MOMENTS

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2024



A century of Moments that lasts a lifetime.

Editor in Chief: Kaitlin Hall

Writers: Maureen Cech, Kyle Dooner, Kaitlin Hall, Marianne Puhalla, Alicia Stavitzski, and James Roberts

Student Writers: Matthew Coates and Kelly Williams

Graphic Design, Layout, and Printing by Cougar Prints: Janice O'Brien and Heather Outwater

For compliments or comments on the magazine, please email moments@misericordia.edu

For information on donations, please get in touch with Lailani Augustine at laugustine@misericordia.edu

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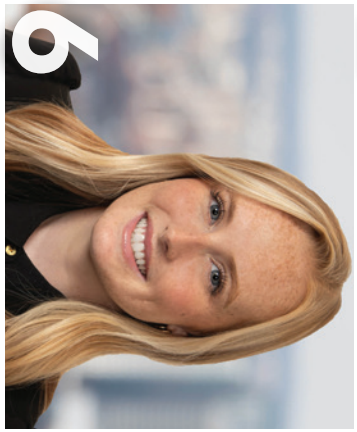
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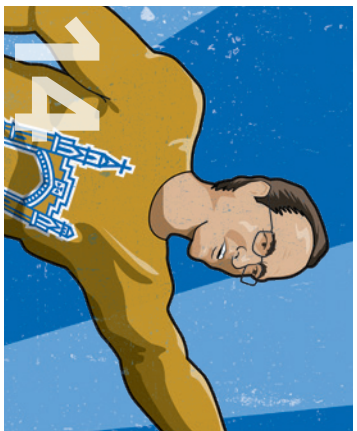


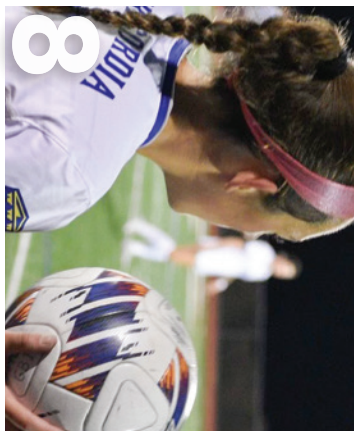




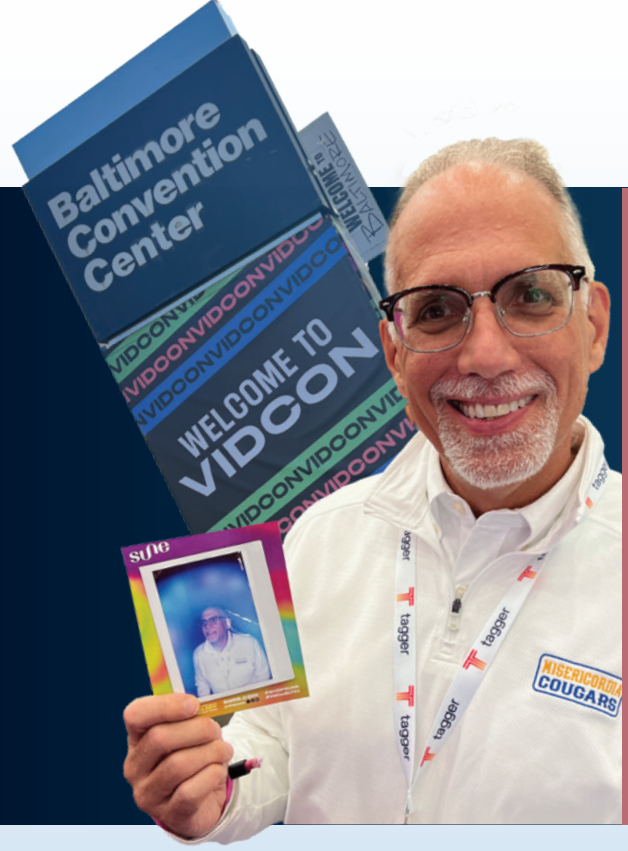












A DIGITAL DIVE WITH A HEART: PRESIDENT MYERS' JOURNEY AT VIDCON 2023

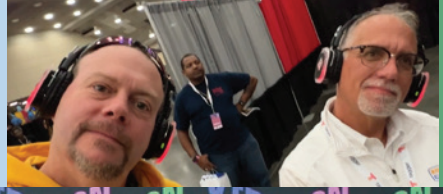
In a blend of digital innovation and heartfelt philanthropy, Misericordia University's very own President, Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., embarked on an unforgettable journey to VidCon 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland last fall. This expedition was a rare, in-person foray by a university president into the dynamic world of social media and digital content creation as well as a platform to share our institution's core values with the world. Myers is one of the very few college presidents with their own dedicated TikTok social media account.

At the heart of VidCon, amidst the buzz of content creators, influencers, and industry moguls, Myers dove into the digital arena with a mission to elevate Misericordia University's presence in social media. His quest led him to a memorable encounter with The Trills (@thetrillsmusic), a group renowned for their harmonic convergence of music and social media magic. Together, they explored innovative strategies to enhance the university's digital footprint.

It was not all business for our intrepid explorer. Myers also immersed himself in the culture of VidCon, partaking in a silent disco where a large group embraced unity, music, and dancing through headphones, not loudspeakers. In a more serene adventure, he swam with dolphins, an encounter that reminded everyone of nature's wonders.

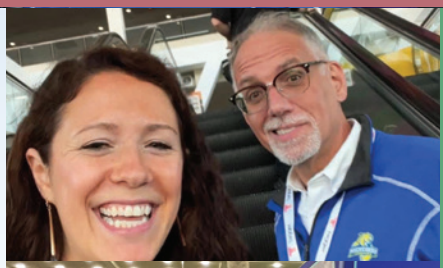
Amid the digital dazzle and aquatic adventures, Myers also met with representatives from Save the Children Fund, global leaders in child health, education, and protection. Myers has sponsored children for over 25 years, including seven currently, through this fund. This meeting underscored the importance of leveraging digital and personal platforms to advocate for those in need.







The President's VidCon odyssey helps Misericordia University map new marketing and communications tools. Myers and members of the Marketing and Public Relations Department ventured beyond the traditional boundaries of academia to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of digital content creation. It was more than just a journey; it was a mission to intertwine Misericordia University's core values of mercy, service, justice, and hospitality with the boundless potential of social media. Together with social media influencers, they explored how these platforms can enhance the university's digital footprint and serve as powerful conduits for good. Every encounter, from the harmonious collaboration with 'The Trills' to the meaningful discussions with 'Save the Children Fund,' reminded him and the team of the profound impact of leveraging both digital and personal platforms to champion the causes that matter most.









@PRESDANMYERSMU

Rita Adamchick Morath '45

Misericordia's oldest living alumna shares 100th birthday with Misericordia

At 100 years young, Rita Adamchick Morath '45 vividly remembers when all classes at Misericordia were held in the Administration Building, now named Mercy Hall, and a glass-enclosed passageway offered access to the only dorm, McAuley Hall. Misericordia's oldest known living alumna was absolutely thrilled to share memories with University Advancement staff members Mark DiPippa and Joe Musto, during a recent Centennial-inspired visit in Virginia.

The gathering included a FaceTime call with Misericordia President Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., when the chemistry alumna shared amazement at how the college has grown over the years. "I was shocked to see how it had so tremendously grown when my daughters brought me to campus," she offered. "Dr. Myers, you are doing a good job!"

Rita is the mother of three daughters, two of whom followed her footsteps to Misericordia. Mary Alice Morath Godfrey '70, known as Alice, majored in home economics and lives in Hillsborough, New Jersey, and Phyllis Morath Christ '76, of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, earned her degree in elementary education. Rita lives with middle daughter Jane Morath Atwell, and her husband Bob, in their home in Springfield, Virginia.

Rita's first-hand account of campus in the 1940's came easily. "I went to Misericordia because I was offered a scholarship. We only had about 30 students in my class, and everything happened in the Administration Building. It was where the Chapel, cafeteria, and auditorium once were… and there was one section where the nuns lived."

A favorite memory? "I enjoyed attending the May Crowning ceremonies in the grove. We would sing and I knew all the Blessed Mother songs. I loved Misericordia and think back to my time there often," she adds.

Based on alumni records, Rita is Misericordia's oldest known living alumna, and was on campus through much of World War II. She was shocked when

Hi, Misericordia. You and I have something in common - 100 years! It's so nice to meet you again. Happy Anniversary!



President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in April of her senior year. Germany surrendered that May. Her demeanor turned sad when mentioning the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that followed that summer.

Rita fondly remembers friends Rosalie Guido '45, Irma Luchi Chilson '45, and Sophia Wroble '45, excitedly pointing them and herself out in pictures discovered in the Misericordia archives. "I was an officer of the Women's Athletic Association, played basketball and helped start the field hockey team…and I was in every play, even if just a walk-on."

At a time of few women chemistry majors, Rita spent her summers working for American Cyanamid Chemical Company near her home in Bound Brook, New Jersey, and was hired fulltime after earning her bachelor's degree.

She and fellow Cyanamid chemist Joseph Morath married in 1946. As was common at the time, she put her career aside to start a family. Once their daughters were in school, Rita returned to work and retired in 1988 after years with the New Jersey Department of Labor. A love of travel punctuated her life with destinations including Slovakia, China and Israel.

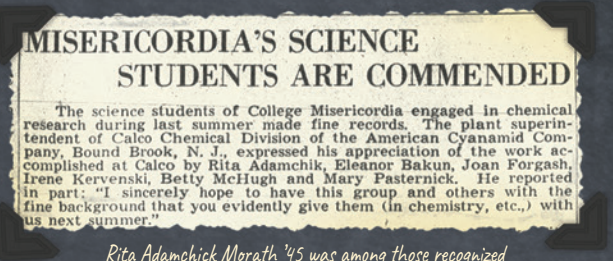
"We are so blessed to have her for our mom. Our children and her great grandchildren have enjoyed her warmth and intelligence. Misericordia played a very important role in her journey through life. So grateful for the college being there for her and myself," offered Alice.

"As excited as we were to meet with Rita in celebration of Misericordia's own 100th anniversary, her family says our visit put a pep in her step and brightened her day," added Mark. "She is absolutely amazing, and was excited to learn there are only about 101,000 centenarians in the U.S. – just .03% of the population. She is a rare gem. Age 100 sure looks good on her."


MISERICORDIA SPORTS HEADS

WAA of College Misericordia, Dallas, has elected heads sports departments as follows for the next term: Left to right: Margaret Davis, Mary King, Rita Adamchik, Rosalie Guido.

Rita Adamchick Morath '45, representing the basketball team, second from right, was named one of four officers of Misericordia's Women's Athletic Association in 1944.


MISERICORDIA'S SCIENCE STUDENTS ARE COMMENDED

The science students of College Misericordia engaged in chemical research during last summer made fine records. The plant superintendent of Calco Chemical Division of the American Cyanamid Company, Bound Brook, N. J., expressed his appreciation of the work accomplished at Calco by Rita Adamchik, Eleanor Bakun, Joan Forgash, Irene Kervenski, Betty McHugh and Mary Pasternick. He reported in part: "I sincerely hope to have this group and others with the fine background that you evidently give them (in chemistry, etc.,) with us next summer."

Rita Adamchick Morath '45 was among those recognized by American Cyanamid Chemical Company officers stating how glad they were to have well-educated Misericordia women working for them each summer.


RITA EUNICE ADAMCHICK
B. S.

MAJOR: Chemistry.
MINOR: Mathematics.
Activities: Sodality, N. F. C. C. S., W. A. A. (Secretary), May Queen Attendant, Who's Who, Pasteur Chemistry Club, Mission Unit.

Rita Adamchick Morath's 1945 yearbook profile included her extensive list of activities.



Scan to view the video

Rita Adamchick Morath '45 shared stories of her time on campus with Mark DiPippa, Director of Development.

Danielle Clifford '20



Graduating at the height of the pandemic, the spring of 2020 was difficult for many students. However, Misericordia University graduate Danielle "Dani" Clifford did not let that stop her from succeeding. She excelled at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law. Just this past year, Dani earned a job as an associate at Troutman Pepper, a nationally known law firm with more than 1100 attorneys and locations in more than 20 U.S. cities.

Dani went to Misericordia as a Sport Management major with no plans to attend law school. However, she showed signs of an interest in law from an early age. "I was always leaving 'contracts' that I drafted around the house negotiating a later bedtime," Dani recalled.

Those signs were quite apparent to Josuha Winneker, J.D., professor of Business. He pulled Dani aside and recommended she consider law school.

"As homework, Professor Winneker told me to research the professionals that I wanted to be someday. He asked me what they all had in common. I reported back, 'They all had a J.D. next to their name.' I signed up for the LSAT two weeks later," Dani said.

She credits Misericordia for helping her achieve success. From engaging faculty to immersive trips and opportunities, the University offered Dani everything she needed to succeed. Dani explained, "Because of faculty support, I dared to be ambitious. It's incredible what you can achieve when you have a community behind you every step of the way."

Drawing from her remarkable journey at Misericordia, Dani remains true to her origins. She maintains involvement with her alma mater, assisting and inspiring current students.

Winneker and David Gargone, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Business and associate professor of Business, led a trip with a group of students to visit Villanova Law School this past fall. Dani met the students on the trip, eager to help them in the same position she once was. "Not long ago, I was sitting in Professor Winneker's office asking a million questions about law school and the application process. It was nice to be able to help current MU students. It felt full circle," Dani said. She answered students' questions about the law school application process, the LSAT exam, law school experience, and her current role as an associate at Troutman Pepper.



Winneker expressed his feelings about having Dani as a student, "I am very happy and proud of Dani's accomplishments both in law school and now in practice. She was a great student at Misericordia, and it continued through her time at Villanova Law School. I look forward to her continued success."

Professionally, Dani still works closely with professor Winneker and Gargone. She mentioned how they remain influential people in her life. So much so that the three collaborated to write an article published in the New England Law Review.

"When I was 18, we started working on things together, now at 25, I am still learning from them in the process of writing and collaborating and working together. It is very rewarding for me."

Hailing from Westtown, New York, about one and a half hours east of Misericordia University, Dani could not have imagined what this University could do for her career. Now, she has lifelong connections with faculty and a bright professional career ahead of her as a lawyer in one of the nation's top law firms.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA TEAM: JULIA BECK

Ask any student-athlete what comes first? Most will respond with, "Being a student comes first." Misericordia University's women's soccer player, Julia Beck, would agree, as she was named the 2023 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Communicators.

Julia is from Langhorne, Pennsylvania, and has proven her defensive skills on the soccer field and demonstrated an uncompromising devotion to academic brilliance. A Psychology undergrad major and a Doctor of Physical Therapy candidate, she has earned a perfect 4.0 GPA to date. Her acknowledgment as the Academic All-American of the Year for DIII women's soccer emphasizes balancing academic and athletic aspirations. As an athlete in college, being recognized for success in the classroom highlights the importance of being a student-athlete.

"It shows that at Misericordia, we value both academics and athletics, emphasizing the need for balance and time management skills. This work ethic translates not only to the field but also prepares us for success in future careers," stated Julia.

She exhibits the optimum balance of academic and athletic ambitions in a competitive environment where time management and discipline are critical. Her accomplishment demonstrates her devotion and exemplifies Misericordia University's commitment to developing well-rounded





student-athletes. Her success is not just noticed in the classroom but also on the field.

"Our entire program is so proud of Julia and who she is as a person. She is a true leader to our players both on and off the field. Julia pays attention to the daily details in all aspects of her life, as do each of our players. She has the ability to be a positive role model not just in the classroom, but on the field, and in her social life as well. We are so glad to have the opportunity to work with her throughout her collegiate soccer experience," said Mark Stauffer, head coach, women's soccer.

SCAN TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN TEAM WOMEN'S SOCCER

Igniting the Spark of Success: FYRE Program

As first-year students navigate the thrilling yet daunting transition to college life, Misericordia University's First-Year Readiness Experience Program (FYRE) shines as a beacon of support and engagement. Spearheaded by Joe Pechulis, campus life coordinator, FYRE offers a comprehensive suite of activities to ensure students becoming part of the campus community.

FYRE connects students to exclusive NEPA events, wellness programs, and festive holiday celebrations. Among its highlights are the "Temperature Tune-Ups" sessions, where small groups of students are encouraged to share their experiences and concerns, fostering community and belonging. Joe has seen an average of 75 students per FYRE event, which is a testament to the program's impact on student life among first-year students. The string of events, called First-Year Fridays, revolves around a different topic for student success, such as time management and wellness.

Joe's dedication to the first-year experience has a personal meaning to him. "Working with first-year students is very near and dear to my heart," he reflects. His journey from a freshman to a seasoned educator, working towards his Ph.D., underscores his commitment to nurturing students' growth from their first steps on campus to their proud walk across the graduation stage.

For Joe, the FYRE program is not just about the events but the journey of first-year students' growth, learning, and connection. "It means the world to me to work with first-year students... It keeps me grounded and attached to my roots," Joe enthusiastically shares. As the future unfolds, FYRE promises to continue igniting the spark of success in Misericordia's first-year students, fueled by passion and dedication to their journey.



"I can't wait to see what the future has in store for the first-year experience and FYRE at Misericordia. I'm so incredibly excited!"

ADVENTURES WITH Archie

Archie McGrowl has been on the prowl, visiting schools across the Commonwealth for the Keystone Classroom Initiative (KCI) since the 2022–2023 school year. The program is part of America250PA and aims to enrich the education of young students across Pennsylvania through storytelling and visits. By teaming up with historical reenactors, local celebrities, and mascots such as Archie, KCI brings the rich tapestry of Pennsylvania's history to life for children in grades pre-K–4 and those in children's hospitals and youth camps. Archie's involvement has been instrumental in distributing America250PA coloring books and other educational materials, adding joy and excitement to school visits and assemblies while delivering smiles to countless children. America250PA was established in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event.

Our beloved mascot also has been helping with Read Across America week to celebrate children's author Dr. Suess and his birthday on March 2. Archie visited two classrooms this year and brought his favorite book, Pete the Cat. He read to a kindergarten at Wyoming Valley West's State Street Elementary in Larksville, PA, and second grade class at St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He made many new friends and can't wait to visit again next year!

Misericordia's commitment to community outreach is highlighted through Archie's participation, capturing hearts, and fostering a love for learning about Pennsylvania's heritage and literacy across the state!











THE OPENING OF MISERICORDIA'S OT/PT FACILITY

On a brisk winter day, January 4, 2024 the corridors of the former Mercy Center, a site rich with history and memories, buzzed with an air of renewal and excitement. Misericordia University had the honor of welcoming more than 20 Sisters of Mercy from the Dallas area to witness a remarkable transformation. Where once the Mercy Center Skilled Nursing Unit stood, is now the home of the University's newly renovated Occupational and Physical Therapy Facility.

The tour of the 38,000-square-foot facility unveiled state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms, offices, and student lounges meticulously designed to foster learning and innovation. The Sisters, some with deep personal ties to the spaces, walked through the new facility, their faces alight with curiosity and nostalgia. They reminisced about their experiences, sharing stories that wove the past into the present, enriching the tour with a sense of community.

Thanks to the efforts of the Occupational and Physical Therapy faculty, Mark Van Etten, vice president of Finance and Administration, and Mary Helen Nugent, RSM, the visit was not only possible but profoundly meaningful. It was an opportunity for the Sisters to see how the spaces they once knew so well would now serve to educate the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Sister Mary Helen reflected on the significance of the day,









Honoring Tradition
EMBRACING THE FUTURE

saying, "On January 4th, more than 20 Sisters in the Dallas area joined Misericordia University administration and faculty for a tour of the University's newly renovated space within Mercy Center. With the closing of the Mercy Center Skilled Nursing Unit, the space became available for other uses. Now, it will be utilized by the Occupational and Physical Therapy departments of Misericordia University."

This transformation marks more than just a physical renovation; it is a testament to Misericordia University's commitment to the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy. The new facility not only honors the past but also looks forward to a future where Misericordia graduates will lead with compassion, skill, and a profound sense of service.

"The Sisters enjoyed learning about how the space will now benefit students while remembering many of their past experiences within the space. The administration and faculty appreciated hearing the Sisters' many stories. It was a wonderful sharing across time and space,"

said Sister Mary Helen.

The new Occupational and Physical Therapy Facility is a powerful reminder of how spaces can evolve, embodying history and hope. It symbolizes a bridge between generations, where the legacy of care and education continues to show how mercy thrives and shapes the future healthcare leaders of tomorrow.

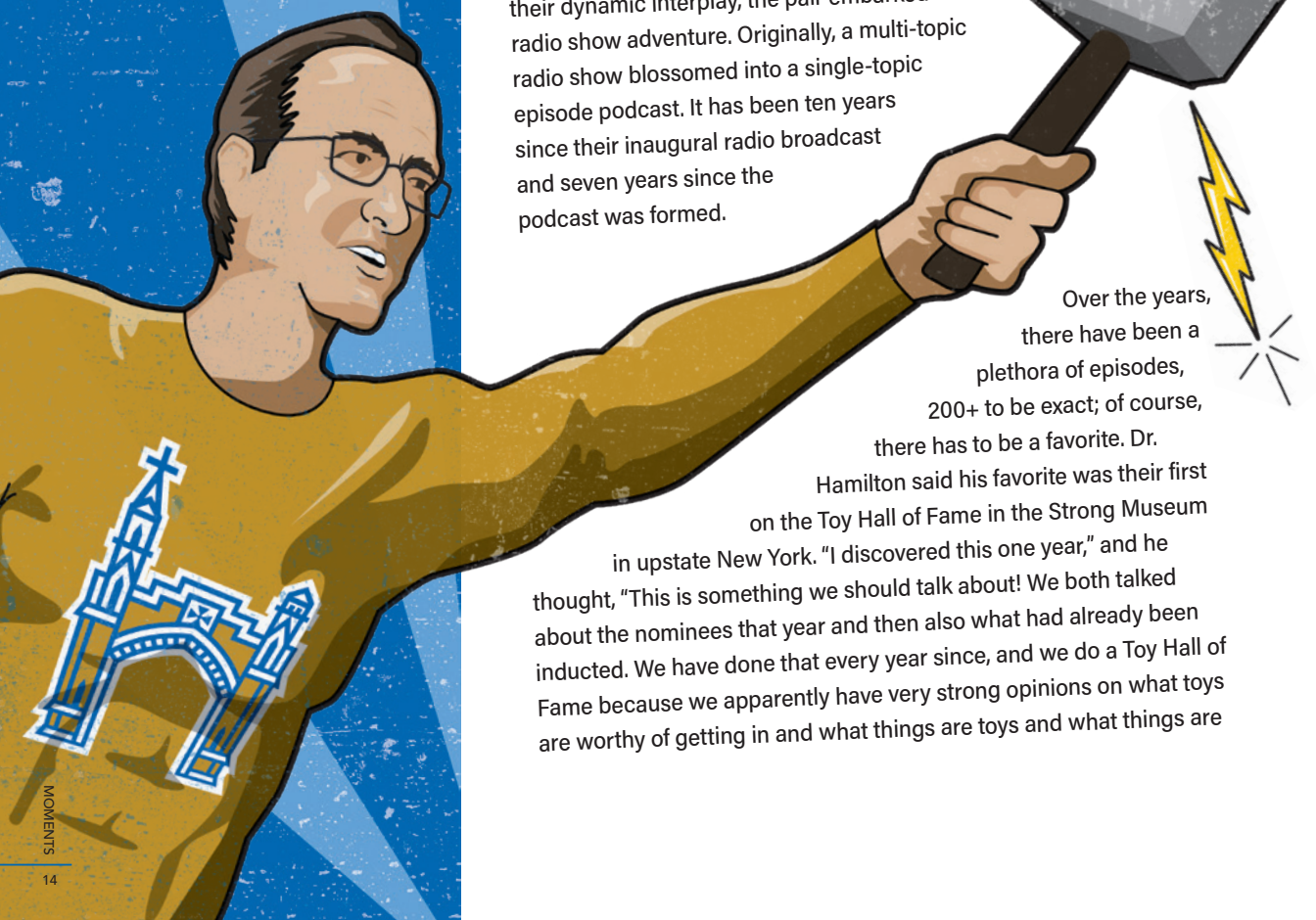






THE DYNAMIC DOCTORS OF DISCOURSE

Now in its seventh year, the pop culture podcast "Even More Mashed Up," hosted by the insightful professors Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D., professor and chair of the English Department, and Allan Austin, Ph.D., professor of History, continues to captivate audiences. This vibrant podcast ventures beyond the surface of pop culture, diving into nuanced discussions on race, gender, comic books, and toy reviews—essentially anything under the sun that can stir consciousness about current issues. The podcast came about from a Communications major's three-minute radio practicum. The project quickly became a 45-minute segment as the chemistry between Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Austin proved irresistible. Inspired by a student's compliment on their dynamic interplay, the pair embarked on a radio show adventure. Originally, a multi-topic radio show blossomed into a single-topic episode podcast. It has been ten years since their inaugural radio broadcast and seven years since the podcast was formed.



Over the years, there have been a plethora of episodes, 200+ to be exact; of course, there has to be a favorite. Dr. Hamilton said his favorite was their first on the Toy Hall of Fame in the Strong Museum in upstate New York. "I discovered this one year," and he thought, "This is something we should talk about! We both talked about the nominees that year and then also what had already been inducted. We have done that every year since, and we do a Toy Hall of Fame because we apparently have very strong opinions on what toys are worthy of getting in and what things are toys and what things are

not because it is a rage-inducing exercise." However, Dr. Austin could not pick a favorite. "The episodes are like kids. Favorite? How do you pick a favorite?" said Dr. Austin.

While the podcast does not directly relate back to what this mashed-up pair talks about in their classes, they still have quite the student following. Even alumni still tune in to hear what two of their favorite professors discuss weekly. Any time the pair can hear a student say they thought of something differently because of what they have taught them, they feel a sense of accomplishment.

However, the pair says this only happened because of Misericordia University's culture. "One of the nice things about Misericordia is that we are pretty free in terms of what we want to do for research; neither of us came here being hired as pop culture comic book scholars. I had done a little bit with colleagues, but nothing like this," said Dr. Hamilton.

The unique environment that Misericordia offers faculty, staff, and students is expressed by Dr. Austin this way, "One of the things, which I think is a real strength of the humanities, is that we've got this interactive energy that bounces all around the third floor of Mercy Hall. It is not a wing of history offices over here. Then, the English and philosophy are over there. We are all mixed together, and I think it creates an intellectual energy that wouldn't exist somewhere else," said Dr. Austin.

Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Austin continue to ignite conversations about pop culture and much more. In the classrooms of Misericordia and beyond, they have transformed simple conversations into a symphony of idea sharing, resonating with students and listeners alike. "Even More Mashed Up" shows how academic passion and the magic of a dynamic duo can create something special. As they continue to dissect, analyze, and elevate the discourse around the toys, comics, and topics of the day, they remind us all that the most enduring education comes from a place of boundless curiosity and shared enthusiasm.

LISTEN TO EVEN MORE MASHED UP HERE ↓



Breaking into SCIENCE as a Freshman

There are so many questions to consider when looking for a college or university to attend. Do they have my major? Can I afford to attend? The list is long. Another question students ask is "Will I fit in and be a part of campus?" At Misericordia University, students can get involved the instant they step on campus. First-year Misericordia student Christina Rasa has done more in her short time on campus than some college students will accomplish in four years.

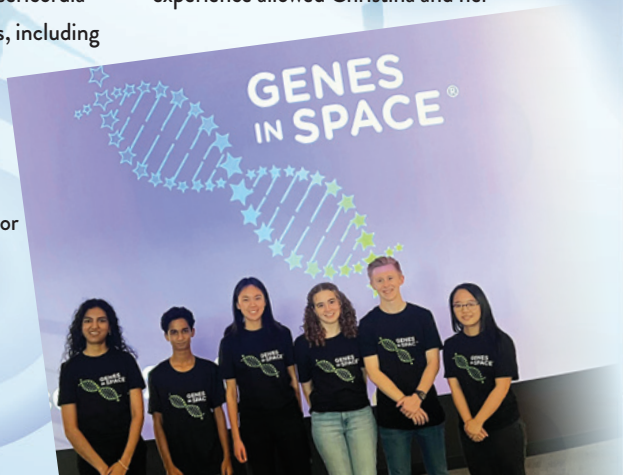
After scrolling online one day, Christina stumbled upon Sanfilippo syndrome, which is a form of childhood dementia. Sanfilippo syndrome manifests when an affected child receives one defective copy of the gene responsible for enzyme production from each of their parents. This heartbreaking topic inspired Christina to begin research on creating ATP sensors, a substance at the cellular level, which can be helpful for patients with degenerative diseases such as Sanfilippo syndrome.

"The goal will be to make the ATP sensor, and that can be useful for a lot of things, because a lot of degenerative diseases are based off the fact that cells don't have enough ATP," Christina said.

Wanting to engage in this level of research as a first-year undergraduate student is rare. And, having access to faculty to assist you, is far more common in later years or during graduate study that it is as a first-yer student. At Misericordia several faculty members, including Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., professor and chair of Biology, Angela Asirvatham, D.V.Sc., Ph.D., associate professor of Biology, and Anna Fedor, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, are all working closely with Christina on her research.

Christina's research interest stems from high school experiences in Advanced Biology class. She and a partner entered a research contest, Genes in Space. Among 800 entries, her team qualified among the final 30 groups and eventually finished in the top five.

Christina was shocked to make it that far. After looking at the prestigious winners in the past, she could not fathom progressing deep in the competition. The phenomenal experience allowed Christina and her



partner to travel to Seattle, learn from a Harvard University graduate student, and connect with successful professionals in the biotech field.

The competition propelled her to complete a research proposal before she entered Misericordia University.

Now, she has hit the ground running during her first semester.

"I met Christina during a campus visit to Misericordia and was then delighted when she contacted me later with questions about research and about her participation in the 'Genes in Space' program. I was so impressed with her drive and determination to seek out opportunities to explore the world through research and know she will inspire others in the Biology program to do the same," said Dr. Wiese.

> **"Misericordia has been amazing. All the professors have been so supportive. There are just so many opportunities here that I would not have at a bigger place,"**
>
> said Rasa.

Not every student needs to engage in this advanced research from day one to be successful; however, if you show interest at Misericordia University, students, faculty, and staff alike are eager to help take you to where you want to go with your dreams.



Alumni Business Directory

Are you a proud Misericordia Alumna/Alumnus who has turned their dreams into reality? At Misericordia, we are all about celebrating our MU Alumni's success, and nothing is more inspiring than seeing our own turn their passions into thriving businesses.

So, what is your story? We would love to feature you and your business on our platform! Join our growing network of Alumni entrepreneurs by submitting your business information at **misericordia.edu/AlumniBusiness** or using the QR code.

Alumni Business Directory:
misericordia.edu/AlumniBusiness

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

May – Washington, DC
June – New Jersey and Long Island
July – Lehigh Valley, PA
August – Philadelphia, PA

Get ready because MU is gearing up to celebrate our 100th Anniversary! From cozy corners near you to charming local hotspots, our Centennial Celebration Map is your ticket to reconnect with the spirit of Misericordia.

Visit our Alumni Events web page,
misericordia.edu/AlumniEvents

Follow us on Facebook,
Facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni
to find out what's happening when and where.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION IN ACTION

College of Business Speaker Series







Misericordia University's College of Business Speaker Series, which hosts experts to speak about current business topics and practices, kicked off its spring semester on February 23 with speaker Dionissi Aliprantis, Ph.D., assistant vice president and director of the Program on Economic Inclusion (PEI) of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Dr. Aliprantis oversees strategy, analysis, and outreach to enhance economic inclusion and racial equity. His team addresses barriers to full economic participation, exploring solutions through research and policy insights. Aliprantis specializes in applied econometrics, labor, urban economics, and education, focusing on neighborhood impacts on education and racial and labor inequalities. His contributions span numerous academic journals. Active in Cleveland's nonprofit sector, he holds degrees from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Students listened to Dr. Aliprantis as he explained PEI, which is an effort to understand the issues surrounding economic inclusion and what approaches can help remove the obstacles the economy faces in the Federal Reserve's Fourth District. Students also engaged with an overview of the Federal Reserve and current research on economic inclusion.

"I've really enjoyed my visit so far because it seems like a really wonderful university and a really wonderful place for people who are curious, trying to learn more about the world, and want to make a difference and improve the world. That's really nice to be around," said Dr. Aliprantis.

For more information on future College of Business speakers, please get in touch with Selena Popek at 570.674.6430 or spopek@misericordia.edu



1930 May Queen Helen McHugh and children attendants

A MISERICORDIA

May Queen TRADITION

Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary are notable to Misericordia's history. May is traditionally devoted to Marian activities in the Roman Catholic Church, and Misericordia conducted a May Crowning ceremony for over 40 years. During a May Crowning, a young woman is chosen to serve as the May Queen, who crowns a statue or image of Mary with flowers. At Misericordia, the May Queen was chosen from the senior class, as were members of her court. Children also assisted the May Queen, which is a traditional practice. One notable May Queen was Lois Reed in 1954; Lois went on to have a successful career in television as Miss Judy, the host of the popular local children's television show The Land of Hatchy Milatchy, on WNEP TV.

The last May Crowning at College Misericordia took place in 1968. In the College's 75th Anniversary Book, At the Edge of Centuries, Dr. Regina Kelly, RSM, and Dr. Agnes Cardoni '69, remark on the differences between that final, much simpler ceremony and previous celebrations. The United States saw great cultural and political shifts by the 1960s that led to the tradition more or less falling out of fashion, and such was the case at Misericordia.



1942 Queen Catherine Kirchner, her court, and members of the Class of 1942 in front of the Administration Building



1951 Queen Dorothy Burak prepares to lay the flower crown on the statue of the Blessed Mother outside the Administration Building



[1] Kelly, Regina, RSM, and Agnes Cardoni. At the Edge of Centuries: College Misericordia, 1913-1999. Dallas, PA: College Misericordia Press, 1999.

Over the 40 years Misericordia observed this tradition, here are all the women who served as May Queens.

1925-1927 Gertrude O'Connell
1928 Helen Gildea
1929 Margaret Kane
1930 Helen McHugh
1931 Catherine Regina McAvoy
1932 Helen Lyon
1933 Grace Clarke
1934 Nora Burke
1935 Katherine Daley
1936 Ruth Milisauskas
1937 Sara Casey
1938 Anne Feeney
1939 Carmella La Monica
1940 Eleanor Jane Croop
1941 Mollie Crossin
1942 Catherine Kirchner
1943 Joan Conway
1944 Mary O'Malley
1945 Marion Connors
1946 Eleanor Dunfee
1947 Mary (Mollie) Howe
1948 Mary Therese Flood
1949 Carmel Rose Cavanaugh
1950 Mary Ellen Griffin
1951 Dorothy Burak
1952 Colette Heck
1953 Kathleen McManus
1954 Lois Reed
1955 Joan Duffy
1956 Katherine Herman
1957 Mary Hanlon
1958 Maud Wadestrandt
1959 Mary Livezey
1960 Rosemarie Miano
1961 Annette Kraynak
1962 Janet Fritz
1963 Frances McFadden
1964 Margaret O'Neal
1965 Elizabeth Donohoe
1966 Elizabeth Lalley
1967 Sandra McQuade
1968 Maria Grilli



1958 Queen Maud Wadestrandt with her court and Sister Marianna Gildea, who was May Queen in 1928



1959 A rare color snapshot of Queen Mary Livezey

1946 Seniors in gowns flanked by underclassmen in academic regalia for the ceremony outside the Administration Building

UNITED WAY INTERN

Business Administration major Abigail (Abby) Lupas '24, recently completed a three-credit internship with the United Way of Wyoming Valley. Bill Jones '85, president and CEO of The United Way of Wyoming Valley and member of the University's Board of Trustees, assigned Abby to work with various departments, such as finance, fundraising, and marketing/PR so that she could learn about all the facets of the organization. When choosing her internship, Abby was unsure which path in business she wanted to pursue.

However, Abby explains why she picked this internship, "I have been interested in having a career in the nonprofit sector. I wanted to learn more about what job opportunities nonprofits offer. Since the United Way is a highly reputable and recognizable agency, an internship with them provided a great opportunity for me." When she finished her internship, Abby felt prepared for what she wanted to accomplish with her business degree. She said, "They have greatly helped me with what I may want to do with my degree. The United Way's internship exposed me to the





"MISERICORDIA STUDENTS ARE **WELL-PREPARED** AND ARE **EMERGING PROFESSIONALS."**

many different tasks nonprofits perform regarding marketing and community engagement."

Abby not only learned at her internship, but also enjoyed her time there and felt as though her education at Misericordia prepared her for this experience. "The classes I have taken at Misericordia have helped me greatly. One of my assignments at United Way was to create engaging social media content. I was able to apply what I learned in a social and digital marketing class at Misericordia when completing tasks," said Abby.



Also it was not just Abby that enjoyed the internship experience but also Bill enjoyed having Abby as an intern. Bill said, "It truly was a pleasure to have Abby as an intern this fall. She spent a great deal of time with our Community Engagement staff and truly embraced every assignment with a positive attitude and a determination to not just get the job done, but to get it done well. She quickly became a reliable member of the team, and we really appreciated her commitment to our mission. As a Misericordia alumni member and as a member of the Board of Trustees, I appreciate seeing Misericordia students like Abby who are eager to learn, grow, serve others, and bring value to the task at hand. While internships are wonderful opportunities for students, the intern's attitude, effort, and commitment are also reflections of the University. Misericordia students are well-prepared and are emerging professionals. Like Abby, Misericordia students stand out."

MISERICORDIA SPOTLIGHT
STAFF AND FACULTY

Annette Weiss



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING; ASSISTANT DEAN OF NURSING AND CHIEF NURSE ADMINISTRATOR • DEGREES: PH.D., RN, CNE • 23 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?

From the first time I stepped on campus, I have found Misericordia to be a warm and welcoming place. Faculty, staff, and students are genuinely happy to be here. One notable thing about being on campus is that someone will always hold the door open for me, no matter how far away from it I am! The deep connections on this campus make it a great place to be!

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

The Flag Carry in remembrance of 9/11. One year, the nursing department volunteered for a session to carry the flag as we had done before. We were given an envelope of names and stories of people to read and reflect on. I read the notes on the slips of paper out loud. Before I knew it, we were all crying. I could barely read the words. It is such a powerful moment for me to be honoring those lost in such a cowardly attack on our nation. It is an honor to be part of such a wonderful community.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?

My favorite building is Mercy Hall, which has great character and architectural intricacies. I love the solitude and beauty of the Shakespeare Garden when I need to be introspective. The summer months bring gorgeous roses to Rosenn Plaza. The Banks Center is bustling with student activity, with the energy of young minds at work. My favorite place on campus is Bevevino Library, where minds are engaged, sunlight flows in, and books mix with modern technology. I didn't have an office as an adjunct faculty, so I spent hours in a carrel working, looking out those huge windows, and appreciating the quiet sense of community that occurs in this space with the whole MU community.

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

Misericordia has been a major influence on my overall growth. I started here as a relatively novice educator with no idea of how to be a leader (nor any desire to do so). The people I have worked with over the years have shaped me in countless ways and developed me into the leader, faculty member, and person I am today. My nursing peers have always been like family and supported me through many life events. I am the leader that I am because of the team that we have. I am eternally grateful!

Scott Colin Woolnough



COORDINATOR OF THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNERS PROGRAM (ALP) IN THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES; PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THEATRE • 14 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT MISERICORDIA?

I love the sense of community that Misericordia cultivates. The synergy our entire campus has with the surrounding community and the outside world never ceases to amaze me. The way we work together as a community to serve all our students has a very familial aspect to it. It is simply another home and family working together to make the world a better place.

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

I have been a member of the Suicide Prevention Committee for several years now. I discovered a one-person show, *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, which is about the conversation around suicide and depression and its various effects in a very accessible way for our students. The reaction to the first performance was beyond expectations. Letters, e-mails, and cards of appreciation followed. It has since become a yearly tradition, performed every October during Wellness Week.

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS AND WHY?

The Lemmond Theater. There is something unique about a performance space. When it is empty and dark, and you are alone with your thoughts, you can almost hear the performances of those who came before you. When the space is filled with performers, it becomes something else entirely. Our students are so talented both on stage and on the technical side. It is an absolute honor to be able to guide them on their creative journeys.

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

Through my position in ALP, I am offered the opportunity to visit other university campuses. I stand in awe of how caring and kind our MU community is. One of the first events I participated in was providing Thanksgiving dinner to local families. I remember after the Flood of '12, we traveled to Noxen to help residents salvage their homes as a campus community. So many examples of selfless, thoughtful acts make me proud to call myself a member of the Misericordia community.



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When you hear the words athlete and Wendy's phrased together, it is hard to imagine what a chain fast food restaurant and the realm of athletics have in common.



However, behind this unexpected pairing lies a story of mutual support, community involvement, and celebrating athletic excellence that has enriched the restaurant and the sporting community it serves. Since its inception over two decades ago, the Wendy's Misericordia Athlete of the Month program has evolved, expanded, and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. That is all thanks to the unwavering support of individuals such as Steve Kepic, a Hall of Fame inductee '18, and president of Quality Served Fast, Inc, the local Wendy's franchise owner. Through his dedication and belief in the power of community, Kepic has helped elevate the program to new heights, ensuring that Misericordia's student-athletes receive the recognition they deserve.

"Wendy's sponsorship of the Misericordia Athlete of the Month program is done on the local level through our Dallas store. We are locally owned, and everything we do is because we believe in it. We are proud to support the community that supports us," said Steve.

The entire partnership started in the spring of 1998 when Dallas was the only Wendy's the franchise group owned. Former athletic director Michael Mould contacted Wendy's since the baseball team was away and went into an extra inning. They needed somewhere to eat without dining halls open when they finally got back. Wendy's came to the rescue, "We stayed open later for them and treated the coaches and the bus driver to dinner. From there, I met with Dr. Mould and Scott Crispell for lunch to ask about what we could do to support the athletics program," said Steve.

The Wendy's Misericordia Athlete of the Month would start the fall semester of 1998 after their lunch. The program had a banquet to celebrate the athlete where the Athletes of the Year were received with family and friends around.

"In the last 25 years, our Wendy's operation has grown to 10 locations in the surrounding counties. Every location is a member of the community that supports them. That's the culture we want. Misericordia has also seen amazing growth during that time. The karma created brings positive change for us all," said Steve.

The monthly recognition held at Wendy's, with athletes proudly showcased on the restaurant's sign, is a testament to the strong bond between the university and the local business community. Currently, all QSF's Wendy's locations support the Wendy's Athlete program. Wendy's also stays involved in their specific communities and continues to



Steve Kepic

bring awareness and support efforts to help foster care children find their forever homes. As Misericordia University commemorates the 25th anniversary of this esteemed program, it serves as a reminder of the power of collaboration, perseverance, and belief in the potential of every student-athlete. Together, they have created a platform for celebrating athletic achievement, and student-athletes are encouraged to excel on and off the field. With each passing year, the legacy of the Wendy's Athlete of the Month program continues to inspire, unite, and uplift all those who are fortunate enough to be a part of it.

Investment Manager

Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan ’71 MAKES HISTORY

as first woman president of Union League Club New York



Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan ’71 wasted no time after graduating from college to begin her path leading to success as a wealth manager at Morgan Stanley and her long-term commitment to supporting Misericordia. Completing her Bachelor of Science and Master’s degrees in Business Education, at Misericordia and Trenton State College, respectively, she used her knowledge and tools to embark on her career in finance. As a Portfolio Management Director at Morgan Stanley with 40 years of experience and partner of The Falcon Group team, Mary Beth continues to thrive in serving her clients in support of their financial goals.

Her initiation to serve Misericordia began as a member of the Alumni Association Board, on which her mother, Elizabeth Grady McNamara ’41, held the role as president for the College Misericordia Alumni Association from 1956-1958. After serving on the Alumni Board and chairing the “Leading from the Heart” and “Advancing the Vision” fundraising campaigns, Mary Beth served on the Misericordia Board of Trustees for 26 years prior to being named Trustee Emerita in 2018. During her board tenure, she was awarded the Trustee Associates Award in 2001, in recognition of her dedication, and was the Convocation speaker in 2009, where she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.



The Union League Club of New York has been an additional major commitment in Mary Beth’s life. After joining the club in 1995, she served on most of the key committees that support the organization. In 2021, she was voted president and immediately embarked on serving during one of the club’s most challenging periods in its 158-year history, the COVID pandemic.

Armed with a conviction that the club’s history of unwavering commitment to our nation through civic involvement,



Investment Manager Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan '71, right, is pictured with Linda Patterson, a Union League Club New York member, and chair of the Board of the Adelaide L. Sanford Institute, NYC.

charitable contributions, and military support was more important than ever, and a team in whom she strongly believed, she proudly reports that the club emerged with more members and money in the bank than at the inception of the pandemic. She was inspired by the many amazing Americans that had been members of the Union League Club that include U.S. Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Chester A. Arthur and Ronald Regan as well as American landscape architect and journalist, Frederick Law Olmsted.

Prior to serving as the first woman president in the history of the club, Mary Beth focused on an initiative to encourage member spouses, who were generally women, to use the club.



Called "Girls Night Out," the committee hosted monthly after work gatherings. It became so popular that it was renamed "Girls and Guys Night Out." It has been one of the significant contributors to membership growth.

In addition, she recently completed service on the U.S. Army War College Foundation Board, Carlisle, PA.

When asked about the factors in her life that have supported her accomplishments, Mary Beth reflects on the opportunity to follow in her mother's footsteps to Misericordia and be followed by her two younger sisters, Eileen McNamara Petrillo '72 and Margaret (Marby) McNamara Senker, '73. She credits Misericordia University and the balance of her 16-year Catholic education for teaching her the lessons of giving back and having gratitude, both of which are strong motivators throughout her life.



"I am grateful for the opportunity working on Wall Street has offered me," she says. "My advice for Misericordia students who are considering it, they need to imagine an intense commitment to building their eligibility to gain a position, and relentless hard work and sacrifice to establish and maintain a long career."

After soaring at 35,000 feet for about four hours, Misericordia students escaped the frigid Dallas air in exchange for the topical weather in Jamaica during their winter break. Although the weather may have made them feel as such, this was no weeklong vacation. Six Misericordia students and two staff members traveled to Mandeville, Jamaica, for their annual service trip, which has been occurring for over 20 years, except during the pandemic. These selected students expressed interest in this life-changing opportunity to travel internationally and serve people they had never met.

Misericordia University's Mission, Ministry and Service office offers the Jamacia trip every January, when students are anxiously waiting to return to campus to start their spring semester. It has long since become a tradition as part of the charisms of Misericordia and shows how mercy continues to thrive on campus for 100 years.

Lindsey Riddell, assistant director of Mission, Ministry and Service, spoke highly of the six students who journeyed this past January. "I really value this specific group of volunteers, as they were not only fully present to the people of Jamaica they were serving but also so supportive of each other. Many witnessed a new type of poverty during this trip, resulting in self-reflection and a deeper understanding of global citizenship," says Lindsey.

The students and faculty provided essential service to people in need and expanded their cultural understanding. "This experience was life-changing for me. I was able to connect with new people, help others, and learn about Jamaicans' daily hardships," said Victoria Pellew, sophomore Biology and Chemistry major.

The students worked with various groups throughout this trip, from Missionaries of the Poor in Golden Springs to Annunciation Early Childhood Institution in Hayes. With those groups, Misericordia University volunteers participated in an array of services, including assisting in the building of a small home and visiting with the elderly, children, and disabled.



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2024 JAMAICA TRIP





Olivia Spencer, a junior Occupational Therapy major, spoke glowingly of her time in Jamaica. "My overall experience from this trip was amazing. Not only did I have tons of fun, but I experienced so many new things and got a taste of reality in Jamaica. I interacted with some of the happiest people and saw some things that really changed my perspectives," says Olivia.

This trip to Jamaica is just one of many service trips sponsored by Misericordia's Mission, Ministry, and Service office. Other trips have gone to Guyana, Peru, Belize, and the Texas border. Additionally, some students will attend a Mercy Young Leaders conference in Dublin, Ireland in July, the birthplace of the Sisters of Mercy and foundress Catherine McAuley, which is a trip that occurs once every other year.

For more information about the Mission, Ministry, and Service office and their International Service Trips

WALK WITH A DOC

Alexa Wagner, a third-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student at Misericordia University, maximized her undergrad internship at the Wilkes-Barre Health Department into an extended experience that will carry her through her graduate studies. The City of Wilkes-Barre is approximately 10 miles from Misericordia's campus. The City is home to approximately 45,000 residents, 15 percent of whom are over 65 years of age.





During her Bachelor of Arts undergrad degree in Medical and Health Humanities, Alexa interned at the Wilkes-Barre Health Department. When she entered her first semester of Doctor of Physical Therapy school, she had a class with Audrey Campbell, adjunct professor of Physical Therapy. They would end up discussing Alexa's internship, and how a collaboration between the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and the Wilkes-Barre Health Department would benefit so many people. Together, they collaborated with the Wilkes-Barre Health Department and helped establish a volunteer-based "Walk With A Doc" program.

The "Walk With A Doc" program is a collaborative initiative by the Wilkes-Barre Health Department, Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority, and Misericordia University that targets underserved populations in the City. It offers free, healthcare-provider-led walking sessions designed to promote wellness through movement and conversation, focusing on inclusivity and health education. Aiming to encourage a healthier lifestyle, the program emphasizes the benefits of walking and social connections while addressing health disparities and ensuring accessibility for all community members.

Alexa says that what is the most inspiring is hearing how walking has changed for the residents that she and other students work with. "The resident was so excited even just to come in and say, 'Hey, I went for a walk!' You can just see the excitement. And some of the participants in the program come in and let us know that they are now physically active outside of the program," said Alexa.

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