# MOMENTS

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2023



MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# Misericordia means creating Moments in a community that you will forever call home.

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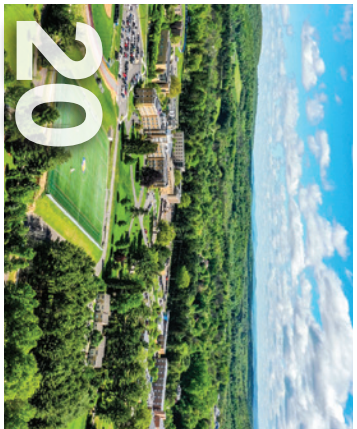





















# A Questful PRESIDENT



A quest is a journey. And, with an irony not lost on music fans, Misericordia's favorite "garage" rock band, Quest, plays Journey songs to the crowd's delight. Quest is the classic rock band formed by Misericordia University President Dan Myers, Ph.D., and four of his close middle school friends (three brothers and another) in Pulaski, New York in 1980.

After a 38-year hiatus (not for creative differences!), the band reunited upon Dr. Myers's arrival in Dallas, Pennsylvania after his "quest" to become our president. These old friends, Rod Jennings (bass and vocals), Jack Jennings (keyboards and vocals), Tom Jennings (drums), and Bryan Luce (guitar) comprise Quest.

"We are all very much into music," says Myers. "Music and shared experiences can form long-lasting friendships. Even though I moved around a lot after high school, this bond still remained. We've had so much fun these last two years performing some of our favorite songs from the 70s and 80s here on campus and in some of the very same places we first performed as youth in Pulaski," he adds.

That's one of the reasons why restarting Misericordia's music program was so important to the President. "We hope students who love to perform will keep that passion alive and form new friendships here that can last in the way our brotherhood in Quest has lasted," says Myers.



**Hear about the Quest Logo from Dan!**




## QUEST TRIVIA

- First paid "gig" was July 17, 1981 in a park in Pulaski, NY.
- Logo was hand drawn by Dr. Myers.
- Green was selected for the logo "because it was the only marker I had."
- First lighting rig was built with spare metal parts, painted coffee cans, and light bulbs controlled by flicking light switches up and down "to the beat."

# Welcome Week Fun

Many thrilling events highlighted Welcome Week 2023 at Misericordia University. Campus Life worked diligently to welcome all students back with an array of activities during the first week back on campus.

Students had the delightful opportunity to participate in "Stuff a Cougar," where they crafted their very own mini-Archie plush toys. The iconic archway was illuminated during "Get LIT at the Arch," providing a vibrant backdrop for memorable photos and evening enjoyment.



A photo of

Over at the Banks Student Life Center lawn, attendees relished in "S'mores on the Yard," gathering around a cozy fire to share stories and indulge in delicious treats. Additionally, students had a special day dedicated to whipping up delectable "Cougar Milkshakes." President Dan Myers and Campus Life hit a high note to finish the week with, COUG-A-PALOOZA!

Local bands, If Kansas Had Trees, and Into Sunday, were amazing opening acts for President Myers' band Quest. The night was filled with inflatables, food, and other refreshments. Handmade tie-dye Quest T-shirts were thrown into the crowd of students. Laughter and camaraderie thrived around cozy firepits as friends reunited after a long summer apart, as new students made new friends.

The Misericordia skies erupted with beautiful fireworks, for the grand finale. Welcome Week and COUG-A-PALOOZA were more than just a fun way to spend the week. It was a community celebrating together. As the fireworks faded into the night, Misericordia University embarked on a new year, ready for adventures after a week of fun!






# Uncovering the Secrets of a Spy

Brian Carso, J.D., Ph.D., associate professor of History and Government and director of the Honors Program at Misericordia, recently published a historical novel titled *Gideon's Revolution*. Published by Cornell University Press in September, the novel delves into the life and character of Benedict Arnold and tells the true but little-known story of a secret spy mission to capture Arnold following his treason at West Point in 1780.

Brian's interest in Benedict Arnold began when he was a law student and wrote a law review article on the Treason Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the only criminal law in this foundational document. Why, he wondered, was the matter of loyalty and betrayal elevated above all other crimes, and what did this say about the nature of a republic? When, after practicing law for several years, Brian pursued a Ph.D., he explored this question in greater depth and wrote his dissertation and a subsequent book on the topic, titled "Whom Can We Trust Now?" The Meaning of Treason in the United States, from the Revolution through the Civil War.

"Any book about treason in the United States must have a chapter on Benedict Arnold," Brian said. During his research on the famous traitor, he discovered a little-known secret plot conceived by George Washington to capture Arnold. "It was a daring mission that sent a loyal soldier on a feigned desertion to the British, working with a handful of Washington's spies in New York," Brian explained. "Ultimately, it

"This, Brian said, is where *Educated Historical Imagination* comes in."

failed when Arnold shipped out on a raid to Richmond, Virginia, just days before the spies would have grabbed him."

While a few details are known about the mission, much of it is unknown, and this, Brian said, is where educated historical imagination comes in. "I thought about writing a short academic article about the plot," Brian said, "but realized that a story about our great general turned traitor, with the spy mission at its heart, would make an exciting historical novel."

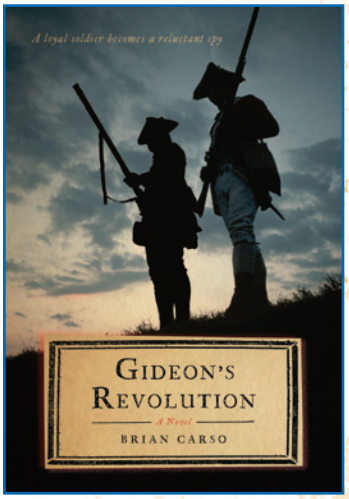
To prepare for writing his novel, Brian consulted a large number of eighteenth-century letters, journals, maps, and dozens of secondary sources on everything from invisible ink and secret codes to the food served on British naval ships. He also traveled to where the action happened, visiting places such as Quebec City, West Point, Saratoga, Ticonderoga, Norwich, Connecticut, Arnold's hometown, where his mother and siblings are interred in the colonial burial ground.

"I think the story of Benedict Arnold is a useful one. At various points in our history, and I think right now is one of those points, it helps to be reminded of the meaning of loyalty, allegiance, and our duties as citizens. What happens when we're faced with betrayal and treason, and how can our history inform the actions we take today? I think the story of Benedict Arnold has a real place in our current discourse because it is going to be a rough couple of years coming up," Brian said.

In a review, the noted historical novelist Thomas Mallon writes, "*Gideon's Revolution* is a lean, remarkable piece of historical fiction, beautifully paced and always plausibly voiced. Carso is imaginatively attentive to both war's horrifying violence and tender comradeship, and his novel is keenly effective at making us ponder how treason causes not just civic calamity but also deeply personal catastrophes."

Brian discussed Benedict Arnold and George Washington's plot to capture him with students, faculty, staff, and the local community at Misericordia on October 26th.

VISIT **briancarso.com** for more information on ***Gideon's Revolution***






DR. BRIAN CARSO

ALL THAT
**GLITTERS**
IS GOLD

# Gala

HONORING

## JOAN E. GREULICK, M.D., AND THOMAS W. BYRON, M.D.



Misericordia University recently bestowed the prestigious 2023 Trustee Associates Award upon Joan E. Greulick, M.D., and Thomas W. Byron, M.D., celebrated Back Mountain doctors. Recognized for over 30 years of generous support, their contributions at Misericordia span healthcare, the arts, and scholarships. Misericordia Athletics enjoys access to the family's 200-plus acres around their Dallas home. Their land hosts a top-tier cross country course integral to college and local high school meets.

Dr. Byron grew up with many family associations with the Sisters of Mercy, and his ties deepened through providing orthopedic care to Sisters of Mercy residing at the Mercy Center adjacent to campus. Dr. Greulick is a well-known pediatrician in the Back Mountain area and is known for her love of swimming. Eventually, both would foster collaborations, notably with Chuck Edkins, athletic director, catalyzing the evolution of Misericordia's cross-country course and their support of the swim, soccer, and cross-country programs.

Their illustrious careers trace back to medical school, where their paths first intertwined. Dr. Greulick's humanitarian efforts in Cambodia and Dr. Byron's orthopedic expertise have left indelible marks locally and around the world. Alongside professional achievements, their roles as benefactors to the Misericordia community stand as a testament to their generosity.

At the Annual Trustee Associates Gala on October 21st, President Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., lauded their unwavering commitment and profound impact on the university community. Their legacy is not only cemented through their support of Misericordia but also through their three children and six grandchildren.

Roger Howell, chair, Trustee Advancement Committee; Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., president, and Deborah Smith-Mileski, chair, Board of Trustees, pictured from left, present the 2023 Trustee Associates Award to honorees Joan E. Greulick, M.D., and Thomas W. Byron, M.D.

Scan for Video of Gala

# SUMMER AT CAMP

Samantha Lorito, a senior psychology student, had an inspiring experience doing her practicum at Camp Ramapo in Rhinebeck, New York. When researching Camp Ramapo, Samantha discovered the amazing communities and experiences they provide for young people with autism. She felt instantly welcomed when she was interviewed and said, "It was the best decision I had made, and I gained incredible skills and experience," says Samantha.

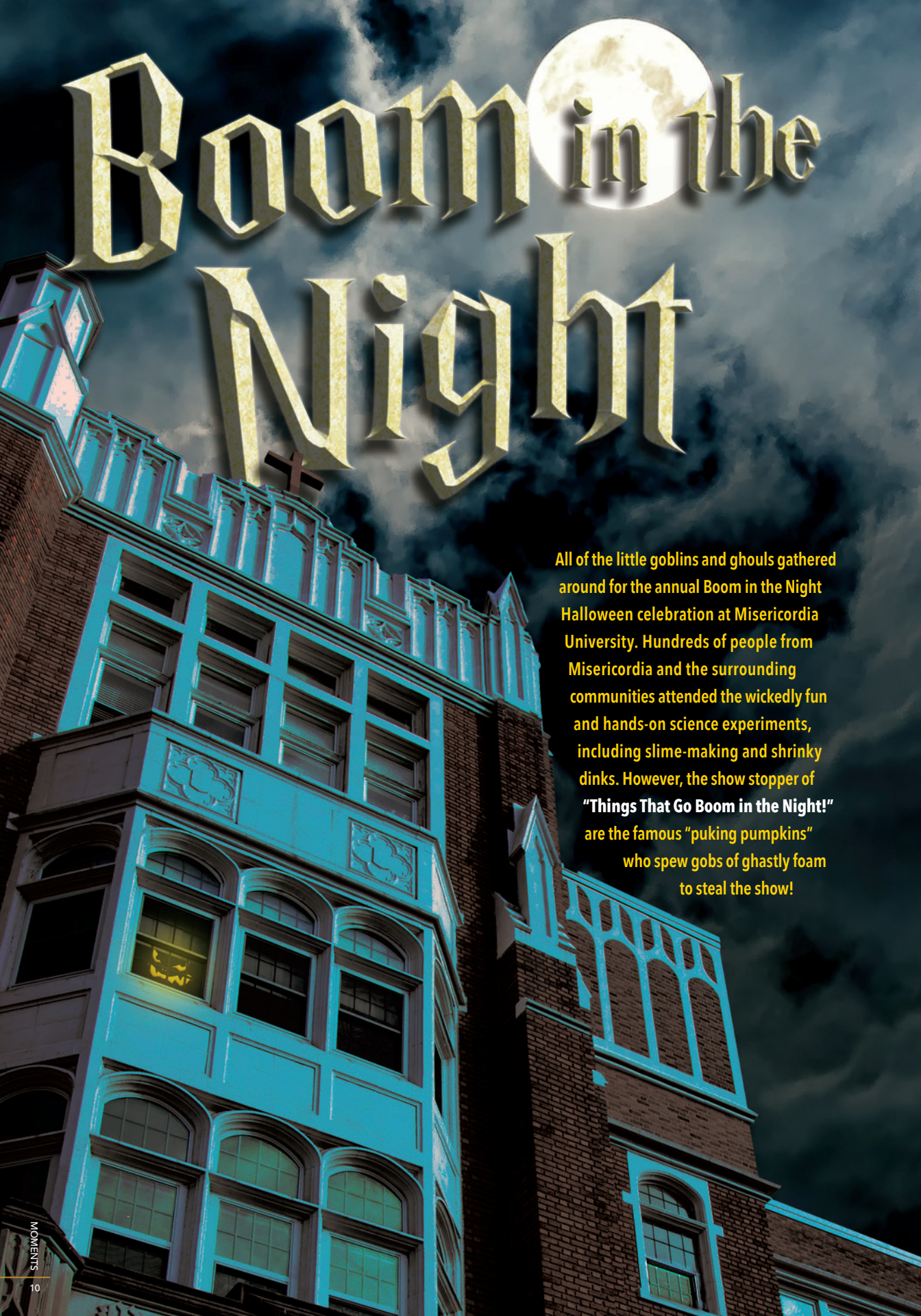
Samantha's responsibilities at Camp Ramapo ranged from lifeguarding to preparing campers for the day. As a lifeguard, she would spend the majority of the day at the pool. She kept a watchful eye on the swimmers, run swim lessons, and interacted in the pool with the campers. In addition to lifeguarding, she was assigned to a bunk with 5-7 campers. In the mornings, she and another counselor would prepare the campers for the day, including getting them dressed and going to breakfast. The campers would do a fun activity in the afternoon and later start their bedtime routine. Samantha recalls that it wasn't always as easy as it sounds. She says, "We often had to provide campers emotional support, especially during escalations. Sometimes the daily activities are a bit harder for some campers, and we always did our best to make it more comfortable and engaging for them." The camp had daily themed days. Samantha's favorite was Ramaween, Camp Ramapo's version of Halloween.

The psychology courses Samantha has taken at Misericordia helped her during her time at Camp Ramapo. The two courses that helped her the most were Child and Adolescent Psychology and Psychology in K-12 Schools. These prepared her with the knowledge of what children with autism present. She said, "These classes had given me a background about children with autism, and camp allowed me to apply that knowledge and gain even more experience."

Samantha's most impactful experience at Camp Ramapo was building relationships and connections with the campers. She said, "At first, it wasn't noticeable, but as the summer passed, I discovered that the campers and I had a connection like no other." The campers grew to trust Samantha, and she enjoyed watching them do their daily activities, such as swimming, fishing, competing in relay races, and zip lining. Samantha recalled a genuinely fulfilling moment: "There was a camper who had a hard time being in close proximity to people, and he often wouldn't let many people around him. By spending weeks with him, he would give me so many hugs by the end of the summer and even hold my hand with transitions around camp! Him being able to build that connection with me and trust me enough was fulfilling and rewarding."

# SERVICE RAMAPO






All of the little goblins and ghouls gathered around for the annual Boom in the Night Halloween celebration at Misericordia University. Hundreds of people from Misericordia and the surrounding communities attended the wickedly fun and hands-on science experiments, including slime-making and shrinky dinks. However, the show stopper of **"Things That Go Boom in the Night!"** are the famous "puking pumpkins" who spew gobs of ghastly foam to steal the show!



Misericordia's Dead Alchemist Society once again brought the fun-filled night to life as they do every year for a Halloween fright. The club, managed by Anna Fedor, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and presided over by senior Biochemistry major Olivia Vnuk, aims to promote science literacy in the community. It all started with Larry Pederson, Ph.D., a former professor in the Chemistry department. The club's name originated from the hit 1980s movie Dead Poets Society. Rather than meeting to discuss poetry, the Dead Alchemists Society wanted to share their love of chemistry. Boom in the Night was created and has become a long-standing university holiday tradition.

Boom in the Night was once a tiny event, run out of one classroom in the old science building. Over the past decade, the event has grown so much that it needed to be moved outside to the Wells Fargo Amphitheatre to accommodate the surging crowds. A fan favorite is the grand finale with puking, foaming, and sparkling carved pumpkins. Hearing the crowd's roar and laughter from the kids brings pride to the club members, knowing they are fostering a love for science in children of the area.



"Boom in the Night means a lot to the surrounding community. Parents and children will drive over an hour to participate in the event. It makes science engaging and fun! It allows the students in the club to explain the science. It also allows kids to see our students engaging in science demonstrations and may inspire them to pursue a STEM degree someday, like chemistry," said Fedor.

At this year's Boom in the Night event, as the final act drew to a close, the amphitheater was painted with glimmers of hope and fascination from all who attended. The Dead Alchemist Society had once again woven science and magic into an unforgettable spectacle, reminding everyone that learning could be as thrilling with the most mysterious spells. Parents exchanged smiles, witnessing the spark of curiosity ignited in their children's eyes. Boom in the Night celebrated Halloween and the enchanting dance between wonder and knowledge, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who attended.

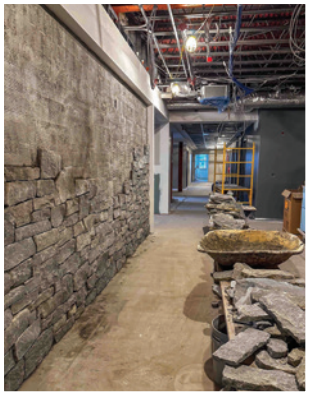
CHECK OUT WNEP-TV'S NEWS FEATURE ON BOOM IN THE NIGHT HERE:

# New Occupational & Physical Therapy Center Updates



## Key updates:

- Have floor finishes and cabinetry going in.
- Finishing painting of certain areas.
- On the finishing stages on the third floor.
- The second floor will follow after the third on completion.
- In the basement level will be the final piece.







The former Mercy Center is continuing to be transformed into the new Occupational and Physical Therapy Center at Misericordia University. Progress is moving along with the project manager of Facilities at Misericordia, Scott Gillam. This project is unique because it has been designed twice. The first was when it was originally planned for the Payne Building, but that would change again when the Sisters of Mercy decided they would discontinue their nursing services, and the university was able to acquire the space. That made the new center closer to campus, part of the campus safety loop, better parking, and closer to the Henry Science Center and upper campus.

"It has been a very exciting and unique project in the sense that OT and PT are two of our strongest and most important programs here at Misericordia. To be part of that, be able to help these programs improve, draw more students into the program, and to compete with neighboring schools in the area with competitive programs is a great feeling," said Scott.

**"I am always excited to see everybody come in on the first day and go, oh my gosh, this is fantastic. We are excited to have a new space for our Misericordia community to learn and be happy in new spaces. I think to use the space as we have designed it and get the most out of it will be so rewarding."**
**–Scott Gillam**

# 4 NEW SPORTS & COACHES!

## MISERICORDIA STUNT



TARA SINCLAIR, STUNT COACH

Through my years at Misericordia, I have learned that team unity and a positive atmosphere to work and grow are essential for our program's success. Our team motto is, 'we rise by lifting others', so it is appropriate for cheer because we're constantly lifting each other up. Still, it's not just in the physical sense; we are here to cheer and support each other. And it's a culture we've created. It's the practices and beliefs of the cheer program that I'll carry into establishing the stunt program here.

## MISERICORDIA ICE HOCKEY

We really want to bring in great people first. We can find talent, but having leaders and student-athletes who will represent the university on the ice, in the classrooms, and in the community is the most important thing when starting a program. I truly want our student-athletes to have an overall great college experience, on and off the ice. What we can build here will last far beyond their graduation from Misericordia.



KEVIN COLE, MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COACH

## MISERICORDIA WRESTLING

WOMEN'S & MEN'S



KEN CHERTOW, WOMEN'S WRESTLING COACH

Wresting in college was incredible, but the quality of education I received was tremendous. I am seeking student-athletes who are serious about their academic excellence to come to Misericordia. MU has a strong history of quality academics, and we want smart, hardworking, committed women who want to excel both in the classroom and on the mats…and ultimately in life.

From the moment I set foot on campus, I could sense Misericordia University's unwavering commitment to achieving excellence at a high level while providing its student-athletes with a world-class educational experience. That's precisely what I am enthusiastic about.



JOSHUA ROOSA, MEN'S WRESTLING COACH

# **STUDENT-ATHLETES** AT MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY WILL SOON GET TO LACE UP THEIR CLEATS AND **HIT THE TURF - INDOORS - FOR PRACTICE.**

Misericordia University maintains excellent athletic fields and facilities and is in need of more weather-safe indoor space to support a growing number of sports.

Last May, construction began to build a dome-covered turf field, scheduled to be ready for use during the Spring 2024 semester, just in time for winter weather. The 170 x 300 inside of the dome boosts a square footage of 56,100 feet. FieldTurf installed the turf, and the system is Classic HD.

Many people in the Misericordia community are thrilled about the addition of the dome, anxiously waiting for it to be ready for use by students and the local community. Athletic Director Charles Edkins, also known as "Coach" Edkins, said, "I am excited to see the finished product and, even more importantly, the enhanced experiences that it will provide for Misericordia students, student-athletes, and our surrounding community."

The dome will allow outdoor sports to host practices during winter when the outdoor turf fields are unplayable. Until now, those teams would turn






to the Anderson Sports and Health Center to hold their practices – often displacing other student recreational activities. With the dome inflated, students will have the advantage of a turf surface to practice on rather than adjusting to the hardwood in Anderson which is less than ideal for a variety of sports.

However, the addition of the dome benefits more than just student-athletes. It will provide many opportunities for the Misericordia community, such as building a more comprehensive intramural program across campus. "We will be one of the very few colleges and universities in the region and northeast that can claim a domed facility as part of its campus," said Coach Edkins.

The unique space will help separate Misericordia University from other colleges and universities, especially those in Division III. It is another step in Misericordia's commitment to invest in space on campus that is in great demand by students. Coach Edkins also anticipates requests from the outside community to use the dome, allowing the university to work with various local and regional organizations to bring additional guests to campus for a variety of activities.





# Cherished Moments:

*In the heart of Dallas, where the snowflakes fall, Misericordia stands, proud and tall. Where students gather 'neath the winter's glow, To learn, to lead, and let their wisdom flow.*

*Amongst pine and spruce, in cold's embrace, Our Misericordia community glides with grace. Bound by mission, in service they unite, Shining their light, in the still of the night.*







# A Misericordia Christmas

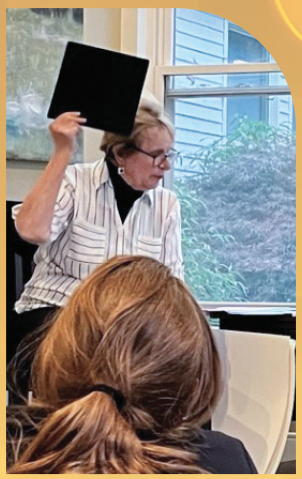
*The heart of mercy, beats strong and true, In every lesson, in all that we do. Championing justice, with love as their guide, At Misericordia, Mercy will never hide.*

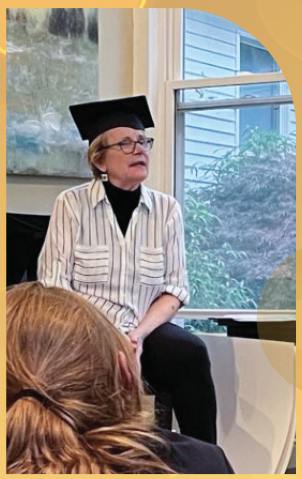
*Christmas at the university, a time of delight, With candles aglow, and stars shining bright. A community gathered, in joy and in song, Celebrating the season, where all hearts belong.*

*May the spirit of Christmas, and Misericordia's flame, Ignite in us all, a love without name. For in this season, with stars shining above, Misericordia means family, sharing Christmas love.*

# Empowerment Echoes







When first meeting Dr. Rosemary Gido, a Misericordia alumna and long-time donor, you quickly realize that you have made a new friend. Her outgoing personality is hard to hide. Likewise, it is impossible for her to mask her love for school and education. One of her early mentors, Sister Hildegard, picked up on that very quickly and ensured Rosemary would attend, then, College Misericordia to pursue her interests.

"I certainly did not have the financial opportunities to go to college or university. My parents were poor. No one in my family had ever gone to college. I loved school. I loved education. And I wound up graduating as my class's number-one business student. And then, from number one, become valedictorian of my graduating class," said Rosemary, who's love for Misericordia is just as obvious as her love for education in general.

This isn't a story about Rosemary's love for Misericordia, but rather how her personal experience living in poverty combines with her professional expertise to set a foundation for her return to campus. Rosemary's reason to return: a Master Course in Empowerment Storytelling with our student-mothers in the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program and to continue her poverty research.

Rosemary holds a Ph.D. in criminology and has taught at Penn State and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). In all her work as an educator or editor of Prison Life, Rosemary continually goes back to the roots of empowerment to help those dealing with systemic poverty.

The women in the program know her as "**Mama G**," and she exemplifies our mission in action. As the mothers gathered around her during a recent class session, she spoke about empowerment. The conversation was not an easy one, and so many emotions erupted during her talks. Empowerment is not something that is easy, and it can be hard to work through and find. Her goal is to help the mother find their voice and share it through their

choice of art to empower themselves.

"Our student mothers often search for role models, even heroes, that embody the work of championing the causes of social justice; the deep and unwavering commitment to confronting the persistent barriers of poverty, racism, and inequities in all forms," said Katherine Pohlidal, director of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program.

For Tessily Gregory '25, early childhood education major and student mom, the experience was fantastic and inspiring. She was captivated by Rosemary's story, and was glad she was able to speak to her personally and share her own story.

"The biggest takeaway from the course was finding who you are and what your story is without allowing another person's perception of you or your abilities to impact who you are and what you are capable of. She was able to share her story and allow each of us to look at our own identity and experiences. Dr. Gido also advocated that we independently come up with our own personal symbol to support our individuality and our story," said Tessily. Her time on campus left students inspired and empowered to be the women they knew they could be. The women walked away filled with an array of emotions, but at the end of it a light that will guide them to continue to seek education, opportunities, and a love of life.

> **"Where courage and knowledge meet, you will find Rosemary every time."**
>
> ~ Katherine Pohlidal

"The Sisters of Mercy did so much for Rosemary and for so many who have come before us. It is as if the long shadow of Sister Catherine McAuley echoes the resonating call for us to roll up our sleeves, dig deep, and walk with the communities that need us the most. Today, we are witnessing the living embodiment of Sister Catherine McAuley now in Dr. Rosemary Gido, a Mulier Fortis," said Katherine.

Rosemary is considered a symbol of love and never fails to share her love for education, compassion, and friendship as gifts to those around her. Anyone who has the chance to meet her will walk away with a friend for life.



# Under the Trees of Mercy

Like its founders, the Sisters of Mercy, Misericordia University teaches and practices the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. One of those critical concerns is that of the Earth and sustainability efforts. One aspect of sustainability on campus is maintaining the more than 130-acre campus grounds. The responsibility of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of campus falls to the grounds staff led by Laurie Finnegan, project manager of Facilities and Grounds manager.



From the moment you enter campus under the Arch, you are greeted by the pine trees that line the main entrance. Laurie explains that these pines are among the many rare and unusual tree species on campus, highlighting the presence of black gum trees, Kentucky coffee trees, and ginkgo trees, each contributing to the campus's natural diversity.

Scan the QR code to see a tour of these trees

Trees hold a special place in Misericordia's history, contributing to its identity for over a century. Laurie acknowledges the vital role of trees in the present as they provide a welcoming atmosphere for prospective students and their families. "I think people underestimate the power of trees. Trees are not just things in the background that are pretty; trees provide a function. They are helping to filter the air and provide shade. They provide a place for wildlife to live and an area for people to recreate. So, when people really start to understand the value of trees, they start to appreciate them more," she says. Laurie stresses the significance of tree sustainability for the future, emphasizing that preserving these giants is critical to the University's commitment to environmental sustainability.



Laurie and her team collaborate to preserve the campus's natural beauty. Among the numerous trees gracing our university grounds, Laurie delves into the intricate art of their maintenance and protection, focusing on ensuring their prosperity for generations to come. Turning the spotlight onto tree sustainability and the unique species thriving on campus, Laurie highlights our unwavering

"Trees are not just part of the landscape but an integral part of Misericordia's history and future."



dedication to this cause. Laurie sheds light on how our team diligently identifies and addresses concerns such as root damage and overcrowding, all aimed at revitalizing the health of ailing trees.

Pruning emerges as an indispensable practice for a tree's health. It ensures the structural well-being of our trees and enhances their aesthetic appeal, all while prioritizing the safety of our students and visitors. Laurie's overarching message resonates: tree maintenance is an artistry that reflects our university's resolute commitment to preserving its natural legacy.



There are challenges faced in maintaining trees on campus. The risk assessments conducted by arborists often lead to difficult decisions, as they must sometimes recommend the removal of our beloved trees due to decay or structural issues. Laurie shares her experience witnessing the removal of majestic oaks and white pines, acknowledging the emotional impact such decisions have on her and the campus community.

Despite the sorrow associated with tree removals, Laurie emphasizes the opportunity for renewal. "It is smart to care for our landscape and Earth, doing what we can. We all have a part in that. To me, it is really important," she adds.



What might not be well known is that the university diligently replants trees on campus whenever possible, ensuring our campus beauty is preserved. In the last several years the Laurie and her team have planted over 90 trees across campus. New white pines and other species are carefully nurtured, embodying the hope for a vibrant, green future.

In preserving the natural beauty of Misericordia University's campus, Laurie and her team exemplify the institution's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Their dedication ensures that the legacy of these trees continues to enrich the lives of students, faculty, and visitors, creating an enduring connection between the university and the natural world. As Laurie aptly puts it, "Trees are not just part of the landscape but an integral part of Misericordia's history and future."

# TAKE US OUT TO THE Ball Game!

Student Perspective by
Matthew Coates '25

While Yankee Stadium is 138 miles from Misericordia University, the team's connections to Dallas, Pennsylvania run deep. On Tuesday, September 19th, David Gargone, Ph.D., chair of the department of Business and associate professor of Business, led a group of eight Misericordia students in the Sport Management Association to Yankee Stadium.

I was among the lucky eight students selected for this trip and was thrilled with the prospect of seeing what gameday at Yankees Stadium looked like from a media member's perspective. Begrudgingly, I put my New York Mets fandom on the back burner and appreciated the fantastic opportunity in front of me.



Our group traveled east towards New York, arriving at Yankee Stadium just after 3:00 p.m., plenty early for the 7:00 p.m. start time. There, we were met by Misericordia alumnus Alfred "Al" Santasiere III '01, executive director of Publications, who has worked within the Yankees organization since 2003.

Once we got through security, we were given credentials to access the Press Box. Santasiere then took the group upstairs and gave a tour of the press area, including the seats for home and away members of public relations, the dining area for media personnel, the chalkboard that shows the starting lineup for each game, and radio and television broadcasting booths.

After taking our tour, we sat down with Al and talked about his journey to work in professional sports that started all the way back to his collegiate days. He spoke of perseverance in the job hunt as he sent out 100 letters of interest to teams for his first internship. He is far from those days and told us about his current work running Yankees Magazine, published monthly and solid at every game.

Al also introduced us to Mario Oliveri '10, another Misericordia graduate, and Michael Margolis. Mario is the director of Season Ticket Sales, Retention, and Service for the New York Yankees, while Michael is the team's senior director of Communications and Media Relations. They were all very informative and open with the group. They shared personal anecdotes and gave advice for breaking into the field of baseball and professional sports in general.




Unfortunately, the Yankees could not finish the evening with a victory. However, meeting and conversing with those working in professional sports was an incredible opportunity for me and the other students who attended. The Sport Management Association at Misericordia consistently sponsors trips like ours at Yankee Stadium. The goal is to get students experience and connections in the world of sports.



# Class of 1968 Shines

The Sisters of Mercy are undoubtedly smiling upon the Misericordia Class of 1968. The cohort is one of Misericordia's most active and supportive alumnae groups. Classmates individually and collectively have sponsored nearly a dozen scholarships.

When 1968 alumna Maria Grilli Gatta, the mayor of Oceanport, New Jersey, passed away in 2005, classmate Bettsi E. Jaeger wanted to do something special to remember one of her best Misericordia friends. Bettsi gathered donations from friends and family and began a scholarship fund for a student in Misericordia's Bourger Women with Children Program, a mission close to Maria's heart. The Maria Grilli Gatta '68 Scholarship was endowed in 2006.

Bettsi teamed with classmates Mary Lawless Denney, Louise Peele, and others to rally their contemporaries to start the Class of '68 Scholarship in 2008 to celebrate their 40th class reunion. Many individual scholarships by classmates followed. Jo Ann M. Wolinsky honored her parents with the John W. and Josephine Piazza Wolinsky Scholarship in 2010. Patricia 'Candy' Winner Farnan established the Farnan Family Scholarship in 2015, awarded to a junior who has made significant contributions to the campus in terms of leadership.

Establishing the Nancy Smith Lynch '68 Scholarship in 2016, Nancy stated that it was a way of giving back to a place that was and is very special to her. In 2018, Helen T. O'Brien established the Bridget Carney Scholarship in honor of her great-grandmother, and in 2020, supported a cause close to her own heart. She established the F.J. O'Brien Family Campus Ministry Servant Leadership Scholarship to help sevice-minded students offset the cost of participating in Campus Ministry and Mission-sponsored service trips, including the Young Mercy Leaders Conference, held in Ireland annually.

Mary Denney and her husband, John, established the Mary Lawless Denney Class of 1968 Health Sciences Scholarship in 2019. Most recently, the Joan Gallo Zamborsky '68 Scholarship was established by Dr. Kathleen Owens, former Misericordia president, and her husband, Attorney Donald Zamborsky, in memory of his late wife Joan. Preference is given to students majoring in biology.

The class's esprit de corps was most obvious when more than 50 of them fittingly came together at their 50th Alumni Weekend in May 2018 to dedicate a clock near the center of the upper campus. They raised money for the clock dedicated in memory to Bettsi, who passed away in 2016 and was remembered as one of the cohort's most active alumnae. The Bettsi E. Jaeger '68 Scholarship is awarded annually to a first-year student. It continues for three years if the student maintains good academic standing and participates in the life of the university, such as athletics, service and/or club activities.

"We would love to have more classes come together as a group or individually to support scholarship at the campus," says Mark DiPippa, director of Development for Individual, Corporate and Foundation Giving. "Gifts of all sizes, when directed toward scholarships, impact student lives for generations to come."

Alexa Lamoreaux ’24, was the 2022-23 recipient of the Class of ‘68 Scholarship, and offers heartfelt thanks to the benefactors. “It means a lot to me that someone is willing to make it easier for me to pursue my dream career. Whatever job I choose in psychology, my goal is always to help others and make a difference in other people’s lives. Thank you for all your help."

TO MAKE A GIFT, PLEASE SCAN:

MISERICORDIA.EDU/MAKEAGIFT

OR CONTACT MARK DIPIPPA:

MDIPIPPA@MISERICORDIA.EDU




*Celebrating their 55th Reunion during the 2023 Alumni Weekend, are front row, from left, Class of 1968 alumnae Theresa Loke Shellhamer, Janet Rugato Lehecka, Mary Beth Garey Farrell, and Anne Hurley Isip; second row: Mollie Gallagher McNally, Margaret “Peggy” Costin McCaffrey, Helen T. O’Brien, Elaine Fitzpatrick Evans, Mary Lawless Denney, and Marianne Brenner Borja.*

# MISERICORDIA SPOTLIGHT
# STAFF AND FACULTY

## Maureen Rinehimer



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN PHYSICAL THERAPY**
**DEGREES: PT, PH.D., M.S., MHS • 17 YEARS**

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?**

"What is there not to love about a university that welcomes ALL! The campus is in a bucolic setting nestled in the Back Mountain area of Northeastern Pennsylvania. In my opinion, Misericordia is the perfect setting and size with some awesome people. As Goldilocks said in The Story of the Three Bears, "It is just right!"

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

"It is difficult to pick just one. When I came to Misericordia from a health-related clinical world, it unfolded my ability to truly help others by allowing me to go on the service trips with students for campus ministry in Jamaica, NY state, and various parts of PA sites and with a colleague/ friend to Guyana. Closer to home, a year ago, I helped to arrange for parents of children with Down Syndrome to start and maintain a parent's group entitled "T21 and Me" on Misericordia's campus. PT students, Misericordia staff, and I are proudly helping this group plan the first Buddy Walk on our campus in October 2023."

**FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?**

"The whole campus is gorgeous and wonderful to explore. However, I am drawn like a magnet to the Pro Bono Clinic in the Passan Annex. In the Annex, I see infants/children who require physical therapy. My pleasure and passion are working and interacting with the infants/children, parents, and our DPT students with learning experiences, novel activities, and toys."

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

"I feel privileged to share this beautiful campus with faculty, staff, and students who aspire to the charisms of mercy, hospitality, service, and justice. They always say when prospective students are visiting a campus, they get a feeling that they know this is "The One." From the first day I drove to the university for the interview almost 9 years ago, I felt that this is "The One." The spirit of the campus exudes with individuals ready to lend a hand, volunteer, or offer kind words."

## Mark DiPippa



**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING • 8 YEARS**

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?**

"The relationships! I love to meet staff, faculty, and students, as well as our alumni and friends. I am blessed to be able to travel all over the United States to personally visit our alumni. I enjoy having lunch, and dinner, exploring new cities, and sharing all that is new at Misericordia with our alumni and friends. "

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

"I have so many amazing stories from my travels to visit alumni that I could write a book. I have shoveled snow for an alumna, swapped out a storm door, changed a ceiling lightbulb, and walked the garbage cans and mail from the end of an alumna's driveway. The most memorable story is watching a young man graduate after having many struggles in his first year on campus. During his time at Misericordia, he often stopped in my office to talk about sports or life. I was proud of him when he walked across the stage at graduation!"

**FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?**

"I can't pick one place. Our ENTIRE campus is beautiful and so well-maintained. Our alumni and friends comment that we have one of the most spectacular college campuses. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep it amazing. "

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

"Our charisms resonate with me, especially our call to service and hospitality. I know nothing is perfect, but daily, I see how we all extend hospitality to others and serve people to raise the greater good of humanity. It could be holding a door or gathering to share a meal with students or colleagues. The spirit of our community is palpable, and I am proud to be part of the Misericordia team."

# McAuley Market






Misericordia University's McAuley Market is a food pantry that serves students, staff, and faculty. In the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, the market operates under the tenets woven into the fabric of Misericordia, including our core values of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality. In the United States, a surprising 40 percent of college students identify as having food insecurity; at Misericordia, the purpose of the market is to address those issues.

The market, named McAuley Market to honor Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, assists members of the Misericordia family who may be facing challenges. Lindsey Riddell, assistant director for Mission, Ministry, and Service, explains, "I value being a part of a project that fights the stigma around food insecurity. When students are stressed about academics, volunteerism, athletics, and leadership expectations, they should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. At Misericordia, we are happy to do our part to reduce that concern. Feeding someone who is hungry is always the right thing to do."

Items offered include toiletries and non-perishable food items, such as peanut butter, pasta, rice, cereal, soups, canned vegetables, granola bars, nuts, and other healthy snacks. The pantry, located on Misericordia's Dallas Campus in McAuley Hall, is open by appointment upon request of the Mission, Ministry, and Service office. If you'd like to make a donation to the market, please call **570-674-8041.**

# DEEPENING THE ROOTS OF PHILOSOPHY IN PANAMA




In an effort to improve his teaching of comparative philosophy, deepen his understanding of Zen thought and practice, and help Misericordia students examine their own religious traditions, Matthew Swanson, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, took part in a symposium on the philosophy and practice of Zen Buddhism in Panama. It was the second time Dr. Swanson was invited to present at the CoZen Symposium, held this year at the Istmo Retreat Center on Panama's west coast in May 2023. He shared his expertise with scholars and researchers from around the world in an intense six-day study of Asian thought and philosophy. He also participated in daily Zen practice led by Professor Bret Davis, Ph.D., T. J. Higgins S.J. Chair in Philosophy, Loyola University Maryland, Zen Sensei, and one of the world's leading experts on Kyoto school philosophy and Zen Buddhism.

"As both a researcher and practitioner of Zen Buddhism, I want my students to be able to explore and understand the connections between the theoretical and practical aspects of this tradition and to reflect on the similarities between different religious and philosophical traditions in general," Dr. Swanson adds. "Hopefully such reflection will also help deepen their understanding of their own tradition."

Dr. Swanson's travels included a second scholarly stop in Bogota, Columbia, where he took part in the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle (CCPC), sponsored by the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. CCPC is an international discussion-driven philosophy circle that meets each year and publishes the peer-reviewed "Journal of Comparative and Continental Philosophy" three times a year.

A member of the Misericordia faculty since 1995, Dr. Swanson presented a paper at CCPC entitled "Humbly Thinking Emptiness: Exploring How Not to Know." He holds bachelor, master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and specializes in comparative philosophy, social and political philosophy, 19th century philosophy, and ethics and phenomenology.

"At Misericordia, the Philosophy Department has always been united in the idea that genuine philosophy is not just an academic exercise, but ought to have an actual impact on the way we conduct our day-to-day lives," explains Dr. Swanson. "This is something we have always striven to embody and share with our students, and I see participating in the CoZen symposium as continuing in that tradition."



# PHILOSOPHY OUGHT TO HAVE AN ACTUAL IMPACT WAY WE CONDUCT OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES."

*Matthew Swanson, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, left, discusses the book, "An Inquiry into the Good," by Japanese philosopher Nishida Kitaro, with fellow presenters at the CoZen Symposium in May 2023.*

# NIKO AMITY '18 '19



Growing up in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Niko Amity, '18 '19 chose Misericordia University to earn his undergraduate and graduate degrees because of the small class sizes, faculty, and coaches he met while visiting campus. "The people I met knew my name; I wasn't just a number on their list," stressed Niko.

As a business student working towards his Bachelor of Science degree, Niko decided to continue his education, obtaining a Master's in Business Administration (MBA). Niko explained that he became close with the faculty and coaches, having played soccer for four years. "Continuing at Misericordia to earn my MBA was a no-brainer given the quality of the courses and the experience of the faculty."

People may think that living and receiving your education locally leaves you with a sense that you might only work for a small company once you graduate, but that is not the case. "Through both of my degrees, Misericordia prepared me to work towards and earn a leadership role at Darktrace, a cyber security company headquartered in Cambridge, England.



As a customer success leader, I work remotely with my team and find that even today, I use the information I learned and my experiences through MU's business department in my role at Darktrace," says Niko.

"One of my favorite memories at Misericordia is playing soccer. Some amazing coaches coached me; the team members were like my brothers.

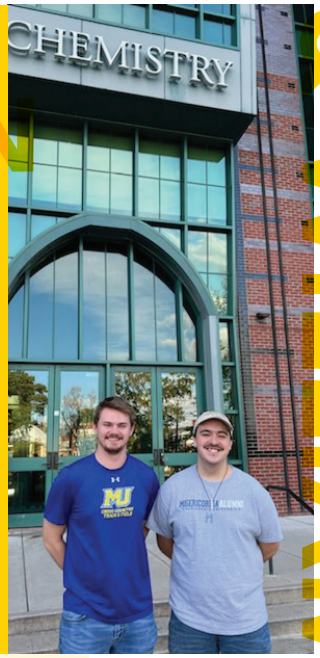
In addition to a fantastic athletics program at MU, I enjoyed the service-learning classes," he says. In these classes, students work with local small businesses or non-profit groups, which Niko stresses as a benefit prospective students should consider if they are entering their college search.

Niko was very involved on campus and explained how students need to explore all that there is to do on campus. "There are so many opportunities to take advantage of if you call MU home. Between all the activities, sports, and classes that prepared me for the real world, I can say that choosing Misericordia…I wouldn't change anything."

# KYLE BOHLIN & WILLIAM FAUNTLEROY

A Misericordia University friendship is like no other, and that is more than true for alumni and recent graduates William Fauntleroy '23 and Kyle Bohlin '23. They both received Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemistry, but their friendship took them farther than the archway. They embarked to the University of Connecticut (UCONN) together to continue their education with graduate degrees in Chemistry.

> "Our friendship is proof that Misericordia builds a lifelong community of friends and family through its welcoming atmosphere.







William explained that they realized how similar they were during the ten weeks of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program (SURF). Both hailed from Northeastern Pennsylvania, are first-generation college students, and have a similar research interest in food science. While at Misericordia, William and Kyle carried this bond with them throughout their undergraduate experience. When deciding on where to go upon graduating, they both selected UCONN.

William shared, "The one thing that has made this process much easier has been getting an apartment with Kyle, which has allowed me to ease into dorm life much and constantly have a reminder of home and the people I know."

When looking back at their experience at Misericordia, they credit Anna Fedor, Ph.D., professor of Chemistry, for influencing them. Kyle believes, "No other chemistry professors could reach me in the same way that she did, and I am so grateful for everything Dr. Fedor has done for me. I would not have gotten better opportunities without her." They also credit Charles Saladino, Ph.D., and Dr. John Morgan, Ph.D., for helping them get to where they are today and to their new chapter at UCONN.

When looking back on how Misericordia helped to shape their friendship, Kyle explained, "Our friendship is proof that Misericordia builds a lifelong community of friends and family through its welcoming atmosphere, and no matter the background or interests a person has, Misericordia builds a familiar community for all to feel safe and build friendships that will last a lifetime."

# Hall of Fame 2023

**The prestigious Misericordia Athletics Hall of Fame opened its doors to induct a new cohort of exceptional athletes. The event, amidst much fanfare and excitement, saw attendees from various athletic programs reunite, reminisce, and recognize their outstanding achievements. This year's honorees are:**



### ANDY BUSH '13 '15

- Four-time first-team All-MAC Freedom selection in men's soccer.
- MAC Freedom Player of the Year & Misericordia Wendy's Athlete of the Year (senior).
- Two-time ECAC all-star. Three-time all-region selection.
- MU career leader: 48 goals and 117 points. Ranks fifth: 21 assists.
- Senior year: 40 points, third-highest single-season total in school history.

### KENNY DURLING '13

- Three-time first-team All-MAC Freedom selection (outfielder).
- Two-time all-region selection. Third-team All-American (senior year).
- MU career leader: 175 RBI, 405 total bases, 63 doubles.
- Ranks second: 234 career hits, 30 homers. Ranks third: Slugging % (.630). Ranks fifth: Batting average (.364).

### SAMANTHA (HELMSTETTER) POCOROBA '12, '15

- Four-time first-team All-MAC Freedom selection in women's soccer.
- Two-time Player of the Year.
- Senior accolades: All-America, all-region, All-ECAC.
- Misericordia Wendy's Athlete of the Year.
- Career leader: 34 assists. Ranks third: 122 points. Ranks fifth: 44 goals.

### MARINA (ORRSON) MARTINO '13

- Four-time first-team All-MAC finisher in cross country.
- MAC runner-up as a junior; third-place as a senior.
- Earned all-region status three times.
- Top finisher in every meet for three seasons.
- Track & Field: MAC runner-up at 800m and 1500m, and NCAA qualifier at 10,000m.

### SHANNON (TINKHAM) KOSTUK '10

- All-time leader: 176 career goals.
- Ranks third with 202 career points.
- Rookie of the Year as a freshman
- First-team All-PAC selection and Second-team All-PAC as a sophomore.
- Holds three top-10 single-season goal records in school history.







# MU 20 HOMECOMING 23

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended Homecoming 2023. Witnessing old friendships rekindle and as new memories blossomed on campus was truly special. We hope you cherished every moment, as much as we did!











## ALUMNI EVENTS

**Alumni Calendar:**

**MU Alumni Facebook:**

### PLACES WE ARE VISITING:

**JANUARY**
**Charlotte, North Carolina**
Kick off the New Year by reconnecting with MU Alumni in the picturesque state of North Carolina!

**FEBRUARY**
**California**
Join us for a memorable Alumni gathering in the Golden State!

**MARCH**
**Florida**
Feel the warmth of both the Florida sun and the company of our MU Alumni & Friends.

### EVENTS TO ATTEND:

**MARCH**

**Volunteer – Cheers to Alumni:** Thursday, March 21, 2024
Celebrate the May 2024 graduating class – Volunteer and make this event special for our newest Alumni!

**Giving Days:** March 26-28, 2024
Your generosity has the power to transform lives. Every gift, no matter the size, creates a ripple of change. Join us online for our annual Giving Days – MU Alumni, parents, friends, faculty & staff impact the dreams and aspirations of our students and enrich our programs.

**STAY TUNED!**

**Reunion Weekend: A Dual Celebration Awaits at Misericordia!** We're excited to honor our 100-year legacy while reuniting with our cherished alumni who are at the heart of our celebration. We're not just commemorating a century of academic excellence; we're celebrating YOU – Misericordia Alumni who have shaped our legacy. Your presence will turn this centennial into an unforgettable chapter in our university's history. Reunion Weekend events are being planned with you in mind and will be announced soon. You won't want to miss this memorable blend of history and reunion!

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