



MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF Health Sciences Education

Annual Newsletter
Spring 2022

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MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

Message from Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Education, Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet:



As the weather warms, Spring is upon us, and Summer beckons, I would like to thank our Merciful and Unstoppable students, faculty, and staff for their fantastic work and tireless efforts in working towards a more hospitable and merciful future. Our students, faculty, and staff continue to display admirable persistence and ingenuity in all that they do. Everyone has tried their best to do their best over this past year, with COVID still upon us. I congratulate all of you, and I know that you can continue to succeed in all that you do and will do!

I am excited to share the 2021–2022 College of Health Sciences and Education Newsletter describing all the magnificent work of the students and our faculty and staff over this last academic year! It is an honor to have so many incredible individuals working together to better society! Please do enjoy reading about the published papers, the awards, the conference presentations, and the excellent engagement across the CHSE community of practice!

I am incredibly proud to bear witness to the dedication and commitment to the excellence of the CHSE Family and what they provide to our community regularly. As we continue towards the future, let us seek out knowledge, engage in compassion and mercy, and care deeply for one another to make a brighter future for all.



DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

Congratulations to the Class of 2022

Fourteen students achieved their academic and career goal of becoming high-quality sonographer. On March 13, 2022, the students were recognized for their service, dedication, and achievements at Misericordia University. Four students received their Certificate of Completion, signifying the completion of 48 credits dedicated to sonography across 18 months. Ten students earn a Bachelor

of Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Congratulations to **Breana Doyle**, RDMS, RVT, who will graduate with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography through the accelerated program. Breana is a graduate of the sonographer certificate program and came

back in 2021 to complete the requirements to earn her undergraduate degree. She plans on pursuing a Master's degree in the fall.

Front row left to right: Kristina Horan, Elizabeth Brixius, Raelynn Micka, Allison Madden, Tori Tingley, and Olivia Belles

Back row: Lana Chinikaylo, Bethany McCarthy, Devyn Anderson, Logan Savitcheff, Camille Hondromaras, Nicole Macko, and Coryn Ochten. Absent from photo: Madison Skwirut.



Class of 2022 Award Recipients



All students are to be commended for a significant giving time to be successful and perform accurate and high-quality ultrasound examinations. Each year, a series of awards are given to select students who demonstrate special talents to excel.

This year's award recipients are: (left to right) **Elizabeth Brixius:** Clinical Excellence Award
Allison Madden: Academic Achievement Award for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Olivia Belles: Academic Achievement Award for the Certificate program
Logan Savitcheff: WAVE Award for Willingness, Altruism, Volunteerism and Excellence
Kristina Horan: St. Gabriel Angel Award

Service

The Sonography students are very generous with their time and donations to support a variety of community fundraisers. Various students organized fundraisers for Blue Chip Farm, Ruth's Place, Baby item donations, Paint Pittston Pink Breast Cancer run, collecting pull tops to donate for the Ronald McDonald's House, and contributing to create a Thanksgiving basket for a very appreciative family in need.



The students raised \$270.00 to sponsor **Danny DePhillips** who was the winner of the Paint Pittston Pink Gentlemen's Dash.



Lambda Nu Honor Society Induction

In addition to the departmental awards, three students were inducted into Lambda Nu, the National Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. The three students presented their researched case studies at Northeastern Pennsylvania Society of Ultrasound's March meeting. The student inductees and their presentation titles are:

Kristina Horan – Appendicitis or Not
Allison Madden – Congenital Renal Anomalies
Logan Savitcheff – Obstetrical Findings: A student's perspective

Awards at the 2021 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference

Sheryl Goss, MS, R.T.(R)(S) ARRT, RDMS, RDCS, RVS, RVT, FSDMS Department Chair, and faculty, was honored with presenting the Stephen M. McLaughlin Lectureship presentation. The Stephen McLaughlin Memorial Lectureship is a tribute to his leadership as SDMS President Stephen McLaughlin and his service to the SDMS, promoting sonographer professionalism within the healthcare community. Sheryl's presentation was titled Say Yes. Sheryl encouraged attendees to Say Yes to volunteering in their community and to give back to their profession. She invited the attendees to share their talents to strengthen the sonography community through continuing education development

and advocacy. Sheryl began volunteering with the SDMS in 2005, assisting in developing the first national curriculum for sonography, then served on the SDMS board for ten years and continues to serve as a liaison and a continuing education reviewer. Sheryl shares that it is an honor to be able to give back to the profession that has treated her well over the past 40 years.

Cara Hill BS, RDMS, RVT '15, an alumnus of BS degree in Medical Imaging and the Sonography certificate program, won first place in the Sonographer Poster Competition with her poster titled "Expect the Unexpected: Diagnosing a Rare Fourth Brachial Arch Anomaly."

Tara Cielma, BS, RDMS, RVT, RDCS '19, an alumnus of Misericordia University's BS degree (ARCH program), won second place in the Sonographer Poster Competition with her poster titled "Pediatric Vocal Fold Motion Impairment."



Left to right: Tara Cielma, Sheryl Goss, and Cara Hill

Faculty Briefs

Gina Capitano earned an Ed.D in Leadership and Professional Practice at Trevecca Nazarene University, successfully defending her dissertation in August 2021. She presented an online Webinar for the Cassling “Investing in You” series titled Leading your Imaging Team from Dysfunctional to Accountable.

Lorie Zelna was appointed by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Board of Directors to the ARRT Radiography examination committee. She was also invited to be a peer evaluator for Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Paula Pate-Schloder After 31 years of service to Misericordia, Paula announced her intention to retire in December 2022. She presented lectures this year at two-state conferences and plans to continue to be active in the profession.

Student Accomplishments

Four December 2021 graduates were inducted into the Lambda Nu Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences.



Pictured are Shauna Aiena, Mikayla Franko, Kaitlyn Gurnari and Carlos Torres Teran.



Victoria Narbone, a junior in the Medical Imaging program from Wanaque, NJ, was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the American Society of Radiologic Sciences (ASRT). The national society funded the scholarship for one student in each state annually. The Pennsylvania Society makes the selection of the Radiologic Sciences Board of Directors.

Mentoring Program



The mentoring program matches program sophomore students with upper-class mentors to assist with the transition into the professional level of the program. Mentees and mentors worked together carving "anatomical structure" pumpkins. This activity allowed the medical imaging sophomores and juniors to work together, get to know each other, and learn about their major.



Through mentoring, junior-level students mentor sophomore-level students to better prepare them before entering the clinical setting. Various simulated stations were organized to help the sophomores apply their didactic knowledge and help them think critically with the aid of their mentors. Some of these stations included pediatric, creative radiography, and mock OR.

Club News

The Medical Imaging Club was very active this year. They sold ribbons in October to raise awareness of breast cancer and donated \$500.00 to Candy’s Place in Forty Fort. They also participated in the Adopted a Family program for Thanksgiving. Several members of the MI Club volunteered at the Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge. Some of their tasks included cleaning the barn, filling in ditches, raking leaves, cleaning kennels, walking



dogs, organizing medications, and cleaning rabbit kennels, to name a few.

The MI club officers designed and sold Hodgkins’s Lymphoma Awareness shirts. Selling the shirts was a community-wide project that included students, employees, alumni, local hospitals, family, and friends. A donation of \$500.00 was made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital from this service project.



State Conference

In March, Professors **Pate-Schloder** and **Blazaskie** attended the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists’ annual conference in State College with ten students. They were able to network with students from across the state and participate in fun and educational events.

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING – DALLAS CAMPUS

Pinning Ceremony held for Part-Time Evening Graduates, December 2021

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University held a pinning ceremony on December 9, 2021, 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. Also featured in the ceremony

was the recital of the international pledge for nurses and the international prayer for nurses. The Department of Nursing recognized outstanding academic and clinical achievements by the students. **Brea Seabrook** received the Academic Excellence Award, presented to the student who attained the highest academic standing overall. **Drew Bednarski** 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 was presented to **Roseann Edwards**, given to a student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses review examination. The last award, Daisy in Training Award, was presented to **Julia Devereau** for providing compassionate care to patients.



White Coat Ceremony Recognizes Students Entering Professional Portion of Program

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University cloaked 65 nursing students who began the professional portion of the nursing program at the seventh annual Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing on March 26, 2022. Students in the traditional and part-time evening academic programs will begin the professional portion of the program in the fall semester. An international nonprofit, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care in the nursing profession. At the Misericordia University White Coat Ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration, attended 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 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., and 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. He has worked in various roles in the nursing profession through the years, including over 15 years as a flight nurse with the Geisinger Medical Center's Life Flight program. He is currently a registered nurse working in Geisinger Home Care.



Traditional BSN students White Coat March 2022



Part-time evening Students White Coat March 2022



Congratulations to **Jordyn Wynder**, senior nursing student, who was selected to receive the **George Speace** Pre-Med/ Nursing Scholarship Fund for the academic year 2021–2022.



Men of Mercy(in nursing) – led by Professor **Richard Hennigan**; this group was launched at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester and has met regularly throughout the academic year. In February, 2022, **Sergeant Matthew McCourt**, US Air Force, from Washington, DC presented on the benefits of active duty and reserve benefits.

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING – PITTSBURGH CAMPUS

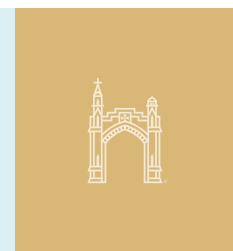
ABSN Program Continues to Graduate Nurses in Pittsburgh

Misericordia University has graduated the fourth class of ABSN students from the Pittsburgh learning center in December 2021. The undergraduate nursing program recently expanded by offering an accelerated path to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, which began in August 2019. With a nursing learning center in Pittsburgh, Misericordia University's Department of Nursing has offered 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 as 16 months. Since the program's start, 50 students earned their BSN from Misericordia University at the Pittsburgh campus.



White Coat Ceremonies held for ABSN Students at Misericordia University's Pittsburgh Site.

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University's Pittsburgh Center cloaked 14 nursing students on August 4, 2021, 19 nursing students on November 9, 2021, and 10 nursing students on April 2, 2022, who recently began the nursing program at the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing. An international nonprofit, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care. At the outdoor White Coat Ceremonies, the ABSN students took an oath acknowledging their essential role as caregivers, emphasizing 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.



Misericordia Nursing Students presented at the Geisinger Nursing Student Scholarship Conference held virtually on Friday, April 22, 2022. There were 4 poster submissions and two podium presentations. The poster presenters were: **Gina Reagle** (ABSN-Pittsburgh) Senior, **Melissa Coll** (ABSN-Pittsburgh) Senior, **Megen Banas** (Dallas) Senior, **Camryn Hubric** (Dallas) Junior in the honors program. The two podium presenters were: **Lawrence Michalski** (Dallas) Senior, **Bradley Duda** (Dallas) Senior.

GRADUATE NURSING NEWS 2021-2022

For the third year in a row, the graduate nursing department is proud to announce 100% pass rate on the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners certification exam! Congratulations to all!

Graduate Nursing Awards for Spring 2022

- Evidence-Based Practice Award: **Vanessa Hannagan**
- Clinical Excellence Award: **Kimberly Conaboy**



After two years of having the On-Campus Intensive remotely, we welcomed students back to campus the first week of April! For our students beginning the clinical portion of their nurse practitioner studies, the White Coat Ceremony was held. Then, for students entering their final year of nurse practitioner studies the Blessing of Hands Ceremony took place. It was wonderful to welcome the students, and their friends and family to campus!



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Over the last academic year, the Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program has graduated our second cohort of students, progressed our third cohort to clinical rotations, and welcomed our fourth cohort of students into the classroom.

Students have enjoyed being back face to face both in the classroom and at their clinical sites.

Highlights of the year include participating in multiple service-learning projects and inter-professional education opportunities. Students took part in a Gift of Life presentation and created gift bags and cards for Residential Hospice patients and their families. (See picture to right)



Student Spotlight:

Luke Rodgers, Class of 2022, was the recipient of a PA Foundation AAPA Past Presidents Scholarship in November 2021. Nearly 350 PA students submitted applications for the 26 scholarships available. Congratulations Luke!



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Dr. Lori Charney and **Dr. Orley Templeton** chaired a research project with MUOT students who retrospectively studied the effectiveness of handwriting remediation through a telehealth delivery model during the pandemic. Graduate students **Brigid Dolan**, **Jessica Knisely**, **Megan Oldak**, **Samantha Sweizer**, and **Peyton Porch** accompanied OT faculty to San Antonio, Texas, to disseminate these research findings at AOTA National Conference. Contributing authors were also **Madison Tumini**, **Rachel Eckert**, and **Alyssa Yniguez**.



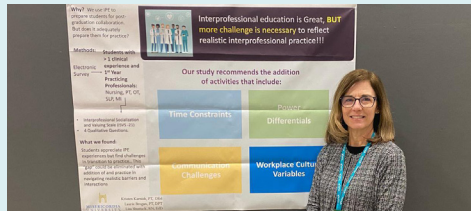
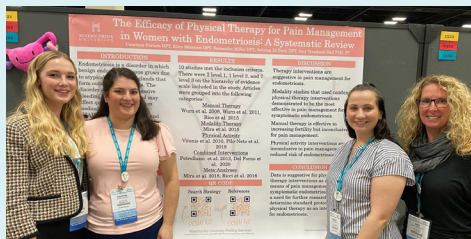
The MUOT department hosted a Research Symposium on April 9, 2022, in Insalaco Hall. Graduate students from the non-traditional weekend and traditional weekday programs disseminated their research findings as to the culminating experience of their MSOT degree. Post-professional OTD graduates also presented their capstone projects in podium presentations.



Scholarship:

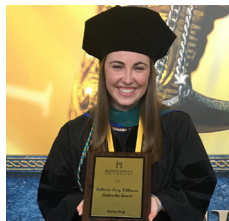
- Nov 20 21, 2021-DPT three students presented their research at the 8th Annual Student Research Symposium at MU
- Maureen Rinehimer** PT, Ph.D., MS, MHS, Dr. **Meredith Hartz**, **Taylor Harnish** SPT, and Dr. **Katherine Tota** presented a poster at the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Conference held virtually on November 20, 2021. "The Effects of Yoga Therapy on Quality of Life in Pediatric Patients with Oncological Diagnoses: A Systematic Review" The authors have an article in the process of review with the Journal of Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics.
- The following was presented at APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, Texas:
- "The Efficacy of Physical Therapy for Pain Management in Women with Endometriosis: A Systematic Review." **Dr. Amy Tremback-Ball**, **Dr. Courtney Portaro**, **Dr. Samantha Miller**, **Dr. Sabrina DiTucci**

- "Biomechanical Considerations for Osseointegrated Prostheses: A Systematic Review." **Dr. Susan Barker** and DPT 3 student **Alyssa Pratti**
- "Interprofessional Education is Great, but More Challenge is Necessary to Reflect Realistic Interprofessional Practice" **Dr. Kristen Karnish**, **Dr. Laurie Brogan**, **Dr. Lisa Shustack** (nsg)
- Melissa Cencetti**, PT, DPT, EdD, recently published her research in the Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice. The article is titled: "Clinical Reasoning in PTA Students: A Survey of PTA Program Directors."



Accomplishments

- Awards were presented at the annual hooding ceremony for the DPT Class of 2021
 - Kailey Vogl**-The Catherine Perry Wilkinson Award
 - Jennifer Freeman**-The Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award
 - Gerald Vitale**-The Physical Therapy Student Achievement Award
- Maureen Rinehimer** PT, Ph.D., MS, MHS, was elected for two years as the Treasurer of the Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy in the American Physical Therapy Association in October 2021.
- Maureen Rinehimer** was honored with the APTA-PA Humanitarian Award in October 2021 for her service to others locally and internationally through a variety of organizations.
- Kelley Moran** was promoted to Professor, and Maureen Rinehimer was promoted to Associate Professor in February 2022.
- On March 28, we celebrated the retirement of our Clinical Placement Specialist **Marilyn Dehaven** after 24 years of service and approximately 4,550 students placed. and we welcomed **Stephanie Winsock** to begin this position



Service and Activities

- The MUPT Club placed as 1st runner up in the first annual Northeast District APTA PA service contest. They were awarded \$250 to continue their service work. (Photo 2)
- Maureen Pascal**, PT, DPT, NCS, and **Maureen Rinehimer**, PT, Ph.D., MS, MHS, attended a service trip through the Office of Mission, Ministry, and Service to Frenchville, PA, with six students. Two of the students, **Shannon Williams** and **Shelby Brittain**, are in their first year of the DPT program. This trip successfully assisted people in the local community through the Young People Who Care Ministries: reaching out to those in need by helping with home repairs, cleaning, and other services.
- Laurie Brogan** PT, DPT, GCS chaperoned nine students (along with **Liz Lipski**, Student Financial Services) on a service trip supported by the Office of Mission, Ministry, and Service to Washington, DC. The group served at Bread for the City, the Capital City Food Bank, the Children of Mine Youth Center, and the National Park Service.

At the 2022 Pennsylvania Speech-Language and Hearing Association (PSHA) convention, **Quinn Kelley**, a fifth-year student, received the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship. This award is given to students who have demonstrated participation in professional activities, a desire to grow professionally, and exceptional leadership qualities. We applaud Quinn for her outstanding achievement!



Quinn Kelley

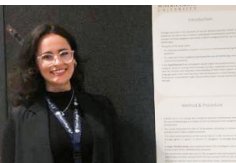
Several research teams attended the Pennsylvania Speech-Language and Hearing Association (PSHA) Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Dr. Cari Tellis** and students **Molly Clemson**, **Megan Florio**, **Stephanie Maines**, and **Jacob Thomas** gave presentations on two studies entitled "Integrated Implicit-Explicit Therapy Approach Applied to Voice Therapy Cases" and "Vocal Effort: A Tool to Measure Progress in Voice Therapy." Students and faculty also presented several posters throughout the convention on augmentative and alternative communication, speech science, instructional technology, and fluency. Notably, under the advisement of **Dr. Reethee Antony**, fifth-year student **Brittany Mooney** presented her thesis research in a poster entitled, "The Evolution of Caregiver Involvement in the Age of COVID-19."



Professor Tia Spagnuolo, Megan Florio, Dr. Cari Tellis, and Stephanie Maines after presenting their research at the 2022 ASHA Convention.

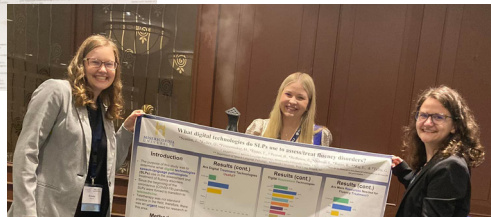


Students at faculty at the 2022 ASHA Convention

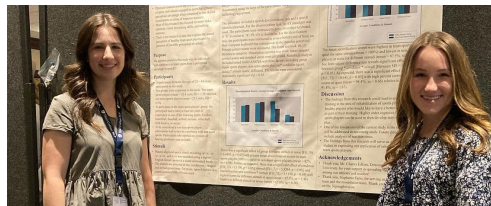


Brittany Mooney and her research poster

Students Brooke Penrod, Maria Monteleone, and Faith Foster holding one of their research posters



Students Isabella Fredo and Alexandra Woodward presenting their research poster



Several faculty members and students attended the 2021 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in November in Washington, D.C., to present their research findings on fluency, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), voice, and speech-language pathology in schools. In addition, Dr. Glen Tellis and Adina Rosenthal, in conjunction with **Dr. Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin**, presented on Praxis-SLP examination study techniques and preparation, and fifth-year student **Lisa Giuffre** presented a poster on her thesis entitled, "The Impact of Cluttering on the Lives of Adults, Children, and Family Members."



Misericordia's National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter hosted various events this year, including letters to legislators to advocate for our field, organizing several fundraisers for local charities, and sending valentines to residents in skilled nursing facilities. In addition, our NSSLHA chapter is planning to host a benefit concert on May 1st, with proceeds benefiting Cori's Place, a local day program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The concert will include performances from Misericordia's Dance Ensemble and students Jacob Thomas and **Jenna-Leigh Marrone**!

The Speech-Language Pathology Department welcomed three new faculty members in the fall 2022 semester! **Dr. Chitralli Mamlekar** completed her bachelor's and master's degree programs at Maharashtra University of Health Sciences and recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. Her research centers on using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) based treatments for people with aphasia. Dr. Mamlekar teaches medical speech-language pathology, anatomy and physiology, aphasia, and AAC courses. **Tia Spagnuolo** is a graduate of Misericordia University's masters of speech-language pathology program and is currently a doctoral student at Binghamton University in the Community Research and Action program. Professor Spagnuolo's research interests include diversity and intersectionality within speech-language pathology. She currently teaches courses including stuttering, voice, and cleft palate, adult communication disorders, dysphagia, and introduction to communication disorders. Erin Roberts is also a Misericordia graduate and is currently a doctoral student within the Mind, Brain, and Teaching program at Johns Hopkins University. Her research interests include learning sciences and the neurological basis of speech-language pathology treatment methods. She currently teaches articulation and phonology, phonetics, child language disorders, and speech science courses.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

As part of their student teaching seminar, Misericordia University’s students received Youth Mental Health First Aid certification. 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 can better 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 an understanding of the impact of illness on individuals and families and learn about evidence-supported treatment and self-help strategies. All TED faculty have YMHFA certification, and the following student teachers were certified this year: **Leah Malarkey, Christian Guerra, Lauren Devens, Erin McCawley, Jessica DeRemer, Karina Armetta, Julia Baur, Kaitlyn Bigos, Kailee Carroll, Alyssa Cheseck, Maura Cosimo, Elizabeth Cote, Gabrielle Giandrea, Charles Gugel, Kayce Hoch, Lisa Kintner, Evelyn Lohmann, Jacob Lutz, Stacy McCarter, Margaret McGovern, Mitchell Micale, Hannah Patton, Margaret Ryan, Alison Sankey, Mikayla Simanski, Nora Tracey, Elizabeth Vespucci, Kelsey Weston, and Ryleigh White.**

TED Faculty and Student Researchers Present at State Conference

Researchers from the Teacher Education Department recently presented at the 2022 Teacher Education Assembly sponsored by Harrisburg’s Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE). The researchers presented a 2-hour hands-on workshop entitled "Techniques and Tools to Support Face-to-face and Online Students." In the workshop, the presenters described research on different methods of content delivery and their effectiveness. They then discussed three primary models of course delivery: blended learning, hybrid learning, and the HyFlex model. The presenters focused on describing, demonstrating, and providing experience using techniques and tools to simultaneously engage face-to-face and online learners. Practical examples of technology tools and teaching techniques were shown in mathematics and English content areas.

Dr. Steve Broskoske, the lead researcher, is an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department. He teaches undergraduate and graduate-level courses and specializes in Educational Technology. His research focuses on how technology can be better used to improve the classroom for students and teachers and how teachers can use creative approaches in teaching and learning.

Kaitlyn Bigos is a Senior Mathematics and Secondary Education major at Misericordia University. Her research focuses on applying differential equations, and she recently performed research on using differential equations to model the exponential spread of Covid-19 in the United States. She spent a year observing and teaching in a hybrid and full virtual classroom for learning support Algebra students, Honors Pre-calculus/ Trigonometry students, and AP Calculus students.

Women with Children Tutoring Program

This year pre-service teachers from MU provided weekly after-school tutoring services for the children of the mothers in the Women with Children program. The service offered individualized academic support to the children and provided some much-needed time for the Moms to catch up with their studies or get a much-needed break.



Drs. Mulally and Yeager Present at the June 2021 Teaching Professor Conference

Dr. Yeager and **Dr. Mulally** traveled to New Orleans to present at the Teaching Professor Conference, a conference dedicated to using research-based, classroom-tested practices to improve outcomes for students. The 60-minute session titled “Hyflex Model through the Community of Inquiry Lens: A Focus on Special Needs” focused on a means to develop an instructional path that might best serve

the unique needs of students using an analysis of the HyFlex model. Through the lens of Community of Inquiry (COI), the researchers focused on how the Hyflex model can heighten learning through teaching, cognitive, and social presence.

Kappa Delta Pi Induction

On April 20, 2022, members of the MU Teacher Education Department were inducted into Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), the International Honor Society in Education. Being recognized as a member of America’s largest and most prestigious academic honor society elevates the status and reputation of future or current teachers and indicates a deep commitment to being a teacher of excellence. To be considered for nomination, Junior or Senior teacher candidates must have already been on the Dean’s List at least twice, have a current overall GPA of at least 3.4, and thus are situated to graduate with honors. Additionally, they have met the current policies and procedures outlined in the Teacher Education Guidebook and have been actively involved in professional activities.

This year’s inductees are **Julia Baur, Jessica Dymond, Makayla Dziak, Jenna Gallo, Charles Gugel, Madison Klopp, Meaghan McCaffrey, Aoife McTavish, Mikaela Meeker, Karissa Nenscel, Sidney Scarcella, Asucena Vergara, and Ryleigh White.** Also being inducted this year, after a life-long career as a dedicated teacher, is **Dr. Kurt Eisele**, the Coordinator of Graduate Education programs in the Teacher Education Department. Congratulations to all!

Education Club Hosts Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, April 10th, the Education Club held an Easter Egg Hunt on the field outside of MacDowell Hall. The program was opened to participants in the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children program and the Misericordia University Autism Center. While TED students were hoping to attract around 20 participants, the program registered approximately 120 children before registration had to be shut down. Children up to age 12 had a great time searching for eggs and meeting the Easter Bunny, and all children received a prize.



TED Faculty Create a Mixed Reality Teaching Simulation



In collaboration with Mursion™, **Drs. Colleen Duffy, Jodi Loughlin, and Bobbi Yeager** designed and created an original mixed reality teaching simulation, “Assessing Phonemic Awareness and Phonics with Consonant Vowel Consonant Words.” This Early Childhood Education scenario requires students to provide small group and individual instruction to reinforce phonemic awareness and phonics using sound isolation, blending, and letter recognition of Consonant Vowel Consonant (CVC) pattern words using systematic and explicit instruction. This virtual performance assessment provides pre-service teachers with a safe and supported way to practice and refine their teaching skills before implementing them in real classrooms.

This year, the scenario was used to prepare MU Early Childhood and Special Education majors to teach Reading. It has been widely disseminated and is available for use by all Mursion™ education partners, including the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), The Danielson Group, Harvard School of Graduate Education, University of Virginia - Curry School of Education, Western Michigan University, Ohio State University, and others, under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share-Alike 4.0 International license.



Some impressive graduate education research studies have been conducted over the past year. **Dr. Tif Mulally** serves as a faculty research advisor for the following studies. In the summer of 2021, **Leah Kowalski** researched Physical Activity in Elementary Classrooms; Ashley Evans researched Co-Teaching in the Classroom. Monica Morgan completed her study of Teacher Perception of Distance Education as a Strategy for Formal Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Given the restrictions due to Covid-19, the research was quantitative and included a well-executed meta-analysis, which is an impressive undertaking.

In the fall of 2021, despite still facing the struggles of Covid-19 and distance learning, three sound proposals were put into action and completed:

- Increasing Classroom Climate and Engagement at the Secondary Special Education Level Through Classroom Management Strategies, researched and authored by **Pauline Mickavicz**.
- Increasing Oral Reading Fluency Rate Through Cooperative Learning, researched and written by **Kristin Stuffick**.
- The Effects of Mindfulness Activities on Student Achievement and Behavior in the Fulltime Emotional Support Classroom, researched and authored by **Brittany Mazza**.

The Spring '22 research cohort is thick in their research collection and analysis. **Patricia Ash** is examining The Need for Comprehension Remediation in a University-based Online Reading Clinic, and **Erin Donato** is researching The Effect Technology has on Education. Next fall, you will be able to see the results shared with research posters.

We look forward to having opportunities for the students to disseminate their research at professional conferences.

Sunflowers to Support Ukraine

In April, the Ed Club held a successful event to sell sunflower seeds to support Ukraine. They chose the sunflower because it is the national flower of Ukraine, and it serves as a symbol of the resistance of the Ukrainian people to the invasion by Russia. TED students hope that the funds raised can help refugees from Ukraine, especially children.



AUTISM CENTER

The Autism Center is proud to be under the direction of the College of Health Sciences and Education Department. The center is comprised of two programs. The Integrated Studies Program is approved by the Department of Education as a comprehensive Post-Secondary Transition Program. It offers a new, inclusive, post-secondary certificate program designed specifically for students with moderate Autism, with or without co-morbid disorders, and Intellectual Disability. The certificate program, Integrated Studies is a full-time, college-based, 2-year program specifically designed for students between the ages of 18–and 26 who are Level 1 Mild to Level 2, Moderate Autism, and gives prospective students access to a full-time inclusive and supported program of study. The Austin for Life Long Learning (ALL) program provides supported employment, competitive employment, school-based

“Our hope is that in working with each other, we will build inclusive communities that support families and empower people with asd throughout the lifespan.”

transition, and community support services to adults with Autism. The primary goal is to enable the adults involved in the program to ultimately obtain employment to the fullest extent of their respective abilities. We believe people with a primary diagnosis of ASD and or a disability should make the same wage as everyone else and that a job is an important part of an inclusive life. To that end, we strive to find unique and sustainable jobs, customizable employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for people with ASD/ disabilities so that they can be contributing members of their community. The program is approved by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

In addition to the two programs, we also collaborate with the Occupational and Physical Therapy Departments to provide sensory holiday events along with video modeling, The Education

Department provides a reading program, the Social Service Department provides a monthly support group, and the Aquatics Department along with MU Cougars Club provides seasonal swim lessons. Best Buddies also coordinates adolescents' experiences such as dances and extracurricular activities to encourage socialization and acceptance amongst each other and an opportunity to feel welcomed on campus prior to reaching the age of 21 and older. Finally, we also coordinate with the broader Wyoming Valley community organizations in order to connect individuals, families, and caregivers in Northeastern and North Central PA to ASD care through partnerships with community organizations and those they serve. We strive to advance a collaborative environment where participants feel they have the support they need and the inclusion and autonomy they desire.

SOCIAL WORK

Taking on Food Insecurity From Local to Global

Misericordia's Social Work program hosted a seminar on hunger and food insecurity including local and international experts. Clancy Cash Harrison MS, RDN, FAND, founder of the Food Dignity Movement, energetically addressed issues of how food insecurity is approach in the US and how we view those in our community who struggle with hunger. Harrison's mission is to demolish the stigma around healthy food access and to promote food dignity. Jaclyn Degnan, MSW, HSV, social worker in the Dallas Area School District, highlighted the intersection of hunger and learning, illustrating the many hunger-related issues facing local children and families. Too often, educational success is compromised because students are hungry and face innumerable challenges that interrupt their learning.



Clancy Cash Harrison



Sister Mary Sullivan, PhD.

Sister of Mercy, Mary Sullivan, PhD., joining virtually from Rochester, New York, described the sustainable impact of microeconomics on the wellbeing of women and children living in extreme poverty. Mercy Focus on Haiti through “The Pathway to a Better Life” has proved that poor women can reliably lift their families out of extreme poverty when they are given necessary tools, and close guidance and accompaniment. Focusing on women and their families who live on less than \$1.00 a day, suffering with hunger, illiteracy, isolation, illness and despair, “The Pathway to a Better Life”, after 18 months, results in the ability to provide daily meals and to have no untreated malnutrition; live in home with a tin roof and have an outdoor latrine; send children to school every day and to have an income with accumulating assets. This microeconomic model is 95% successful in assisting women to change their circumstances and sustain that change. A participant

in the program, Odette, describes her success in this way: “I don't live in misery anymore. Now I've said ‘Goodbye’ to misery.” Read Steven Werlin's To Fool the Rain for stories of the journey on the pathway to a better life.

Lilia Flannery, President of the Social Work Club, sold Pura Vida bracelets during the seminar. The Social Work Club launched this fundraiser to support the Mercy Focus on Haiti.

To learn more and get involved, go to fooddignitymovement.org where you will learn more about hunger and take the Hidden Hunger Pledge. Listen to Clancy Harrison's weekly podcast at The Food Dignity Podcast. For more information regarding the Mercy Focus on Haiti go to mercyfocusonhaiti.org. You will see the simple yet immensely impactful work the Sisters of Mercy are doing in the western hemisphere's poorest county.



Lilia Flannery



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)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

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



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misericordia.edu/chse

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy.

