JULY 2015

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • ISSUE 1, VOLUME 1

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Misericordia University's welcoming and generous atmosphere drew me to take the position as the new dean of Health Sciences summer 2014. The reality of guiding the college held that students and faculty alike own the Misericordia Charisms routinely demonstrated through community service and peer support. In just one year, we have added to our tradition of excellence with technology, service-learning and scholarship.

Likewise, the quality of student, as demonstrated by the higher than average pass rates on national boards, 100 percent in some departments, and the quantity and quality of student research exceeds expectations.

We are proud of the college and student accomplishments. Please peruse the pages of the inaugural newsletter to view the happenings of the last year as we prepare to begin a new academic season. I hope reflecting on these successes will set the tone for another year of accomplishment. Please "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for up-to-date information concerning the College of Health Sciences.

—**Leamor Kahanov**, EdD, ATC
Dean, College of Health Sciences

OT students helped organize a Special Winter Olympics in the Hazleton Area School District. See page 5.

STUDENTS SWIPE THEIR WAY INTO THE HUMAN BODY

The College of Health Sciences acquired an Anatomage table through grant funding to provide augmented anatomy activities. The table acts as a life-sized iPad with a virtual cadaver.

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

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MEDICAL IMAGING

100% PASS RATE

Technibowl champions Kaitlin Fink and Allison McIntyre pose with Elaine Halesey.

This has been a successful academic year for Medical Imaging. Not only did 100% of the students from the December 2014 and May 2015 graduation class pass the certification examination, six graduates scored above the 90th percentile. Students passed with the following percentiles in the nation for those taking the test at this time: 100th, 99th, 98th, 96th, and 92nd. No student scored above our student nationally at 100%.

Another mark of student success was noted during the spring. Misericordia University Medical Imaging majors captured first place in the annual Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists Technibowl competition that was held during the spring conference and business meeting. Congratulations!

BONE ACADEMY

A hands-on "Bone Academy," hosted by students of the Medical Imaging Department, taught youngsters from area daycare centers about bones, body movement, and x-rays using the medical imaging labs and facilities on campus.

SERVICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING

Medical Imaging Service Day at St. Vincent DePaul

Medical Imaging students volunteered time at the local food kitchen for the homeless and economically disadvantaged. The club vice president thanked the participating students and said, "I hope you found the experience to be as humbling, yet rewarding, as I did. I appreciate your time and dedication to the Medical Imaging club and truly representing the charisms of Misericordia University."

Pictured left to right: Corinne Charbonneau, Lynn Blazaskie (club co-advisor), Allie McIntyre, Nicole Noss, Nick Troller, Leigha Sahaigan, Nicole Bechtel, Giovana Augustine, Katie Fink, and Molly Harris.

MEDICAL IMAGING FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Lorie Zelna was appointed as interim chair of the Medical Imaging Department. The College of Health Sciences wishes her well in her new role.

Dr. Elaine Halesey, Medical Imaging, was appointed to serve on the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) for one year.

Dr. Paula Pate-Schloder and **Dr. Mari King** have been named as AEIRS Fellows and were elevated at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

NURSING

DAISY AWARDS

Tina Tomkins and **Rita Carey** earned the DAISY Faculty Award. The DAISY Faculty Award recognizes the important role professors and instructors of nursing play in inspiring compassionate patient care from nursing students.

Participating in the DAISY Award program, seated from left, are Tomkins and Carey. Standing are Dr. Brenda Pavill, Patty Maloney, Pamela Welsh, and Audrey Cunfer.

DUKE-JOHNSON & JOHNSON PROGRAM

Dr. Brenda Hage, has been selected as a Fellow for the prestigious Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program's 2015-2016 year.

NURSING STUDENTS PRESENT WORK

Thirty-eight senior undergraduate students present their capstone projects during Nursing Student Research Poster Day.

PARTNERING WITH GEISINGER

The Misericordia University RN to BSN program has been selected as a preferred partner with the Geisinger Health System. Geisinger will market the program to their practitioners for Misericordia. Geisinger anticipates approximately 30 individuals from their organization will enroll beginning Fall 2015. Special thanks to **Dr. Cindy Mailloux**, chair, nursing and **Dr. Annette Weiss** for their work in creating the relationship and the excellence in programming which was stated as a reason Misericordia was chosen as a preferred partner.

NURSING GOES TO TANZANIA

Cindy Mailloux participated in a service trip through Global Health & Community Engagement in East Africa. For a detailed account of the experience, please view the blog: **https://communityserviceintanzania.wordpress.com/**

PHYSICAL THERAPY

STUDENT NEWS

At the DPT recognition ceremony on December 13th the following students were recognized: **Steven Clemson**, Catherine Perry Wilkinson Leadership Award; **Kayla Whipple**, Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award; and **Mirsada Gudic**, Physical Therapy Student Achievement Award.

Other student accomplishments included: DPT 3 student **Katie Wisser** who was chosen from a group of applicants across the area as the student representative for the Northeast District of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association.

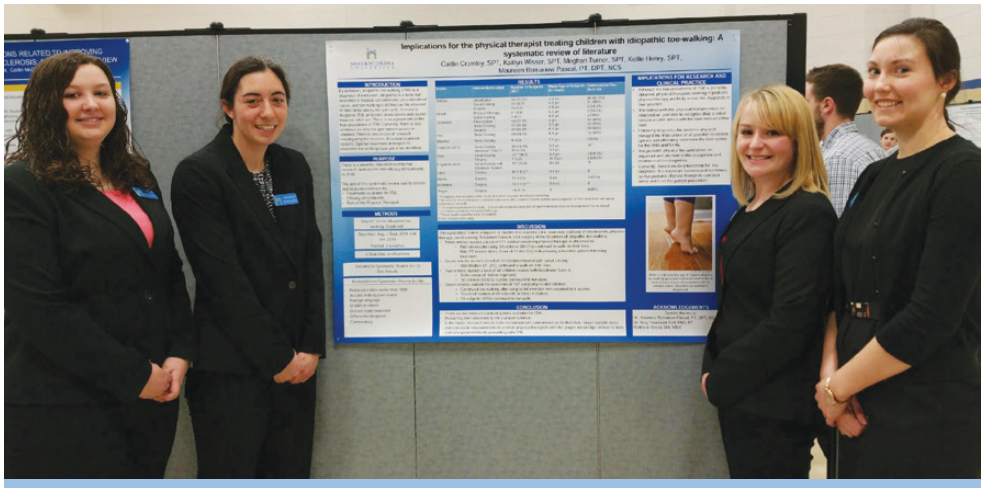
DPT 3 student **Nicole Najaka** was selected as a winner of the Student Advisory Board of Directors PT Day on Capitol Hill Video Contest. She will join 4 other winners from across the nation on June 3rd and 4th and will rally on Capitol Hill

DPT 2 student **Nicholas Lombard** was selected to receive a $6,000 scholarship from the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Auxiliary.

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

The Physical Therapy department had 12 student research groups present their graduate research (in the form of a systematic review) to fellow graduating students, some students of the DPT 1 class, faculty and former clinical instructors.

Approximately 70 clinical instructors attended. The PT department also provided six contact hours per day toward the therapist's licensure renewal.



Third Year Student Research Poster

PT SPONSORS MINI-CSM CONFERENCE

The Physical Therapy Department sponsored a one-day "mini-CSM" conference for the Northeast District of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association on September 6, 2014.

Dr. Laurie Brogan coordinated the event. Speakers included full-time Physical Therapy faculty **Dr. Kelley Moran**, **Dr. Richard (Woody) Haydt**, and **Dr. Maureen Pascal**, as well as two graduates of the Misericordia Physical Therapy program: **Dr. Kristina Dorkoski** and **Dr. Candice Pagnotti**. Over 15 current DPT students provided assistance for the event. Twelve groups of third year DPT (Class of 2014) students presented research posters.

Doctor of Physical Therapy 2014 Class Group Photo

SERVICE TRIP TO RWANDA

Please read about **Dr.Maureen Pascal's** service trip to Rwanda on her blog. **http://mpascalmu.tumblr.com**

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

OT SERVICE LEARNING

OT students spent their spring break helping with the Hazleton Area School District Winter Olympics for special needs students. The MU volunteers created indoor activities for the 100 special education students who participated and dressed up as the cast from the movie "Frozen" to make the kids' day even more special.

Students in OT 220, Human Performance I, taught by **Dr. Dawn Evans**, designed and presented programing on fitness and anti-bullying for the children who participate in the Kids Café after school program. The after school program is held at Dodson Elementary and Heights Elementary in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Over 200 children participate in the program daily.

OT Students Assist with Winter Special Olympics in Hazleton

RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS IN OT

The Occupational Therapy Department at Misericordia is well known for supporting student research. A testament to that is the national and international presentations for student faculty lead research this academic year:

Dr. Lalit J. Shah and student teams of occupational therapy researchers (**Amy Costa, OTS, Ann Kumpf, OTS, Deidre Limongelli OTS, and Briget Rischawy OTS**) had a podium presentation at annual Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland in Galway City, on March 28, 2015.

Three MU occupational therapy research groups presented their studies at the October 31/ November 1, POTA conference in King of Prussia, PA:

- **Richardson, A., Masko E., Yankanich A, Lewis C., & Shah L.** (2014). Ease of use font guide tool in ADA-CAT.
- **Bendig, M., Keller, K., Rakus J., Stoltzfus, K,. Templeton, C., Hischmann C., & Fisher G.** (2014). Evaluating home safety and safety awareness for independent living older adults: OT recommendations for environmental modifications and adaptive devices.
- **Andrea Porchiazzo, MS, OT** presented her group's poster called "Promoting Socialization through Occupation for Seniors Living in Independent Apartments" at the October 2014 NJ OT Conference.

Seven faculty presented at the annual AOTA Conference in Nashville in April. Highlighted below are the 3 faculty/student posters groups:

- **Dr. Lauren Zack** (adjunct faculty) and OT graduate students **Kaitlyn Haldeman, John Ignatovich, Alyssa Leonard, Christopher Walters, Ashlee Ward**.
- **Dr. Lalit Shah** along with four weekend students **Amy Costa, Ann Kumpf, Deidre Limongelli, and Briget Rischawy**.
- **The Dr. Jessica Piatak** (adjunct faculty) along with student **Rachel Thompson**.

COLLEGE NEWS

AUTISM CENTER

The College of Health Sciences will be starting an Autism Center that codifies all the activities currently occurring on campus related to autism treatment and education in healthcare. The mission of the Autism Center at Misericordia University and Website is to act as a resource for clinicians/practitioners and caregivers. The website and public face of the center will launch in August and provide a guide to the clinical services at Misericordia University, camps, community resources, current best practices and information.

Currently the Speech-Language-Hearing Center, Summer Autism Sensory Camp (through OT) and the Student Club—Autism Speaks will be providing community resources as the major components of the center. Activities currently in development include a health care provider autism certificate and adult autism work integration clinic.

OT and Sonography students – IPE Activity

OT Students on Service Trip to Jamaica

CHS SERVICE TRIPS

In addition to the more than 20 service-learning activities and service trips posted in this newsletter that have occurred over the past year, **Dr. Jen Dessoye** and **Dr. Joe Cipriani** took students to Jamaica to provide services to orphans. Please see our Facebook Page for more information. **www.facebook.com/misericordiaCHS**

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE)

During the fall semester, Sonography (DMS) and Occupational Therapy (OT) students engaged in an interprofessional education activity (IPE). The students were broken into 17 groups with two OT students and one sonography student. Under the guidance of **Sheryl Goss** and **Dawn Evans**, the OT students observed and evaluated body ergonomics of the sonography student while they were performing a sonogram. In turn, the OT students were given opportunity to scan the model to feel the weight of the transducer while scanning and gain an understanding of the dynamics of acquiring an image.

This is the second year the two departments engaged in this activity.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

SLP IN THE NEWS

STUTTERING SUPPORT GROUP

The Speech Language Pathology (SLP) Stuttering Support group hosted the second annual 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds went to support the National Stuttering Association local chapter. **Click here** for more information.

PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING ACADEMY (PATA)

PATA hosted by SLP faculty with assistance from graduate students on the Misericordia Campus. PATA held a winter performance, spring gala and a two-week camp this summer. For more information, **click here**. Take a look at our "**Spring into Song**" gala.

SLP SERVICE-LEARNING

The student service project with Head Start was enriching for both the SLP students and the Head Start Students. **Click here** to see more photos from the day.

SLP Students Participate in Research on the Hill in Harrisburg, Pa.

SLP INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, & REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS

The SLP department faculty and students are quite prolific in writing books, research publications and presenting research.

Dr. Cari Tellis and two graduate students (**Tia Spagnuolo** and **Erin Roberts**) presented the results of two research studies at the Estill World Voice Symposium in Melbourne, Australia. Attendees included vocal performers, voice and acting coaches, and vocal health professionals from the USA, the UK, Australia, Auckland, Spain, Italy, France, Malaysia, Holland, Germany, and Finland. They received accolades from peers and voice industry stakeholders. More to come regarding integration of their findings.

Equally impressive were the 17 papers and posters faculty and students presented at the PSHA 2015 convention this year. For more information presentations and publications please go to the College of Health Science webpage.

Speech-language pathology students **Abriel McCann, Kaitlyn Stochla, Lindsey Philbin, and D'manda Price** presented their research at the Undergraduate Research at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg.

SONOGRAPHY

SONOGRAPHY PROFESSOR RECEIVES HONORS

Sheryl Goss was chosen as one of the 25 Top Professors of Sonography by Medical Technology School.com. Selection was based on the following criteria: Active Teaching, Publication, Thought Leadership, and Extra-curricular Involvement.

EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

The Sonography Department successfully hosted a continuing education event that provided five (5) CMEs with 60 attendees. Specialties included Pediatric GI, Liver Transplant, Transducer Infection Control, and whole Breast Sonography

Education Symposium Presenters

Congratulations to our 16 Sonography graduates. We have a 100% pass rate on the certification exam (to date) for the current class.

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

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