



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

ADVANCING NURSING FOR THE FUTURE

NURSING NEWS

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is exciting to have this opportunity to share with you, through this first edition of the Nursing Newsletter, some of the many accomplishments of last year. Our branding of *Advancing Nursing for the Future* depicts how Misericordia Nursing has provided opportunities for a seamless progression of all nurses from the LPN to the DNP program. It is our hope that you will be proud of all the accomplishments and share with us your personal accomplishments. Highlights will include the successful work being done by faculty and students throughout all programs of nursing (Traditional, PTENP, Expressway RN to BSN, MSN and DNP). Misericordia's Nursing program has become one of the elite nursing programs in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The quality of students continues to build upon the tradition of excellence as SAT scores and GPA scores continue to increase.

We are pleased to announce that a new building has been acquired for the nursing program. The Mary and Allen Erwine Hall located at 199 Lake Street is now the home for all nursing faculty offices, a conference room and an IPE clinic. We will dedicate the building this summer. We thank the Erwines for their continued support to nursing.

As in the past, we provide quality instruction and are looking forward to our students' participation in new study abroad opportunities. For many students, these experiences have been life changing opportunities that have helped students to obtain a more global perspective of health care. We hope to be able to provide more international experiences and support for students with a desire to take advantage of such opportunities. The following is the blog link for the recent study away experience in Tanzania, East Africa partnering with Wilkes University <https://communityserviceintanzania.wordpress.com/>.

Misericordia's faculty members and students from nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and medical students participated in the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Summit for the fourth year. Students collaborated on a case study where each member contributed to how their role could help achieve a better patient outcome. We received three faculty research grants and have had faculty present at four conferences. During the summer, Dr Brenda Hage was selected as a Duke Johnson and Johnson Fellow while Dr Cynthia Mailloux was selected as an AACN Wharton Executive

Leadership Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

Geisinger Wyoming Valley has partnered with the nursing department for their inaugural nurse residency program. This twelve month program for new RN's will be conducted on the Misericordia campus. This clinical partnership with our health care provider will enhance clinical experiences for our students and increase visibility of the program locally and nationally. Misericordia has also partnered with Geisinger as the preferred provider for RN to BSN on line.

It has been my privilege to serve as chairperson of nursing over the past nine years. We have made significant strides and increased the visibility of our programs over these years. It is exciting to image what is in our future. Please feel free to contact me as you are an important member of our department. It is only through dedicated faculty and staff, quality students, and engaged alumni that we can continue to meet our goals. We are proud of the faculty and students' accomplishments this year. Enjoy reading about what has happened in our programs over the past year. Please share with us your accomplishments by contacting cmaillou@misericordia.edu. Look through our website at www.misericordia.edu/nursing to see other accomplishments.

Thank you,

Cynthia Mailloux PhD, RN
Cynthia Mailloux PhD, RN, CNE
Chairperson Department of Nursing



The Mary and Allen Erwine Hall



TRADITIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Director: Vanessa Mayorowski, MSN, CRNP



Jillian Marie Balberchak

Jillian Marie Balberchak, a senior nursing student from West Pittston, was one of the four valedictorians for the Class of 2015 at

Misericordia University's 89th annual Commencement on May 16. To achieve this honor, one must achieve a grade point average of 4.0. Jillian was awarded her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the commencement ceremony. Recognized as the first valedictorian to graduate from Misericordia's nursing program, Jillian has accepted a position at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

TRADITIONAL POSTER DAY APRIL 20, 2015

Seniors presented the posters in McGowan



Standing from Left to Right: second row, Kelly Zirnheld, Lauren Ford, Veronica Warshaw, Amanda O'Brien, Brittney Rosencrans, Annette Weiss, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., assistant professor of nursing and director of the Expressway RN Program; Cynthia Mailloux, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., professor and chair of the Department of Nursing; Brooke Anderson, Alicia Norato, Jillian Balberchak, Julia Boyd, and Katrina Blannett-Kasper

Seated from Left to Right: Holly Reese, Shelby Brochetti, Claudia Henry, Brittany Delancey, and Samantha Knowlton



Seated First row from Left: Angel Shope, Katie Barto, Emily Hegner, Kelsey Heimbach, and Nicole Klees

Second row: Lacey DeGraw, Emily Kudlacik, Amanda Turoni, Brooke Carey, Beatriz Chavez, Jessica Owen, Alyssa Bazink, Genevieve Minnich, Sherry Chen, and Samantha Baro

Third row: Matthew Brown, Yuri Pelepko-Filak, Matthew Stephenson, Cory Balko, Tyler Hessert, and Chris Evans

2014 THETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL INDUCTION



Standing Left to Right: Jennifer DiVirgilio, Jennifer Zimmerman, Nicole Nardone, Samantha Knowlton, Sherry Chen, Yuri Peleko-flak, Matthew Stella, Lacey DeGraw, Christopher Evans, Holly Reese, Kimberly Kane, Erin Lavey

Seated Left to Right: Maggie Schlude, Stephanie Harmer, Paula Ochs, Alyssa Bazink, Katie Barto, Kelsey Heimbach, Amanda Turoni, Lauren Ford, Aubre Mayorowski, Alicia English, Claire Kozick, Marialena Tencza

Misericordia University's Nursing Department is represented by the Theta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society for nursing. Membership in the society is awarded to bachelor's, master's and doctoral nursing students who achieve high scholastic averages, and also to graduates of nursing programs who have made outstanding contributions in the nursing field.





PART-TIME EVENING NURSING PROGRAM (PTENP)

Director: Michele Hawkins, MSN, RN

The Part Time Evening Nursing Program (PTENP) was started in 2004. This program is the only part-time nursing program in the area. By attending this program the students can obtain their BSN on a part-time basis while maintaining their full-time endeavors.

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our graduates. One of these is Anita Baldoni (2011). Anita inherited a genetic disorder that required her to have five corneal transplants in her lifetime. Over the course of Anita's life, she has been faced with difficulty in doing things that most of us take for granted. With the support of her physician and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Lions' Eye Bank, she was able to obtain her nursing degree, raise a family, and work as a RN at Geisinger PCU. Anita's thankfulness has developed into volunteering for the Northeast Eye Bank along with raising funds to help others with challenges. This volunteerism has included several 5K races, fundraising fashion shows, and public speaking at local hospitals to raise awareness. It is nurses like Anita, whom we are proud to call Misericordia University Alumni.

PTENP PINNING 2015



Standing from Left to Right: Jessica Hess, Aubre Mayorowski, Deborah Kowalski, Christina DeMillier, Alicia English, Stephanie Harmer, Nichol Williams, Kimberly Kane, Alicia Micklo, Jill Laibinis, Tara Monko, Ashley Willis, Jessica Gabel

Seated from Left to Right: Arleen Reynoso, Catherine Chung, Erin Lavey, Courtney Slacktish, Erika Woychio, Jillian Hoffman, Claire Kozick

POSTER DAY



The Part Time Evening Nursing Program held its Poster Presentations on June 29, 2015 in Passan Hall. Seated From the left 1st row: Arleen Reynoso, Erin Lavey, Aubre Mayorowski, Jillian Hoffman, Catherine Chung, Courtney Slacktish, Stephanie Harmer, Jessica Gabel

From the Left 2nd Row: Kim Kane, Jessica Hess, Tara Monko, Christina Demellier, Alicia English, Claire Kozick, Deborah Kowalczyk, Jill Laibinis, Ashley Willis, Ericka Woychio, Nicol Williams, Alysha Micklo

EXPRESSWAY RN TO BSN

Director: Annette Weiss, PhD, RN, CNE

Misericordia University's RN to BSN program has been recognized as a preferred partner with Geisinger Health Systems for the online Expressway program. The program provides an opportunity for Associate and Diploma nurses to advance their nursing degree to a BSN level.

Returning to school is certainly a commitment, but the online format can reduce some of the barriers like requesting days off, commuting to class, and flexibility in scheduling. Although the program is online, students are not alone. The nursing faculty members are highly supportive, and are located in the local community to visit on campus, talk with by telephone, or communicate by email.

Although the online RN to BSN program tries to make the learning experience as simple as possible, it remains a top-notch,

rigorous academic adventure where practicing nurses will certainly stretch their wings. This path is not always easy, but students will tell you that Misericordia University's program provides excellent student support!

At Misericordia University, you will find people that are going through similar experiences as you, but are still making the effort to further their education. Two of the incoming class members are originally from the Philippines and both hold degrees in other fields – a true commitment to career advancement! We have single mothers, and single fathers returning to school to improve the lives of their families. As parents find they are sending their children off to college, they are returning too! Our RN to BSN students make the commitment and make a difference!



GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM Director: Brenda Pavill PhD, CRNP

Integrating health care issues encountered in clinical practice with principles of Evidence Based Practice (EBP) the 2015 Graduating Class in the MSN Program, Family Nurse Practitioner track, designed their culminating capstone projects. The capstone project represents each student's ability to integrate theory, research and clinical practice. On May 1, 2015 through professional writing, oral presentation and poster portrayal students shared their learned knowledge with colleagues, peers, friends and faculty.

Approximately three months later each of these students again completed stellar work that represented a culmination of their

learning when they went on to successfully pass their national nurse practitioner exam. As a whole the 2015 graduating class obtained a 100% pass rate on the national exam administered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). The AANP national certification exam is a competency based exam for nurse practitioners reflective of nurse practitioner knowledge and expertise that must be passed to obtain national certification and to practice as a nurse practitioner. For the last three years Misericordia University students have maintained a 100% pass rate on the AANP national certification exam.

FNP POSTER DAY



Standing Left to Right: Jennifer Schell, Mary Summa, Karen Zikoski, Darnetta Yasko, Maura Papi, Paula Ochs, Matt Stella, D'Andra Lindbuchler, Nicole Nardone

Seated: Laura Herbener, Christina Cobb, Jacqueline DelPrete, Jennifer Zimmerman

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM Director: Brenda Hage, PhD, DNP, CRNP

Seven students in the MSN to DNP, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program successfully completed an oral defense of their DNP capstone projects. The rigorous capstone project represents the culminating scholarly project in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Students critically evaluate scientific literature to develop evidence-based practice approaches that improve health care system outcomes. This year's class addressed solutions to improve health outcomes for a variety of practice problems including smoking cessation, interstitial cystitis, transitions of care, improving pulmonary function in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, addressing fear of hypoglycemia in patients requiring daily insulin management, antibiotic stewardship in the management of urinary tract infection, and management of familial heterozygous hypercholesterolemia. These nursing leaders are well equipped to improve health care outcomes within their institutions. Graduates were honored at a dinner held at the Irem Temple Country

Club in Dallas. Two awards were presented at the dinner. Christine Gallagher, MSN, CRNP received the Judith and Harold Harding Excellence in Public Policy, Advocacy and Change Agency Award and Melissa LaPorte, MSN, CRNP was the recipient of the DNP Award of Excellence in Evidence Based Practice.

DNP GRAD LUNCHEON



Standing Left to Right: Jens Hansen, Christine Gallagher, Carla Weidner, Carol Medura, Charlene Zabloutney, Melissa LaPorte, Christina Shuker

Seated: Dr. Brenda Hage, Dr. Cheryl Fuller, Dr. Cynthia Mailloux

We would like to acknowledge all the businesses that have provided support to the Nursing Department

- Geisinger Wyoming Valley
- Mary and Allen Erwine Home Health and Hospice, Inc.
- Paul Olsen Balfour pins

Make a gift to the **Nursing Student Fund** which supports student activities during their time at MU. This money is used to defray study away costs, support student events, simulation, travel to conferences, and other activities. All contributions are tax deductible.

You can do this on line at Misericordia.edu/makeagift by putting Nursing in the designation section under "Other." Call 570-674-6354 between 9:00am and 4:00 pm to make a gift over the phone or send a check payable to Misericordia University Development Office, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612. Make the designation on your check Nursing.