What’s inside Misericordia University? A caring and challenging learning environment where motivated students receive the attention they deserve, the high quality education they seek, and the opportunities they need to be successful both professionally and personally. When students graduate from MU, they are prepared to excel in their careers, lead others, and serve the community.
Melissa Sgroi, Ed.D., right, and Dan Kimbrough produced two award-winning documentaries about accessibility issues at polling places.
Reporter Barbara Walters made headlines when she was given a $5 million contract by ABC News to become the first woman to anchor a network evening newscast in 1976. Her desk mate, veteran newsmen Harry Reasoner, was so insulted to be paired with a woman that he was openly hostile to her on the air.

Named the first black man to anchor a network newscast by ABC two years later, Max Robinson shared the story of his first television assignment in 1959 – when he was told to read the news at a Portsmouth, Va., news station off-camera while a logo of the station filled the screen. He removed the logo and one night appeared on air against orders. He was fired the next day. The journalist went on to earn regional Emmys for his coverage of the riots that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and became co-anchor of ABC World News Tonight for five years.

Despite numerous milestones, the laborious road to equality in media occupations is still missing a substantive minority, according to Misericordia University Assistant Professor Melissa Sgroi, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Communications. There were more than 56 million people with disabilities in America in 2010, according to the United States Census Bureau, yet the number of media workers with disabilities – regardless of gender or race – is so nominal and underreported that it is hard to determine a percentage.

Dr. Sgroi, a former television news anchor/reporter and magazine writer, has had multiple sclerosis (MS) since age 34. She studies disability in the media and wonders what she should tell students in media education about fair and equitable reporting when such a large percentage of the population may not be represented in media professions.

“We call it the ‘other’ other,” says Dr. Sgroi, who may be fully able to walk one day, but may need a cane to get around the next because of an MS flare-up. “It is the diversity issue that no one wants to talk about. Gender, race and sexual preference get attention. But what happens when a student with a disability – visible or not – has to fill out a job application? Do they fall in the category of ‘other?’”

Dr. Sgroi says what is most disturbing to her is that she has not found census numbers on media professionals who have disabilities, and the media’s representation of disability is not well understood by media consumers. “The current students we have are going to be the creators and framers of media content. We need them to be aware. We all need to be more aware,” she adds emphatically.

Dr. Sgroi has spent the past three years completing a qualitative study examining the college experiences and job searches of communications professionals who have disabilities. She limited her research pool to those in jobs that directly create media content, such as reporters, anchors, producers, videographers and directors. The subjects included a legendary sports radio broadcaster who is blind.

“I am looking at what each experienced as a journalism and mass communications student with a disability and what they felt and whether the experience impacted their choice of career,” she explains. “The physical environment in higher education is very
positive, yet despite the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), there are still a lot of pedagogical barriers to learning. I talked with successful professionals across the country who, as students, had problems getting internships because they had functional limitations, or felt they struggled because media professionals assumed that they just could not do the job. I found that their experiences were very negative and few were willing to be counted among the disabled or talk about it.”

She has plans to publish her results in the near future.

Dr. Sgroi’s 20-years of experience in the media, her sensitivity to issues regarding disability, and her interest in students with disabilities led to a project that has opened the eyes of thousands to the hurdles those with disabilities still face today.

She and fellow Misericordia University Communications Professor Dan Kimbrough, M.S., an award-winning videographer, accompanied Christian Budney, a student with disabilities from Marywood University, Scranton, Pa., to see what barriers he faced when going to vote at his polling place in Scranton on general Election Day in November 2012. Sgroi met Budney, an advocate for the disabled, through his work with the Center for Independent Living in Scranton.

Although Budney was able to access his assigned polling place, there were definite limitations to others. What the team documented was so unsettling that they decided to examine other polling sites in both Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. Not one of the random sites they visited was fully ADA compliant. They found numerous places without designated handicapped parking, one site lacked ramps for access, and another where the door labeled “handicapped” was locked, making voting nearly impossible for people with disabilities in those neighborhoods.

By the end of the eight-hour day, they had enough material to produce the 15-minute documentary, “VOTE,” which chronicled the barriers to voting that exist for people with disabilities and how accessibility issues can disenfranchise some voters. “We need to realize that disability is diversity based on a physical difference, and if we really intend to be inclusive we need to address all types of differences,” Dr. Sgroi says. “The documentary really opened people’s eyes … we got people talking.”

No one was more surprised than
Professor Kimbrough. “On the first day of filming, we kept coming across locations that were not accessible, and it hit me that this was a much bigger issue than we anticipated,” adds Professor Kimbrough. “And once we got back and started looking through the footage, it did not take long to realize that there had to be a follow-up.”

There was extensive media interest when Misericordia University held a special screening of “VOTE” on Oct. 29, 2013 before a large audience in the Lemmond Theater on campus. (The video can be viewed at vimeo.com/78104564).

The documentary earned the team numerous awards, including an Award of Merit in Disability Issues, and got the attention of government officials across both counties and in state government.

Professors Sgroi and Kimbrough went back on the road with a camera just three weeks later on the day of the 2013 general election, approximately one year after their initial filming. They revisited five of the offending sites in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, and stopped at five polling places in Dauphin County, where a concerted effort had been underway since 1988 to ensure handicapped voters have accessibility.

What they found was that their efforts had initiated positive change. In one case, Luzerne County election officials actually moved polling operations from Meyers High School, where the only handicapped access to voting was through a locked door, to the nearby St. Aloysius Church to improve accessibility. A site in Dallas Township, Pa., needed only to add a handicapped parking space to be compliant.

Documenting the changes, their follow-up documentary, “VOTE: The Disabled Democracy,” premiered on Public Broadcasting Systems affiliate WVIA-TV on May 11, 2014 and on WYLN-TV, Hazleton. (The video can be viewed at vimeo.com/78104564).

While this video also garnered numerous awards, including the 2014 Award of Merit presented by Accolade Dan Kimbrough, M.S., assistant professor of communications, has been a member of the faculty of Misericordia University since 2008. He earned a Master of Arts degree in electronic broadcast management from Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich., and holds Bachelor of Science degrees in psychology and communications from Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind. He teaches a variety of audio and video classes and oversees the Video 1-2-3 optional on-campus internship. As a documentary videographer for 15 years, he say the “Vote” documentary was one of the most eye-opening projects he has worked on, rating it second only to one that he did on Title IX.
Film, Television, New Media & Videography Awards and an international Communicator award, Kimbrough says he is most proud of the dialogue it generated. “When I go to church or to a restaurant, people who have seen the film or news reports about the documentary come up to me and tell me they are happy the topic is being addressed … that is what makes me proud,” Professor Kimbrough says as he leans forward in his chair. “It opened my eyes to an area of civil rights I had not looked at before. I never imagined in a year that changes would be made.”

Dr. Sgroi adds, “One woman called and left a voice-mail message at my office, and you could tell she was almost in tears. Because of physical limitations, her parents had not been able to vote in years. She was exceptionally grateful for the changes we initiated.”

As a result of Professors Sgroi and Kimbrough’s work, the Center for Independent Living in Scranton, Pa., received a $10,000 grant to perform an assessment of all polling places in seven counties of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Armed with the success of the two videos and three years of research data, Dr. Sgroi was a presenter at the 27th Annual Society of Disability Studies Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., in June 2014. She served on a panel that included noted disability scholar Beth Haller, professor of journalism/new media at Towson University, Towson, Md., for the presentation, “The Documentary: Past, Present and Future.” Professor Kimbrough joined Sgroi for a presentation and screening of “VOTE: The Disabled Democracy” documentary to the international audience of disability advocates.

“It is only until you attend this type of gathering that you get an idea of how much still needs to be done in the area of diversity and disability,” adds Dr. Sgroi. “Disability continues to be the socially acceptable form of discrimination.”

**Melissa Sgroi, Ed.D.,** assistant professor and chair of the Communications Department, joined the faculty at Misericordia University in 2006. Sgroi holds a Doctorate in Education and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Mass Communications from King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. She served as a television anchor, reporter, assignment editor, producer and executive producer for six years at WYOU-TV, Scranton, Pa. Her writing has been published in numerous national and international publications and has been translated into several languages in newspapers, magazines and books.
Lalit J. Shah, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., and Jennifer Dessoye, O.T.D., M.S., O.T.R./L., are occupational therapy professors in the College of Health Sciences at Misericordia University. These veteran educators and clinicians are working to instill an appreciation of developing outcomes-based knowledge in their students through research while simultaneously developing their academic and clinical skills in the classroom.

Jennifer Dessoye, O.T.D., conducted the study, ‘The Effectiveness of iPad Handwriting Applications on Improving Visual Motor and Handwriting Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.’
It’s mid-summer and 15 members of the Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) at Misericordia University are traveling to Yokohama, Japan to participate in the 16th International Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in collaboration with the 48th Japanese Occupational Therapy Congress and Expo.

They are among almost 7,000 participants from 70 countries in attendance for the four-day event in June 2014 to network, and share and learn the latest advancements in the specialized field of study in health care.

For Misericordia University, Lalit J. Shah, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy; Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy, and Jennifer Dessoye, O.T.D., M.S., O.T.R./L., assistant professor of occupational therapy, have a combined 74 years of professional experience in the classroom and in clinical settings. They are there to present the collaborative research projects they spearheaded with their graduate students. It is an opportunity to showcase on the global stage how their investigations are creating new knowledge for occupational therapists and clients, while simultaneously developing an understanding and appreciation for research and discovery among their students.

“We as occupational therapists need to learn from our own teaching and our own discipline. We need to strongly look at factors that might be influencing our life to be imbalanced.” — Lalit J. Shah

“First you are a consumer of the evidence-based practice and then you need to become a generator of the evidence-based practice,” Dr. Shah says, explaining why Misericordia professors instill the importance of examining the unknown in their students. “The emphasis and focus of the last 20 years has been accountability and evidence-based practice. The emphasis is on applying the techniques that are proven to work. We need to use techniques and intervention strategies that are proven to be effective or working. Otherwise, you are wasting everyone’s time.”

“OT is a relatively new profession – we are coming up on our 100th
birthday,” adds Dr. Cipriani. “It is absolutely imperative that our students not only learn how to read research, but as masters-educated clinicians – how to collaborate and engage in the research process. We don’t work in laboratories. We work in our communities, so outcomes-based research is crucial so we can practice better and therefore serve our clients to the best of our ability.”

“We as OT practitioners need to continue to prove what we are using as interventions work for our clients,” Dr. Dessoye states. “I think oftentimes we know it works, but the lay practitioner shies away from research. I am hoping that student-assisted, faculty-led research like this lights the fire in our students that continues with them throughout their professional career.”

**UNDERSTANDING LIFE-BALANCE**


The goal of the study was to determine if occupational therapists “practice what they preach” and attain work-life balance – which the profession of occupational therapy has been promoting for nearly a century, according to Dr. Shah.

“We were thinking about looking at the life-balance theory,” he says, explaining why they chose this particular subject. “We preach a lot about patience and keeping a healthy balance between work, leisure and social interaction. Those are the areas as OTs that we are interested in and look at for our clients.”

The national workforce trend study attempted to survey 475 practitioners – 250 working and 225 retired. Misericordia researchers received a 25-percent region response rate and 185 responses overall. The study found that practicing OTs do not live by the profession’s philosophy and lead only moderately balanced lives due to long work hours and inflexible work schedules, as well as family and other similar obligations.

While retired OTs reportedly lead “very balanced” lives, according to the study, it also showed that a lot of their free time has been absorbed by caring for aging parents, babysitting their grandchildren, doing more volunteer work, and other activities. “We must take time to smell the roses,” Dr. Shah says, outlining the conclusion he reached from the study. “We need to manage our time a little more wisely. On one hand, there are a lot of things we can do to foster a better life-balance and we seem to take on a lot more responsibilities than we can handle. Sometimes it becomes important to just say, ‘no.’

“We as occupational therapists need to learn from our own teaching and our own discipline. We need to strongly look at factors that might be influencing our life to be imbalanced,” he adds.

**IMPROVING FINE MOTOR AND VISUAL MOTOR SKILLS**

Dr. Dessoye and her students Chelsey Converse ‘14, Johnson City, N.Y.; Lindsey McLaughlin, ‘14 Nesquehoning, Pa.; Shannon McSweeney ‘14, Ridge, N.Y., and Cathryn Steinhoff ‘14, Monroe, N.Y., undertook a landmark quantitative study involving nine children with
autism spectrum disorder to determine the viability of certain iPad applications in assisting with the development of visual motor skills, but more specifically handwriting.

Impaired visual motor skills make it difficult for children to grasp objects, like pencils, and control hand movement that is guided by vision. They, therefore, have poor coordination and difficulty coloring, drawing basic pictures, writing, catching and more.

“We need to prove why these applications work and how they work on our clients,” says Dr. Dessoye. “It is a main focus of our profession that interventions be supported by evidence and there is little research in the literature to support or negate the uses of these apps in relation to OT in pediatrics. We feel as though the research we did will be the first of hopefully a plethora of evidence coming out to determine the validity of these intervention tools.”

The structured 12-week program was conducted in a specialized autism classroom at a large suburban school district in Pennsylvania with five boys and four girls between the ages of 6 and 8. It required the participants of the study to use the iPad mini apps for 10-12 minutes daily, while also working with their typical handwriting curriculum.

The outcome of “The Effectiveness of iPad Handwriting Applications on Improving Visual Motor and Handwriting Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder” study was statistically significant in that it showed improvements in their visual motor skills and handwriting skills when compared to post-test and pre-test results, according to the Test of Handwriting Skills (THS-R) standardized assessment and the Beery-Buktenica Development Test of Visual-Motor Integration (Beery VMI).

In the future, pre-writing apps, such as those found at ReadytoPrintApp.com, may assist children with autism spectrum disorder with their learning skills and also enable them to enroll in an alternative classroom.

THE VALUE OF GOING GREEN

Over three days, Dr. Cipriani and his student researchers, Jenna Georgia ‘13, Megan McChesney ‘13, Megan Stabler ‘13 and Jaclyn Tschantz ‘13, mingled with workers at the Greenhouse Program in the northeastern United States. Under a typical horticultural setting, they watched and then interviewed the employees who manage and tend to a sizable greenhouse, a large outdoor area reserved for planting ornamental flowers, 50 earth boxes in which vegetables are sown and harvested, and a decorative perennial flower bed.

Misericordia researchers are not learning the finer aspects of farming, but rather examining whether or not a horticultural therapy program is beneficial for people with persistent mental illness. “One of the themes we found was that participants found the program to be very therapeutic,” Dr. Cipriani says. “It was outdoors in the sunshine; a person could work with living things that exhibited beauty, and it had an element of sometimes strenuous physical activity which other hospital-based programs may have less of. It was done as a group, so the opportunity was there to develop relationships with other participants and staff in a natural setting.”

Their research led to the study, “Uncovering the Value and Meaning
of a Horticulture Therapy Program for Clients at a Long-Term Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Facility,” and to understanding the importance of therapeutic activities, like the Greenhouse Program.

“I think it creates an absolutely perfect environment, both in a literal and figurative sense,” says Dr. Cipriani. “This program is unlike any other in the hospital, or for that matter, perhaps unlike any other program they experienced. They have an environment which affords opportunities for growth every day.”

In order to conduct the study, MU researchers had to agree not to identify the facility, which is operated by the state Department of Public Welfare. The collaborative research project selected eight program participants between the ages of 20 and 69 after they were interviewed individually for the study. In turn, the inpatient clients are paid by the state through Vocational Adjustment Services.

At the end of the growing season, their harvest – vegetables and flowers, as well as arts and crafts – are sold in the regional community and to hospital staff to support the program.

Student researchers observed the participants’ daily routine, and interviewed them and the occupational therapists assigned to the program at the psychiatric facility. The study found that the majority of the participants (five out of eight) felt the intervention program was beneficial. It increased socialization, taught them how to multi-task and care for plants, paid them for their work, and enabled them to be outdoors and to work with their hands.

“Working with plants and gardening is a unique experience for people with mental illness, just as it is for people in society,” Dr. Cipriani says. “Working with living things, engaging in manual labor is different than talk therapy because they learned skills – working skills, social skills.”

Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy, and Emily Iseminger ’16, an OT major, look over plants in a greenhouse at The Lands at Hillside Farms. Dr. Cipriani collaborated with recent OT graduates Jenna Georgia ’13, Megan McChesney ’13, Megan Stabler ’13 and Jaclyn Tschantz ’13 on the study.
Kelly B. Filipkowski, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of psychology in the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences at Misericordia University. Working with student research assistants, she is attempting to understand if people who are ostracized in-person experience different psychological and physiological responses than those who are ostracized online.

Kelly B. Filipkowski, Ph.D., foreground, conducted the study, 'Reactions to Involvement in Social Interactions,' with the assistance of student research assistants.
**Ostracism.** Even standing alone, it is an intimidating word for most to say and then to comprehend how it may negatively impact others. Being excluded or ignored by others elicits a wide range of emotions—some long lasting—for those who have experienced it firsthand.

**RESEARCH SEeks to UNDERstand IMPACT OF IN-PERSON AND ON-LINE Ostracism**

In society, people are ostracized daily. Sometimes it is done unknowingly, while far too often it is done intentionally. Colleagues passing in a hallway or sharing an elevator ride, for example, may fail to acknowledge someone accidentally, while other times people in a clique may purposely ignore another member of the group to teach them a lesson.

In the end, though, the exclusion is real and so are its effects.

“We inadvertently ostracize people on an everyday basis when we don’t say hello to everyone we walk past on the sidewalk or in the hallway,” explains Kelly B. Filipkowski, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Misericordia University. “It would be impractical to include and feel a sense of belonging to every single person we come into contact with. Other times, people may perceive us as being excluding when maybe we aren’t.

“We also go out of our way to exclude others—good or bad. There may be lots of reasons people do this: To teach them a lesson for committing an infraction, to get someone to suppress certain behaviors and conform to the norm, and sometimes to feel powerful and have control,” she says, citing some of the many reasons for this type of behavior.

The subject matter first piqued the interest of Dr. Filipkowski when she was a graduate student at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. Noted psychology Professor Kipling Williams, Ph.D., of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., was presenting a symposium discussion on this area of study for her class.

“I immediately became intrigued by the topic and realized the potential to answer some very interesting questions with solid experimental research,” Dr. Filipkowski recalls.

“Shortly thereafter, I was designing a study to investigate an area of exclusion relevant to modern social interactions. In particular, this was one of the first studies to examine these processes as they relate to online interactions and exclusion.”

Dr. Filipkowski’s first foray into the study of social exclusion came at her alma mater where she published the study, “Plugged in but not Connected: Individuals’ Views of and Responses to Online and In-Person Ostracism,” in the Computers in Human Behavior Journal (Vol. 28, 2012, pp. 1241-1253) with her advisor, Dr. Joshua M. Smyth. That study investigated psychological responses to ostracism.

The purpose of her original research was to compare individuals who were ignored in different mediums during benign interactions. The study found that when people are excluded—online or in-person—they experience low levels of inclusion and belonging, and
“I immediately became intrigued by the topic and realized the potential to answer some very interesting questions with solid experimental research.”

— Kelly B. Filipkowski

a “significant drop in positive mood,” she says.

“Interestingly, people did not seem to differ between online and in-person conditions. Participants seemed to interpret online and in-person exclusion as similarly meaningful and negative,” Dr. Filipkowski adds.


“Working firsthand on a project like this really gave me an appreciation for the effects that exclusion may have on people,” acknowledges Huxta, who estimates he logged about 100 hours of work on the study over two semesters.

The “Reactions to Involvement in Social Interactions Study” was funded by two Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research grants and one Misericordia University Faculty Research grant. The ongoing research seeks to determine if people experience exclusion differently depending on the method.

Dr. Filipkowski and her eight research assistants (four female and four male) began to prepare materials and protocol for the study at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester. Overall, they collected data on 54 participants (33 female and 21 male) from November 2013 through May 2014.

Misericordia University students volunteered to be participants under the belief they were part of a study on impression formation. They also received extra credit for participation. Dr. Filipkowski gave the project a somewhat vague title so the participants were unaware about the exclusion aspect of the study.

“We wanted to see how people responded to what appeared to be naturally occurring social exclusion,” she says.

The study was conducted in a
controlled setting in the Department of Psychology Lab in Walsh Hall. Participants were informed that they would be involved in five-minute, get-acquainted conversations with other students who also happened to sign up for that same time slot. In actuality, these other students were Dr. Filipkowski’s research assistants who were pretending to be real participants – and were thus the study confederates.

The real participants were randomly selected to experience the conversation either in-person or online. All of the participants filled out pre-interaction questionnaires and provided saliva samples in a private laboratory and then were escorted to a conversation room for the in-person condition, or they were logged onto a chat room in their private laboratory for the online chat room exercise.

Prior to the study, Dr. Filipkowski’s confederates memorized a script in which one confederate would start the conversation and then include the real participant for basic introductions. After the real participant shared something about him/herself, the second confederate would introduce him/herself. It was during this introduction that the two confederates realized they both liked the same underground band and continued to only talk to each other for the rest of the conversation. This same rigged conversation was played out with every participant.

During the several minute conversation, the confederates focused on each other and their “common love for this underground band,” Dr. Filipkowski says, and they ignored the “real participant and any attempts for re-inclusion.”

“I can’t believe you saw them (the band),” Confederate 1 said to Confederate 2, offering a small sample of the scripted portion of the study. “I’ve only seen them live once – like,
a couple years ago – when I was in Pittsburgh visiting my cousin. She got me into them so I went with her.”

After a few minutes, Dr. Filipkowski returned to the lab and ended the conversation. She brought the students back to their individual rooms to fill out questionnaires and to provide saliva samples before they were debriefed fully about the real purpose of the study. The faculty and student researchers at Misericordia University still are analyzing the data compiled from the student participants’ questionnaires. Misericordia collaborated with a researcher at Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., to conduct the biochemical assays on the saliva samples to determine levels for the stress hormone, cortisol.

“We can look at the levels of cortisol in the saliva to assess if the person is experiencing a stress response,” she says. “If they perceived something to be more stressful, they will have higher levels of cortisol in their body. Basically, it is a physiological measure of whether they found the exclusion to be a stressful situation.”

The online portion of the study involved a similar scenario using Vypress Chat. The two confederates dominated the conversation in the chat room after initially including the participant. Once again, the confederates followed a script that highlighted a similar interest in an underground musical group.

Basic research, such as this one conducted at Misericordia University, is done to better understand certain processes and to learn more about the world in general, which in turn can generate new areas of inquiry for investigation, according to Dr. Filipkowski. “It is not conducted to provide or test a solution to a particular problem, but rather to gain knowledge about how things work,” the Misericordia professor says. “Many applied clinicians, however, can and do find the knowledge acquired through basic research helpful in generating more practical applications.”

Once complete, Misericordia University researchers plan to write a research paper based on their findings and submit it for publication and presentations in professional journals and conferences. The experience also enables the undergraduate psychology majors to gain firsthand research experience – something that will prepare them for graduate school.

“That was the first project I ever worked on with a professor,” says Huxta, a Shamokin High School graduate who plans on attending graduate school for his master’s degree in mental health counseling. “You get some knowledge from textbooks, but you don’t learn as much as when you are working firsthand with a professor on the project.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity because going into graduate school there is going to be a lot of research. Having this experience with research is going to benefit me,” adds the son of Leonard and Colette Huxta.

Huxta, along with the other student research assistants, made the study more manageable and complete.

“Without my research assistants’ level of dedication and professionalism, I never would have been able to complete this project,” Dr. Filipkowski acknowledges. “The task I gave them was not easy, however, they mastered it beautifully. I am so proud of their accomplishments and very grateful for their hard work and commitment.”
College Of Arts and Sciences

Russ Pottle, PhD – Dean – Presentation: “Suicide and Ernest Hemingway’s Submarine Hunting Missions,” for the Literature and Madness Panel at the 2013 Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Washington, D.C.

Scholarly Service: Area Chair for Literature and Madness Panel at the 2013 Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference.


Scholarly Service: Area Chair for Literature and Madness Panel at the 44th Annual Popular Culture Association Conference, Chicago, Ill.; April 2014.

Scholarly Service: Chair, “Female Writers/Poets and World War I” for “World War I: Dissent, Activism, and Transformation,” at Georgian Court University/Peace History Society; 2014.

Presentation: “Gangrene and White Medicine in ‘Indian Camp,’” at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Ernest Hemingway Society, Venice, Italy; June 2014.

Scholarly Service: Chair, “Teaching Hemingway,” at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Ernest Hemingway Society; June 2014.

Reading: “Selected Readings from ‘Across the River and Into the Trees,’” for the PEN/Hemingway Fundraiser at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Ernest Hemingway Society; June 2014.


DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Angela Asivatham, BVSc, PhD – Associate Professor and Chair – Presentation: “The Relationship Between Expression of A-Kinase Anchoring Proteins and Phosphorylation of Akt/PKB in Neonatal Rat Schwann Cell Proliferation,” at the American Association for Cell Biology Meeting, San Francisco, Calif.; April 2012.


Larry Corpus, PhD – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Initial Survey of Benthic Macroinvertebrates from Trout Brook Creek, Luzerne County, PA,” with McCraith, B., at the 2013 Northeastern Pennsylvania Biomedical Research-in-Progress Colloquium, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Grant: “A Survey of Aquatic Macro Invertebrates from Trout Brook Creek,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Grant: “The Macroinvertebrates Associated with Rock Wall and Hillside Seeps in Luzerne
County, Pennsylvania,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Barbara McCraith, PhD – Associate Professor – Poster Presentation: “Initial Survey of Benthic Macroinvertebrates from Trout Creek, Luzerne County, PA,” with Corpus, L., at the 2013 Northeastern Pennsylvania Biomedical Research-in-Progress Colloquium, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.


Grant: “Comparison of Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Fish Assemblages in Two Pennsylvania Streams,” with Kennedy, T., and Pheasant, M., 2014 Misericordia University Natural Sciences Summer Research Fellowship Program


Presentation: “Flight Initiation Distance in Eastern Gray Squirrels Based on Different Characteristics of Human Predator’s Eyes,” with Webber, J., at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences; 2014.


Grant: “Antimicrobial Activity as Related to Alkaloid Composition of Root Extracts from the Berberine Family of Plants,” with Messler, A., 2014 Misericordia University Natural Sciences Summer Research Fellowship Program.
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Frank Yepez Castillo, PhD – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Adapting the Use of Ionic Liquid in Diels-Alder Reactions for the College Organic Laboratory,” with Armstrong, M., at Misericordia University; May 2013.


Anna Fedor, PhD – Assistant Professor and Chair – Poster Presentation: “Adapting the Use of Ionic Liquid in Diels-Alder Reactions for the College of Organic Laboratory” at Misericordia University; May 2013.


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Dan Kimbrough, MS – Assistant Professor – Award: 2013 Award of Merit in Disability Issues from the Accolade Film, Television, New Media & Videography Awards for “Vote” documentary.


Presentation: “Is the Internet the Answer to Diversity of Voices?,” before the “Mirror on the Media: Who is Creating Our Content?” Panel, 2013 BEA Annual Conference.

Chair: BEA’s Documentary Division, 2013 BEA Annual Conference.

Panel Moderator: Documentary Division Pitch Session Panel at the 2013 BEA Annual Conference.


Presentation: “So You’ve Never Touched a Camera …?,” at the 2013 BEA Annual Conference.

Award: 2014 Award of Merit from the
Accolade Film, Television, New Media & Videography Awards for “Vote: The Disabled Democracy” documentary.

Award: 2014 Videographer Award of Excellence from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for “Vote: The Disabled Democracy” documentary, with Sgroi, M.

Award: 2014 Communicator Award from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for “Vote: The Disabled Democracy” documentary, with Sgroi, M.


Melissa Sgroi, EdD — Assistant Professor and Chair – Award: 2013 Award of Merit in Disability Issues from the Accolade Film, Television, New Media & Videography Awards for “Vote” documentary.


Award: 2014 Videographer Award of Excellence from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for “Vote: The Disabled Democracy” documentary, with Kimbrough, D.

Award: 2014 Award of Merit from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for “Vote: The Disabled Democracy” documentary.


Presentation: “Vote: The Disabled Democracy,” at the 2014 Society for Disabilities Studies Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH


Award: 2014 Louis and Barbara Alesi Excellence in Scholarship Award in recognition of scholarly achievement.


Invited Talk: “Fairy Tales: Pedagogy Roundtable,” at the 43rd Annual Popular
Culture Association Conference.
Grant: “Science for Science’s Sake: Imagining the Decadent Scientist,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.
Reviewer: Edinburgh University Press.

Patrick Hamilton, PhD – Assistant Professor
– Grant: “All New, All Different?: A Graphic History of Race & the American Super Hero,” with Austin, A., 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.
– Grant: “All New, All Different?: A Graphic History of Race & the American Super Hero,” with Austin, A., 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.
– Grant: “All New, All Different?: A Graphic History of Race & the American Super Hero,” with Austin, A., 2014-15 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.
– Grant: “All New, All Different?: A Graphic History of Race & the American Super Hero,” with Austin, A., 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Matthew Nickel, PhD – Assistant Professor
– Publication: “‘They Thought They Were Their Own Shadows’: Catherine Aldington – Daughter of Richard Aldington,” in “Ghosts


Grant: “The Isle’s Full of Noises: Shakespeare and the Neo-Elizabethan Aesthetic,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.


DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

Elisa Korb, PhD, JD – Assistant Professor and Chair – Grant: “Theosophy and the Pre-Raphaelites,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Research Grant.


Grant: “How the Irish Became White: Intercultural Polemics in Irish History and the Arts,” Misericordia University Faculty Development Grant-Study Away Programming; July 2014.


DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT


Award: 2013 Louis and Barbara Alesi Excellence in Scholarship Award in recognition of scholarly achievement.


Award: 2014 Judge Max and Tillie Rosenz Excellence in Teaching Award for outstanding contributions to student learning and development.


Reviewer: Religion and American Culture; 2013.


Grant: “Our Darling Willie: Abraham Lincoln and the Death of his Son,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Our Darling Willie: Abraham Lincoln and the Death of his Son,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Christopher A. Stevens, PhD – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “Explaining Language and Citizenship Policies in the Former Soviet Union: The Case of Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, and Ukraine,” at the 73rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Meeting; April 2013.


Grant: “Image Theory and Strategic Relations in the Post-Soviet Space,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Amanda L. Van Lanen, PhD – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “Food Will Win the War: The U.S. Food Administration’s Advertising Campaign during World War I,” at the 2013 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Washington, D.C.

David C. Wright, PhD – Professor and Chair – Presentation: “Where is the Love?: The Music of Social and Political Critique,” at the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa.


Presentation: “Tales of Love and Desire in Rock Music,” at the 2013 Mid-Atlantic Popular-American Culture Association Conference, Atlantic City, N.J.

Grant: “Tales of Friendship, Love & Desire in Rock Music,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: "Depictions of Intimacy Loss in Rock Music Lyrics," 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

David Perkins, PhD – Assistant Professor – Book: “Calculus and Its Origins,” (Spectrum), 2012.


Jay Stine, PhD – Associate Professor and Chair – Presentation: “A Brief History of Pre-Hausdorff Spaces,” at the 2013 Joint Meeting of the American Mathematical Society-Mathematical Association of America, San Diego, Calif.

Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Initial Hulls and Zero Dimensional Objects,” in Publicationes Mathematicae Debrecen 82, No. 2 (pp. 359-371); 2013.

Steven Tedford, PhD – Associate Professor – Presentation: “Fuzzy Greedoids: An Investigation,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Fuzzy Greedoids: An Investigation,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Functions of Weighted Greedoids,”
2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Pat Touhey, PhD – Professor – Presentation: “Ptolemy’s Theorem,” at the 2013 Mathematical Association of America Summerfest, Hartford, Conn.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Maria Balcells, PhD – Visiting Assistant Professor – Presentation: “The Experience of Temporal Flow in the Block Universe,” at the 2014 Eastern Pennsylvania Philosophical Association, Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.


Grant: “Nietzsche and the Problem of Tragic Affirmation,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Presentation: “Metaphysics and Myth in Nietzsche’s ‘Birth of Tragedy,’” at the 2014 Eastern Pennsylvania Philosophical Association, Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES


Award: Citation of Recognition from the Ministry of Health of Panama at the XIII Congress of Federation of Latin American Associations for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, Panama City, Panama; October 2012.


Award: “10 Philadelphia Milestones in Surgical History” article cited his development of intravenous hyperalimentation feeding technique at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital; November 2012.

Award: The Stanley J. Dudrick Annual Lecture series established in April 2013 by the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Award: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Medal for
excellence in research, education, and clinical care; April 2013.


Award: Presented honorary Doctor of Science degree from Franklin and Marshall College; May 2013.

Honor: “Distinguished Service Award” from the Society for Surgical Oncology at the 67th Annual Cancer Symposium, Phoenix, Ariz.; March 2014.

Presentation: “Genius and Evolution of Total Parenteral Nutrition,” at Rosales National Hospital Tertiary Care Center, El Salvador; March 2014.

Presentation: “Intestinal Fistula Update: Enterocutaneous to Enteroatmospheric,” at Rosales National Hospital Tertiary Care Center; March 2014.

Presentation: “Surgery’s Legacy to Nutritional Support of Seriously Ill Patients,” at Rosales National Hospital Tertiary Care Center; March 2014.

Presentation: “Genesis and Evolution of Total Parenteral Nutrition,” at Rosales National Hospital Tertiary Care Center; March 2014.

Presentation: “Unorthodox Prerequisites of Total Parenteral Nutrition in Infants and Children,” at the National Children Hospital, Benjamin Bloom Tertiary Care Center, El Salvador National University, El Salvador; March 2014.

Presentation: “Unorthodox Prerequisites of Total Parenteral Nutrition in Infants and Children,” at the National Maternity Hospital, Social Security Hospital Tertiary Care Center, Sal Salvador, El Salvador; March 2014.

Presentation: “Principles of Metabolic and Nutritional Management of Critically Ill Surgical Patients,” at El Salvador National University, El Salvador; March 2014.


Scott L. Massey, PhD, PA-C – Professor, Chair and Program Director – Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Effects of Synchronized Distance Education on Anxiety, Depression, and Academic Achievement in First-Year Doctor of Pharmacy Students in an Accelerated Curriculum,” with Goldsmith, C., Miller, K., Lee, LT., and White, S., in Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning, 4; 2012.

Poster Presentation: “The Relationship Between Formative and Summative Examination and PANCE Results: Can the Past Predict the Future: A Multi-Program
Study to Determine External Validity of Testing Instruments,” with White, S., Young, S., Martin, H., Wulf, S., and Becker, R., at the 2012 Physician Assistant Education Association Annual Forum, Seattle, Wash.


Grant: “Longitudinal Study of Academic and Psychological Adjustment of Health Sciences Graduate Students,” with Nordstrom, A., 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Longitudinal Study of Academic and Psychological Adjustment of Health Sciences Graduate Students,” with Nordstrom, A., 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Presentation: “From Theory to Practice: Guidelines for Implementing Cooperative Learning into Your Curriculum,” at Mercy College’s Spring Faculty Seminar Day; 2014.

“Presentation: “Implementing Programmatic Assessment,” at Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, Ohio; May 2014.

Grant: “Longitudinal Study of Academic and Psychological Adjustment of Health Sciences Graduate Students,” (continuation) with Nordstrom, A., 2014-15 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Lynn Aldrich, EdD – Associate Professor – Award: Elected vice president of the American Association of Physics Teachers-Central Pennsylvania Section; 2012.

Presentation: “Beta Testing of Learner-Centered Environment for Algebra-Base Physics,” at the 2013 American Association of Physics Teachers-Central Pennsylvania Section, Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.


Presentation: “Reflections of a Retiring Physics Professor,” Inaugural Last Lecture Series, Misericordia University; April 2014.


Award: American Association of Physics Teachers Area Committee on Science Education for the Public, appointed to three-year term.


Poster Presentation: “Service Learning in Introductory Astronomy at Misericordia University,” at the 62nd Annual Conference of the American Association of Physics Teachers – Central Pennsylvania Section, Dallas, Pa.; March 2014.

Poster Presentation: “Misericordia University Introductory Physics for the Life Sciences Courses,” at the 2014 American Association


DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Christopher M. Carr, PhD – Assistant Professor – Publication: “Mary: A Gnostic View of Justice,” in “Mary, God-Bearer to a World in Need,” (Pickwick Publications, Eugene, Ore.).

Joseph Curran, PhD – Associate Professor and Chair – Co-Editor: “New Voices in Catholic Theology,” a collection of essays in Crossroads; October 2012.


Grant: National Endowment for the Humanities, at the American Academy, Rome Italy, with Warden, G., director, to study Etruscan culture; 2012.


Grant: “Distributional Analysis of Mongolian Buddhist Miniature Thangka Paintings,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


College of Health Sciences


Presentation: “Leadership Succession, Selection and Skill Implementation in Health Care Faculty,” at the 7th International 2014 Annual Mentoring Conference, Albuquerque, N.M.


Presentation: “Teamwork Competence: As Important as Our Clinical Competence,” with Eberman, L.E., at All Together Better Health VII.
Presentation: “Integrating IPE in Pre-Professional Educational Experiences Using Case Studies,” with Eberman, L.E., and Games, K.E., at All Together Better Health VII.

Presentation: “Transitioning to Andragogy Model Within Interprofessional Education,” with Eberman, L.E., and Games, K.E., at All Together Better Health VII.

Presentation: “Comparison of Differing Interprofessional Education Activities to Assess Student Outcomes,” with Eberman, L.E., and Games, K.E., at All Together Better Health VII.

**DEPARTMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

Sheryl Goss, MS, RT(R)(S), RDMS, RDGS, RVT, FSDMS – Assistant Professor and Chair – Presentation: “Doppler, Hemodynamics, and Quality Assurance: Registry Review,” at the 2012 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference, Seattle, Wash.

Presentation: “Registry Review: Cerebrovascular,” at the 2012 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference.

Presentation: “Controversies in Obstetrics,” at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Society of Ultrasound Meeting, Misericordia University; May 2013.


Award: Presented 2013 Distinguished Educator Award at the 2013 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.


Presentation: “Registry Review: Cerebrovascular,” at the 2013 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference.


Award: Secretary for the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography board of directors.

Award: Board chair for the Joint Review for Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, 2013-15.

Editor: Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography National Certification Examination Review Series, completed April 2014.


**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL IMAGING**

Elaine Halsey, EdD, RT(R) (QM) – Professor and Chair – “How X-Rays are Formed,” to bioengineering and pre-med students at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; 2013.


Presentation: “X-Ray Imaging,” for bioengineering and pre-med students at Wilkes University; September 2014.


Lorie Zelna, MS, RT(R) (MR) – Associate Professor – Award: 2013 Judge Max and Tillie Rosenn Excellence in Teaching Award for outstanding contributions to student learning and development.

Presentation: “Learning to Serve and Serving to Learn,” at the 2013 Association of Educators in Radiologic Sciences Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL NURSING

Evelyn Dogbey, PhD, CRNP – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Seven Strategies for International Nursing Success,” with Greene, R., at the Transforming Healthcare Upstream: New Competencies in Health Professions Education Conference, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas; July 2013.

Kathleen Gelso, MSN, RN, CNE – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Application of QSEN Competencies in the Clinical Evaluation Tool,” with Snelson, D., at the 2013 Quality and Safety Education for Nurses National Forum, Atlanta, Ga.


Grant: “Exploring Cultural Competence through Service Learning,” with Sheikh, K., 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Award: Certificate of Appreciation from Northeast Regional Cancer Institute for 6 years of service on board of directors; 2013.


Award: 2014 Pauly and Sidney Friedman Excellence in Service Award in recognition of her service to the University and greater community.

Vanessa Mayorowski, MSN, CRNP – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Undergraduate Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Perceptions of Satisfaction and Self-Confidence in Learning Using High-Fidelity Simulation Clinical Scenarios,” with Mailloux, C., Senczakowicz, E., and Sheikh, K., at the Geisinger Health System Conference, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; October 2012.

Brenda Pavill, PhD, CRNP – Associate Professor – Poster Presentation:
“Communicating Through the Lens of Stories,” at the 23rd Annual Convention of the Society of Pediatric Nurses, Nashville, Tenn.; April 2013.

Invited Speaker: “C is for Certification,” before the Certification Committee of Geisinger Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; May, 2013.

Reviewer: “Melnyk Evidence Based Practice Textbook,” (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Chapter 8); September 2013.

Invited Speaker: “Nursing through the Lens of Holiday Literature,” for the Zeta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; December 2013.

Poster Presentation: “Approaches to Build Standardized Test-Taking Skills that will Raise Eyebrows,” at the 2014 Elevate Outcomes with HESI Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.

Elizabeth Senczakowicz, MSN, BSN – Assistant Professor – Poster Presentation: “Undergraduate Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Perceptions of Satisfaction and Self-Confidence in Learning Using High-Fidelity Simulation Clinical Scenarios,” with Mailloux, C., Mayorowski, V., and Senczakowicz, E., at the Geisinger Health System Conference, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; October 2012.


Grant: “Exploring Cultural Competence through Service Learning,” with Hage, B., 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Donna Ayers Snelson, RN, DEd – Associate Professor – Award: The DAISY Faculty Award from the DAISY Foundation; May 2013.


Christine Tomkins, RN, MSN, CRNP, PHRN – Assistant Professor – Award: Named DAISY Foundation faculty member; May 2013.

Marion Villano, MSN, RN – Assistant Professor – Award: Named DAISY Foundation faculty member; May 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY


Joseph Cipriani, EdD, OTR/L – Professor – Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Dog-Assisted Therapy for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities: An Evidence-Based Review with Implications for Occupational Therapy,”


Reviewer: Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics Journal
Reviewer: Journal of Catholic Higher Education.


Jennifer Dessoye, OTD, MS, OTR/L – Assistant Professor – Award: Named chair of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Administration and Management Special Interest Section, 2014.


Presentation: “Step It Up Adolescent Health and Wellness Program,” at the 2014 AOTA Conference.


Poster Presentation: “Occupational Balance in Religious Sisters of Mercy using Matuska and Christiansen’s Life Balance Model,” (co-author only) with Bender, M.; Marquardt, T., Myers, J., Roche, M., and Zak, J., at the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland’s Annual Conference, Mullingar, Ireland; April 2013.


Poster Presentation: “An Investigation of Favoring Group Activities and Happiness in Older Adults within a Senior Living Complex,” with Devitt, M., Haberern, H., Redinski, L., and Smaka, S., at the 2014 AOTA Conference.


Ellen McLaughlin, EdD, OTR/L – Associate Professor and Director of OTD Program – Presentation: “Combining Sensory Strategies & Social Skills Training to Improve Children’s Functional Performance,” with Charney, L., at the 2014 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md.

Presentation: “Enhancing Preschool
Behaviors During Circle Time: Effectiveness of Dynamic Seating and Sensory Strategies,” with Schwarzer, L., at the 2014 AOTA Conference.


DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY


Poster Presentation: “Is 10,000 Steps Per Day an Achievable Goal for College Students on a Small Rural Campus,” at the 2013 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting, Chicago, Ill.

Presentation: “Two-Hour Course: Early Mobilization in the Intensive Care Unit,” at the 2013 APTA Combined Sections Meeting.

Grant: “The Effect of Goal on Walking
Behavior,” with Anson, D., 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.


Presentation: “Short-Term Model: Creating Student Experiences in Developing Countries,” at the Misericordia University Summer Institute on “Expanding Students’ Cultural Borders through International/Domestic Experiences and Service Learning and Study Abroad; 2014.

Steven Pheasant, PhD, PT – Associate Professor – Poster Presentation: “The Effect of a 10-Minute Dose of Stretching on Hamstring Muscle Flexibility in Young Adult Males,” with Haydt, R., at the 2012 American Physical Therapy Association National Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.


DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY


Award: Elected to board of directors for the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA); 2013.


Award: RESNA Distinguished Service Award, 2014.


Presentation: “Scope of Life: A New Measure of Assistive Technology Outcomes,” at the 2014 California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Conference, San Diego, Calif.


Presentation: “Federated Databases and Supported Decision Making,” with Ding, Y., at the 16th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Creta Maris, Heraklion, Crete, Greece; 2014.


Grant: Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on University Interface and Information Technology Access from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Washington, D.C.; 2014.

Grant: Augmentative and Alternative Communication Selection Assistant from the PNC Foundation – Grow Up Great Foundation; 2014.


M. Hunter Manasco, PhD, CCC-SLP – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “Novel Approaches to Aid Reading in Neglect Dyslexia: Further Implications,” with Anson, D., and Brown, A., at the 2012 American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, Atlanta, Ga.


Textbook/Video: “Introduction to Neurogenic Communication Disorders,” (Jones & Bartlett Learning); February 2013.


Presentation: “SLP Student Clinicians’ Use of iPads in the University Clinic,” with O’Connor, M., and Rodriguez, M., at the 2013 ASHA Convention.


Presentation: “Use of iPads in the University SLP Clinic,” with O’Connor, M., and Rodriguez, M., at the 2014 PSHA Conference.

Reviewer: Journal of Fluency Disorders.
Reviewer: Jones & Bartlett Learning.


Presentation: “Enhance Communication Between Preceptors, Off Campus Graduate Students, and Universities,” with Cimino, L., at the 2013 Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Convention, Phoenix, Ariz.


Grant: “Understanding the Experiences of Adults and Children Who Clutter,” 2012-13 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Award: Elected co-chair of National Stuttering Association Research Committee in February 2013 by National Stuttering Association’s Board of Directors.


Presentation: “Practical Strategies for Assessing and Treating Cluttering in School-
Age Children,” with Ward, D., at the 2013 New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association, Long Branch, N.J.


Grant: “Treating Word-Final Disfluencies in School-Age Children,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Results of Fluency Training on School Clinician Confidence in Evaluating and Treating Disfluencies in Children on the Autism Spectrum,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Poster Presentation: “How Do I Know if it’s Cluttering, and if it is, What do I do Next?,” at the 2013 Annual Convention of the National Stuttering Association, Phoenix, Ariz.

Poster Presentation: “Emotional and Social Aspects of Stuttering in Women,” at the 2013 Stuttering Attitudes Research Symposium, Morgantown, W.V.


Award: Award for Continuing Education from ASHA.


Reviewer: Journal of Fluency Disorders.

Reviewer: Journal of Interactional Research in Communication Disorders.

Reviewer: Clinical Linguistics and Phoentics.


Grant: “Response Inhibition in People with Cluttering,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Response Inhibition in People with Cluttering,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Cari M. Tellis, PhD, CCC-SLP – Associate Professor – Grant: “Preparation for Submission of an NIH AREA R15 Grant,” 2012 Misericordia University Summer Research Grant.


Presentation: “Ventriloquist Speech as a Speech Therapy Technique,” with Bruno, M., at the 2013 ASHA Convention, Chicago, Ill.


Presentation: “Acoustic and Aerodynamic Differences in Estill Figure Conditions,” with Flormann, V., Perucca, J., and Zimmerman, A., at the 2013 Estill World Voice Symposium, Boston, Mass.

Presentation: “Visual Light Spectroscopy in


Grant: “Manuscript and Videos for an Interviewing and Counseling in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Textbook,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Reviewer: Logopedics in Vocology.

Reviewer: Journal of Speech-Language Hearing Research.

Editorial Reviewer: The Laryngoscope.


Grant: “Differences in Voicing Parameters in a Trained and Novice Group,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Presentation: “Successful Strategies to Treat Stuttering: From Preschool to Adulthood,” in Meriden, Conn.; 2012.

Grant: “Assessment and Treatment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Individuals with Communication Disorders,” 2012-13 Misericordia University Faculty Summer Research Grant.

Grant: “Comparing Two Methods of Stuttering Treatment: Response-Cost and Reinforcing Fluency and Ignoring Stuttering,” 2012-13 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Editorial Consultant and Reviewer: Journal of Communication Disorders; 2012.


Review Committee: Fluency Disorders, 2013 ASHA Convention, Chicago, Ill.


Grant: “Use of NIRS to Measure Blood Concentration in the Brains of Normally Fluent Speakers,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Are Communication Disorders Departments including Multicultural Coursework in their Classes?,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Presentation: “Strategies to Treat Stuttering,” at the 2014 New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention, Long Branch, N.J.

Presentation: “Stuttering Treatment: Childhood to Adulthood,” Ohio University, Athens, Ohio; March 2014.


Reviewer: Journal of Fluency Disorders.

Reviewer: Journal of Speech-Language and Hearing Research.

Grant: “Use of NIRS to Measure Blood Concentration in the Brains of Typically Fluent Speakers,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Five-Year Comparison of School SLP’s Comfort Level with Assessing and Treating Stuttering,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Presentation: “Second-Language Regression & Language Preferences in Alzheimer’s Disease,” with Foy, C., at the
2013 ASHA Convention, Chicago, Ill.

Grant: “Comparison of Multiple Oppositions Intervention and Cycles Phonological Remediation Approach for Children with Phonological Disorders,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Second Language Regression and Language Preferences in Alzheimer’s Dementia: A Pilot Study,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Grant: “The World of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology: A Bright Future,” presentation at Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China, 2014 Misericordia University Faculty Development Grant.


Grant: “Empowering Individuals with Specific Learning Disabilities when Seeking Health Care,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS

David Gargone, EdD – Assistant Professor


Timothy Kearney, PhD – Associate
Professor and Chair – Presentation: “The Bishop’s Symposium on Catholic Social Justice,” at Misericordia University; October 2012.


Grant: “Using Options to Measure Moneyness under a Fixed Exchange Rate Regime,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Reviewed Panel Presentation: “Monetary Unions,” at the Fifth World Congress on Polish Studies with the Polish finance minister and deputy director general, Economics Institute of the Polish National Bank, Warsaw, Poland; June 2014.

Zhen Ma, PhD – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “The Effects of Increases in Cigarette Prices on Smoking Behaviors: Estimates Using MSA as a Natural Experiment,” at the 2013 Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Economic Association, Scranton, Pa.


Grant: “The Effects of Increases in Cigarette Prices on Drinking Behaviors,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “The Effects of Increases in Cigarette Prices on Smoking Behaviors: Estimates using MSA as a Natural Experiment,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Joshua D. Winneker, JD – Assistant Professor – Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Protecting the Unprotected: Creating an Anti-Retaliation Policy for Professional Athletes that Exercise their Legal Rights in Participant vs. Participant Liability Contact Sports,” in the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Law Journal, University of Virginia School of Law; September 2013.

Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Potential Civil Liability of Gatorade Baths,” Arizona State


DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Kelly B. Filipkowski, PhD – Assistant Professor – Peer-Reviewed Publication: “Plugged in but not Connected: Individuals’ Views of and Responses to Online and In-Person Exclusion,” with Smyth, J.M., in Computers in Human Behavior; 2012.


Grant: “Physiological Responses in In-Person and On-Line Exclusion,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Physiological Responses to In-Person and On-Line Exclusion,” 2013-14 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


Peer Reviewer: Poster session abstract at the 2014 Pennsylvania Psychological Association Annual Convention, Harrisburg, Pa.

Grant: “Physiological Responses to In-Person and On-Line Exclusion,” 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Marnie Hiester, PhD – Professor and Chair – Poster Presentation: “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching the Psychology of Gender,” at the 35th Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, St. Petersburg, Fla.; 2013.


Award: 2013 Pauly and Sidney Friedman Excellence in Service Award in recognition of her service to the University and greater community.


Presentation: “Reducing Racism in College Students: Using SoTL to Evaluate the Impact of Peacebuilding Pedagogy,” at the 2013 International Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Raleigh, N.C.

Grant: “Longitudinal Study of Academic and Psychological Adjustment of Health Sciences Graduate Students,” with Massey, S., 2014-15 Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant.

Grant: “Longitudinal Study of Academic and Psychological Adjustment of Health Sciences Graduate Students,” (continuation), 2014-15 Misericordia University Summer Faculty Research Grant.


**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK**

**Margaret Rapp, PhD, MSW** – Associate Professor and Chair – Award: Elected to Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania Board of Directors; 2013.

**James Siberski, MS, CMC, CRmT** – Assistant Professor – Book Chapter: “Chronic Care and Alzheimer’s Disease,” with McSweeney-Feld, M.H., and Oetjen, R., in “Dimensions of Long-Term Care Management: An Introduction,” (Ed.1); 2012.

Research: “Occupational Therapy and Geriatric Care Management: Collaborating to Increase Expertise of Cognition and Memory in the Elderly Population through the Establishment of a Memory Fitness Center,” with Zack, L.

Book Chapters: “Neurocognitive Disorders” (Chapter 28, pp. 195-202) and “Providing Social Services to the Older Client” (Chapter 84, pp. 576-580), in “A Comprehensive Guide to Geriatric Rehabilitation,” (Ed.3), (Elsevier, Philadelphia); 2014.


Manuscript Review: “Cognitive Stimulation
for Cognitively Impaired Portuguese Older Adults,” for American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementias; October 2013.


Presentation: “Come to Your Senses: Understanding Human Perception,” at Mercy Center Skilled Nursing and Personal Care, Dallas, Pa.; May 2013.

Award: Community Outreach Volunteer Award from the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Pennsylvania Chapter; May 2013.


DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION


Presentation: “Should Teacher Preparation Move to a Clinical-Based Model?,” with Banya, K., at the 6th Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty and Student Research Symposium at The Commonwealth Medical College, Scranton, Pa.; 2013.


Presentation: “Oh, the Places Your Classes Will Go with Technology,” at the 2014 Pennsylvania State Education Association Conference, Misericordia University, Dallas, Pa.


Presentation: “Pedagogy Research: Exploring the Possibility of Flipping a College Class,” at the 7th Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty and Student Research Symposium, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; 2014.

Michele Brague, Med – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “Use of Service Learning to Increase Instructional Opportunities for Pre-Service Teachers,”

**Jodi Loughlin, DEd** – Assistant Professor – Presentation: “Linking Reading Methods Courses to Competency Requirements,” at The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 41st Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.; October 2012.

Presentation: “Strategies that Prepare Teachers to Integrate Educational and Assistive Technologies into a Language Arts Classroom,” at the 2013 Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 42nd Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Joseph Rogan, EdD** – Professor – Poster Presentation: “Alternative Lesson Planning for Special Education,” at the Annual Meeting for Professional Developers at Kansas University Center for Research in Learning, Lawrence, Kansas; 2013.

**Susan Tomascik, PhD** – Associate Professor – Presentation: “Use of Service Learning to Increase Instructional Opportunities for Pre-Service Teachers,” with Brague, M., and Vitale, M., at The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 41st Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.; October 2012.

**Marianne Vitale, EdD** – Associate Professor – Presentation: “Exploring the Move Toward Clinically-Based Teacher Education,” with Banya, K., and Broskoske, S., at The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 41st Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.; October 2012.

Presentation: “Use of Service Learning to Increase Instructional Opportunities for Pre-Service Teachers,” with Brague, M., and Tomascik, S., at The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 41st Annual Teacher Education Assembly; October 2012.

Presentation: “Strategies that Prepare Teachers to Integrate Educational and Assistive Technologies into a Language Arts Curriculum,” at the 2013 Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 42nd Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, Pa.


Presentation: “Four Core Principles for Alternate Format Programs,” with Nardone, P., at the 2014 Mid-Atlantic University Professional and Continuing Association Conference, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.


Presentation: “Four Core Principles for Alternate Format Programs,” with Leggat, B., at the 2014 Mid-Atlantic University Professional and Continuing Association Conference, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.
Misericordia University is a Catholic, co-educational institution of higher learning that was founded in Dallas, Pa., as an all-women’s college in 1924 by the Religious Sisters of Mercy. The academic foundation of the first four-year, degree-granting institution of higher education in Luzerne County is rooted in a rigorous liberal arts curriculum.

Over the years, Misericordia became the region’s premier college for educating and training students in the health and medical sciences, and in teacher education. Athletic programs were added, and academic programs and facilities were expanded. The college became co-educational in the 1970s. In 2007, Misericordia achieved University status. Today, it offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Health Sciences, and Professional Studies and Social Sciences.

Misericordia was established based on the tenets of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality. For 90 years, the University community has advocated volunteerism, social justice and service to the marginalized among its students, who completed more than 151,000 hours of service and service learning around the globe in the 2012-13 academic year.

With a record enrollment of 3,196 undergraduate and graduate students in full- and part-time formats, Misericordia has earned regional acclaim and national recognition for its dedication to quality academics, service leadership and professional preparation.

In 2014, Washington Monthly magazine ranked Misericordia among the top 41 percent of all master’s degree-granting institutions of higher education in the country in a survey that stresses community service and social mobility of students. The magazine also gave Misericordia a “Best Bang for the Buck” designation, placing it 123rd out of the 176 institutions that were recognized in the nation. Washington Monthly recognized 671 colleges and universities in the broader annual rankings.

U.S. News & World Report listed MU in the top tier of the 2015 Best Regional Universities-North category in the annual edition of Best Colleges. Ranked 41st out of 135 colleges and universities, Misericordia has improved 26 places in the annual ranking since 2007. The Princeton Review recognized Misericordia as one of the top colleges and universities in the “2015 Best Regional Colleges.”

Misericordia offers 34 degree programs and more than 800 classes per semester on campus, in the community and online to serve traditional and adult students.

Today, the University has 15 buildings and an extensive athletic complex on the Upper Campus, and 10 additional buildings, including John J. Passan Hall, the home of the College of Health Sciences, in Dallas Borough that comprise the Lower Campus. More than 1,000 students live in University housing.