



# MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF Health Sciences Education

Annual Newsletter  
Spring 2023

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MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

### Message from Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Education, Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet:



Once again, this Spring, we are taking the time to recognize the excellent work our students, faculty, and staff in the College of Health Sciences and Education have done. It is my honor to provide strategic leadership to the College at a time of unparalleled potential. Our students, faculty, and staff have continued to demonstrate their mercy and charisms towards each other and the community that they serve. All have managed to maneuver through whatever obstacles from COVID restrictions to have learned critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptive skills through didactic,

clinical, and student teaching experiences. Our faculty and students have studied and worked on complex issues such as poverty, racism, obesity, sustainability, resiliency, and numerous physical and mental health challenges. Every member of the CHSE family this year has met challenges, accomplished multiple tasks through support and encouragement, and paved the way for our strong alums that have set the path before us!

I was lucky to share in the honors this past year by receiving a Fulbright Scholarship to study mental health literacy of preservice educators at the University of Calgary during the Winter/Spring semester of 2022 and continue to work with our own TED department. The experience will model to all CHSE students that learning is a lifelong endeavor and that learning results in giving back to your community, whether local or at a distance. Moreover, as is true of all our CHSE faculty and staff, we understand the vital role that we play in the development of a well-educated healthcare, teaching, and social service-based workforce while also acknowledging that we have a responsibility to ensure that the community and region which we share is left better for our efforts. We are all here to serve!

Please enjoy the new 2022-2023 College of Health Sciences and Education Newsletter that provides highlights of innovation, passion, creativity, collaboration, celebration, civic engagement, and academic pride! It is an honor to have so many engaged and caring practitioners and educators in our midst who have prepared our students to be leaders, scholars, and professionals in promoting and providing lifelong optimal health, education, and wellness!

# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

## Service and Hospitality

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography students continually exhibit service and hospitality to our internal and external communities and work and learn from students of various professions.

## Health Science Day

Each year as part of Health Professions Week, Misericordia University offers a Health Science event for high school students to come and participate in a case study, sharing information about the various health science careers offered. Seniors Makenzie Kapitula and Georgia Smith represented sonography.



## Admitted Students' Day

Sonography students shared their knowledge of becoming a sonographer with the prospective freshman for fall 2023 during Admitted Students Day, held on March 24, 2023.

Prospective first-year students engaged in a scavenger hunt activity to learn about the simulated lab activities that occur within our program.



## Paint Pittston Pink

This fundraiser for breast cancer research was supported by our students sponsoring local professor Dave Mahalak in the Gentleman's Dash. Students raised \$430.00 to donate to this important need for research.



## David Evan Color Run

In November 2022, several students and faculty participated in the David Evan Color Run, raising money for the David Evans Scholarship and awareness of suicide. We all finished the 5K walk, and all had fun. It was a great break and good physical and mental activity for the junior students from normal class time.



## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks. Our faculty and students feel blessed by the opportunities given to each of us and recognize that not all families in our community are as fortunate due to various circumstances that present challenges for them. Our Department collects food for a great dinner and gift cards for groceries yearly.



Amber Robert and Keely Osborne, senior students, led this project.



## Order of Malta Mission Trip

Karen Klimas, a faculty member, traveled with senior students Juliette Myers and Kali Foltz to Santiago, Dominican Republic, to provide education and perform sonography examinations during their stay of March 23-25, 2023. Before the trip, several sonography students volunteered their time to collect a donation of small items for children to be taken and distributed to the children visiting the clinic.



## Trunk or Treat

For the Trick or Treat season, three of our students volunteered to help distribute items to local children at the event held at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

## Academics



Interprofessional education - learning from each other.

Teamwork is an essential skill for healthcare professionals. What better way to learn teamwork and communication than to build a paper chain? Students from five health disciplines worked together to create the longest paper chain.



Performing biopsies under ultrasound guidance is simulated in DMS 277 Interventional Procedures using chicken breasts with targets embedded into the breast for the students to locate and insert a needle to obtain a tissue sample or drain a cyst (water balloon). Physician Assistant students joined the sonography students to practice the techniques later applied to their respective clinical experiences.

The Sonography students also worked with graduate nursing using 1st and 2nd-trimester obstetrical case studies, with Physician Assistance on abdomen clinical scenarios, and with Occupational Therapy students on helping patients who use assistive devices. All of the interprofessional education events expand students' knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of each profession. This creates greater effectiveness after graduation in their respective clinical practice.

## Seniors Present Case Studies

On January 26, 2023, three senior students developed and presented case studies to sonography students and faculty. **Alexis Hendrickson's** presentation was on Endometrial Carcinoma, **Makenzie Kapitula** presented her study on the Wilms Tumor and **Juliette Myers'** was on Twin Pregnancy with Genetic Deletion Syndrome.

On February 22, 2023, **Sarah Lalli** and **Kali Foltz** presented their case studies for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Society of Ultrasound (NEPASU). Sarah's presentation was titled Retained Products of Conception, and Kali's was Hepatocellular Carcinoma. All five students presented very well and represented Misericordia University with pride.

## Sonography Recognition Ceremony

On March 11, 2023, the Sonography Department recognized the students of the class of 2023. Three students earned their Certificate of Completion by completing 48 credit requirements across 18 months. Nine students will receive their Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography during the commencement ceremony.

Four seniors were inducted into Lambda Nu, the National Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. Congratulations to **Alexis Hendrickson**, **Makenzie Kapitula**, **Sarah Lalli**, and **Juliette Myers**.

The Department presents four awards. This year's recipients are:

- Academic Excellence Award for the Certificate program - Jenna Sebastiano
- Academic Excellence Award for the Bachelor of Science Degree - **Makenzie Kapitula**

- Clinical Excellence Award - **Natalie Phillips**
- The Sonography WAVE Award - **Juliette Myers**



Congratulations to the Class of 2023. They have been active at Misericordia University and have mentored and inspired the underclassman to be the best they can be.

## Faculty News

Medical Imaging Welcomes **Michelle Adams** as an Instructor and full-time Department faculty member. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Imaging from Bloomsburg University and is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Instructional Design from Misericordia University. She has been providing instruction for the Medical Imaging Department in an adjunct capacity since 2010.

**Dr. Gina Capitano** was a Professional Mentor for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). Her responsibilities included providing goal-focused professional guidance to ASRT Student Leadership Development Program participants.

**Dr. Elaine Halesey** has been a member of the Legislative/Advocacy Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists since 2015. The committee drafted a licensure bill for Registered Radiologic Technologists in Pennsylvania, one of 8 states that currently do not have licensure for R.T.'s. The bill (H.B. 1440) was introduced in Harrisburg in 2017 and is still awaiting approval.



## Student Accomplishments



Pictured are Emily Paciga, Amanda Smith, Graham Dileo, Lauren Wiest, and Hailey Clark

Five December 2022 graduates were inducted into the Lambda Nu Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences.

## Mentoring Program

The mentoring program is available for sophomore and junior-level medical imaging students to assist with the transition into the professional level of the program. Sophomore-level students are randomly paired up with junior students, who serve as “mentors.” This past fall, simulated stations were organized to help the sophomores apply their didactic knowledge and think critically to prepare them for their first clinical experience. Some stations included pediatric, creative radiography, and mock operating room.



Pictured are sophomore Ari Brooks, Junior Jocelyn Bergener, and her daughter Lily who served as the pediatric patient



Pictured are Caroline York, Janella Smith, and Brianna Misson

Medical Imaging students recently participated in the Web of Care Interprofessional Education (IPE) event. They worked with Misericordia University students in other healthcare fields to understand each other's roles and formed an effective collaborative team!

## Club News

The Medical Imaging Club participated in multiple service projects this year. Projects included participating in The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of Darkness Walk and selling pink ribbons to the campus community in October to raise awareness of breast cancer. The club also adopted a local family for Thanksgiving. In conjunction with the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Members of the Medical Imaging Club helped prepare and distribute over 200 meals to help feed those in need in the Hanover Township Community.

They also helped wrap Christmas gifts with Valley Santa and volunteered at The Weinberg Food Bank, where they assembled and filled over 920 boxes of non-perishable items for the senior food program.



## Mercy Social Work Collaboration

We are creating synergies in a time of limited resources. Misericordia's social work program has forged a link fostered by the shared values of the Sisters of Mercy with social work programs at Gwynedd Mercy University, Carlow University, and Salve Regina. This relationship facilitated by virtual technology allows each program to enhance the learning and teaching experience of students and faculty from each program. Through this Mercy connection, we can go beyond our program's location and community to experience life and learn in places we may never visit. Themes of our shared learning represent various issues within social work practice, for example, global perspectives in social work practice, contemporary issues associated with addictions, food insecurity, and indigenous community issues. The events provided through this collaboration currently enhance the course content of each program. Learning from the different events is incorporated into class discussions and assignments, and students may sometimes earn extra credit via their involvement.

As these partners consider the future and different ways to bring more unique learning opportunities to our students, the possibility of delivering shared courses for which students earn credits will be explored. Recently, William Stauffer, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance, social worker, and adjunct professor at Misericordia, presented a review of recovery from the personal perspective to social policy issues. His presentation, attended by nearly 100 learners from 4 campuses, highlighted the changing yet persistent impact of stigma on the recovery population and service provision to that population.



The Mercy Social Work Collaborative joins with the Sisters of Mercy and Amizade to provide learning related to global social work practice. Learning events have offered unique perspectives and approaches in various places:

### **Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere:**

Through Mercy Focus on Haiti, a Sisters of Mercy initiative, Sustaining a Response to Malnutrition via Microeconomics: The story of Chemin Lavi Miyo demonstrated how simple but persistent efforts with women and children living in extreme poverty can result in significant improvement in health and social functioning. Sister Mary C. Sullivan, RSM, told the story of supporting women to improve children's nutrition and how women can join safely in economic participation, further aiding their families and the community.

### **Pine Ridge Reservation, Wyoming, USA**

Elders of the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe related tribal practices and perspectives regarding domestic violence, including advocacy for alternative approaches to address the issues related to domestic violence.

### **Bolivia**

Service providers reviewed services and support provided to young persons with physical and intellectual disabilities.

### **Northern Ireland**

After decades of social breakdown, disenfranchisement, and the resulting violence and youth incarceration, various initiatives are underway to support youth and reverse existing trends. The approaches discussed are positive psychology and non-formal education techniques.

The next Mercy Global Perspectives in Social Work event is scheduled for March 27, 2023. The focus will include Africa, presented by Sister Chioma Ahanihu, SLW, social worker, theology scholar, and minister. Sister Chioma, a Misericordia BSW alumnus, will focus on her life and work in Africa.

The richness of these learning enhancements is possible only through the

generous and committed sharing among these social work programs. This is a testament to what can be created through creativity and cooperation. Misericordia's social work program is enriched by others.



## Misericordia Social Work Students Collaborate with Student Success Center

Professor Hage's Methods & Processes II course helps students learn the foundational principles of working with families and groups. As part of this service-learning course, students choose a change to target via a group work intervention. After consulting with the Director of the Student Success Center, we identified the need for additional campus support focusing on principles of self-care before finals week. Intending to help peers learn and develop helpful self-care strategies, the class is creating a group presentation to share with students before finals week.

This collaborative project is a practical way for students to begin putting theory into practice. Students can then build on these foundational experiences as they enter their fieldwork experiences and employment environments after graduation. Many students have gone on to run additional groups after taking the course that has positively impacted a wide range of clients throughout the Northeastern Pennsylvania Community.

# UNDERGRADUATE NURSING – DALLAS CAMPUS

## Pinning Ceremony held for Part-Time Evening Graduates, December 2022

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University held a pinning ceremony on December 8, 2022, to recognize the students who completed the Part-Time Evening Accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree Nursing Program and the RN to BSN Degree Program. During the Ceremony, undergraduate nursing students received the Misericordia University Nursing Pin, a symbol of achievement in the nursing profession. Also featured in the Ceremony

was the recital of the international pledge for nurses and the international prayer for nurses. The Department of Nursing recognized outstanding academic and clinical achievements by the students. **Steven Schwartz** received the Academic Excellence Award, presented to the student with the highest academic standing overall. **Milagros Lopez Ramirez** received the Clinical Excellence Award for administering superior nursing skills in clinical practice and achieving a GPA

greater than 3.0. The ATI Comprehensive Predictor Award was given to a student with the highest score on the comprehensive National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses review examination and presented to **Steven Schwartz**.

The last award, Daisy in Training Award, was presented to **Genevieve S. Casey** for providing compassionate patient care.



Congratulations to our Part Time Evening Class of 2023! As part of NSG 403, they raised approximately \$10,000 in product donations for their Service-Learning projects this semester. They provided the donations of needed items specific to each of the following community partners:

Ruth's Place • Catherine McAuley House  
FSB Initiative - working with homeless veterans • Scranton Counseling Center  
Down Syndrome Center

## White Coat Ceremony Recognizes Students Entering Professional Portion of Program

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University cloaked 61 nursing students who began the professional portion of the nursing program at the seventh annual Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing on January 29, 2023.

Students in the traditional and part-time evening academic programs will begin the professional portion of the program in the fall semester. An international nonprofit, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the Ceremony in 1993 to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care in the nursing profession. At the Misericordia University White Coat Ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration, attended as 38 traditional students and 23 part-time evening nursing students took an oath that acknowledges their essential role as caregivers, with an emphasis on the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality.

Students received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart surrounded by the words "humanism in medicine," to remind them that compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice. **John W. Mullen**, R.N., ADN, PHRN, CFRN, a registered nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit, delivered the keynote address. Mullen began his career in health care as an orderly while continuing his nursing education. Through the years, he has worked in various roles in the nursing profession, including over 15 years as a flight nurse with the Geisinger Medical Center's Life Flight program. He is currently a registered nurse working in Geisinger Home Care.



Traditional BSN students White Coat January 2023



Part-time evening Students White Coat January 2023





Dr. Lisa Shustack, left; Dr. Darlene Donnelly, Chair UG Nursing Department – right

In February 2023, Dr. Lisa Shustack was awarded Tenure and promotion. Congratulations on this achievement!



November 2022 - Senior Students at the NCLEX Challenge

The senior nursing students participated in the SNAP NCLEX Bowl in November 2022 and placed 3rd out of 11 competitors!! Congratulations!!



December 2022 - Sophomore students at The Meadows

Sophomore nursing students delivered Christmas presents collected by their classmates to the residents at the Meadows in Dallas, PA. Great job, everyone!



Professor **Richard Hennigan** leads Men of Mercy; Misericordia University was approved as a national chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing in October 2022, now the fourth chapter in Pennsylvania. Each semester the group meets regularly throughout the academic year. In February 2023, the group hosted **Joseph Ongarski**, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, who explained the role of a PMHNP and the benefits of the career path.

## UNDERGRADUATE NURSING – PITTSBURGH CAMPUS

### ABSN Program Continues to Graduate Nurses in Pittsburgh

Misericordia University graduated the seventh class of ABSN students from the Pittsburgh learning center in December 2022. The undergraduate nursing program recently expanded by offering an accelerated path to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, which began in August 2019. With a nursing learning center in Pittsburgh, Misericordia University's Department of Nursing has offered a 16-month Accelerated

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, building upon the University's nearly century-long tradition of graduating nurses. Since the start of the program, 88 students earned their BSN from Misericordia University at the Pittsburgh campus.



December 2022 Graduates

### White Coat Ceremonies held for ABSN Students at Misericordia University's Pittsburgh Site.

The Department of Nursing at Misericordia University's Pittsburgh Center cloaked 22 nursing students on April 2, 2022, 8 nursing students on August 6, 2022, and 16 nursing students on December 10, 2022, who recently began the nursing program and will be entering the clinical setting. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing encourage this Ceremony for all nursing students entering the patient care part of their nursing education journey. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation is an international nonprofit; the Foundation established the Ceremony in 1993 to welcome new

students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care. At the White Coat Ceremonies, the ABSN students took an oath to acknowledge their essential role as caregivers, emphasizing the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality. Students also received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart surrounded by the words "humanism in medicine," to remind them that compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice.



White Coat Ceremony, Pittsburgh, April 2022

## Fun Times in Pittsburgh!

Misericordia Nursing Students at the ABSN program in Pittsburgh are offered many collaborative events to help them through the rigor of a 16-month degree. Below are some events hosted by the wonderful Faculty and Staff in Pittsburgh!

### De-Stress for Success:

This event is organized by the Faculty and Staff in Pittsburgh for the ABSN students just before they embark on their finals! This event is run the week before finals every semester. The students indulge in delicious snacks and tea while enjoying a relaxing guided meditation. The room is filled with wonderful-smelling aromatherapy oils and great company!



De-Stress for Success 2023

### Food Pantry:

**David Mallarkey**, our Laboratory Manager and Simulation Coordinator, along with the help of the faculty and staff in Pittsburgh, started a food pantry for the ABSN students. David sent a survey out to students about their eating habits and access to food, and the results were alarming. To help the students with this issue, the ABSN faculty and staff donated food to kickstart a food pantry for students. This food pantry has alleviated some of the pressure off the ABSN students, allowing them to focus on their studies rather than where their next meal will be coming from.



### Friends-Giving:

The ABSN Faculty and Staff made the students a homemade Thanksgiving meal! The students got to relax, eat great food, and meet students from each cohort. It was a wonderful time with a great turnout!



Friends-Giving 2022



### Easter Egg Hunt:

Each year around Easter time, our Student Services Coordinator Jen Kaup hosts an Easter Egg hunt for the ABSN students. Each egg has a number corresponding to a prize, but the big prize is the GOLDEN EGG! The golden egg finder receives a special gift! The most recent winner was Madison Machmer, right.



Easter Egg Hunt 2022

tissues, and corneas for transplantation. CORE also facilitates the computerized matching of donated organs, tissues, and corneas.

A group of ABSN students volunteered their time at the CORE table set up in the lobby of Allegheny General Hospital during Organ Donation Month this past April. The students were there to answer any questions passersby might have had about the process of organ donation. They even got to meet the Pittsburgh Pirate Parrot!



ABS students at CORE table



ABS Students with the Pirates Parrot

### CORE Volunteering:

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 57 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States. CORE partners with more than 150 hospitals and healthcare facilities to deliver the gift of life by coordinating the surgical recovery of organs,



# GRADUATE NURSING NEWS 2022-2023

Graduate Nursing Faculty Laura Lunger, Jacklyn DelPrete, and Melissa Weidner presented at the annual Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioner Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in November 2022. The faculty hosted a panel discussion titled “Get Answers to Novice NP Questions: A Panel Discussion.” It was so well received that it will also be offered as a webinar in early April 2023.

Professor Weidner also presented a poster titled “Utilizing Your Nurse Practitioner Voice to Influence Policy Decisions.”



At the Implicit Bias Symposium at Wilkes University on 3/25/23, Professor DelPrete, Professor Lunger, and Dr. Weiss will present “Please Say, Gay! Inclusivity as a Macro Approach Against LGBTQ+ Microaggressions in Healthcare”.

The presentation will educate healthcare professionals on the impact of LGBTQ+ microaggressions, how those microaggressions create healthcare inequities, and discuss strategies to improve healthcare for LGBTQ+ individuals. Additionally, participants will learn to examine their implicit biases, understand the power of inclusive language, and how to create affirming and safe healthcare spaces.

On December 6th, 2022, two graduate nursing students participated in the Geisinger Student Nurse Scholarship Conference by doing podium presentations. Nicole Doty’s presentation was titled “Comparing the Effectiveness of Statin Therapy to Lifestyle Modification to Reduce Cardiovascular Disease.” Elaina Menichelli’s presentation was titled “Irritable Bowel Syndrome Symptom Management with Peppermint Oil.” Laura Lunger served as the faculty mentor for the students and poster reviewer for the conference.

The Volunteers in Medicine honored the Misericordia Graduate Nursing Department with their award “Outstanding Academic Institution.” VIM works with the graduate nursing department to host student nurse practitioners throughout the academic year. VIM is a full-service free medical and dental clinical in Wilkes Barre. The award was presented by Kelly Ranieli, executive director, and was accepted by Oradell Banker, Laura Lunger, and Melissa Weidner on behalf of the graduate department.



The biannual graduate nursing pinning ceremony was hosted on December 17th, 2022, at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. Students were awarded their MSN and DNP nursing pins with support offered by family and friends. Caroline DeRichemond, CRNP, CLS, FNLA, was the guest speaker. She spoke to the students about leadership within the nurse practitioner field and following unexpected opportunities.



# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The 2022/2023 academic year brought positive changes and growth to the Misericordia University Physician Assistant (MUPA) Program. We graduated our third cohort, progressed our fourth cohort to clinical rotations, and welcomed our fifth cohort in July 2022. In Fall of 2022, the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of Physician Assistants, Inc. (ARC-PA) granted "Accreditation-Continued" status to the MUPA Program. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be September 2032. In addition, the graduating class of 2022 achieved a 100% first-time-taker pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE).



The MUPA Program Graduating Class of 2022

Students participated in multiple inter-professional education (IPE) activities and guest lecturers during the academic year. This year, our highlighted guest lecturers are Paul and Eileen Miller, longtime advocates for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Paul has recently surpassed the 10-year milestone of surviving ALS. He discussed how he chooses to live with the disease rather than die. Students learned firsthand the impact of a positive mindset on patient well-being and what it takes to be a compassionate provider for patients and families with terminal illnesses.



Physician Assistant students Cohorts 2023 and 2024 gather around Paul and Eileen Miller

## Alumni Spotlight:

**Christopher Picarello** graduated from the MUPA Program in August 2021. He is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, in the Army's first cavalry division. Historically, the cavalry consisted of soldiers who fought mounted on horseback. Today, the cavalry is a heavy armored division (tanks, armored vehicles, etc.) with horses still used ceremonially. Chris is a Battalion PA serving in Unit 2-5 CAV as the primary care provider to around 700 soldiers.

During early morning hours, Chris sees soldiers for acute medical issues. Late mornings and afternoons consist of regularly scheduled primary care appointments. In addition to the clinic, Chris is trained in tactical combat casualty care and is responsible for training combat medics. The MUPA Program is proud of Christopher Picarello and grateful for his service.



2021 MUPA Graduate, Christopher Picarello

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## Partnerships:

The MUOT Department, Faculty, and Fieldwork Office have developed new partnerships and continue to work with multiple community agencies to serve the community while providing clinical level I experiences for our students throughout the spring semester. These experiences share the emphasis on addressing the psychological, social, and

behavioral factors that have an impact on engagement in occupation.

This semester, we developed new partnerships with the following:

**Kirby Family House:** Faculty and students provide two programs with Kirby House.

The "**Life Skills & Wellness**" program is designed for families participating in

the transitional housing program. This group promotes the development of self-sustainability and wellness for families.

The "**Children's Group**" program is designed to focus on social skills and well-being through a play-based group for the children residing at home.

### Allied Center City Independent

**Apartments:** Faculty and students are providing an "Everyday Wellness" Group for the residents of the independent



apartments to promote safe aging in place and psychosocial well-being.

**Allied Meade Street Residence:** Assisted Living Facility: Faculty and students are providing a “Games and Giving Back” Program to promote residents’ engagement in meaningful roles and social opportunities.

Allied Meade Street Residence:

**Whispering Hope Memory Care Unit** - Faculty and students are providing a “Music, Movement, Mind” Program to promote engagement in meaningful and purposeful activities, reminiscence, and socialization.

**Second Family Memory Care Center:** Faculty and students provide a “FUNctional Cognition” Program to promote engagement in meaningful and purposeful activities and socialization.

**Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program @ MU:** Faculty and students have partnered with WWC to provide two programs with WWC.

The “**Occupational Balance & New Talents**” Group focuses on working with the women of the WWC to help increase occupational balance by focusing on sleep, financial management, and stress management.

The “**Children’s Group**” focuses on developing children’s independence, coping skills, play and social skills, and emotional and self-regulation to promote positive peer and adult interactions.

In addition to these new partnerships, we continue to work with the following community partners:

**Sinclair Health - Primary Care Tele-Mental Health:** Faculty and students work with clients to provide client-centered intervention to increase independence and safety in the context of their lives. This unique model involves the fieldwork educator working with clients on-site at Sinclair Health, a free clinic meeting their clients’ medical and psychological needs in Virginia. At the same time, the students are

remote and participate in the telehealth delivery model.

**Scranton Counseling Center:** Faculty and students continue to provide the “Coping & Life Skills to Promote Independence in the Community” program, working with members of the Psych Rehabilitation Program to promote life skills, mental health, and wellness.

**Geisinger Bloomsburg Acute Mental Health** - Faculty and students work with acute mental health unit patients to facilitate well-being and engagement in meaningful therapeutic activities.

Each of these programs serves as our level I fieldwork experiences for students of our Entry Level Masters and Doctoral programs. The students work with the individuals of the community agencies throughout the semester for a total of 45 hours. We are grateful to our partners for including us in providing services and care for their consumers.



Dr. Orley Templeton, MSOT Program Director, and Dr. Lori Charney, OT Department Chair, presented two poster presentations at the American Occupational Therapy Association Inspire Annual Conference on April 21, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. The first poster was presented with research MSOT students Elizabeth Charney, OTS, Aftin Felkowski, OTS, and Katherine Field, OTS. It was entitled “Examining the Benefits of Student Involvement in Student-Run Clinics: A Scoping Review.” This research project stemmed from a fieldwork experience that they participated in with Dr. Templeton and Dr. Charney in the summer of 2021, where they ran an OT pro-bono clinic on the campus of Misericordia University in Passan Hall.

This experience inspired the students to further research the benefits to the students and the participants of student-run clinics.



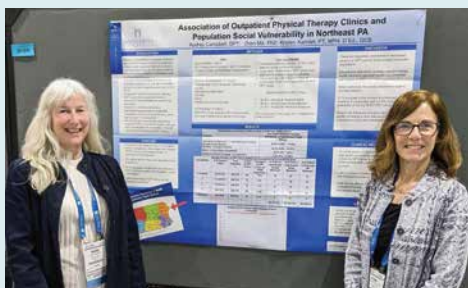
The second poster presentation by Dr. Templeton and Dr. Charney was entitled “Integrating a Lego-Based Sensory Social Group Into an Elective Course in a Graduate Curriculum,” which highlighted the community-based program for children with autism and related social participation deficits. The poster delineates the program components that pair didactic instruction with an experiential learning activity while serving clients from the community.

**Marci Smith Driscoll, OTD, OTR/L**, is an Occupational Therapist practicing in her local school district in Massachusetts. She graduated with her master’s from Tufts University in 2007 and received her doctoral degree from Misericordia University in September 2022. She recently published an article in OT Practice entitled “Role Emerging Placements Expand Opportunities” (Driscoll, 2023). Her work on role-emerging placements and providing remote supervision were part of her capstone work for her doctorate, mentored by Kathleen Hughes Butcher, OTR/L, MUOT Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

The interest in this project emerged during the global pandemic when OT fieldwork placements were limited. The Misericordia University OT Department developed a role emerging placement at the Children’s Service Center in Wilkes Barre, PA. Marci was the Level II remote supervisor who worked with four students to complete their fieldwork experience successfully. She embarked on this topic for her OTD capstone and successfully published this article related to her experience with the capstone. Driscoll, M. (2023). Role emerging placements expand opportunities. OT Practice, 28(2).

## Scholarship:

- “Clinical Reasoning in PTA Students: A survey of PTA Program Directors” Published by Dr. Melissa Cencetti in *The Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice*
- Dr. Audrey Campbell, Dr. Kristen Karnish & Dr. Zhen Ma, Associate Professor of Business published “Association of Outpatient Physical Therapy Clinics and Population Social Vulnerability in Northeast PA” in the *Global Journal of Medicine & Public Health* (www.gjmedph.com Vol. 11, No. 5, 2022) and presented their research as a poster presentation at APTA CSM in San Diego in February.



- This Summer, DPT 3 students Gianna Russo, Garrett Murray, Ashleigh O'Malley, Sarah Reeder, Levi Roberts, Ryan Romaine, and Trent Woolcock presented their research at the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE (ISPRM) conference in Lisbon Spain under the advisement of Dr. Amy Tremback-Ball and Dr. Melissa Cencetti.



- Dr. Amy Tremback-Ball and 2021 MUPT alumni Doctors Emily Hammond, Abigail Applegate, Emma Caldwell, and Hayley Witmer published in *The Journal of Women's Health and Pelvic PT* “Effectiveness of Physical Therapy Interventions for Women with Dysmenorrhea: A Systematic Review”
- Dr's Laurie Brogan, Kristen Karnish, and Melissa Cencetti along with Dr. Anthony Carusotto from the University of Scranton/ MUPT alum presented their research at the annual APTA Educational Leadership Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



- The DPT Class of 2022 presented their research at the annual Research symposium in November.



- In May, June and July 2022 Dr. Maureen Rinehimer and recent graduates Drs. Marlena Ostrowski, Clare Winton and Kalie Ertwine completed a research study entitled “Clinical Effectiveness of an Aquatics Exercise Program on Those With Visual Impairments”. The research team worked closely with Northeast Vision of Exeter, PA. Clients from that agency provided valuable information and data for this study. For this study the Anderson pool was utilized with volunteering students as lifeguards. Our Misericordia marketing dept reached out to WNEP who broadcasted our story and interviewed Dr. Rinehimer and a Northeast Vision client and employee. The research team are in the process of applying to have this study published in the American Physical Therapy Aquatics Academy Journal.

- DPT 3 students who presented their research at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) in Chicago in November.
  - “Physical Therapists can Play an Integral Role in Treatment of Patients with Eating Disorders” Kaitlyn Weatherby, Patrick Hoffman, Lauren Anderson, Marissa Prince, and Jared Houser. Mentor: Dr. Kristen Karnish



- “Overview of Literature Related to Post COVID-19 Rehabilitation” Zach Davis, Michaela Klimas, Sierra Schertler. Mentor: Laurie Brogan, DPT



- “Implementation of a Fall Prevention Program In Guyana: An International Collaboration to Improve Balance Confidence” Dr. Maureen Pascal, Kristy Pearage, Megan Shaver, Kelly Saroka, Mackenzie Schanzlin





# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

The Misericordia Speech-Language Pathology Department sent seven graduate students and two faculty members, Adina Rosenthal and Lori Cimino, on a service trip to Belize alongside occupational and physical therapy students from Alvernia University and Bellarmine University. The group stayed for ten days and worked with multiple community partners in outpatient clinics, preschools, long-term care

facilities, and community homes to work with clients and families who otherwise did not have access to speech therapy services. The students and faculty members involved were all incredibly grateful for this opportunity, and the department intends to continue this service work annually.



Two Misericordia students work with a young client in Belize using a tablet



A group of Misericordia students plays with preschool students on their service trip to Belize

Dr. Reethee Antony participated in a Hackathon aimed at utilizing electroencephalography (EEG) to create a brain-computer interface. She worked with many collaborators around the globe to translate EEG signals from her own brain into movement commands for a robot. In addition to her participation in the Hackathon, Dr. Antony has several active neuroelectrophysiology studies in process, including projects studying American Sign Language (ASL), brain differences in athletes of team sports, and children who stutter.



Kebbi robot with sophomore students Kara Thourot and Michaela Raub

Our Misericordia Speech-Language & Hearing Center has begun to utilize a new technology with clients – a socially assistive robot named Kebbi. Kebbi was initially designed for use with children with autism and other pragmatic impairments, though many other clients have enjoyed interacting with Kebbi as well! A group of graduate and undergraduate students have been trained to program Kebbi for individual sessions, and work with student clinicians to prepare for each session. We are looking forward to seeing how Kebbi can help all of our clients!

In November, several faculty members and students attended the 2022 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in New Orleans, LA to present their research on various topics, including fluency, speech perception, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), voice, virtual intervention methods, student learning, and socially assistive robotics. In total, our students and faculty gave four presentations and ten poster presentations at the

conference! In April, many faculty and students from our department will be attending the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in King of Prussia, PA to present their research findings. In addition, Melissa Alunni, Kearston Healey, Lori Cimino, and Adina Rosenthal, in conjunction with Dr. Kathleen Scaler Scott of Monmouth University, will be giving their presentation entitled, “Uno Group for Teens with Autism: Two-Year Outcomes.”



Speech Language Pathology continued on page 18

## Youth Mental Health First Aid

As part of their student teaching seminar, Misericordia University's students received Youth Mental Health First Aid certification. YMHFA training is an 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. By building mental health literacy, pre-service teachers are better able to identify and address non-academic barriers to learning.

Participants are also introduced to risk factors and warning signs for mental health or substance use problems, engage in experiential activities that build understanding of the impact of illness on individuals and families, and learn about evidence-supported treatment and self-help strategies. All TED faculty have YMHFA certification and the following student teachers were certified this year: **MaKayla Dziak, Hannah Gildea, Madison Klopp, Laurel Penn, Jennifer Regan, Karina Renee, Elizabeth Tinney, Shannon Danko, Sarah DeVries, Jessica Dymond, Jenna Gallo, Hailee Kolvenbach, Olivia Kopetchny, Stefany Lyall, Holly McBroom, Meghan McCaffrey, Aoife McTavish, Mikaela Meeker, Karissa Nenscel, Katie Reilly, Sidney Scarcella, Kayla Taddei, Kasey Thievon, and Asucena Vergara.**

## TED Faculty and Student Researchers Present at State Conference

Researchers from the Teacher Education Department recently presented at the 2023 Teacher Education Assembly, Breaking through to Transform, sponsored by Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) in Harrisburg.

**Dr. Colleen Duffy** and **Dr. Bobbi Yeager** shared details about their on-going action research in their presentation, Creating Mixed-reality Scenarios to Assess Students' Application of Theory to Practice. The session discussed how our program overcame a challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic- limited access to field placements- by creating an original mixed-reality scenario (MRS) that immerses learners in real-time teaching situations. In this case, a virtual Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting, in which special education majors must collaborate as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to establish annual goals and specially designed instruction that meet a fictitious student's academic, social, or behavioral

needs. Their research plan was shared and input was sought from attendants related to possible areas for future development of mixed-reality performance based assessments to assess pre-service teachers.

**Mackenzie Pega**, Middle-level Science/Social Studies major; **Stefany Lyall**, Secondary History major; and **Dr. Steve Broskoske**, Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department also presented their recent research. Their interactive presentation, Strategies and Techniques for Detering Cheating in Online and In-person Classes, described the problem of academic dishonesty that exists at the university level in both face-to-face and online learning environments, with consideration of the motivation for cheating in pre- and post-COVID eras. It presented practical techniques and tools, from low-

## PAsmart Advancing CS and STEM Grant

The Teacher Education Department was awarded \$375,705.00 to support their Teach STEM!: Strengthening the STEM Pipeline by Increasing the Number of Culturally Responsive CS/STEM Teachers in Luzerne County. Funded through PDE's PAsmart Advancing CS and STEM Grant initiative, the program aims to strengthen the STEM workforce pipeline by increasing the number of culturally responsive STEM teachers- which in turn will inspire more students to pursue STEM/CS majors and careers.

Two new undergraduate programs were created, Computer Science (7-12) and General Science (7-12) along with nine new Act 48-eligible professional development courses-including a 12-credit PDE Endorsement in Integrative STEM Education (PK-12). All of the new programs integrate the PA Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Education Competencies, so that educators who complete the programs can provide an equitable education to students from traditionally underrepresented populations in the CS/STEM fields. Funding allows all professional development courses to be offered at no cost to the teachers. The first cohort of 20 teachers enrolled in the Integrative STEM Endorsement courses will complete their program in the spring of 2023 and the second cohort of 20 will complete their program in summer of 2023. The remaining five STEM professional development courses are being created and taught by MU CAS faculty and will continue to be offered at no cost to teachers enrolled through summer 2024. Also in development with our partners, the Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Development Board, is a "Teach STEM!" educational, marketing, and recruiting campaign to promote interest in pursuing CS/STEM study and careers among Luzerne County youth.

tech to high-tech, which teachers can use to support reducing practices of academic dishonesty, and provided a forum where higher education faculty discussed the impact of cheating and proactive techniques used to deter academic dishonesty.

**Karissa Nenscel**, Early Childhood/Special Education major, co-presented with TED faculty members Dr. Bobbi Yeager and Dr. Steve Broskoske. Through their presentation, Re-imagining Inclusion: A Fresh Look, they shared evidence-based justification for inclusive practices including Universal Design for Learning. They presented practical strategies that can allow all learners, including special education students, greater opportunities to learn and effectively express their learning.



## Student Teachers

This year, twenty-four Misericordia University teacher education majors completed their student teaching assignments and participated in an orientation program that includes certification in Youth Mental Health Awareness.

The fifteen-week student teaching experience provides an opportunity for teacher candidates to apply principles and theories from their program to actual practice in the classroom across diverse populations, ages, and school settings. Under the supervision of Misericordia faculty and highly qualified cooperating teachers, teacher candidates make explicit connections with content areas, cognitive development, motivation, and learning styles while demonstrating the complex competencies and responsibilities required by effective classroom teachers.

The following students received assignments to regional schools and cyber schools in the Fall, 2022: MaKayla Dziak of Nicholson, PA, Tunkhannock Intermediate Center and Tunkhannock Primary Center; Hannah Gildea of Dallas, PA, State Street Elementary and Dallas High School; Madison Klopp of Shavertown, PA, Lake Noxen Elementary and Dallas Intermediate; Laurel Penn of Nicholson, PA, Lackawanna Trail Junior Senior High School; Jennifer Regan of Old Forge, PA, North Pocono Jefferson Elementary and Abington Heights Newton Ransom Elementary; Karina Renee of Pittston, PA, Commonwealth Charter

Academy; and Elizabeth Tinney of Olyphant, PA, Riverside Junior Senior High School.

The following students received assignments to regional schools and cyber schools in the Spring, 2023: Shannon Danko of Kingston, Lake Lehman School District and Greater Nanticoke School District; Sarah DeVries of Oak Ridge, NJ, Holy Rosary and Dallas School District; Jessica Dymond of Tunkhannock, Tunkhannock Area School District; Jenna Gallo of Dunmore, Scranton School District and Pittston Area School District; Hailee Kolvenbach of Glen Spey, NY, Dallas School District and Wyoming Valley West School District; Olivia Kopetchny of West Pittston, Wyoming Area School District; Stefany Lyall of Plymouth, Northwest Area School District and Holy Redeemer High School; Holly McBroom of Shavertown, Good Shepherd Academy and Tunkhannock Area School District; Meghan McCaffery of Mineola, NY, Dallas Area School District and Wyoming Valley West School District; Aoife McTavish of Mountain Top, Wyoming Valley West School District and Wyoming Valley Children's Association; Mikaela Meeker of Shavertown, Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Good Shepherd Academy; Karissa Nenscel of Palmerton, Dallas Area School District; Katie Reilly of Massapequa, NY, Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Lake Lehman Area School District; Sidney Scarcella of Luzerne, Wyoming Valley West School District;

Katelyn Taddei of Wyoming, Wyoming Area School District; Kasey Thievon of Tom's River, NJ, Tunkhannock Area School District; Asucena Vergara of Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Valley Children's Association and Wyoming Valley West School District.



## Future Teachers Program

The TED created a new college and career exploration program for high school juniors and seniors who are considering entering the teaching profession. The Future Teachers Program is funded through the Education Improvement Tax Credit program. As an MU Future Teacher high school juniors and seniors will have the benefit of becoming a member of the MU community and will receive:

**Support:** Future teachers will be assigned a TED faculty and student mentor to support them during their dual enrollment experience.

**Access:** Future teachers will be able to use all MU facilities (library, athletic facilities, writing center, etc.) while they are dual enrolled.

**Experience:** While not all participants may ultimately pursue admission to MU or a major in education, all will benefit from the knowledge gained, the relationships built, and the personal growth and development as a result of the experience.

**College Credit:** Students who begin fall of their junior year and participate in each subsequent semester will have the opportunity to earn up to 12 college credits that can be applied toward eligibility for teacher certification in the Commonwealth of PA.

Registration for fall 2023 is now open and so far four high school juniors have been accepted into the program.

## Education Club/United Way Nurse's Pantry Drive

In November and December, members of the Education Club collaborated with the United Way of Wyoming Valley to collect supplies to distribute to impoverished students in schools in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The drive culminated in a "packing party" in which students packed several large boxes of supplies, including hygiene items, coats, and shoes, and presented the supplies to Yvette Magistro and Ashley Winslow, representatives from United Way. The drive was featured in a Times Leader story on December 13th and also in an editorial on December 14th entitled "Misericordia students set an example for giving."



## STEM Hands-on Teacher Training Event

In honor of American Education Week, the Teacher Education Department held a 3-hour workshop in which TED teaching candidates gained hands-on experience while learning how the LEGO® Learning System can be used to incorporate STEM or STEAM into the K-12 classroom. Training was led by Dr. Rich Mackrell, Assistant Director of STEM and Innovative Practices at Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18. The event culminated in a race of the robotic frogs that students assembled and tested in an attempt to create the fastest and most efficient robot. Congratulations to the winning team members: John Marianacci, Logan Padden, Ryan Bernardini, and David Miller.



## TED Faculty Publications

This year TED faculty have contributed in impactful ways to existing knowledge in the field of education through their scholarly publications. A chapter, Increased Student and Faculty Engagement Researched via an International Opportunity: A Case Study Overview co-authored by Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet and Dr. Colleen Duffy was published in a book, Innovative Approaches to Technology-Enhanced Learning for the Workplace and Higher Education. The chapter discusses the challenges institutions of higher education face, including those faced in response to an unexpected global crisis, and an opportunity to engage in the building of an interuniversity project inclusive of assignments, faculty collaboration and changing college environments through an international collaboration to learn about global counterparts and cultural awareness. MU TED students and faculty partnered with preservice teachers and faculty from NHL Stenden: University of Applied Science in the Netherlands; the Middle East Technical University, Turkey; Tampere University of Applied Science, Finland; and an international cohort of Teacher Education students participating in the Erasmus Programme in an asynchronous, online course, Sharing Workplace Dilemmas, offered on the MySchoolsNetwork site. Three clusters of outcomes, identified by Cook-Sather, Bovill, and Felten (2014) were investigated and discussed, including engagement, awareness, and enhancement.

Dr. Bobbi Yeager's article, Differentiated Math Instruction, was published in Kappa Delta Pi's journal, The Teacher Advocate. Her contribution discussed the need to design and implement differentiated mathematics instruction in order to reach all learners. Four specific strategies, Daily Math, the use of stations, explicit teaching, and independent practice were analyzed and recommendations for best practices were made.

## TED Students Volunteer at the Autism Center

TED students enrolled in SPE 364 collaborated with the Autism Center again this year. The reading group activity was an opportunity for our students to gain hands-on experience working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The monthly reading is an intricate event for the families and students and has been well received. Students choose a date, a book, an activity, and serve refreshments. The Autism Center has been a great help with notifying parents and providing the needed supplies for the students' activity. The February Activity was run by Alexis Bialek and Nicoletta DiNardo.



## Graduate Education Students Complete Research Studies

The past year has brought on some accomplished research by thesis candidates in the Graduate Education Department. In summer of 2022, Desiree Goble explored Does Parent Involvement Positively Affect Student Reading Fluency and Comprehension Scores and Jonathan Grybos submitted his study of “Doing History”: Project-Based Learning in the Classroom. Both research studies were quantitative and offered real-world, classroom application.

In the fall of 2022, two cogent proposals were put into action and successfully completed: The Impact of Positive Reinforcement to Reduce Non-compliant and Disruptive Behaviors within an Emotional Support Classroom, researched and authored by Kathryn Volkel; and An Examination of

Teacher’s Knowledge of the Effect of Childhood Trauma on a Student’s Health, Social Skills, Emotional Well-being, and Capability of Learning, researched and authored by Alissa Everetts. While both scholarly endeavors were quantitative in nature, the first involved an intervention with a pre- and post-test analysis, while the latter utilized a survey analysis.

The Spring ‘23 research cohort is in the final process of data analysis of one of the most impressive sample size collections in recent years. Cynthia Wasley is researching how social media increases anxiety in adolescents, using survey data analysis to parse the impact of social media on anxiety as well as discern any differences between genders.

## AUTISM CENTER

The Autism Center at Misericordia University, located at 50 Lake Street in Dallas, comprises many programs and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder across the lifespan. The services are offered by highly trained and credentialed professionals and graduate and undergraduate students in programs

in the College of Health Sciences.

The staff at the Autism Center continue to offer the highest quality services available while endeavoring to establish services and programs based on community needs. To the right are a few of us at the MEET and GREET on campus.



### The Integrated Studies Program

The first two students in the Integrated Studies Program will complete their 2-year post-secondary experience and will be recognized with a certificate ceremony on May 4th. We are so proud

of their achievements. We are looking forward to new students beginning their first semester in the Fall of 2023. Operationally, the Occupational Therapy Department conducts planning and instruction for academics. The engaged faculty, staff, students, and families are the force of advocacy.



### Autism for Lifelong Learning Program

The Autism for Lifelong Learning Program (ALL) is designed to provide Supported Employment and Pre-Employment Transition Services to individuals with Autism in Luzerne and Wyoming counties. The main goal is to enable the participants involved in the program to obtain employment as high as their abilities will allow. The ALL Program strives to find unique and sustainable jobs, customizable employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for our participants so they can be contributing community members. The ALL Program is currently providing support to 26 participants in various businesses throughout our community and is in the process of developing placements for several others. We continue to provide exceptional Job Coach Support to help our participants achieve the skills necessary to succeed in their positions. Our goal is to grow our referral base and staffing support to continue providing opportunities and a sense of purpose for participants to come.

## School-Based Transition Services

Autism Center continued from page 17

The school-based transition program offers post-secondary school transition services to students ages 14-21 in a group setting in local schools. This service aims to prepare students to make informed college and career readiness choices for themselves after graduating from high school.

The program offers a curriculum for the following topic areas: independent living skills, job exploration, self-advocacy, and workplace readiness. Additionally, the Autism Center also welcomed several school groups to campus. The students participated in campus activities, including a tour, lunch at the Banks Student Center, and riding the campus shuttle.



## Autism Center Extracurricular Activities

Through community collaboration with the MU (Misericordia University) Aquatics Swim Team and Supporting Autism Families Everywhere (S.A.F.E.), we continue to offer the SWIM series each semester. The swim experience is a fun way to stay active and encourage healthy living from an early age.

Swimming lessons can create a love and respect for water early on while building confidence that stays with them for the rest of their lives.

The Autism Center continues to host the Art Series sponsored by S.A.F.E. to increase creativity and open-mindedness.

The Reading Series with Dr. Yeager's PPD class helps children learn to make sense not only of the world around them but also of people, building social-emotional skills and, of course, imagination.

The Autism Center Lending Library is a resource for professionals, parents, and caregivers to borrow sensory, auditory/ visual, developmental, tactile, and body movement items for both fun and educational purposes.



The Misericordia National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter has been active this year, completing several service projects and fundraisers. In the fall, the students raised money for the National Stuttering Association and ASHFoundation, donated non-perishable food items to the McAuley Market food pantry on campus, sponsored a family's Thanksgiving dinner, and made holiday cards for residents in local skilled nursing facilities. This semester, NSSLHA participated in a letter-writing campaign urging members of Congress to support audiology services for clients and hosted a sensory-friendly event for families of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 30th, Misericordia's NSSLHA chapter is hosting their annual benefit concert which, this year, will support Misericordia's Autism Center, which provides support and resources for students and families of children with autism. The concert will feature performances from Misericordia's Dance Ensemble, as well as speech-language pathology students Jacob Thomas and Stephen Rowley!

Speech Language Pathology continued from page 13

In addition to these conferences, our faculty and students presented at several specialty conferences this year as well! Dr. Cari Tellis and two students, Jacob Thomas and Stephanie Maines, attended the Fall Voice Conference in San Francisco this past October. They presented their studies on vocal effort and challenging voice therapy cases. Dr. Reethee Antony presented a study regarding team sports' players' ability to process information in background noise at the Acoustical Society of America. In addition, Dr. Antony presented several studies at the Brain Computer Interface Conference (BCI), including one in which she and her colleagues used EEG recordings to create neural art representing patterns of brain activation. Dr. Chitralli Mamlekar attended the Academy of Aphasia Convention to present her findings on the use of AAC with patients with primary progressive aphasia.



## Accomplishments

- MUPT 2022 graduate and USA Team Captain, Kaitlyn Weatherby represented Team USA Deaf Swimming at the 2022 Deaflympics in Brazil. She participated in Opening ceremonies, in recognition of her leadership and mentorship to younger athletes. She achieved individual Bronze Medal in 200 Breaststroke, 3 Gold medals in 3 relays - 4x100 Free, (setting new American Deaf Record) 4x100 Medley (setting new American Deaf Record), 4x200 Free relay and gold in the 4x100 Mixed relay.



- In June, the inaugural PT Summer Camp was held.



- MUPT is the recipient of a \$10,000 ADAPT grant through APTA. This grant will assist efforts to recruit and retain students in underrepresented minority groups. Pictured is Dr. Kelley Moran accepting the award on behalf of Misericordia University at the annual PPTA conference at Kalahari Resort.



Congratulations to Dr. Maureen Rinehimer and Dr. Kristen Karnish on achieving tenure status.

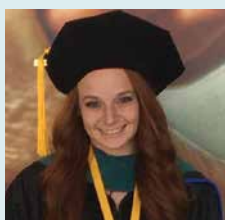
- Dr. Susan Barker celebrated 20 years and Dr. Richard “Woody” Haydt celebrated 15 years of service with MUPT



- DPT Class of 2022 Award Winners:
  - Student Achievement Award: Patrick Hoffman and Sarah Reeder



- Outstanding Physical Therapy Student
- Catherine Perry Wilkinson Leadership Award



Dr. Maureen Pascal and MUPT 2022 alumni Drs. Kristi Pearage, Kelly Saroka, Mackenzie Schanzlin, and Megan Shaver traveled to Guyana in March 2023 to collaborate on their research project, “Developing and Implementing a Falls Prevention Program in Guyana”. In addition to meeting with physiotherapists, the group consulted with physiotherapists regarding clinic treatments, participated in a group exercise session for a stroke support group, and presented an educational and exercise training session for individuals with spinal cord injury. Dr. Maureen Rinehimer traveled with the group and consulted with staff working in pediatric rehabilitation. The group also participated in Phagwah (Holi), a Hindu spring festival.



In Spring 2022, a parent group of children with Down Syndrome began in the Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic with the assistance of Dr. Maureen Rinehimer. The parents named the group “T21 and me”. The parents meet one Saturday a month. Dedicated DPT students volunteer their time to come to these meetings to help babysit the children (those with and without Down Syndrome) of these parents.

In Fall 2022, a group of DPT students, Maureen Rinehimer, and “T21 and me” parents participated in the Buddy Walk in Lackawanna County. The “T21 and me” group along with Dr. Rinehimer and the students will work with the University administration and staff to develop the Buddy Walk at Misericordia next year to serve children in Luzerne County.

The pro bono clinic received a donation of a swing system for therapeutic interventions from the Autism Center. It is the highlight of the pediatric patients in the Pro bono Clinic. A big thank you to the Autism Center!



## Service and Activities

Dr. Laurie Brogan served as a spring break service trip leader to Winston-Salem, North Carolina where they worked with Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.

# MAJORS

## TRADITIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education (BS:ECE, BS:SE, BS:ML, BS:Ed, MS:RS, MS:IT, MS:PP)
- Health Science: Exercise Science
- Health Science: Medical Science
- Health Science: Patient Navigation
- Medical Imaging
- Nursing (BSN, MSN, DNP)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Social Work

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Addictions Counseling
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education (Reading Specialist) PDE Endorsements (Integrative STEM Education, Online Instruction, Gifted Education)
- Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate
- Geriatric Care Manager (graduate certificate)
- Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Occupational Therapy
- Patient Navigation Specialization (online for Certificate)

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Nursing
- Patient Navigation Specialization



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