



# MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF

# Health Sciences Education

Annual Newsletter  
November 2020

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## MESSAGE FROM...

### DR. BARBARA SCHWARTZ-BECHET, DEAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Greetings from the College of Health Sciences and Education! It is my pleasure to provide an overview of the wonderful work conducted by the students and faculty of the college in our annual newsletter. Please enjoy the highlights and the photos of our students and faculty in action.

We have had a number of ceremonies this past year recognizing the hard work and achievement of our students; and, we will have many more on the way! We continue to have very high pass rates on national exams across all programs and have even had some of our students receive the highest scores possible on their exams in their disciplines! Many impressive student projects and presentations were completed throughout the year. It is a credit to the faculty on their instruction and guidance as to the number of research presentations that were made across all programs at local, national and international conferences by students, by faculty and students, and by faculty.

New international, national and local partnerships were started in the Fall 2019, with more looming on the horizon. We continue to see interest in greater development of interprofessional education and practice within the college and across the campus.

Our newsletter demonstrates how strongly the Charisms have been integrated into the lived experiences of the students. They have participated in a plethora of service and justice activities across NEPA, the state, the country and the world. We are so very proud of them!

Although we were unable to conduct any face-to-face activities in the Spring of 2020, we look forward to 2021 with optimism!



MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

# NURSING

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING HOLDS PINNING CEREMONY FOR NURSING GRADUATES

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University held a pinning ceremony on August 16, 2019 to recognize the students who completed the Part-Time Evening Accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree Nursing Program and the RN to BSN Degree Program. During the ceremony, undergraduate nursing students received the Misericordia University Nursing Pin, a symbol of achievement in the nursing profession. Family and friends attended the event, which also featured the recital of the international pledge for nurses and the international prayer for nurses. The Department of Nursing

also recognized outstanding academic and clinical achievements by the students. **Jillian Schaeffer** received the Academic Excellence Award, which is presented to the student who attained the highest academic standing overall, and **Darlene Casey** received the Clinical Excellence Award for administering superior nursing skills in clinical practice and achieving a GPA greater than 3.0. The Kaplan Secure Predictor Award, given to a student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses review examination, was presented to Jillian



Schaeffer, while **Shannon Gulyas** was given the Daisy in Training Award for providing compassionate care to patients.

## NURSING PROGRAM'S PASS RATES TOP LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGES FOR NATIONAL LICENSURE EXAM

Misericordia University students who recently graduated from the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program (BSN) achieved a pass rate that was more than eight percentage points higher than the national average on the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) for baccalaureate degree students. "I am extremely proud of our students and faculty for working together to continue this tradition of academic excellence," said Associate Professor Annette Weiss, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., assistant dean of nursing and chief nurse administrator at Misericordia University. "Our nursing program has been educating students and preparing compassionate nurses for more than 90 years to serve friends, family and neighbors in our communities. Our professors' continued dedication to preparing the next generation of nurses is commendable."

Misericordia University BSN graduates achieved a **96.23% pass rate** for first-time test takers between Oct. 1, 2018 and Sept. 30, 2019. Misericordia graduates exceeded the average national pass rate of 88.07% and the average pass rate in Pennsylvania of 91.61% for baccalaureate degree programs. Misericordia University NCLEX-RN test takers also had the highest pass rate for baccalaureate-degree programs in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, according to NCSBN data. "These pass rates reflect positively on our most recent graduates, but they only tell half the story about their dedication to the profession," said Assistant Professor **Darlene Kuchinski-Donnelly**, Ph.D., R.N.C., chairperson of the Undergraduate Nursing Department at Misericordia University. "Day in and day out, these students worked tirelessly to better themselves in classroom, simulation and clinical settings. Their hard work and dedication will enable them to be the best possible nurses in the health care field."

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND DISSERTATIONS

Four Master of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students at Misericordia University successfully defended their dissertations on August 5, 2019 by making a final oral defense of their cumulative scholarly research project at the annual Doctor of Nursing Practice Scholarly Synthesis on campus. Students critically evaluate scientific literature while completing the rigorous project in order to develop evidence-based practice approaches that improve outcomes in the health care system. The class addressed a variety of practice problems, including the importance of healthy nutrition for children, reducing stress for non-traditional nursing students, glycemic control and increasing colorectal cancer screenings. **Catherine Zurawski**, D.N.P., C.R.N.P., F.N.P.-C., assistant professor of nursing, served as a faculty mentor. The students then received their doctorate degrees during the ninth annual winter commencement ceremony on December 15, 2019 in the Anderson Sports and Health Center. Students included **Amanda Turoni**, Scranton, Pa.; **Priyanka Patel**, Plains Twp., Pa.; **Sarah Brown**, Shavertown, Pa., and **Grace Olshefski**, Kingston, Pa.



## WHITE COAT CEREMONY RECOGNIZES STUDENTS ENTERING PROFESSIONAL PORTION OF PROGRAM

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University cloaked 69 nursing students who began the professional portion of the nursing program at the fifth annual Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing in Lemmond Theater on October 20, 2019. Students in the traditional and part-time evening academic programs began the professional portion of the program in the fall semester. An international nonprofit, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care. At the Misericordia University White Coat Ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration watched as 46 traditional students and 23 part-time evening nursing students took an oath that acknowledges their essential role as caregivers, with an emphasis on the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality. Students also received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart surrounded by the words, "humanism in medicine," to remind them that compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice. **John W. Mullen**, R.N., A.D.N., P.H.R.N., C.F.R.N., a registered nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit, delivered the keynote address. Mullen began his career in health care as an orderly, while he continued his education in nursing. Through the years, he has worked in various roles in the nursing profession, including 15 years as a flight nurse with the Geisinger Medical Center's Life Flight program. He is currently a registered nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit.



## ABSN PROGRAM OPENS NEW CENTER IN PITTSBURGH

To help meet the demand for nurses, Misericordia University has expanded its nursing program to offer a new accelerated path to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, which began in August, 2019. With a new nursing learning center in Pittsburgh, Misericordia University's

Department of Nursing will offer a 16-month Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, building upon the University's nearly century-long tradition of graduating nurses. The ABSN program allows qualified students to leverage their prior non-nursing education to earn a BSN in

as little 16 months. Through a mix of online coursework, onsite lab and simulation lab experiences at a new nursing learning center in Robinson Township, and clinical rotations at Allegheny Health Network health care facilities in the Pittsburgh area, students will gain real-world experience working as part of a multidisciplinary health care team. "As an integrated medical system and provider in Pittsburgh, we at the Allegheny Health Network understand the benefit a baccalaureate educated nurse can have in our hospitals to impact outcomes for patient care and look forward to welcoming Misericordia University nursing students into our facilities to complete their clinical education," said Dr. Paula Coe, vice president, nursing education and professional practice for Allegheny Health Network, Misericordia's ABSN program will offer three start dates annually — in January, May, and August.



## INAUGURAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY HELD FOR ABSN STUDENTS AT MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY'S PITTSBURGH SITE

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University's Pittsburgh Center cloaked 17 nursing students on October 10, 2019 who began the nursing program in August at the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing **White Coat Ceremony** for Nursing. Students in ABSN programs began the professional portion of the program in the fall semester. An international nonprofit, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care. At the Misericordia University White Coat Ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration watched as 17 ABSN

students took an oath that acknowledges their essential role as caregivers, with an emphasis on the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of *Mercy, Service, Justice* and *Hospitality*. Students also received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart surrounded by the words, "humanism in medicine," to remind them that compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice.



## WHITE COAT CEREMONY RECOGNIZES GRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS IN CLASS OF 2021

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University held its second annual White Coat Ceremony and dinner reception in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall for graduate nursing students in the Class of 2021 on May 17, 2019. The ceremony celebrated the professional nurses' successful completion of their first semester in graduate school, while also bestowing upon each of them a white medical practitioner's coat and having them recite the **White Coat Ceremony Oath** for Graduate Nursing students.

Assistant Professor Pamela Dwyer, D.N.P., C.R.N.P., chair, Department of Graduate Nursing, greeted students, families, guests and nursing faculty to the ceremony. Students recited the White Coat Ceremony Oath for Graduate Nursing Students that acknowledges the responsibilities they are undertaking as advanced health care

practitioners to care for patients to the best of their abilities without regard to race, color, creed, politics or social status. The department also presented Professor **Brenda L. Hage**, Ph.D., D.N.P., C.R.N.P., assistant dean of nursing and chief nursing administrator, with the Advocacy Award during the ceremony. The white coat presented to graduate students symbolically represents the essential role nurse practitioners play in the professional health care system and the high standards to which they aspire in caring for patients.



## PINNING CEREMONY HONORS GRADUATING NURSING STUDENTS

The Misericordia University Nursing Department held a pinning ceremony in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall to honor undergraduate nursing students in the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) program and the RN to BSN Expressway Accelerated Degree Program who graduated May 11 at the 93rd annual spring commencement ceremony.

Undergraduate nursing students who completed the program received the Misericordia University Nursing Pin, a symbol of achievement in the nursing profession. Family and friends attended the ceremony, which also featured **Sister Jean Messaros**, vice president of Mission Integration, RSM, blessing the pins, and nurses reciting the international pledge and prayer for nurses.

During the ceremony, the Department of Nursing also recognized the following students by presenting them with awards: **David Mallarkey** of West Pittston received the Sister Mary Kateri Dorwart Award. The award annually recognizes a graduating nursing student who matriculated into the undergraduate program and maintained a GPA above 3.0; became a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, and has demonstrated service to the academic department and/or community. The Department of Nursing

recognized **Taylor Verna** of West Chester by presenting her with the Clinical Excellence Award. The award recognizes a graduating student who has a GPA greater than 3.0 and administers superior nursing skills in clinical practice, according to faculty members. **Meghan Pontz** of Danville received the Daisy in Training Award for providing compassionate care to patients. **Paige Clancy** of Boiling Springs received the Kaplan Secure Predictor Award. It is presented to the student who attains the highest score on the comprehensive NCLEX review examination.



# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY



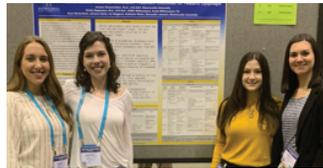
Misericordia University speech-language pathology graduate student, **Cara Imbalzano**, of Roaring Brook Twp., was awarded one of 25 prestigious national scholarships by the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation in the fall of 2019. She was presented with the award at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's annual Founder's Breakfast in Orlando, Florida.

Roughly 325 masters- and doctoral- level students applied to the 2019 ASH Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship program. The scholarship recognizes students in communication sciences and disorders who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and commitment. Cara Imbalzano performs in the top 1 percent of her class in academics and clinical coursework. She is heavily involved in

student-faculty research in the speech-language pathology department at the university as well. During her time at Misericordia, she has presented her research at the state, national, and international level, travelling to places such as London, France, Japan, and Italy to share these extraordinary findings with others.

This award from the ASH Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship program is the highest honor a student can receive from the organization. Students and faculty in the speech-language pathology department are very proud to have Cara represent the program. She exemplifies how rewarding years of hard work and dedication can be.

The 2020 Pennsylvania Speech-Language and Hearing Association (PSHA) Convention will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Several students will be attending and presenting their research findings at the convention. Two research teams were selected to present their posters at the PSHA Meritorious Poster Session in the areas of fluency and dysphagia. **Dr. Jessica Kisenwether** along with students **Anne Richardson, Jessica Hanly, Lia Ruggerio, Kasey Weisz, and Alexandra Janson** will be presenting research titled, "NMES Treatment Outcomes for Pediatric Dysphagia Clients." Additionally, **Dr. Glen Tellis** along with students **Quinn Kelley, Jillian Scanlon, Faith Foster, and Cara Imbalzano** will be presenting research titled, "Do Emotional, Personal Accounts Affect Perceptions of Stuttering?" Only six posters were selected for the Meritorious Poster Session out of 43 total submissions. We are very proud of our students for being selected for this honor and representing Misericordia's Speech-Language Pathology program.



The Misericordia University's Chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) hosted their fifth annual NSSLHA Benefit Concert in March. The concert featured Misericordia's **Dance Ensemble, Dance Team, Irish Dance club**, and the university's a capella group, **Beyond Harmony**. Proceeds from this event were used to purchase portable projectors, games, and books for indoor recess to the Lake Noxen Elementary School.

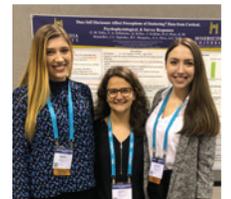


The 2018-2019 Chapter of NSSLHA was presented with Gold Chapter Honors for its ceaseless effort to raise awareness of communication sciences and disorders. Gold Chapter Honors are awarded to affiliated NSSLHA chapters that demonstrate an outstanding effort to support the National NSSLHA mission: to inspire, empower, and support students in the communication sciences and disorders programs. In 2012, the university's chapter received Silver Chapter Honors, and in 2010 the organization received Bronze Chapter Honors. This was the first time that the chapter has received the highest honor from the National NSSLHA.

At the 2019 Pennsylvania Speech-Language and Hearing Association (PSHA) convention, fifth year student **Danielle Spagnuolo** was awarded the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship. Misericordia University speech-language pathology students have received 11 out of the last 12 Von Drach Scholarship awards. Recipients of this award are students who demonstrate strong leadership abilities, outstanding academic performance, exceptional clinical skills, and scholarship within the profession.



Last November, over 20 students and 9 professors attended the 2019 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference in Orlando Florida. Both students and professors presented research on varying topics including Fluency, Cluttering, Voice, Dysphagia, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). One student, **Cara Imbalzano**, even presented a poster of her findings from the thesis she was conducting. In this study, she wanted to see if education majors had different neurological or emotional responses to people stuttering compared to speech-language pathology (SLP) students observing people who were stuttering. In addition to poster presentations, some students and professors taught short sessions about these varying topics. One session included discussion about how to use a new type of technology called an Anatomage table. Under the mentorship of **Glen Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F**, students **Annette Ritzko, Quinn Kelley, and Jillian Scanlon** instructed people on how to use the Anatomage table, as well as why this piece of technology is so beneficial to SLP students.



# TEACHER EDUCATION

## VIRTUAL REALITY BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

This year the Teacher Education Department contracted with Mursion to provide virtual reality based performance assessment opportunities. TED students teach in a virtual platform in order to be better prepared to face the challenges of today's classrooms. Students are able to practice delivering content, establishing classroom routines, handling challenging classroom management scenarios, collaborating with families, and more. The teaching and learning tool was well received and the department looks forward to expanding its use throughout our programs.

Photo: TED student **Devin Oyola** teaches in a Mursion small group instruction lesson which requires him to adjust a lesson on Personification to meet the needs of a learner with ASD.



## TED STUDENTS ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Approximately 55 TED students participated as members of **MySchoolsNetwork.com** in an international collaboration this spring with teacher preparation students from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey and NHL Stenden University, The Netherlands, including an international cohort of Teacher Education students participating in the Erasmus Programme. TED students enrolled in **Dr. Loughlin's** Classroom Management course and **Dr. Tomascik's** English Language Learners course had the opportunity to collaborate and communicate with their international colleagues. Through MySchoolsNetwork, students, pupils, and teachers from around the world can support digital literacy, global citizenship, and authentic language learning in primary and secondary education by exploring shared dilemmas related to teaching and learning.

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

In November the TED celebrated American Education Week! This year the TED welcomed 13-year-old, eighth grade student, **Trey DelGrosso** as our key note speaker. Trey attends Pocono Mountain East Junior High School in Swiftwater, Pennsylvania.

Through his presentation, Autism: What is It?, Trey offered a glimpse into his world and what it is like to live with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He inspired the audience with his personal and insightful story about growing up and adapting while living with Autism.

Following Trey's presentation, an expert panel reacted to the presentation and entertained questions. In addition to Trey, the expert panel included: Trey's mother, **Jen Delgrosso**, **Amy Linnen**, Director of Special Education, Pittston Area School District, **Kelsey Suponic**, autistic support teacher, Dallas School District, and **Lori Charney**, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Misericordia University.

Prior to the presentation, Dr. Yeager's undergraduate Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) and Inclusive Practices classes shared poster presentations that featured children's literature centered on Autism.

The TED department wishes to congratulate Trey as he will be traveling to Portland, Oregon to accept the "Yes, I Can" Award from the Council of Exceptional Children.

Top photo: Dr. Roberta Yeager, Trey DelGrosso, Jen DelGrosso, Dr. Steve Broskoske at the AEW featured presentation Autism: What is it?



Bottom photo: TED students Allison McElheran and Cassie Lockhart share their poster "Five Essential Support Strategies for Students" as part of the Autism program.



## TED STUDENTS AND FACULTY SERVE AS SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

**Dr. Michele Brague** and **Dr. Susan Tomascik**, along with three preservice teachers, **Mitchell Micale**, **Natalie Deutch**, and **Margaret Ryan**, were invited to Holy Rosary of Duryea, PA science fair to judge middle school students' science presentations. The event occurred on January 21, 2020 and was a great opportunity for K-12 and higher education collaboration!



Photo: TED student Amanda Curcio with the "Excellence in Teaching" award recipient, Mrs. Mary Ellen Konetski and Dr. Terry Schnee, Superintendent of Hanover Area School District.

## TED STUDENT RECOGNIZES "TEACHER OF THE YEAR" AT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TED student, **Amanda Curcio** was invited by the superintendent of Hanover Area School District and the Hanover Area School Board to recognize **Mrs. Mary Ellen Konetski**, kindergarten teacher at Hanover Green. Amanda was a student of Mrs. Konetski's in kindergarten and had the opportunity in the fall to fulfill a practicum experience in her classroom. Amanda's experiences as a former and current learner in Mrs. Konetski's classroom prompted her to nominate her for the "Excellence in Teaching" award. We join Amanda in celebrating Mary Ellen's commitment to ensuring success for all learners, her compassionate spirit, and her continued demonstration of teaching excellence.



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Misericordia University's TED was a member of the second cohort in PA to be awarded funding to participate in the Youth Mental Health First Aid Initiative, sponsored by the McDowell Institute. Through this funding, **Dr. Molly Vitale**, Professor Emerita and Lindsey Riddell, MU Community Outreach Coordinator have been trained as YMHFA training facilitators.

The YMHFA training is an 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. By building mental health literacy, pre-service teachers are better able to identify and address non-academic barriers to learning. Participants are also introduced to risk factors and warning signs for mental health or substance use problems, engage in experiential activities that build understanding of the impact of illness on individuals and families, and learn about evidence-supported treatment and self-help strategies. This year, TED faculty and 27 student teachers were trained and certified in YMHFA.

## FACULTY PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

**Dr. Michele Brague** presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) regional conference in Boston, MA on Friday, September 27, 2019. The presentation, Math Day: An Experience in Service Learning, focused on a partnership with a local school district and providing a service learning experience for preservice teachers in which they created math activities aligned with a yearly theme.

**Dr. Colleen Duffy** and **Dr. Roberta Yeager** shared their individual research projects with poster presentations on October 24, 2019 at the 49th annual Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators Teacher Education Assembly: Listening, Learning, and Leading – Advancing the Voices of Teacher Education, in Harrisburg, PA. Dr. Duffy's presentation, Building Collaborative Bridges to Increase STEM Motivations detailed the background of a K-12, intercollegiate collaboration that eventuated into the creation of an afterschool STEM program for third through fifth graders. Pre- and post-test measures using the Common Instrument Suite indicated a large effect with regard to participants' increased engagement in STEM activities and their motivations to pursue STEM activities.

Dr. Yeager's research presentation, School-wide Positive Behavior Support: Effects on Academics and Behavior sought to determine what effects, academically and behaviorally, the School-wide Positive Behavior interventions and Support model had in two elementary schools. Although there was some fluctuation, a decreasing trend in the frequency of Direct Office Referrals was observed in both sites. To determine the effect on academics, a Pearson's Correlation between DORs and student achievement as measured on the math portion of the PSSA, revealed a strong, positive, and significant correlation between the mean percentage of disciplinary actions that were DORs and mathematics test results in both sites.

**Dr. Steve Broskoske** presented Bringing Content to Life: Introduction to Augmented Reality for the K-12 Classroom at the Pennsylvania

## STEM NIGHT AT DAN FLOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TED students, under the direction of **Dr. Colleen Duffy**, participated in "Family STEM Night" at Dan Flood Elementary school in Wilkes-Barre. Approximately 150 elementary students traveled from learning center to learning center engaging in STEM activities. The Misericordia TED students and Dr. Duffy were part of a team of educators and students from local high schools and colleges that collaborated in the planning and facilitation of the event.

Misericordia University Autism Center provides transitions services that include self-advocacy, life skills for independent living, career choices and development, and job placement and maintenance care. Dr. Yeager's undergraduate Transition and PDD classes volunteered during the spring semester at the center and were active participants during lessons presented at the center that focused on self-advocacy. The students at the center work to meet outcomes through participation and progress monitoring. Thank you to **Kristen Hoffman**, Autism Center Director for providing TED students with a valuable learning experience and the opportunity to be active participants in the program.



Lauren Balogh and Ashley Birchard facilitate a STEM learning activity at Family STEM Night.



TED student Asucena Vergara leads a STEM learning activity at Dan Flood Elementary School.

Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) Teacher Education Assembly (TEA) on October 23, 2019. The session explored some potential uses of augmented reality in the K-12 classroom to allow teachers to "bring content to life," to make content able to be manipulated and explored, and to transform static content into active engagement.

**Dr. Tif Mulally** had two peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication this year. The Root of Sexual Violence Against Native American Women and The Economic, Cultural, and Epigenetic Impact of Sex Trafficking of Native American Women will be featured in the Journal of Human Dignity and Wellbeing an international publication.

In March, Dr. Mulally presented her research on the predictors of gender equality and bicycle use in active transportation as part of a 1-hour panel for the Safe Streets for Everyone: 21st Annual National Bike Summit in Washington, DC. This presentation will discuss the prediction strength of factors such as household responsibility, state parity score, economic growth, and exposure risk on the gender equity of bicycle use. Also at the Summit, she offered a poster session that examined the economic impact of traffic accidents involving cyclists, looking at both injuries and fatalities that may occur as a result of the accident.

# SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

## SUSAN MCDONALD, PH.D., L.S.W.'S PUBLICATIONS:

**Susan McDonald**, Ph.D., L.S.W., Chair of the Social Work Department and Social Work Program Director, had 2 recent publications; McDonalds. (2020). Co-Leading Trauma Groups Across Disciplines. In Wise, S. & Nash, E. (Eds.) Healing Trauma in Group Settings the Art of Co-Leader Attunement. (pp.90-101). Routledge Taylor & Francis Group New York and London.

McDonald, S. & Wise, S. (2019). Creating Spaces in Sam's Trauma Story. In Diaz, M.F. & Shepard, B. (Eds.) Narrating Practice with Children and Adolescents. Columbia University Press New York.

Susan McDonald, Ph.D., L.S.W. receives notice of International Presentation Acceptance in 2020

Susan McDonald, Ph.D., L.S.W. is an invited panelist at an International conference, the International Week in Health Care, Rehabilitation and Social Services at Metropolia University. The interprofessional panel discussion's title is "Mentoring students in the development of leadership skills and promoting a sense of entrepreneurship through a cultural experience."

## SERVICE LEARNING INCREASES HUMANITARIAN AWARENESS

Social work students from Dr. Lucabeche's SWK 252 Social Welfare Policies, Programs, and Services will participate and assist with the Immigration simulation on March 26th hosted by Campus Ministry at Misericordia. The simulation hopes to raise awareness of the humanitarian issues and the reality of social injustices that occur at the border.

## THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (COA) REAFFIRMED MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY'S SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR 8 YEARS.

**Susan McDonald**, **Viviana Lucabeche**, **David Hage**, adjunct faculty members and the social work administrative assistant, **Elizabeth Duffy** successfully submitted the program's documentation to the Commission on Accreditation with the support of the CHSE Dean, **Dr. Barbara-Schwartz-Bechet**, **Dr. David Rehm**, VPAA, and **Dr. Pat Thatcher**, AVPAA.

## VIVIANA X. LUCABECHE, PH.D.'S PRESENTATION ACCEPTANCE

**Dr. Lucabeche and Katelynn Campbell** will travel to Bozeman, Montana on March 27th to present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR). The research study: Treatment Completion and Gender Disparities: Mandated versus Non-Mandated Treatment Outcomes for Opioid Users. This presentation competed with multiple disciplines nationally and is the first research presentation in the Social Work department.



## SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A MENTOR FINLAND TRIP

Social Work Department Chair, **Susan McDonald**, Ph.D., L.S.W. and 2 Misericordia University social work students will participate in an interprofessional innovative cultural experience. Faculty, professional social workers and students from various institutions will come together as a cohesive group to experience Nordic Culture in Helsinki, Finland. The innovative mentoring learning experience provides seeds for promoting entrepreneurship and leadership skills for mentees.

## DAVID HAGE RECEIVES NOTICE OF LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL PRESENTATION ACCEPTANCE IN 2020

**David Hage**, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, C-ASWCM, Assistant Professor/Field Director in the social work department at Misericordia University has received confirmation of local, state, and national presentation acceptance scheduled for summer of 2020. He is an invited presenter at the 43rd Annual Elder Religious & Diocesan Priests conference at Misericordia University, where his presentation is entitled Caregiver Quality of Life (QOL): Common Challenges & Options for Enhancing Caregiver QOL. David was also invited to present for social workers entitled Caregiver QOL: Challenges & Opportunities in Social Work for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)-PA Chapter's 2020 Aging Symposium. David recently received notice that his peer-reviewed co-presentation entitled Resolving Barriers in Structured Interprofessional Simulation with Standardized Patients in Social Work was accepted for the NASW National Conference, Social Workers Make a Difference this summer as well.

## SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FACULTY-LED SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS TO BENEFIT DINNERS FOR KIDS AND AUTISM FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (ALL) PROGRAM AT MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

Social Work Department Assistant Professor/Field Director, **David Hage's** Methods and Processes II will be supporting the Annual Dinners for Kids Dinner Fundraiser that provides direct financial support to purchase meals for local children experiencing food insecurity and educates the community on Tuesday, March 31 from 5:30-8PM at Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University. For more information, visit [dinnerforkids.com](http://dinnerforkids.com).

David Hage's class has also met with the Director of the Autism for Lifelong Learning (ALL) Program to discuss initiatives they are developing. The ALL program is designed to provide supported employment, competitive employment, and community participation support services to individuals with autism.

## SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PLANNING A SERVICE TRIP

A trip to the border to Laredo, Texas is planned on May 10th. **Dr. Lucabeche** will travel with Campus Ministry staff in support of the Sisters of Mercy Immigration initiative. Of the 6 students traveling, 3 are Social Work students. In a show of support of our social work values, The Social Work club has made a commitment to assist in fundraising efforts.



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## MISERICORDIA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTERNATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

MU OT has completed 5 years of service with its partner, Mustard Seed Communities (MSC), in Jamaica. MSC is a large international organization which primarily serves children and adults with severe disabilities in residential settings. Our teams of faculty and students go to Jamaica for a week once a year to help promote therapy for the residents via staff in-services and training, along with direct service. We remain in contact with supervisory

staff throughout the year as we assist MSC with helping to meet their goals each year. **Joseph Cipriani** has been the faculty co-leader for five years, and **Orley Templeton, Jennifer Dessoye, Lalit Shah, and Ellen McLaughlin** have been co-leaders. Almost 50 OT students to date have participated in the

experience. This year will be our sixth year and the class is currently planning four our next trip in May 2020.



## SENSORY SOCIAL LEGO CLINIC



Graduate OT students participating in OT 680: Occupations in ASD, along with faculty **Dr. Lori Charney** and **Dr. Olrey Templeton** are offering a “Sensory

Social Lego Clinic” for children in the community who have sensory and social

challenges related to autism. This evidenced based approach offers skilled intervention in occupational therapy to help the children regulate their sensory system so that they can better understand the social skill instruction. The medium of lego building is utilized to practice their social skills through a specific treatment protocol. Graduate students engage in the clinical activities directly with the children and have the opportunity to run one

the treatment groups under the supervision of Dr. Charney and Dr. Templeton.

Following an on-site visit in October of 2019, Misericordia University Occupational Therapy Department received the final report of the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) in December 2019. All standards were found to be compliant and ACOTE voted to grant the Masters Of OT Program accreditation for a period of 10 years.

## WELCOME BACK GRADUATE NIGHT

The OT department faculty, along with the 5th year OT graduate students held a “welcome back graduate night” to remember their classmate and friend **Jeremy Kuba** who was taken from us much too soon from heart disease. In true Ot fashion, we used occupations to help us through the grieving process. We made blankets for the homeless and Intention bracelets representing a meaningful term that reminded us of Jeremy. We painted rocks with positive words to spread throughout our community. All of this was in an effort to process our grief and share a little bit of **#Kubakindness** that was so important to Jeremy in his life at MU.



## KEYNOTE SPEECH AT ALL INDIA OT CONFERENCE

**Dr. Lalit J Shah** was invited to be a keynote speaker at the 57th All India Occupational Therapy conference (OTCON 2020) held in Mumbai, India (Jan 16-18, 2020). This was also the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the first Asian OT school established in Mumbai, India from where I graduated too.

It was a homecoming for me and was a pleasure and an honor to be a Keynote speaker in front of my faculty and peers. There were more than 500 students, OT clinicians, and faculties. My presentation was on EBP and Pediatric Practice and was very well received. One of the ex-faculty from Honk Kong Polytechnic reported to me after the presentation that it was very organized still simple enough for people to follow. I thought I would be nervous but it was like speaking in front of a family and so quickly I was composed and the presentation went smoothly.

I was awarded a plaque and a certificate of appreciation by the current Director of the OT school in Mumbai who incidentally was also my classmate and graduated with me!



AOTA Education Summit

## AOTA EDUCATION SUMMIT

**Dr. Lori Charney** and **Dr. Orley Templeton** attended the AOTA Academic Leadership Council meeting and AOTA Education Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada in October of 2019. They presented at the Education Summit on their topic: “Integrating Experiential Learning of Sensory Social Lego Group into a Didactic Course”.



# MEDICAL IMAGING

## FACULTY BRIEFS

**Lynn Blazaskie**, Clinical Coordinator, completed her Master's degree in Education in December 2019.

**Gina Capitano** and colleagues from the College of Health Science and Education published a peer reviewed article; Karnish, K., Shustack, L., Brogan, L., Capitano, G., & Cunfer, A. (2019). Interprofessional socialization through acute-care simulation. It appeared in the June/July issue of Radiologic Technology.

**Mari King** collaborated with **Denis Anson** and **Leamor Kahanov** on the peer-reviewed article, "Faculty Use and Perceptions of Service-Learning in Radiologic Science Education," that was published in the November/December issue of Radiologic Technology.

**Paula Pate-Schloder** presented a lecture at the Virginia Society of Radiologic Technologists annual conference in April 2020 titled "Caring for the transgender patient."

**Lorie Zelna** was appointed to a national committee Communicating Advances in Radiation Education for Shielding (CARES). The committee brings several major organizations together toward promoting positive messaging and educational materials regarding patient safety in medical imaging related to gonadal and fetal shielding.



## HOMECOMING 2019

The Medical Imaging department continued the tradition of celebrating Homecoming with 30 alumni attending. Graduates from as far back as 1992 and as recent as 2019 enjoyed a beautiful October day.



## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Junior student, **Emily Morahan** was selected as one of two students to represent the state of Pennsylvania at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Leadership Development Program. This prestigious program will be held in June in Albuquerque, New Mexico in June 2020.

The Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists has selected Misericordia University medical imaging major Emily Morahan of Pittston Twp., Pa., to represent the Keystone state at the 2020 American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Student Leadership Development Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Morahan, a Pittston Area High School graduate, will participate in the ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting in June. **Paula Pate-Schloder**, M.S., R.T., (R) (CV) (CT) (VI), F.A.I.E.R.S., left, associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Medical Imaging, poses with Morahan after learning about her selection.



The four December 2019 graduates earned a 100% pass rate on the ARRT national examination for Radiography.



Pictured left to right Rebecca Kenny, Nicole Calomino, Alycia Zidek and Megan Fatula. Megan earned a 95 on the exam, placing her in the 100% for the nation!

## HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER, STUDENT RADIOGRAPHY DAY

Thirty one students and three faculty traveled to the Hershey Medical Center for a day dedicated to Radiography students. The students participated in a quiz bowl and toured the Medical Center. The day concluded with a lecture on career development.

Professors Capitano, Blazaskie and Pate-Schloder with junior and senior MI students



## MEDICAL IMAGING CLUB NEWS

### COUGARS CONNECT FOR CANCER:

Members of the Medical Imaging Club sold pink ribbons throughout the month of October to raise breast cancer awareness to the campus community. All proceeds were donated to Candy's Place in Forty-Fort. A check was presented to **Lisa Orlandini**, Director of Candy's Place last fall.



Left to right  
Lynn Blazskie, Alexis  
Baddick, Lisa Orlandini,  
and Sarah Bifano

### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:

Members of the Medical Imaging Club sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts the month of February. All the proceeds from this service project were donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton. A &700.00 check was presented to the Ronald McDonald House on March 11, 2020.



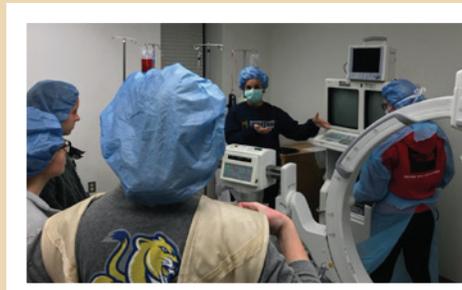
MI Club present check

Club members  
connect the ribbons  
to raise awareness  
of breast cancer

Thanksgiving adopt a family  
was a big success. Laura  
Heinzelmeir and Sarah Bifano  
are ready to deliver dinner.

### MEDICAL IMAGING MENTORING PROGRAM:

The purpose of the Mentoring Program is to introduce upper and underclassmen to one another, to become adjusted to the major and what it entails. Sophomore level students are randomly paired up with junior level students. The mentors and mentees meet in the beginning of the academic year to share contact information with one another. The program is designed for the students to use as often as they chose, however there are some arranged activities in fall and spring semesters. In the fall, interactive stations are set up in the medical imaging labs to simulate and prepare the sophomores before their first clinical experience. This activity allows the sophomores to apply their didactic knowledge and help them think critically with the aid of their mentors. In the spring, a friendly game show style competition is planned between 2 teams made up of sophomore (mentee) and junior (mentor) level students. The mentors and mentees collaborate together to come up with the correct answer. This activity helps prepare both levels of students as they head into finals week.



Mock OR experience for sophomores



## HEALTHCARE ANALYTICS

### SPRING SEMESTER 2020 INCLUDED THE LAUNCH OF INAUGURAL CLASSES OF THE HEALTHCARE ANALYTICS PROGRAM.

**Noreena Brown**, a nurse employed by a local ambulatory surgical center, has this to say regarding her experience in the program (used with permission): I think becoming involved in Healthcare Analytics has opened my eyes to so much. There is so much to learn and so many avenues to help understand our patients and their safety; to help improve healthcare. This program offers the learning to help improve our healthcare system. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge with the help of this program.

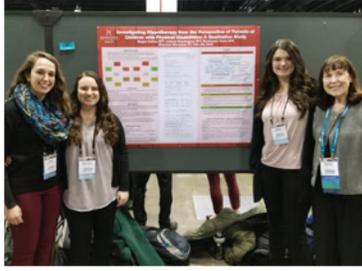
The Healthcare Analytics program is aimed at developing professionals to impact the healthcare and health of people in NEPA and beyond. The

program's on-line design is purposefully flexible to meet the needs of working and busy adults and can reach learners across the globe. The challenges of improving patient safety and enhancing the quality of care remain significant. Together with the paradoxical dynamic of the US having the most advanced healthcare system while struggling with poor health status we face innumerable professional opportunities regardless of the changes that may occur in our healthcare system. The future is anticipated to hold a variety healthcare employment opportunities requiring expertise in improving safety and quality which are best viewed as the responsibility of everyone working in healthcare.

# PHYSICAL THERAPY

## SCHOLARSHIP:

Recent graduates of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program presented their scholarly research at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in February in Denver, Colorado. 2019 DPT graduates, from left, **Mackenzie Yurko**, **Lindsay**



**Brantingson**, and **Megan Collins**, presented their research findings in the poster presentation titled, "Investigating Hippotherapy from the Perspective of Parents of Children with Physical Disabilities: A Qualitative Study." **Maureen Rinehimer** served as faculty mentor.

In November, 2019, **Dr Kelley Moran** and DPT students **Jackie Bamberski**, **Megan Curry**, and **Carly Young** presented their research via a poster presentation "Efficacy of blood flow restriction training as part of knee rehabilitation" at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference in Chicago, IL.

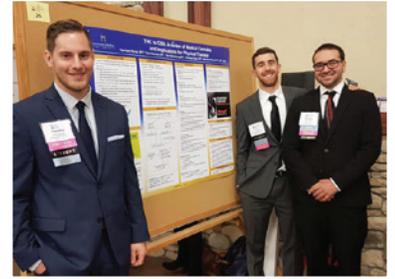


The DPT Class of 2019 presented their research at the 6th Annual Misericordia Student Research Symposium in November, 2019.

In October, 2019, DPT 3 students and faculty presented at the annual PPTA conference in Seven Springs, PA. Two groups presented their research findings in the following poster presentations: "The Effect of Physical Activity on Balance and Gait in Patients with Diabetic Neuropathy: A Systematic Review" by Faculty mentor, **Dr. Kris Karnish** and **Allyssa Kehm** and **Trisha Hand**.



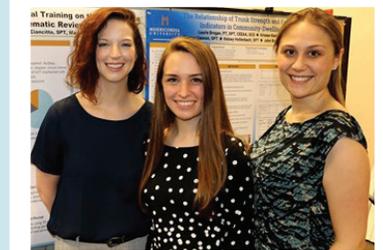
"THC to CBD: A review of Medical Cannabis and the Physical Therapist" by **Timothy Wallenburg**, **Tyler Hannon**, **Harrison Kerch** and **Thomas Radic** and faculty mentor **Dr. Maureen Pascal** (both absent from photo)



**Dr. Kelley Moran** also presented her research via an Educational Session: "Sink or Swim? Ethical and Legal Considerations with Productivity".

**Dr. Laurie Brogan** and **Dr. Kris Karnish** published their research in the July-August edition of Journal of Radiologic Technology. They published their research findings in the article titled: "Interprofessional Socialization Through Acute Care Simulation" along with MU nursing and Medical Imaging faculty.

Third year students of the DPT program presented their scholarly research at the European Stroke Organisation Conference in Milan Italy in June, 2019. From left, **Kristian Wendel**, **Lauren Madsen**, and **Rebecca Ciancitto** presented their research findings in the poster presentation titled: "The Effects of High-Intensity Interval Training on the Post-Stroke Population: A Systematic Review" The faculty mentor was **Dr. Maureen Pascal**.



Third year students of the DPT program and PT faculty presented their scholarly research at the World Confederation of Physical Therapy Congress in Geneva, Switzerland in May, 2019. From left, **Dr. Amy Tremback Ball**, faculty mentor, **Kaitlin Fulton**, **Arielle Kneller**, **Megan Gibbons**, **Nicole Giampietro**, and **Kayley Zelinka** presented their research findings in the poster presentation titled, "Effects of the Menstrual Cycle and Athletic Performance in Females: A Systematic Review" (Photo 4-Geneva). **Dr. Maureen Rinehimer** presented a poster titled, "Investigating the Needs of Parents of Premature Infants' Interaction in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit". **Dr. Maureen Pascal** presented a poster titled, "High intensity interval training to improve gait and reaction time in people with Parkinson's disease."



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Dr. Kelley Moran** is serving as the chair of the PPTA State Ethics Committee for this year.

Dr. Maureen Pascal successfully recertified as an American Board of Physical Therapy Specialist Neurologic Clinical Specialist and was honored in a ceremony at the Combined Sections Meeting in February in Denver, Colorado.

The December 2019 DPT graduates achieved a 97.7% pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam, substantially better than the national mean of 90.8%. The students also scored higher than the national mean in all content areas of the exam.



Several DPT students and faculty earned their LSVT Certification at the course held here at MU in May, 2019.)

Pictured are: Row 1-Ariana Gagliardi, Dr. Laurie Brogan, Stephanie Oliverio. Row 2-Sara Peiser, Sarah Stevens, Dr. Kris Karnish, Bradley Miller, Dr. Kelley Moran

The Student-Run Pro Bono Clinic is open several days per week. Students, faculty, and alumni provide services to adults and children who are uninsured or underinsured. A special thanks to alumni volunteers **Josh Wilkes (2012)** and **Dr. Julie Bogaert (2018)** for their service. In 2019, we provided more than 450 client visits. We are always looking for new licensed volunteers to help supervise our students!

In September, members of the Physical Therapy Club volunteered at the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease in Scranton.

Pictured from left-Victoria Ciszak, Olivia Sumeriski, Ariana Gagliardi. Row 2-Amy Sokol, Amanda Sheehan, Dana Cutler, Gabby Lamanna.



In September, 2019, 5 DPT2 students and 2 faculty traveled to St. Elizabeth, Jamaica to participate in a 10 day intensive Stroke Camp.

Pictured from left, Jake Kocovsky, Gabby Freed, Dr. Kris Karnish, Haley Stack, Melanie Fry, Trevor George. Absent from photo Dr. Maureen Pascal



## SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

In October, 2019, DPT faculty and students participated in the annual "Tailgait" event at MU. Pictured from left: **Drs. Heather Fritz, Richard "Woody" Haydt, Laurie Brogan, Nicole Evanosky, Kelley Moran, Susan Barker, Steve Pheasant, and Kris Karnish.** Absent from photo **Dr. Maureen Pascal.**

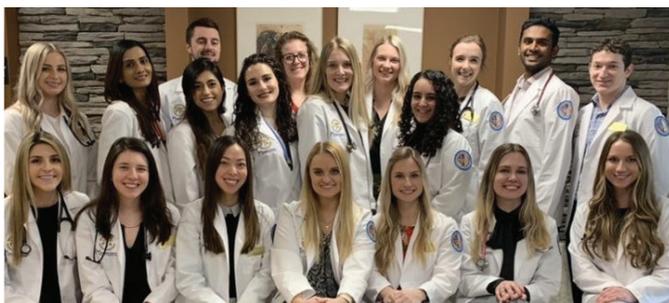


## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program participated in a service-learning project with Gift of Life for the second year in a row. Our students interacted with 479 shoppers at Sam's Club in Wilkes-Barre to help raise awareness for organ donation. The Physician Assistant students provided 55 potential donors with information and registered 7 new organ donors on site.

We look forward to continuing this very successful partnership in years to come.

The students from the Class of 2020 are completing their remaining clinical rotations and capstone projects while preparing for graduation in August. Our second cohort of students will be starting clinical rotations in July as we welcome our third cohort of students.



# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

## STUDENTS ATTEND SDMS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sonography students along with **Sheryl Goss** and **Karen Klimas** attended the 2019 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Annual Conference held in National Harbor, Maryland. The four-day conference offered excellent educational sessions, networking opportunities and lots of fun. The students had the opportunity to meet luminaries in the field and authors of two of their textbooks. Having the opportunity to meet and be photographed with **Dr. Frederick Kremkau** (Physics) and **Dr. Diana Kawamura** (Abdominal Sonography) was an awesome experience for the students.

Students that can take the opportunity to attend NEPASU and SDMS conference become inspired of the profession is beyond the education program. Meeting new people and being introduced to different roles of sonography validates value to their learning.

The students shared their gratitude in attending and their highlights:

“My experience at the SDMS conference was life changing. Through this conference, I have found my calling in neonatal and pediatric brain ultrasound. This conference has furthered my passion and understanding of the world of sonography.” M. Swire

“My attendance allowed me to dive into my passion of sonography, make new connections, and enhance my learning about sonography.

It was a valuable experience in which I got to listen to presentations on various specialty areas that I may be interested specializing in such as OBGYN, fetal echo, or neonatal head.” A. Warner

“The SDMS conference was an eye-opening experience that allowed me to hear professionals discuss current cases in the Sonography field. While there, I was also able to see new and upcoming equipment which made me excited for the future of the field.” H. Bechdel

Attending conference is an opportunity to connect with alumni and clinical instructors. Karen and Sheryl were able to connect with Alumni Charlene Nagle and Lauren Fazzolari and Clinical Instructor Mary Whitsett. It is energizing to be part of the excitement of being with 800+ passionate for learning and being current in what is occurring nationwide.



## SHERYL GOSS RECOGNIZED FOR BOARD SERVICE

During the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Awards Ceremony held September 27, 2019, **Sheryl Goss** was recognized for her ten years of service on the Board of Directors. Sheryl served the first four years as secretary and had the privilege to serve as President of the organization. The SDMS is the largest professional organization for sonographers with more than 27,000 members. In addition to her board service she frequently presents at the national conference. In 2019, her presentations included Ultrasound Characterization of Adnexal Lesions in the Obstetrics and Gynecology track and co-presented Collaboration across Healthcare in the Educator’s track. Sheryl continues to volunteer with SDMS, Cardiovascular Credentialing International and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.



## SONOGRAPHY PHYSICS AND INSTRUMENTATION

The Class of 2020 students continue the 100% pass rate success on the ARDMS Sonography Physics and Instrumentation Examination. Since 2009, the program has achieved a 100% pass rate for this exam, which is a requirement for the graduate to earn the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credential. The program takes pride in recognizing the excellent pass rates in all the ARDMS exams with first time pass rate average over the past ten years of 98% in the Abdominal specialty examination and 97% in Obstetrics and Gynecology examination. This success is attributed to the dedication of the faculty, the students, and our clinical affiliates who give of themselves to enhance the students’ education as well as the profession.



## MISSION TRIP TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Karen Klimas**, Clinical Coordinator and graduate **Cara Spector**, BS, RDMS participated in a mission trip to Santiago, Dominican Republic Over the course of three days in the clinic, they scanned more than 40 patients. It was such a rewarding opportunity to utilize one’s education and clinical experience to help those who do not have daily access to basic health care technology. Working with a team of volunteers to improve patients’ lives is extremely rewarding. The trip applies the interprofessional education promoted in the sonography program. The residents of the country are truly grateful for our work there.



### DMS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH SCIENCES MIDDLE CAMP

Five sonography students volunteered their time to educate and interact with

more than 25 middle school students to demonstrate what sonography, better known as ultrasound to them, is. Through the use of live scanning and simulation equipment, the students learned how images are produced, the types of examinations that can be performed and the role sonography plays in making a diagnosis for the patient. As always, the students enjoy seeing the 3D images of the fetus as well as seeing movement of the heart.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Sonography students actively participate in donating their time or items to benefit various organizations. This year the class of 2020 collected items for **Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge**, water bottles to benefit St. Gabriel Angels, a toy drive at Christmas time to benefit children in the Sayre, PA area. The students are rewarded in the ability to help others.



## AUTISM CENTER

The Autism Center has worked in collaboration with many of the departments within The College of Health Science and Education to develop many programs that focus on topics of interest with a goal of promoting socialization.

Our Swim Program, which includes one on one swim lessons as well as recreational swimming, has been a great success. The Misericordia swim team has been trained by Misericordia doctoral graduate, **Terri Bugelhoff**, in the curriculum she developed on how to teach individuals with autism how to swim. **Dr. Lori Charney** and **Dr. Orley Templeton** have worked with the Cougars for Autism Awareness to assist with our recreational swimmers to encourage socialization.

The Autism Center also hosts, weekly art classes, music lessons, as well as Transition to Work groups.



## HEALTH SCIENCES

Enrollment in the Health Sciences has increased from the 2018/2019 academic year with students enrolled in all of the Department's specializations: Patient Navigation, Exercise Science and Medical Science as well as the degree completion specializations of Surgical Technology and Respiratory Therapy. This year, Exercise

Science students completed their first Field Education courses gaining significant experience in the profession.

Misericordia's College of Health Science and Education remains committed to a creative approach to developing professionals in new and unique health-related fields.



# MAJORS

## TRADITIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education
- Health Science: Exercise Science
- Health Science: Medical Science
- Health Science: Patient Navigation
- Medical Imaging
- Nursing (BSN, MSN, DNP)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Social Work

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Addictions Counseling
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education
- Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate
- Geriatric Care Manager (graduate certificate)
- Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Occupational Therapy
- Patient Navigation Specialization (online for Certificate)
- Post-Professional Pediatric Certificate (OT & PT)

## ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Nursing
- Patient Navigation Specialization
- Post Professional Pediatric Certificate in OT

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FORMATS



301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612-1090  
[misericordia.edu/chse](http://misericordia.edu/chse)

*Founded by the Sisters of Mercy.*

