

# Misericordia

SUMMER 2017

## today



The *Arch*  
AND SO MUCH MORE  
Pages 21-23



It is easy to stay connected with the Misericordia University campus and alumni communities through our social media channels. Did you get a new job or welcome a new addition to the family? Share your news and pictures on Facebook and Flickr. Pick one site or several in order to share your news or to simply remain informed about the latest news at your MU. Stay connected at [www.misericordia.edu/social](http://www.misericordia.edu/social).

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## Misericordia arming a component of Campus Safety

The Board of Trustees approved a resolution at its February board meeting to arm certain campus safety personnel so they are more effectively equipped to react as first responders and collaborate with regional law enforcement in the event of a serious violent incident on campus.



Zavada



Dr. Botzman

The University reviews methods to improve safety on a regular basis, and recently set into motion a process to consider adding an armed component to Campus Safety in April 2016. This process was a result of several factors, including an analysis of current emergency response plans and concerns expressed to President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

The department compiled a comprehensive feasibility study and submitted a proposal to achieve the goal, while preserving the values of the institution. Over several months, a team conducted meetings on campus to gather input and answer questions.

Members of the board received initial feedback from the proposal at the meeting in June. In response, the board requested dialogue continue. Additional meetings were held in November.

"We will continue to treat our campus community and visitors with utmost

respect," Dr. Botzman said after the board approved the resolution. "The goal is to establish an option to be utilized only in rare situations where it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life, and to mitigate the advance of an active-shooter situation or violent person using deadly force on campus."

A designated number of campus safety personnel will work in an armed capacity. All officers who carry firearms are retired law enforcement officers with Lethal Weapons Training Act 235 with weapons certification, and Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Act 120 certification (or equivalent state and federal training). They also are allowed to carry weapons based on the federal Retired Law Enforcement Officers Identification Act of 2004.

In addition, each officer selected is an established member of the campus familiar with the values of the University and the sprawling campus. Safety officers will not have arrest powers, but will be better equipped to take immediate action during the critical initial moments of an event rather than solely relying on police response.

"The opportunity to add a supplemental resource to area emergency responders consisting of highly trained, experienced armed security personnel, who are intimately familiar with our campus, is a beneficial and strategic advantage in the event of a violent incident," said Robert Zavada, director of Campus Safety.



A campus safety officer patrols the Anderson Outdoor Athletic Complex by the John and Mary Metz Field House.

# Misericordia Today

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Have a story to share? Contact *Misericordia Today* by calling (570) 674-6372 or by e-mailing the editor at [editor@misericordia.edu](mailto:editor@misericordia.edu).

## MEMORIES

The University conferred almost 400 degrees at the 91st annual spring commencement ceremonies in May. Misericordia photographers captured unforgettable moments. Please log on to [bit.ly/mugradmay17](http://bit.ly/mugradmay17) and [bit.ly/muundergradmay2017](http://bit.ly/muundergradmay2017) to review the photo albums online.

Alumni returned for the annual Alumni Weekend in late May. Hundreds of our Misericordia family returned to enjoy each other's companionship. Please log on to [bit.ly/muaw17](http://bit.ly/muaw17) to review the memorable moments.



History and Government Law & National Security majors intern with Court of Common Pleas judges.



University repurposing building for academic space.



Adult learner climbs corporate ladder in banking industry.



Meet lacrosse's Patrick Keelish '17, '19 in the Student-Athlete Spotlight profile.



Exhibit celebrates centenary of Auguste Rodin's death.

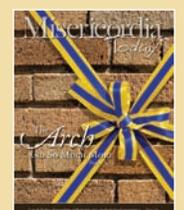


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## ON THE COVER

The archway holds special meaning to the Misericordia family. In late spring, MU embarked on a complex project to restore the arch to its original grandeur. The restoration of the most identifiable landmark is a gift that reminds everyone "All Are Welcome" on campus.

*Photo Illustration: Earl & Sedor Photographic*





## It starts at the arch

**W**e recently completed our Reunion Weekend, hosting alumni from classes dating back to 1947. Guests renewed friendships and told stories about campus life inside and outside the classroom. Students in our earlier classes tell stories about living and studying when we only had one building – later known as the Administration Building and renamed as Mercy Hall in 2002. McAuley Hall also was constructed in the early years as the second building on campus. There were, of course, a few young, murmuring pines, but those buildings were pretty much the entire campus.

One other structure comes to mind when people reminisce about campus in its early days. The entrance arch was constructed soon after the opening of College Misericordia. It welcomed new and returning students, just as it does in present day. The arch is both beautiful and symbolic. Arches are strong. They persist over time. They support bridges that connect communities, and they keep gateways and tunnels open so that travelers can reach their destinations.

After nearly 90 years of standing tall, our arch is in need of repair and preservation. We are removing sections, creating new pieces, and bringing the arch back to pristine condition to welcome students this fall. With this restoration, we believe our icon will be in place to welcome the students of 2124, too – when Misericordia celebrates its 200th birthday!

Beyond the symbolism and beauty of the arch, we are preparing other campus facilities for the future. The University recently acquired the Trocaire building from the Sisters of Mercy. This building, located adjacent to Hafey-McCormack Science Hall, will provide greatly enhanced capacity for health science education. Similarly, we are well into the planning for a dramatic, new natural and health sciences facility, which is far superior to what we have today. A transformational facility for our campus, the science center will be important for teaching, learning, and student-faculty collaboration for decades to come.

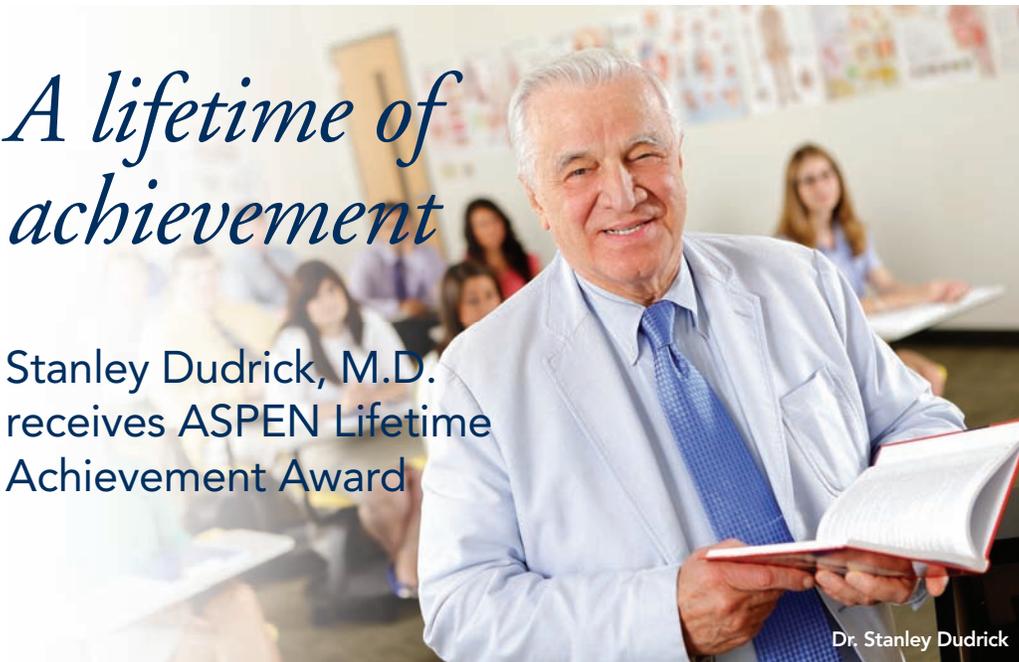
Campuses are not just bricks and mortar, especially Misericordia University. Campuses are about people who build positive relationships to accomplish great things. These relationships help students gain professional competence, collaborative skills, and the drive to lead lives of consequence. Through careful planning and generous support from alumni and friends, we will build the infrastructure to allow those relationships, and our students, to thrive.

As always, thank you to our generous alumni and benefactors for their support of Misericordia University. We are preserving the enduring symbol of our alma mater, while also expanding, building and planning for the education of future students based on the liberal arts, natural sciences and health sciences. Please visit us on campus and see what is new at your University where all are welcome.

President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

# A lifetime of achievement

## Stanley Dudrick, M.D. receives ASPEN Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Stanley Dudrick

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.S.P.E.N., the Robert S. Anderson Endowed chair at Misericordia University, received the first-ever American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) Lifetime Achievement Award in February at the ASPEN Lifetime Achievement Award & Gala in Orlando, Fla.

Known in the medical field as the “Father of Parenteral Nutrition,” Dr. Dudrick has been credited with one of the three most important advancements in surgery during the past century along with open heart surgery and organ transplantation. The Nanticoke, Pa., native’s pioneering research at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., from 1961-66 led to the development of the central venous feeding technique known as intravenous hyperalimentation or total parenteral nutrition (TPN).

His technique allows people who cannot eat to receive nourishment through a tube that bypasses their intestines. The technique is widely used to this day to prevent malnutrition in patients of all ages who are unable to obtain proper nutrition by standard means.

“On behalf of Misericordia, I want to congratulate Dr. Dudrick on receiving the well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from ASPEN,”

## Dr. Stanley Dudrick Day

*The City of Nanticoke and Mayor Rich Wiaterowski declared Wednesday, July 19 as “Dr. Stanley Dudrick Day.” A proclamation was read and approved at the City Council meeting and a reception followed at Luzerne County Community College. The city also erected a historical marker on West Union Street near his family home in his honor.*

President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., said. “Dr. Dudrick brings world-class medical knowledge and experience to the classroom for the betterment of our students. His remarkable innovations in health care and nutrition are matched by his caring nature and engaging personality.”

Founded in 1976, ASPEN works to improve patient care by advancing the science and practice of clinical nutrition and metabolism, according to ASPEN.

The American College of Surgeons credits Dr. Dudrick with saving millions of lives through the development of TPN. In 2015, it honored Dr. Dudrick by including him in the series of biographical videos, *Heroes in Surgery: Our Legacy*. During his illustrious career,

Dr. Dudrick has received more than 120 honors and awards. The International Society of Small Bowel Transplantation named him a “Living Legend” in 2016.

Throughout his more than 50-year career in medicine, Dr. Dudrick has trained tens of thousands of medical students, thousands of surgeons, helped establish The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Texas, and has become internationally recognized as an expert in fistula surgery, complex re-operative surgery, intestinal failure, surgical metabolism and nutrition, and more.

Dr. Dudrick graduated cum laude with his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine conferred his medical degree.

In addition, Dr. Dudrick is chair emeritus in the Department of Surgery and director emeritus of Program in



While developing TPN in 1966, Dr. Dudrick fed Beagle puppies continuously through the superior vena cava with TPN solution.

Surgery at Saint Mary’s Hospital, a Yale University-affiliated teaching hospital. He also holds an appointment as professor emeritus of surgery in the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Dudrick also is the endowed chair in innovative medical education at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Scranton, Pa. [H](#)

## University names Dr. Rehm VP of academic affairs

Misericordia and the Office of the President selected David B. Rehm, Ph.D., to become the vice president of academic affairs (VPAA).

Dr. Rehm has served in various capacities at Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Md., since 1995. Most recently, he served as a professor of philosophy, and prior to that served 10 years as provost and VPAA.



Dr. Rehm

At MU, he will be the chief academic officer, with oversight of academic programs and personnel, as well as affiliated units such as the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

He earned his B.A. cum laude from Oberlin College, Ohio, where he double-majored in Modern European and American Intellectual History, as well as music. At the University of Chicago, Illinois, he earned his Master of Arts and Ph.D. in philosophy.

## Alumni Relations appoints Augustine as director

Lailani Augustine '16 has been named director of Alumni Relations. In her new position, she will oversee an alumni association of 18,000 members, and serve as an ex-officio member of the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees.



Augustine

Her responsibilities include directing communication, and building and maintaining relationships with alumni, locally, regionally and at the national level.

A member of the staff since 2008, she most recently serviced as alumni services coordinator. In her role, she contributed to the development of event and fundraising strategies, and served as a liaison to alumni, helping organize and host dozens of alumni and community events annually.

## Misericordia hosts ACE Fellows for forensic analytics workshop

Misericordia University and its 2016-17 American Council on Education (ACE) fellow Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson hosted eight members of the ACE Fellows Program for a workshop on forensic analytics for potential collegiate presidents during the spring semester. Misericordia University President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., presented the workshop, *What You Should Look for Before You Commit to a Presidency*.

Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program strengthens institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and administrators as senior leaders of colleges and universities. Dr. Pehrsson is a professor and dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant,

Michigan. One of 29 fellows selected in a rigorous national competition, Dr. Pehrsson chose Misericordia for her fellowship placement and lived and worked on campus from Sept. 2016 to May 2017.

During their two-day visit, the ACE fellows met with Dr. Botzman and his senior leadership team, including vice presidents, deans and department directors. They also had a session with Patricia Thatcher, Ph.D., associate vice president for academic affairs, Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of English, and students who presented their research from the Teagle Foundation on Student Critical Thinking. Their visit also included an introduction to and tour of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program facilities at Misericordia University.



The Student Government Association's Spring Fest Weekend included a color run and children's carnival.





ACE Fellows Program members who participated in the financial forensics workshop, first row from left, are Kristen C. Eichhorn, State University of New York College at Oswego; Sylvia R. Carey-Butler, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh; Alisa Rosenthal, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota; Nancy C. Cornwell, Montana State University; Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, Central Michigan University, and Dr. Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., president, Misericordia University; second row, Marc Tomljanovich, Drew University, New Jersey; Jake Zhu, California State University, San Bernadino; Bradley J. Fuster, State University of New York at Buffalo, and James Spiller, State University of New York at Brockport.

## Children's carnival and color run highlight Spring Fest Weekend

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a 5K color run/walk and a children's carnival with activities for the whole family as part of its annual Spring Fest Weekend in April.

The Spring Fest Carnival included children's carnival games with prizes, inflatables and snacks, including cotton candy and sno cones.



SGA established the David A. Evans, Jr. Memorial Color Run on campus in 2014 to help support the David A. Evans Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Dave and Dr. Dawn Evans established the scholarship in honor of their son, David A. Evans, Jr. Dr. Evans is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at Misericordia University.

Since its inception, the fund has awarded eight \$1,000 scholarships to incoming first-year students at Misericordia who graduated from Holy Redeemer. The fun, colorful event raised \$2,000 from 85 participants this year.

The campus community also participated in a knockerball tournament in Mangelsdorf Field. The new sports craze places the competitor in an inflated donut-shaped ball allowing them to defy gravity, roll and bounce while they compete in a soccer game.

## Sport communication specialization opens in fall

The Department of Mass Communications and Design introduced a specialization in sport communication in the fall.

The growing segment involves the robust integration of multiple media products and platforms. Students gain instruction in journalism, broadcasting, marketing, public relations, graphic design, and social media in the context of sport media.

It also provides interdisciplinary instruction, as students take four new courses in the Department of Sport Management and in the Department of Business.

For more information, please e-mail Melissa Sgroi, Ed.D., chair, at [msgroi@misericordia.edu](mailto:msgroi@misericordia.edu) or log on to [misericordia.edu/sportcom](http://misericordia.edu/sportcom).



Dr. Sgroi

## Math Department launches stats program

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science introduced a Bachelor of Science degree program and minor in statistics with the fall semester in response to rapid advances in technology, the growing reliance on quantitative research, and demand in the marketplace.

The statistics program – the only four-year degree program available in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties – provides training in contemporary statistical techniques, as well as theoretical background.

By way of electives, the academic program can be tailored to lead students to a wide variety of career choices in business, industry, government or graduate school.

For more information about the program, please e-mail Jay Stine, Ph.D., chair, or log on to [misericordia.edu/statistics](http://misericordia.edu/statistics).



Dr. Stine

# REPURPOSING PROJECT TO ADD ACADEMIC SPACE TO CAMPUS

\$3.8 million investment adds classroom, laboratory and conference space



Misericordia University is investing more than \$3.5 million in the purchase and rehabilitation of the former Trocaire building near Mercy Center in order to add faculty offices and expand academic classroom, laboratory and conference space.

The University purchased the two-story, 14,000-square-foot building in June 2016 from the Religious Sisters of Mercy for \$130,000. The gift sale saved Misericordia \$250,000 as the Sisters of Mercy charged the University a percentage of the structure's appraised value of \$380,000.

"We are grateful for the continued generosity and support of the Religious Sisters of Mercy," said Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., president of Misericordia University. "As our student body and academic programs continue to grow, we resolve to provide students the in-demand majors and academic facilities that enable them to succeed in rewarding careers. Through projects like this, Misericordia will remain the

regional leader in preparing the next generation of leaders in the health and medical sciences fields."

By growing the campus footprint immediately behind and to the left of Hafey-McCormick Science Hall, Misericordia is going to add 23 offices for faculty, administration and staff, a lecture hall with seating for 36 students, a conference room for 10, student lounges and a kitchenette. In addition, the facility will feature four examination rooms and a more than 1,800-square-foot patient assessment clinical skills laboratory for students

## CAMPUS GROWTH

The Trocaire building is the 34th building on the campus of Misericordia University. Overall, the University has about 700,000-square-feet of academic, office and residential interior space on more than 124 acres of land.

**An artist's rendering of the newest academic building on campus.**

majoring in the health and medical sciences fields.

Work began on the vacant building in late fall 2016, as contractors disconnected electrical service from the Mercy Center complex and added it to the Misericordia grid. Interior demolition began in May and general construction started in June. Plans for repurposing the newest academic building on campus include a 3,000-square-foot addition on the south side of the building, facing Mercy Center. A lecture hall and skills laboratory will occupy the new space. An elevator and new entryway also will be added to the former office building for the Sisters of Mercy.

The overall design of the newest building will ensure it complements other structures on campus. The construction schedule has the project slated for completion in March 2018. [h](#)

## Young foundation works to improve access to health care

The AllOne Foundation is young in terms of years, but its impact in the communities it serves has been immeasurable.

Established in 2015, the Foundation has awarded more than \$5.47 million to 33 nonprofits in 13 counties in northeastern and northcentral Pennsylvania. The Foundation has supported programming that works to reverse the detrimental effects of homelessness, expands mental health services, increases accessibility to health care, addresses childhood hunger, and many more initiatives that are working to transform the health care landscape.

"We look for high-impact grant projects that are designed to significantly improve the health and wellness of our friends and neighbors," said AllOne Foundation Executive Director John W. Cosgrove. "What we are looking for in any grant partner is their ability to be creative, innovative and collaborative in their

efforts to bring about that improved quality of life."

In the College of Health Sciences and Education, AllOne has invested \$150,000 in grant funding in support of educational programming and research at the Autism Center at Misericordia, and into establishing and operating the Addiction Counseling Education and Interprofessional Treatment program, otherwise known as ACE-IT, developed in collaboration with Marywood and Wilkes universities.

"We absolutely feel at AllOne Foundation that we can do more together than we could ever achieve alone," said Cosgrove. "It is why we love working with Misericordia, very specifically the ACE-IT Program. It is a great example of how Misericordia values collaboration, because in that particular program – which is a very direct and measureable success in the frontlines of our community – is a collaboration with Wilkes University

and Marywood University. It is a dynamic example of how we can achieve more working together."

ACE-IT is a multi-institutional addiction counseling and pharmacy intervention program in the community. The Autism Center is home to programming, resources, current research and the website, [misericordia.edu/autism](http://misericordia.edu/autism).

"In a very specific way, that's why leaders of the AllOne Foundation worked as hard as they did to identify and keep these significant resources here in our community," added Cosgrove. "In many ways, this is the most significant investment in the improvement of access to health care that we have ever seen. The leadership of AllOne Foundation strives every day to make sure those resources are going where they are going to do the most good.

"That's why Misericordia really stands out as an excellent grant partner for AllOne Foundation." [h](#)

## Drs. Pehrsson endow scholarship for Bourger WWC

Having selected Misericordia University as the site for her yearlong American Council on Education (ACE) fellowship, Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, Ed.D., is leaving her own special legacy on



Dr. Pehrsson

campus – the Pehrsson Scholarship for Women with Children. Dr. Pehrsson, professor and dean of the College of Education and Human Services at

Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich., and her husband, Robert S. Pehrsson, Ed.D., professor emeritus, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho, endowed a scholarship for the Ruth Matthews

Bourger Women with Children Program.

"As an ACE Fellow living within the campus community for the past academic year, I had the opportunity to see the many things that make Misericordia special and experience how the mission of the Sisters of Mercy is carried out across every aspect of the campus. The program that most endeared itself to my husband and me is the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. By providing free housing for single mothers at the poverty level and their children while they earn their degree, Misericordia is changing the lives of two, and sometimes three, generations of women," Dr. Pehrsson says.

"Each scholarship that we receive helps to lessen the debt each of the young mothers takes on while living with their children on campus and balancing work and studies to earn

their degree," adds Katherine Pohlidal, director of the novel program. "We are thrilled to have the support of Dale and Robert Pehrsson, two special people who in one year have made an incredible impact upon our campus. Their support will be invaluable to future students in the program."

Dr. Dale Pehrsson, a native of New York City, was one of 29 ACE fellows selected in the 2016-17 academic year for the rigorous national program designed to promote leadership in higher education. President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., and members of the University's leadership team mentored her for nine months.

At Central Michigan University, she oversees nearly all aspects of the college's five academic units, including new program development, international expansion, and global and distance education. [h](#)

# Law & Order

*Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas judges share their knowledge and host History, and Government, Law and National Security majors for internships*

Pages 11-13



Students completed internships during the spring semester with Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas judges. Participating in the program, standing in back from left, are Judge Lesa S. Gelb, Judge Tina Polachek Gartley '88, Judge Michael T. Vough, Judge Fred A. Pierantoni, III, and students, first row from left, Evan Bush '17, Rachel Finnegan '18 and Michael Podsoch '17, and middle row, Jade Levi '17 and Zachary Stritzinger '17.

# Q&A

*Students complete internships with Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas judges during the spring semester. Learn about their experiences in this question-and answer feature:*

## Jade Levi '17

**Major/minor:**  
Government, Law & National Security.

**Service:** A member of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program, she volunteered at History Day.

### Why did you choose GLNS as your major?

When I was a junior in high school, I took two classes: Government and Business Law. I immediately fell in love. The material just clicked with me, and I excelled in both courses as well as remained very interested. It was in that moment I knew I wanted to study law.

### Why did you select MU?

I knew from the start that I wanted to go to Misericordia. In fact, this was the only school I applied. I noticed how most schools only had a criminal justice program, and I was not too interested in that type of degree. When I saw Misericordia had a Government, Law and National Security Program, I knew right away that was something I was interested in.

### Where to next?

I plan on studying for my Law School Admission Test and applying to law schools.

### What has been the best aspect of Misericordia?

It is hard to say because I thoroughly enjoyed every minute here. I made so many amazing friendships and memories that I will treasure forever. I am graduating with a major in something so broad and special in which I can do almost anything I want to with it.



Jade Levi '17 poses with Judge Lesa S. Gelb.

### What did you learn during your internship?

When I stepped foot in the courthouse, I fell in love with the atmosphere. I knew that was exactly the type of field I wanted. This internship helped me learn which path I want to follow in my

life. I realized just how interested I am in the legal field and that I definitely want to work in that environment and eventually possibly go to law school. Interning for Judge Gelb was an amazing experience and I am very grateful. I have gained so much knowledge from not only her, but also everyone in her chambers and others in the courthouse. It was nice to apply everything I learned in school to the courtroom, being able to walk into trial with Judge Gelb and sit up close during trials and gain so much insight as to what goes on in the courtroom. [h](#)

## Zachary Stritzinger '17

**Major/minor:** History, with English minor.

### Why did you choose history as your major?

I have been interested in history since I was young.

### Where to next?

Widener Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg Pa.

### What has been the best aspect of your Misericordia Experience?

The faculty on campus, especially in the history department and other humanities departments, primarily because this is who I dealt with. The professors made my time at Misericordia easier as they were usually there to help me and guide me to where I needed to be.

### What did you learn during your internship with a Luzerne County judge?

Throughout my time at the courthouse, I was able to have various conversations with my judge where he taught and explained to me the basics of law. Additionally, the judge would tell me about his life, sharing life experiences of how he got to where he is today. The judge would help me along in my adventures towards going to law school, he would give me advice, and talk to me on what I should do. Beyond learning from the judge, I was able to sit on many trials, sentencings, hearings, PFAs, custody hearings, tax court, and many other forms of court. Through these experiences, I was able to learn the basics of many different types of law.



Zachary Stritzinger '17 poses with Luzerne County Judge Fred A. Pierantoni, III.

### How will your internship help your future career aspirations?

I am going to law school and plan on being a lawyer. This allowed me to gain a firsthand experience of what life in the real-world may feel like as a lawyer.

### What is the most important lesson you learned during this internship?

I was able to gather many helpful experiences in my time at the courthouse.

### How important are professional internships in developing the whole student?

I believe an internship is an important opportunity for a student to gain practical experience in the field they plan on going into. [h](#)

# Q&A Law & Order

*continued from page 11*

## Rachel Finnegan '18

**Major/minor:**

Government, Law & National Security, with a minor in psychology.

**Service:** A member of the GLNS and Multicultural clubs, she was a member of the swim team and volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Mercy Center, Blue Chip Farm and Wilkes-Barre Triathlon.

sizes, the close relationships with professors, and everything the swim team had to offer.

**Where to next?**

Upon graduating, I plan to attend law school.

**Did Misericordia University live up to its mission?**

I feel as if my professors have prepared me well to continue on with my education, and my internship has provided me with a valuable learning experience.

**What has been the best aspect of your MU Experience?**

The best aspects of my experience would be the relationships and friendships I have made. The family atmosphere that Misericordia brings forth is what fostered these connections throughout my three years. In addition, my professors have had a positive impact on my life and education. They have been accessible, supporting, and encouraging – continuously guiding me to reach my goals and greatest potential.

**What did you learn during your internship?**

I had the opportunity to see how the court system worked as both a spectator and a participant behind the scenes. I was able to witness numerous aspects of the law, as well as learn about how different departments work together in the courthouse and legal system. When I attend law school, I will have a better perspective on how my law school education ties into the legal practice. [h](#)

**Why did you choose GLNS?**

I wanted to focus on law and government. When I visited other universities, I had the general option of criminal justice as a major. Misericordia offered a major that encompassed all of my interests and allowed me to expand my knowledge beyond criminal justice.

**Why did you select MU?**

I chose Misericordia for several reasons, including the comfort I felt when I stepped onto campus, the type of major offered, the small-class



Rachel Finnegan '18 poses with Luzerne County Judge Tina Polachek Gartley '88.

## Michael Podskoch '17

**Major/minor:**

Government, Law & National Security.

**Service:** The Dallas High School graduate was a member of the GLNS Club and volunteer at Blue Chip Farms and Gate of Heaven Church.

**Why did you select Misericordia University?**

I chose Misericordia, in part, because it was close to home so I could remain near my friends and family, but also because I was interested in the Government, Law and National Security program because of its broad curriculum.

**Where to next?**

I will be attending law school at Widener Commonwealth Law in Harrisburg, Pa.

**Did MU live up to its mission?**

I think Misericordia has done a great job at providing students with the opportunities to gain professional experience. Previously, I interned with Dr. Christopher Stevens (director of the GLNS program) at the University and at the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development as a research assistant.

**What has been the best aspect of your MU Experience?**

I think the best aspect of my experience has been the ability to work closely with faculty who care deeply about my future success. I would say that Misericordia offers a lot of opportunities to students who are willing to be proactive and reach for them.



Michael Podskoch '17 poses with Luzerne County Judge Tina Polachek Gartley '88.

**How did your internship shape your future career path?**

I learned about the daily procedures of working in a courtroom. This experience was beneficial as it helped me realize that I may not want to be a litigator, but instead someone who works in a more private setting.

**What is the most important lesson you learned during your internship?**

The most important thing I learned during this internship was the significance of networking, as many people within the courthouse staff have worked with each other in the past.

**How important are professional internships?**

I think professional internships are very important for the development of a student as they can help students learn what they like or dislike about a particular field. [h](#)

## Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts recognizes students' work

The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts recognized the work two Mass Communications and Design students produced for a regional nonprofit program by awarding them Communicator Awards at the 23rd annual international competition that honors excellence in marketing and communications.

Melanie Quintanilla '17 Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, earned a Communicator Award of Distinction in the Websites – General-Nonprofit category after she designed and created the website for Reaching Beyond Limits (reachingbeyondlimits.com), an adult day care program for people ages 18-59 with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

A Communicator Award of Excellence was awarded to Matthew Scanlon '17 in the Film/Video – Student category. His one-minute video is posted to Reaching Beyond Limits' website. He was responsible for several on-location videography shoots, editing raw footage, and writing the script for the voiceover.

Throughout the process, the students also had to ensure the video and website maintained consistent brand imagery and messaging for the business and target audience. Rachel Urbanowicz, M.A., assistant professor, was the faculty mentor for both award-winning projects.

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communication professionals. The annual contest honors the best in advertising, corporate communications, public relations and identity work for print, video and interactive media. Judges from the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts reviewed more than 6,000 entries before naming the winners of the 2017 Communicator Awards. [h](#)

### Evan Bush '17

**Major/minor:** Government, Law & National Security, with minors in history, political science.

**Service:** He volunteered at Cougar-thon, Back Mountain Harvest Festival, Adopt-A-Family program, and as a coach at the Winter Baseball Camp.

#### Why did you choose GLNS as your major?

GLNS was the perfect mixture of history and current events, and I felt that a degree in it would not only prepare me for the career fields that interested me the most, but it would also be enjoyable – which it was.

#### Why did you select MU?

I had been recruited to play baseball and did an overnight visit with the team my senior year of high school and fell in love.

#### Where to next?

I am taking a year off from school to prepare to take the Law School Admission Test and apply to law school. I am also applying to Marine Corps Officer Candidate School.

#### Did Misericordia University live up to its mission?

Misericordia, being a liberal arts school, requires you to complete courses in topics you would not normally need to take for your major. By encouraging us to go outside our comfort zone, we appreciate things we usually would not consider. Seeing the value in going outside of one's comfort zone makes you more willing to try new and different things, which allows you to be more dynamic in your future career.

#### What did you learn during your internship?

Judges are authority figures, but that does not mean they are not regular people like everyone else. This internship showed how important people skills can be.

#### How will it help your future career aspirations?

After spending an entire semester at the courthouse, I have become very familiar with legal procedure and terminology. The amount you can pick up just by observing is invaluable.

#### How important are professional internships?

By interning, I was able to get firsthand experience to what goes on in a courtroom. I have learned what I like and do not like about a legal career, which I could not have done without this internship. [h](#)



Evan Bush '17 poses with Luzerne County Judge Michael T. Vough.



Department of Mass Communications and Design students, from left, Matthew Scanlon '17 and Melanie Quintanilla '17 were awarded Communicator Awards in May during the 23rd annual international competition that honors excellence in marketing and communications.

# ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

## Government, Law & National Security majors study at American University as part of the Study Away Program

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI



Matthew  
McGuigan '17



Wyatt Scott '18

Matthew McGuigan '17 admits he was unsure what to do with himself on that 20th day of January.

Thronged of boisterous visitors to the nation's capital were assembling at the National Mall to participate in the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States. He knew it was going to be a controversial and historic day.

Days before, the Misericordia University Government, Law and National Security (GLNS) major had moved into his apartment in preparation to begin his studies at American University in Washington, D.C., and participate in the institution's rigorous Washington Semester Internship Program as part of the Misericordia University Study Away Program. In the end, McGuigan chose to witness history.

"From the second I stepped outside, I saw endless possibilities for how someone could use a GLNS degree," says McGuigan, recalling that day in January of 2017. "It gave me confidence in the weight of my degree and how prepared I will be to step into one of these roles."

McGuigan and fellow GLNS major Wyatt Scott '18 know Washington, D.C., is a melting pot for politicians, foreign policy wonks and intelligence aspirants, like themselves. They are working toward careers in the government, national security, international relations or think tank fields.

Those exciting career tracks took them from the comfort of the

traditional classroom at Misericordia University to the nation's capital during the spring semester. In addition to witnessing President Trump's inauguration, the program enabled them to participate in meetings with foreign journalists, ambassadors, generals and members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and discussions with think tank analysts, and more.

"I was exposed to the networking process and how to effectively network," says McGuigan, who interned at the U.S. Commercial Service's Office of Europe, an arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

**Government,  
Law & National  
Security  
Study Away  
Program**



“Networking is a huge necessity when attempting to find a job and move forward in this job sector. Focusing on my specific path, my internship allowed me to experience what it is like to work for the federal government and see how the agencies operate.”

“This program exceeded my expectations,” says Scott, who completed an internship at the Truman Center for National Policy. “I learned an incredible amount during my time at American University and I was able to produce my first major research paper (Colombia and the FARC: The U.S. Role in War and Peacemaking). I was surprised at the resources that I had at my fingertips in D.C., whether it was a monument or a museum.”

McGuigan enrolled in Foreign Policy Seminar I, and Foreign Policy Seminar II in addition to his internship. Scott also completed courses in U.S. Foreign Policy and Research Undergraduate Thesis. In between, the students participated in think tank discussions, spoke about issues involving political structures in Afghanistan and Pakistan, visited foreign embassies, and made lasting relationships with people from around the world.

“What we did varied completely from week to week,” McGuigan acknowledges. “Some days we would go visit an embassy, other days

we would go to panel discussions at a think tank. That is one of the reasons I really enjoyed the program – the variety of meetings and the wide range of people we would meet.”

“I cannot think of a better program for someone interested in international relations and U.S. government.”

— Wyatt Scott '18

as well. For the GLNS major, D.C. is the place to be for interning and developing a resume.”

The cultural and informational exchange McGuigan and Scott participated in is but one of a plethora of reasons Misericordia University developed its Study Abroad and Study Away programs.

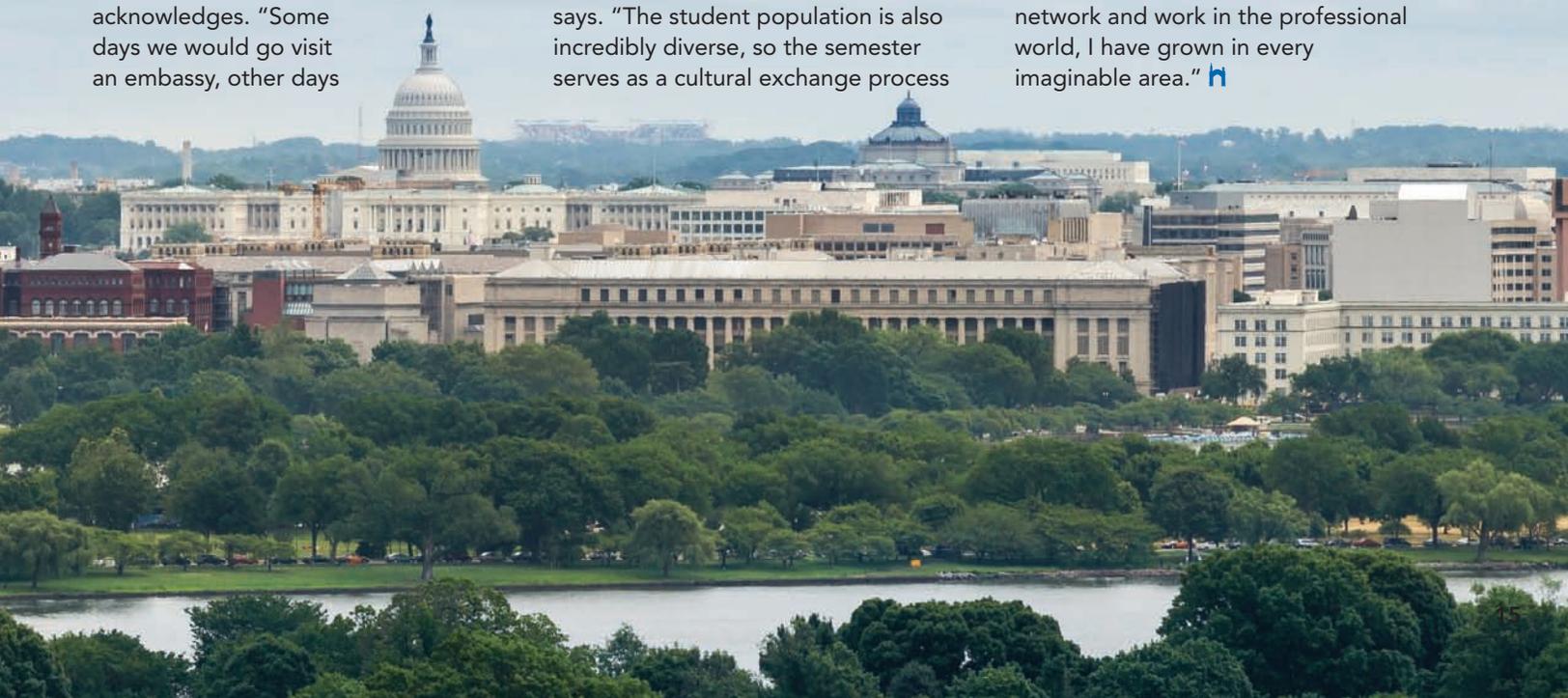
“I feel as though I am a better person for having had this experience,” says McGuigan, who also co-created the website, [fpinternational.org](http://fpinternational.org), with Scott and other classmates to provide fact-based



Government, Law and National Security Program majors Matthew McGuigan '17 and Wyatt Scott '18 pose for a picture at the State Department in Washington, D.C., with their classmates.

“I cannot think of a better program for someone interested in international relations and U.S. government,” Scott says. “The student population is also incredibly diverse, so the semester serves as a cultural exchange process

foreign relations analyses. “From meeting individuals from vastly different countries to learning how to network and work in the professional world, I have grown in every imaginable area.” [h](#)

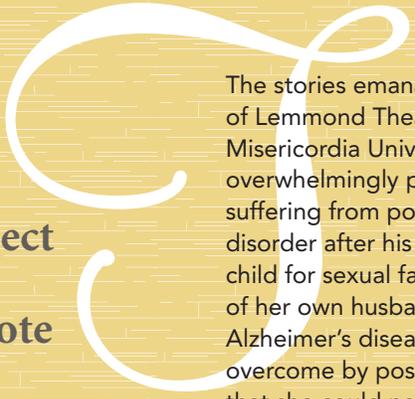




# Making their voices heard

BY MARIANNE  
TUCKER  
PUHALLA

**Research project  
aims to promote  
understanding  
of mental health**



The stories emanating from the stage of Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall at Misericordia University were overwhelmingly painful to hear. A man suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after his parents sold him as a child for sexual favors. A woman afraid of her own husband made violent by Alzheimer's disease. A mother, so overcome by post-partum depression that she could not care for her infant.

As many as 60 vignettes brought stories of mental illness to life during the emotional presentation of *The Voices Project: Mental Health*, a theatrical

production that is part of a two-year psychology research project designed to promote the understanding and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

Fifty-five Misericordia students interviewed more than 60 people with mental health conditions and their family members in the fall of 2016 to learn about their lives. Under the direction of Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D., professor of psychology and director of the Center for Faculty Professional Development, and Amanda Caleb, Ph.D., associate professor of English and director of the Medical and Health



More than 50 students collaborated with faculty members, Dr. Amanda Caleb and Dr. Alicia Nordstrom, to present *The Voices Project: Mental Health*.

Humanities program, the students explored anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, suicide, alcoholism, substance abuse, Tourette's Syndrome, intellectual disability, Alzheimer's/dementia, and bipolar, obsessive-compulsive, post-traumatic stress, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity, eating disorders, and autism spectrum disorders.

Based on their interviews, the students wrote a first-person narrative about the life of the person they interviewed. A team of writers wove the stories into the powerful and thought-provoking theatrical production that was staged by a group

of community and professional actors in April. The Misericordia University Faculty Research Grant Committee funded the project by awarding the \$25,000 Brassington Award to Dr. Nordstrom. Misericordia alumnus Jonathan Brassington '95, founder of Liquidhub and a member of the Misericordia Board of Trustees, sponsors the award.

*The Voices Project: Mental Health* is the fourth chapter in an on-going research project launched in 2009 by Dr. Nordstrom to help students explore society's attitudes towards individuals considered different. The first installment addressed stereotypes and prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, health and social class. A second program featured stories on living with a disability. WVIA, the local affiliate of the Public Broadcasting System, videotaped the production and broadcast it multiple times. A link to the 52-minute video is at [www.misericordia.edu/voicesproject](http://www.misericordia.edu/voicesproject).

In 2014-15, the third chapter linked college students in the U.S. and United Kingdom for an exploration of social norms and trans-Atlantic cultural differences.

"My goal with this project – similar to the three previous versions of *The Voices Project* – is to teach my students about the experiences of people with mental health conditions," says Dr. Nordstrom. "My hope is that these students can reconsider the beliefs and attitudes that they may have towards people with mental health conditions by building relationships with people in the community who have graciously shared their life experiences and the stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination they face."

Dr. Nordstrom assesses the student's attitudes and beliefs through surveys at the beginning and end of each project to determine whether their attitudes toward those they met and heard about had changed. The eight-year process debunked many of the students' preconceived notions.

"Many people with mental illness suffer in silence because they are afraid to tell their boss, their

co-workers, or their neighbors that they have a condition – because of the stigma it generates," Dr. Nordstrom explains. "They are forced to not only have to deal with their condition, but feel they must hide it. The stigma makes people's lives so much more difficult. For some, simply talking about it is cathartic."

This is the first time Nordstrom partnered with another faculty member for *The Voices Project*. "Since there is such a significant writing component to the project, I asked Dr. Amanda Caleb if she thought her English students might be interested.

**“Many people with mental illness suffer in silence because they are afraid ...”**

**- Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D.**

The result has been an amazing collaboration, as the students learn to work together not only conducting the interviews but putting together the written narratives," Dr. Nordstrom says. "Amanda's expertise in composition opened up creative ways for students to share stories besides traditional memoirs. Some students shared their interviewee's experiences as letters, poetry and cartoon panels."

The process was transformational for the students who conducted the interviews and served as writers. "Hearing a person's actual story brings you so much closer to understanding what they are going through," offers Carmelina Tringali '21, a first-year occupational therapy major, whose subject shared intimate details on life with alcoholism. "It isn't something you could learn in class. I would never have seen that side of the disease if I had not done the interview. I never expected to be a part of such an important research in my first semester in college."

**Continued on next page**

# The Voices Project: Mental Health

from page 17

Zachary Davis '19, '22 shared a parent's tragic story whose son committed suicide because of depression... "Asking someone to talk about their issues, not only opened my eyes to a topic I didn't know, but it also

**“It was such a worthwhile experience to help people learn about mental illness ...”**

**- Zachary Davis '19, '22**

helped them realize it is OK to talk to someone else about it," says the first-year psychology major in the pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. "It was such a worthwhile experience to help people learn about mental illness, especially in the form of a play."

A first-year occupational therapy major, Alexandria Sasso '21 had such an enlightening experience that she hopes to someday publish her entire *Voices Project* memoir to help others facing similar challenges. "I interviewed a caregiver of someone who has Alzheimer's, and she helped me recreate a dialogue between her and the patient – providing both perspectives. The result is just heartbreaking. To write it was hard and easy at the same time." [h](#)



Students Jacob Schweiger '16, '19, and Samantha Midkiff '19 work backstage for *The Voices Project: Mental Health*.

Dr. Alicia Nordstrom is a clinical child psychologist who joined the Misericordia University faculty in 2004. Throughout the various stages of *The*



Dr. Nordstrom

*Voices Project*, she has presented her findings at conferences in Canada and across the U.S. She also presented a talk at TEDxLancaster on *The Voices Project* in September 2016. She has received teaching awards from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and the Social Psychology Network for her work.

Dr. Amanda Caleb joined the faculty in 2010. She is program director for the Medical and Health Humanities Program and coordinator for the Bachelor of Arts

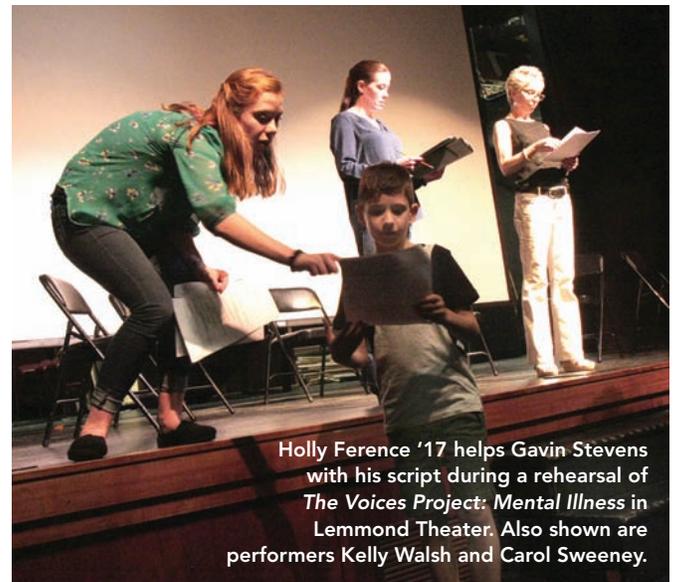


Dr. Caleb

to Master of Arts program that offers students a seamless transition into the master's degree program in English Literature at the University of Reading in Reading, England.



Among *The Voices Project* performers, front row from left, are Gavin Stevens, Lee Alucci and Karen Padden; second row, Holly Ference '17, Casey Thomas, Kelly Walsh and Carol Sweeney.



Holly Ference '17 helps Gavin Stevens with his script during a rehearsal of *The Voices Project: Mental Health* in Lemmond Theater. Also shown are performers Kelly Walsh and Carol Sweeney.

# A MISSION TO SERVE

## Government, Law & National Security alumnus joins Peace Corps

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Do not let the reserved demeanor of John Eisenhauer '17 fool you. The soft-spoken Government, Law and National Security Program alumnus' outward appearance belies a strong determination to serve his country and others.

### Government, Law & National Security Program

He calls it an "innate desire" that took root during high school and continued as he served as a force protector in Kuwait

as a member of the Army National Guard. His positive experience securing a seaport responsible for shipments into and out of Iraq was not the endgame, though, as Eisenhauer understood it was the first of many steps in his career path.

By participating in the Study Away Program for a semester, Eisenhauer expanded his view of the world by studying U.S. foreign policy at American University in Washington, D.C., before receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in the spring. Those two steps got him a little closer to his ultimate goal.

Next up: Kyrgyz Republic.

In August, the 25-year-old military veteran will take a 12-hour flight to the mountainous former Soviet republic in central Asia to begin a 27-month tour as a member of the Peace Corps Volunteers. He will become one of almost 7,000 serving worldwide, according to the organization founded by President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

Following three months of training, the Peace Corp will assign Eisenhauer to a rural village where he will live with a host family while serving an advising role to a native instructor, teaching secondary English to Kyrgyz people from the ages of five to 25. He will also provide extracurricular activities

inside and outside of the classroom for the general population that address community development, American culture and more.

"I want to learn a different way of looking at the world from an international experience so I can see how other people live and to really understand that cross-cultural experience," says Eisenhauer. "I want to take advantage of learning their language because that will definitely help when I get back to the states."

The Kyrgyz Republic became an independent nation following the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991. A nation of about 5.6 million people, it has two major cities –



Bishkek and Osh – but is otherwise a rural and underdeveloped nation. Eisenhauer hopes this assignment, and the overall breadth of his military and academic experiences will help him launch a rewarding career in the federal government.

"Dr. (Christopher) Stevens specifically recommended the Peace Corps to me," says Eisenhauer, who also accepted his mentor's advice and participated in the study away program. "He knew that some of the things I wanted to do were get international experience, learn a new language, and experience new cultures. He also knew that long term I

wanted to get into national security or intelligence work, so the Peace Corps was a natural fit to start down that path.

"One of Dr. Stevens' main focuses is your career aspirations, and making sure he does the best he can to provide an opportunity for you to get there."

The MU program combines traditional theoretical training of political science with a vocational focus. Graduates of the program can explore careers in law enforcement, government, national security, public safety and security services, and more.

"My job is to give students the knowledge," says Dr. Stevens, who spent a month in Bishkek in 2011 studying the Kyrgyz Republic's relations

with Russia. "To make the advising process more efficient for student and teacher, it helps to know your students. Knowing the student's career aspirations allows me to show them specific doors."



John Eisenhauer '17

Just days from his assignment, Eisenhauer acknowledges he has a "normal level" of nervousness. He worries about connecting with the native people, meeting the Peace

Corps' high standards, and being home sick and missing Middleswarth bar-b-q potato chips.

"As he serves in the Kyrgyz Republic, John will discover his next path," Dr. Stevens says. "This type of experience can shape people in ways that are so hard to predict. The Peace Corps can provide a bounty of positive, life-changing experiences that will affect an individual's personal and professional lives." [H](#)

# FAMILY, WORK & COMMUNITY

## Adult learner becomes PA President of Community Bank, N.A.

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

In her own words, Barbara A. Maculloch '94 describes herself as an intense and driven multi-tasker who gives 150 percent to every facet of her life: family, work and community.

"That's who I am," she says unapologetically. "It is the way I am driven. It is better for me to be under pressure. I never lose sight of what is most important to me and that makes it easy to balance."

That unabashed work ethic is firmly rooted in the family tree, as Maculloch and her three siblings followed the examples set by their parents, Gene and Helen Yonchiuk. The patriarch of the family worked 30 years for Lehigh Valley Railroad, while also operating Tunkhannock Monument Company, with assistance from his children.

### Barbara A. Maculloch '94

#### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

But, it was that "peanut of a lady," as Maculloch lovingly refers to her mother, who provided the career advice that has resulted in a rewarding career in the banking industry. "My mom was the biggest mentor in my life, and for the most part, she was not a working woman outside of her house," Maculloch says proudly. "She had four kids and she could run circles around me – all the things she could accomplish in one day still amazes me. It was from them that all of us kids worked really hard. We do not know how to do anything any other way."

In 1980, Maculloch began her banking career at Wyoming National Bank in Tunkhannock as a full-time teller while also working toward her associate degree in banking at Luzerne County Community College. For the next 12 years, she climbed the corporate ladder as larger lending institutions purchased the bank multiple times. She soon became head teller and a customer service representative before becoming assistant manager at a new branch. Before she left the bank in 1992, she also served as a branch and district manager.

Maculloch returned to college part time. Although she was thriving in the industry and learning various roles along the way, she also realized she would need a four-year degree to advance any further in the very competitive field. She began taking classes at nights and weekends in the Misericordia accelerated degree completion program. In 1994, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in banking.

"I really wanted to grow in banking and I knew if I didn't (earn a bachelor's degree) it wouldn't be possible," says Maculloch, who also has worked for PNC and M&T banks

during her career. "I needed to get a four-year degree."

Today, Maculloch is the president of Pennsylvania Banking for Community Bank, N.A., ([communitybankna.com](http://communitybankna.com)) with 32 branches under her direction in the Keystone State. Overall, Maculloch has been in the banking industry for more than 30 years, and has experience in the retail, commercial, wealth management, and private banking divisions.

The community also has benefited from her business acumen, as she has shared her expertise with many civic and social organizations. "Working on committees and boards is my second job," she says. "I cannot imagine not trying to help other people in need. Like my family and work, helping out in the community is just a part of who I am."

The communities she serves also have recognized Maculloch's volunteerism. Most recently, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce presented her with the Athena Award for her professional excellence, community service, and assisting women attain professional excellence and leadership skills.

"If you meet a successful person, I guarantee you they are a success because they had a great mentor, but if you meet a greater leader, I guarantee you they are a great leader because they are a great mentor," Wico Van Genderen, chief executive officer of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber, says. "That's Barb Maculloch. She has quietly made it her business



Barbara A. Maculloch '94 is the president of Pennsylvania Banking for Community Bank, N.A. She has 32 branches under her direction in the Keystone State.

to mentor up-and-comers in NEPA – and it is a tribute to her core character, her success, and why she is so deserving of the Athena Award."

Maculloch and her husband, George, have one daughter, Rachel, who graduated from Scranton Preparatory School in the spring and will enroll in Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in the fall. [h](#)

# Understanding ‘more’ about the iconic archway

*The architectural structure’s symbolic and literal meanings to the University community outline the importance of restoring the arch to its original grandeur*

What is the entranceway? In tangible terms, it is mortar, bluestone, brick, terra cotta, and steel that comes together in the form of a welcoming Tudor Gothic-styled archway. Symbolically, though, it means so much more to the Misericordia community.

Thirty-four feet from the ground, a Celtic cross proudly stands alone atop the left cupola of the inspiring architectural structure. The one-way, main gateway is 21-feet high at its tallest point and 15-feet wide, while the overall triple arch that allows for motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic is 45-feet wide.

The left cupola, taller and more elaborate than the right, represents

the perfection of God, while the less ornate and shorter cupola symbolizes the imperfection of humankind. Noted architect F. Ferdinand Durang of New York, N.Y., designed this marvel in the early 1930s, while Andrew J. Sordoni Construction served as the general contractor on the historic project.

Through the decades, the “entrance gateway” – as it was originally known – has been a beacon for many. It is a symbol of the Religious Sisters of Mercy’s mission of Mercy, Service,

**Continued on next page**

## BY THE NUMBERS

34	Feet to the top of the cross
15	Main arch’s width in feet
100	Pieces of bluestone removed and replaced
150	Architectural terra-cotta units removed, replicated and replaced
5,000	Tan decorative bricks salvaged and/or replaced
\$440,000	Estimated cost to repair archway to original splendor
(570) 674-8027	Call to support restoration project

**From previous page**

Justice and Hospitality, and dedication to educating the daughters of coal miners in the beginning and first-generation college students to this day.

Passersby may view the archway as simply the main entrance to campus. To those with an affinity to Luzerne County's first four-year institution of higher learning, though, it represents everything from a dream realized to an ongoing mission to educate and serve.

Take Sister Noel Keller, Th.D., TH.M., M.A., '65, RSM, for example. The ongoing project to restore the arch's grandeur has inspired the longest serving Sister of Mercy on campus to reflect upon and research its significance to the institution and religious order.

The self-described "Roaming Catholic" has devoted her life to education – teaching students from the age of three through graduate school in Chicago, Ill., Dallas, Pa., Scranton, Pa., Weston, Vt., and elsewhere during her lengthy career. The early days of this summer, though, have been a delight, she says, as she reflects upon the significance of ornate lettering that spells out the words, Sisters of Mercy, College Misericordia, Provincial House and Villa St. Teresa across the front fascia of the archway.

Sister Noel becomes openly nostalgic when talking about the former Provincial House for novitiates, located on the second floor of Mercy Hall and named Villa St. Teresa when the college opened its doors to students in 1924. The name pays homage to Sister M. Teresa Walsh, RSM, the former Mother Superior of the order in northeastern Pennsylvania from 1911-17 and the main visionary and "dreamer" behind the purchase of land and establishment of the college, according to Sister Noel.

"I'm always trying to show people the more; there's more than what they see," says Sister Noel, who has been managing the annual Institute of Sacred Scripture on campus since



**Masonry Preservation Services' contractors begin the delicate restoration project.**

1980 and offering guided "Tours with a Difference" overseas for the Center for Adult and Continuing Education. "That is exactly what education is all about – to learn the more.

"This woman (Sister Teresa Walsh) wanted the more, and since she had the desire for the more – this (Misericordia) is here," adds Sister Noel, who also served as director of Campus Ministry from 1980-84. "She had the sense of more and put her heart around it."

Tragically, Sister Teresa did not get to see her dream become reality as she died in the fire that destroyed St. Mary's Convent in Washington Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in 1920 – six years after purchasing 99 acres of farmland that eventually became Misericordia University. "She did not live long enough to see the earth spaded," adds Sister Noel.

### What does the arch mean to you?

The archway has served an important role as part of the official logo since Misericordia earned University status in 2007. The iconic structure, though, is more than a logo, or brick or mortar. This special symbol unites the University community and holds special meaning for many alumni and friends. To share your memories of the arch on social media, please use the hashtag, #RestoreTheArch.

Ninety-three years later, Sister Teresa's dream has produced nearly 18,000 alumni who are Misericordia Proud! They hail from all 50 states and 17 foreign countries. For most, passing through the arch constitutes their first memory of campus.

Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., the University's 13th president, has become intimately familiar

with the tradition and history of the Sisters of Mercy and the institution since his inauguration in 2013. It did not take long for him to learn how the archway holds different meanings for different people and generations.

To some, the stone and brick structure signifies the "spirit and ideal aims of Misericordia will live on with strength and purpose," President Botzman says. Others, he says, notice the roadway that passes under the architectural structure is one way, thus speaking to Misericordia's mantra of "All Are Welcome."

"The Misericordia arch is one way, always one of entering the University, and symbolically is never closed," President Botzman says, commenting on the legacy project. "Our arch also is located farther from Mercy Hall and requires an effort to climb the hill to the University that sits at the top. The years spent earning a Misericordia degree have plenty of uphill climbs, but the view when one gets to the top is truly amazing."

Sister Jean Messaros, M.S., '73, RSM, vice president of Mission Integration, has experienced a little bit of everything during her more than 32 years of service to Misericordia. She has seen firsthand what the arch means to graduates, prospective students and fellow sisters, alike.

"Many graduates go to the arch," says Sister Jean, who also has served in Campus Ministry and as the assistant dean and dean of students during her tenure at Misericordia. "It means something sentimentally to young adults when they graduate from here.

"It also is a reminder of the sisters who were so intent on opening this

college. They never veered from that even though they had that terrible tragedy. They forged ahead and helped the dream come true," she says, adding, "The arch to me is like the exclamation point – we are here!"

Although the arch holds significance to today's students, its meaning to them also reflects changing times.

They view it as a recognizable symbol that marks the start of their journey in academia, while also being great for memorable pictures and social media posts.

"It all begins at the arch," says Michael Gombita '18, a communications major and president of the student group, Students Today, Alumni Forever. "People know exactly where you are when they see your social media posts of the arch when you come back to campus. The arch is your home."

Dani Clifford '20, a statistics and sport management major, is a little more introspective. "The Misericordia arch is more than a design on a T-shirt," she says. "The arch is the gateway to our home and symbolizes the beginning of the rest of our lives. Beyond the arch is the start of a new chapter and lies the very roots of our future."

Alumni also have been sharing their thoughts via social media, with the hashtag, #RestoreTheArch. On Facebook, Carolyn Engdahl '03 wrote, "driving through this archway feels like home!" Catherine Krill '87 remembers going through the arch for the first time to attend an event as a young child. "My great aunt is a Mercy nun and was being recognized for an achievement," she wrote on Facebook. "I remember thinking how neat they (the arches) were, and the trees lining the road."

To Sister Noel, though, her viewpoint of the arch is more succinct and to the point. "The MU community makes a promise to you as you travel through the arch that we will create an environment that



Sister M. Teresa Walsh, RSM, left, was the main visionary behind purchasing the land in Dallas Township and establishing Misericordia. Above, workers continue to assess damage to the archway.

will help you become your best self, to move toward a more complete vision of yourself."

## Restoring its Grandeur

The arch has been an inviting symbol of Misericordia's hospitality since the early 1930s. Time and weather, however, have taken their toll on the iconic symbol. Through deteriorated mortar joints and masonry cracks, water and ice infiltrated the structure, damaging the embedded steel elements and backup bricks that provide structural integrity for the mass masonry of the main arch and piers, and side pedestrian arches and piers.

Masonry Preservation Services (MPS), Inc., of Bloomsburg, Pa., which

## Support the arch's restoration

Restoration work will return the iconic arch to its original grandeur when completed. The unanticipated project was necessitated by internal damage that gives the structure its strength. Join the University community as it rallies around the symbol that says to the world, "All Are Welcome" here. To make your donation, please log on to [www.misericordia.edu/arch](http://www.misericordia.edu/arch) or call (570) 674-8027.

specializes in restoring complex masonry buildings and structures, began the work to restore that arch in early June. The investigative process required the removal of bricks, cupolas arch sections, terra cotta, bluestone and drilling holes to examine the interior of the structure. Additionally, damaged decorative terra-cotta units have been removed to create models and molds to create new architectural terra-cotta units that exactly match the

original ones. MPS also is working to retain the historic fabric of the archway by blending original historical materials with new replicated decorative brick, bluestone, and terra cotta to address the deteriorated masonry. The work ensures performance of the structure along with historic significance and integrity.

Overall, almost 100 pieces of carved natural bluestone has to be removed and replaced, and more than 150 terra cotta units are going to be removed, replicated and replaced. MPS also anticipates salvaging and replacing nearly 5,000 tan bricks. The scope of the estimated \$440,000 project will extend tentatively into late fall, as this is the first extensive work to the structure since some masonry repairs were completed in 2001.

The timeline remains fluid, as many variables and coordination issues exist that could accelerate the project or extend it. The most important aspect of the project remains funding. Please join Misericordia as it rallies around the symbol that says to the world, "All Are Welcome." The project is an important investment in MU's future, as the work will preserve an identifiable landmark for future generations.

To support the historic archway's restoration, please log on to [www.misericordia.edu/arch](http://www.misericordia.edu/arch) or call (570) 674-8027. [h](#)

# MENTEE TO MENTOR

Physical therapy alumnus develops residency program, expands evidence-based practice by conducting scholarly research

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

**Rett Holmes P.T.,  
D.P.T., '02, '06**

DOCTOR OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Primary care physicians and physical therapists may treat patients with the same ailments, but at the same time use different screening and measurement tools. Rett Holmes '02, '06, P.T., D.P.T., is hoping his research can bring different care providers together to communicate what they find and understand how specific screening and outcome measurement tools are related.

Holmes, who earned his master's degree in physical therapy in 2002 and his doctorate of physical therapy in 2006, recently co-authored

the study, *Does the STarT Back Screening Tool Correlate with the FOTO Functional Scale in Patients with Low Back Pain?*

As Holmes explained, it is about understanding how a screening tool used largely by physicians to determine the likelihood that a patient will have chronic back pain compares with a tool used by physical therapists for prognostication and measurement of therapeutic outcomes.

"We wanted to see if they correlated so we could understand the relationship and maybe improve communication between different providers that use different screening tools," says Holmes, a regional physical therapy manager for two facilities in the Lehigh Valley owned by St. Luke's Health Network. "Using those two tools together, we thought we might be able to help identify patients at a higher risk for chronic low-back pain."

Physicians use the STarT Back Screening Tool at the onset of care. It takes into account not only physical conditions but also possible psychological impairments such as signs of depression or anxiety.

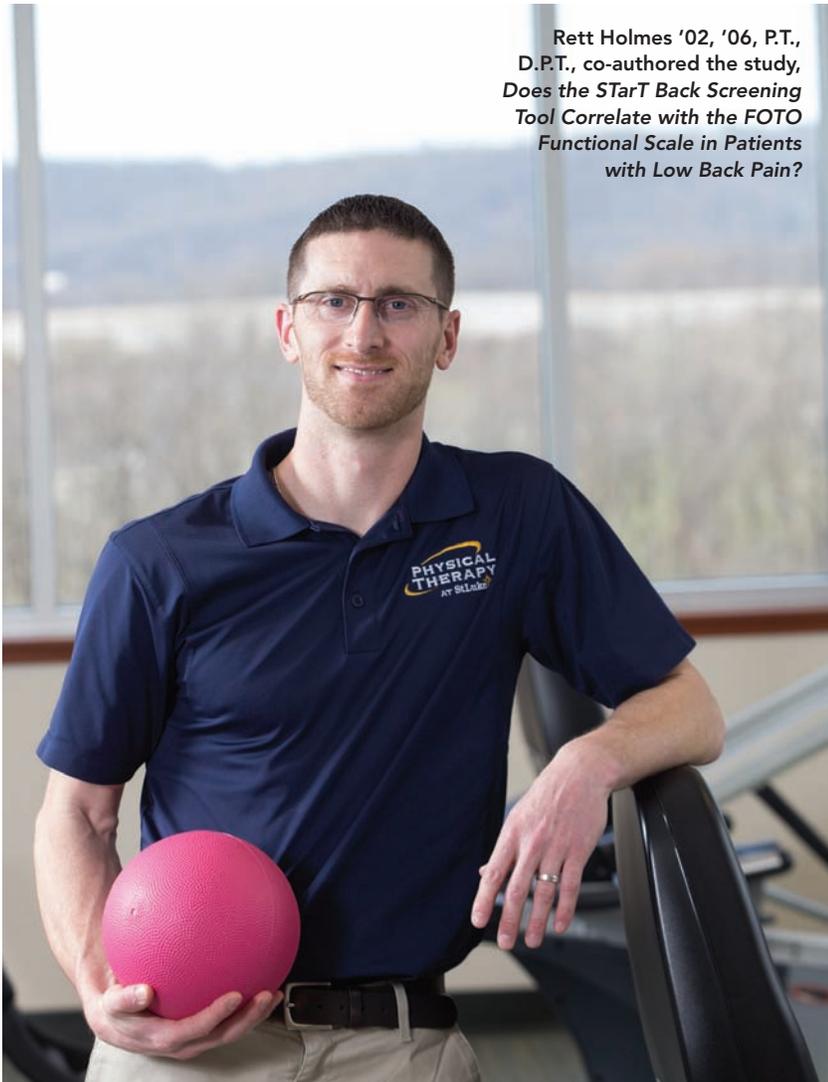
FOTO (Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes) is used by physical therapists and involves patients completing a survey about their injuries and how they affect their abilities to do certain activities before, during and at the end of care.

A focus on outcomes, Holmes said, is important because it can help physical therapists understand results while demonstrating value and efficiency.

Insurers have long viewed reimbursement of medical services based solely on how much time the provider spent. Now, though, health care is moving to a system that reimburses based on the value and efficiency being provided. Importantly, FOTO adjusts for risks that are beyond the therapist's control.

"One therapist might see a lot of athletes who are super motivated and their patients get better, because he's a good therapist but also because he just had a really good population," Holmes explains. "Another

Rett Holmes '02, '06, P.T.,  
D.P.T., co-authored the study,  
*Does the STarT Back Screening  
Tool Correlate with the FOTO  
Functional Scale in Patients  
with Low Back Pain?*



therapist might be seeing a lot of patients with chronic pain and a lot of other issues, and maybe the patients get better but not as better as the original therapist. This tool is able to adjust for that and take into account many of those risk adjustment factors that would alter the patient's improvement in therapy outside of the therapist's control."

In his role at St. Luke's, Holmes is a faculty member in the residency program for orthopedic physical therapy he helped to develop. As part of the program, each resident is required to do a research project and Holmes was working closely with Dr. Alex Harris, at the time a resident. Together they came up with the idea for the study, and were joined by Dr. Stephen Kareha, the director of the orthopedic residency, in co-authoring the study. Holmes presented the research in April at the FOTO Outcomes Conference in Knoxville, Tenn.

Working with residents, Holmes said, has been a rewarding experience.

"I find it pretty rewarding to hopefully help guide and mentor some younger clinicians, but also I tend to learn from our residents," he says. "They're usually pretty engaged, interested and motivated. So they constantly kind of challenge you as well, in a good way, that you're always going to think and the education is a two-way street. It's not just me educating them, that's for sure."

Mentoring residents is one of several professional hats worn by Holmes, who works in the physical therapy office of St. Luke's Anderson campus in Easton, Pa., as facility director. He also manages another of the health system's physical therapy facilities in Wind Gap, Pa.

Holmes spends about 75 percent of his time on patient care and 25 percent on administrative work. An orthopedic clinical specialist, he also has a

certification in the McKenzie method for treating patients with spine pain.

It's a specialization he was first introduced to at Misericordia University by Associate Professor Steven Pheasant, P.T., Ph.D. "It's an approach I really took to," Holmes says. "I had (Dr. Pheasant) as

therapy when I was 16 or 17 years old are none of the reasons I like it today, so I feel like in some ways I sort of lucked into it," he says.

For Holmes, the size of classes and the approach of all of the physical therapy faculty members at



“ I find it pretty rewarding to hopefully help guide and mentor some younger clinicians, but also I tend to learn from our residents. ”

— Rett Holmes '02, '06, P.T., D.P.T.

a professor as an undergrad. I believe he came to Misericordia when I was a junior so I was already part way through the PT program, but I had an immediate connection to the way he educated. I also had him in the transitional (DPT) program and I was just always very impressed with him. I kept in communication with him after school and as I was going through certifications."

As a high school student in Bangor, Pa., Holmes knew he wanted to be a physical therapist. He was an active athlete – he would run track and cross country at Misericordia – and his parents both worked in the medical field.

"It's funny that all the reasons I thought I was going to like physical

Misericordia made for a positive learning experience.

"I liked that the classes were generally small and you got a lot of personalized attention," he says. "I loved the fact we called all of our professors by their first names. It wasn't Dr. Moran or Dr. Pascal. It was Mike or Maureen. It might seem like a small, simple thing, but it really helped develop that personal relationship.

"I always felt it was a place where I worked really hard and put in a lot of effort, but during that time they were always able to match that. I really got a strong foundation for the rest of my career." h

# CLASS NOTES

Stay in touch with friends and classmates by posting updates about your career, family and other noteworthy accomplishments on [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu) or [facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni](https://facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni). Please submit *Class Notes* to [alumni@misericordia.edu](mailto:alumni@misericordia.edu).

## 70th Reunion Surprise for Liz Noll '47

Alumna Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Noll '47 is one of Misericordia's most fervent alumni and served as a class agent for this year's Alumni Weekend. She is one of three friends from the Class of '47 who had plans to celebrate their 70th Reunion together until Liz fell ill just days before the event.

Her daughter, Ave Noll Miller, along with Lauren Gorney '12, assistant director of Alumni Engagement, and the medical staff at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, N.J., arranged for her to watch a Facebook live feed of the reunion. Thanks to the arrangements, she was able to participate in the Golden 50/50 Plus Luncheon and hear get-well wishes and words of encouragement from her friends, alumni and staff. A professional photographer captured the loving exchange from Liz's hospital room. A special thanks to Liz's family and her medical caregivers for helping coordinate one of the highlights of this year's Alumni Weekend festivities.

You can log on to watch the recording of the live feed on the Misericordia Alumni Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni/>.



Pictured with Liz Noll '47, from left, are Morristown Medical Center staff members Sanaa Benkemmoun, Sherran White, Natalie Textores, Olivia Petzoldt, Lise Cooper and Kathy Burwell.

year and moved permanently to Kansas City, Kan., stayed with her cousin, Mary, and Mary's husband, George Smith, for several days when she came back to Naples for a visit. The Smiths split their time between Sun City Center, Fla., and Hershey, Pa.

## 1963

**Mary Ellen Gallagher Kolodziej '63** and her husband, Bernard, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 10, 2016. They were married in St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wilkes-Barre. Mary Ellen is retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare. A family dinner was held in their honor by their children at Cafe Bistro, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

## 1974

**Margaret "Peggy" Burke '74** was the recipient of the Greater Pittston Chamber Women's Network Distinguished Woman Award. Peggy's volunteerism has left an extraordinary impact on the community. She has served as a volunteer librarian, served on the board for Meals on Wheels, and also delivered for Meals on Wheels. Peggy is best known for playing a large role in the St. John the Evangelist Care and Concern Ministries, where she serves as a coordinator of the food pantry. In addition to her volunteerism, she stays active with her husband, five children, and one grandchild.

## 1975

**Susan Felter '75** and her husband, Paul, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 6, 2016. The couple has four children, Matthew and his wife, Kim;



## Florida, we're bringing the arch to you!

Join us Nov. 8-15, as we travel the Sunshine State meeting and greeting our loyal alumni. We will be visiting Tampa, Bonita Springs, Coral Springs, Vero Beach, and Orlando. For details, follow our Misericordia Alumni facebook page. If you are interested in hosting a Florida gathering, it is not too late! E-mail Lauren Gorney at [lgorney@misericordia.edu](mailto:lgorney@misericordia.edu) or call (570) 674-6228.

## 1956

**Patricia Hannagan McGowan '56** (right) and **Mary Stockman Smith '56** (left) had lunch at the Sand Bar Restaurant on Anna Maria Island, Fla., in February 2017. Patricia, a long-time seasonal resident of Naples, Fla. who sold her home there last



SAVE THE DATE!

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2017

OCT. 6-8

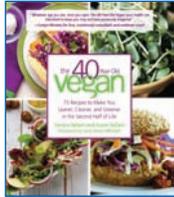
Register online: [Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming17](http://Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming17)



Amanda, Michael, Alex, and two grandsons, Jacob and Scott. The couple celebrated on a Bermuda cruise and have also planned a trip to Ireland.

## 1982

**Sandra Sellani '82**, and **Susan Sellani-Hosage '91, '96**, twin sisters, co-authored the book, *The 40-Year-Old Vegan: 75 Recipes to Make You Leaner, Cleaner & Greener in the Second Half of Life*. The book was released in April 2017 and has won two awards: the 2017 International Book Awards in the Cookbooks: General category and the Green Book Festival Award. The awards honor books that contribute to a greater understanding, respect for and positive action on the changing worldwide environment.



## 1985

**Bill Jones '85**, chairman and CEO of the United Way of Wyoming Valley, was named Man of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of Patrick. He was honored in March at the 72nd annual dinner. He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration and minors in marketing and management.

## 1986



**Maria A. Pallante '86**, the former United States Register of Copyrights, was named President and CEO by the Association of

American Publishers on Jan. 17, 2017. Maria is widely-known as an intellectual property expert with a distinguished record of public service. She holds a law degree from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in history from Misericordia University, which also awarded her an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree.

## 1987

**Cynthia Russo '87, R.N., B.S.N., C.R.N.A., C.L.N.C., E.J.D.**, was recognized in the publication, *Worldwide Leaders in HealthCare*, by the International Nurses Association. She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

## 2002

**Erin Taronis '02** and Brandon Fellingner were married Oct. 16, 2016. Erin is employed by Schuylkill Rehabilitation Center as an occupational therapist. The couple resides in Orwigsburg, Pa.

## 2003

**Jennifer Spinella**

**O'Hara '03** was nominated for teacher of the year in Virginia. She has been teaching at E. W. Chittum Elementary School for 13 years. Presently, Jennifer is teaching children with autism and is one of four teachers in the LEAD Program. She lives in Norfolk with her husband, Jonathan Spinella, and their two children, Kylie and Colton.



**Maria Rossillo Pulli '03**

and husband, Chris, welcomed their son, Miles, on Nov. 21, 2016. He joins big sister, Audrey, who was born Sept. 3, 2013.



## 2005

**Shawn Hayes '05** and Lindsey Verano were married Sept. 17, 2016. Shawn is a biological sales representative for Sanofi Pasteur. The couple, who took a wedding trip to Sorrento, Capri and Rome, Italy, resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

## 2006

**Amanda Evans Drum '06, '12** and her husband, Gregory, welcomed their son, Evan, on Oct. 27, 2016.

## 2007

**Julianne Wolyniec Brieling '07** and her husband, Curtis, welcomed their daughter, Hope, on July 10, 2016. She joins big sister, Addison.

## And Maggie makes five...

Margaret "Maggie" Guarnieri '17, a business administration major with a management specialty, became the fifth of her siblings to graduate from Misericordia. In her honor, Maggie's four sisters served as marshals at the University's 91st Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 20.

Maggie served as an intern in the Study Abroad office. She completed a study abroad semester in Ireland and participated in a faculty-lead program in Italy.

The sisters are the daughters of Dr. Louis Guarnieri, D.C., and Marie McGarry Guarnieri of Pittston, Pa. The girls' late maternal grandmother, Ann Mitchell McGarry '54, inspired their love for the campus.



From left, are Beth '09, Bridget '15, Maggie '17, Marianne '11, and Katie '07.

**Matt Hornak '07** and his wife, **Erica '09**, welcomed their daughter, Kennedy Catherine, on Feb. 12, 2017. She joins big brothers, Logan and Monroe.



Continued on next page

## Misericordia Proud!

Misericordia Proud! is an alumni referral program that affords the applicant a waiver of the standard \$25 application fee and a one-time \$1,000 alumni grant that will be applied to first-semester tuition. For more information, please log on to [misericordia.edu/MUProud](http://misericordia.edu/MUProud).



Continued from last page

## 2008

**Todd DeSando '08** has been selected as a participant in the Google for Education Certified Innovator Program. Thirty-six participants were chosen for the program from around the world. Todd is honored to be selected to represent Spotsylvania County Public Schools. Participants will discover how to unlock creativity, translate insights into solutions, experiment, and build an effective innovation culture in schools and organizations. There are only 400 educators in the world to hold the title of both Google Certified Trainer and Google Certified Innovator. He will be one of only six educators in Virginia to hold both titles.



**Michael M. Evans '08, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., R.N., A.C.N.S., C.M.S.R.N., C.N.E.,** was promoted recently to assistant clinical professor of nursing at Penn State Worthington Scranton campus and was appointed as a graduate faculty member by the University's Graduate School. He also serves as assistant chief academic officer at Penn State Worthington Scranton, where he teaches in the associate, baccalaureate, and RN to BS in nursing programs. He lives in Archbald, Pa.

## 2009

**Rachel Hasay '09, '13** and Wayne Lauer were married June 5, 2017. Rachel is the

## A Giving Day: 9.24.17

University Advancement's Giving Day goal is 924 gifts by Sept. 24, 2017. Gifts of any size from 924 donors will help us save the iconic arch! The arch is in dire need of repair and restoration, and your support is needed more now than ever.

Restore its grandeur. Help rebuild the arch. For more information, please visit [www.MUROAR924.com](http://www.MUROAR924.com).



Alumni and friends served as marshals at the Spring Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. Participating in the event, first row from left, are Katie Guarneri Pirolli '07, Bridget Guarieri '15, Marianne Guarieri '11, '15, Elizabeth Guarieri '09, Maureen Rineheimer, Helene Reed '66, and Rev. Cheryl Cavalari '91; second row, Matthew Malcolm '02, '04, Melissa McHale '12, Matthew Hinton, Jessica Randall and Thomas Sweetz '01.

transition coordinator at SusQ-Cyber Charter School in Bloomsburg, Pa. The couple resides in Shickshinny, Pa.



**Ashley Tassone Anthony '09** and her husband, Mark, welcomed a daughter, Abigail Rose, on Aug. 29, 2016.

## 2010

**Danielle Furnari '10** and **William 'Max' Campbell '09** were married June 25, 2016. The Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Palmerton, Pa., was the setting for their wedding. Danielle is an event coordinator for Geisinger Health System, and Max is a special education teacher in the Milton School District. The couple resides in Danville, Pa.



**Nicole Moore '10** and Jeffrey Wolf were married May 21, 2016. Nicole is an occupational therapist at Speech & Occupational Specialists in Dallas, Pa. After a trip to Bali and Dubai, the couple resides in Orlando, Fla.

**Karlene Yozwiak '10** and James Dillon were married July 16, 2016. Karlene is employed by Guard Insurance Group, Wilkes-Barre; is the assistant director for the Conservatory of Dance, Mountaintop, Pa., and is the junior varsity cheerleading coach for the Wyoming Valley West School District. The couple celebrated with a honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas, St. Thomas, and St. Kitts. They now reside in Larksville.

## Sara Horton Campa '10

and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son, Benjamin Philip Campa, on Oct. 29, 2016.



**Jaime Helms '10** and Josh Turano were married Sept. 17, 2016 in Carbondale, Pa. The couple resides in Hershey, Pa.

## 2011

**Siobhan Spager '11, '14** and **Justen Yatko '07, '10** chose the chapel at Misericordia University as the setting for their wedding on Dec. 10, 2016. Siobhan is a physical therapist at Allied Services, and Justen is a financial adviser. The couple resides in Clarks Summit, Pa.

**Brett Ford '11** has been appointed the assistant director of athletic communications and media relations at State University of New York at Geneseo. He was a four-year letterman as a member of the men's tennis team, and also lettered one year in basketball.

**Cody Harman '11** and Karla Chacko were married Aug. 27, 2016. Cody is employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## 2012

**Jessica Szumski '12** and Matthew Nice were married May 21, 2016. Jessica is employed as an outpatient therapist by Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Mexico. They reside in Pittsburgh.

**1939****Polly Tecklenburg Durban**  
February 5, 2017**1946****Gertrude Duganne Bove**  
August 9, 2016**1949****Mary McGinley Richey**  
April 29, 2017**Mary Louise Barrett Leen**  
May 25, 2017**1950****Ruth Hendler Kerrigan**  
January 8, 2017**Claire T. Johnson Kennedy**  
May 26, 2017**Mary Ann Melosky Zakar**  
June 12, 2017**1952****Mary Lou "Polly" Cooper Spring**  
July 25, 2013**Yolanda Troback Hoban**  
March 30, 2015**1953****Lottie Joann Ziko**  
January 19, 2017**Dr. Joan Stollmeyer Feeley**  
March 9, 2017**Frances Elizabeth Rakowski**  
February 15, 2017**Dolores Helen Lenio Topoleski**  
June 5, 2017**1955****Mary Ellen Wachtell Utel**  
May 24, 2017**1957****Teresa Ross Beirne Carola**  
February 14, 2017**1958****Dr. Joanna Bufalo Asta**  
July 1, 2014**1959****Rosemary Stofila Warren**  
January 9, 2017**Sr. Helen Louise McHale, RSM**  
March 7, 2017**1960****Sr. Constance Ann Sophy, RSM**  
March 19, 2017**Anne Regina Brennan**  
June 7, 2017**1963****Helen Quinn Cox**  
January 27, 2017**Sr. Mary Charlene Kelly, RSM**  
May 6, 2017**1964****Marydel Wildeman Clark**  
March 8, 2017**Suzanne Jean Matty**  
August 13, 2016**1967****Carol Ann Borkowski Andrews**  
December 20, 2014**Sr. Elaine Frances Delaney, RSM**  
June 5, 2015**Rose Marie Morin Brown**  
April 9, 2017**Margaret Willgruber Brunner**  
May 4, 2017**1968****Sr. Margaret Ann Ryan, OP**  
February 6, 2017**1969****Marilyn Ayers Cavanaugh**  
March 12, 2015**Jacquelyn Nardone Cunningham**  
June 10, 2015**1976****Barbara Law**  
January 20, 2017**Lorraine D. Rodzinka**  
February 6, 2017**1977****Sr. Mary Patrick Herron, SCC**  
March 9, 2016**1978****Michele Magli Fagula**  
May 23, 2017**1982****Margaret Kimball Anderson**  
July 13, 2016**1985****Karen Bulkley Drury**  
July 10, 2016**1991****Bonnie Schimpf Migliosi**  
May 9, 2017**1999****Jacalyn Hincley Duczeminski**  
July 21, 2016**2003****Wendy Thomas**  
June 1, 2017**2013****Daniel Dallas Fetterman**  
May 17, 2017

## 2013

**Melinda Orkwis '13, '16** and Brian Clarke were married May 16, 2015.

**Amanda Stahl '13** and Joshua Cherney were married May 23, 2015. Amanda is a physical therapist in Harrisburg. The couple took a wedding trip to Antigua.

**Maria Kidron '13** and **Jeremy Kushner '12** were married Oct. 8, 2016. Maria is a speech-language pathologist with St. Luke's in Bethlehem, Pa. Jeremy is a physical therapist with St. Luke's in Bath, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. They currently reside in Bethlehem, Pa.



## 2014

**Jessica Lynn Webber '14** and Jeffrey William Nelson were married May 13, 2016. Jessica is a research consentor at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. They reside in Thornhurst, Pa.

**Erin Frances Kain '14** and **Adam Grzech '13, '17** were married August 6, 2016. Erin



is a speech language pathologist at Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Forty Fort, Pa. Adam is a general manager at Advanced Auto Parts, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The couple resides in Shavertown, Pa.

## 2015

**Nicole Sobocinski '15** and Nathan Crane were married Oct. 17, 2015. Following a honeymoon to Mexico, the couple resides in Dallas, Pa.

**Amanda Tomaselli '15** and Elias Tohme were married Dec. 30, 2016. Amanda is a speech-language pathologist at the Wyalusing Area School District. The couple resides in Trucksville, Pa.

**Katherine Grohoski Traher '15** and her husband, John, welcomed their son, Nathaniel, on Oct. 15, 2016. He joins big sister, Adalynn.

**Tori Dziedzic '15** is an advancement and data base coordinator for the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Foundation at its headquarters in Los Angeles, Calif.

**Cheyenne Wulff '16, B.S.R.S.,** shared her perspective on the educational and professional importance of spending time with patients in an article published by ASRT Scanner in January 2017.

## 2016

**Danny Redell '16** was accepted into Dosimetry School at University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore. The program accepts two students and is tuition free. He will complete radiation therapy school in West Virginia in June and begin the Dosimetry program in July.

### **Amanda Slaughter**

**'16** and Jason D'Amico were married Feb. 4, 2017. Amanda is a special education teacher at Burbank Elementary for grades 3-5.



**Jonathan Gooch '16** and Kayleigh McGovern chose the Glenora Wine Cellars, New York, as the setting for their June 26, 2016 wedding. Jonathan is a professor of chemistry at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa. They honeymooned in Bermuda and the Caribbean islands.

# A PHYSICAL THERAPY ENTREPRENEUR

Alumna conducts home health visits while also exploring health, wellness and business in the podcast, 'Healthy, Wealthy & Smart'

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

Karen Litzy '97, '14, M.S., D.P.T., is bringing physical therapy into people's homes, but perhaps not in the ways one might expect.

Litzy, who graduated from Misericordia in 1997 with a master's degree in physical therapy and 2014 with a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, is embracing new ways to serve patients and help a broad audience understand what it is that physical therapists do.

First, there is her practice in New York City, which she describes as a "concierge practice."

"I go to patients' homes or their offices to treat," she explains. "In that respect, it's home health, but it's not your traditional home health setting. The patients I see can easily go to an outpatient setting, they just prefer to have someone come to them."

Like many physical therapists, Litzy started out in more traditional settings. After graduating from Misericordia, she began doing acute care work for in-patient rehab at what is now Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton. She decided to move to New York, but couldn't find a physical therapy position that truly suited her, so she began working at a large, high-end gym.

**Karen Litzy  
'97, '14,  
M.S., D.P.T.**

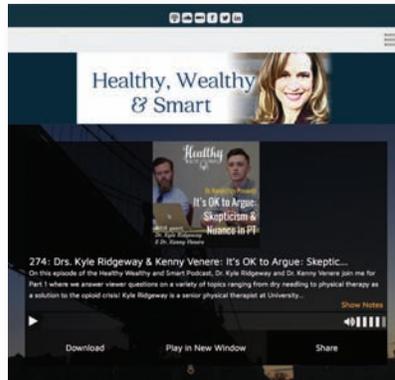
DOCTOR OF  
PHYSICAL  
THERAPY

"That's where I saw a lot of the personal trainers at the gym were instead of always seeing their clients in the gym were seeing them in their homes as well," she says. "That kind of got me thinking if people are willing to pay for this outside the traditional setting, maybe I can do this for physical therapy as well."

Litzy went on to work at an outpatient orthopedic physical therapy clinic, and in her off time saw patients on her own. She also did per diem work for several years working with the cast of *The Lion King* on Broadway.

"I found more and more people were asking to be seen in their homes, and I was getting more referrals through word of mouth and some physician referrals," she says.

So she went part time in her clinical position while spending her other time treating people in their homes. Eventually she made the move to go out on her own



Dr. Litzy produces the twice-a-week a podcast, *Healthy, Wealthy & Smart*.

full-time. Now she works with a variety of patients, many of whom are dealing with chronic issues.

"The reason I did it is because there was a demand," Litzy says.

That decision has made her a physical therapy entrepreneur, which plays a part in her twice-a-week podcast, *Healthy, Wealthy & Smart*. Exploring health, wellness and business with a focus on physical therapy, the podcast grew out of her experience hosting a live internet radio show. A personal trainer and friend who had his own show invited her to be a guest to talk about physical therapy,

which led the station manager to offer her a show of her own that Litzy hosted every Monday afternoon.

In 2013, she realized the technology was available to host a show from her own apartment, and so she started a podcast. It got put on hold for a few years while she continued working and went back to Misericordia for her doctorate.

Last year, she returned to the podcast with a renewed focus. Her guests include physical therapy professionals, but also doctors, researchers, female entrepreneurs and others from outside the world of PT that can discuss relevant topics.

"It's important to have varying guests on because you get their audience," Litzy explains. "If they like it, they might want to listen to another podcast that might be more physical therapy-related. My goal for this year was just to help bring the world of physical therapy and what we do as physical therapists to a much broader audience. Sometimes niche podcasts like this tend to be listened to only by people within the niche. I'm trying to broaden that so people can listen to one and then perhaps listen to more that might be more physical therapy-related so they have a better idea of what we do."

She is also an oft-cited expert in other popular media. A member of the media corps for the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Litzy will receive reporter inquiries, and she has sought to better position herself as a voice for physical therapy.

After taking the online course, *Impacting Millions* by Selena Soo to better learn how to pitch ideas to media outlets, she made her own pitch to the hugely popular *Entrepreneur on Fire* podcast, hosted by John Lee Dumas. It was the first time a physical therapist was on the podcast.

"I was really excited about that because more people got to know that physical therapists can be entrepreneurs, what we do and how we can help people," Litzy says.

Earlier this year, her outreach work extended to her peers. At the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, she and fellow physical therapist Dr. Dustin Jones delivered the presentation, *Old Not Weak: Strengthening the Older Adult*, to an overflow crowd numbering about 500.

The presentation examined aging trends in the United States and internationally, and strength-training principles for older adults. "The population is aging and as physical therapists we are in a really unique position to make a huge change in those people's lives by keeping them mobile and keeping them healthy," Litzy says.

She also was responsible for helping organize the first Women in Physical Therapy Summit last fall in New York. She is doing so again for the second edition, which is on Saturday, Sept. 23. It will include APTA President Sharon Dunn among the keynote speakers.

"It is a day women and men from the physical therapy profession get together to have conversations to help inspire and empower women in the profession to step into leadership roles," Litzy says. "They don't have to be grand leadership roles. It's just to be able to give the confidence and tools to be a successful leader."

An Old Forge, Pa., native, Litzy knew when she was in high school that she wanted to work in a medical field. Her sister went into physical therapy and Litzy spent some time observing at a local physical therapy clinic.

"So I decided to apply to some physical therapy schools with the thought that if I decide at some point to go to medical school I'll still have a great base from which to work," she explains. "If I decide that through the physical therapy curriculum that I want to stay in the physical therapy world, then I made a good choice."

That brought Litzy to Misericordia.

"I had a great experience at Misericordia," she says. "The people I met have certainly helped my career. When I graduated with my master's I felt prepared for my position."

Returning to Misericordia for her transitional DPT degree was a valuable experience, she said, in part because it gave her a stronger understanding of properly assessing research.

It also expanded her knowledge and outlook on her own profession.

"As with anything, when you're in one position for a long time you forget there is so much more out there," says Litzy, who has returned to campus each of the past three years as part of an alumni panel to speak to current DPT students. "I felt it helped to give me a much broader view of the physical therapy world, which I was then able to take to my patients and to my podcast to get it out to a wider audience." [h](#)

“I had a great experience at Misericordia. The people I met have certainly helped my career. When I graduated with my master’s I felt prepared for my position.”

— Karen Litzy '97, '14, M.S., D.P.T.



Karen Litzy '97, '14,  
M.S., D.P.T.

# WEEKEND OT ALUMNAE SHARE FACULTY SPOTLIGHT AT THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

## Drs. DeAngelis '92 and Navarro-Walker '92 prepare OTDs of the future

BY MARIANNE  
TUCKER PUHALLA

**Tina DeAngelis '92,  
Ed.D., O.T.R./L.**

**Lydia S.  
Navarro-Walker '92,  
O.T.D., O.T.R./L.**

.....  
OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY

It began with a casual conversation. Friends since they met at orientation for the Misericordia University Weekend Occupational Therapy (OT) Program in 1989, Tina DeAngelis '92, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., and Lydia S. Navarro-Walker '92, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., work side-by-side and collaborate daily on cultivating doctoral experiential placements as faculty members of the entry-level Doctorate Program in Occupational Therapy (OTD) at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. DeAngelis is associate professor and director of TJU's new Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Entry Level Program. Dr. Navarro-Walker is an assistant professor, academic fieldwork coordinator, and doctoral residency coordinator of the Doctoral Experiential Component at TJU. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) also recently appointed Dr. Navarro-Walker to serve on the committee that sets standards for doctoral programs nationwide.

"When we met, we were both working in Philadelphia and planned to car pool to Dallas for classes until I accepted an OTA (occupational therapy assistant) position at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore – and messed up the plan," Dr. DeAngelis says. She adds that the friendship bloomed as the two studied together and spent time hanging out with Lydia's husband, Leon, who drove her from Philadelphia for each weekend session.

"Tina always teased me that my diploma should also have his name on it, as he practically went through the program with us," Dr. Navarro-Walker says. "He certainly made sacrifices for me, but I must say – he did none of the actual studying or reports."

The two collaborate daily as they craft doctoral level curriculum and experientials to meet the guideposts identified in AOTA's Vision2025. In their actions, they strive to cultivate leaders, educators and evidence-based practitioners who are

equipped to advocate, develop programming in new areas of practice, and influence policy.

Most recently, the two presented together at the 2017 AOTA Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration and hosted a fieldwork-related "Conversations that Matter" lounge session during the Education Special Interest Section (EDSIS) program.

Looking back on her Misericordia education from her perspective as an OT educator, Dr. Navarro-Walker is inspired by the foresight of the program's developers. "The most lasting memory for me is how Misericordia was at the forefront in recruiting influential leaders in the OT profession to move the program forward," she recalls. "They held a vision crucial for the survival of our profession – such as increasing the number and breadth of doctors in the profession. They instilled in the alumni the importance of giving back to the profession and gave us the directive to lead the charge."

Dr. DeAngelis shares her friend's appreciation for the bi-monthly weekend program. "I assumed a full-time position in the burn center at Crozer-Chester Medical Center (Chester, Pa.) after I completed my Misericordia level II fieldwork there. I am forever grateful to Dr. Gail Fidler, who jumped in to serve as OT program director during our time on campus. I teach a theory class and frequently reference her and her use of Fidler and Velde's Lifestyle Performance Model, a holistic lifestyle approach to OT therapy.

"Furthering my education provided me with the opportunity to teach, conduct collaborative research, design programming for a nonprofit, and now serve as a program director of the new OTD entry program at Jefferson," Dr. DeAngelis says with introspection. "We need to cultivate new educators as the graying of the profession has started."

For Dr. DeAngelis, she followed an associate's degree from Harcum College in



Tina DeAngelis '92, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., left, and Lydia S. Navarro-Walker '92, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., are faculty members at Thomas Jefferson University.



Tina DeAngelis '92, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., left, and Lydia S. Navarro-Walker '92, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., work side-by-side at Thomas Jefferson University to prepare OTDs of the future.

Bryn Mawr, Pa., with her Bachelor of Science in OT from Misericordia, and an advanced master's degree in OT from TJU, where she became a full-time member of the faculty in 2008. She added a doctorate in education from Widener University in Chester, Pa., in 2006. Her creativity and passion for teaching were recognized when she received TJU's coveted Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2013. The married mother of three is a member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association (POTA) and AOTA, where she served as a board member on the Commission for Education (COE) and EDSIS chairperson from 2013-2016. She currently serves as the doctora faculty representative of the COE.

A new collaboration she has planned for 2018 has a decidedly Misericordia feel to it. She will supervise level II fieldwork students at Project HOME, an acronym for housing, opportunities for employment, medical care and education – an organization that assists individuals who experience chronic homelessness. "I am incredibly excited to initiate OT services and collaborate with students to deliver quality services to this population," she says.

### Words of advice for adult students considering OT:

“Someone once told me: ‘If you wait for the right time to do something, you won’t ever move forward, because there will never be a ‘right’ time to pursue your goals.’ If you want something badly enough...find a way. You don’t want to look back on your life when you are 80 and say: I wish that when I was (insert age) I had the nerve to...”

— Lydia S. Navarro-Walker,  
O.T.D., O.T.R./L.

“A student in our Misericordia OT cohort told me that ‘Time is going to pass no matter what you do...so you might as well get another degree in the meantime.’ It is SO true.”

— Tina DeAngelis, Ed.D., O.T.R./L.

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Dr. Navarro-Walker lived in Puerto Rico for nine years during which time she earned an associate degree at the University of Puerto Rico. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Misericordia, she holds an OTD and an advanced practice certificate in neuroscience from TJU, where she joined the faculty in 2014 to share her 30-plus years of experience in the clinical arena with future OTDs.

A member of POTA, AOTA, Academy of Brain Injury Specialists and Kinesio Taping Association, she was among the first graduates of AOTA's new Academic Leadership Institute and received her Credentialed Leader in Academia credentials during the AOTA Centennial Celebration in April 2017.

"I can honestly say that my work at TJU is challenging, rewarding and exciting," adds Dr. Navarro-Walker. "The opportunity to contribute, in a small measure, towards the development of future OT professionals is a privilege and by working in this prestigious program, I know I am leaving the profession in wonderful hands for the future. Being a part of the Jefferson family and working alongside Tina is fulfilling in a way that is at best, hard to describe – but at a minimum is a dream come true." **h**

# VALUES GUIDE REWARDING CAREER IN MEDICINE

Devoted trauma surgeon, leader and mentor says charisms transcend time

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

**Grace S. Rozycki, M.D., '73**

BIOLOGY

For Grace S. Rozycki, M.D., '73, the tenets of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality that guided the Sisters of Mercy in founding Misericordia are values that have played an important role in her life, career and professional field.

In 2016, Rozycki delivered the presidential address at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma's

75th annual meeting and spoke of the enduring nature of those values.

"Core values have staying power, and emblematic of those timeless values is my alma mater, Misericordia University," she said in the address. "Founded in 1924 by the Sisters of Mercy to educate the daughters of coal miners, their core values of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality have transcended generations. Those values are as relevant today as they were nearly 100 years ago. Hence, the core values shape a culture that has thrived through generations."

A surgeon for the past 37 years who has been a pioneer, leader and mentor, Dr. Rozycki graduated from Misericordia in 1973 with a degree in biology before going on to earn her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pa., and later an MBA from Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. Today she is the Willis D. Gatch Professor of Surgery at the Indiana University School of Medicine and chief of surgery at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.

The daughter of two factory workers, Dr. Rozycki grew up in Ashley, Pa., a small coal town about 18 miles from campus. During childhood, her parents instilled in her the same values Misericordia would reinforce, and which remain with her to this day.

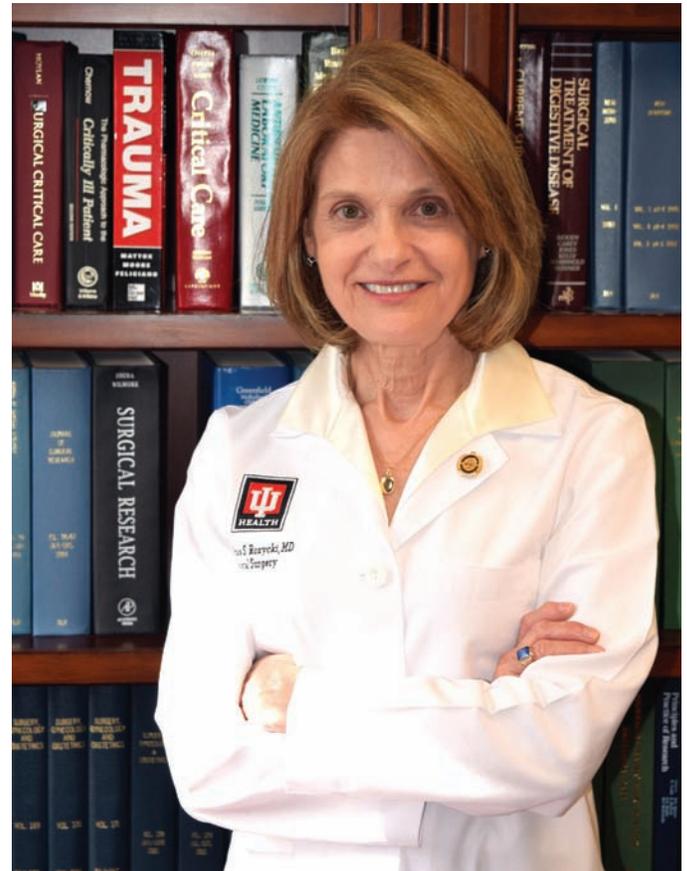
"Attending Misericordia was an affirmation of how I was raised," she says. "When those values become reaffirmed like that in everyday living, they tend to stick with you. It helps in how you deal with problems and how you face new situations. You're anchored with some very good core values that show authenticity and bring value to others."

For much of her career, Dr. Rozycki has been devoted to trauma surgery. Before moving to Indiana, she had been an attending surgeon at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., where she was previously program director for the trauma and surgical critical care fellowship.

From the beginning, she knew that trauma and emergency surgery was the right fit for her. "It was just a good feeling and it suited my personality," Dr. Rozycki says. "I love surgery and with trauma surgery you always have to be prepared for almost anything. You never know what you are going to find, what the injuries are. Taking care of the patient, the patients' stories span anything from mechanisms of injuries that involve falls or motor vehicle crashes, and gunshot and stab wounds."

Over the years, she has been one of the earliest adopters and researchers of the use of ultrasound technology to assess

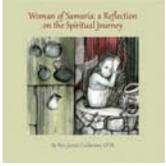
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Grace S. Rozycki, M.D., '73 is the Willis D. Gatch Professor of Surgery at the Indiana University School of Medicine and chief of surgery at IU Health Methodist Hospital.

## Book sale benefits Bourger WWC Program

Rev. James M. Calderone, O.F.M., M.Div., M.S.S.W., Ed.D., executive director of the Ethics Institute of NEPA, and Rodrigo Gereda have collaborated to write and illustrate their second book together. The sale of *Woman of Samaria: a*



*Reflection on the Spiritual Journey* benefits the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program.

Published by Cougar Press, the 74-page soft-cover book chronicles the story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well and her chance encounter with Jesus that has been shared through the millennia. Noted as a story of conversion, or a "turning of the heart," the book offers a brief reflection through poetry, commentary, and pictures of this timeless tale.

To order a copy, please contact Rev. Calderone at (570) 674-6209 or at [jcaldero@misericordia.edu](mailto:jcaldero@misericordia.edu). The book is \$20.

## Journal of Living Philosophy debuts

The Department of Philosophy and the Living Philosophy Project launched the inaugural issue of The Journal of Living Philosophy (JLP) during the spring semester. The online journal is dedicated to promoting philosophical scholarship that critically examines all aspects of human life and experience.

The JLP joins a list of about 15 national journals dedicated to philosophy scholarship that allows submissions by undergraduate students. Developed by the Department of Philosophy at Misericordia University, the journal is hosted by the Scholarly Exchange at the University of Pittsburgh. The journal is available at <http://livingphilosophy.misericordia.edu/>

## MI students participate in ASRT Leadership Program

The Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists chose



Lorie Zelna, M.S., R.T.(R)(MR), associate professor, from left, poses with students Shelby Rinaldi '17, Morgan Hanadel '17 and Jaclyn Hajec '18.

medical imaging major Shelby Rinaldi '17 to represent the Keystone State at the 2017 American Society of Radiologic Technologist Student Leadership Development Program in June. Fellow medical imaging majors Jaclyn Hajec '18 and Morgan Hanadel '17 were chosen as alternates.

PSRT selected the Misericordia students after reviewing essays from radiologic technology students in the state.

## Decorated trauma surgeon recalls alma mater's mantra of service to others

### From page 34

traumatic injury in the emergency room, something that had previously been utilized primarily in radiology and obstetrics.

Educating and mentoring the surgeons of the future have been other important aspects of her career. When she was recruited to Indiana in 2013, along with her husband and fellow surgeon Dr. David Feliciano, part of her role was to establish the Indiana Injury Institute, a collaboration between IU's medical school and health system focused on education, research and expanding trauma education and training regionally.

Prior to her position at Indiana, in addition to overseeing residency and fellowship programs at Grady, she was professor of surgery and vice chair for academic administration at Emory University School of Medicine. While at Emory, she helped create a surgical mentor scholarship program for pre-med students, some of whom were from Misericordia.

Mentoring others, she says, is a natural way for her to pay forward for all the help that she has received. "You can share your experiences with others and help them through different aspects of life," Dr. Rozycki says. "I can also understand that when someone has a goal they want to accomplish, none of us stand alone in accomplishing our goals. All of us need help

to get there. For me, it's just a way of giving back and hoping I can help others as they have helped me."

Dr. Rozycki has often given back to, and returned to, Misericordia. While the school has undergone enormous growth and change, she says what made it special remains.

"There's no question that what I see and what I hear is that the values maintain any transition the institution goes through. They transcend any change," she says. "Everyone expects change to occur at an institution which is good, and sometimes there are rough times that we all go through, but those core values at Misericordia, they help the institution transcend change while maintaining its individuality."

There have been challenges for Dr. Rozycki throughout her career. While working for decades at Grady, the public hospital for Atlanta, it was not uncommon for her to help uninsured patients navigate the health care system so they could receive the best care possible.

Of course building the kind of distinguished career that Dr. Rozycki has also comes with a lot of self-sacrifice and hard work. Nevertheless, she keeps it in perspective. Dr. Rozycki will not be one to complain about challenges, recognizing the hard work of many before her that have made her path possible and what she says is a privilege to do what she does.

"I thank God every day that I'm a doctor. It's just a wonderful privilege to be able to help patients and serve. To me, that is one of the things Misericordia emphasized, service to others," Dr. Rozycki adds. **H**

# THE ART OF TEACHING

## Education majors restore music and art lessons to local school district

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

HANOVER TWP. – The loud sounds emanating from the Hanover Area Memorial Elementary School classroom were harsh, lacking the rhythm and proper beat typically associated with popular music. That

### Teacher Education

lack of a discernable composition, though, hardly discouraged the sixth grade students, teachers and Misericordia University teacher education majors participating in the inaugural Arts Experience during the spring semester.

The collaborative program, which began as an Impact Leadership project through Leadership Wilkes-Barre, did not intend to teach students how to play musical instruments or create master works of art, but rather to supplement curriculum that was short on instruction in the arts overall.

“The arts are really important in education, crucial even,” says Megan Ostrum '18, an early childhood and special education major and president of the Education Club. “They open up other avenues for students in the curriculum. I think they need to be able to express their knowledge and emotions through the arts and music – the kinds of things cut (by budget-conscious school districts).”

“Seeing them be so engaged with little activities like making a tin man makes me realize how important the arts are for education,” adds Thea Arico '18, vice president of the Education Club and an early childhood and special education major. “The arts are a great way for students to develop creativity and individual identities. Having a background in creativity crosses over to different content areas. This connects to creative writing and student-made strategies for math.”

The sixth graders may have made an inordinate amount of noise playing guiros, tambourines, bongos, maracas, cymbals, sandpaper blocks and an electronic drum set, but the lessons they learned were music to the ears of educators.

“What really counts is when our students are in the field and they are working with real, live students,” says Stephen Broskoske, Ed.D., associate professor. “In campus classes, we have simulated teaching experiences and demonstration lessons by our students. When you go into the field and work with real students, though, that really captures the passion, excitement and heart of our future teachers.”





5.



6.

Amanda Lloyd, a learning support teacher in the Hanover Area School District, envisioned a program that would expose students to the arts who otherwise would not receive this type of specialized instruction. A partnership with the Misericordia University Teacher Education Department and Education Club amplified her idea and the Arts Experience was born in April.

"Through no fault of their own, they do not know who (Johann Sebastian) Bach is or what a trombone is," Lloyd says. "The kids need an outlet, a positive model in expressing themselves. I think that it helps them think creatively and helps them be problem-solvers, and they learn how to form social connections – that communication that is missing now."

Misericordia University Education Club students Michaela Halsey '20, Rebeca Kaschak '20, Shane Kreller '17, Jackie Tadeo '19, Sarah Wittle '18, Arico and Ostrum worked with Dr. Broskoske and Lloyd to develop numerous stations in three classrooms

offering visual, hands-on activities under the supervision of teacher education majors.

The high-participation art and music stations allowed sixth graders to create sculptures and drawings, and to explore different types of musical instruments and learn about instruments of the orchestra, while providing experience to the aspiring educators at Misericordia.

On this day, Ava Sillah, 12, a sixth-grade student, takes a turn playing the piano, guitar and ukulele to see "what kind of sounds" she can make. "It is really cool," she says about the opportunities. "We should do it more because we do not have music anymore. It would be nice to have music in our school."

The school district is working with the teacher education department to develop the program further. The ultimate goal is to have multiple workshops during the school year for the 550 students who attend the public elementary school in fourth through sixth grades.

"It was a lot of trial and error trying

1. Misericordia University teacher education major Thea Arico '18, helps make a tin man out of aluminum foil at one of the art stations.

2. Teacher education major Michaela Halsey '20 works on an art project with Hanover Area School District student Jacob Jones.

3. Misericordia University teacher education major Jackie Tadeo '19, left, works with Hanover Area student Kaiden Gronkowski.

4. Megan Ostrum '18, center, instructs Hanover Area School District students about the various instruments available at the learning station.

5. Teacher education student Shane Kreller '17, center, provides instruction on the guitar and ukulele to Hanover Area students Kiana Lewis, left, and Aaron Dennis, right, at the inaugural Arts Experience workshop.

6. Hanover Area sixth grader Thomas Belawicz, left, receives instruction from teacher education major Michaela Halsey '20 at the inaugural Arts Experience program.

to figure out what we wanted to do," says Arico. "This is us getting our feet wet and seeing the best way to bring back the arts to Hanover."

Misericordia University students incorporated lessons from their Integrated Arts course when they were designing and instructing the workshop in Hanover. Dr. Broskoske and his students are hoping to develop the workshop into a service-learning course and add it to the more than 70 other courses that enhance student learning and address a need in the community during the academic year.

"That's part of our University – helping others," says Ostrum. "The best way was to include our knowledge and implement a plan to bring these arts back into circulation, back into these students' lives. Misericordia is wonderful. That is one of the reasons I came to Misericordia – the four charisms, such an attractive quality. I think Misericordia reflects and emphasizes that you should be working for something bigger than yourself." [h](#)

## Wagner, Petties-Jackson named Wendy's Athletes of the Year

### Clarke earns All-America honors

Track & field standouts Reilly Wagner '19 and Juwan Petties-Jackson '17 were named the 2016-17 Misericordia University Wendy's Athletes of the Year.

Wagner is a sophomore member of the women's track & field and cross country teams, while Petties-Jackson is a senior on the men's track & field team. Wagner was the track & field team MVP and was an NCAA Indoor All-American with a runner-up finish in the pentathlon. She was the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) indoor runner-up and NCAA qualifier in the high jump and set school indoor records in the pentathlon and 60-meter hurdles.

During the outdoor season, she was the MAC Female Track Athlete of the Year after winning MAC titles in the

100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles and high jump. She qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in three events.

Petties-Jackson was the NCAA Indoor champion in the 200 meters after finishing as the MAC indoor runner-up in the 60 meters and 200 meters. He set school indoor records at 60 meters and 200 meters. He was the MAC outdoor champion at 200 meters and finished second at 100 meters. He earned All-America honors in the 100 meters (8th) and 200 meters (4th).

Teammate Oniesha Clarke '19 earned two All-America honors at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. She was the national runner-up at 100 meters and



Misericordia University student-athletes Reilly Wagner '19 and Juwan Petties-Jackson '17 were named the 2016-17 Wendy's Athletes of the Year. Posing with their trophies, from left, are Wagner, Steve Kopic, Wendy's, and Petties-Jackson.

finished sixth in the long jump.

The Wendy's Misericordia University Athlete of the Month program is in its 17th year. It is sponsored by Quality Served Fast (QSF), the local Wendy's franchise organization.

### Men take MAC Freedom basketball title

The men's basketball team finished 20-8 and won its second Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom title in three years. Team MVP Jason Kenny '19 was named first-team All-MAC Freedom, while first-year guard Tony Harding '20 made second-team All-MAC and was named Rookie of the Year.

### Baseball team wins 7th straight MAC championship

The baseball team won its seventh consecutive MAC Freedom championship. They lost their first two games in the NCAA Tournament, including the opener to national runner-up Washington & Jefferson.

Senior Tim Burek '17 was named the MAC Freedom Pitcher of the Year.

### Men's lacrosse team captures title

The men's lacrosse team enjoyed its best season with a 13-4 record and its first MAC Freedom title. MU qualified for the NCAA Tournament and defeated

Lasell College in the opening round before falling to eventual national champion Salisbury.

Pat Kellish '18, Brandon Winslow '17, and John Tierney '18 made first-team All-MAC Freedom, while Jim Ricardo earned his 100th career win and was named MAC Freedom Coach of the Year. Kellish moved into fourth place on Misericordia's all-time scoring list with 165 points, while teammate Chris Fleming '18 is fifth with 163 points.

### Women's lacrosse team posts 14-5 record

The women's lacrosse team reached the MAC Freedom title game for the third consecutive season. The Cougars finished 14-5 and advanced to the

Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship game.

Goalie Katie McLoughlin '17, '18 was the MAC Freedom Defensive Player of the Year. She was joined on the All-MAC Freedom first-team by Olivia Garcia '18, '19, Liz Mulvey '17, '18 and Brianna Ladner '19. Kaila Quinlivan '20, '21 made the second-team and was named Rookie of the Year.

### Women's basketball team in MAC, ECAC championships

Under first-year head coach Jason Rhine, the women's basketball team finished 19-9 while qualifying for the MAC and ECAC championships.

Senior Justine Seely '17 was named MAC Freedom Player of the Year.

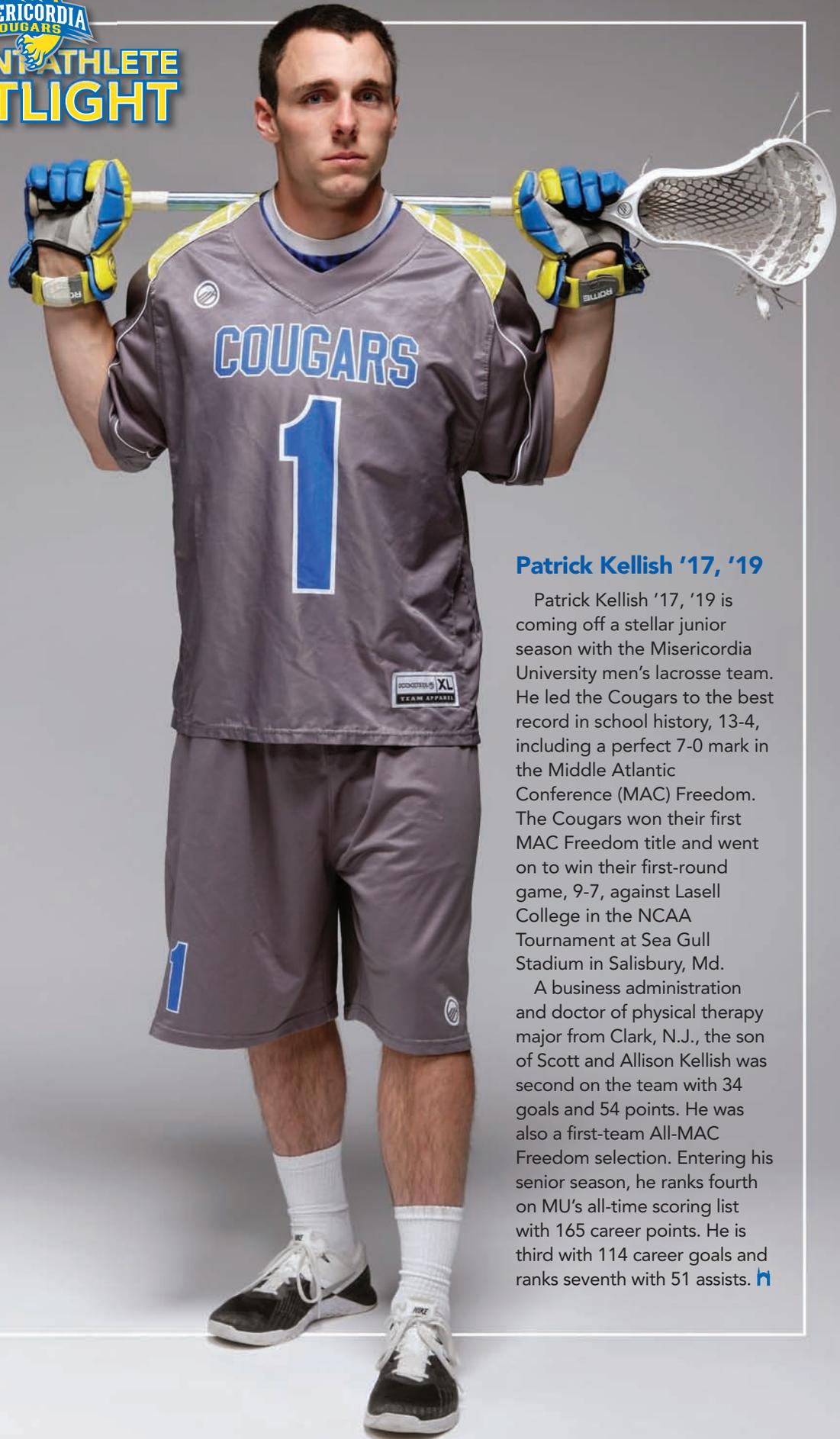
### Athletics partners with Under Armour

Misericordia University announced a partnership with Under Armour, effective July 1. The agreement will lead to all 25 MU varsity teams utilizing Under Armour uniforms, equipment and apparel. Battaglia's Sporting Goods will be the exclusive supplier of all Under Armour products for Misericordia University Athletics.

As part of the Misericordia/Under Armour agreement, fans, family and friends of MU Athletics will be able to receive officially licensed UA/MU logo products at a significantly discounted rate on sport specific team store sites.



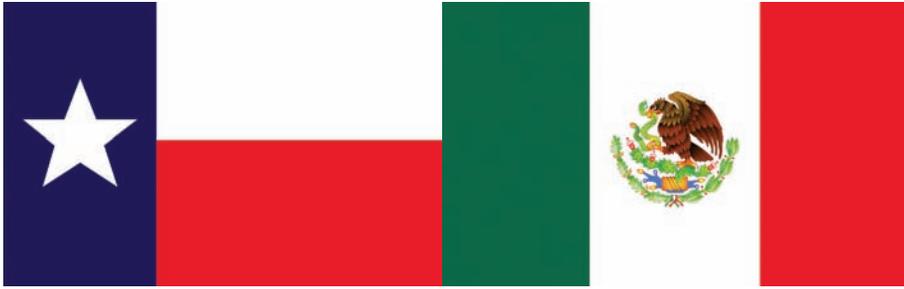
## STUDENT ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



### Patrick Kellish '17, '19

Patrick Kellish '17, '19 is coming off a stellar junior season with the Misericordia University men's lacrosse team. He led the Cougars to the best record in school history, 13-4, including a perfect 7-0 mark in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom. The Cougars won their first MAC Freedom title and went on to win their first-round game, 9-7, against Lasell College in the NCAA Tournament at Sea Gull Stadium in Salisbury, Md.

A business administration and doctor of physical therapy major from Clark, N.J., the son of Scott and Allison Kellish was second on the team with 34 goals and 54 points. He was also a first-team All-MAC Freedom selection. Entering his senior season, he ranks fourth on MU's all-time scoring list with 165 career points. He is third with 114 career goals and ranks seventh with 51 assists. [h](#)



# LONE STAR LESSONS

*Students learn about immigration issues during Spring Break service trip to Texas-Mexico border*



BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

It was a simple act for Misericordia University junior Emily Walsh '19 – picking up and holding a 3-month-old baby girl. By enveloping the infant in her arms and walking her around the room, she was able to occupy the youngster, giving the child's mother the half hour of solace she needed to shower, wash her hair, and change into fresh clothes. That simple act of kindness, though, was far from ordinary.

Walsh and a team of students and chaperones were in Hospitality Respite Center for Immigrants run by the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande as part of their Spring Break service trip to southern Texas. The baby and her mother, immigrants from Honduras, had just arrived at the center in the Sacred Heart Church in McAllen after days of transit. They would only stay a few hours, before boarding a bus to continue their stateside journey to a new home.

"When they arrived, the mother was exhausted, scared and nervous," recalls Walsh, an occupational therapy major. "When she came out of the shower wearing clean clothes, she was like a new person – you could see the relief in her face."

The students distributed diapers, food and clothing to immigrants who passed through the center. Another day, the team visited New Home Emergency Children's Shelter in McAllen and participated in an enlightening presentation on unaccompanied youth immigrants. The news was startling: the U.S. detained and processed more than 59,000 unaccompanied minors ages 12-17 in 2016. On average, they were held 34 days until a sponsor was approved or their legal status determined. The shelter in McAllen served 403 of them.

Misericordia's students were in Texas to participate in the Border Witness Program. Their itinerary immersed them in the regional culture and allowed them to view life "through the eyes of the immigrants' journey," according to the Border Witness Program. The program is one of a number of services offered by A Resource In Serving Equality (ARISE), an Alamo, Texas-based nonprofit dedicated to improving living conditions in the region by helping immigrant families acclimate and mobilize themselves to be contributing members of society.



A Mercy organization, ARISE was founded in 1987 by Sister Gerrie Naughton, RSM. The organization provides programs on topics from education and environment to civic engagement and leadership in an area that faces many challenges – from no street lights and few traffic lights to flooding from poor drainage and waterless fire hydrants.

"This was different from most Spring Break trips in that it was designed more for learning than service – and it was most definitely eye-opening," explains Sean Farry, Misericordia University's campus minister, who chaperoned students with alumna Sister Mary Ellen Brody '71, R.S.M.

With educational sessions such as "Realities Along the Border," and "Education and Social Justice," ARISE's schedule was designed to give students a personal look at life through the eyes of an immigrant.

In between service stops, students walked alongside locals in a march celebrating International Women's Day, attended a bi-lingual Mass for immigrants, and visited the Rio Grande River where the United States-Mexico border is delineated by a sporadic 15-foot fence monitored by armed guards.

The students participating in the trip represented a wide variety of majors. In addition to Walsh, they included Michael Dubinski '18, government, law



(top to bottom, left to right)

Trevor George '17, '20, stands along the fence delineating the United States-Mexico.

Sister Mary Ellen Brody '71, R.S.M., Bailee Hymers '19, Michael Dubinski, '18 Trevor George '17, '20, Tim Kelly '17 and Julianna Stella '18, from left, participate in a march in support of International Women's Day in McAllen, Texas.

OT student Emily Walsh '19 and IT security student Samarth Shaw '17 share smiles with an infant at Hospitality Respite Center for Immigrants.

Spring break participants, first row from left, are Ramona Casas, Mercy Associate and director of the ARISE Border Witness Program; Sean Farry, campus minister; Emily Walsh '19; Julianna Stella '18; Bailee Hymers '19; Sister Mary Ellen Brody '71, R.S.M., and Eva Soto, community organizer, ARISE; third row, Trevor George '17, '20; David Mallarkey '19; Tim Kelly '17; Samarth Shaw '17, and Michael Dubinski '18.

and national security; Trevor George '17, '20, health care management/pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy; Bailee Hymers '19, occupational therapy; Tim Kelly '17, social work; David Mallarkey '19, nursing; Samarth Shah '17, information technology security, and Julianna Stella '18, social work.

Sister Mary Ellen has been a Religious Sister of Mercy for 52 years. She spent 26 years in Central and South America serving those in need, and 12 years helping immigrants in Texas border towns. "What has changed is that in those days, people who came into the U.S. did so with every intention of going back to their homeland," she recalls. "It isn't like that anymore. Even for as little as they have when they get here, it is still better than what they are fleeing. It is good for Misericordia students to meet those families – especially the children – and hear their stories."

The trip served as a reality check for Stella regarding global social injustice. "It is hard for me to imagine that basic human rights are not being met in countries around the world in the 21st century," she says during a reflection session after the trip.

"I will never forget the conversations we had and the people we met," adds George, whose encounter with a man named Marcos from El Salvador left an indelible mark. "Marcos was kidnapped and tortured, and suffered

so many trials along his way. He may have been physically broken, but his spirit was so high just being here."

The Misericordia group agreed that they never expected to encounter so much fear among the immigrants. Much of the angst stems from concern that a simple incident, such as a minor traffic violation, could lead to them being deported. Seeing pieces of clothing lying along the road compounded the emotional assessment.



***"It is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives."***

– Sister Mary Ellen Brody, RSM



"People are dying trying to get into our country. The guard pulled a body out of the river the day before we visited," Walsh says, with a notable sigh and a shake of her head.

"Seeing it in person, it really helps you realize how complicated the laws are and how many dynamics are at play," Dubinski says. "It is a grey, nuanced and messy issue."

For Shaw, whose parents are first-generation immigrants from India, the trip helped him understand what his family faced and what is being done to help immigrants today.

"After coming to the U.S., it was very hard for my family and me to adjust, especially because we were away from the rest of our family in India and because we did not speak the language," he says. "It is very hard to get adjusted somewhere when you do not speak the language. From the trip to Texas, I learned the importance of community. The community there gets together to solve problems and help each other

out. They told us that even when they do not have any problems, they try to find any reason to get together and enjoy each other's company."

The MU group agreed with Shaw on the importance of the work done by ARISE. They

applauded the organization's method of training immigrants and paying them to help other immigrants, a key to the organization's success especially in carrying out the Mercy mission of empowering women and children.

"I believe it was very good for our students to see the reality first-hand and experience the work that goes on here," offered Sister Mary Ellen. "It is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

A photo gallery of pictures from the trip is available at <http://bit.ly/muservicetx>. 

# TO LAW SCHOOL AND BEYOND

## Bourger Women with Children Program honors graduates

“There were times when I thought my life was crashing down around me. I had nothing. I thought I was worth nothing. And then this program saved my daughter and me.”

Those are the emotional words of Aubrey Connelly, '16, one of five graduates of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. A Mulier Fortis ceremony on May 17 honored them and their children. They are members of the largest cohort of graduates.

Connolley graduated at winter commencement. She is pursuing a master's degree in organizational management at Misericordia while working for the Children's Service Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Social work major April Lennon '17 is pursuing a master's degree in social work at Marywood University, Scranton, Pa., while working with the Gregory Center for Applied Behavior in Pittston, Pa.



Program participants, seated from left, Jade Levi '17, April Lennon '17 and Asia Thompson '17; standing, Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, Katherine Pohlidal, director; Felicia Glover '17, Aubrey Connelly '16, and Sandy Johnson, coordinator, pose for a picture before graduation. Below, they display the Misericordia rings they received at the ceremony.

Felicia Glover '17, a mass communications and design alumna, is a media relations specialist at Benepath, a digital marketing agency near Philadelphia, Pa. Jade Levi '17 earned her bachelor's degree in Government, Law and National Security, and is a paralegal at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, Scranton, Pa. Asia



Thompson '17, an English major, has been accepted to three law schools. The group has seven children, ages 2 through 10. [h](#)

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT CELEBRATES RODIN

The Pauly Friedman Art Gallery will join major art galleries around the world in celebrating the centenary of the death of French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) with the exhibit, *Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime-Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Collections*. Twenty works of art will be on display Sept. 9 through Dec. 9. The exhibit includes 17 bronze portraits created by Rodin and three portraits of him created by his contemporaries.

The exhibition has been organized and made possible by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. It is partially

supported by the Sandra Dyczewski Maffei Endowment. A free opening reception will be held Saturday, Sept. 9 from 5-8 p.m.

At the peak of his career, Rodin was considered to be the greatest sculptor since Michelangelo. In recognition of his extraordinary talent, programs and exhibitions honoring the 100th anniversary of his death

are being held at galleries around the world, including the Musée Rodin, Paris; the Rodin Museum, Philadelphia; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and the Legion of Honor, San Francisco.

The works featured in the exhibition at Misericordia demonstrate Rodin's deep appreciation for the natural form of the human figure. A visionary of his time, Rodin transcended the tradition art styles of the late 19th century, and focused his art on the natural form and vitality of the human figure. [h](#)



The exhibit features a portrait of Rodin by Edward Steichen, above; a Bust of Mrs. Russell, at right, and a Bust of Young Balzac.

Photo credit: Lent by Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation



Students watch an archery demonstration on the campus of College Misericordia in 1932.

## SAVE THE DATE ...

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|-----------------|--|-------------------|---|
| <b>AUG. 24</b>  | <b>2017 Convocation</b><br>Wells Fargo Amphitheater, 2 p.m.  | <b>OCT. 6</b>     | <b>Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony</b> Anderson Sports and Health Center, 7 p.m.  |
| <b>AUG. 28</b>  | <b>First day of classes</b><br>Fall semester   | <b>OCT. 7</b>     | <b>Homecoming football game vs. King's College Kickoff</b> , 1 p.m.   |
| <b>SEPT. 12</b> | <b>Triumph of the Human Spirit, from Auschwitz to Forgiveness</b><br>Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor, 7 p.m.<br>Tickets required          | <b>OCT. 12-15</b> | <b>Fall recess</b>  |
| <b>SEPT. 18</b> | <b>Ethics Institute of NEPA at 30 years</b><br>Keynote speaker Sister Patricia Talone, Ph.D., RSM, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., library.             | <b>NOV. 11</b>    | <b>Open House</b><br><a href="https://admissions.misericordia.edu/openhouse">admissions.misericordia.edu/openhouse</a>                      |
| <b>SEPT. 30</b> | <b>Open House</b><br><a href="https://admissions.misericordia.edu/openhouse">admissions.misericordia.edu/openhouse</a>                     | <b>DEC. 2</b>     | <b>Alumni Association's Santa Brunch</b><br><a href="https://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/santa">Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/santa</a> |
| <b>OCT. 6-8</b> | <b>Homecoming Weekend</b><br><a href="https://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming17">Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming17</a> | <b>DEC. 16</b>    | <b>Last day of finals</b><br>Fall semester  |
|                 |  | <b>DEC. 17</b>    | <b>Winter Commencement</b><br>Anderson Sports and Health Center, 2 p.m.   |

For more information, please log on to [Misericordia.edu](https://Misericordia.edu) or call (570) 674-6400