MOMENTS

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2023



Misericordia's impact means that Mercy Thrives in all we do, at a place we call home, in every Moment.

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CONTENTS

2 A LITTLE BIT ABOUT PRESIDENT MYERS • 3 READING ACROSS AMERICA ARCHIE'S FIELD TRIP • 4 AND THE GRAMMY GOES TO
6 SUCCESS DOES NOT COME ALONE • 8 ARCHIE'S SENSORY PROGRAM • 10 MISERICORDIA SPOTLIGHT STAFF AND FACULTY
11 CONGRATS CLASS OF 2023 FUN FACTS • 12 WHAT'S NEW @ MU • 14 YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE • 15 ALUMNI EVENTS
16 THE MELODY OF MISERICORDIA • 18 WE STAND TOGETHER • 20 IF YOU CAN DREAM IT... • 22 MERCY THRIVES
IN BELIZE • 24 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT • 26 DR. CHRISTINE M. GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIALIZES INSPIRING OT FACULTY
MEMBER • 28 REMEMBERING ARNIE GARINGER • 29 ROTC @ MISERICORDIA







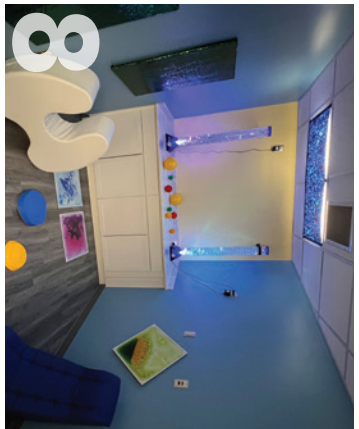














A LITTLE BIT ABOUT PRESIDENT MYERS



Just weeks on the job as Misericordia University's new president, Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., climbed the stairs to the Lemmond Theater stage in August 2021 for his first time to address the assembled faculty and staff at Opening Meeting. This meeting updates employees on the state of the university and sets the tone for the year.

After introducing himself, Myers narrated his first slide, "This is what you thought you were getting." The large screen featured his professional photo – Myers in a sharp business suit. He continued, "But this is what you actually got." The photo advanced to show a costumed rock and roll president complete with leather jacket, long hair (wig), and bandana. Laughter ensued.

Now finishing his second academic year, Myers' professionalism and good humor are evident. "It has been a privilege for me to meet our campus community and the community at large," says Myers. "The influence of the Sisters of Mercy, their mission and their legacy, is so very powerful. This feeling was evident in just my first few weeks."

Myers' higher education career spans decades. First as a sociology professor, department chair, and vice president at Notre Dame, then on to the provost role at Marquette University and American University. Prior to his candidacy to become MU's leader, his research into student retention revealed that Misericordia was second in the nation among private colleges in retaining and graduating students. Based on the attributes of our incoming students, we are significantly out performing schools like us.

"I found Misericordia's people were so caring and so very concerned about students, that when the presidency became available, I knew I wanted to be there," says Myers.

Myers joined Misericordia in the aftermath of the pandemic and with national challenges to higher education - including declining enrollments and public concerns about the value of a degree. Despite this, in his first two years, he has energized campus by building collaboration, often over a pizza. Then, connecting with students through student events and a social media presence. So popular are his posts, that students regularly request to appear. "The team and I thought that being on social media would be a plus for recruitment; however, I was surprised by how it has connected me to our students," says Myers.

Not missing a beat, the campus completed preparation of the Mercy Thrives strategic plan in 2022 that will guide Misericordia through 2027. Five new academic programs launched, and the university added ice hockey for fall 2024.

The son of two ordained ministers, Myers moved around often as a youth. Part of his high school years were spent in Pulaski, New York, when he and friends formed the band, Quest. Myers and Quest have reunited and are a hit on campus, having performed during Welcome Week and Inauguration Week last year.

Myers has set a tone on campus, an upbeat and thoughtful rock and roll tone that is music to the ears of many. Follow him on social media or come to campus for the next big event, including those during 2024, our 100th year.



Reading Across America

Archie's Field Trip

The students at St. Nicholas - St. Mary School had no clue that Misericordia University's mascot, Archie, and friends would come to visit them for Read Across America Week. Beginning on Dr. Suess's Birthday, the week runs from March 2nd to March 8th to encourage reading and educate students about the benefits of reading.

"It was exciting when we planned the day and time of Archie's arrival, and I could not wait for the visit. We did not tell the students in advance, so they would be surprised," says Lisa Carey, vice principal of St. Nicholas-St. Mary School.

Archie, an avid book lover, made sure he came prepared with his friends to read "Pete the Cat" to the students. However, the fun did not just end with the second graders. Archie would go from classroom to classroom, meeting students from grades 1-3.

"All of the students loved him, and they were sad to see Archie and his friends leave, but they made sure he didn't leave without a lot of hugs and smiles. The students and teachers in our school could not stop talking about Archie and the Misericordia University students and staff who came to see us and what great representatives they were for the university," says Carey.

Archie was so sad when he left all his new friends, but he made sure that they would never forget his visit with a donation of Pete the Cat Puppet and "Pete the Cat" books for teachers and students to add to their library. Archie is looking forward to visiting again next year to see all the friends he made this year and all the new friends he can make on his next visit!





THE LYRICS OFFER A REMINDER THAT THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN.

IF YOU GOT A CHANCE, TAKE IT, TAKE IT WHILE YOU GOT A CHANCE

IF YOU GOT A DREAM, CHASE IT, 'CAUSE A DREAM WON'T CHASE YOU BACK

MATT ROGERS '04 WINS GRAMMY FOR CO-WRITING BEST COUNTRY SONG

AND THE GRAMMY GOES TO...

As co-writer for "'Til You Can't," nominated for Best Country Song at the 65th Grammy Awards, first-time nominee Matt Rogers '04, knew he was an underdog. The song, performed by Cody Johnson, was up against strong competition with songs written and performed by Taylor Swift, Maren Morris, and Luke Combs in the category.

"Taylor Swift is the biggest star in the world right now, and had never won an award for a country song, so I was feeling it may be her night," Rogers shares. "Yet, when I looked at the category, I truly felt our song was just as good."

In lieu of going to the ceremony in Los Angeles, Rogers had a watch party at home in Nashville with his wife, Shellien; their three children, Jenna, 2, Jake, 4, and Dylan, 16; and his parents Betsy and Barry Rogers '07. Jenna was born with debilitating epilepsy and was recovering from brain surgery at the time.

Song co-writer Ben Stennis accepted the award when their names were called, and in his speech explained Rogers' absence, "Matt is at home being an amazing dad and husband taking care of his daughter,



Jenna. She is a fighter and could use some prayers."

Winning the Grammy is just one of the accolades "'Til You Can't" has earned Rogers.

Among the awards that mean the most to him was having the song selected as one of the "10 Songs I Wish I'd Written," voted on by his peers in the Nashville Songwriters Association International. That award lead to him and Stennis performing the song at the hallowed Ryman Theater in Nashville in September.

"Ben and I co-wrote the song seven years ago, and it was passed around for quite some time," Rogers adds. "When Cody Johnson put a hold on it, we knew if he recorded it, it would be great."

What surprises Rogers the most is the trajectory the song took, rising to No. 1 on the Billboard Country Airplay chart faster than anything he has seen in years, winning Single of the Year at the 2022 CMA Awards.

Yet he admits, the song's success will not likely change his day-to-day work. "I am so lucky to work for Sony Music, but as songwriters know, you just move on to the next song. I still go to the studio and write all day."

Rogers also topped the charts with "We Went," sung by Randy Houser in 2015, and "Freedom was a Highway" sung by Jimmy Allen and Brad Paisley in 2022.

Matthew Swanson, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, is not at all surprised by his former student's success. "Matt has always had the ability to push himself…standing out for his willingness to take chances. I know him to be a creative thinker. He took five philosophy classes with me, including some of the highest-level classes. He is very bright, intellectually curious, and has his own perspective on things."

Rogers keeps in touch with Dr. Swanson, who he considers "one of the favorite professors I've ever had." As an Interdisciplinary Studies major, he credits Dr. Swanson and the late Professor David Payne for teaching him to think outside the box, a critical skill for any writer. "I could talk to them about anything. It was the kind of experience you want to have when you go to college."



GRAMMY WINNER MATT ROGERS '04 AND HIS WIFE, SHELLIEN, SHARE SMILES WITH THEIR CHILDREN, JENNA, JACK AND DYLAN.

Rogers also earned a master's degree in journalism at Syracuse University. A move to Nashville followed. He met Shellien there in 2013, a colleague at the publishing company he worked for at the time. "She was one of the first people who believed in my writing catalogue," he adds. Married in 2017, the couple and their children live in Hendersonville, TN.

MATT ROGERS '04 ON WINNING A GRAMMY.

A STRONG MISERICORDIA FAMILY LEGACY, GRAMMY WINNER MATT ROGERS '04, IS SHOWN, FROM LEFT, WITH HIS MOM, BETSY, AND HIS DAD, BARRY ROGERS '07, OF KINGSTON, PA; AND HIS BROTHER ERIC ROGERS '08, A SPORT MANAGEMENT ALUMNUS WHO LIVES IN WEST PITTSTON, PA. MATT'S NEPHEW JOSEPH ROGERS '06, AND JOSEPH'S WIFE, KARI BRATT ROGERS '06 ALL FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH MISERICORDIA. HIS AUNT MARION ROGERS '89, '07 HOLDS TWO MISERICORDIA DEGREES AND WORKED ON THE CAMPUS FROM 2003–2007.

Success Does not Come Alone

Achieving the number one ranking in collegiate sports at any level is remarkable. The Misericordia Women's Soccer team demonstrated exceptional dedication, talent, and hard work on and off the field to achieve this feat in back-to-back seasons. The team established an identity through consistent performance and a commitment to excellence, making it one of the country's most successful Division III women's soccer programs. However, achieving the number one ranking in back-to-back seasons is an accomplishment that comes with hardships and sacrifices.

Despite the challenges of needing an assistant coach this season, the team's leadership and determination allowed them to continue competing at an extremely high level. The captains were critical in fostering a culture of hard work and discipline among the players. "Our captains were tremendous this year and taught the underclassman from a work rate and discipline standpoint what it takes day in and day out to be 'elite' both in the classroom and on the field," stated Mark Stauffer, head coach. Stauffer '97 has been coaching for over 20 years at Misericordia University, and throughout those years, he has shaped the team into what they are now. "We take pride in who we are–regardless of who we are around or whom we are representing. We can change someone's perception of Misericordia University because of our program's successes. That is just one more 'upside' to the sacrifice and discipline our players put into their daily lives."

Effective communication was also critical to the team's success this season, as Kaylee Sturans, one of the captains, emphasized. Verbal communication and body language contribute to a team's synergy, and the Misericordia Women's Soccer team demonstrated exceptional communication skills on and



off the field. The team's success results from its unwavering commitment to excellence and teamwork. They have shown they can be number one with hard work, dedication, and effective communication. Their accomplishment in achieving the number one ranking in back-to-back seasons is a testament to their exceptional talent and hard work.

Along with that, the women's soccer program strives to develop well-rounded individuals by focusing on athletic performance and personal growth. The program aims to cultivate its players to become exceptional scholars, athletes, and individuals. Coach Stauffer takes satisfaction in witnessing players make positive daily choices that contribute to their development and success.

Accordint to his players, Stauffer is known for emphasizing the details–the little things–that lead to success, often from the first time he meets a recruit. This emphasis on details translates into players' lives beyond soccer, particularly in the classroom. "When I look back on my soccer career here, the one thing that my coach taught me starting all the way back in the recruiting process is the word 'details.' This word has carried over into my life outside of soccer, especially in the classroom. Paying attention to the little things has helped me grow as a person, student, and player, and I will continue to carry this one word with me into my next new adventure and future aspirations," stated Kaylee. The women's soccer team is more than just an athletic team; it provides a platform for players to reach new heights of excellence in all areas of their lives. It has helped them grow as individuals, scholars, and athletes, and they continue to carry this ethos with them as they pursue their future aspirations.

MISERICORDIA SOCCER

Scan to follow Women's Soccer







Archie's Sensory Program



The Occupational Therapy Department at Misericordia, in partnership with The ASM Global managed Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA, recently unveiled a new sensory services and accommodations program available to guests at the Arena with sensory needs. Often, there are people who are sensitive to loud noise or flashing lights that overwhelm their senses. The three-tiered program offers different levels of services for those attending events.

Services include Archie's Sensory Stories, a downloadable video guide to provide guests with sensory challenges an advanced look at what to expect during the event they are attending; Archie's Sensory Library, lending guests items such as adult and child noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, fidget toys, and wiggle cushions; and Archie's Den—a room designed to be aesthetically calming with muted colors, dimmed lighting, LED light-up bubble wall water fixtures, stepping stones, sensory chairs, wall art, and floor tiles.

An avid hockey fan and recreational player, Barbara Schwartz-Bechet, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences and Education at Misericordia, introduced the idea of the sensory program noting the excellent experience guests have at the Arena and believing additional sensory services could enhance it. Schwartz-Bechet explained, "Many pro and semi-pro arenas have sensory-friendly spaces, and I thought the time was right to have one in our local arena." Working with Jim Roberts, Misericordia's chief of staff, Schwartz-Bechet approached the officials at Wilkes-Barre Township based Mohegan



Scan to view WNEP's news story on the Archie's Sensory Program



Sun Arena at Casey Plaza to propose a partnership.

"This journey has been a wonderful, collaborative process with Misericordia University OT and the Mohegan Sun Arena," said Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L, CAS chair, Occupational Therapy Department. "From the idea's inception, it blossomed into an evidenced-based project that matches a vast array of research on sensory processing with the community's needs. Families often become limited with their engagement in leisure activities because their family members with sensory processing challenges cannot sit in the environment for the entire event at the Arena. The program allows them to have mechanisms to help their family member regulate their sensory system and enjoy the show. It has been a great experience working with OT Doctoral student Peyton Breinich, OTR/L, and Steve Poremba '04, director of Sales and Marketing at Mohegan Sun Arena, along with staff from Misericordia University and the Mohegan Sun Arena, to offer a more inclusive space for the community."

Peyton, who played a significant role in planning the program, explains, "At Misericordia University, the values of the Sisters of Mercy drive educational curriculums and programs to embody the four charisms: Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality. Archie's Sensory Program truly embodies the charisms of Hospitality and Service. As a pediatric occupational therapist and post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy student, developing and creating Archie's Sensory Program has provided a breadth of knowledge and skills that can be used in my daily practice. It has given me the skills of program development, continuation of evidence-based research, and collaboration with key stakeholders."



MISERICORDIA SPOTLIGHT
STAFF AND FACULTY

Brian Carso



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
DEGREES: J.D., PH.D. • 17 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?

"MU is a place where curiosity thrives, and I realize what a privilege it is to be part of such a community. Our students arrive with abundant curiosity, and the pursuit of knowledge—trying to satisfy that curiosity—is the best job in the world. I'm a lawyer and historian, and I co-teach an introductory course on Environmental Studies, which opens new areas of inquiry for me. My curiosity about the world continues to be engaged on a daily basis, which is a joy."

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT A PROJECT/ STORY THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER BEING A PART OF?

"I curated an exhibit of World War II photographs by Robert Capa in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery. I was looking at one of the photographs on the wall, from 1943, of a B-17 bomber that had crash-landed. I was with a very old man, who was telling me how he had been a pilot of a B-17 in World War II. He too had been forced to crash land his plane, in his case in Poland in Soviet occupied territory. He explained how his crew found a way to communicate with the soldiers from the Red Army who surrounded them, and there was a small group of visiting middle-school students in the gallery. Three generations stood in the gallery, looking at that photograph. It was unforgettable."

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?

"My office is in Mercy Hall, which has a lot of history to it, and I'm always seeing colleagues and students there. I enjoy the Bevevino Library, because it is a beautiful space and the light that comes through the expansive windows and the view of campus is magnificent. But I have to give a special shout-out to the new Henry Science Center. I'm a historian, but I'm fascinated by science."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE MISERICORDIA COMMUNITY?

"I'm in my 17th year of teaching at MU. Every day that I drive to campus, I get out of my car and look around, and it strikes me how glad I am to be here and how much I enjoy what I do. To be curious about the world and to be given a means to satisfy your curiosity—that's a pretty good gig."

Jennifer Martin



LEAD POSTAL CLERK AKA THE POST OFFICE LADY • 5 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?

"I really love the people at Misericordia! The staff and faculty genuinely care for each other and for the students. They want to see the students succeed and most are more than willing to go the extra mile for anyone in the campus community and beyond."

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT A PROJECT/ STORY THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER BEING A PART OF?

"There are many things; however, I would have to say the pandemic times. For a while, during the campus shutdown, I was one of the only people on campus. Spring arrived without anyone to really see it. The campus was beautiful, but empty and quiet. It made me appreciate the people here even more. It's a really great feeling to have things pretty much back to where they were before March of 2020."

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?

"The campus is such a beautiful place, it's very hard to choose. I love the Shakespeare Garden. The waterfall in the center of campus reflects the beauty of the Back Mountain and NEPA region. But Banks Student Life Center is where I spend most of my time and honestly, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It's a hub of activity on campus, with lots of energy and people coming and going throughout the day."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE MISERICORDIA COMMUNITY?

"I believe very strongly in inclusion and acceptance. The University's core values of mercy, service, justice and hospitality align well with what I believe and who I strive to be. I feel very blessed to be part of a community that holds these ideals close to its heart."

Congrats Class of 2023

FUN FACTS:

246 bachelor's degree recipients and **126** master's and Ph.D. recipients

The graduates represented **12 states**: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and New Hampshire.

Graduate Keynote Speaker, **Dr. Mary C. Boys**, SNJM, Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary

Undergraduate Keynote Speaker, **Dr. R. Scott Appleby**, a Professor of History and the Marilyn Keough Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame

















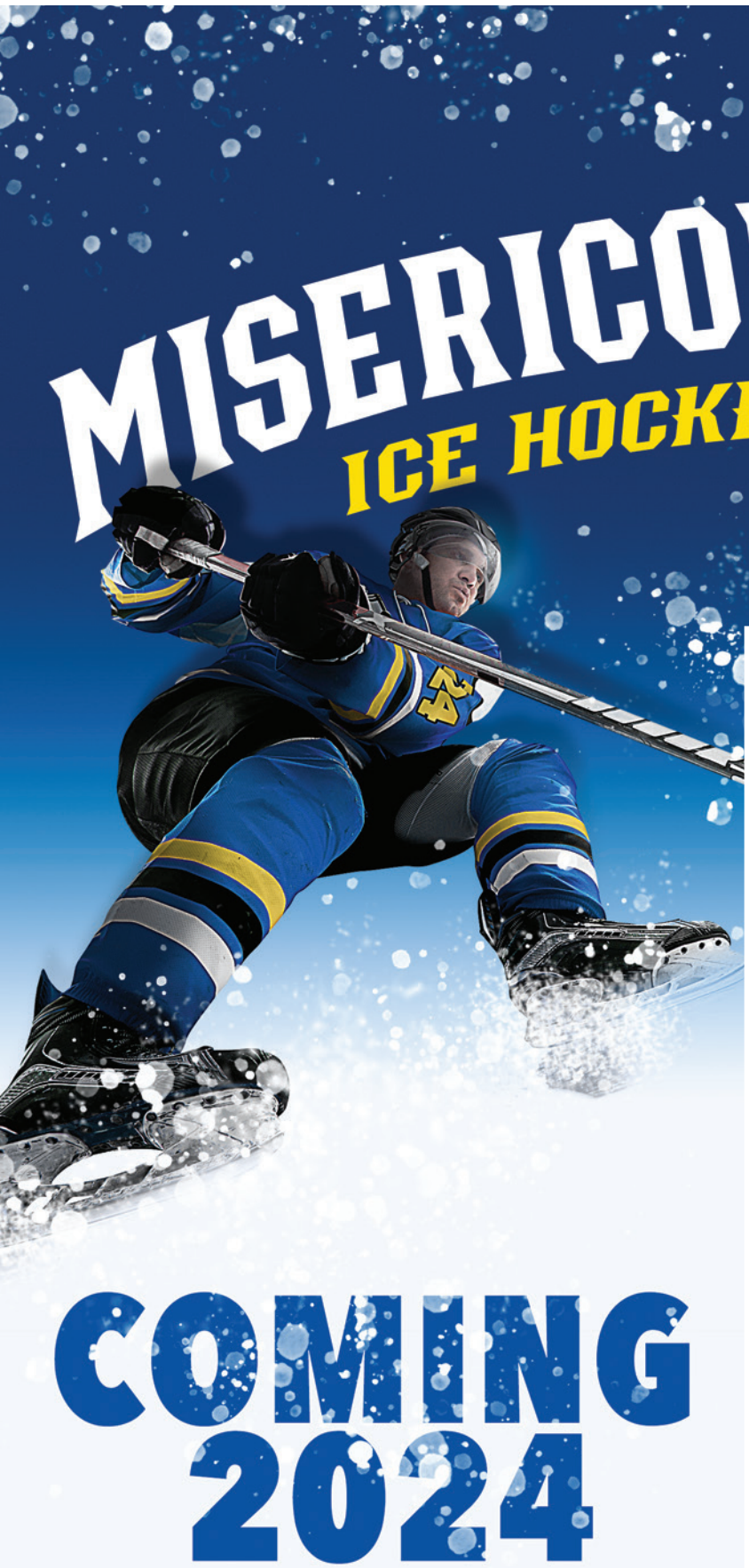




Misericordia University recently announced that renovation and construction has begun on a 38,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility to house its popular Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) programs. The new education and healthcare space will be within a renovated section of the former Mercy Center immediately adjacent to the campus. The university and the Sisters of Mercy just completed discussions for a long-term lease on the property, which formerly housed a skilled nursing facility that ceased operations in 2022.

The renovated building will feature separate and specially designed spaces for our occupational and physical therapy programs. Among the many features, the new facility will offer observation rooms and labs, state-of-the-art lecture rooms with interactive video capabilities, a home health lab, an acute care lab, student lounges and flexible study rooms, capstone centers, and faculty offices, as well as clinic spaces where students and faculty will engage the community.

The $8.5 million renovation started on March 16 with demolishing the interior walls, ceilings, and mechanical systems. OT will be on the first and second floors, while PT will occupy the third floor. Work will also be done on the entrance area to establish the building as a Misericordia University entity and create appropriate and secure access to adjoining housing for Sisters of Mercy. Twenty-five Sisters of Mercy still reside in an attached residential wing of the former Mercy Center. Work is expected to be complete by December 2023 and ready for use by students in January 2024. Check back for more information in our fall edition of Moments!



Misericordia University will add men's ice hockey to its varsity sports offerings, Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., university president, has announced. Ice Hockey is the 19th sport added since Misericordia joined the NCAA Division III in 1992. Ice hockey brings MU's total number of intercollegiate offerings to 28.

Misericordia expects to begin intercollegiate competition with the 2024-25 season. The Cougars will play and practice at the Toyota SportsPlex on Coal Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA. In addition to the Toyota SportsPlex, the team will also have the opportunity to practice at Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township. This 8,300-seat venue is the home of the American Hockey League's Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, a minor league affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins. Check back for more information in our fall edition of Moments!

IMAGINE THE *impact*

YOU CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MISERICORDIA FUND IMPACT



Morgan Palmer '18
Educator, New Jersey

MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

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

For any questions, please contact Lailani Augustine: laugustine@misericordia.edu

Thank You

cut here





ALUMNI EVENTS

JULY

MISERICORDIA MILE TOUR – LEHIGH VALLEY

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: SteelStacks, Wind Creek Deck

SEPTEMBER

32ND ANNUAL ALUMNI TEA*

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Misericordia University

**special invitation*

OCTOBER

SAVE THE DATE – HOMECOMING 2023

October 6-7, 2023

Location: Misericordia University

NOVEMBER

VOLUNTEER – CHEERS TO ALUMNI FOREVER

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Time: 6pm-8pm

Location: Misericordia University, Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall

Visit **misericordia.edu/alumnievents** for more details and a listing of our scheduled events on and off campus throughout the year.



The Melody OF MISERICORDIA



At the inception

of College Misericordia in 1924, the Music program offered students the opportunity to study piano, violin, theory, and vocals. Over the course of 60 years, in addition to these concentrated areas that one might expect to find in a music program, faculty members also introduced the study of dance. The program, perhaps ahead of its time, also offered music therapy. Throughout the program's history, students participated in chorus, glee club, and madrigal dinners. Some students traveled abroad with faculty to attend concert tours as well.

A few of the faculty members who brought their notable talents to students were Sr. Mary Borgia Curran, the department's first faculty member; Nicola A. Montani, chorus director and pioneer of liturgical music; Ferdinand Liva, voice, string, and orchestra faculty; as well as Sr. Mary Carmel McGarigle and Sr. Marie Dolores Moore, faculty members were instrumental in organizing the orchestra.

Sr. Theresa Mary Moyles taught for 33 years and served as department chair of Music. She wrote the Misericordia Alma Mater which is still sung today at the University. The Alma Mater's lyrics bring special attention to the beauty of the campus, which has been known for its ability to encourage spiritual reflection. Misericordia students were once referred to as "the Blue and Golds," before changing to Highlanders and now Cougars. These colors, referred to in the alma mater, represent the richness of the spiritual life (gold) and fidelity (blue). The lyrics still ring true to all who call Misericordia home.

Stephen L. Broskoske '85, Ed.D., associate professor in the Teacher Education department, was a Misericordia Music student. "Dr. Steve," as he is known to many, has become the "Alma Mater Master" over the last 20 years. He thoroughly enjoys teaching the song and its history to students at convocation and commencement. "As everyone joins in singing, we have the feeling of being connected to something much larger than us — we are connected to the Sisters of Mercy, the mission of MU, and to thousands of Misericordians who call MU our home," says Dr. Steve.

Learn more or listen to our Alma Mater here: misericordia.edu/about/fast-facts/alma-mater









The melody is back...

Music will once again fill the halls of Misericordia in fall of 2023, announcing the return of music to Misericordia under the direction of Marko Marcinko, the new director of Music Performance and Artist in Residence.



"It is an honor and complete thrill to lead Misericordia University into a new exciting chapter for music and music performance. I am so glad to see Music Performance at Misericordia University become a reality. The great music tradition and history returns with a new and exciting direction," said Marko. He is excited to be at Misericordia and share his passion for music with the campus and the surrounding areas as a native of Archibald, PA.

As visitors arrive at Mercy Hall for the first time, they are exposed to a piece of our history that Dr. Steve still recalls to this day. "I remember music being at the heart of campus. Musical practice rooms were centrally located in the glass rooms that now serve as Admissions offices, and music could be heard throughout Mercy Hall at all hours of the day and night. I am so excited to see the initiative to bring music back to our campus because music has always been such an integral part of Misericordia," said Dr. Steve.

Music was a long-standing part of Misericordia that President Dan Myers wanted to bring back to the university as part of the current strategic plan, Mercy Thrives, which is to establish music performance and other co-curricular activities that would enhance the "Live @ MU" experience for current and future students. The Music Performance program at Misericordia offers instrumental and choral ensemble opportunities in varying styles. The program is an opportunity to create meaningful musical moments, connect with other students, and build friendships.

Another element to the return of music performance is the Misericordia University Concert and Lecture Series, which presents performances by outstanding world-renowned musicians representing a variety of musical genres. The program closely coordinates with the instrumental and choral ensembles to offer special masterclasses, workshops, and lectures by visiting artists. The program will create unique opportunities for student musicians to hear, observe, interact and perform with a variety of professional musicians and artist-teachers. All performances will be open to the public.

Learn more about **Music back at MU** and about director Marko Marcinko here:

misericordia.edu/campus-community/the-arts-community-events/music-performance

Photos: Marko Marcinko, above center. Other photos depict the music program over various decades.

We Stand Together



Misericordia University was honored when Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, human rights activist and daughter of Malcolm X, was the keynote speaker for a week-long Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Dr. Shabazz is an award-winning author, educator, and producer. She has authored five historical novels and has served as a project advisor for the PBS award-winning film *Prince Among Slaves* documentary. She is Co-Chairperson of the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center. In her work to preserve her parents' legacy, she has dedicated herself to institution building and intergenerational leadership development with the tenants of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Kas Williams, associate vice president for Mission Integration and Institutional Diversity at Misericordia, welcomed Dr. Shabazz to campus, stressing the importance for students to connect with history whenever possible, pleased that all in attendance were able to listen to the daughter of Malcolm X providing real-life context to what is presented in textbooks stating, that it is a "once in a lifetime experience."

Upon greeting all who gathered in Lemmond Theater, Dr. Shabazz explained there is a saying in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that "if you are not at the table, you are on the menu," noting that "at Misericordia, we work to create a bigger table for everyone to join." She both thanked and applauded Misericordia for their good work.

Speaking to members of the Misericordia and surrounding community in attendance, Shabazz reflected on the past as she expressed a need to create a "collective future." Dr. Shabazz shared that "young people need to create and protect their narrative." She explained that the narrative that has been told about her father and Martin Luther King Jr. has been, at

times, rewritten, putting the two activists on opposite sides when in reality, they were close, both sharing the same goal of challenging an already unjust world. While the two had different philosophies, one centering on human rights and the other focusing on civil rights, both are needed to accomplish our collective goals.

"We must teach our young people to embrace the values of literature, education, and responsibility, and we must instill in this young generation the importance of providing the same mentorship they are receiving to the next generation behind them so that we ensure a legacy of service is enriched and continues," says Shabazz.

Aliah McPhaul, manager of Diversity and Inclusion, felt that the experience has been one of the most exciting and rewarding times she has had since working at Misericordia University. She was part of planning the week long events for MLK Week and the entire Misericordia Community supported her along the way. "All the help and support from other departments that I had received made the week one to remember. I loved seeing how the campus and people from the local area had come together to show the support, love, peace, and strength that this community is striving for," says McPhaul.

"The biggest event that came out of MLK Week was the keynote speaker, Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz. When I first met Dr. Shabazz, I was in awe with her beauty, her grace, and how she resembles her father. She speaks proudly about the history of her father's experiences and the impact that he made and continues to make. It was a beautiful and empowering address, and we cannot thank Dr. Shabazz enough for coming here and sharing her father's story to the community," says McPhaul.

"As inequality still stands in the way of progress, Dr. King's words still ring true, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. Let us remember Malcolm's addendum to these words that still ring true: The moral universe's arc will not bend on its own; it requires individual and collective effort," Shabazz said.





"WE MUST WORK TOGETHER, WALK TOGETHER, AND STAND TOGETHER AND WE MUST CONTINUOUSLY SEEK TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND PUSH, TO FIND OUR WAY FORWARD TOGETHER, TO ADDRESS THE WOUNDS OF BIGOTRY AND CORRUPTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITIES."

Quinn Crispell

If You Can Dream It...

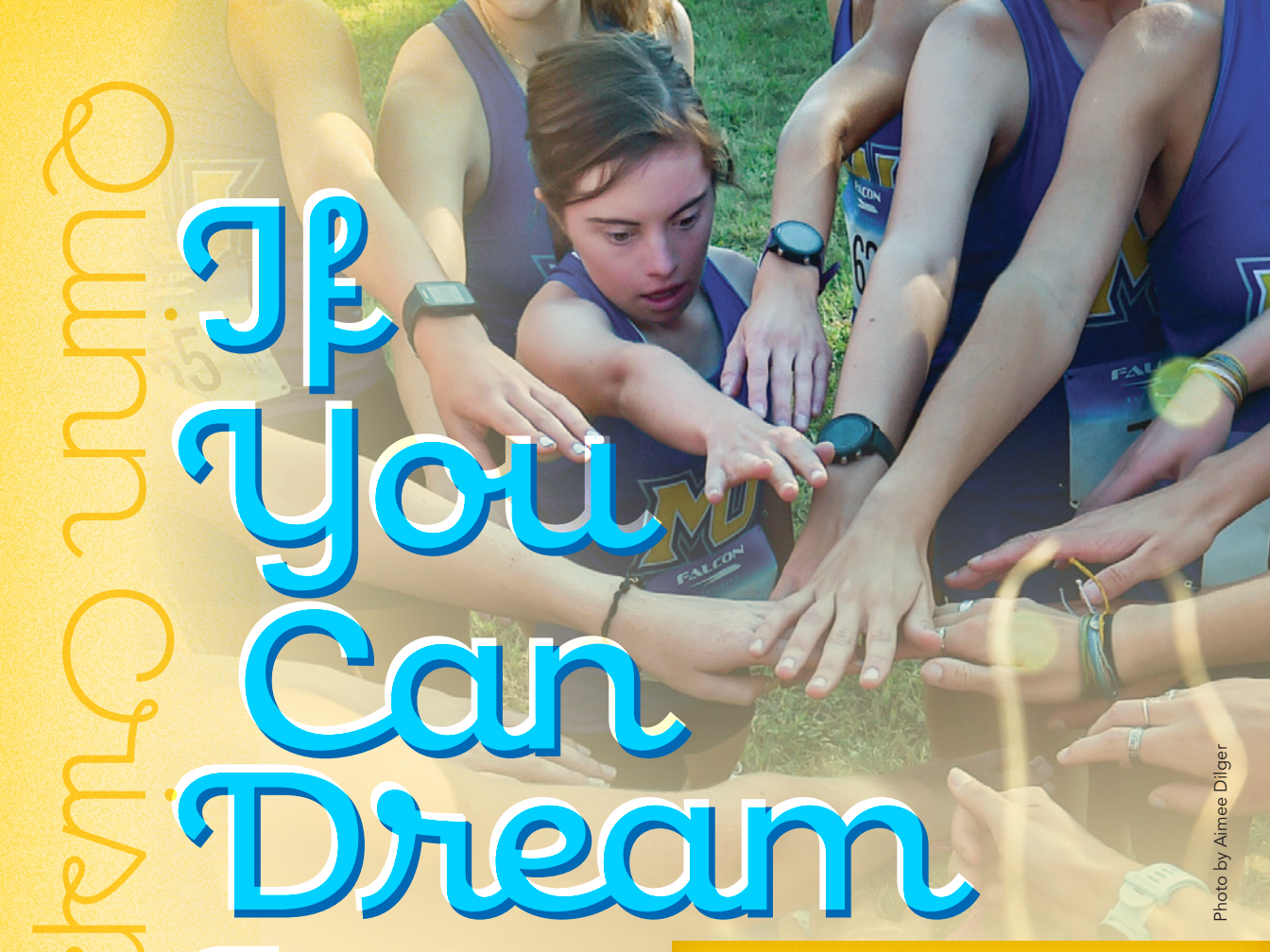


Photo by Aimee Dilger



Quinn Crispell is well known on campus and beyond as she captured the hearts of so many when we shared her story receiving more than 104K likes and 2.9K comments on Facebook alone. For those of you that do not know her story, Quinn is believed to be the first person with Down syndrome to compete in a varsity sport at the NCAA level as a traditional full-time student. To add to that, she has a GPA of 3.75 made the Dean's List and the MAC Academic Honor Roll, and ran in the National Down Syndrome Society's 3.21 Relay Race this year… Did we mention she said, "This is easy!"

She is seen running with her cross-country team across campus during practice and throughout the day, showing her dedication to the sport. "I love running and being part of the team! Even my one friend on the team was a teammate in high school." However, Quinn's favorite race was at Disney for the Princess 5k Race. "I really, really love Disney. You get to go through all the different countries and through Epcot, and it is really cool," said Quinn.

Quinn ran in the National Down Syndrome Society's 3.21 Relay Race to raise awareness about the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. The race was from March 17th to 19th, starting in New York City and going to Washington, DC. When Quinn returned from the race, the

women's cross-country team was ready to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st. All adorned in blue shirts, the women ran 3.21 miles in support of World Down Syndrome Day with Quinn.

Alexa Thompson is a graduate Occupational Therapy student and a runner on the women's cross country team with Quinn. Alexa has gotten to know Quinn this year and runs with her during practice and warm-ups. "Quinn is a very dedicated member of this team, and she always helps to uplift the mood of her teammates. Cross country is a very physically and mentally demanding sport, so having teammates who work hard while simultaneously having fun makes all the difference, and Quinn embodies this. We were all grateful to be able to run 3.21 miles with Quinn because she is such a vital member of this team, and she reminds us every day what it means to be a motivated, supportive, and competitive female athlete," said Alexa.

However, her time at Misericordia is more than running cross country; she is also a traditional full-time student. "I am taking a religion class. We are talking about Daoism and all these religions that are really interesting, but I also love my classes with Coach Wadas, too," said Quinn.

Crispell uses Misericordia's Alternative Learners Program (ALP) to complete her full-time classes. In 1979, ALP was the first program of its kind in Pennsylvania, started by Dr. Joe Rogan. Only a few similar programs are found in the United States. ALP is a structured program that goes beyond the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing additional support.

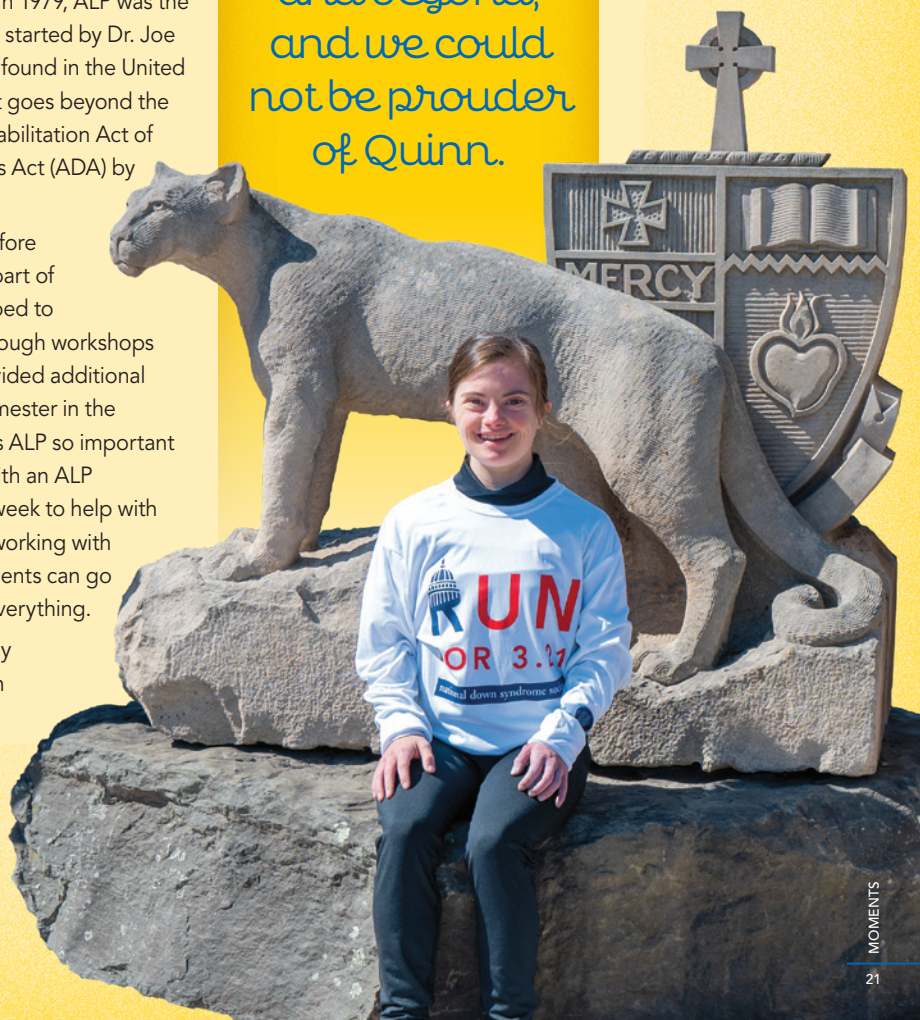
Students at Misericordia in ALP start before their first-year orientation in August as part of the Bridge program, which was developed to help students transition into college through workshops and socialization. ALP students are provided additional skills and strategies during their first semester in the Learning Strategies course. What makes ALP so important is that the students work one-on-one with an ALP Program Coordinator, meeting once a week to help with accommodations, academic planning, working with faculty, and socializing on campus. Students can go to their coordinators for anything and everything.

Misericordia University also offers many resources on campus to students, such as a tutoring and writing center and math labs, all of which Quinn utilizes to maximize her success in the classroom, along with ALP services. Her counselor is Jessica Aritz, M.S., coordinator of ALP. She meets twice a week or more with Jessica, always with a smile.

"Quinn has a sweet and kind demeanor that makes her easy to talk to and get along with. It's a delight to see her walking around campus and see other students stopping to say hi and ask how her day is going. Quinn is always excited to tell me about lunch with her teammates and friends. It has been a delight getting to know Quinn, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for her," said Jessica.

Quinn's favorite quote is from Walt Disney, "If you can dream it, you can do it." Just talking to Quinn, you can tell she follows her dream every day. You can see it in her smile, as she makes everyone's day just a little brighter. The message: Down syndrome does not make Quinn who she is, but rather something she has because she is a runner, friend, student, MU cougar, daughter, Disney fan, and an incredible person.

Her future is limitless at Misericordia and beyond, and we could not be prouder of Quinn.





MERCY THRIVES IN BELIZE

In January 2023, seven graduate students from the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia University boarded a plane to Belize for memories they would never forget. Joined by two faculty members who teamed up with occupational and physical therapy students from Alvernia and Bellarmine Universities during a service trip to Belize, the students would be greeted with a camera crew ready to share their arrival.

Speech-language students evaluated and treated patients with ages ranging from pediatrics to adult/seniors. Some patients and their families traveled several hours to meet with students in outpatient clinics, preschools, long-term care facilities, and community homes.

"It was a partnership between faculty, students, and the families we served. While the faculty and students were able to share our knowledge and medical experiences, the Belizean community taught us about not only their culture but the realization and understanding of the privileges that we have that they do not, including limited access to health care and other rehabilitative resources," says Adina Rosenthal, M.S., CCC-SLP, clinical supervisor and assistant professor.

The students that took part in the service trip will be graduating in May with their master's degrees and have many clinical skills that were put to the test, especially having to be efficient with their time to be able to see patients that had traveled great distances and wait in long lines for their services. Translating their experience to what they will bring to their professional careers moving forward, Rosenthal explained that students expressed that they now have a more robust understanding of the need to advocate for their patients' resources.

Speech-Language students Jenna-Leigh Marrone '23 and Kinsey Robinson '23 explained that working with patients who either don't usually have the opportunity to receive medical attention or who have to wait months to years to be

seen was highly impactful. Marrone explained that "it was an eye-opening experience of individuals and families waiting patiently for hours to be seen and expressing their gratitude when all too often people in the United States get agitated if we have to wait just a short time for an appointment."

Students also learned how to better communicate with the public and explain what services they could provide and the benefits of those services. Having worked within their academic disciplines but rarely in this public fashion, students also experienced speaking to the media to invite families who wished to be seen by the teams explaining the purpose of the trip, and how they could help them.

The Speech-Language Pathology Department at Misericordia plans to continue this trip yearly. The opportunity to help those in need falls in line with our charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and, Hospitality. Mercy thrives at Misericordia through our students, Jenna-Leigh Marrone and Kinsey Robinson.

Learn more about SLP



"While it was a culture shock to see how little the Belizean communities had, it was great to experience how appreciative and happy everyone was to receive just the small amount of services that we were able to bring."





JON GRYBOS '15 '22







Jon Grybos '15 '22 found his way to Misericordia to play soccer and for the outstanding academics that would prepare him to become a history teacher. According to Jon, the decision to become a Cougar was easy, leading him to his career today at the Shamokin Area School District in Coal Township, PA. Jon is a history teacher, history club advisor, and boys' varsity soccer coach for the school district.

When looking back at his time, Jon credits Allan W. Austin, Ph.D., professor of History, with influencing him the most. Jon describes Dr. Austin with great fondness. "I have a deep appreciation for the work he does and the way he teaches, which is very patient and judgment-free. Even after my undergraduate education was over, I would email him from time to time about history and current events. As busy as he was, and with no obligation to answer an old student, he would carefully and meaningfully respond," says Jon.

The ongoing connection between Jon and Dr. Austin continued with a class trip for his students to come to campus, meet professors, and experience classes. Dr. Austin has also donated his time to video conference the Shamokin History Club to discuss Japanese-American incarceration during WWII. "He truly embodies Misericordia's core values of mercy, service, justice, and hospitality," says Jon.

Noam Chomsky, an American public intellectual, also spoke to Jon's class on social studies topics and issues. "He was delighted to talk to young people interested in learning. Chomsky showed great humility by speaking to us, especially considering his busy schedule, all free of charge," says Jon.

Jon equates his success in the classroom to his education at Misericordia University. "My experience in the education program was superb. I felt well-prepared for the role and everything surrounding it. I felt confident with searching, applying, and interviewing for positions," says Jon.

If you are interested in viewing speakers Jon has had in the classroom:
youtube.com/@sahshistoryclub4664

For more information on our History and Teacher Education Departments:

misericordia.edu/history

misericordia.edu/education

"My education has been profoundly useful and still shapes how I teach today."

LAUREN LUONGO '15, '16

When Lauren Luongo, BS '15, MBA '16, first started at Fidelity Bank, she had no clue where that job would lead her. Now the Business Banking Relationship Manager at Fidelity Bank in Scranton, PA, Lauren attributes her continued success in the banking industry to both her degrees earned at Misericordia University as well as the many experiences that made up her time at Misericordia.

After graduating from North Pocono High School in Covington Township, PA, Lauren began working at Fidelity Bank as a call center representative. It was there that Lauren first began to think about a future career in business. Choosing Misericordia was an easy decision for Lauren, having a brother who graduated from MU and friends who also attended the school. She felt that the Dallas Campus was a perfect fit, being far enough away from home to be independent but not too far away that she could go home to visit. First entering as an undeclared student, she soon declared a major in accounting.

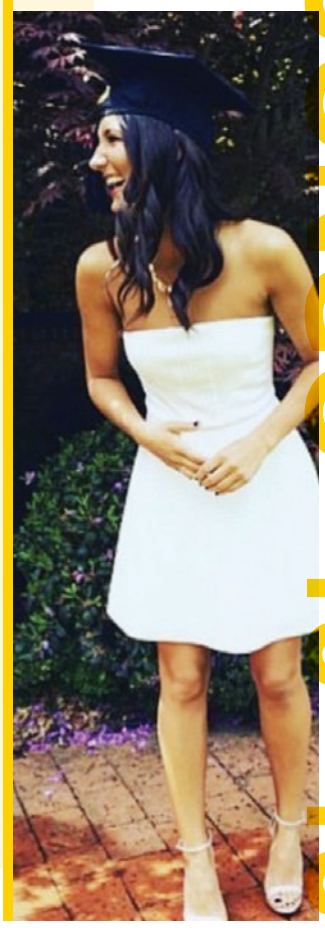
Lauren explained that the small class sizes, getting to know her professors, and everyone on campus getting to know her by name were essential parts of the learning process that friends of hers who attended larger schools did not get the opportunity to experience. "If I didn't have professors so open to meeting with me and interacting as they did, it would have been a nightmare," said Lauren, but that was not the case with her professors at Misericordia. Ultimately, the accounting program at Misericordia prepared Lauren to enter the workforce after graduating without the feeling that she was just thrown into the workforce but rather with the knowledge she needed to succeed.

Misericordia gave her the tools she needed to obtain the career she wanted and ultimately loves.

In addition to the academics, Lauren reflects on the great friends she made at Misericordia, with whom she still keeps in touch, along with coaches from the dance team where she served as club president her junior and senior years. Having also participated as a tutor in the Student Success Center, Lauren became acquainted with staff members, whom she recalls always being helpful and friendly.

Reflecting on her overall memories of Misericordia, Lauren shares that to this day, Misericordia feels like family. Her experiences cause her to always recommend Misericordia to those researching colleges and universities, stressing that Misericordia gave her the tools she needed to obtain the career she wanted and ultimately loves.





Dr. Christine M. German Scholarship Memorializes Inspiring OT Faculty Member



Pictured from left are Suzanne Luhrs, Christine's sister; Donna Luhrs, Christine's mother; Camryn Brown '22, '23, scholarship recipient; Richard German, Christine's husband; and Daniel Luhrs, Christine's nephew.

Misericordia graduate student Camryn Brown, OTS '22, '23 knew since she was 15 years old that she wanted a career in occupational therapy (OT). A former OT patient, she personally experienced what these therapists do to improve the quality of patients' lives.

What Camryn did not anticipate was the impact the late Assistant Professor Christine Marie Luhrs German OTD, OTR/L, ATP '02, '14, would have on her and her classmates.

Dr. German was a 2002 graduate of the Misericordia Master of Occupational Therapy program, and received her Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) in 2014. She began her career as a pediatric occupational therapist and joined her alma mater as a full-time faculty member in 2017. She passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 3, 2021, leaving a huge void in the lives of students, classmates, and colleagues across campus.

As a student in one of Dr. German's first classes, Camryn's favorite memory of the passionate educator was a session where one of her classmates suggested the nickname "Crissy G" as a joke, yet it stuck. The Sayre, PA native calls it the perfect nomenclature to exemplify the caring and personal attention Dr. German bestowed on her students.

In Dr. German's memory, her parents, Donna and Woodrow "Woody" Luhrs, and her husband, Richard German, endowed the Dr. Christine M.

German Scholarship to support graduate students in the OT program. "It is ironic that Christine never set out to be a professor and initially worked in pediatrics. But when the opportunity presented itself to teach at Misericordia, she thought it was a great way to promote careers in OT and inspire students," says Richard. "By establishing the scholarship, we felt there was no better way to keep that legacy alive. We directed the funding particularly to fifth-year graduate students, who may not be eligible for traditional funding."

Camryn is honored and humbled to be the scholarship's first recipient. In a letter of thanks to Mr. German, she writes, "Dr. German's love for OT was inspiring, and she made all of her students feel as excited as she was. She was personable and compassionate, always offering an ear to listen. I felt comfortable coming to her with any problem in my personal or academic life, and she was always quick to give advice."

A fervent student, Camryn has made the most of the career-preparation opportunities on campus, and has served as a member of the Active Minds mental health awareness organization, Cougars for Autism Awareness, the Misericordia Student Occupational Therapy Association, and as a volunteer at the Misericordia Autism Center. She will graduate in May with a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree.

"I will never be able to explain in words how much I valued having 'Crissy G' in my life," Camryn wrote. "She watered each and every student, causing our love for OT to grow. She is a huge reason I will work with pediatrics following graduation."

"As the first person in my family to graduate from college, this scholarship helps me immensely," she adds. "Through graduate school, finances become a stressor for many students, and any scholarship is beneficial to maintaining our title as student



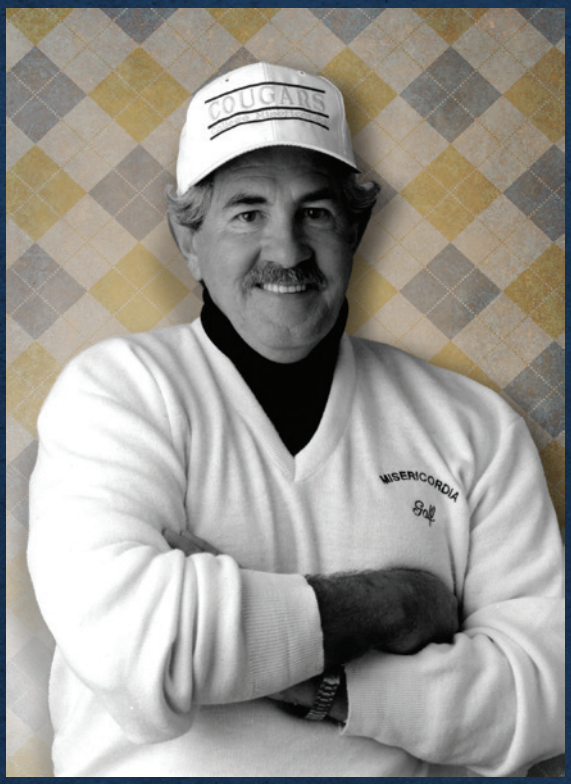
and adult. It becomes difficult to balance fieldwork, part-time employment, and personal life, so any acts of assistance are greatly appreciated. Thank you for aiding me in progressing towards the career of my dreams."

Camryn met with members of Christine German's family at the 33rd Annual Scholarship Recognition Brunch held on campus in April. The emotion-filled event brought together more than two dozen scholarship benefactors and recipients to share inspiring stories about the power of philanthropy.

"She watered each and every student, causing our love for OT to grow."

Camryn Brown, '22, '23

Donations in support of the Dr. Christine M. German Scholarship are welcome. For information or to make a gift, please contact Mark DiPippa, director of Development for Individual, Corporate, and Foundation Giving: mdipippa@misericordia.edu



Arnie Garinger

REMEMBERING

Arnie Garinger

Misericordia University will hold its 32nd Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, September 11th, at Irem Temple Golf Club, Dallas, PA. The tournament is held in memory of tournament founder and long-time Misericordia golf coach Arnie Garinger. The event benefits Misericordia University's 500 student-athletes in 28 varsity sports.

Arnie spent 30 years at Misericordia in various capacities during his tenure. What is most remembered about Arnie is how he truly embodied the charisms of Misericordia. He started the varsity golf program and served as its first coach with his co-coach, Jack Hoover. The duo led the Cougars to eight consecutive top-two finishes at the PAC Championships, including two titles. Arnie was named PAC Coach of the Year in 1998 and founded the Cougar Club Golf Tournament. The tournament now bears his name and has served as the primary fundraiser for Misericordia University Athletics for over 30 years.

His daughter, Amy Garinger-Brozena '84, said, "Arnie loved and adored Misericordia, golf, students, and athletics. We are honored that Misericordia carries on his legacy with this tournament to benefit student-athletes."

Charles Edkins, athletic director at Misericordia University also knew Arnie well, "Arnie would speak passionately about how growth in athletics would be a positive aspect for the college. He knew that athletics was headed in the right direction and advocated whenever asked or needed. Misericordia was extremely fortunate to have him as a member of a wonderful family community," said Coach Edkins.

32nd Annual Golf Tournament
in Memory of Arnie Garinger

Irem Country Club, Dallas, PA
Monday, September 11, 2023

Questions about golf or sponsorships? Call Paige May at (570) 674-6374.

Scan to register for the 32nd Annual Golf Tournament

ROTC



The Reserve Officers' Training Corps, more commonly known as ROTC, is a sometimes overlooked – but highly valued - part of the Misericordia University experience. Through this program in various branches of the United States military, students receive financial support to cover the cost of tuition, pay daily expenses, and gain access to additional free educational experiences, such as foreign language education and flight school. Upon graduation, they achieve officer rank and have access to additional career building experiences. Misericordia maintains affiliations with the United States Air Force and Army ROTC regional groups and has done so for decades.

Several Misericordia students currently engaged in ROTC are earning attention for their outstanding achievements. One need look no further than the praise they receive from their commanding officers. According to Army Lieutenant Colonel Jay Wenger, "I have seen students who are already leaders in their community - they are athletes, scholars, and give their time freely to help support and build others. For two consecutive semesters, I have selected Misericordia cadets to serve as our student commanders for Northeast Pennsylvania Army ROTC based on their ability to build relationships and inspire others."

Army ROTC Cadets and Misericordia students Zack Evans and Hannah Warner recently earned the Military Order of the World Wars recognition, a competitive award that considers several hundred cadets in the region. Evans is currently the top cadet for the class of 2024, and he will replace Christian Hess, another Misericordia student, as the cadet battalion commander next semester.



HANNAH WARNER
ROTC PARTICIPANT AT MU

Occupational Therapy student Hannah Warner '23 '25 says, "ROTC has helped me grow in confidence in who I am as a person. It has opened up so many opportunities for me, and I couldn't be more grateful for my time with ROTC."

"The disciplined focus and encouragement to excel both in ROTC leadership development and in all my academic studies, coupled with the tremendous friendships enjoyed with my fellow cadets, clearly made Army ROTC my most rewarding student experience while in College. It set the foundation for the privilege to serve my country as a military officer and assume great leadership responsibilities very early in my career," says James J. Pierson, J.D., CPA dean, College of Business, at Misericordia University.

Misericordia students Zulay Goya, a sophomore, and senior Collin Deckert are high flyers in the regional Air Force ROTC detachment. "Cadet Deckert was recently selected to commission into the U.S. Space Force," says Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Sarah Hedrick. "This summer, Cadet Deckert will attend Field Training, a rigorous boot-camp-style program where he will hone his followership, teamwork, and leadership skills. Then, he will have an immersion experience at Vandenburg Space Force Base, California. AFROTC Detachment 752 is proud of these cadets' accomplishments and we look forward to seeing their leadership and character develop even further through our program."

Deckert, a business administration major, and also represented the university as an intern at an innovative new start up, CompassNEPA, and spoke at the press conference in front of multiple elected officials from state government, media outlets, and dozens of other community leaders.

Scan for more information on ROTC at Misericordia University

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