly, I am always grateful that this University continues to meaningfully impact the lives of students, while remaining committed to our educational mission and the Mercy values,” the vice chairperson adds.

In the early 1970s, Misericordia was a small liberal arts women’s college with an even more intimate academic setting. Just like today, students received a rigorous education and the tools to think critically and gain self-confidence in order to pursue rewarding careers and maintain a strong sense of family and community, according to **Trustee Patricia Finan-Castellano ‘73**.

“Misericordia is very special to me,” says Ms. Finan-Castellano, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. “As an alumna and Trustee, I have had the privilege of seeing this regionally recognized College transform to a nationally recognized University. The campus has grown, but the foundational core values remain. That is critical to the success of Misericordia.”



The campus’ footprint has changed dramatically since her collegiate years, she acknowledges, as new residence halls, athletic facilities and academic space support growing enrollment, and academic programs.

“The new Henry Science Center is critically needed,” says Ms. Finan-Castellano, who received the Mother Mary Catharine McGann Award from her alma mater in 1998. “We must build the new science center if we are to maintain our commitment to our students, while also attracting the very best educators. Once complete, the University will be well prepared to support the education of students in all fields of study.”

As a leader in education, **Trustee Ruth A. Connolly, Ed.D.**, knows the importance of having the proper tools for instructional success. After all, she was the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Scranton for 10 years, while sharing her knowledge in the classroom as an adjunct professor of

education, language arts and social studies at regional colleges and universities. The broader educational community also tapped into her expertise, as she served as vice chairperson of the Middle States Association Board, Title 1 coordinator of Pennsylvania for public and non-public schools, and as an educational consultant with AdvancEd.



“My years of service to Misericordia have been so rewarding. It has been my honor, as a Trustee to advocate for students, faculty and staff – to dream with them,” says Dr. Connolly, who has been a Trustee since 1999. “A financial gift affords me the opportunity to ensure that this dream becomes a reality.”

“The gifts of many have brought us to this final phase of the campaign. My financial gift ‘Now’ will help to ensure that our students and teachers have access to 21st century teaching and learning technologies ‘Tomorrow,’” she adds.

**Trustee Jody G. Cordaro** has built a career at SCE Environmental Group, Inc., responding to natural and manmade disasters. Whether it was anthrax decontamination at the Hart

**“We must build the new science center if we are to maintain our commitment to our students.”**

– Patricia Finan-Castellano ‘73



Senate Office Building or asbestos abatement after the 9/11 World Trade Center terror attacks or cleaning up the Gulf of Mexico after an oil spill following the Deepwater Horizon accident, the Moscow, Pa., resident knows how to

Continued on next page

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Michael Amory ‘85 (2007-present)
- Monsignor John J. Bendik (1994-present)
- Christopher L. Borton, Chair (2009-present)
- Jonathan Brassington ‘95 (2006-present)
- Rev. Michael Bryant (2018-present)
- Alfred Casale, M.D. (2015-present)
- Cornelio Catena (2015-present)
- R. Gregory Collins ‘82 (2012-present)
- Ruth Connolly, Ed.D. (1999-present)
- Jody Cordaro (2016-present)
- Harris Cutler (2016-present)
- Mary Erwine ‘90, ‘92 (2011-present)
- Patricia Finan-Castellano ‘73 (2003-present)
- Harold Flack, II (2009-present)
- Sister Mary Ellen Fuhrman, RSM ‘74 (2018-present)
- Sister Carol Ann Gallagher, RSM ‘66 (2015-present)
- The Honorable Tina Polachek Gartley ‘88 (2014-present)
- Roger Howell (2010-present)
- Philip Johnson (2014-present)
- Kristopher Jones (2008-present)
- Marjorie Henry Marquart ‘85 (2013-present)
- Sister Catherine McGroarty, RSM (2007-present)
- Daniel Meuser (2007-present)
- Maureen Metz (2018-present)
- Dr. Mary Helen Nugent, RSM (2013-present)
- Mark J. Oberstaedt, Esq. ‘89
- Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM ‘67 (1994-present)
- Paul “Chip” Siegel (1996-present)
- Deborah Smith-Mileski ‘75, D.Ed., vice chair (1993-present)
- Sister Mayon Sylvain, RSM ‘84 (2002-present)
- Mark Van Loon, Esq. (2014-present)
- Paul Woelkers ‘81 (2012-present)
- Thomas Zesk, C.P.A. (2018-present)

**TRUSTEE EMERITI**

- Dr. Martha Hanlon, RSM ‘60
- Sandy Insalaco, Sr.
- Sherry A. Manetta ‘72
- John C. Metz, Sr.
- Harold Rosenn, Esq.
- Rosemary Sigmond
- Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan ‘71
- Murray Uffberg, Esq.

Continued from previous page

analyze situations and respond appropriately. He uses that same analytical approach in helping Misericordia reach its full potential.



“Perhaps the new Henry Science Center is just the extra enticement for an accomplished professor to join our faculty,” says Mr. Cordaro, a great believer in the Butterfly Effect. “Perhaps it is the deciding factor in a brilliant student’s choice of Misericordia, or perhaps this facility tips the balance in favor of a private or public grant, or a gift from an alumnus or benefactor. These are the benefits that defy hard calculation, but are, nevertheless, of profound value.

“Without reinvestment, growth withers and hope fades. Reinvestment is our affirmation to the world that Misericordia is a rising star,” he adds.

**Trustee R. Gregory Collins ’82** took an untraditional route to academic success, earning his Bachelor of Science in business administration as a young adult. He returned to his alma mater in 2012, offering his considerable expertise in the banking business.

“It is our mission to provide our students with cutting-edge resources that will enhance their education and give them the tools to meet the demands



of the profession they chose to target in their careers,” says Mr. Collins, who retired from Wells Fargo as the community bank area president for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

“We want our students to be proud of Misericordia and the education they received, and be emboldened by the Mercy charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality,” he adds.

**Trustee Paul “Chip” Siegel** has been an able steward of the University since 1996, witnessing and participating in the growth of its enrollment, academic programs and

prestige. He understands what this campaign means to the future.

“This is probably the most transformational of all our projects over the years,” acknowledges Mr. Siegel, formerly of Eastern Insurance Group and now associated with Assured Partners. “We owe so much to Mr. Henry for spearheading this effort.



“Our Board members have embraced this campaign and recognize the true value of it,” adds Mr. Siegel, who served as Board chair from 2006-11. “I feel fortunate to have been witness and a small part of so much progress over the last 20 years. Both Mike (MacDowell) and Tom (Botzman) are visionaries and have brought us to where we are. It has truly been a pleasure to work with them both.”

**SISTERS OF MERCY: ‘UNDIMINISHED COMMITMENT’**

Times were simpler and more modest in 1959. Misericordia had recently built the science hall to accommodate a growing enrollment on the still young college campus and more than 100 Sisters of Mercy lived and ministered in Villa St. Theresa – now Mercy Hall. Overall, the Province of Scranton featured 800 Sisters of Mercy tending to the needs of the faithful in the region.

The relatively new science hall was a sign of “prosperity” and an “investment in the future,” according to **Trustee Carol Gallagher ’66, RSM**. “For many of the Sisters who aspired to become nurses, there was finally a state-of-the-art facility for academics and clinical training,”

says Sister Carol, who joined the Board in 2015. “Because of the quality of the other programs, Sisters sought the challenge of studying for degrees in mathematics, biology and chemistry, which prepared them for teaching in Catholic secondary schools.”



Today, about 130 Sisters of Mercy remain from the former Dallas

Community, but “while our numbers have significantly decreased over the years, our commitment to Misericordia is undiminished,” says Sister Carol, comparing the importance of the science hall from yesteryear to the soon-to-be modern Henry Science Center.

The Sisters of Mercy on the Board of Trustees and the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community pledge their support to the capital campaign individually and collectively. “It is this fidelity to mission that brings us to this moment in time – the campaign for the new Henry Science Center,” says Sister Carol. “Through our prayer and

**“Perhaps the new Henry Science Center is just the extra enticement for an accomplished professor to join our faculty.”**

– Jody G. Cordaro



our donations, we are contributing to a vision of the future, a future of quality education, growth, and – most importantly – mission advancement.

“As we stand poised on this new threshold, we reflect with gratitude on our rich past, and are fully confident that our vibrant Mercy charism and heritage will endure into the future.”

**Trustee Jonathan A. Brassington ’95** holds a special affinity for the Religious Sisters of Mercy. After all, it was his late aunt, Sister Lucia Brassington ’57, RSM, who recommended he matriculate to Misericordia in order to pursue his dreams. His academic success – Bachelor of Science

degrees in mathematics (summa cum laude) and computer science (magna cum laude) – also translated well in the corporate



world. He is the co-founder of LiquidHub, a global customer engagement company which was recently acquired by Capgemini.

He also recognizes the importance of remaining current on the latest cutting-edge technology to ensure relevance. "I believe that along with its core values, continued innovation and transformation are keys to Misericordia's growth and our students' success," says Mr. Brassington. "This campaign and science building keep Misericordia's focus on its students by creating a better education and new avenues for innovation.

"I am excited to witness the continued advancement of both the students and the University with this new science center," adds Mr. Brassington, who was awarded the Young Alumni Award by Misericordia in 2004. "Misericordia is a special place to me and watching its

transformation is inspirational."

Misericordia University will break ground on the new 52,000-square-foot Henry Science Center in spring 2019

**"I am excited to witness the continued advancement of both the students and the University with this new science center."**

– Jonathan A. Brassington '95



and complete it in summer 2020. Refurbishing the existing 28,500-square-foot wing begins in June 2020, with work expected to last

until 2021. Together, the two structures will form the new state-of-the-art Henry Science Center and the largest academic building on campus.

"The Henry Science Center is the largest project in the history of the institution. Frank and Dottie understood the importance and value of an excellent education and fully understood that the only way for an institution to stay ahead of the curve is to keep investing in facilities and technology," Mr. Flack adds. "Mr. Henry stepped up to lead the way in making what was once a dream of a cutting-edge, first-class science building, a reality. Institutions like Misericordia thrive on the generosity of donors.

"Supporting the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign is not only our obligation, it is critical to the long-term future of the institution," he concludes. 

## Sandy Insalaco

Continued from page 22

Mr. Insalaco was a vital member of the Board during his tenure from 1998-2014 as he played an active role as chairperson or significant committee member for four major campaigns from 2000 to 2012. "I had a good time when I did the other campaigns; a feeling of accomplishment, of hitting goals," adds Mr. Insalaco, who is the chairperson of US Hydrations and Landmark Community Bank, and principal in Insalaco Development Group, which develops, owns and operates commercial real estate in three states.

His substantial involvement with Misericordia, though, did illicit a simple, albeit, appropriate question from his supportive wife: Why? "I do it for selfish reasons," he said was his response to Marlene, who passed away in 2017. "It makes me feel good – and it does."

Those campaigns, though, pale in importance, according to Mr. Insalaco. At the time, the campaigns paved the way for capital improvements, and additional academic and residence life space, including the Insalaco Center for Career

Development, John J. Passan Hall, Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall and others.

"All of the campaigns were important, but none of them will have a greater impact than the science building," he says. "I particularly mean that from a competitive standpoint. I do not think anybody realizes the positive impact it is going to have. Some may look at it as just another building, but that is not the case.

"Is there any doubt in your mind the kind of impact it is going to have?" Mr. Insalaco asks.

Mr. Insalaco acknowledges that the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign will be his last as an active participant, as US Hydrations continues to grow (more than 500,000-square feet and 170 employees) and his next philanthropic endeavor takes him to the Hazleton area.

"It's fun because people are recognizing the leadership and the school. That is how you win their support – you earn it," he says. "They talk about the successes and they see it. It makes it easy (to raise money and friends)."

Misericordia University also recognized Mr. and Mrs. Insalaco's support by awarding them the



Infrastructure projects were completed during the spring and summer in preparation for breaking ground on the Henry Science Hall in 2019.

Founders Medal in 2006. The medal is one of the highest honors bestowed by Misericordia, as the trustees award it only when merited. The community at-large also has acknowledged him. He shared the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals with his brother, Michael, in 2002. In 2010, he received the Cornerstone Award from the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Cornerstone Committee.

"I just hope when I'm out of there (Misericordia) that I contributed something to moving it forward from where it was in 1998 – something meaningful," he reiterated. "I hope others perceive it, (because) results count." 



# A 'good steward'

Trustee and Gala chair embraces role in 'Now for Tomorrow' campaign

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The Howell family name is synonymous with Dallas Township and benevolence. For more than 50 years, Glenn Howell served his community as an elected township supervisor, secretary treasurer and local banker at PNC Bank. It is no coincidence his son, Roger, continues to serve his hometown as a philanthropist, business leader and college trustee.

"I have made much of my living in our regional community," says Misericordia University Trustee Roger G. Howell, CEO of RATECentric and president of Howell Benefit Services, Inc. "I believe if you are going to give why not give to the place you live and help your own neighbors."

Mr. Howell's initial exposure to Misericordia, though, came at perhaps the region's worst moment – the Agnes flood in 1972. Unloading helicopters as they arrived on campus with evacuees, the teen-aged Howell was one of many volunteers who pitched in to help others as floodwaters inundated the Wyoming

Valley and disrupted countless lives.

Those images remain vivid to this day for the lifelong Dallas Township resident and Dallas High School graduate, who established his health and welfare benefits company, Howell Benefit Services, Inc., in 1983. Today, his group insurance technology platforms and benefits companies contribute to the



Trustee Roger G. Howell

overall economic stability of countless businesses and families. His innovation and experience in his industry has resulted in groundbreaking digital advancement for a number of national carriers and large consulting houses, such as The Hartford, Cigna, Highmark, United Concordia, Geisinger Health Plan, Aetna, UPMC Health Plan, BB&T Insurance, Expresslink and Digital Insurance.

Trustee Emeritus Murray Ufberg, Esq., of Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald Attorneys at Law in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., recruited Mr. Howell to the Misericordia University Board of Trustees in 2010. An active trustee, Mr. Howell is a member of the Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee, chaired by Trustee Ruth Connolly, Ed.D. He also chaired the 32nd annual Trustee Associates Gala, *Discover Tomorrow Today*, at the Beaumont Inn in September that celebrated the public launch of the *Now for Tomorrow* capital campaign and raised money for campaign priorities.

"Misericordia is in my backyard," Mr. Howell says, explaining his reason for joining the board. "I have become

familiar with the University in my position as a trustee and want it to continue to move forward academically and financially.”

Sue Helwig, M.S., vice president of University Advancement, asked Mr. Howell to chair the inaugural dinner under the new fundraising format. “I am used to organizing events for my own company and other charitable events,” says Mr. Howell, who is also active with the United Way of Wyoming Valley, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Meals on Wheels, American Heart Association, Children’s Service Center, Step By Step and more. “So it didn’t frighten me to get involved with this one. We all, as trustees, give time, talent, expertise and money. Why not have one day to celebrate what we have accomplished.”

The \$30 million *Now for Tomorrow* campaign is the largest in Misericordia’s rich 94-year history. The campaign will support construction of the new \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

“Roger advises the University on best human resource and employee benefit practices, and is an energetic voice for engaged philanthropy,” President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., says. “He volunteered to serve on the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign Committee and is a leader in successfully soliciting support for both facilities and scholarships.”

Mr. Howell, though, also acknowledges the overall importance of the campaign for Misericordia as “all of the universities are fighting for attention, specifically new students,” he says. That is one of the main reasons he has been particularly active seeking campaign contributions from friends, colleagues and business associates.

“We have a number of very good stewards,” Mr. Howell says. “As far as boards go, this is not a passive board. I believe the result of our efforts (the campaign) will put Misericordia in a very appealing position versus other peer group colleges and universities. It is critical we stay relevant and progressive since we are in the most competitive era in the history of higher education.” 

**“I believe the result of our efforts will put Misericordia in a very appealing position versus other peer group colleges and universities.”**

– Roger G. Howell



The Misericordia University community came together at the annual Trustee Associates Gala to honor John C. Metz, Sr., and the late Frank M. Henry with Founders Medals and to publicly launch the new capital campaign.



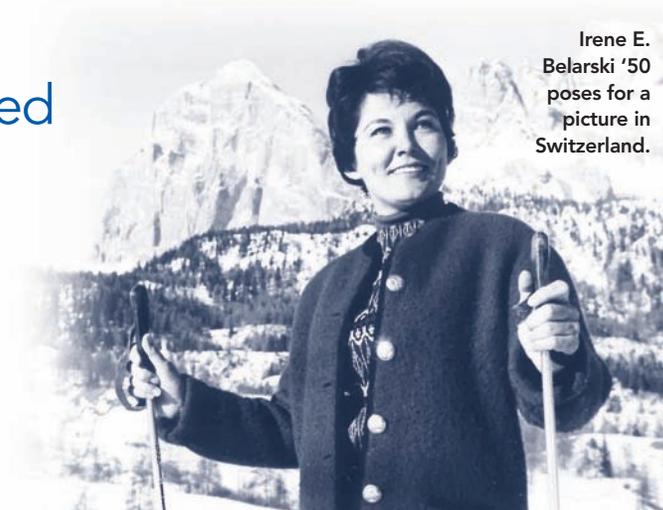
## Science alumna recognizes need for educational advancements

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Misericordia has been fortunate to be able to count on the support, love and generosity of alumna Irene E. Belarski '50 since she crossed the stage as a cum laude graduate with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. A strong and purposeful woman entering what was then a male-dominated career field, she excelled in a profession that took her around the world teaching science. Inspired by the support and encouragement she received at Misericordia, she has given time and again to see that today's students continue to have the opportunity to pursue interests in the sciences.

Although settling 1,672 miles away in Lakewood, Colo., Ms. Belarski has kept Misericordia close to her heart and has been a generous benefactor to many campus campaigns, including *Leading From the Heart*, *Advancing the Vision*, the *Pursuit of Acclamation* and many Annual Fund and endowment efforts, with gifts that represent her interest in the sciences.

She has designated gifts to science building equipment, the Department of Nursing, and the DuPont Academic Chemistry & Biochemistry Scholarship, prior to establishing and endowing the Irene Belarski '50 Scholarship in 2010.



Irene E. Belarski '50 poses for a picture in Switzerland.

Awards from the Belarski Scholarship are made to a female student who majors in the sciences, with preference given to pre-med majors. The scholarship will follow the student to graduation, assuming satisfactory academic progress is made.

Helping Misericordia make more scientific dreams come true, Ms. Belarski has made an initial donation of \$70,000 to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign in support of the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. She also plans to designate a gift to the Henry Science Center and the Irene Belarski '50 Scholarship endowment in her will.

Few alumni understand better than she does the need for the \$30 million contemporary facility, which will allow the faculty and staff to mentor and engage students in amazing new levels of scientific learning and research. **h**

## ESSA Bank and Trust Foundation

### Making an impact on the community, one project at a time

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

ESSA Bank and Trust is more than just a financial institution based in Stroudsburg, Pa. It is an economic keystone with a long history of supporting the communities it serves.

Founded in 1916, ESSA – standing for East Stroudsburg Savings Association – has grown over the last 100 years into one of the largest community banks in Pennsylvania, with



300 employees and 22 branches across Monroe, Lehigh, Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, as

well as the Philadelphia region. Based in Stroudsburg, new corporate offices were recently added in Bethlehem and Plymouth Meeting.

Established soon after the bank went public in 2007, the ESSA Bank and Trust Foundation was created to help improve the quality of life in the geographic areas the bank serves. The Foundation has identified five areas of interest –

housing, parks and recreation, education, community health and the arts – and is credited with distributing between \$700,000-\$900,000 annually to worthy capital projects.

Answering a call for support, the ESSA Foundation's \$45,000 contribution to Misericordia's *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign for building, equipment and supplies will help the University create a "population health" clinic in the newly renovated Trocaire Building on campus. The clinic will be open to the community and focus on providing health care to those who are un/under insured.

"ESSA Bank and Trust Foundation is focused on fulfilling community needs and we believe that building and reconstruction projects at Misericordia University will open doors for new clinical services for the public and advanced clinical education for its students, and will have a large impact on the region," says Stephanie Lefferson, corporate secretary, ESSA Bank and Trust. "We are proud to support Misericordia in such a community-centered project." **h**

## Community Commitment

### M&T Charitable Foundation helps advance science education

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

With more than 750 branches, 1,800 ATMs and \$115 billion in assets, M&T Bank Corporation is a well-known and highly respected name in banking and financial services throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Founded in 1856 in Buffalo, N.Y., the community-focused bank serves customers in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia, with a full range of banking, insurance, investments, mortgage and commercial financial services, delivered in person and through a variety of online and mobile services.

Over those 160 years, M&T has been true to its mission statement: "When our communities succeed, we all succeed." It has done so by taking an active role in the communities it serves; building long-lasting relationships with customers, and making sure employees know they are valued. Conservative management consistently generates positive earnings for shareholders.

M&T Bank Charitable Foundation has donated more the \$182 million to a wide range of community organizations since M&T Bank established it in 2005 as the philanthropic arm of the bank. The foundation selectively dedicates its giving to arts and culture, civic affairs, health care, human services and educational organizations with financial grants and in-kind services. In addition, employees spend thousands of hours in volunteer service to support what is most important in local



communities. Their efforts have earned the bank the highest possible Community Reinvestment Act rating on every compliance exam since 1982. The foundation proudly reports the people who know their own communities best make the philanthropic decisions locally.

A recent \$50,000 gift to the Misericordia University *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign is a shining example of the M&T Foundation's belief in and support of advancements in science education, according to Phil Johnson, president of M&T Bank's Northern Pennsylvania region. A member of the Misericordia Board of Trustees, Johnson has witnessed the campus advance over the past four years.

"M&T is pleased to support Misericordia's campaign to create a premier science facility for teaching and research and to increase scholarship funds," says Johnson. "We believe that investing in quality education is an investment in the future. And this campaign will help the University's students and faculty reach the next stage, the next breakthrough, the next achievement."

A longtime supporter of Misericordia, M&T Charitable Foundation also has made contributions to arts events, athletics, capital campaigns and the Annual Fund throughout the years, and has provided direct support to specific University educational programs via the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. 

## A legacy of 'healthy' investing

### Moses Taylor Foundation supports purchase of simulation equipment for 3 academic programs

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

For 120 years, countless people in Lackawanna County and regional communities benefitted from the initial \$250,000 gift a local merchant and banker made in the 19th century to invest in their health and build a hospital in Scranton, Pa. That philanthropic legacy endures today as the Moses Taylor Foundation continues to support healthy initiatives in his name.

In 1892, Moses Taylor Hospital opened its doors on Quincy Avenue, dedicated initially to treating injured miners and railroad workers before expanding its mission to serve the broader community. The former hospital's spinoff

recently approved a grant request from Misericordia University for \$100,000 to invest in state-of-the-art simulation equipment for the medical imaging, diagnostic medical sonography and physician assistant programs.

"It is really important to stay focused on the health care aspect of fulfilling grant requests," said Jeff Smith, Program Officer at the Moses Taylor Foundation. "This is community money that came from the sale of the (Moses Taylor) hospital. It is important to carry on that legacy of investing

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# Changing the world one investment at a time

## PNC Foundation commits \$100,000 to 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

For PNC Foundation, a gift to Misericordia University's *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign is an investment in opportunities.

Those opportunities are, of course, for the students and faculty who will learn and explore in the state-of-the-art Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. They are for the learners who will see doors to education open through increased scholarships and greater funding for new academic programs.

But they are also opportunities for the larger local community and beyond.

"When you think of Misericordia, you think of what they are doing for their learning community, but really also how it impacts the community at large," said Lauren Allen, who as

vice president and director of client and community relations for PNC Financial Services in Scranton serves as administrator for the foundation's local committee in the Northeastern Pennsylvania market.

That impact is why, in October 2017, PNC Foundation made an early commitment of \$100,000 to the campaign. The foundation has been a longtime supporter of the University, giving more than \$240,000 over the past three decades.

PNC has been there to support past campaigns *Leading from the Heart* and *Advancing the Vision*. The foundation also has

[Continued on next page](#)

### Moses Taylor – Continued from previous page

in health care. We also look at the impact these grants will have on the community once your students have graduated and are employed in our local hospitals."

True to its motto of "advancing our legacy of health," the foundation's investment in simulation-based education will provide Misericordia students with unprecedented new training opportunities to test clinical procedures and improve their individual and team skills until true learning and understanding are achieved. The approach improves training outcomes and contributes to the formation of quality learning that will transfer to the professional environment in the form of highly competent patient care.

"The development of the health care workforce is one of our founding priorities, so we like to see that the regional schools are offering the best education and best research possible, particularly when many of these students are remaining in the area and finding employment after graduation," Smith said. "By approving this grant, we are not only investing in the students, but also in the community once they graduate and are out there working."

The Medical Imaging Program purchased a Whole Body Phantom manikin from the grant proceeds to enhance laboratory education. The model features a synthetic skeleton, organs embedded in a soft-tissue substitute, and movable joints that allow for basic positioning for plain X-ray and training applications.

The male and female pelvis simulators "facilitate interprofessional education" among the multiple health science academic disciplines, according to Sheryl E. Goss, M.S. RT(R) (S), RDMS, RDCS, RVS, RVT, FSDMS, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The two

learning tools – the Female Pelvic Ultrasound Phantom and Scrotal Ultrasound Phantom – are compatible with any ultrasound system and provide imaging scenarios of both normal and abnormal sonographic appearances.

"They are very important for learning how to perform female gynecology and male pelvis ultrasounds," Goss said. "Our students will learn the proper techniques on this state-of-the-art equipment and will be able to transition smoothly into their clinical education settings."

The Physician Assistant Program acquired a plethora of simulation learning tools, including an Advanced Venipuncture Arm, AirSim Advance X, Chest Drain & Needle Decompression Trainer, Ear Examination Simulator II, Examination & Diagnostic Breast Trainer, Eye Examination Simulator, Knee Aspiration & Examination with Ultrasound Capabilities and more.

"It (the investment) is important to the foundation's board for a few reasons," Smith said. "We have a few board members who have worked at the hospital or were on the hospital board. Along with an interest in improving the community's health, they take a personal interest as well. Some of your students are already working beside them and will continue to in the coming years. The Foundation Board has a strong interest in investing and improving the health workforce here.

"We are excited to make this investment and be able to continue to focus on community health in a different way."

The Moses Taylor Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to building healthy communities and providing opportunities for people in Northeast Pennsylvania, especially the most vulnerable, to lead healthier lives. The Foundation was endowed in 2012 with the net proceeds from the sale of the Moses Taylor Health Care System to Community Health Systems of Franklin, Tenn. 

# A 'firm' commitment to core values

## Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald's relationship with institution spans decades

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The connection between Misericordia University and Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald (RJG) LLP runs very deep. For more than 75 combined years, a partner from Northeastern Pennsylvania's largest law firm has been associated with the Board of Trustees, providing guidance, leadership and treasure along the way.

At the very start of that relationship, though, is Sallyanne Rosenn '44, an alumnus of Luzerne County's first four-year college and wife of Trustee Emeritus Harold Rosenn, Esq., who served as a Trustee from 1976-85, before gaining emeritus status upon his retirement.

RJG Partner and Trustee Emeritus Murray Ufberg, Esq., succeeded Mr. Rosenn as a Trustee and served from 1985 to 2015, receiving emeritus status in 2015. RJG Partner and



Trustee Emeritus Harold Rosenn, Esq., and Sallyanne Rosenn '44 stand by 'Emerging.'

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### PNC – Continued from previous page

supported Misericordia through numerous grants over the years.

Grants from PNC have had a significant impact on projects including the Autism Center and the Assistive Technology Research Institute (ATRI). A \$10,000 gift to ATRI supported an alternative communication device program. In 2011, a grant from PNC helped fund a sound isolation room for the Speech-Language Hearing Center.

"We had a chance to tour that and I was amazed at how much of a community was there, seeing people there with their children for assessments," Allen said. "That's just one example of the impact Misericordia has on its students and the community."

PNC's giving to Misericordia has been reflective of the foundation's two main areas of focus. One is early-childhood education, manifested in the PNC *Grow Up Great* initiative. The other is economic development, for which colleges and universities are a key component.

"Supporting our colleges and universities is important because that has a direct tie to economic development in the areas where we live and work," Allen said. "It's really a workforce development issue."

That's part of the reason why a new science center is so critical, and a valuable investment,



The Department of Speech-Language Pathology purchased and installed a Wenger Soundlok Sound – Isolation Room with financial support from the PNC Foundation. SLP Student Riley McKee of Southampton, Pa., conducts a hearing screening with a client of the Speech-Language and Hearing Center.

Allen said. Misericordia is already preparing skilled graduates in numerous fields, especially in the health and medical sciences, where the University is graduating more students than any other local institution. So for the students and faculty who will have the opportunity for cutting-edge experiences, the new center is a game-changer.

"It will be transformative for the hands-on experience students will have," Allen said. "A facility can really open up opportunities for superior teaching, research and lab work – all those things that are so important in what is really Misericordia's wheelhouse."

PNC Foundation's local committee has felt a sense of partnership with Misericordia, and through consistent excellence in programs across the board, the University has been a good steward of the foundation's support. So when it came time to make a gift to the *Now for Tomorrow* campaign, the committee did its due diligence, and the decision was easy, Allen said.

"We're proud of the opportunity to be able to help Misericordia fulfill its mission and touch a lot of people in the community," Allen said. "An investment in education is a smart investment. It is really a no-brainer. It is the only way we will be able to sustain what we have and continue to move the needle forward. That's how we will change the world." **h**

## A relationship fueled by service

### UGI Utilities supports 'Now for Tomorrow' Campaign

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The long-standing relationship forged between UGI Utilities and Misericordia University is based upon a shared vision for the greater community. For more than 135 years, the utility company has provided safe and reliable energy, while reinvesting in the well-being of the communities it serves.

For more than 94 years, Misericordia University has been providing collegians the personal attention and rigorous academic programs they need to succeed in life and in their professional careers, while concurrently imbuing in each a sense of service to those most in need.

Sharing similar core values and missions, Misericordia University (196,420) and UGI (60,105) combined to provide more than 256,000 volunteer service hours in 2017, while also assisting regional social service agencies in many ways. Those deep roots in the community are also directly connected, as Misericordia has been a loyal utility customer

and UGI an ardent benefactor during fundraising efforts.

Through the years, the Reading, Pa.-based company has routinely supported the higher educational institution's capital campaigns and Annual Fund. Most recently, UGI pledged \$50,000 to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign, the largest campaign in Misericordia's history. The \$30 million campaign will support construction of the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

"UGI proudly supports organizations whose goal is to make the community stronger," said Don Brominski, director of business development for UGI Utilities. "The success of Misericordia and its students is critical to the area. Misericordia

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#### RJG – Continued from previous page

Trustee Mark A. Van Loon continued the firm's tradition by joining Misericordia University's Board of Trustees in 2014.

"Together with my partner James Valentine, I have been doing legal work for Misericordia for the last 35 years and I got to know Misericordia in a much more personal way than some of my other partners," said Mr. Van Loon, whose sister, Ann Grimes '73 received her Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Misericordia. "I was honored to be asked to sit on the Board. I have followed the growth of Misericordia for many years and I really, really like the people here – and the good Sisters of Mercy have set a fine example for all of us."



Mr. Ufberg



Mr. Van Loon

Emeriti Trustees are former members of the Board of Trustees who have provided distinguished service and leadership to the University over a period of years. In their new capacity, they serve as mentors and consultants to the Board, drawing on their institutional knowledge to the benefit of the Board and new Trustees.

The Wilkes-Barre, Pa., firm also has supported Misericordia in many other ways. Rosenn Plaza, oftentimes referred to as the "heart" of the more than 124-acre campus, features the 26-ton sculpture, *Emerging* – a symbol depicting the intellectual and personal development of students from unsure freshmen to more assured, self-reliant seniors. Mr. and Mrs. Rosenn and their friends supported its development.

The transformative *Leading from the Heart, Pursuit of Acclamation*, and *Now for Tomorrow* campaigns also received significant support from RJG, as did other worthwhile initiatives and programs. "Higher education is the key to success for our community and Misericordia fulfills that mission, not only with the educational initiatives they offer, but also the fact that they teach our young people how to live a life that reflects the Sisters of Mercy's charisms (of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality).

"That is important to us all in the community, so we are pleased to support them in this mission," added Van Loon, a resident of Dallas Township.

The \$30 million *Now for Tomorrow* campaign, launched publicly in September during the annual Trustee Associates Gala, is the largest campaign in Misericordia's rich 94-year history. It will support construction of the new \$35 million Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center, and provide significant investment in the Annual Fund and endowment for additional scholarship opportunities for worthy students.

"One of our core values is giving back to the community," said Van Loon, referring to the community-minded law firm that was established in 1954. "We support institutions in the Valley that are key to our community. If you go through the key organizations in our community, you will find that our law firm has supported many of them at a significant level over a period of time.

"We share our treasure and talents. Many of our partners have assumed prominent leadership roles in the community. It is not just the work of a few partners, but it is what is expected of all our partners and is what is appropriate for an institution of our size and presence," he added. 

# Parents celebrate caring culture at Misericordia with generous support

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Like most parents of high school seniors, Tom and Lorrie Zesk simply wanted the best for their son, Andrew, when he enrolled at Misericordia University, a well-respected liberal arts institution located two hours from their home in Morristown, N.J.

Andrew's case, though, was a bit more complicated than most. Having a son with special learning needs, they could only hope that he would thrive in what they were told was a nurturing environment in the Alternative Learners Project (ALP) – a specially designed program that provides services to help students with special needs navigate life as a collegian.

To hear them tell it, Andrew not only thrived in his four years at Misericordia, but he excelled in and out of the classroom. During his senior year at Misericordia, he had an internship at the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library and got his first experience in archiving. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in 2013.

Upon receiving his undergraduate degree, Andrew enrolled at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, earning a master's degree in history. Today, he is in the final stages of completing an advanced degree certificate in archival science from New York University. His parents credit the charms of the founding Religious Sisters of Mercy and the inclusive culture at Misericordia for the support and motivation that helped him excel in education and pursue a career in digital archiving.

To show their appreciation, the Zesk's made their first gift to Misericordia in 2009, and have since given generously to the *Pursuit of Acclamation* Campaign, and numerous endowment and Annual Fund campaigns.

Sparked by a desire to see others enjoy the same beneficial ALP experience, the family established the *Zesk Family Endowed Scholarship* in recognition of Andrew's graduation in 2013. The scholarship, which was first awarded in the 2016-17 academic year, is to be awarded to a student for all four years of their time in the ALP program.

A C.P.A., Mr. Zesk retired in 2014 after serving as a partner

for 25 years at Deloitte T LLP, an international accounting, tax and consulting firm based in New York City. Mrs. Zesk was also in the accounting field and has worked for many years as a volunteer at Andrew's elementary and high schools.

The couple eagerly served as valued members of the Misericordia University Parents' Advisory Council. Mr. Zesk was named to the Board of Trustees in June. He is happy to offer his financial expertise, and even more willing to share their son's success story so others recognize the intrinsic benefits of a Misericordia education.

To that end, the family recently made a generous gift to the *Now for Tomorrow* Campaign for the Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center – one that is being matched by Deloitte. The matching corporate gift doubles the impact and ability for Misericordia to improve critical science and research facilities for all students.

"Since my early days on the Parents' Council, I've been impressed by how forward thinking Misericordia is and that the University would make a strategic effort to ask for parents' input on projects, such as the addition of a football team and expanded athletics fields – and more recently, the need for a new science center," Mr. Zesk says. "It is obvious that the plans are well thought out and that faculty and administration are working together with the board to provide advancements in cutting-edge education for the students. They know what they need and are working together to get it done.

"Andrew looked at a good number of schools coming out of high school and there was just something about Misericordia – the students, the friendliness, the atmosphere – that drew him to campus. As a parent, I was amazed that he could leave his mountain bike on a rack in front of the Banks Student Life Center, with the helmet hanging on the handlebars, without a care that they would be stolen. That tells you something about the culture at the campus. It is one that we are happy to support," he adds. **h**

## UGI – Continued from previous page

has been a loyal customer of UGI electricity and natural gas for many years. Their dedication to the community coincides very nicely with UGI's commitment to the community."

UGI Utilities provides natural gas distribution services to more than 635,000 customers in 44 eastern and central Pennsylvania counties. It also delivers electrical service to about 62,000 customers in portions of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

The company is equally proud of its volunteer efforts in cleaning and repairing community parks and facilities,

delivering meals to homebound people, engaging in reading activities with children, and more. Since 1991, UGI has supported early childhood literacy with its commitment to Reading Is Fundamental.

In addition, UGI provides critical financial support to 29 United Way Chapters in the state, and supports the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign and numerous STEM initiatives. "Education is one of our top priorities," Brominski said. "We have given more than 1.4 million books to Reading Is Fundamental to support first graders. United Way is UGI's main charitable organization and here in the Wyoming Valley, the mission of UGI is to attack childhood poverty." **h**

# The A, Bee and Cs of Biology

## Researchers attempt to stem decline of wild bee population

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

**A**s a key pollinator in the universal ecosystem, bees do more than make honey. They are responsible for billions of dollars worth of pollination that impacts global agriculture and the environment. Over the past few years, scientists have taken notice of a drastic decline in the bee population around the world. In the U.S., beekeepers are reporting losses as high as 50 percent of their colonies year-to-year due in part to disease.

A team of researchers at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., is conducting a five-year study on bees and other pollinators to help determine how they are impacted by stressors, such as pesticides and pathogens, and what can be done to stem population decline.

Misericordia University senior Blyssalyn Bieber '18, was selected from hundreds of applicants to join the Boyce Thompson Institute's Plant Genome Research Program – one that is partnered with Cornell University – for a 10-week internship during the summer to work on the bee study. The biology major, with a minor in chemistry, will earn her bachelor's degree from Misericordia in December.

Bieber admits being more than a bit surprised when offered placement in the highly competitive National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Boyce Thompson Institute without so much as a personal interview. "They selected me on my application, recommendations and personal statement. I am still

amazed," Bieber says. "Being part of such an extraordinary research team has been a dream come true."

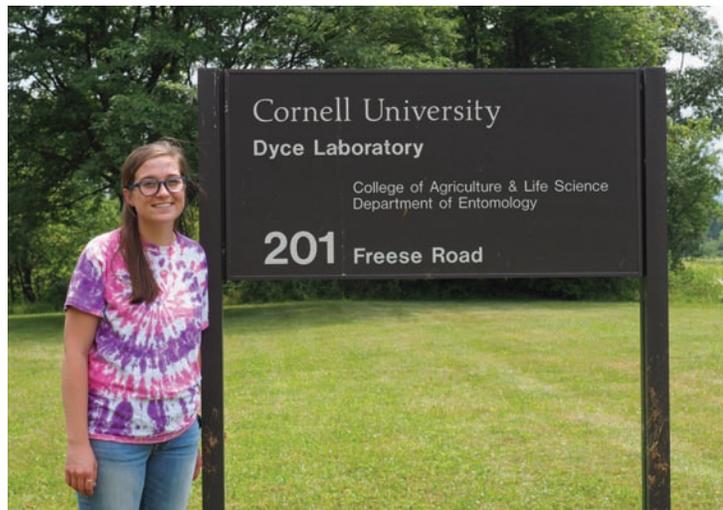
Bieber was quickly imbedded in the Cornell team, which received a five-year, \$2.2 million National Institutes of Health grant to study how pathogens are passed back and forth between New York State's 416 bee species, and what can be done to stem diseases responsible for their declining numbers. She worked in the

"My team spent time observing wild bees that we collected in the Ithaca region to see how parasites are transmitted," Bieber explains. "We were looking to understand the transmission of *Crithidia*, *Nosema* and *Apicystis* – all of which are parasites in the bees. The next step was inoculating some of the bees that were sampled from several field sites to observe whether or not an infection occurred with each different species."

Bieber made an oral presentation about her research at the Boyce Thompson Institute student symposium in August. "The connections I made with the people in the McArt Lab and peers in the Cornell program are reminiscent of the relationships I have built at Misericordia," she says. "The internship afforded me the opportunity to grow into myself as a science student. I have taken what I learned from the experience and brought it back with me

to Misericordia, and I know it will impact my future in the sciences."

Bieber credits the professor-student relationships at Misericordia for helping to prepare her for the intense Cornell experience, especially the dedication of Misericordia Biology Professor Cosima Wiese, Ph.D, who holds a doctorate in plant pathology. "Dr. Wiese has been the biggest influence on my academic career. I cannot thank her enough for encouraging me to pursue this opportunity at Cornell," she says. "I did not think I would enjoy working



Blyssalyn Bieber '18 poses for a picture at Cornell University.

McArt Lab under the direction of Scott McArt, Ph.D., a research scientist in Cornell's Department of Entomology and the principal investigator of the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases project, along with Peter Graystock, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in bee-microbe interactions, and Paige Muniz, a bee systematics technician. Bieber also met with researchers at the University of California Riverside, North Carolina State University and University of Massachusetts when the Cornell team was Skyping with other teams working on different aspects of the same research.



Blyssalyn Bieber '18, above, pulls a bee specimen from a collection in the McArt Lab at Cornell University, and, below, examines the bee pathogen, *Crithidia bombi*.

with insects so much, but this REU experience has widened my field of study to perhaps look at plant-insect interactions – something I had not considered before.

“I now can see myself in any number of careers within the science field, all of which excite me. For now, I plan to work as a research assistant after I have completed my bachelor’s degree to grow my experience. I anticipate entering a master’s program and continuing on to earn a Ph.D. As I look forward, I want to implement biodiversity to support conservation by studying how complex ecological systems allow for a healthy environment,” Bieber adds.

The bee project was a perfect fit for the undergraduate who developed an interest in the natural sciences while spending summers as an intern at the nature center of Camp Victory, a camp

for children and adults with disabilities just 15 miles from her home in Turbotville, Pa. She also interned on a community supported agricultural farm in Stillwater, Pa., an experience she says made her aware of the benefits of sustainable growing practices.

An active student, Bieber is a member of the Biology Club and Tri Beta Biology Honor Society. She also served as a resident assistant and student liaison for the campus-wide Environmental Sustainability Committee, which provided her the opportunity to work with administration on changing behavior on campus.

With the same commitment and foresight that helped land her the Cornell internship, she sums up her goals with one determined line: “My ideal career path will combine education, conservation and overall health for the planet,” she says. **h**



**“The internship afforded me the opportunity to grow into myself as a science student.”**

– Blyssalyn Bieber '18



# Proud and prepared

Misericordia sophomore uses laboratory experience to excel in summer internship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

When your dream is to attend medical school, there may be few entries on your undergraduate resume better than spending time studying pulmonary and critical care medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. Misericordia University biology major Meaghan Cabassa '20 pooled her tenacity, experience and intellect to make it happen – surprising few that she earned acceptance into the prestigious summer research program as a sophomore.

Misericordia University Biology Professor Cosima Wiese raves about her mentee, saying she was not surprised the National Institute of Health-sponsored research program accepted Cabassa. “Meaghan is very mature, driven and a go-getter in a quiet and humble way,” Dr. Wiese says. “Midway through her freshman

year, she came to me looking for help in finding an internship. You do not find many first-year students so eager to excel. As a sophomore, she aimed high and was well prepared for the Johns Hopkins experience.”

Cabassa, a biology major with a chemistry minor, set her sights on the Johns Hopkins program because of its physician-oriented design. She spent

**“These are just small examples of the scientific preparation I have had from my faculty at Misericordia.”**

– Meaghan Cabassa '20

10-weeks in the laboratory of Vsevolod Polotsky, M.D., Ph.D., in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, where research focuses on sleep apnea and the correlation of the disorder with obesity.

“There is a hormone, leptin, which can control breathing and appetite, but is often lacking or cannot be detected by receptors in patients with obesity,” Cabassa explains. “This dysfunction has been associated with obese patients having sleep apnea. I worked on trying to locate where the leptin receptors are in the brain, in the hopes that leptin can be used as a treatment for sleep apnea someday.”

The research team worked with mice – which were obese and leptin-deficient – and gave them injections of leptin into the breathing sensory regions of the brain. They then observed their breathing patterns in a sleep study, and used a cryostat

machine to examine their brains to analyze where the receptors are within the brain.

Cabassa says her feelings of intimidation of working alongside interns from much larger universities with graduate research labs quickly abated when she realized how much more hands-on research experience she had garnered in her first two years at Misericordia. "While analyzing nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra was not my favorite part of Organic Chemistry at MU, the other interns were shocked to hear that I had used the spectrometer myself, as most of them were not even allowed in the room with it," she says.

"While Misericordia is small, it has definitely given me the chance to learn on my own and work in different types of labs, learning new techniques and constantly working hands-on to make discoveries myself. It made for an easy transition once I arrived at Hopkins," Cabassa adds.

As part of the research experience, Cabassa had to make a 30-minute presentation to her research group and their mentors, while also preparing a formal poster presentation.

"While some of the other students were worried about the size of these projects, I was not concerned at all. During the spring semester, I had prepared and presented a poster on my research for Student Poster Day at Misericordia, and I had given an even longer presentation for my Biological Interactions course," Cabassa recalls. "These are just small examples of the scientific preparation I have had from my faculty at Misericordia, and I am excited to return with all the additional knowledge I have taken from my internship."

A laboratory veteran, the native of Mountain Lakes, N.J., conducted research during her sophomore year at Misericordia with Beth Haas, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. They researched the chemical reactions involved with the increasingly popular guilty pleasure known as bath bombs – balls of sodium bicarbonate and citric acid mixed with essential oils and color

that bubble and effervesce when added to bathwater.

The student-faculty research team presented their findings at the 256th Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society in Boston in August. "We looked at the kinetics and acid-based reactions while testing bath bombs in varying temperatures of water, and created an experiment that can be used in the classroom to teach chemical principles," Cabassa says.

Back on campus and in her second year as president of the Misericordia University chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Cabassa continues to help the group

raise funds and plan a medical careers conference for students in the spring. She is also a member of the Tri Beta Biology Honor Society.

"Meaghan goes above and beyond what is expected of her. She is always looking for feedback and wants to improve," Dr. Wiese adds. "Meaghan is on board with me this fall to conduct genetic analysis as part of my continuing research on the duckweed plant. She is working on plant biochemistry and the changes that occur in genetic structure during the plant's response to stress. I am looking forward to seeing what her Johns Hopkins' experience has added to her expertise." **h**

During a National Institute of Health summer research internship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Misericordia University sophomore Meaghan Cabassa '20 uses a cryostat machine to examine the brains of mice to determine if the hormone leptin can be used as a treatment for sleep apnea.



# Fueling interest in science

## Biology major conducts biophysics research in Bordeaux, France after being named an Iacocca International Scholar

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The names John Gage and Roy Desoto do not resonate with most people nowadays as their fame has faded slowly into television history. To Michelle Ash '19 and her father, John R. Ash, M.H.A., Ph.D., F.A.C.H.E., though, the character actors' exploits from the long-running television series, *Emergency!*, are the gateway into biomedical research for the senior biology major at Misericordia University.

Before reaching her teenage years, Ash had mastered the fine art of suturing, albeit on an orange, and heard her father's stories about intentionally jump-starting a frog's heart with a 9-volt battery, while also partaking in reruns of *Fire Station 51* and its two most famous paramedics.

Those foundational experiences developed a naturally inquisitive quality that has fueled Ash's undergraduate studies and career aspirations in the sciences. "I love that you are trying to find the answer to a question that nobody has found yet," the Sweet Valley, Pa., native says about her love for scientific research. "The way you can use knowledge that is already established to find the answers to your questions is fascinating to me."

One year after participating in the Misericordia University Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program with Jeff Stephens, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, Lehigh University named the 22-year-old an Iacocca International Scholar to conduct biophysics research in Bordeaux, France. Funded by the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program, Ash was

overseas from June 3 to July 25 for the research experience.

In France, Ash worked alongside Dr. Jean-Pierre Delville in the LOMA Laboratory (a French acronym that stands for Laboratoire Ondes et Matière d'Aquitaine or Laboratory of Waves and Matter of Aquitaine) at the University of Bordeaux using lasers to study the microrheology of natural gels. By using lasers, the Misericordia researcher was able to acquire the measurements on a micro-scale of surface tension, viscosity,

techniques I learned in the lab are highly valuable skills that will hopefully give me an edge when graduate school applications roll around."

Part of the application process for the Iacocca International Scholar Program involved securing two letters of reference from collegiate professors. John Morgan, Ph.D., assistant professor, and Dr. Stephens did not hesitate to fulfill the requirement. "She has the three pillars (book, laboratory and people skills) that are needed in an

academic environment – and that is rare," Dr. Stephens says about his mentee. "I feel very lucky to come across her path during her journey."

Dr. Stephens has collaborated with Ash on numerous projects in the science laboratories on campus, from building and setting up equipment to researching *Candida albicans*, the scientific name for a common yeast strain and one of the leading causes of death for blood-borne yeast infections.

Yeast is a "fantastically rich field" to study, Dr. Stephens says about the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship study he initiated with Ash in July 2017 and continues to this day to combat *Candida albicans'* pathogenicity.

Utilizing an atomic force microscope and magnetic tweezers, the Misericordia student-faculty research team studied the three distinct morphologies of yeast and the differences in cell stiffness.

"Understanding that morphology allows us to look at the mechanisms of it and gain insights into the disease," Dr. Stephens says.

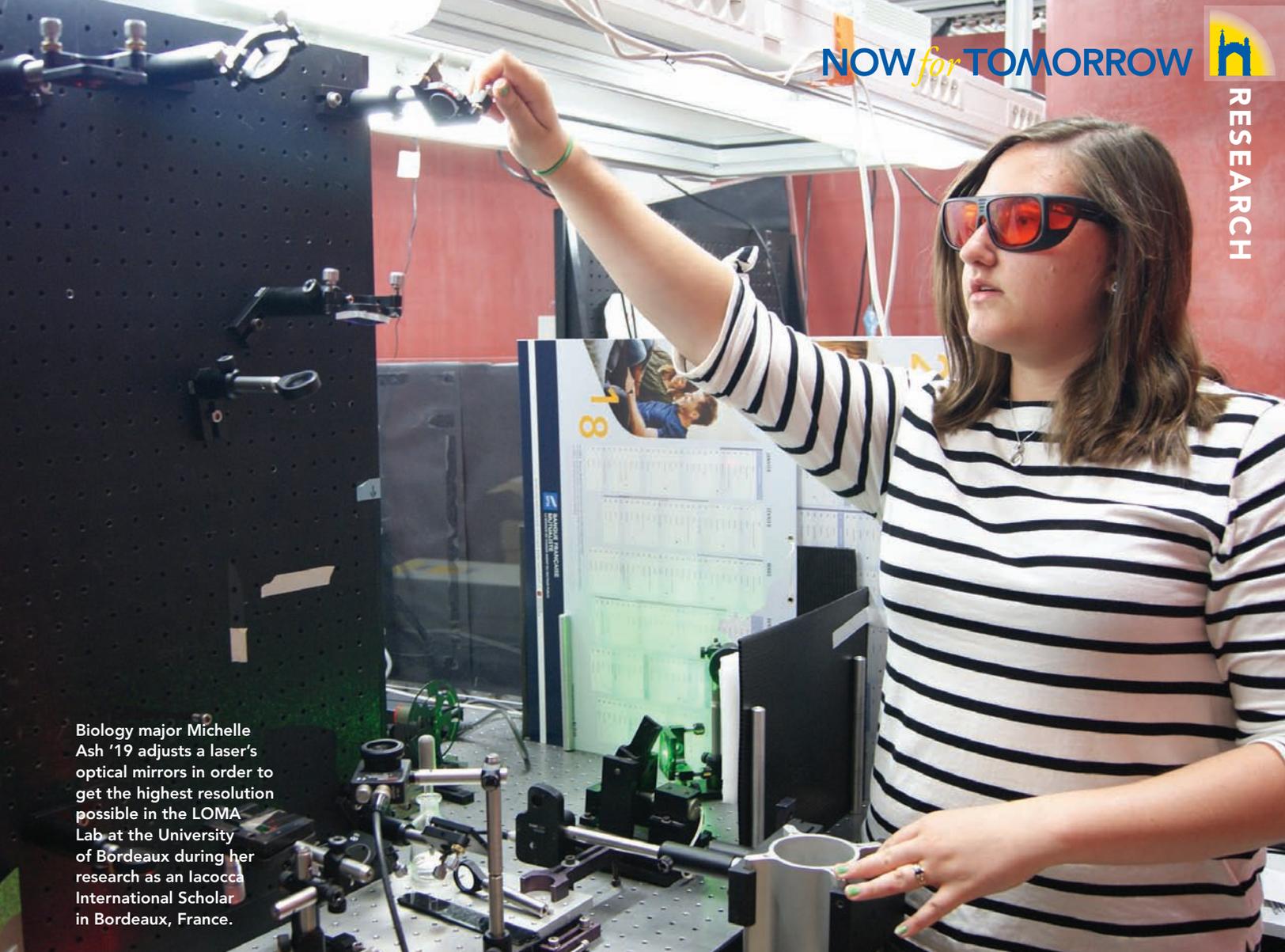
The atomic force microscopy enables them to study cell stiffness as *Candida*



and storage, and loss moduli of gels used to culture cells without introducing them to another particle.

The technique enables scientists to determine the properties of the gels that cells grow on, so researchers can measure different biophysical aspects of a cell without harming it, and thereby enabling them to collect data from a nearly uninterrupted biological system.

"This research gives me experience in an experimental setup that is not typically used in a biophysics lab, as it requires a wide range of knowledge in terms of optics and interference," Ash said about her summer research. "The



Biology major Michelle Ash '19 adjusts a laser's optical mirrors in order to get the highest resolution possible in the LOMA Lab at the University of Bordeaux during her research as an Iacocca International Scholar in Bordeaux, France.

*albicans* has three distinct morphologies or ways it can appear in nature: wild type, pseudohyphal and hyphal – the yeast form responsible for blood borne yeast infections. Dr. Stephens and Ash are trying to determine whether the cell membrane is compromised or not when it transforms from its natural form into the pathogenic state in order to gain insights into how to better treat *Candidiasis*-yeast infections.

"Understanding that morphology allows us to look at the mechanisms of it and gain insights into the disease," Dr. Stephens explains. "The structure and mechanisms of the cell play the role of the pathogen."

In addition, the scientists also are working to determine the stiffness or strength of yeast cells by utilizing magnetic tweezers. The scientific instrument attaches paramagnetic microbeads to cells and manipulates

the beads, using magnetic fields to try to understand cell stiffness and structure. The pliability of the cell is important because "the stiffer cell means there is less membrane fluidity and is less stable overall," Ash says.

"We want to determine if the hyphal morphology of the yeast is a less stable form of the cell membrane," says Ash. "(If it is unstable it) means there is data to target certain aspects of the membrane to stop the infection."

The work to understand *Candida albicans* better will continue through the 2018-19 academic year. "We collaborate a lot with the students in all of the sciences here," Dr. Stephens acknowledges. "Students like Michelle are rare. We know they are engaged and thinking about (their work) because they come to us with ideas and plans for where to take the project next."

Ash quickly admits how she was "overjoyed" and "could hardly speak" upon learning about her summer research adventure in France. That opportunity and her own academic success have been fueled by Misericordia because "they let you find yourself," she says.

"(At MU) I can just waltz into one of my professor's offices and talk to them. It makes me feel good that I have a network of people to fall back on, and the collaboration between the professors is what really strikes me because it blurs the lines we once had in science," says Ash, who envisions herself entering an M.D.-Ph.D. program after graduating from Misericordia in May 2019. "The professors really push you in the right direction here with that personal interaction because they've known you and developed a relationship with you over the course of semesters and classes."



# Water Woes

## Research will help identify contaminants in water

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Detecting potentially harmful substances in water is a research area that almost everyone can relate to. The ongoing issues in Flint, Mich. and Dempsey, Pa., regarding contaminated drinking water supplies, are excellent examples of the importance of this type of research.

In reality, potentially harmful substances are found in water supplies around the world. Students of Assistant Professor of Chemistry Nicola Edwards, Ph.D., are working in the Misericordia University laboratories to develop easy-to-use and, more importantly, easy-to-read test kits for a variety of substances, similar in design to test kits used for pool water and urine samples.

"These test kits are important globally because samples can be tested 'on the spot.' A researcher does not have to carry them back to the laboratory and use sophisticated instruments," Dr. Edwards explains.



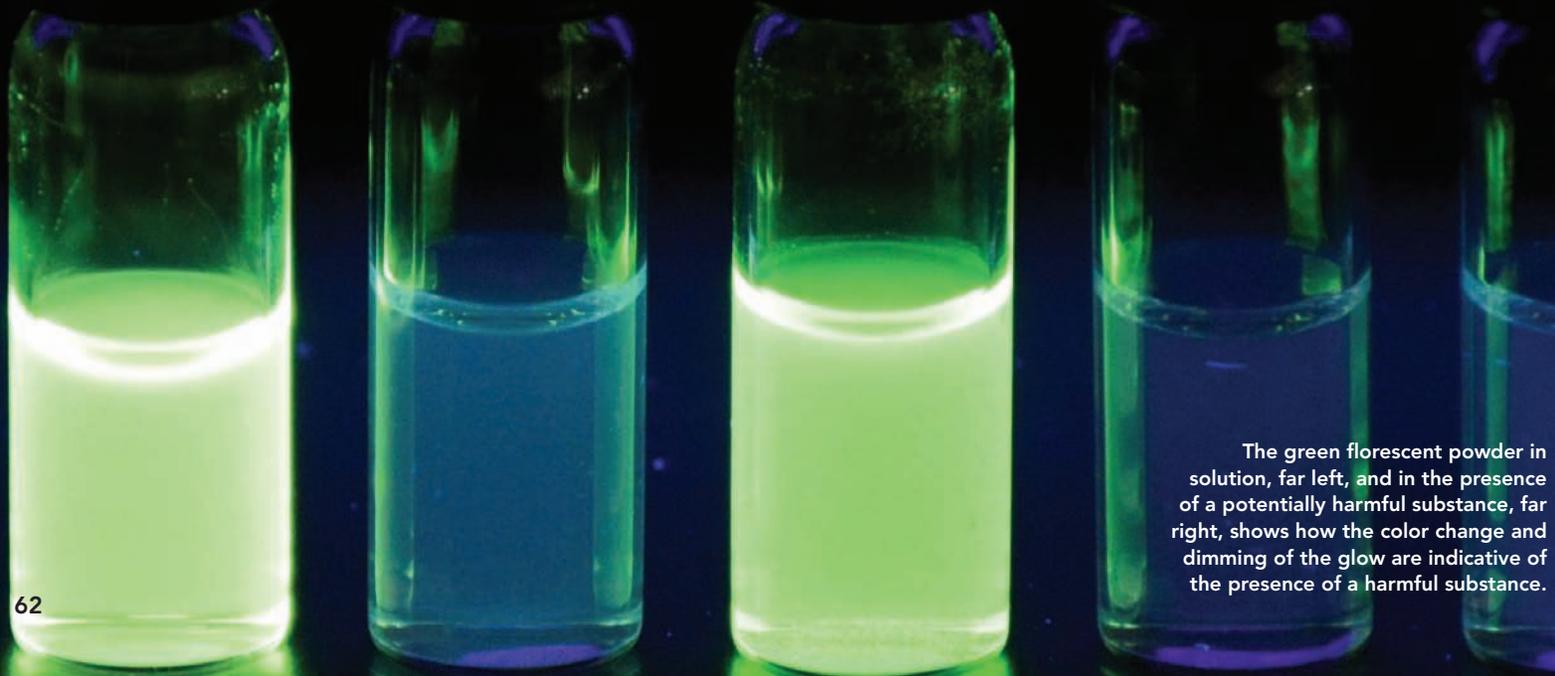
"Test kits of this sort will be most applicable for researchers who may have millions of samples and would like to screen samples quickly for the presence of substance. In short, we

are trying to ascertain whether a particular substance is there or not, and do so in the shortest possible time. It is a timely and tremendously important research area because it saves researchers time and money by eliminating the need for trained personnel and instruments."

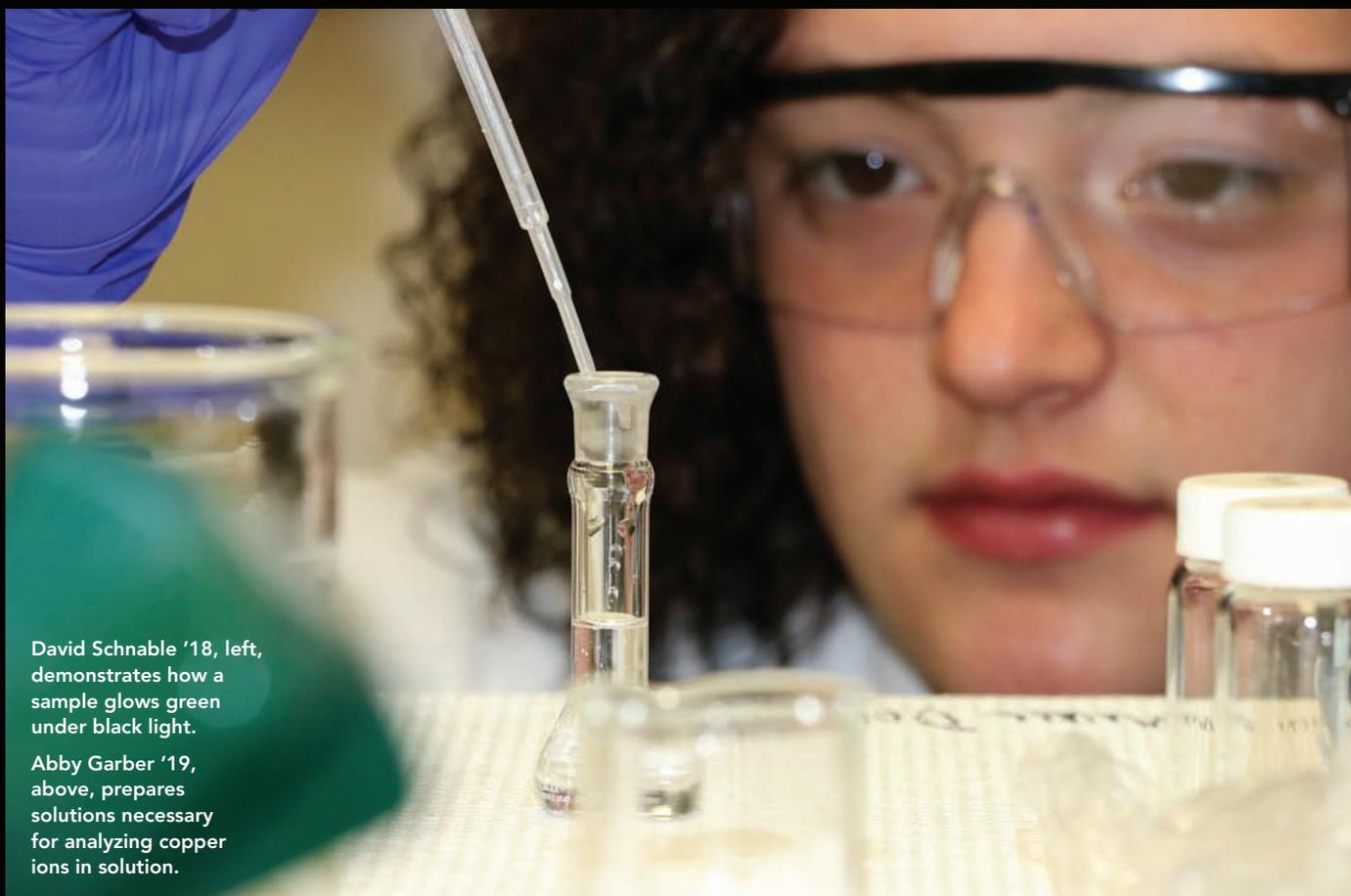
"In particular, we are working to develop a powder to test for trace metals and other substances that works on fluorescence," student researcher David Schnable '18 explains, while simultaneously displaying a green glowing test sample. "One that dissolves in water, and when you shine a black light on it either it glows or it doesn't based on whether that trace metal is present or not.

"Trace metals can be very bad for you. This method will be very good for places, such as developing countries, where testing instruments are in relatively short supply," Schnable adds.

A chemistry major from Dallas, Pa., Schnable, Abby Garber '19, a



The green fluorescent powder in solution, far left, and in the presence of a potentially harmful substance, far right, shows how the color change and dimming of the glow are indicative of the presence of a harmful substance.



David Schnable '18, left, demonstrates how a sample glows green under black light.

Abby Garber '19, above, prepares solutions necessary for analyzing copper ions in solution.

biochemistry major from Hanover Twp., Pa., and Dr. Edwards responded to a call for abstracts and presented their latest research findings at the 255th American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans in March. Garber and Schnable gave poster presentations in the Chemical Education Division, and Dr. Edwards delivered an oral presentation in the Organic Division of the conference. The five-day event annually attracts as many as 13,000 chemists, chemical engineers and academicians to discuss new research and developments in their respective fields.

Schnable is building an impressive resume. In 2017, he won a competitive National Science Foundation Research for Undergraduates Fellowship that enabled him to conduct research at the University of Connecticut on compounds that have the potential to treat cancer. Scheduled to graduate in December, Schnable plans to pursue a

Ph.D. in chemistry.

Garber's research efforts are focused on developing a sensor that will detect iron and copper in water. "I had never presented in an academic setting before, so going to New Orleans was really overwhelming, but in the end such a great learning experience," she says. "I was most amazed in meeting people from around the world who were so interested in what we were doing."

Both students express the deepest regard for Dr. Edwards and the one-on-one mentoring she provides. "Working with her has been fantastic," says Garber, who plans to continue her education in optometry school after graduating in 2019. "I have learned so much about chemistry and how it works by doing this research. It is more than I could ever learn just in the classroom."

Dr. Edwards, in turn, enjoys mentoring students, describing the collaboration with student researchers

as one of the most rewarding aspects of her job. "Seeing students grow and mature is amazing and I am honored that I have played a small role in their development. Both David and Abby are sound scholars and talented researchers," she says.

Although he will have already graduated by the time construction is completed, Schnable says he is looking forward to the new Frank M. and Dorothea Henry Science Center. "There is so much more research students here could do if they had dedicated research space," Schnable adds. "As it is, we have the instrumentation we need. There are classes in the labs we work in, so we have to clean up and put away our work after every research session. It would increase student and faculty research productivity if we didn't have to spend so much time setting up and breaking down."

Groundbreaking on the building is scheduled for spring. **h**

# Biology majors make scholarly presentations at PA Academy of Science

Seven biology majors made presentations at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in March.

Michelle Ash '19 collaborated with faculty mentor, Jeff Stephens, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, to conduct research on common yeast that resides within the human body in its wild-type form during the 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at Misericordia University. The student-faculty research team developed their poster presentation, "Exploring the Dimorphic Nature of *Candida albicans* through Atomic Force Microscopy," from their ongoing scientific work.

Cassandra DiPippa '18 made the poster presentation, *A Survey of Caddisfly Larve (Order Trichoptera) in Two Northeastern Pennsylvania Streams*. She collaborated with faculty mentor, Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

David Kunkel '19 made the oral presentation, *Effects of Periodic Drought on Delayed Seed Germination in Neotropical Costus Species*. He developed the scholarly presentation based upon research he conducted with Grace F. Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, during the research program on campus.

Olivia McCorkel '18 collaborated with faculty mentor, Larry Corpus, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, to conduct research as part of the fellowship program at Misericordia University. She delivered the research poster, *Survey of Macroinvertebrates in Container Habitats and Phytotelmata from Select Northeastern Pennsylvania Sites*,



Seven biology majors at Misericordia University made poster and oral presentations at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in March. Participating in the annual event, from left, are Jody Teel '18, Springville, Pa.; Rebecca Zaneski '18, Edwardsville, Pa.; Olivia McCorkel '18, Stillwater, Pa.; Michelle Ash '19, Sweet Valley, Pa.; Larry Corpus, Ph.D., assistant professor, biology; David Kunkel '19, Tamaqua, Pa., and Ashley Williams '18, Shickshinny, Pa. Absent from photo is Cassandra DiPippa, Shavertown, Pa.

based upon their completed research.

Student research Fellow Jody Teel '18 presented the research poster, "A Survey of Container-Breeding Mosquitoes (*Insecta: Culicidae*) From Selected Northeastern Pennsylvania Sites," during the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in 2017. She collaborated with faculty mentor, Larry Corpus, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, on the research project that was completed in 2017.

Ashley Williams '18 delivered the oral presentation, *Dose Response Effects of Forskolin on Immortalized Schwann Cell Growth*. She collaborated with mentor, Angela Asirvatham, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology, during the research program.

Rebecca Zaneski '18 collaborated with Cosima B. Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, on the research

project, *A Comparison of Different Measuring Techniques for Detecting Zinc Effects on Lemna minor*. The student-faculty research team participated in the 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program and presented their findings in the form of a poster presentation.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Science has been educating and supporting scientists in the Keystone state since 1924 by striving to promote science, technology, education and the diverse interests of members. The Academy seeks to advance the pursuit and application of science, enhance the professional development of its members, create forums for professional dialogue, promote scientific research, presentation and discussion, and support educational initiatives devoted to the development of scientific skills and knowledge. 

## Student-faculty research team places 2nd at Undergraduate Research at the Capitol

A faculty-student research team placed second in the STEM category at the 16th Annual Undergraduate Research at the Capitol Pennsylvania Poster Conference in April.

Student research fellows Brandon Dean '20 and Tristan Snyder '17 collaborated with Associate Professor Maureen Romanow Pascal, P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S. on the abstract, *Gait and Reaction Time in Individuals With and Without Parkinson's Disease*.

The Department of Physical Therapy research team's work was part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in 2017. The fellows' studied the differences in gait (walking) and reaction time in people with and without Parkinson's disease, and the effects of regular, intensive exercise on the progression of the disease – especially in improving gait and reaction time.



Research fellows Brandon Dean '20, left, and Tristan Snyder '17 placed 2nd at a poster conference in Harrisburg, Pa.

The research team studied 27 people of various ages without Parkinson's disease, and 17 people of various ages with the disease who participated in a controlled exercise program.

The research concluded that "exercise plays an important role in

maintaining function in people with Parkinson's disease," they wrote. Their work found that people with the disease who exercise regularly have gait and reaction time similar to the subjects in the control group, who do not have Parkinson's disease.

The findings are instrumental in developing and modifying exercise programs for people with Parkinson's disease, and adds evidence that high-intensity interval training can reduce progression and possibly improve symptoms.

The conference is an educational event that allows undergraduate students enrolled in the Keystone state's colleges and universities to highlight their research talents to the Commonwealth's key decision-makers. Sixty-two institutions participated in the event in the East Wing Rotunda of the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg. [h](#)

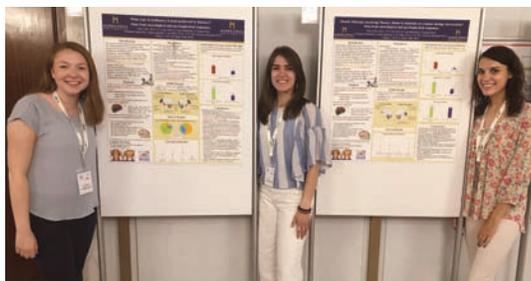
## Groundbreaking research subject of presentation in Rome

Three speech-language pathology majors presented their scholarly work on groundbreaking research at the third annual International Conference on Stuttering in Rome, Italy. The international forum held June 14-16 highlights research and clinical findings in the fields of stuttering etiology, assessment and treatment, offering innovative stuttering treatments.

Student researchers Elizabeth Heinmiller '19, Cara Imbalzano '20 and Jordan Seprosky '19 made two research poster presentations and an oral presentation at the leading international event for researchers and professionals in the field of assessment and treatment of stuttering.

They collaborated with Professor Glen Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCF-S, chair, Department of Speech-Language Pathology at Misericordia; Rickson Mesquita, Ph.D., Sergio L. Novi Jr., and

Arjun Yodh, Ph.D., and fellow student researcher D'manda Price '19, on the poster presentations, *What Type of Dysfluency is Least Preferred by Listeners? Data from Neurological and Psychophysical Responses*, and *Should Clinicians Encourage Fluency Clients to Maintain Eye-Contact During Conversation? Data from Neurological and Psychophysical Responses*.



Speech-language pathology student researchers, from left, Elizabeth Heinmiller '19, Cara Imbalzano '20 and Jordan Seprosky '19 made presentations at the third International Conference on Stuttering in Rome, Italy.

The students also collaborated with their mentors to make the oral presentation, *Do Emotionally Arousing Personal Experiences Affect How a Person Who Stutters is Perceived? Data from Neurological and Psychophysical Responses*.

The groundbreaking studies by Misericordia are the first of their kind to use functional near-infrared

spectroscopy, autonomic nervous system software and hardware, and a survey simultaneously to determine typically fluent speakers' reactions to stuttering. By using both systems and a survey, the researchers were able to determine the cortical, psychophysical and survey responses of participants as they observed videos of different aspects of stuttering. [h](#)

# SLP students present student-faculty research in Japan

Three Misericordia University student researchers made poster presentations at the *One World, Many Voices: Science and Community Joint World Congress of Fluency Disorders Conference* in Hiroshima, Japan.

Emily Gurtizen '19, B.S., and Katrina Giacumbo '19, B.S., fifth-year graduate students in the speech-language pathology (SLP) program, made the scholarly presentation, *A Perceptual Study of Communication Effectiveness in Cluttering*.

Giacumbo and Gurtizen collaborated with faculty members Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, associate professor, and Jessica Kisenwether, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, assistant professor, on the scholarly research.

The student-faculty research team explored the perceptions of 144 adult

listeners who rated the speech of adults who clutter when compared to adults who do not. The speakers were rated on conciseness, organization and flow of message. The results indicated that listeners judged those who clutter less favorably than controls in terms of ability to understand their main point, ability to get right to the point, smooth flow of speech, and organization of message.

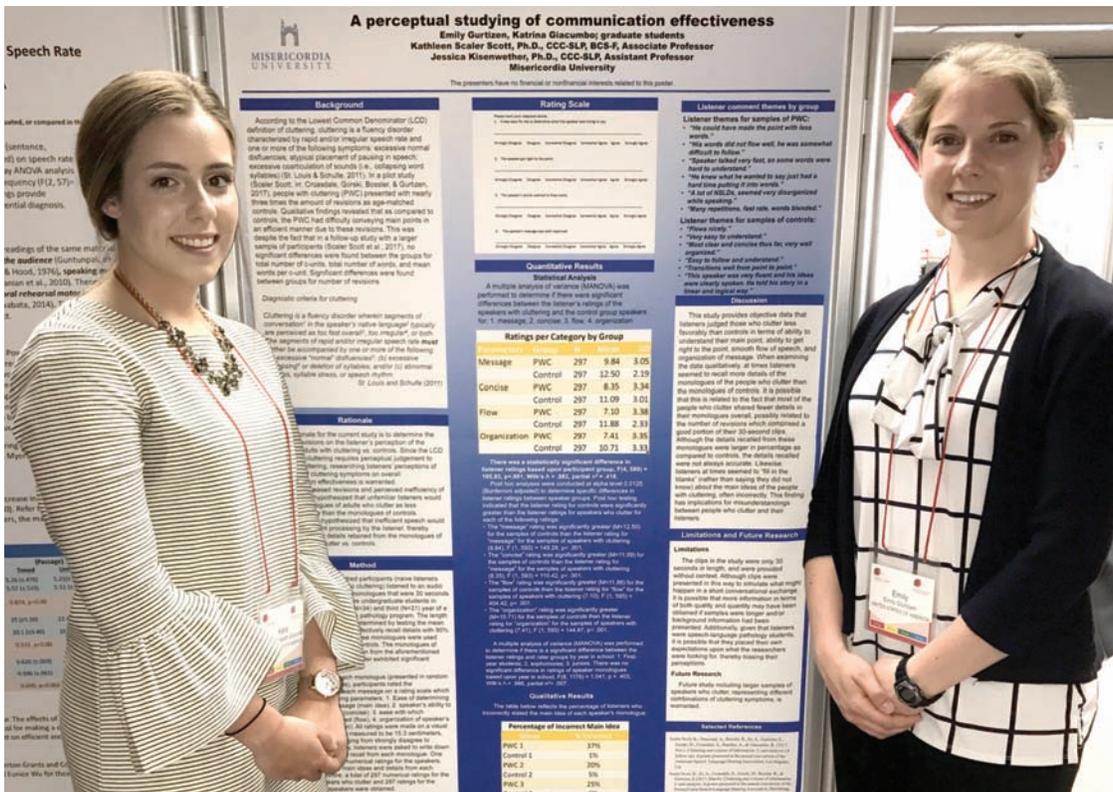
The study's findings have implications for establishing priorities in treatment of cluttering.

Shea Williams '19, B.S., a fifth-year graduate student in SLP, made the poster presentation, *An Alternative Rate of Speech Measure for Individuals Who Clutter*. Williams collaborated with fellow students, Rachel Moon '19, B.S., and Shayne Postiglione '19, B.S., and faculty members, Dr. Kisenwether, Dr. Scaler Scott and Denis Anson, M.S. O.T.R./L., director of research

and development at the Assistive Technology Research Institute, on the scholarly research.

The student-faculty research team measured the variability of rate of speech, rather than the traditional average rate of speech, in an effort to identify an objective measure to diagnose the fluency disorder, cluttering.

The Japan Society of Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders and the Japanese Stuttering Genyukai Organization hosted the Joint World Congress at the International Conference Center from July 13-16. The groundbreaking initiative brought together historically diverse groups from the International Cluttering Association, International Fluency Disorders Association and International Stuttering Association to explore experiences of living with, treating, and researching, stuttering and cluttering. h



Misericordia University student researchers Emily Gurtizen '19, B.S., of Holmdel, N.J., right, and Katrina Giacumbo '19, B.S., of West Chester, Pa., left, fifth-year graduate students in the speech-language pathology program, made the poster presentation, *A Perceptual Study of Communication Effectiveness in Cluttering*, at the Joint World Congress of Fluency Disorders Conference in Hiroshima, Japan.

## Speech-language pathology faculty-student research team receives national acclaim

A faculty-student research team in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology received special recognition from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for a research poster that addresses the communication disorder, cluttering.

The student-faculty research team is comprised of students Emily Gurtizen '19, Katrina Giacumbo '19, Bailey Hartung '19, Taylor Header '19, Jenna Reed '20, Lisa Giuffre '21 and Kayla Thorpe '21, and Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, associate professor. They submitted the research poster to ASHA to be considered for presentation at the 2018 ASHA Convention: "Revolutionary Learning. Evolutionary Practice" in November.

The research poster, *Discourse Analysis in Adults with Cluttering: Implications for Language vs. Executive Functioning*, has been designated a

Meritorious Poster Submission by ASHA. Meritorious Poster Submission recognition is for proposals judged by the Convention Program Committee to show "extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work." The poster was one of 51 selected out of 2,122 submissions.

The honor is noted in the convention program booklet with a ribbon icon and identified in the Poster Hall with a ribbon displayed on the poster.

The study presented in the research poster analyzed the speech patterns of seven adults who clutter and seven who do not have speech disorders. The study is attempting to find new ways to help people who clutter plan their messages and communicate more efficiently.

More than 15,000 people will attend the ASHA Convention in Boston, Mass. from Nov. 15-17. The convention is the



Faculty-student research team members, from left, are Kayla Thorpe '21, Jenna Reed '20, Lisa Giuffre '21, Associate Professor Kathleen Scaler Scott, Bailey Hartung '19 and Taylor Header '19.

premier annual professional education event for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists. The Misericordia University research team will present their findings during the event. [H](#)

## University collaborates with Lehman Sanctuary on state-of-the-art water quality monitoring system

Misericordia and Lehman Sanctuary representatives unveiled the collaborative environmental program, *The Language of Water: A Forest-to-Classroom First*, in September.

Misericordia purchased and installed telemetry equipment in the wetlands of the 17-acre site, which also contains old forest, natural meadows and prime wildlife habitat. Environmental and educational grants from Pennsylvania American Water and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection made the project possible.

The water quality testing equipment enables student and faculty researchers, as well as elementary, middle and high school classrooms participating in the program, to monitor the health of the stream in real time by collecting important data. Several individual

probes positioned in the wetland stream measure pH, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity – all of which help characterize the overall health of the stream.

Geostationary satellites collect data from the probes and make it available

remotely via computer cloud storage. The collected data, sent in raw, binary form, also is suitable for use by students in computer programming classes as they learn how to convert the binary data into actual measurements.

The installed equipment allows the University and participants in the program to monitor environmental conditions and aspects of biodiversity at the sanctuary. The probes provide constant data for scientific assessment of water quality and more opportunities to protect natural resources, while advancing the understanding of and commitment to environmental protection in the region. [H](#)



Participating in the program, from left, are Mark Cross, senior operations manager, PAW; Chris Miller, president, Lehman Sanctuary; President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., Dr. Cosima Wiese and Dr. Angela Asirvatham.



The men's baseball team poses at Neuroscience Group Field in Appleton, Wis., the site of the Division III College World Series in May. Kneeling from left, are Ryan Cahill '21, Mike Blazaskie '18, Billy Kerwien '20, Dalton Emerich '21, Sean Lyons '20, Steve Weisensee '19, Tyler Holzapfel '20, Conor Smith '19, Sean Boylan '21, Kyle Rogalski '18, Scott Carton '18, Austin Miles '21; standing: Kyle Lindsay '16, assistant coach; Chuck Edkins, director of athletics; Pete Egbert, head coach; Branden Falco '21, Joe DeSanctis '21, Kyle Lennon '21, Zach Mason '19, Ian McCole '21, Joe Liscio '21, Cole Bixler '18, Alec Iurato '18, Tom Jacob '21, Parker Abate '19, Dan Zurowski '18, Chad Bell '18, Kyle Melahn '19, Kenny Jarema '19, Elliot Forde '18, Shane Hughes '21, James Magaldi '20, Taylor Price '21, Drake Koch '19, Santo Guinta '19, Ryan Gilgallon '21, John Pudder '21, David Gargone, assistant coach; Mike Comerford '16, assistant coach, and Cory Vogeli '16, assistant coach.

## Baseball team advances to College World Series

The baseball team completed its greatest season ranked seventh in the nation after advancing to the NCAA D-III College World Series for the first time. The Cougars finished 37-15 and had eight players earn second-team All-Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom honors.

After finishing second in the MAC Freedom during the regular season, the Cougars rallied to win three straight elimination games to claim their eighth consecutive MAC Freedom title.

The Cougars won their first two games at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, including a 6-5 victory

over second-ranked Rowan, before falling into the loser's bracket. Once again, the team rattled off three straight wins to win the regional title and advance to the World Series.

Junior pitcher Drake Koch was named the Most Outstanding Player of the regional tournament. The all-tournament team also included by Tyler Holzapfel '20, Alec Iurato '18, Dan Zurowski '18, Parker Abate '19 and Kyle Melahn '19. Misericordia opened the World Series with a win over fifth-ranked Randolph-Macon before dropping two straight games to end the season. [h](#)



The Athletics Department is holding its sixth annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 24 at the Huntsville Golf Club. Please call (570) 674-6374 to make your reservations. Participating in last year's tournament, from left are, Paul Zaengle, '97, Chuck Edkins, director of athletics; Dennis Connell, and Scott Hein '95.

## Women's track captures MAC indoor championship

The women's track & field team won its third MAC Indoor championship in four years. The Cougars went on to finish third at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Indoor Championships and fourth at the MAC Outdoor Championships.

Clare Schoen '19, '20 was named the MAC Indoor Track Athlete of the Year, while Reilly Wagner '19 and Juwan Petties-Jackson '18 earned All-America honors at the NCAA Indoor Championships. Wagner finished third in the nation in the indoor pentathlon and Petties-Jackson was fourth at 200m.



**STUDENT ATHLETE  
SPOTLIGHT**



### Rachel Carmody '18, '21

Rachel Carmody '18, '21 is entering her senior season with the Misericordia University women's basketball team.

A starter in each of her first three seasons, she has fueled a turn-around that has led the team to 37 wins in the last two seasons and back-to-back post-season appearances.

The daughter of William and Colleen Carmody of Waymart, Pa., she is a graduate of Western Wayne High School where she played for former Misericordia standout Colleen (Corrigan) Kloss '04.

Rachel earned her bachelor's degree in sport management in December and is progressing toward her doctoral degree in physical therapy.

Her twin sister Rebecca is a member of the women's basketball team at Binghamton University.

Entering her senior season, Rachel has 859 career points and 657 career rebounds. She ranks fifth in school history in rebounds per game, eighth in career blocks and 10th in career rebounds. She shares the school single-season record with 29 games played. [h](#)



# MATH + MUSIC ÷

*Collegians use music and creativity to make elementary mathematics fun*

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

WRIGHT TWP. – Many said their favorite activity was making music on cardboard instruments by counting rubber band strings. Others thought dancing around in a math-themed *Hokey Pokey* was “cool.” In all, the 200 students at the St. Jude School in Mountain Top, Pa., were seemingly unaware they were learning yet declared it “the most fun ever” when a team of 40 Misericordia University math and education students took to their classrooms for Math Day in March.

It was the fifth year that the two schools collaborated to celebrate

mathematics with Math Day, a community service project for Math Club members, and the service-learning component of the Intro to Early Childhood Education and Math Methods I education courses. Not only do the youngsters benefit, but Misericordia’s future teachers gain experience teaching in pre-K through 8th grades and learn how to stimulate comprehension in what can be a challenging and, to some, a potentially boring subject.

Under the tutelage of early childhood and special education majors Rebecca Kaschak ’20, Sara

Reichold ’20 and Amanda Rackliff ’20, the students in Mrs. Mary Anne Crofchick’s second grade class did a math and music word search, and had a lesson in the values that musical notes represent. Ashley Gebhardt ’19 led her charges in a game of musical chairs, where they had to solve a math problem each time the music stopped.

Mixing in dance, fellow Misericordia students instructed their third graders to “Put the triangle in ... take the triangle out” and so on during a giggly round of *Hokey Pokey* designed to help them differentiate between triangles, squares and rectangles. The St. Jude principal was impressed with the collegiate creativity.

“This is such a great opportunity for our students, especially as we work to increase interest in STEM areas,” said Sister Ellen Fischer, SCC, principal of



1. St. Jude School students, from left, Ethan Brenner, Margaret Mary Ganter, Francesca Basalyga, and Kyle Kocon, right, match the value of musical notes under the guidance of Misericordia sophomore Brook Moyle '20.

2. Luke Newman '21 watches as Jack Novelli and classmates play musical note dominoes.

3. Nina Owen '20 helps students Sydney Kozden and Cadin Sparich prepare for a math and music project.

4. Ashley Gebhardt '19 reviews answers to a math project with student Kaitlyn Ziomek.

5. Maryjo Dickinson '21, seated left, and Devin Oyola '20, standing, watch as students Cadin Sparich, Michael Tomczyk and Josh Van Pelt play a song on jars filled with varying amounts of colored water

6. Caitlin Henneforth '21, right, helps Ahyaan Sayed match the values of musical notes.

7. Kelly Brogan '19 helps a student count the strings on a musical instrument he created.

8. Misericordia University student Rebecca Kaschak '20, center, is flanked by St. Jude School second grade students, as they work on a math project involving the values of musical notes during a Math Day event at the school in Mountain Top, Pa.

# LEARNING = FUN

St. Jude School. "It is definitely a benefit to our students to see math as a fun thing and experience ways it applies to their everyday lives. We are grateful for the Tedfords who coordinate this program each year."

Steven Tedford, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, and his wife,

St. Jude eighth grader Daryl Boich sported a wide grin as he talked about his fifth Math Day. "My favorite part was playing songs on glasses filled with different amounts of water – it helped us learn fractions and about hertz and frequencies. And we had a classroom challenge to see who could

liked using cups filled with water to make music. It was really cool," he said.

Misericordia education major Jesse McDonough '21 learned a lesson of his own about the need for creative attention grabbers. "When we got to one class, they were just finishing lunch and were naturally distracted. It took a bit of creativity to get their attention. I definitely learned how different a real classroom can be from what you learn in textbooks," he said.

"I can't wait to be a teacher," added sophomore Caitlin Prebish '20, who recently declared education as a major. "This was one of my first times as an instructor and it really helped reinforce that teaching is what I want to do. I am excited to major in early childhood and special education – and someday have my own classroom." 

*"I definitely learned how different a real classroom can be from what you learn in textbooks."*

– Jesse McDonough '21

Veronica Tedford, M.A., a former mathematics professor, have a daughter, Grace, who attends St. Jude. They developed the program with Michele Brague, Ed.D., assistant professor of education, and Kevin Feifer, director of the Office of Service Learning, in 2014.

perform the Star Wars theme the best," he said.

Fellow eighth grader Chris Papciak dreams of being an engineer or an architect in a big city some day, and knows he needs math to make it happen. "I love Math Day. I really

# *A commitment to* SERVICE

**Nursing student inspires others by continuing to volunteer in Haiti**

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

**J**ohn Giangrieco '21 has seen a lot on his service trips to Haiti. Extreme poverty, people who have lost limbs and dying children have become a regular presence in the life of the 19-year-old over the course of the past two years.

But Giangrieco, who recently completed his freshman year at Misericordia as a nursing major, keeps going back, for the same simple, selfless desire that inspired him to go in the first place.

"I just want to help people," he says. "When we're taking the bus to the medical clinics, we are seeing people on the street who obviously have not had food or water in a week or two weeks. You look at yourself and think, 'When I go home I have fresh water, I have food in the refrigerator, I have clothes to wear.' These people have literally nothing.

"It humbles you to see that," he adds.

A native of Montrose, Giangrieco attended Seton Central Catholic in Binghamton, N.Y., where he met and was inspired by faculty member, Sister Brigid O'Mahoney. After an earthquake devastated the impoverished nation in 2010 – a disaster Haiti still has not recovered from eight years later – Sister Brigid began organizing regular service trips, as well as supporting medical care and services for orphaned children, through the Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus.

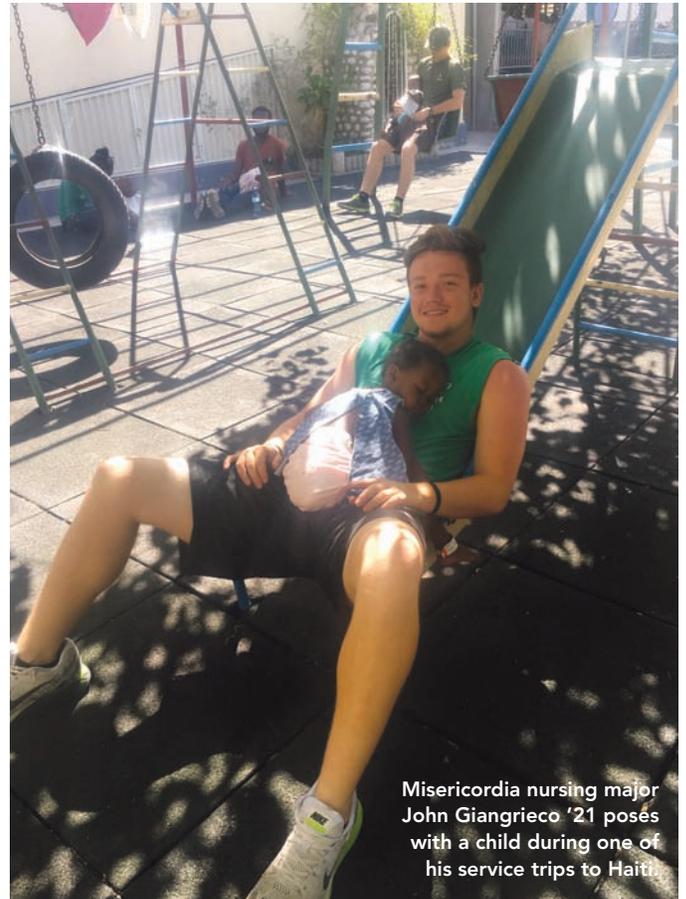
Giangrieco made his first trip as a high school junior in 2016 and has returned three times since then, most recently in May.

"The first time I went it was very eye-opening because I've never seen so much poverty in one area," he says.

While providing support to clinics and services staffed by Haitians year-round, Sister Brigid leads weeklong service trips three times a year. The first stop upon arrival, Giangrieco explained, is Mother Teresa's Home for the Sick and Dying.

One section of the facility houses children with diseases and illnesses that in the United States would be easily treatable, but which are still challenging in Haiti because of the lack of basic medical care.

A second section, where Giangrieco spends the most time, has children who are suffering from life-threatening diseases, such as malaria and Zika virus.



Misericordia nursing major John Giangrieco '21 poses with a child during one of his service trips to Haiti.

"I always try to go to the section where kids have Zika and malaria because these kids, you never know when their last day is," Giangrieco says.

That horrible experience is one that he has had too often. On one trip, he held a baby and the next day learned the baby had died overnight.

"That happened to me three days in a row. I'd hold a baby and the next day they'd passed away," he recalls. "That was pretty tough. But it happens and there are still kids there who need your love and attention. It's sad, but you have to push forward."

The group travels to four medical clinics supported by the Missionaries. One is in a mountainous region near Jacmel, where people walk for miles overnight just to receive some water, Advil and Neosporin.

Two others are in what are known as “deaf villages,” where the deaf, amputees and widows are segregated. Fluent in American Sign Language, Giangrieco is a translator for his team. The locals use French Sign Language, but many of the signs are the same.

“If I’m signing to someone and they’re signing back I can make out what they’re trying to say,” he says. “It can be difficult, but we can get what they want.”

In addition to medical care, the group also works to place orphaned and abandoned children in homes. If a relative cannot be found, they are placed in a volunteer family home. One family, Giangrieco says, houses 15 to 20 children.

Working with orphaned children led to a harrowing experience on his most recent trip. The group learned of three children, ages 4, 6 and 7, whose parents had either abandoned them or were dead. They were going to sell the children into sex slavery.

The team found where they were being hidden and were able to sneak food and water to them. Then, with Haitian officials taking the lead, the children were rescued and placed in the care of a volunteer family, with coordination from Sister Brigid’s group.

“That was tough to imagine if we didn’t get them what would happen,” he says. “We would never see them again. They’re doing great now.”

Locals leading the effort is key to all the work the Missionaries do in Haiti. “Our work in Haiti operates from the perspective that aid must be consistent, sustained and provided by the local people,” Sister Brigid wrote in a letter to the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader newspaper.

“Our medical clinics are staffed entirely by Haitian doctors and nurses. Our entire staff, for all our work in Haiti, is Haitian. And, they are the ones who coordinate services, hire and manage staff, propose new or expanded services, assist the children, etc. In other words, the Haitians are in charge. When we are in Haiti, the people served have no idea who we are. And we intend to keep it that way.”

The group has seen an increase in support for its work from Northeastern Pennsylvania since Giangrieco started at Misericordia. The University has been helpful in promoting the efforts, Giangrieco says, and Community Health Systems, owner of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, made a donation after learning about Giangrieco in a story in the local media.

Community Health Systems shipped a skid full of boxes with supplies to Haiti, which allowed staff and volunteers greater ability to treat more ailments.

“Anything I asked for they doubled it,” Giangrieco says. “They saved a lot of lives.”

Giangrieco said the group also has received a number of monetary donations for trips and supplies. Now he would like



Representatives of Commonwealth Health Systems and Misericordia University pose with John Giangrieco '21 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital after donating medical supplies for his service trip to Haiti.

to get his fellow Misericordia health sciences students involved.

He chose Misericordia not only for its reputation in health sciences, but also because of the value placed on service. Early on, he envisioned combining the two.

“My personal goal is to get occupational therapy, nursing and physical therapy students to come down with me,” Giangrieco says. “These people need fourth-year, fifth-year, sixth-year medical students. This will be hands-on stuff for them. It would be my goal to have health sciences students come down to see all these people who are starving, who

**‘My personal goal is to get occupational therapy, nursing and physical therapy students to come down (to Haiti) with me. These people need fourth-year, fifth-year, sixth-year medical students.’**

– John Giangrieco '21

have broken bones, infections, and for them to be treated by students who are going to be professionals in a few years.”

One person he has already inspired is his mother, who has made the last two trips with him and who arranged to pay for 23 Haitian students to go to college next year.

For Giangrieco, the trips will continue, with plans to head back again next year to offer his services. He intends to pursue a master’s degree in nursing and eventually become a nurse practitioner. Then, he said, he wants to take that knowledge and skill and go to Haiti for an extended period of time, helping as many people as he can.

That dedication seems to be just what Sister Brigid has in mind for the students she leads in service. “Hopefully, we are communicating our philosophy of service to the students we take to Haiti,” she wrote. “Hopefully, they are learning to accompany the nationals, not dominate them. Hopefully, our kids come to recognize that service to others is a commitment and not just an experience.” 

# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## Education alumna's success in the classroom earns her Florida Blue Duval County honors

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

For most teachers, a new school year means a new group of students, starting over and addressing the unique challenges each class brings before they move onto the next grade.

For reading teacher Stephanie Bellino '12, though, things have been different for the past three years. She stayed with the same class she taught in third grade at Jacksonville (Fla.) Garden City Elementary as they progressed to fourth and fifth grades.

By "looping" with her students, she helped them make dramatic progress in their reading skills and her success led

Bellino to be named the Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year for 2018.

"I'm invested in these kids and I think, particularly in this community, that was very important, because they knew I was going to be there every day," Bellino says. "They knew I cared about them. So to have that

consistency in this community was key."

After graduating from Misericordia with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary and special education, Bellino worked as a special education aid at nearby Dallas High School. She felt she had a calling to work in a community that was most in need of dedicated teachers, so she made a two-year commitment to Teach for America, which places recent college graduates at schools in low-income communities.

Bellino accepted a position at Garden City, a turnaround school that had a D grade when she arrived. That grade has since climbed to a B, she says.

At the start of her first year in 2015, her third-grade class was projected to have just 29 percent of its students reading on grade level by the end of the school year. By the time the year ended, however, the actual number was 44 percent.

A few days prior to the start of the following school year, Bellino was informed she would be teaching fourth grade reading. Looking forward to working with new students, she was disappointed at first, but she quickly came to realize how important building an ongoing relationship with her class would be.

"Once we got into it in fourth grade and we were a few months in I realized it really was the best thing," she says. "We picked up right where we left off and the kids already knew their expectations. We saw a huge increase in data and we attribute that to the relationship component."

Her students again finished the year above projections, and as her Teach for America commitment came to an end, she considered returning to Pennsylvania. Her principal, Mychelle Grover, talked with her about the progress the students had made and it convinced Bellino she wanted to see them through fifth grade.

By the end of 2017-18 school year, 63 percent were at or above grade level for reading, surpassing the projected 54 percent. The students' success, Bellino said, was due to not only her approach of adapting lessons to individual needs, but also her ability to build relationships over time.

"Even the struggling learners and my most reluctant learners, this year in fifth grade really were invested," she said.

And Bellino has been invested in them, building those relationships by going beyond reading lessons. She quickly came to realize that many students had little or no experience beyond their own neighborhoods, so she would show them pictures of places she has traveled or her hometown. She would learn about their interests and what they wanted to do in the future, and find ways to help them explore.

Improvements came not only in reading.

"One of our goals was to become responsible, accountable scholars, and that is not only academically but also personally," she says. "This year a lot of them reflected on

**Stephanie Bellino '12**

EDUCATION



Stephanie Bellino '12, the 2018 Duval County Teacher of the Year, poses for a picture with her fifth grade class at Garden City Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla.

their behavior or even test scores. Sometimes they would say, 'Ms. Bellino, can I speak to you?' and we would go out into the hallway. They would bring up that they received a D for behavior yesterday, and this is why and here is how they are going to correct it. They began to do that on their own, which was really amazing to see."

Bellino's impact has not only been on students, but parents as well. In a letter of support for Bellino's teacher of the year nomination, Leroy Harrison III wrote that other schools in Florida and Texas had "given up" on his son, Leron.

When Leron arrived at Garden City, Leroy began to see improvements in his son's behavior and grades. Still, when he got a phone call from Bellino, he was expecting bad news. "I was completely shocked. I had never heard of such a thing in my whole life. She called me to give my son praise," he wrote, as reported by Jacksonville.com. "She talked better about my son than I could and I was completely amazed."

Leroy wrote that Bellino didn't spoil his son and was honest about the good and the bad. Now Leron is happy, earning good grades and a member of the school's honor society.

For Bellino, Leron and Leroy Harrison's story is the reason she wanted to be a teacher. "To hear and read what he said, it makes those long days worth it," she says. "Teachers work way more than 8 to 3 and sometimes it is hard to believe, 'OK, this is why I'm doing it.' But to have a parent feel that way about you, it makes getting up and doing my daily routine worth it. I love it. I cannot imagine not doing it."

Since she was in elementary school herself, Bellino knew she wanted to be a teacher. Impressed with what she heard about the University's education program and having an aunt, Jennifer Walsh '95, '01 who is an alumna, Bellino's career aspirations led her to Misericordia.

She said she has been influenced in her work by the values of the University and the Sisters of Mercy. "When I think of what I do as a teacher, you are serving, but in the community I'm in you are invested in it. You have to be, because if you're not, that's where we see teacher turnover and we see students not meeting their full potential," she says. "I was able to really see those values when I was at Misericordia and really internalize them. So when I do the work I do now, I attribute that to what I learned and saw and the opportunities that were at Misericordia."

Bellino also credits the education program faculty with helping her develop as a well-rounded educator. Professor Joseph Rogan, Ed.D., with whom she continued to communicate after graduation, was particularly influential.

"I was challenged there, but at the same time I knew I had a community I could count on," she says. "I knew I could go to Dr. Rogan about anything and he was going to give it to me real whether I liked that or not. His classes developed me into the educator I am and I think about him so often."

The educator she became is an award-winning one. Duval County has more than 8,000 teachers, and when she was named one of five finalists for teacher of the year she already felt like a winner to be considered among a group so dedicated to their students and community.

Being a finalist and ultimately being named teacher of the

year also felt like an honor not just for her, but for her students as well – three of whom were on hand for the announcement.

"To see them crying and run up onto the stage, it wasn't just that I was teacher of the year. We were the class of the year," Bellino says, proudly. "It was just an incredible moment for them that swelled my heart because I knew it meant equally as much to them as it did to me."

In July, Bellino traveled to Orlando with 74 other educators for the Florida Teacher of the Year awards, then to Las Vegas for the National Teacher Leadership Conference, where she was excited to learn from other teachers around the country.

When she returns to Garden City for the 2018-19 school year, her role will be a little different. She will be a reading



Stephanie Bellino '12 works with students in her fifth grade class at Garden City Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla.

“To see them crying and run up onto the stage, it wasn't just that I was teacher of the year. We were the class of the year. It was just an incredible moment for them that swelled my heart because I knew it meant equally as much to them as it did to me.”

— Stephanie Bellino '12

coach, working with teachers throughout the school to develop lessons that are meeting student needs.

Bellino now plans to stay at Garden City, and as she transitions to the next phase, the students who she helped succeed over the past three years will hold a special place in her heart. Those students are off to middle school now, but she wanted them to know she is always there for them.

"We've been together for three years, but that's not it," Bellino says. "I signed my end-of-the-year letter to each of them, 'your forever teacher.' So next year, or in five years or 10 years if they need anything, we've developed this relationship and I will be there." 

# FOLLOWING THE RIGHT PATH

## Weekend OT graduate earns doctorate while participating in an AOTA fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

**Maria Baldino  
'15, '18**

.....  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY

After graduating from the Weekend Entry-Level Master's Degree Program in Occupational Therapy at Misericordia University, Maria Baldino '15, '18 was working in private practice in Boston, Mass., when she realized she wanted something more.

Working with children as an occupational therapist was what she knew she wanted to do since she was an undergraduate in college and she was doing just that. Baldino knew, however, she had something else to offer.

"I wanted to do more for the profession," she says. "I jokingly say I want to save the world one baby at a time, but I needed the people around me that were going to help me get there and help me grow the way that I wanted to."

That determination led her down the rigorous path of not only returning to Misericordia University to pursue her doctorate in occupational therapy, which she completed in August, but also applying for and landing a competitive American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Through that fellowship, she carried a caseload, working with children every day. It gave her the opportunity to work in many areas with clinical mentors who helped her grow her abilities exponentially. They trained her in outpatient developmental therapy, inpatient rehab, acute care and complex feeding practices, and in clinics for spina bifida, cerebral palsy and early development.

"Before that I was really only competent in the outpatient world and they have taken me in nine months to be able to be competent in inpatient, outpatient and specialty clinics, which is more than I could have hoped for," Baldino says. "They advanced my clinical practice with the ultimate goal of becoming board-certified in pediatrics by January (2019)."

The fellowship also came with an academic appointment at Ohio State University, where she was a teaching assistant in occupational therapy for children and adolescents. At Ohio State, she also was able to complete the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment

Disabilities (LEND) fellowship, a nine-month interdisciplinary program that covers a wide array of subjects such as public policy, trends and issues, impacts of disabilities on families' lives, and Medicare and Medicaid.

Long before she got to this point, Baldino was an undergraduate at Shippensburg University, struggling to decide what she wanted to do. She considered teaching, physical therapy and psychology but could not find the right fit. She just knew she wanted to help people.

Her mother, a special education teacher, invited her to observe occupational therapy in her classroom. "I was just like, 'This is what I want to do. I know it.' And I never looked back," she says.

A native of Hampton, N.J., Baldino has family in Pittston, Pa., a short drive from her alma mater's campus, and spent a lot of time there growing up. As she looked for a master's degree program close to home, she found the perfect fit in Misericordia's weekend program, which allowed her to work during the week as an infant room teacher at a daycare and as a personal trainer while pursuing her master's degree.

Baldino said that while students in the weekend program are often "adult learners" who have been working for a few or even many years, it was perfect for her as a then 22-year-old who was working and studying.

"The way they were able to still give us so much information and teach us everything we needed to know in the weekend format, we built such good relationships," she says. "The faculty are so supportive. They challenge you in a good way and push you to where you need to be. For a faculty that can do that when they only see you every other weekend, it says a lot about who they are. They build relationships with students that make them want to come back."

That's why when she decided she wanted to get her doctorate, she knew she wanted it to be at Misericordia.

Baldino credits the support of Ellen McLaughlin, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., associate

professor and doctoral program director, and Lori Charney, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., department chair and assistant professor, with helping her have the confidence to apply for the fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

From her time in the master's program through today, the faculty have been "extremely influential" in Baldino's life.

"It's much more than just teaching. They mentor you," she says. "It's much more than just lecturing, telling you this is how you do certain things. They create a relationship with you to mentor you and help you reach those goals."

They have also instilled a strong work ethic, Baldino said, both for achieving her goals and in her work with children and their families.

"They really taught me to work hard, to work for what I want and go after what I want," she says. "They have instilled that kind of work ethic and advocacy for your patients and families that I think generalizes to a lot of areas of life, whether that's me being crazy and pursuing my doctorate while doing my fellowship or when I know this family needs something and I'm going to get it for them."

Baldino's love for working with children goes back to when she was a child herself. With a big extended family of about 20 cousins, there seemed to always be a baby around, and she loved being around them. She started babysitting when she was 13 and as a busy professional and student at the age of 28, she still does it.

That care and drive to help children ultimately guided her to the challenge of pursuing her doctorate at the same time she undertook the fellowship.

"The work I was able to do with my doctorate and the level of work I did is helping me try to implement programs at the hospital and take initiative to do certain things here," she says.

"The experiences I had during the fellowship are giving me much more creative ideas for projects for my doctorate. While they are not connected in any way, they are beneficial for me to

have both of them. It is a lot of work taking my doctorate and the fellowship at the same time. But it's incredible how much they have helped," Baldino adds.

In the fall, Baldino will split her time evenly between teaching at Ohio State University and doing clinical rounds at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The ambitious clinician, though, already has identified the next career opportunity. She wants to apply for the AOTA Emerging Leaders Development

The rewards, she said, come from seeing a child throw a ball through a basketball hoop for the first time, or a parent who can finally feed their baby without stress after helping them figure out the best bottle and way to hold the child.

That help changes the world of both the child and the parents. "As a professional I see what I'm doing for the children and seeing them meet their potential, but then I'm also



Maria Baldino '15, '18 poses for a picture outside Nationwide Children's Hospital.

“It's much more than just teaching. They mentor you. It's much more than just lecturing, telling you this is how you do certain things. They create a relationship with you to mentor you and help you reach those goals.”

— Maria Baldino '15, '18

Program to have a leadership and service role in the profession. She also would like to work in academia to help guide students.

At the same time though, with her abiding love of helping children and families, she knows she will continue clinical work.

seeing what it is doing for parents and caregivers,” Baldino says. “When your child cannot do something or is having trouble doing something, it really impacts the family... When you see that look on the parents' face, that says ‘thank you,’ it makes every hard day worth it.” 

# 'TOUCHING THE FUTURE'

Immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago leaves lasting impact as teacher, volunteer and cancer survivor

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby's '67 life and career have been far-ranging, but they have always centered on selflessness and service to others.

It began before she immigrated to the United States from Trinidad and Tobago in 1963 to pursue her education. The second of six children born to Ivy and Reginald Bourne always performed well in school, so when a Catholic organization offered scholarships to attend college in the United States, she accepted the opportunity.

"I wanted to assist my parents to provide a college education, for all their children," says the 1967 alumna, "so if I received a scholarship, they could take care of the other five."

Dr. Bourne-Busby arrived in Pennsylvania first to attend Mount Aloysius, then a junior college and a Sisters of Mercy institution.

After two years, she took her scholarship to Misericordia, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social studies.

When she arrived at Mount Aloysius in Cresson, Pa., she was the only student of color. At Misericordia, she was one of two. In both places she was treated no differently than any other student. "I was invited to students' homes and accepted into the community. Racism was not a part of

the college culture. I was a part of that milieu just like anybody else," she says.

Dr. Bourne-Busby went on to earn a master's in education from Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1974 and a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in

1997. Throughout her career, she has made an impact – as a teacher and principal, in her efforts to support fellow cancer survivors, and as a mother of three daughters.

She was a teacher in New York and a principal in New Jersey, before retiring in 2013, having been recognized for her work and innovation to develop and educate children.

During the 1970s, Dr. Bourne-Busby was employed as a GED teacher with the the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and was required to be fluent in the metric system. Trinidad and Tobago



Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby

hired her to serve as the government's metric specialist of education, as the country's school and other industries were converting to the metric system. For five years, she traveled all over the country visiting schools and holding workshops for teachers and principals to introduce the metric system.

As a small country, Trinidad would often hire people from larger countries, and at that time, they would most often be men. Dr. Bourne-Busby said it was a privilege and honor as a native of the country and a woman to be brought back to help make a significant change in the area of education.

Dr. Bourne-Busby also has co-authored a math book used in Trinidad and a Caricom CD which gives the reader a cursory view of some Caribbean nations. The Caribbean Community (Caricom) is a grouping of 20 countries, 15 member

states and five associate members located in and around the Caribbean Sea.

When she returned to the United States, she began working as a kindergarten teacher at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Passaic, N.J. After becoming a citizen, she taught in New York City public schools and then returned to St. Anthony's, as principal.

After six years at St. Anthony's, she entered the Teaneck (N.J.) Public School system where she spent the next 22 years. Dr. Bourne-Busby spent the last five years as principal at Bryant Elementary, which is dedicated to early childhood education. When she retired in 2013, the school renamed the library, the Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby Library, in her honor.

As a principal, Dr. Bourne-Busby developed the disciplinary form, "Becoming Self Smart." The idea came to her after reading Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences. Gardner believed the idea of traditional intelligence as measured by IQ was too limited and that there are eight different measures of intelligence. She honed in on the idea of the intrapersonal intelligence – being "self-smart" – and how that could apply to childhood development.

Her form, "Becoming Self-Smart," was used when a child was sent to the principal's office for inappropriate behavior. The form provided prompts for the child to describe the incident by writing and drawing his/her version, and the

## Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby '67

### SOCIAL STUDIES

opportunity to select alternate suggestions for handling the situation. The form was sent home to be signed by the parent, so it could stimulate a parent-child conversation. The form was usually returned signed and sometimes she was called for clarification about the issue. With increased use of the strategy, data revealed inappropriate behavior decreased by 40 percent.

In 2004, Dr. Bourne-Busby was invited to present "Becoming Self-Smart" at the International Women's Leadership Conference at Oxford University in England.

Her professional work, though, is not the only actionable item that has earned her praise. Her own experience with cancer led to the creation of a service organization, one that has been recognized by many.

In 1999, Dr. Bourne-Busby was diagnosed with breast cancer. Through three lumpectomies, a mastectomy and chemotherapy, her husband, family and friends were by her side every step of the way with unconditional support.

While in recovery, a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery program came to visit her. The program brings survivors to patients to offer support and courage. Inspired, Dr. Bourne-Busby became a volunteer, but she wanted to do more. She and her group of supporters founded, *More Than Friends*. They added the component of delivering baskets to patients filled with inspirational literature, movies, towels, socks, bath and body works.

"We walk for the cure, we honor the fallen, we service the struggling, and celebrate the survivors," is the mission statement for *More Than Friends*. It also has inspired survivors to create satellite groups in Tennessee and Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Bourne-Busby and the organization have been recognized

and internship opportunities, and many other resources for single mothers pursuing an undergraduate education. "This program provides the ladder for a single parent to climb to the next socio-economic level," she says. "Since I was a single parent with three children, my heart opened to the women at Misericordia. I know what they are going through as single parents and this is where I want to help."

She decided to add to the program's library an initial set of books with accompanying stuffed animals to be used by the parents and children in order to develop early childhood reading habits. She continues to make annual contributions to the library. "Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby is a champion of the Women with Children Program and its mission," Katherine Pohlidal, director of the program, says.

"As an educator, her expertise directly reflects upon her contributions to our program that center on childhood literacy. Her generous donations have made shared reading and learning fun and engaging for our children. Even more importantly, she is an inspirational role model to our women as a compassionate leader and a proud alumna that continues to give back to her University community."

Dr. Bourne-Busby has had a successful career and rightly earned much praise for her professional and volunteer work. Misericordia presented her with the Mother Mary Catherine McGann Alumni Achievement Award for distinguished and sustained career accomplishments, and she received a humanitarian award from Mount Aloysius College.

Raising her daughters was God's purpose for her, she says. Nakeisha, her oldest, recently retired after 26 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. Trinay, her second child, is an instructor and



Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby's '67 service to others has been recognized by local, state and national organizations.

with a proclamation from the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, received a New Jersey Senate and General Assembly citation, and a certificate of special recognition from St. Joseph's Health and U.S. Congress honoring Dr. Bourne-Busby with the 2017 Community Health Award.

Childhood reading is important to Dr. Bourne-Busby – and that, combined with her own experiences as a single mother has guided how she chose to directly support Misericordia's Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. It provides housing, financial and counseling resources, career

associate director at Rutgers University, and Charisse, her youngest child, is a learning consultant, pediatric occupational therapist and inventor/entrepreneur.

"I have seen my daughters grow to become successful and responsible adults who give back to the community," she adds. "Christa McAuliffe, the teacher/astronaut's motto was, 'I touch the future, I teach.' In 2017, I celebrated 50 years as a graduate of Misericordia University. The impact of education is indeed multi-generational, and certainly influences the trajectory of one's life." **h**



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### Through Dec. 2 *Contemplating Character*

Pauly Friedman Art Gallery exhibition explores evolution of portraiture from end of the 18th century to present. Features 152 rare portrait drawings and oil sketches. Opening reception: Sept. 22, 4-6 p.m.



*Lorentz is one of 150 works of art featured.*

### Sept. 13 *Ensemble Chaconne: 'Measure by Measure,' the Music of Shakespeare's Plays*

Quartet featuring Peter H. Bloom, renaissance flute; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba; Olav Chris Henriksen, renaissance lute, and mezzo-soprano Burcu Gulec. Tickets: \$15, premium; \$10, general admission, and free, Misericordia students, staff and faculty. Tickets: [misericordia.edu/chaconne](http://misericordia.edu/chaconne) or University Box Office at (570) 674-6719.

### Sept. 20 *The Impact of Climate Change on Society Lecture Series*

*Rachel Carson's Environmental Legacy for Today* with Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., president and CEO, Rachel Carson Council. 7 p.m., Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

**Sept. 21**  
*Annual Health Care Symposium  
Patient-Centered Care: A Vision to  
Create Well-Being* with keynote speaker David Leonhardt, a Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist. 8 a.m., Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. To register, email Patti Ross at [pross@misericordia.edu](mailto:pross@misericordia.edu).

**Oct. 22**  
*The Impact of Climate Change  
on Society Lecture Series  
Finding the Good News on Energy,  
Environment, and the Economy* with Richard Alley, Ph.D., Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University. 7 p.m., Catherine Evans McGown Room, Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

**Oct. 24**  
*A Checkerboard of Nights  
and Days: A Memoir of My Cultural  
Journey*  
Author Irandukht Fahmy presents firsthand account of growing up in Iran with memoir. Book signing and lecture presented by Friends of the Bevevino Library, 5-7 p.m. McGowan Room, Bevevino Library.

**Nov. 14**  
*The Impact of Climate Change  
on Society Lecture Series  
As a Society, What Can We Do about  
Climate Change?* with Charlie Cray, Greenpeace U.S.A. 7 p.m., 218-219, Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

**Nov. 8-10**  
*Misericordia Players – The Life and  
Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*  
8 p.m. Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Tickets are \$3 students/seniors and \$5. University Box Office (570) 674-6719. For information, go to [www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore](http://www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore)

**Nov. 11**  
*Misericordia Players –  
Nicholas Nickleby*  
2 p.m. Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Tickets: \$3 students/seniors and \$5.

**Dec. 5**  
*Emily Asher Holiday Concert*  
7:30 p.m. Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Information: (570) 674-6719.

**Dec. 6**  
*Community Choir Holiday Concert*  
7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall. Information: (570) 674-3021.

**Dec. 8**  
*20th Annual Santa Brunch.*  
Hosted by the Center for Adult and Continuing Education, children and their families meet with Santa and have photos taken. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Insalaco Hall. Tickets: \$15, adults; \$8, children, 5-12, and free for children under 5. Reservations: (570) 674-3021 or email Johnna Evans at [jevans@misericordia.edu](mailto:jevans@misericordia.edu).

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### Tours with a Difference

**Dr. Marie Noël Keller, RSM, host,  
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**Nov. 29 – Dec. 9, 2018**  
*Christmas Magic at the Markets*  
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**March 14–25, 2019**  
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**Sept. 12–23, 2019**  
*Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Berlin*  
\$3,395

**Nov. 29 – Dec 9, 2019**  
*Christmas Magic at the Markets:  
Austria and Germany*  
\$2,995

(All rates are based on double occupancy)

Contact: Dr. Noël Keller, RSM  
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