



# MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF Health Sciences Education

Annual Newsletter  
May 2019

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MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

### COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Board Passing Rates **93%-100%**

Over **1 million** in grant funding to support **Autism Center** and community clinics

**\$900,000** in **pro bono health care** delivered to community

**90%** of students participate in **Interprofessional education**

### INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The **CHSE interprofessional education** committee created a new university honor for students who participate in identified clinical and classroom interprofessional experiences. Students who complete all requirements will be awarded honors prior to graduation at the annual honors ceremony.



#### ARTS IN MEDICINE

Beginning with the Healthcare Symposium, CHSE is extending the arts in medicine series with a selection of Medicine inspired art at the 2019 Healthcare

Symposium October 2019 and an exhibit in the newly renovated Trocaire Building starting Fall 2019. **Ted Meyer** will also provide a speaker series Spring 2020 on Arts in Medicine.



#### AUTISM CENTER

The Autism Center expands with grant funding and State Reimbursement to include a Respite Program, Transition Services and Extended School year. The center is hiring a director to support the expanding services to the already successful **Autism for Lifelong Learning (ALL)** program. In addition, a revised Autism Certificate will begin fall 2019 that prepares both undergraduate and post-professionals for this special population.

# PATIENT NAVIGATION



“When I first applied for the Patient Navigation program, I wasn’t sure what to expect; but after taking the first course, I had a better understanding of what a patient navigator does and how we can really help people in the community. Many of my courses throughout the

program have helped prepare me for my current job as a Community Health Assistant (Patient Navigator). I often find myself using certain techniques that I learned throughout my course of study to help assist me when caring and talking with patients. I really enjoy my job with

Geisinger at Home because I am able to help patients in ways that they didn’t think was possible.”

~ **Amanda Rando** '18  
B.S. Health Science: Patient Navigation Specialization

## SOCIAL WORK

As part of his Methods & Process II group methods course, professor **David Hage’s** class of 8 junior level social work students completed a service learning project in support of the Dinners for Kids event on Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019. **Dr. McDonald, Professor Ellman, and Joanie Salla,** a longtime child welfare advocate and instructor also participated in supporting the event. **Mary O’Leary,** from the AmeriCorps Vista volunteer coordinator served as the as the department representative for the planning committee and took a lead role in planning the silent auction fundraiser. **Betty Ann Duffy,** the department’s Administrative Assistant is also a regular volunteer for Dinners for Kids. The program currently serves 40 children in the Back Mountain with meals being prepared by **Metz Food Service** on campus. The social work department

previously raised enough funds to purchase a commercial food refrigerator housed in the Metz kitchen for the project and helped fund many dinners for the local children.

This year the event raised over \$46,000 for the program. This allowed the Dinners for Kids program to expand to serve the Wilkes-Barre School District with a goal to serve a minimum of 40 children there. Principle **Melissa Meyers** spoke and detailed the great need in their school district as well. It became clear to all who attended, food insecurity remains a significant problem within the Wyoming Valley and Dinners for Kids, founded by **David and Edna Tevet** is committed to helping children access these needed meals. **Dr. Botzman** was also a speaker and affirmed the university’s continued commitment to the program and local children in need. The honorees



at the dinner were **The Metz family,** who were acknowledged for their support of the Dinners for Kids program by preparing the meals on campus weekly, hosting an annual fundraiser golf tournament, and providing the fundraiser dinner at-cost in support of Dinners for Kids. The social work department is proud to partner with all involved to support the Dinners for Kids organization to enhance justice through reducing local food insecurity and demonstrate mercy, service, and hospitality by participating in the annual fundraiser, regularly scheduling volunteer drivers to deliver, and increasing community awareness.

## HEALTHCARE ANALYTICS

Leading the region, Misericordia’s College of Health Science & Education launches new program:

The **Healthcare Analytics** program is a 36-credit Master of Science degree program available fully online beginning in August. The new academic program prepares creative and diligent professionals who use data to communicate and enact meaningful improvements in health care delivery and in health.

The graduate program places a unique emphasis on interprofessional practice and patient-family perspectives. In doing so, it stresses the importance of health care

professionals working together as equal team members with one common goal, while ensuring patient’s and family’s voices are heard throughout the continuum of care.

Curriculum is composed of required courses as well as electives to support student goals and interests of improving care throughout health care systems. The curriculum’s framework is based on quality improvement competencies in health care quality: data sets, measurement, analysis, improvement science, change management, leadership and more. Course content will also stress themes of population health, ethics, social justice, leadership, patient experience,

interprofessionalism and creativity.

Beginning Fall 2019, Misericordia will deliver the courses primarily in a seven-week block schedule via an asynchronous on-line format to support the flexibility required by adult learners. Students can work toward the advanced degree in full- or part-time formats, and can earn their master’s degree in as little as two years.

In addition, an 18-credit post baccalaureate certificate is available in the Healthcare Analytics program. Students also can apply the credits earned through completion of the certificate program to the requirements for the master’s degree.

# TEACHER EDUCATION

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

In November, the Teacher Education Department celebrated American Education Week! This year's theme was "Celebrate STEM!". Throughout the week of November 12th, **Dr. Duffy** and several TED students facilitated STEM activities for school-aged children in the community.

Events included the "Fall into STEM Expo" at the Back Mountain Library in Dallas and "Family STEM Night" at Dan Flood Elementary school in Wilkes-Barre. At the library, approximately 20 school-aged children participated in interactive STEM learning centers that were planned and facilitated by TED students, under the direction of Dr. Colleen Duffy.

At Dan Flood, 150 elementary students traveled from learning center to learning

center. As they successfully completed the STEM activity at each center, students earned a stamp in their STEM passport. Students who earned enough stamps were treated to a free pizza dinner. TED students and Dr. Duffy were part of a team of educators and students from local high schools and colleges that collaborated in the planning and facilitation of the event. Special thanks to the Wyoming Valley Library Association for providing the STEM learning kits that were used by MU students at both events.



Amanda Curcio and Karley May lead students at Dan Flood in STEM investigations centered on magnetism.



Megan Malkemes explores mass and force with a student at Dan Flood Elementary School.

Every year during American Education week, the TED recognizes

outstanding local teachers by asking students to nominate a preK-12 teacher who has inspired them, assisted them in their teacher preparation program, or otherwise made a difference in their life. Award recipients were recognized at the student teaching dinner in December. These year's award recipients include: **Joyce Elston** (Good Shepherd Academy), **Joseph Nice** (Lake-Lehman), **Jessica Preiman** (State Street Elementary), and **Ann Tihansky** (Heights Terrace Elementary).

## FACULTY AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

**Dr. Steve Broskoske** co-presented a two-hour workshop at the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) Teacher Education Assembly on October 31, 2018. The workshop was entitled, "Strategies that Employ Different Levels of Technology and Hands-on Materials to Differentiate Instruction." The session was co-presented by **Dr. William Yerger** from Eastern University. The researchers presented specific high tech, low tech, and no tech teaching strategies that can be employed in the K-12 classroom environment. The strategies, based on brain-based learning principles derived from neuroscience, can be used to differentiate learning to the unique needs of individual learners.



**Dr. Loughlin** and **Dr. Brague**, TED faculty, recently presented their research at the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children conference held in Harrisburg, PA on October 4, 2018. The title of their presentation was "Collaboration and Effective Differentiated Instruction". This presentation focused on collaboration and effective differentiated instruction between two methods courses, Math Methods and Reading Methods, in designing a course project: Learning Centers. Their session focused on **Carolyn Tomlinson's** concept of responsive teaching using flexible grouping and the three integral elements of differentiation: content, process and products. Three senior level preservice teachers, **Katelynn Taylor**, **Ashley Johnson**, and **Alle Stephanides**, presented their learning centers and reflected on the value of collaboration and the differentiation of activities within the learning centers to meet their students' needs.

Following their presentation at PA-CEC are (left to right) Dr. Michele Brague, Katelynn Taylor, Alle Stefanides, Ashley Johnson, and Dr. Jodi Loughlin

## CLUB 8 - AFTERSCHOOL STEM CAMP AT GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY

This year, 55 third through fifth graders participated in the pilot year of Club 8, an afterschool STEM program run at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston, PA. The program is a collaborative effort between the four Catholic institutions: Misericordia University, King's College, University of Scranton and Marywood University, and the Diocese of Scranton. **Lisa Orf** the diocesan educational technologist partnered with TED's **Dr. Colleen Duffy** and **Dr. Sunny Weiland** from King's to create and implement the 10-week program in both the fall and spring semesters. The goal is to eventually offer the program in all Catholic k-12 schools in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties in partnership with the Catholic institutions. Student volunteers **Ashley Johnson**, **Marena Horan**, **Patrick Joyce** and **Karley May** facilitated the STEM explorations along with their collaborative peers from King's College.





# TEACHER EDUCATION

## SERVICE LEARNING

TED early childhood/special education majors who were enrolled in Cultural Awareness during the 2018-19 academic year tutored at Dan Flood Elementary School on Wednesdays after school. Approximately one third of the 4th and 5th grade students being tutored in literacy and math skills are bilingual students. Teachers and guidance counselors at the school identify those students who are most in need, and MU students typically tutor two or three students in a small group setting to meet the high need for this service. This program is led by TED faculty, **Dr. Susan Tomascik** and **Mr. John Faust** and is

in its 17th year.

TED's middle-level or secondary students were paired with eighth grade students at Wyoming Valley West Middle school to serve as mentors and role models. At the request of the principal, **Ms. Deborah Troy**, the TED partners with WVW to provide an on-site mentoring program that moves beyond "homework help" to focus on building a relationship with their students, many of which are considered at-risk and referred for the service by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. This program is led by TED faculty, Dr. Susan Tomascik and is in its 4th year.



TED Students Patrick Joyce and Karley May lead Good Shepherd students as they design a landing pod that will house a student designed lunar buggy and withstand a drop from the top of a third floor stairwell.

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

This year, the Education Club participated in Operation Christmas Child, an international relief project run through Samaritan's Purse. Through fundraising, the Ed club was able to purchase small toys and personal hygiene

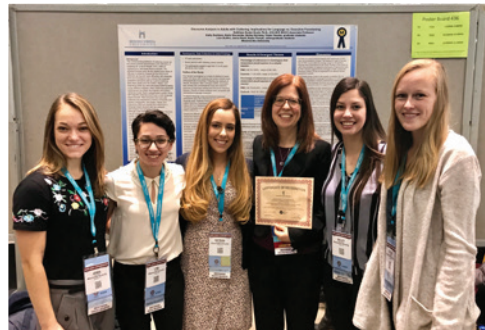
items which they packaged into shoe boxes. The boxes were then shipped to children living in extreme poverty around the world.

Students from the **Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)** honor society and students from the Education Club sold candygrams in

November. Students could write a personal message and have it delivered with a sweet treat, just in time for finals week. Proceeds from the sale were split between the two student groups. **Dr. Jodi Loughlin** is the coordinator of KDP and **Dr. Steve Broskoske** is faculty advisor for the Ed Club.

# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

**Glen Tellis, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, BCS-F** and **Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, BCS-F** are the honored speakers for this year's Gabriel Bernabeo Distinguished Speaker Series to be held on May 10, 2019. Dr. Tellis is Professor and Chair of the Speech-Language Pathology Department and Dr. Scaler Scott is Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Tellis and Dr. Scaler Scott are two of 150 Board Certified Fluency Specialists in the world. In their presentation, "Real Life Solutions to Working with Clients with Fluency Disorders," they will provide the busy speech-language pathologist with strategies and approaches determine the most practical and time efficient way to evaluate clients with fluency



disorders. Throughout the day, specific cases in stuttering, cluttering, atypical disfluency, and fluency plus concomitant disorder will be followed.

During the 2018 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, a

From left to right: Jenna Reed, Lisa Giuffre, Katrina Giacumbo, Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Bailey Hartung, and Taylor Header

research poster presented by **Emily Gurtizen, Katrina Giacumbo, Bailey Hartung, Taylor Header, Jenna Reed, Lisa Giuffre, and Kayla Thorpe**, supervised by Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., CCC-SLP was one of 51 submissions to receive the "Meritorious Poster" recognition. Impressively, their poster was chosen out 2,122 posters at the convention. Their study, "Discourse Analysis in Adults with Cluttering: Implications for Language vs. Executive Functioning," examined the efficiency of communication in people who clutter.

On April 16th, the Speech-Language Pathology Department partnered with Misericordia University's Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Stuttering Association to screen the

documentary, "When I Stutter." Professors **Glen Tellis, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, BCS-F** and **Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, BCS-F**, Kyle Pelkey a 2018 graduate of the SLP program and person who stutters, **Ashley Johnson** a fourth-year Teacher Education student and person who stutters,

and **Cara Imbalzano** a first-year graduate student in the SLP program lead a discussion panel. Students from the SLP and teacher education department, professors, and community members attended the event.

# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

**Samantha Buldo**, 2018 graduate of Misericordia University's speech-language pathology program, was awarded the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship at the 2018 Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention last April. The Von Drach Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to one student studying speech-language pathology or audiology from Pennsylvania who has demonstrated participation in professional activities, a desire to grow professionally, and leadership qualities.



This fall, **Tara O'Neill**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP was welcomed as a faculty member to the Speech-Language Pathology Department. Dr. O'Neill obtained all three of her degrees at Penn State University, including her undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees. Dr. O'Neill worked at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit as a school-based speech-language pathologist after graduating with her Master's degree in speech-language pathology in 2012. She returned to Penn State to pursue her

research doctorate and graduated in the spring of 2018. During her first semester as a professor at Misericordia University, Dr. O'Neill taught all levels of students, ranging from first-year students in the Introduction to Communication Disorders course to graduate students in their online Comprehensive Seminar.



During the summer and fall of 2018, 10 students and two faculty presented research at international conferences. In June, **Cara Imbalzano**, **Jordan Seprosky**, and **Elizabeth Heinmiller** presented three papers in Rome, Italy at the 3rd International Conference on Stuttering under the mentorship of **Glen Tellis**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F. In July, **Emily Gurtizen**, **Katrina Giacumbo**, **Shea Williamsn**, **D'manda Price**, and **Cara Imbalzano** presented research studies at the Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), International Fluency Association (IFA), and International Stuttering Association (ISA) in Hiroshima, Japan with faculty members **Glen Tellis**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F and **Kathleen Scaler Scott**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F. **Brianna Spilsbury** and **Cara Imbalzano**, who conduct research under Glen Tellis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F and **Cari Tellis**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, traveled to Tokyo, Japan to present their findings at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy.

Elizabeth Heinmiller, Jordan Seprosky, and Cara Imbalzano visit Pio Monte della Misericordia in Naples, Italy.



National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) has named third-year student **Jenna Reed** as one of the recipients of the 2018

NSSLHA undergraduate scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to current NSSLHA members who exemplify academic rigor, commendable character, and strong leadership qualities. Jenna conducts

research under **Kathleen Scaler Scott**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-F and is an active member of NSSLHA and has served as the NSSLHA Chapter president. Jenna is now serving as Pennsylvania's Student State Officer (SSO) for National NSSLHA. In this position, she collaborates with the other NSSLHA Chapters in Pennsylvania and with the National NSSLHA council. Jenna was awarded the 2019 Northeastern Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Pennsylvania (NESHAP) Scholarship at the NESHAP Spring 2019 Workshop in April.



NSSLHA members volunteering at the 2108 Benefit Concert

Misericordia University's Chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) hosted their fifth annual **NSSLHA Benefit Concert** in March. Proceeds from the concert benefited Lake Noxen Elementary School in purchasing portable projectors, games and books for indoor recess and the Tim Tebow Foundation's Northeast Pennsylvania Night to Shine, a prom night experience for children with special needs.

# UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

## WHITE COAT CEREMONY

The Department of Undergraduate Nursing at Misericordia University cloaked 63 nursing students who began the professional portion of the nursing program at the fourth annual **Arnold P. Gold Foundation** and American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) White Coat Ceremony for Nursing in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall on October 21, 2018.

Students in the traditional and part-time evening academic programs began the professional portion of the program in the fall semester. An international nonprofit, the Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the profession of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care.

At the Misericordia University White Coat Ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration watched as 50 traditional students and 13 part-time evening nursing students took an oath that acknowledges their essential role as caregivers, with an emphasis on the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality. Students also received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Gold Foundation's logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart surrounded by the words, "humanism in medicine," to remind them that compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice.

**John W. Mullen**, R.N., A.D.N., P.H.R.N., C.F.R.N., a registered nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit, delivered the keynote address. Mullen began his career in health care as an orderly, while he continued his



White Coat Ceremony

education in nursing.

Through the years, he has worked in various roles in the nursing profession, including 15 years as a flight nurse with the Geisinger Medical Center's Life Flight program. He is currently a registered nurse in a cardiac intensive care unit.

## Undergraduate Nursing Program expands to Pittsburgh

## MISERICORDIA STARTS A SATELLITE ACCELERATED BACHELOR IN NURSING IN PITTSBURGH

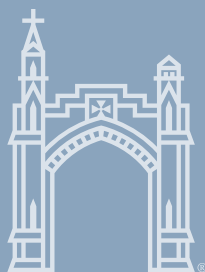
The nationwide nursing shortage is expected to hit critical levels over the next decade, Pittsburgh included. To help meet this demand, Misericordia University is expanding its nursing program to offer a new accelerated path to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree beginning in August. With a new nursing learning center near Pittsburgh, Misericordia University's Department of Nursing will offer a 16-month Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, building upon the University's nearly century-long tradition of graduating nurses.

The ABSN program allows qualified students to leverage their prior non-nursing education

to earn a BSN in as little as 16 months. Through a mix of online coursework, onsite lab and simulation lab experiences at a new nursing learning center in Robinson Township, and clinical rotations at Allegheny Health Network health care facilities in the Pittsburgh area, students will gain real-world experience working as part of a multidisciplinary health care team. Three start times a year will allow additional flexibility for beginning the program.

Pittsburgh's health care sector is a prime destination for registered nurses because of the rapidly aging baby-boomer population and retirement wave of registered nurses. In fact, the city anticipates a projected growth

rate of 13 percent a year in the nursing profession between 2015 and 2025, according to a 2016 Pittsburgh Business Times report. "As an integrated medical system and provider in Pittsburgh, we at the Allegheny Health Network understand the benefit a baccalaureate educated nurse can have in our hospitals to impact outcomes for patient care and look forward to welcoming Misericordia University nursing students into our facilities to complete their clinical education," said **Dr. Paula Coe**, vice president, nursing education and professional practice for Allegheny Health Network.





## SIGMA THETA TAU NURSING HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Twenty students in the Misericordia University Nursing Program were inducted into the Theta Phi Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing during an induction ceremony in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall on November 4, 2018.

In order to be nominated for membership in the International Honor Society of Nursing, undergraduate nursing candidates must have completed at least one half of the nursing curriculum, maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and be ranked in the top 35 percent of the graduating class. The students must also demonstrate leadership in nursing at Misericordia University and in the greater community.

The 2018 inductees are **Giovanna Allen**, Easton; **Arianna Anglovich**, Shavertown; **Lauren Brace**, Luzerne; **Darlene Casey**, Freeland; **Paige Clancy**, Boiling Springs; **Taylor Deaton**, Westampton, New Jersey; **Melody Decker**, Nanticoke; **Jessica**

**Haggerty**, Oxford, New Jersey; **Vanessa Hannagan**, Wilkes-Barre; **Brianna Ladner**, Mullica Hill, New Jersey; **Katharine Niezgoda**, Shavertown; **Emma Niznik**, Wyoming; **Rebecca Robins**, Lebanon; **Jillian Schaeffer**, Danville; **Michael Sedlack**, Thompsonville, New York; **Allison Stine**, Pottsville; **Taylor Verna**, West Chester; **Reilly Wagner**, Crofton, Maryland; **Christina Wood**, Damascus, and **Victoria Yodice**, Franklin, New Jersey.

Sigma Theta Tau is the International Honor Society of Nursing. It was established in 1922 and is one of the largest international nursing organizations. It works to foster, develop and connect nurse scholars and leaders worldwide to improve health care. The honor society promotes nursing excellence through its initiatives in research, leadership, an electronic library, programming and publications, and develops and distributes nursing knowledge for use in practice. Misericordia University held its first induction ceremony in 1986.



Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society Induction

The current Theta Phi Chapter officers are **Cathy Space**, Ph.D. (c), M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., assistant professor, president; **Annette Weiss**, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., associate professor and chairperson, undergraduate nursing program, vice president; **Darlene Kuchinski-Donnelly**, Ph.D., R.N.C., assistant professor and director, RN to BSN Program, treasurer, and **Rita Carey**, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., assistant professor, secretary.

## NCLEX-RN PASS RATE EXCEEDS STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGES

Misericordia University students who recently graduated from the Bachelor of Science degree program in nursing (BSN) achieved a pass rate higher than the state and national averages on the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) for baccalaureate degree students. The NCLEX-RN was developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to ensure the public's protection. In order to receive a license to practice, a nursing candidate must pass an examination that measures the competencies newly licensed, entry-level nurses have to perform safely and effectively, according to NCSBN.

Misericordia University BSN graduates achieved a 95-percent pass rate for first-time test takers between October 2017 and September 2018. Misericordia graduates exceeded the average national pass rate of 88.56 percent and the average pass rate in Pennsylvania of 92.84 for baccalaureate degree programs. Misericordia University NCLEX-RN test-takers also had the second highest pass rates of baccalaureate-degree programs in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, according to NCSBN data.



# DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

## CLASS OF 2019 - SUCCESS!

Seventeen Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) students were recognized for their accomplishments at the Sonography Recognition Ceremony held March 10, 2019. Twelve students earned their Certificate of Completion and five will graduate with their Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography on May 11, 2019. All seventeen students have successfully passed on the first attempt the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography national credentialing exams in Sonography Physics and Instrumentation (SPI) and Abdomen Sonography to earn the recognition of Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS). Fifteen of the students have also successfully sat

and passed the Obstetrics and Gynecology specialty exam. At the time of this writing, over 100% of the graduates secured employment or graduate school transitioning to life-long learners and providers of healthcare services. Congratulations to all of the graduates!



Class of 2019

## SONOGRAPHY STUDENTS PRESENT AT NEPASU

**Rebecca Flick**, RDMS, class of 2019 and **Maria Mejia-Cortes**, class of 2020 will present at the May 2, 2019 NEPASU meeting held at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Rebecca will present Quality Matters in the Detection of Congenital Cardiac Defects and Maria will present a Case Study on Acute Appendicitis and the Efficacy of Ultrasound and CT.

## VOLUNTEERISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In spring 2018, **Karen Klimas**, MS, RT, RDMS and graduate **Jennifer Carey**, BSDMS, RDMS, RVT graciously volunteered to be part of a medical mission to Santiago, Dominican Republic. The Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) Mission Center is the hub for education, service, and gratitude. ILAC is an international, Christian, collaborative healthcare and educational organization that promotes both physical and spiritual well being aligning well with the philosophy of the DMS Department.

## SHERYL GOSS, CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT HONORED WITH THE JOAN P. BAKER PIONEER AWARD

**Sheryl Goss** was the recipient of the 2018 Society Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Joan P. Baker Pioneer Award. Joan was a founding member of the SDMS and has created many 'firsts' and continues to advocate for the profession. It is truly an honor to know and work with Joan and be honored with an award representing her legacy of contributions. Sheryl volunteers her time with the SDMS and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography serving as a member of the Board of Directors.



Joan P. Baker Award



Karen and Jenny performed sonograms to the residents there as well as from nearby Campos. Karen is traveling again this spring with BSDMS graduate **Cara Spector**, RDMS.

## SONOGRAPHY STUDENTS ATTEND NEPASU SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Fourteen DMS students attended the 2019 Spring Symposium sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Society of Ultrasound (NEPASU). The students along with 50 sonographers were blessed by presentations on a variety of topics given by local and national speakers. Local presenters, **Mark Feese**, RDMS, and **Avnit Golten**, MD presented on pediatric topics and fetal echocardiography respectively. National speakers **Robert DeJong**, RDMS, RDCS, RVT and **Rick Dubin**, RDMS, RVT educated the professionals on the importance of infection control and ilioacaval venous disorders.





## 2019 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Academic Achievement Award for the student with the highest GPA in the certificate program is Theodosia Schneider, RDMS. Danielle Owens, RDMS is the Academic Achievement Award recipient for having the highest GPA in the full-time Bachelor of Science degree program. The Sonography WAVE Award was awarded to Rebecca Flick, RDMS. Kristine Holdorf, RDMS received the Department's St. Gabriel's Angels Award. Congratulations to all of the award recipients for their dedication and service.

### SONOGRAPHY WAVE AWARD

Rebecca Flick, RDMS



### DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Theodosia Schneider, RDMS



### ST. GABRIEL'S ANGELS AWARD

Kristine Holdorf, RDMS



### BS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Danielle Owens

## MEDICAL IMAGING

### FACULTY BRIEFS

**Lynn Blazaskie** completed the Misericordia University Leadership Development Program.



Professor Blazaskie leads the mentoring program on pediatrics.



**Gina Capitano** presented a lecture at the Pennsylvania

Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual meeting on "Zoom: Broadening perspective through a collaborative team approach."

**Art Gialanella** presented a lecture at the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual meeting on "Diagnosing Aortic Dissections."

**Mari King** presented a poster at the Canadian Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting in Toronto.

**Paula Pate-Schloder** had a chapter publication in Merrill's Atlas of Radiographic Positioning and Procedures, Chapter 14 Myelography and central nervous system procedures.

**Lorie Zelna** had an article published in Radiologic Technology titled The JRCERT Accreditation Process: A Site Visitor's Perspective.

Junior students teach sophomore students about the operating room



### CLUB NEWS

The club was once again very active. Some of the service projects this past year included: Alex's Lemonade Stand raising money for cancer research, Adopt A Family for Thanksgiving, Cougars Connect for Cancer donating all proceeds to Candy's Place, donations from selling donuts to the Catherine McAuley House in Plymouth, food drive for the McAuley Market and volunteering at the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

Student volunteers at Blue Chip Farms animal rescue



# MEDICAL IMAGING

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Congratulations to the May 2018 graduates who achieved a 100% pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists exam.

One student received a Lambda Nu National Honor Society Scholarship. Congratulations to senior **Allia Dolan**.



Chelsea Hess and Kaylyn Kleinschmidt after winning 3rd place at the state conference

Misericordia University medical imaging students **Kaylyn Kleinschmidt** and **Chelsea Hess** captured third place in the annual

Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists' (PSRT) Techni-bowl competition during the annual PSRT 2019 Annual State Conference and Business Meeting in Scranton. Nineteen students and four faculty members attended the two-day conference.

The Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists (PSRT) has selected Misericordia University medical imaging major Rachel Naylor to represent the Keystone state at the 2019 American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Student Leadership Development Program in Orlando in June.

Professor Pate Schloder with Rachel Naylor who was selected for ASRT Student Leadership Program in Orlando, June 2019



Professors Blazaskie, Capitano, Gialanella, Zelna and Pate-Schloder with students at the state conference



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## MU OT STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AOTA KNOWLEDGE BOWL COMPETITION

MU OT 5th year students **Michaela Rhone**, **Alyssa Parker**, **Abigail Kayes**, **Sarah Roettger**, and **Julianne Cariola** participated in the challenge which prepares OT students for the National Board Certification Examination.



## MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SPONSORS SERIES OF FALL PREVENTION WORKSHOPS

The Misericordia University Department of Occupational Therapy sponsored a series of fall prevention workshops on select Fridays during the Spring semester. The free program for adults aged 65 and older was held at The Hope Center in Luzerne. Participants of the program learned ways to prevent falls in the home and within the community, completed an individualized exercise program to build strength, balance and confidence. Program attendees also had an opportunity to participate in vision, balance and blood pressure screenings. The fall prevention workshop series was presented by faculty members and senior-level occupational therapy students.

## MU OT JUNIORS PARTICIPATE IN WINTER OLYMPICS TO ASSIST SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

MU OT juniors participated in the 9th annual Hazleton Area School District Winter Olympics at Eagle Rock Resort in Hazle Township in February. MU OT students organized activities and games for special needs children while Hazleton area therapists organized outdoor events. "It's difficult sometimes to get these kids to be able to be outside," explained occupational therapist and assistant professor at Misericordia University, Jennifer Dessoye. "It takes a lot of effort and a lot of people to be able to bring them up the slopes and get them to the top of the hill, and so I think days like this are really important so that they can experience things just like everybody else does."



## MU OT ANNOUNCES ENTRY-LEVEL DOCTORATE IN FALL 2019

The Occupational Therapy Department at Misericordia University is excited to announce that ACOTE has granted candidacy status for the entry level OTD program. This means that the first class to enter into the entry level OTD program will be freshman entering during the fall semester of 2019. MU OT faculty are well positioned to offer the entry level doctorate since they have experience teaching in the post professional OTD for 10 years. This is an exciting opportunity as MU OT is one of the first Universities in the area to provide this level of entry level education for occupational therapists.



# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

The Misericordia University Physician Assistant Program matriculated its first class in July of 2018. They have had a busy year in and out of the classroom. Some of their accomplishments include participating in service learning projects with Gift of Life and Residential Hospice. The students have been active in the Interprofessional education opportunities on campus and also participated in the Northeastern-central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Education Coalition Summit. Our students are looking forward to winding down in the classroom and starting their clinical rotations this summer.

PA Celebrate Physician Assistant Week

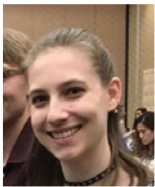


PA Donate Life

PA Class



# PHYSICAL THERAPY



DPT student **Andrea Molitoris** was selected to serve as Pennsylvania's Core Ambassador for the American Physical Therapy Association.

Core Ambassadors are the primary links between the APTA Student Assembly Board of Directors and PT students in each state.

The PT Department's student run pro bono clinic was featured on WVIA and WNEP in October.

**Dr. Amy Tremback-Ball**, PhD, PT and DPT 3 students **Julie Bogaert**, **Julia Marceca**, **Samantha Partington**, and **Meghan Stack** presented their scholarly work "The Effects of Stabilization Exercise on Low Back Pain and Pelvic Girdle Pain in Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review" at the 12th International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine World Congress in Paris in November 2018 and at the Pennsylvania



Physical Therapy Association MovePA Conference in October 2018.



Misericordia University was one of 10 schools who were invited to field a team for the Knowledge Bowl held at the National Student Conclave.



**Dr. Kristen Karnish**, PT, MPH, D.Ed., GCS presented her research "Toward Holistic Admissions: Factors Associated with Success in Physical Therapy Education: A Systematic Review" at the Educational Leadership Conference in October 2018.

**Dr. Nicole Evanosky**, PT, DPT and DPT 3 students **Ben Muschlitz**, **Annie Stewart**, and **Lauren Reinert** presented their research "Rest Compared to Activity Following a Concussion: A Systematic Review" at the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Annual Conference in October 2018.

In March 2019 **Dr. Maureen Pascal**, PT, DPT, NCS and DPT students **Kaitlin Fulton**, **Sean Luzzi**, and **Olivia Sumeriski** presented "In Pro Bono Everyone Wins: Empowering Patients to Become Educators" at the Eastern Regional Pro Bono Network Conference at Widener University.

In April, **Dr. Wilton Remigio**, DHS and DPT students **Michael Trygar**, **Mary Fairchild**, and **Jacob Schweiger** presented their research "Chronic Cold Exposure as a Factor for Pain Sensitization, Joint and Soft Tissue Musculoskeletal Pain" at the 2019 American Physiological Society Annual Meeting.

Three student groups and their faculty advisors presented their research at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine in Dallas, PA in October:

**Kayla Hope; Mariah Osgood; Nicole Rhody; Kristen Karnish**, PT, MPH, D.Ed., GCS – The Effects of Multifactorial Exercise Programs in Older Adults with Cognitive Impairments: A Systematic Review

**Maureen Ciccocanti; Eric Dittmeier; Garrett Drumheller; Colin Snyder; Maureen Pascal**, PT, DPT, NCS

**Kelsey Frasier; Samantha Keifer**, PTA; **M. Kelcey Langan; Katie Paisley; Adam Wasiakowski; Maureen Pascal**, PT, DPT, NCS



# MAJORS

## TRADITIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education
- Healthcare Analytics
- Health Science: Exercise Science
- Health Science: Medical Science
- Health Science: Patient Navigation
- Medical Imaging
- Nursing (BSN, MSN, DNP)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Social Work

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Addictions Counseling
- Autism Certificate
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Education
- Family Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate
- Geriatric Care Manager (graduate certificate)
- Healthcare Analytics Certificate
- Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Occupational Therapy
- Patient Navigation Specialization (online for Certificate)
- Post-Professional Pediatric Certificate (OT & PT)

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

- Autism Certificate
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Healthcare Analytics
- Nursing
- Patient Navigation Specialization
- Post Professional Pediatric Certificate in OT



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*Founded by the Sisters of Mercy.*

