

Misericordia

WINTER 2013

today



Reflecting on our past, looking to our future

University honors MacDowell presidency, while welcoming president-elect to campus ... Pages 12-13 and 21-24



CAMPUS VIEWS

Board of Trustees recognizes Rusty and Kathi Flack by presenting them the Trustee Associates Award

The late Rusty Flack and his wife, Kathi Flack, have been loyal, ardent supporters of Misericordia and the regional community for many years. The Flacks' community mindedness is ingrained throughout the region in the form of many successful programs and projects they spearheaded for the benefit of others.

The Board of Trustees honored the couple's thoughtful leadership, encouragement and philanthropy by naming Mr. and Mrs. Flack the recipients of the 2012 Trustee Associates Award at the annual Trustee Associates Gala in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

"This is such a prestigious award and although I'm certain he'd argue with me, I truly believe no one is more worthy of it, than Rusty," said Mrs. Flack. "When I think about the outgrowth of his achievements, I am reminded of a quote by Emerson: 'Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail.'"

"Surely, this is his legacy," she added about her late husband.

The award is given annually to friends of the University who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and generous support to Misericordia.



The Board of Trustees presented the 2012 Trustee Associates Award to Kathi Flack and her late husband, Rusty Flack, during the annual Trustee Associates Gala. Participating in the event, from left, are Christopher L. Borton, vice chair, Board of Trustees; Chad Flack, Alex Flack, Kathi Flack, award recipient; Jamie Flack, Robert Clements, D.D.S., Council Misericordia; Tina MacDowell, and President Michael A. MacDowell.

Campus community dedicates MacDowell Hall in honor of president and first lady

Misericordia officially dedicated Michael and Tina MacDowell Hall, the newest residence hall and academic building on campus, on Thursday, Aug. 23 to acknowledge the significant leadership and accomplishments of the president and first lady.

"To put our name on this lovely new residence hall and classroom building is more than an honor — it is the nicest gift we have ever received," President MacDowell said.

"In Spanish, one welcomes another to their home by saying, 'Mi casa es su casa'



Michael and Tina MacDowell listen to John C. Metz, chair of the Board of Trustees, offer remarks during the dedication ceremony.

— my home is your home," said Tina MacDowell. "May MacDowell Hall be appreciated by future students who will consider it their home while here at Misericordia. May it always grace this University that we hold so dear to our hearts."

MacDowell Hall is a \$6.2 million, 37,000-square foot, three-story structure near the North Gate of campus. It adds 118 beds for student housing and three academic classrooms. It provides suite-style residence space with kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and appliances.

Metz family honored with dedication of new field house

Misericordia dedicated John and Mary Metz Field House on Saturday, Sept. 29 to acknowledge the significant leadership and philanthropy of the Metz family.

The new 21,750-square-foot field house was named in honor of John C. Metz, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and his wife, Mary, who have both been longtime supporters of the University and also supplied the leadership gift in the Pursuit for Acclamation Campaign that was undertaken to fund improvements and additions to athletics facilities and residence hall space on campus.

Metz Field House is a \$4.1 million facility that includes athletic training rooms, expanded locker facilities for

men's and women's field sports, team meeting rooms, a weight room, shower rooms and public restrooms. A \$3 million state grant helped to partially fund the new construction, which is located between Mangelsdorf Field and Tambur Field, the new baseball diamond.

"I feel strongly that the new field house is a part of a momentous time in Misericordia history," said Mr. Metz. "It will provide support for the new football team and all the sports programs that have consistently done so well.

"Mary and I, along with my sons, John and Jeff, and daughter, Maureen Metz Gallagher, see this as a great way for us to be a part of this historic event and to



The family of John and Mary Metz pose for a picture in front of the John and Mary Metz Field House after the facility was officially dedicated in September.

continue our steadfast support of Misericordia and the Religious Sisters of Mercy," he added.

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Misericordia Today

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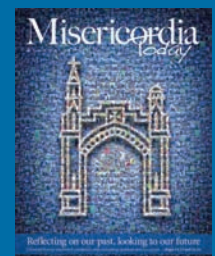
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ON THE COVER

The cover of this issue contains more than 800 photographs representing Michael A. MacDowell's presidency over the last 15 years. The pictures, arranged carefully in the shape of our historic archway and University logo, feather out over the cover to portray the many facets of Misericordia, its academic programs, and its campus and alumni communities.



Share your story ideas by contacting *Misericordia Today* at editor@misericordia.edu

Thank you, Misericordia

To say that our 15 years at Misericordia have been the best of our lives is an understatement. They simply have been. And while many nice things have been said about what we have done for Misericordia, it is we who should be thanking this wonderful place, and all those associated with it, for what they have done for us.

First, and most importantly, there are the many friendships we have forged among faculty, staff, parents, students, trustees, alumni, and the extended Misericordia family. Those friendships go much deeper than the traditional role that a college president must have with his or her stakeholders. The friendships we have developed and the many people we have come to know, enjoy, and respect here will remain with us always.

We carry away from our time at Misericordia a deep respect for the next generation. I'm fond of saying that once our students graduate and start their own families that they will be exactly the kind of individuals you want living next door to you. They are dedicated, hardworking, and have deep regard for the values we most hold dear. They live Misericordia's Trinity of Learning in their everyday lives by continuing their intellectual development, honing their professional skills, and always exhibiting a passion to serve others. Misericordia's alumni have inspired us to work even harder for the University. We are convinced the future of Misericordia will continue to produce some of the finest college graduates in the country.

During our time at Misericordia, we have developed a very deep respect for the Sisters of Mercy and all they have accomplished. Their adherence to mission, their focus on doing what's right, their ability to combine the practical with the caring, the emotional with the analytical, and their deep respect for humankind have been more than inspirational. They represent a model for living that we continually strive to emulate, but often fail to achieve.

Finally, there's dedication and focus. Misericordia and all those associated with it have reinforced and helped grow our understanding of the importance of the dedication to mission and to an institution. Moving Misericordia forward in academic achievement, fiscal stability, campus ambience and functionality, and in reputation, requires dedication. While that dedication must be exhibited from the top, it can only be realized if all involved are equally convinced about, and focused upon, institutional success. Our experience at Misericordia has reinforced the age-old adage that there is no limit to what can be accomplished when dedication and focus are practiced throughout an organization.

The friends we hold dear, faith in our graduates, our continuing respect for the Sisters of Mercy, and our ever invigorated dedication to the mutually agreed upon mission and goals of the University are what we are fortunate enough to take away from Misericordia. These things, when coupled with the deep love for all that this University signifies, lead us to believe that we have received more from Misericordia than we could ever have given to it.

With our fondest thoughts and deepest conviction that Dr. Tom and Vanessa Botzman will lead Misericordia and all those associated with it onto even greater accomplishments, we will, in June, bid farewell to a place that will always be a part of us.

Mike and Tina

Class of '46 'Miss Recordia' leaves legacy of giving

Described as spunky, witty, carefree, and most importantly, humanitarian, Mary Ellen "Mac" McGeehan '46 made sure that her love of Misericordia would continue to help students and athletes in perpetuity. The well-liked alumna passed away March 4, 2008 and named Misericordia University as the beneficiary of her living trust.

Her gift of \$330,000 is the second largest alumni gift in MU's history. It was used in part for a project she was sure to have loved – the renovation of the athletic field near the townhouses. Refurbished with all-purpose turf to accommodate a variety of sports, including lacrosse, field hockey and soccer, McGeehan Field was dedicated during Homecoming activities.

"Mac was a true Misericordia alumna,

who lived a life of service throughout her teaching career," Scott Crispell, assistant athletic director, said at the dedication. "She enjoyed sports immensely. How perfect that her legacy is a field that hosts many sports and a multitude of athletes. According to her friends, Mac would be tickled to know that her gift is being used for the advancement of Misericordia athletics."

Named "Miss Recordia," by vote of her fellow students, McGeehan was a campus leader recognized for coordinating service projects, such as collecting supplies for a mission school in the Philippines and raising funds for the Friendship House in Harlem, N.Y. An equally dedicated student, she earned her bachelor's degree in social studies with a minor in English. She was senior class treasurer and publicity officer, as well as an active member of numerous clubs and the Miss

Recordia newspaper staff.

A Hazleton, Pa. native, McGeehan's career as a schoolteacher and guidance counselor for Charles and Anne Arundel County Schools in Maryland spanned 38 years. She was a daily communicant and served as a Eucharistic minister at the landmark St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, Md. She lived with her best friend and fellow teacher Norma Mezick for more than 50 years on Weems Creek, where it is said she loved cars, Notre Dame football, dogs and living on the creek. McGeehan was slowed in later years by arthritis, but with good humor and strength, she tackled every challenge and met all with unfailing cheerfulness and grace.



Understanding the path to giving back

Every spring a dogwood tree blooms beautifully in the Sister Regina Kelly Shakespeare Garden outside Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall in memory of the late Sarah "Sally" Wagner '39. The tree serves as an everlasting symbol of Miss Wagner's devoted service to Misericordia, to her vocation, and to other alumni.

The tree – planted and dedicated in 2010 – has not reached maturity, so its shape continues to form and evolve like many of the young students Miss Wagner inspired as a teacher at Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and as a mentor. Kingston High School student Helene Flower Reed '66 was one of the many young students who successfully followed Miss Wagner's advice and eventually matriculated to Misericordia to forge a career in education and a lifelong relationship with her alma mater.

"I was indeed a scholarship student which was a definite necessity for me in order to attend college," says Reed, who sponsored

the dogwood tree with her husband, William. "My mother's lifetime friend, Sally Wagner, encouraged me to take college prep courses and to apply to Misericordia."

In the fall of 1961, Reed and several of Miss Wagner's students accompanied their mentor and teacher to Misericordia in order to meet with the college's academic dean, Sister Marianna Gildae, RSM, in the hopes of securing an academic scholarship to the all-women's college. "We were all fortunate enough to be awarded scholarships," says Reed, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and enjoyed a 35-year teaching career in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. "For each of us and for so many others, the Sisters of Mercy opened the door to a future most of us could only dream of."

Like her mentor, Reed has also given back to Misericordia in many ways. She has been a member of the Alumni Association Board since retiring in 2001 and served as president from 2009-12. She continues to serve as a member of the Board today, just as Miss Wagner did in the 1950s and 1960s. Additionally, the Reeds are in the process of establishing the Helene Flower Reed and William R. Reed Scholarship for students transferring to Misericordia from a two-year college. The couple hopes to present the first scholarship shortly.

"We have been blessed to have family and friends who add to our fund in honor of our birthdays, anniversaries and holidays," says Reed, who has also supported the Leading from the Heart campaign and other events and functions at MU. "We believe the future of our nation and indeed that of our planet depends on bright, creative, caring, well-educated individuals. No such person should be left behind because they cannot afford a quality education. It is our goal to be of help if only in a small way."



William and Helene Reed '66.



CAMPUS VIEWS

GLNS program hosts presidential debate analysis

The Government Law and National Security (GLNS) program hosted the symposium, *U.S. Presidential Debate: Analysis and Commentary*, for the first presidential debate.

It provided the community an opportunity to watch the first nationally televised debate between the two presidential candidates on a big screen and to participate in a post-debate discussion with political science and history scholars, Brian Carso, J.D., Ph.D., associate professor of history and director of the GLNS program, and Lawrence Goldstone, Ph.D., a well-known author of narrative history and historical fiction.



WBRE-TV 28 reporter Joe Holden interviews Dr. Carso after the presidential debate.

OT student earns prestigious E.K. Wise Scholarship

Occupational therapy major Alanna Holmgren '14 was awarded one of three 2012-13 E.K. Wise Scholarships from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

The \$5,000 scholarship from AOTA supports female students who are pursuing a post baccalaureate entry-level degree in occupational therapy.

Bishop Bambara participates in Dept. of Business symposium

The Department of Business hosted the symposium, *The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter: Economic Justice for All After 25 Years*, in which the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, served as the



Communications major Mary Bove '15 had this picture posted on the NY Times website.

keynote speaker.

The well-attended symposium featured an in-depth discussion among featured scholars and academics from Misericordia University and King's College who have backgrounds in religious studies, economics, business and entrepreneurship.

NY Times posts picture by Communications student

For the second time, The New York Times has selected a photograph taken by student Mary Bove '15 to appear on a slideshow for its Education Life webpage. The first photo was posted online and published in the newspaper on April 15, 2012, in the section, *Your College Experience*.

The most recent photo was posted in July 2012 in the slideshow, *Photo Booth: Back to School*. Her caption: "This is a photo of my friend Alex Chapman standing in a huge tree reading a physics book. I think going back to school means getting all of your work done, but not forgetting to have fun while you're at it."

Colleges collaborate for Empty Bowls fundraiser

Regional colleges and universities, including Misericordia University, collaborated on the inaugural Empty Bowls event in order to raise money to address hunger problems in the region. Participants on college campuses paid \$15 for adults and \$5 for children for a hand-crafted bowl, soup, bread and a drink. More than \$8,000 was raised from the event, which benefitted the Back Mountain Food Pantry and other local agencies.

Physician Assistant Program Sponsors 5K run/walk

To celebrate National Physician Assistant Day, the five-year combined Bachelor of Science in Medical Science and Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies hosted a 5K run/walk in October on campus.

Proceeds benefitted the newly formed Physician Assistant Student Society of Misericordia University.



MU students who participated in the Physician Assistant event pose for a picture.

Campus organizes 'Go Vote' voter registration effort

More than 80 students registered to vote in the first few hours of a two-day Go Vote voter registration sign-up held by faculty and students in the Banks Student Life Center.

Trisha Brady, Ph.D., a pro rata faculty member in the English Department, coordinated the team of faculty and student volunteers who provided information and forms for registering to vote in Pennsylvania and applying for absentee ballots.



CAMPUS VIEWS

Nursing program gets national accolades with American Association of Colleges Nursing Award

Graduates achieve 98.3 pass rate on national certification examination

The Department of Nursing has been named as the recipient of the 2012 Innovation in Professional Nursing Education Award by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The award was presented at the fall semi-annual AACN meeting in Washington, D.C. in October.

The Innovation in Professional Nursing Education Award recognizes the outstanding work of AACN member schools to re-envision traditional models for nursing education and lead programmatic change.

Recent nursing graduates from the Bachelor of Science degree program also surpassed both the state and national averages for pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses Examination (NCLEX-RN) during the past year.

Recent MU BSN graduates achieved a 98.3 percent pass rate for first-time



Cynthia Mailloux, Ph.D., chair and professor, left, provides instruction to nursing students in the Erwine Nursing Lab and Classroom.

test-takers who took the NCLEX-RN examination between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2012. Misericordia graduates surpassed both the average national pass rate of 92.07 percent and the average pass rate in Pennsylvania of 90.79 percent.

Two alumni elected to Board of Trustees

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education recently elected alumni R. Gregory Collins '82, of Kingston, Pa., and Paul C. Woelkers '81, of Moscow, Pa., to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Collins is area president for Wells Fargo in northeastern Pennsylvania. He oversees the operations of 38 Wells Fargo retail stores and a team of 355 associates in a nine-county region. He began working in the banking industry soon after graduating from high school. As a non-traditional college student, he took night and weekend courses at Misericordia and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1982.

Mr. Collins joined Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo) in 1992. He has served in a variety of positions, including retail banking director from 2004-2009. He took on his current title in 2009.

Mr. Woelkers is president and CEO of Lackawanna Mobile X-Ray, Inc., which

provides high quality mammograms and dexta scan services at more than 500 nursing homes, 55 prisons and 200 other health care facilities throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The company is headquartered in Dunmore, Pa., and is the on-site X-ray provider for numerous professional sports franchises. Prior to founding Lackawanna Mobile X-Ray, he served as vice president of Carolina Diagnostic Services, Inc., in South Carolina from 1990-2005.

Mr. Woelkers is a 1981 graduate of Misericordia where he received an associate's degree in radiology. He later attended Thomas Jefferson Medical College for ultrasound training.



Collins '82



Woelkers '81

Misericordia climbs U.S. News rankings

Misericordia University ranks in the top tier, 47th out of 142 colleges and universities, in the Best Regional Universities – North category of U.S. News and World Report's 2013 edition of Best Colleges, which includes institutions of higher education in the northern United States that offer master's degrees.

Misericordia is among eight colleges and universities tied for 47th on the U.S. News & World list. MU's 47th ranking is up 20 places from 2007, including a five-point increase from 2011.

Princeton Review recommends Misericordia

Misericordia has been recognized as one of the top colleges and universities in the northeastern United States, according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review.

MU is one of 222 institutions of higher education The Princeton Review has recommended in its "Best in the Northeast" section of its website feature, "2013 Best Colleges: Region by Region," that posted Aug. 20 on PrincetonReview.com.



Students give MU high marks in national survey

Freshmen and seniors at Misericordia overwhelmingly rated their educational experience as positive and gave their University higher marks than other similar institutions in several important categories in the 2012 National Survey of Student Engagement.

In the study, 94 percent of first-year students rated their entire educational experience at MU as good or excellent, compared to an 88 percent average of all other institutions surveyed. Ninety percent said they would choose MU again if they could start over, a figure that is 6 percent higher than freshmen that attend other Catholic institutions. Freshman respondents also overwhelmingly rated their faculty as available, helpful and sympathetic (98 percent) and said the University provided the support they needed to succeed.



Bill Williams

Board of Trustees

Bill Williams keeps things rolling. As the owner of Jack Williams Tire Company, he has presided over significant growth from the company's beginnings as a single store in Kingston, Pa., to a business with 27 retail locations, 10 wholesale centers covering four states, and a designation as one of the 25 largest independent tire dealers in America. He's brought that same business acumen to Misericordia as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I started out as a teenager pumping gas and changing tires at my father's service station, he says. I went to work full time at the store soon after that. We offered two services at that time gasoline and tires. Since the shop was small, we did much of the tire changing outside, no matter what the season or weather.

Building on the location his father established in 1929, Williams soon identified a business opportunity and expanded into the tire warehousing and wholesale business in the 1960s, opening a 35,000 square foot facility in Luzerne, Pa., in 1968. Working 15 hours a day was common for Williams. In the 1970s and 1980s, the company added dozens of successful tire and automotive repair retail outlets and expanded wholesale services, necessitating a move in 1988 to a larger warehouse in Moosic, Pa., where the company is headquartered today. Three new stores are currently under construction.

Tires are so much more sophisticated than they were years ago. And cars are too. There is no comparison. It used to be a simple choice between radial and bias tires, but now the consumer has many choices for safer, more efficient tires, says Williams, who served on the national advisory board for Goodyear Tire and was selected as Modern Tire Dealer magazine's 2006 Tire Dealer of the Year.

A native of Dallas, Pa., Williams became familiar with Misericordia at an

early age as he walked across campus daily as a short cut to get from his parents' home to the former Dallas High School. Joining MU's board in 2007, Williams noted the passion and persistence that other board members displayed in encouraging him to join. I knew many current or former Board of Trustees members, including Chip Siegel, John Metz, Rusty Flack, Sandy Insalaco, Frank Bevevino and Murray Ufberg. They all spoke so highly of the institution and constantly encouraged me to accept a nomination to join, he says.

Misericordia benefits from a very talented Board of Trustees. When you put an idea out there for discussion at the board level, good things happen. If you wanted to start a board of trustees from scratch, I don't think you could assemble a better board for Misericordia. It has also been a pleasure to work with Mike MacDowell as he carries through on projects and gets results, says Williams.

Williams feels positive about MU's direction. I can see the University has such a beautiful setting, a great staff and faculty, and an involved Board. I know the momentum we've established will continue, he says. I also believe that the more Misericordia becomes part of the Dallas community and the more the community becomes part of Misericordia, each will be better off in the long run.

Active in the community, Williams has served on the boards of several banks and financial institutions as well as Volunteers of America. He and his family also established the Williams Family Trust Fund under the administration of The Luzerne Foundation in order to give back to the community.

Williams currently resides in Larksville, Pa., with his wife Sandi. His three children all work as executives at Jack Williams Tire, including Scott, president; Jason, executive vice president; and Tracey, vice president.

By Jim Roberts

"I know the momentum we've (Misericordia) established will continue."

— Bill Williams

Freshmen spruced
up the Luzerne
County Fairgrounds.

SERVICE WITH A PURPOSE

It's early fall and Guy Kroll of the Lands at Hillside Farms in Kingston Township, Pa., is waiting to welcome 50 members of Misericordia University's freshman class for a morning of service work at the historic nonprofit educational dairy farm nestled among the mountains and streams of the Back Mountain.

With roosters crowing and goats grazing in the background, Kroll explains how he coordinates efforts to restore the sustainable living farm to its former glory in the 19th century. On this day, he plans for students to remove old soil and plants from the greenhouses and reseed them in preparation for the next growing season. Members of the football team split and stack wood, while other students clean the community house and museum.

The Lands at Hillside Farms wouldn't exist (without community volunteers), Kroll says, explaining how important Misericordia's efforts are to the community asset. This runs on volunteers. We have an excellent core of established volunteers. They fill in the blanks wherever we need it.

More than 600 students, faculty and staff participated in the second annual Orientation Day of Service in which transfer students and members of the freshman class volunteered for the betterment of the greater community. MU volunteers worked at Camp Orchard Hill, Mercy Center, the Back Mountain Trail, Meadows Nursing Center, Frances Slocum State Park, Blue Chip Farms, Commission on Economic Opportunity, Adventures in Learning, Back Mountain Recreation Center, Luzerne County Fairgrounds, and the Lands at Hillside Farms.

The program introduces students to the communities near campus, and gives them an opportunity to give back as well.

I think it's good for everyone because it will teach us something new, and all these places are by the University so we will get to know the surroundings better,

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI AND
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



Members of the freshman class worked their way around the Back Mountain as part of the Orientation Day of Service. At top, students, from left, Brooke Nelson, Williamsport, Pa., and Samantha Krishak, Tunkhannock, Pa., volunteer at Blue Chip Animal Rescue Farm in Orange.

Freshman football recruits, center, formed a line to hand wood off to each other until it reached the shed for storage, while other players took turns splitting wood.

Other freshman, at bottom, from left, Jack Young, South Brunswick, N.J.; Tyler Rowe, Basking Ridge, N.J.; Steve Cuccio, Jefferson, N.J.; Derek Hart, Carlisle, Pa.; Tommy DeMaio, Wayne, N.J., and Nick Gausepohl, Ocean City, Md., take a moment to pose for a picture while working at Camp Orchard Hill.

says Kinnelon, N.J.-native Cara Marzullo, shortly after she pushed a wheelbarrow full of debris to a compost pile at the Lands at Hillside Farms.

It helps us feel more a part of the community since we are not home with our families," adds Nicole Noss of Millville, Pa., a medical imaging major. It helps us have a better sense of what we're coming into.

A few hundred yards away, members of the football team are selecting and carrying stumps to be split and stacked in a shed for storage. Teammates form a line, so they can easily hand the split wood off to each other until it reaches the shed, while other players take turns splitting wood in the unseasonably humid weather.

We're helping out the community," says Dean Lucchesi, a tight end football recruit from Hamilton, N.J. who pauses to take a break from splitting wood. It's pretty fun. You've got to get involved. It's interesting to learn new things about the farm. We're all having fun making the world a better place.

A few miles away, students help to prepare for the annual Luzerne County Fair. Teams of students clean the main section of the grounds, while others set fence posts around the perimeter of the grounds. It's nice to be out here helping," says Kurt Gildea of Ottsville, Pa., a pre-med major. My parents raised me that way. We've always been giving back to the community. We help them and they help us.

Sarah Boehnlein of Lewisburg, Pa., says she understands the service-oriented mission and the need to help others. The nursing major was one of 80 students who dug ditches, installed a memorial bench, and painted weather coating on new wooden stairs and railings along the Back Mountain Trail, a seven-mile rail-to-trails project near campus. They completed projects organizers say would have taken months to finish without their help.

Misericordia University students and chaperones, including, from left, Shannon Kowalski '12, Donna Castelblanco '14, Samantha Panuski '14, Professor Kathy Gelso, Jenny Gopurathingal '12, Natalie Dewitt '14, Alina Busch '14, Megan Lage '13, and Zeena Bacchus '13 play 'hot potato' with Peruvian children.



Misericordia University students
aid impoverished residents of Peru
during an international service trip
to Lima and Chimbote in the summer

'LOVE IS A universal language'

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Amid the poverty and struggle that is much of Peru, a group of Misericordia University students overcame language and cultural barriers to learn a valuable lesson in global awareness. For occupational therapy major Samantha Panuski '14 of Pittston Township, Pa., and nine other students, the residents of the Peruvian cities of Lima and Chimbote provided lessons in acceptance and appreciation during their nine-day service trip to the South American country this past summer.

"Although there was a major language barrier that had to be overcome, the gift that I took away from this trip is that love and kindness extend beyond that barrier. We found a way to communicate our love and kindness to the native Peruvians without words," Panuski, the daughter of Ron and Joann Panuski and a 2009 graduate of Pittston Area Senior High School, says about the lessons she learned in Peru. "Love is a universal language, and it was able to shine through on our Peruvian excursion. To be honest, I was in major culture shock

and I realized that I took for granted my sense of security at home. However, just a simple smile made me feel at home even though I was in another country."

Misericordia University students Zeena Bacchus '13, Lancaster, Pa.; Alina Busch '14, Waldorf, Md.; Donna Castelblanco '14, Edison, N.J.; Natalie Dewitt '14, Lewes, Del.; Jenny Gopurathingal '12, Delhi, N.Y.; Alanna Holmgren '14, Valhalla, N.Y.; Shannon Kowalski '12, Glen Lyon, Pa.; Megan Lage '13, '16, Morristown, N.J.; Kiersten Whitaker '12,

Plainfield, N.J.; and Panuski, as well as chaperone, Kathy Gelso, M.S.N., R.N., assistant professor of nursing, participated in the Campus Ministry-sponsored service trip.

Organized through the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Central and South Americas, the Misericordia volunteers experienced the extremes that poverty and affluence offer in the urban center of Lima, and how residents in rural Chimbote – some seven hours north of the nation's capital – struggle to carve out a meager existence in the distressed city. Overall, about 25 percent of the nation's residents have no access to health care and about 50 percent of them who do receive health care cannot afford the medications they need to cure their ailments, according to Professor Gelso.

"There is only one hospice in all of Peru despite the extensive problems with chronic disease, like tuberculosis, cancer and lung diseases," adds Gelso, relating a conversation she had with a sociologist in Peru. "We visited the hospice and met with the founder. In this globalized world, health care providers need to understand and have a vision of our own country in relation to others. This empathy may open up possibilities for committing to international solidarity which will strengthen the global civil society."

For Misericordia's students, though, it was another opportunity to apply the lessons they learned in classroom and clinical settings for the betterment of humankind. Castelblanco, as a medical science major with minors in psychology and ethics, envisions a future career as a physician specializing in infectious diseases, while Panuski wants to be a geriatric occupational therapist after completing the five-year master's degree program at MU.

Each day, though, revealed something different about the Peruvian people and the importance of altruism. Misericordia's students saw firsthand the numerous shelters, health clinics and day care centers the Sisters of Mercy have built in Peru, and learned about the many

programs they have instituted to promote healthy lifestyles, proper sanitation and the importance of clean water.

"I wanted to interact with and see the humanitarian work by the Sisters of Mercy in Peru," says Castelblanco, explaining why she volunteered for her second Misericordia-sponsored service trip. "I also have a strong desire to work internationally, specifically in South

evening, an international dance festival introduces the collegians to beautiful costumes and Peruvian music.

"The Peruvian people were generous and wanted to do anything to make us feel at home. People dropped anything they were doing to gather in packs and sing and entertain us," Panuski says, adding, "I believe it is important for everyone to be aware of the lives that others live. You have no idea of



Misericordia students, at left, including Donna Castelblanco '14, center, wait for the start of the International Dance Festival in Chimbote, Peru. While waiting for the start of the festival, MU students braided their hair, and that of several Peruvian girls.

Misericordia students, below from left, Samantha Panuski '14, Kiersten Whitaker '12, Alanna Holmgren '14, and Jenny Gopurathingal '12 paint a chapel door during their mission trip to Peru in the summer of 2012.



America, as a physician. Volunteering in Peru seemed like a perfect trial run of a life that I want to have working and interacting with impoverished communities.

"Fortunately, this mission trip has given me even more interest to travel and volunteer in other countries," the daughter of Fabio and Maria Castelblanco adds.

Among the pueblos juvenes or young towns in Nuevo Chimbote, the spirit of the Peruvian people comes to life as many children exit their straw houses and engage the Misericordia volunteers. The children and students form friendships by playing "Hot Potato" and "Wonder Ball" using latex gloves filled with sand. In the

the struggles and hardships that others deal with until you are faced and immersed within the reality of their situation."

Misericordia's students also learned about similar issues that affect most countries no matter the socioeconomic circumstances. At the Comision de Justicia Social, a lawyer and a Dominican sister outlined for the MU group some of the programs and problems facing the youth of Peru, including the prevention of violence, available legal advice and prison ministry as Peruvians continue to work at "constructing equality in diversity," Professor Gelso says.

"... the gift that I took away from this trip is that love and kindness extend beyond that barrier."

– Samantha Panuski '14



President-elect offers insights into his experience and family life as the Misericordia community prepares for a smooth transition in July to



LUCKY 13

BY JIM ROBERTS

In late November, the Misericordia University Board of Trustees selected Dr. Thomas Botzman to be the institution's 13th president. His selection concluded a seven-month search process to find the future leader of MU. The campus community met Dr. Botzman and his family during a welcoming event on Dec. 3. He offered brief but insightful remarks, and he and his family received special gifts in the spirit of hospitality from representatives of the faculty, staff, alumni and current students. In the days after his introduction, we had a chance to speak with Dr. Botzman and ask him some questions to help Misericordia Today readers get to know him a little bit better. He begins his duties July 1, 2013.

Find out more about Dr. Botzman and the event at www.misericordia.edu/13thpresident.



Use your QR-code enabled smartphone to watch the video of President-elect Botzman's introductory press conference.

Q. What led you to seek the presidency of Misericordia University?

A. I've been a member of collegiate learning communities for over two decades and have been able to observe and learn about what makes many of them special. Fortunately, Misericordia University has so many positive attributes that are a match for my interests. The academic program is based on the liberal arts and sciences leading to experiential learning, internships, and valued careers. The four charisms of the Sisters of Mercy reflect the values of the Catholic Church and provide touchstones for the mission and vision of the University. Most importantly, at each stage of the search process I continued to hear about the many successes of Misericordia: the strong enrollments and graduation rates, students who care about each other and provide service at every opportunity, engaged trustees and friends of the University who

work to move the vision to the next level of excellence, faculty and staff who are proud to champion the academic and residential campus experience, and, of course, the continued building of the mission of the Sisters of Mercy to bring higher education to all who are ready for the Misericordia experience. I've prepared in every way that I can for a presidency and look forward to this special opportunity.

Q. How has your experience as a faculty member and an administrator shaped your leadership style?

A. Service as both a faculty member and as an administrator has taught me that we are all, in the end, on the same side of the fence. Our mission in higher education is to transform lives. Faculty colleagues take a central role in teaching, research, and service with students. Administrators work to open doors that support faculty,

President-elect Thomas Botzman, far left, accepts an MU sweatshirt during his campus introduction. During his career in academia, Dr. Botzman has, from left, posed for a picture with students and state Sen. Roy Dyson; participated in the 2012 River Concert Series with St. Mary's College of Maryland BOT's Vice Chair Gail Harmon and her husband, Dr. John Harmon, and participated in press conferences, like the one at Misericordia. He has also, below, waded in St. Mary's River with his daughter, Gabi, to see if they could see their shoes; participated in discussions at the Center for the Study of Democracy with the Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, and enjoyed watching the sailing team practice on St. Mary's River.



students, and everyone associated with the university in enhancing the good work of the learning community. My experiences provide the background to understand the processes of creating and delivering curriculum, building a sense of campus community and identity, and formation and strengthening of linkages to constituencies and communities. I continue to view myself not only as a teacher in the faculty and a facilitator as an administrator, but also as a learner and mentor to others. It's obvious to me that Misericordia was looking for someone who would embrace the many roles required of a president.

Q. How did your career as an engineer at a major tire manufacturer shape your academic career?

A. Those years were filled with opportunities to work with some of the best scientists and engineers in the world. We would be talking about almost anything, ranging from the weather to sports to where to go for lunch, and out of nowhere someone would have an idea. In minutes, we would have dozens of leads to pursue and then would go to work trying them out. It was exciting to know that we had created something that didn't exist when we arrived for work that morning. I remember one time we made a tire and rolled it down the hall while it was still really hot just to get a look at it. I've carried those experiences to guide my sense of teamwork as able to get to a better solution faster than pure individual effort. Also, we sharpened our skills so we could solve problems that we hadn't thought of yet. In many ways, engineering was very much like higher education in that smart people work together as a team to solve real-world problems.

Q. What are some of the challenges facing private higher education today?

A. There are so many challenges, and exciting opportunities facing higher education. I'm especially interested in creating access to higher education for students who otherwise would not have the chance to attend. Social justice requires us to invite all into our learning community. That's clearly a key facet of the mission of Misericordia in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. I'm looking forward to how we can all work together to admit, retain, and graduate students and also celebrate the success of our alumni.

Another key challenge is how to recognize the relevance of higher education in the life of the broader community. We can all be stewards of the gifts we've received through engaging in service, participating in economic and social development activities, linking into primary and secondary education, and demonstrating our faith through our good works. One of my key themes has been to move my teaching into the community and to invite others onto campus, seeking to erase the borders that separate our learning community from our neighbors.

I'm also very interested in how we collegially move toward the future of curriculum on and off campus. We have so many new technologies and methods that can impact the way we deliver content and exchange ideas in the classroom. We can travel to learn and serve abroad and bring those new ways to help others back to our communities. There are many ways to enhance the effectiveness of the faculty and staff on campus who teach, encourage, and mentor our students.

Q. What are some of the unique attributes of Catholic higher education?

A. Catholic higher education addresses the whole person. As educators, we look to develop an array of talents in our students and to find the lenses that reveal

the truth. The charisms of the Sisters of Mercy provide examples of how Catholicism intertwines with teaching and learning. Mercy, Justice, Service, and Hospitality all reflect how Jesus lived his life, and through Catholic higher education we each have an opportunity to bring to life Christian values, receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit and sharing them with others as we seek the truth through Jesus Christ. I've been fascinated to learn more about the traditions and commitment to service of Catholic higher education through this process and look forward to sharing what I've learned with people of all faiths.

Q. Why does the number 13 hold special significance to you and your family.

A. I've been told that as one of 13 children growing up in a house with one bathroom we all had to learn great patience! We also learned about how to support each other and how much service meant to our parents. My mother was the county volunteer of the year in the 1980s and I've never stopped marveling at her organizational skills.

Vanessa's birthday is on the 13th and so is mine. I proposed to Vanessa on the 13th, so that is a lucky number for me.

Q. What do you do for fun?

A. We enjoy going out as a family to sporting events, plays, and musical performances. We're also explorers, looking for the really cool historical site or off-the-path place that nobody else knows about. I'm also firmly stuck in the era of pinball and early video games ranging from *Galaga* or *Donkey Kong* to *Pacman* or *Spacer Invaders*. I've been fortunate to stay in the college environment where playing video games is still acceptable behavior.

In Tune With

— — — — — **THE**





At left, Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology, sets a box trap in the woods on Osterhout Mountain in Wyoming County, Pa.

Dr. Serino, beginning at top, has utilized many box traps like this one as part of the 3-year study. As part of the ongoing study, Dr. Serino, center, weighs the mice and other small mammals he captures in the box traps.

Dr. Serino and his student assistants also measure, bottom, the mice and monitor their overall health as part of the data collection process.

In Tune With NATURE

University's forest fragmentation monitoring study to determine impact select Marcellus Shale development has on small mammals

.....
BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

A beautiful view of the meandering Susquehanna River is visible near the top of Osterhout Mountain in Wyoming County, Pa., one of the locations of the Misericordia University study.

Anthony Serino, Ph.D., below, weighs one of the mice that was captured at the control test site in Kinastown Township, Pa.

TUNKHANNOCK TWP. – It's early morning and the sun is still burning off the morning fog. Drops of dew fall from the umbrella of trees covering Osterhout Mountain in Wyoming County, Pa., and onto the ample mast crop on the ground.

Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology at Misericordia University, works his way through the thicket, walking around various species of trees and over aged stone walls to lay three sets of five box traps, about 20 yards apart. Periodically, screeches of red tail hawks and blue jays break the silence in this otherwise peaceful setting as Dr. Serino places two cotton balls and peanut brittle in the traps for bedding and bait, hoping to attract small animal populations, like mice, voles, rats and chipmunks that are indigenous to this rural region of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Serino returns to the Williams Pipeline site the next morning, again utilizing a sport-utility vehicle to drive up an access road that was cut into the mountainside by the natural gas industry. The road provides access to the main line of the Transcontinental Pipeline that transports recently tapped natural gas

deposits from the Marcellus Shale to markets outside of Pennsylvania.

It is also one of the experimental sites the Misericordia University scientist and his undergraduate students are utilizing as part of the three-year study *Forest Fragmentation Monitoring in Select Marcellus Shale Areas*. The goal of the study, which is partially funded by Misericordia University, Williams Companies Foundation and Chesapeake Energy Corp., is to determine what, if any, impact natural gas drilling and forest fragmentation has on small mammals in their natural habitat. On this day, Dr. Serino tags, measures and weighs six deer mice before releasing them unharmed. The animals are tagged so researchers can determine population density using information determined by established mark and recapture protocols, according to Dr. Serino.

To date, the 150 laid traps have captured chipmunks, as well as deer and white-footed mice. The study will expand to include hair and blood samples of the mammals during year two so researchers can develop a bar code of DNA to determine positively which species were trapped and tagged. Deer and white-footed mice are



almost indistinguishable by the human eye, according to Dr. Serino.

"We are engaging in the process of fragmentation assessment and associated skills that provide our students with firsthand experience in an environmentally significant project," Dr. Serino says, explaining how the research also benefits undergraduate students at MU. "Students are immersing themselves in the scientific, social and

economic factors which drive and are driven by the exploration and production of natural gas. By participating in this type of research, our students also are enhancing their probability of employment with gas-related industries in the region."

Since the study began in August outside the Village of Osterhout, Dr. Serino and his student assistants, Nicholas Sulzer '12 of Lehigh, Pa.; Jessica Webber '14 of Kingston, Pa., and Amanda Lazzeri '14 of Shavertown, Pa., have trapped and tagged 10 deer and white-footed mice during 18 consecutive days of trapping that were broken down into periods of 10 and eight days, respectively. Following a 60-yard path from the edge of the clear-cut area along the mountainside, Misericordia researchers selected areas near cover, such as fallen trees and stone walls, for their trap lines so the metal traps would not be exposed to direct sunlight, and traveled up to 100 yards into the forest.

The traps were assessed daily for a week, with the same trap locations being re-assessed again every three to four weeks over a three-month period, according to Dr. Serino. "In the clear-cut area, some of the population disperses and others move in," Dr. Serino says, commenting on early results of the study. "Some species are at a deficit and some benefit from it (forest fragmentation)."

About 21 miles south of the Osterhout Mountain site, the Misericordia researchers also utilized a control test site in Kingston Township, Pa., on an undeveloped 80-acre family farm. Each collection cycle on the half-acre plot of forestry used in the study included two weeks of sample collection and two weeks of inactivity to allow the site to return to equilibrium, and then recapturing. Three collection cycles were completed at the site, with the final cycle being done in late September, according to Dr. Serino.

The control site exhibited a more vibrant collection rate, according to initial data, as 12 white-footed and deer mice were captured and tagged during the first wave of trapping, and 37 more were trapped during the second wave with eight marked.

By late fall, the study was suspended until spring because the seasonably cold nights could harm mammals that are trapped overnight. "We will begin in earnest in the spring," acknowledges Dr. Serino, adding, "This year's experimental site was just seeded in the

spring and the soil erosion equipment was still there, so it may still be impacting the site. The first year is the pilot study as we get everything up and operational. The study will expand further in the final two years to include additional experimental and control sites that offer varying landscapes."

FUTURE OF STUDY

Misericordia University's "Forest Fragmentation Monitoring in Select Marcellus Shale Areas" study will involve multiple experimental sites during years two and three of the study. Dr. Serino is working to secure three pipeline and three drilling pad sites, as well as an additional control site. Many variables can affect mammal populations, such as altitude and forest density, so multiple sites are needed to make the study statistically valid.

"We have to try and see if the mammal populations are changing over time," says Dr. Serino, explaining the necessity for multiple trap lines and locations. "You have to go back and keep doing them."

Additionally, the Misericordia



Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology, above, walks along the clearing the natural gas industry carved into the side of Osterhout Mountain in Wyoming County, Pa., for its pipeline.

Below, Williams has a service area on Osterhout Mountain for the natural gas pipeline.

researchers will collect blood and hair samples from the small mammal populations for DNA analysis during the second year, and also expand the range of the study by running multiple trap lines at deeper intervals into wooded areas.

The final results of the study will be shared with the Pennsylvania Biological Survey for possible publication in the Pennsylvania Academy of Science and other refereed ecology journals.

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QUICK INFO:

Thomas B. Murphy, co-director of the Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research, Penn State Cooperative Extension, is serving as a technical advisor to the Misericordia University study planning committee. Numerous studies are underway through the Penn State Extension to study the impact of gas drilling on forestry, including studies on the avian population and invasive weed population.

MAMMALS:

Most people know the species of the small mammals captured, tagged and released during the study by their common names. They can also be referred to by their scientific names: Eastern chipmunk or *Tamias striatus*; Allegheny Wood rat or *Neotoma magister*; Jumping mouse or *Zapus hudsonius*; Woodland mouse or *Napaeozapus insignis*; Meadow vole or *Microtus pennsylvanicus*; Deer mouse or *Peromyscus maniculatus*; and the White-footed mouse or *Peromyscus leucopus*.



A profession of 'servant leaders'

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

In many ways, Elizabeth Richardi McQuaid '05, '14, O.T.R./L., M.Ed., is your typical occupational therapist (OT). As a clinic- and school-based therapist, McQuaid has worked diligently with her elementary, high school and pediatric clients, putting them in position to live life to the fullest extent possible.



McQuaid

Looking back, the first two years of her career were possibly the most rewarding she's experienced as a therapist. McQuaid knows through her hands-on experiences and the relationships she forged with students and families that she has made a difference in many lives. It's why she enrolled in Misericordia's five-year master's degree program in OT and recently entered its doctoral program. She wants to be a difference maker.

Those formative years, though, also illustrated some of the challenges in the profession. Based on her experience as a school-based OT, McQuaid was able to identify several clinical needs that needed to be addressed for the betterment of her clients. In order to make large-scale changes or enact district-wide initiatives, though, she needed to be an administrator in the educational system. How did she answer that challenge? She returned to college to earn her master's degree in education.

"In order to make positive changes for students receiving therapy services, other related services, and the full spectrum of special educational services,

leaders of occupational therapy need to be able to put their hands on the entire IEP (Individualized Education Program), which enables them to reach students across all areas," says McQuaid. "By being in a supervisory position, you can hear what people bring to you and then decide what you can move forward with. I was able to look at district needs and we were able to hire another full-time therapist and open a new self-contained autism class."

In July 2011, McQuaid was hired as the supervisor of child study team services and supervisor of special services at a public school in New Jersey. Like her occupational therapy training taught her, she identified a need and sought out a viable solution. Occupational therapists are more than healthcare practitioners. They are part problem solver, part counselor and part cheerleader. They educate people about their profession and improve the lives of their clients in many ways.

"I feel like I am a pretty humble person," says McQuaid. "I consider myself a servant leader, which goes back to what I learned at Misericordia. I do what I do to make a difference in other people's lives. I see myself as coming to work and being a servant leader."

McQuaid's story is similar to other graduates of the program, as they work tirelessly to institute change for the betterment of others. It's the same approach faculty members of the Department of Occupational Therapy take when selecting students for the program. They review SAT scores and high school grades, but they also

Kimberly Hreha '06, OTR/L, presented at the China Rehabilitation Research Center in Beijing. Turn to Page 19 to read an alumni profile story about her accomplishments.

measure candidates' people skills and maturity levels, according to Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy.

"We want people who are the right match for our program. We want people who are passionate about occupational therapy," says Dr. Cipriani. "We also are looking for high-energy, high-quality people. That's what makes the right therapists. There's a maturity here that's probably not for the average 17 year old. It's only shared by a subset."

The program has excelled in many ways by finding the right balance between advancing scholarship and rigorous academic standards. The Weekday Program Class of 2012 achieved a 100-percent pass rate on the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination. Since 2009, the program's students have a 92-percent pass rate.

"The faculty is always brainstorming for ways to assure that the content of our curriculum is rigorous and keeps up with current practice, while also adhering to heightened academic standards," says Grace Fisher, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., associate professor and chair. "The students have been working hard to achieve academic success because they know the bar has been set high for the program."

Faculty also collaborate with students on research and scholarship. In recent years, members of the program have presented at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, American Occupational Therapy Association and Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association conferences. They also have been accepted to present at the World Conference of the International Federation of Ageing in Prague, Czech Republic, and at the ICare4Autism International Autism Conference in Jerusalem, Israel.

Dreams do come true

Alumna finds rewarding career in field of occupational therapy

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Kimberly Hreha '06, OTR/L, will be the first to acknowledge that she's a bit of a dreamer. For most of her teenage years, she knew she wanted to forge a rewarding career helping others, but she could not decide which path to follow in her professional life.

"I did not always know that I wanted to be an occupational therapist," she acknowledges. "I did know that I wanted a career where I would be able to help others through my interactions and expertise. My mother always told me that I was the child who was the nurturer and comforter, and also the leader and go-getter. As I grew older, I recognized that I had that innate, genuine ability to understand people and know how to make them feel good and cherished."

Those special qualities led Hreha to the five-year Master of Science degree program in occupational therapy at Misericordia University. Once enrolled in the program, Hreha, the daughter of Albert and Patricia Hreha of Wayne, N.J., excelled inside and outside the classroom in a health care profession that takes a holistic approach in treating its patients.

Hreha was a dean's list student and very active in the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA), acting as its president during her sophomore and senior years. Through her professional advocacy efforts with SOTA, Hreha was fortunate enough to secure Dr. Karen Jacobs as a guest speaker for a special campus event with the assistance of Gwen Bartolacci, OTD, OTR/L, associate professor. The event was one of her most memorable experiences at Misericordia and opened the door to having Dr. Jacobs as a mentor and role model for many years to come.

"Dr. Jacobs wrote (in published articles) about how she was a dreamer and how she found ways to better obtain her dreams," explains Hreha, who also says Drs. Joseph Cipriani, Lalit Shah and Bartolacci at Misericordia have played a large role in her success as a practitioner. "Her article suggested that to do this, working with others is essential. I agreed then, and now I



Kimberly Hreha '06, OTR/L, presents her collaborative research project in China.

agree even more. I could not have gotten to the place I am today without the assistance of many amazing and influential people."

Today, Hreha is the stroke clinical research coordinator at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, N.J., recognized as one of the best rehabilitation hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report in 2012-13. At the Kessler Institute, Hreha has rotated through all the subspecialty units, providing therapy to many diagnostic groups. Six years after graduating from MU, Hreha has developed a preference to treat the acquired brain injury population.

That specialized interest has also opened up other career opportunities for her, as she became one of the first therapists to participate in a collaborative project with the Kessler Foundation Research Center (KFRC) in which clinicians and researchers share data, tools and ideas. The initial project eventually led to the formation of the Network for Spatial Neglect, a national group assigned to develop a database of information from research and best-practice initiatives for stroke survivors with this debilitating disorder.

"Kessler's mission of being in the forefront of providing excellent care to its patients has fostered an environment for their employees – one that is strong in collaboration, research and education," she says. "It is in this atmosphere where I was exposed and

nurtured in the field of evidence-based practice and multi-specialty based research."

Hreha, and Drs. Peii Chen, Ph.D., and A.M. Barrett, M.D., director of the stroke lab at KFRC, developed the Kessler Foundation Neglect Assessment Process (KF-NAP), a more standardized approach to using the Catherine Bergego scale.

The Bergego scale measures patients' spatial bias that results from the heterogeneous neurocognitive impairment called spatial neglect, which is under-diagnosed and under-treated, so it hinders rehabilitation and increases hospital stays and burden of care. It affects up to half of all stroke survivors in the days and weeks after stroke, according to the Kessler Foundation.

The development of the KF-NAP was recently noted in the peer review journal, Topics for Stroke Rehabilitation. In recent months, Hreha and Dr. Chen began a multi-site study, presented at several national conferences, and have trained practitioners and researchers around the world to utilize KF-NAP. They also are developing a DVD and competency tools.

Hreha's career recently came full circle when she participated in the People to People Ambassador Program in China with 20 other clinicians and reconnected with Dr. Jacobs, who was acting as the delegation leader. It was a trip of a lifetime, Hreha says, as she spent a lot of time with Dr. Jacobs learning about China's health care system and had an opportunity to share her knowledge of spatial neglect and KF-NAP when she presented at China's Rehabilitation Research Center.

"Misericordia has fostered my career goals and passion for the field of occupational therapy," says Hreha, adding, "Dream big, but then act on those dreams. I feel so fortunate that I have had many moments to go after my dreams – and because of my hard work ethic, these opportunities have led me on an incredible journey."

Hreha is also in her third year of graduate school at the Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is pursuing her Ed.D. in movement science and occupational therapy.

Dr. Angela Asirvatham and student researcher, Danielle Yurko '06, '13, retrieve frozen Schwann cells from a liquid nitrogen storage container for use in their biomedical research on nerve regeneration.

Biochemistry student, mentor present at world conference

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Those in scientific research know that it takes a special mind set and personality to persevere through hundreds of studies and hours of painstaking experiments to reach an answer to one particular hypothesis. Liking it to solving a large jigsaw puzzle, each new answer makes up a smaller piece of a complex puzzle and the process repeats itself as answers are uncovered.

It is a love of that challenge which has drawn Misericordia's Danielle Monelli Yurko '06, '13 toward a career in biochemistry research. The 30 year old's perseverance and dedication to her new field have already brought her honors.

Yurko is the first Misericordia student to present at an annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), the largest gathering of experts in that particular field of science. The 52nd annual ASCB meeting was held in San Francisco, Calif., in December and drew more than 6,000 participants, including esteemed researchers from around the world.

Accompanied to the meeting by her mentor Angela Asirvatham, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, Yurko was one of 300 scientists to present at the undergraduate session, and one of 3,000 presenters at the graduate, postdoctoral and faculty level. Dr. Asirvatham also presented at the event, as she has for

the past seven years.

Their collaborative research is ultimately dedicated to finding a faster way to repair nerve cells damaged by spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis. By finding a way to speed up the growth rate of Schwann cells, the scientists hope to find ways to make neurons regenerate faster and ultimately create new nerve paths that will speed up the recovery process. The tests are being done on rat Schwann cells in collaboration with Dr. David J. Carey's lab in the Sigfried and Janet Weiss Center for Research at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa.

Danielle is extremely hard working, and would be an asset in any field. Yet, she has shown the inquisitiveness, perseverance and patience required to do the often mundane and repetitive tasks that are part of scientific research, Dr. Asirvatham says. Not every day is a Eureka! day in science, and the research we are doing is one tiny, tiny part of a much bigger puzzle. It may take dozens of people around the globe years of work before we find the answers we seek.

Yurko acknowledges her career path has also been like a science experiment, full of stops and starts. She earned her first undergraduate degree in communications at Misericordia as a non traditional student, taking classes at night and on weekends while working full time. An interest in medicine and

health care and in particular the physician assistant program drew her back to campus in 2009. Yet, it was in her first organic chemistry class that she found a passion for lab experimentation. Her interest in medical research led her to Dr. Asirvatham, whose doctoral research involved autoimmune disease. The two have been working on this Schwann cell research since January 2012.

Yurko's poster presentation, *The Expression between Expression of A Kinase Anchoring Protein and Phosphorylation of AKT/PBK in Neonatal Rat Schwann Cell Proliferation*, was co authored by Dr. Asirvatham with Richard Stahl, a senior scientist, and Dr. David J. Carey, director, both of the Sigfried and Janet Weiss Center for Research. It was well received.

This was a really great honor for a Misericordia student to have the opportunity to interact with students and faculty from much larger programs and career researchers from around the world, says Dr. Asirvatham. This experience will be key as Danielle is evaluated by graduate schools.

Yurko hopes to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular genetics. She plans to have a career in biomedical research, specializing in autoimmune and multi drug resistant diseases.

I have found a way I can help people. It took me a while, but I now know it is what I want to do, she says.

A Lasting and Timeless Legacy

Michael and Tina MacDowell's 15 years at Misericordia are punctuated by the growth in prestige and reputation of the University

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Thumbing through a stack of index cards, Michael A. MacDowell, Ed.D., decides to review some of the notes he had prepared about College Misericordia in advance of his final interview with the presidential search committee in 1998. The cards include important dates and information about the history of the Religious Sisters of Mercy-sponsored institution and material about its academic programs, mission, and members of the Board of Trustees.

It's an image that remains vivid to this day in the mind of Misericordia Trustee Paul "Chip" Siegel, as he takes time to recollect the process that led to the official hiring of the 12th president on Feb. 16, 1998. As he pours over the information, the well-prepared candidate again catches the eye of Mr. Siegel, who chaired the presidential search committee back then. "I distinctly remember that Mike was nervous," he recalls, adding that the soon-to-be president asked how the interviews were proceeding. "I said, 'just keep doing what you're doing, keep it up, don't change anything.'"

Today, those index cards remain a symbol of President MacDowell's level of commitment and preparedness in all facets of his life, especially everything Misericordia. As an applicant, candidate and president, the man – who would become the most recognizable face of the institution during his 15-year tenure – has remained steadfast in paying attention to every imaginable detail from multiculturalism to academics and from

building and grounds to town-and-gown relationships.

"Mike kind of jumped out because he was so detailed oriented," Mr. Siegel adds. "He knew our wives names and what we (members of the Board of Trustees) did for a living. He came to visit campus before the interview. He was on top of everything."

"What I remember about Mike – now that I look back – is he had come to campus before the interview and he had watched at least one basketball game here," says James Calderone, Ed.D., a member of the presidential search committee and a member of the faculty for 32 years. "He was able to talk about the team and use the team as a kind of an analogy for the college."

"The other thing that impressed me was that he remembered everyone's name and he sent a personalized note to everyone recalling something we had said during the interview," the professor of social work adds. "There was really a sense of energy and vitality and investment in the position for him. There was no question that he wanted the position, that he really saw it as a good fit for what he could offer. In many ways, it was. His strategic vision, and the methodical way he looked over our finances and our marketing have increased our visibility and helped the University expand."

The Journey Begins

Some 5,993 days have passed since

Michael and Tina MacDowell pose for a picture in the president's house on Lake Street.



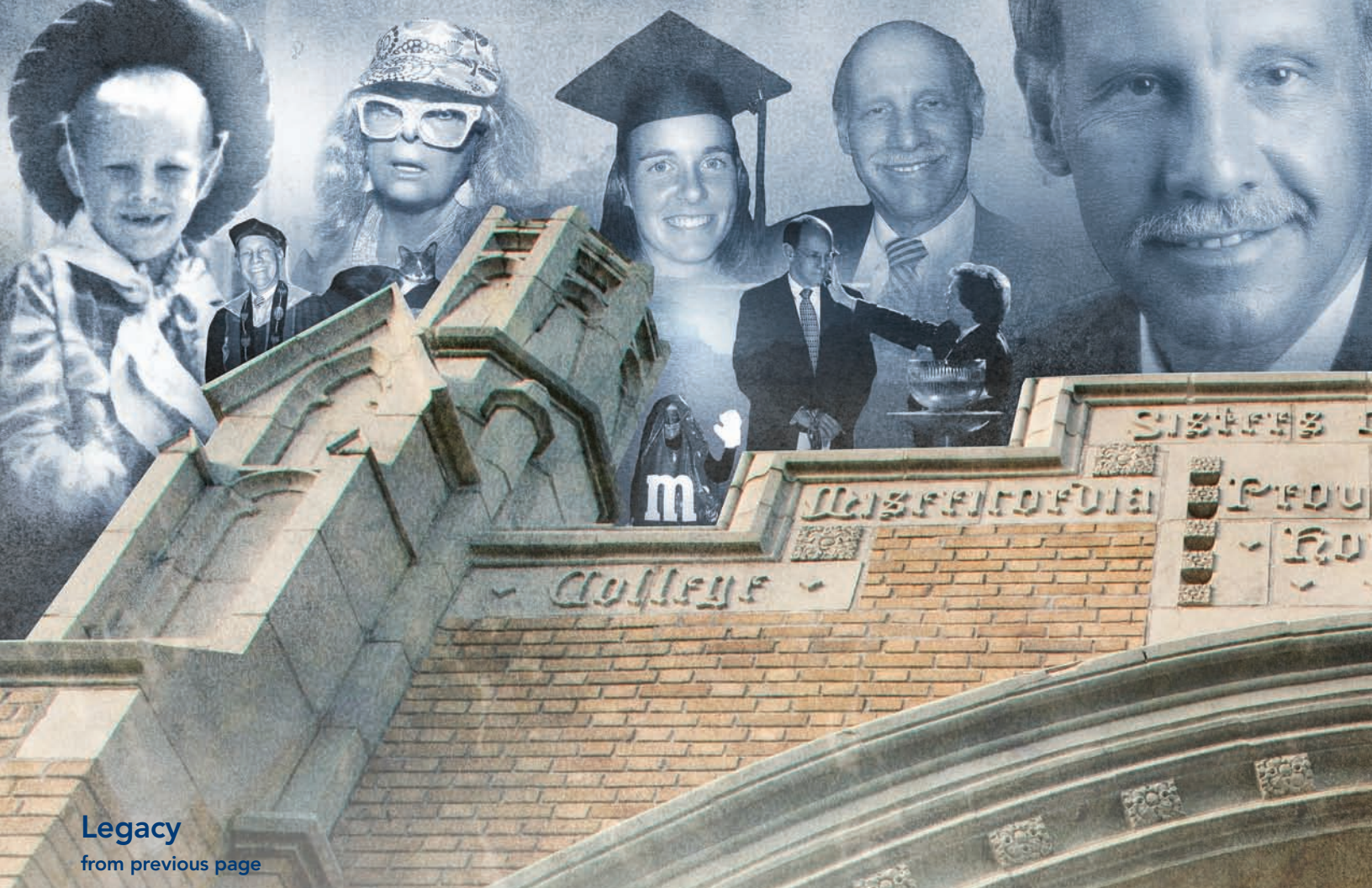
New Misericordia President Michael A. MacDowell is congratulated at his inauguration.

the journey to Misericordia began for Michael and Tina MacDowell. The Presidential Search Committee of the Board of Trustees launched the search in 1997 while an interim president guided the historic institution. Misericordia received more than 80 applicants for the vacant full-time position, but the board knew it would take a special leader to prop up and lift the college through a challenging period in its history.

"It was probably the critical hire," stresses Dean Emeritus Tom O'Neill. "The whole sector of higher education had changed dramatically and there had been a seismic shift in higher education – greater competition and many more choices for students than they had all those years before."

Members of the search committee understood the importance of finding the

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right match for the presidency and, more importantly, securing the college's future. "The college had gone through five presidents in 10 years and was in disarray," Mr. Siegel acknowledges. "The board wanted to get somebody to heal the campus.

"We got Al Anderson in the interim. He did a wonderful job of patching things up and bringing some semblance of order back to campus. If not, we probably wouldn't have had many applicants for president," adds Mr. Siegel, who has also served the Board of Trustees as chair from 2006-2011.

In the 1980s and 90s, Misericordia was in a different place than it is in today. Years of deferred maintenance had left the roads and buildings in need of repair, and shrinking enrollment and empty beds in residence halls had negatively impacted the endowment fund and investments in academic programs and the campus.

"Despite these issues, faculty and staff wanted to work hard to move Misericordia ahead," President MacDowell says today. "It was a perfect time for a new president."

Misericordia's needs at the time seemed to mesh well with the talents of

Misericordia Presidents:

- *1957-64: Sister M. Celestine McHale, R.S.M., Ph.D.
- 1964-66: Sister Miriam Teresa O'Donnell, R.S.M., M.A.
- 1966-67: Sister M. Florita Maloney, R.S.M., M.A.
- 1967-75: Sister Miriam Teresa O'Donnell, R.S.M., M.A.
- 1975-78: Sister Ann Miriam Gallagher, R.S.M., Ph.D.
- 1978-79: Rev. William B. Hill, S.J., Ph.D. (acting)
- 1979-88: Joseph R. Fink, Ph.D.
- 1988-89: Bruce Wilson, Ph.D. (acting)
- 1989-92: Pasquale Di Pasquale, Jr., Ph.D.
- 1992-95: Carol Ann Smith Jobe, Ph.D.
- 1995-98: Albert B. Anderson, Ph.D.
- 1998-13: Michael A. MacDowell, Ed.D.

*Prior to 1957, the president of the college was the mother superior of the Dallas Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy. The college was headed by a dean who was the chief administrator and academic officer of Misericordia.

the former associate professor of economics at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill.; president of the National Council on Economic Education, New York City, N.Y., and professor of economics and vice president at Hartwick College, Oneonta, N.Y.

"The combination of experience as an associate professor at a big state

university, operating a national nonprofit and service as vice president at Hartwick, gave me some good training for the presidency at Misericordia," he says. "Nothing, however, can fully prepare you for assuming a presidency. The challenges are sometimes overwhelming, but the psychic rewards are worth it."

As the MacDowells prepare to enter semi-retirement in July, the couple is being praised by neighbors, colleagues, alumni, faculty and staff alike for the lasting impact they've had on Misericordia and for making their vision become a reality as the patriarch and matriarch of the University.

"This was an opportunity for both of us to make a difference," says Tina MacDowell, recalling her first impressions of the college and campus. "I saw the campus as one that wasn't in need of repair as much as one that looked a bit tired and out of date. There were so many places that needed a makeover. I felt I could help make some changes large and small on the campus."

Town-and-Gown Relationships

Northeastern Pennsylvania has had a reputation of being a close-knit,



family-oriented community for generations. With the campus being located at the hub of Dallas Borough and Dallas Township, the MacDowells believed it was important for the University to provide leadership, while also building relationships in the many regional communities. By taking the lead, the University has remained true to its charisms, as Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality have fully blossomed at MU to include countless members of the campus and alumni communities.

It has been a common sight every fall to see members of the campus community participating in the Dallas Harvest Festival and students providing tutoring services at regional schools. That community mindedness has spread to encompass many communities, as well as civic and nonprofit organizations. The MacDowells have played a prominent role in the region as they have been active participants in various boards and established several programs themselves when they saw a vacuum.

"Tina took the community by storm," Mr. Siegel says, his familiar smile adding another layer to his approval. "She is so active in many things that are off campus

Awards:

Michael A. MacDowell has received the following awards during his tenure at MU: 2002 Citation of Distinction Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council; 2003 Mary Bevevino Award for Outstanding Community Service The Luzerne Foundation; 2005 Leadership Wilkes Barre Distinguished Alumni Award; 2006 Star Award Leadership Wilkes Barre 25th Anniversary; 2009 Stewardship Award North Branch Land Trust Award; 2010 Eminent Eagle Award Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of Boy Scouts of America; 2010 Northeastern Pennsylvania Innovation Award Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania; 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of Boy Scouts of America, and 2013 Francis J. Michellini Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.

and has really become a huge part of the Back Mountain and has many friends.

"Mike is 24-7," he adds. "If he is playing golf, he is playing with potential donors. If he is having dinner, he is having dinner with potential donors. I think a lot of what they brought was their constant availability, especially to the students. They were all over campus. They dress up

in costumes for Halloween. They are at all the games. They are in the dining hall all the time. They presented such a neat image of a couple. They care about the kids and that is part and parcel of what we have here."

In some cases the results of their outreach efforts have been obvious, while others are less tangible. Either way, the University and the region are better off for their initiative. "If a president and first lady embrace the community in which they live it comes back to the university in a hundred different and positive ways," says Mrs. MacDowell, who was on the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic board; chaired the Women's Interest Committee at the Westmoreland Club, and the Friends and New Neighbors (FANN) program in the local community, and served on the Campus Image Task Force and convocation, graduation and the Sister Regina Kelly, RSM Shakespeare Garden committees on campus. "Both of us believe that when you have positive town-gown relationships everyone wins. Both of us care about the Valley and want to make it a better place, so we have

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become involved in various ways.”

Shortly after they arrived in northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA), the MacDowells completed the Executive Leadership Wilkes-Barre program. Upon its completion, Mrs. MacDowell established FANN. “The purpose was to invite newcomers to engage in activities together in the community so we could learn more about this area and find ways to become involved,” she says. “I am happy to say that others are carrying it on even after 14 years.”

The president used his visibility and background in economics to play a pivotal role in establishing the Back Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Community Partnership and Historical Society. In the region, he served as vice chairman of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, NEPA Consortium of Colleges and Universities, NEPA Boy Scout Council, Great Valley Technology Alliance, NEPA Technology Institute, and United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Legacy of Achievements

On campus, Michael and Tina MacDowell identified areas of concern and addressed them in their own ways.

The first lady recognized the need to make a good first impression on guests and to take advantage of the naturally beautiful campus. Sprucing up landscaping and the inside of several public buildings topped her to-do list. “I was told there was little to no money,” says Mrs. MacDowell, whose first project was freshening up the Admissions Room in the Administration Building, today’s Mercy Hall. “I combed through various rooms and gathered pieces of furniture and lamps that were not being used. Those first few results were not perfect, but they were definite improvements.”

Today, the President’s Conference Room in Mercy Hall features 10 portraits of past and present presidents hanging prominently in a stately room; an endless water stream highlights the beauty of the campus quad; the Frank Henry Student Lounge was remodeled for commuter students, and she purchased *Red Stones 3b*, a large mobile hanging outside the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, and a sculpture in the foyer of MacDowell Hall. As for the Admissions Room that she used recycled furniture and other gently used pieces to redecorate some 15 years ago, it too has been remodeled and decorated with appropriate furniture

under her watchful eye.

President MacDowell approached things a little differently by following the lead of a former mentor. Lou Gerstner chaired the National Council on Economic Education during his early years at the nonprofit. When Mr. Gerstner took over a struggling IBM, he was asked by Fortune magazine if he had a vision for the iconic company. Mr. Gerstner told reporters that the last thing IBM needed was to spend time on a new vision. IBM simply needed to get some important things done.

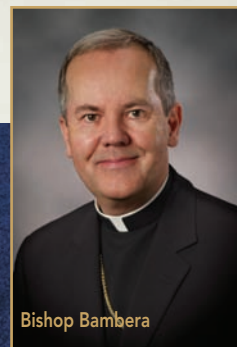
And that’s how Misericordia’s 12th president approached his new job. He had a passion for action setting out to work diligently on three tasks: Increase fundraising, increase admissions, and increase the visibility of the college.

How has that practical philosophy worked?

The endowment – which stood at \$7.6 million in 1998 – has grown to more than \$27.4 million and the annual fund exceeds \$1 million. In total, almost \$39 million has been raised from private sources and \$21 million has been granted from government sources during his presidency. The University recently completed the successful Pursuit of Acclamation campaign in which \$7.5 million was raised to support the construction of a new residence hall and field house along with upgrades to the University’s athletic facilities – \$1 million more than the original goal.

“One of the main things he came with was his ability to raise money,” Mr. Siegel acknowledges. “That was one of the real attributes he had, plus he had a background in economics. It was really the financial side. Once he hit campus, he really started going. We were halfway through the library campaign and when that was done, he didn’t stop. We’ve had 15 years of campaigns. If you compare the campus, when he came to this day, it is obviously night and day. He has been so instrumental in building the campus.”

The University has maintained its momentum in student recruitment as well. Fifteen years ago, Misericordia enrolled 1,050 full-time students. For the recently completed fall semester, the campus boasted an all-time record of 3,012 full-time equivalent students working on undergraduate, master and clinical doctorate degrees. Freshman quality, as measured by rank in class, grade point average and SAT scores, also has continued to rise.



Bishop Bambera

What They Said...

For the past 14 years, Misericordia University has been served well by its 12th president, Michael MacDowell. President MacDowell has guided this Religious Sisters of Mercy sponsored University through a period of growth despite a challenging economy. Because of his leadership and extreme dedication to this institution, the University has achieved national recognition for academics, enhanced its campus, developed its facilities and expanded its programs while gathering a tremendous amount of local and regional support. President MacDowell can take pride in an impressive list of achievements. I thank him for his years of exemplary service to our community and wish him God’s blessings in the next phase of his journey.

– Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera,
D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton

There’s no doubting the recognition MU has received from national sources. It is ranked in the top tier of the Best Regional Universities North category of U.S. News and World Report’s annual edition of Best Colleges, including an improvement of 20 places since 2007. It has been recognized by the Princeton Review, Washington Monthly magazine, and named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

Historic Past, Promising Future

Nine presidents and almost 43 years later, Mr. O’Neill has witnessed many aspects of Misericordia’s history, as a tenured professor, chair and dean. He recalls the angst associated with poor enrollment and the lack of a steady revenue stream. Even during those turbulent years, though, he did not lose faith in the overall Catholic mission and future of the college. It’s those rough years, he says, that make him appreciate Misericordia’s rightful place among some

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'All you do is believe'

Better known as Miss Judy, alumna leaves lasting impression on the 'Land of Hatchy Milatchy'

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

She has two Facebook fan clubs, is mentioned in a national book on children's programming and is the face of numerous YouTube videos. Yet nothing defines the career of Lois Reed Burns '54 more than the infectious tune known to just about anyone who grew up in northeastern and central Pennsylvania from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Standing in front of a gate made of hearts, the gentle-voiced Burns came into the homes of thousands of children each day for more than 25 years as the iconic Miss Judy of the WNEP-TV children's show, *The Land of Hatchy Milatchy*.

Burns' Miss Judy, along with her friends Alfie, the tree elf, and Bandit, the mischievous raccoon, made every child feel special and taught lessons in manners, friendship and respect while emphasizing — without them ever realizing it — the power of the imagination.

Based on a children's song recorded by Rosemary Clooney in the early 1950s, the world created by Burns and her producers was designed to make children feel safe and happy for an hour and a half each day. Her success can be measured in the number of people who to this day gush when they meet her. "It is wonderful," she admits. "People still recognize me and have such wonderful things to say. It is nice to know it meant so much to so many people. To do as much live television as I did, I really had to love it, and I did."

A native of Pittston, Pa., Burns enrolled on a full scholarship to Misericordia and earned her bachelor's degree in math and general science magna cum laude in 1954. She married West Point graduate

John "Jack" Burns later that year and the two moved to France where he was stationed with the U.S. Air Force.

After returning to the U.S. in the early 60s, Burns auditioned and landed the role of Miss Judy in 1963, taking over from hostess Nancy Berg, who originated the show in 1956. In her early 30s, Burns had no prior performing experience, but clearly earned the spot because of her ability to connect with the children.

"I really had no experience, but was lucky enough to have a wonderful producer, Adam Sawicki, who has an eye for children's television. He mentored me and came up with many of the ideas for the characters and segments of the show," she adds. "There was never a script. We would just pick a topic or two for the day and run with it."

As television technology developed, such as the advent of chroma key, they were able to do more fantasy things via digital production. For the most part, children were not invited to the set, so to maintain the illusions created for the young audience.

In his book chronicling children's programming, *Hi There Boys and Girls!*, author Tim Hollis writes that Burns guided the direction of the Hatchy Milatchy show to make sure it remained suitable for young viewers, and saw to it that there were no vulgar or violent cartoons yet plenty of arts and crafts, and her favorite part — storytelling.

Burns' efforts were groundbreaking. WNEP was the only station in the country at the time to air an hour and a half of live children's programming five days a

week. "What made 'Hatchy Milatchy' different from other children's programming was that we were able to make it local and very personal," she proudly recalls. "During the birthday segments, I would call on a child by name and tell them there was a surprise waiting for them in a cabinet or behind the couch. That one-on-one connection with each child is what made it special."

Her portrayal of Miss Judy lasted for more than 25 years. Burns retired from the show in 1987 and continued on with WNEP doing a number of other children's shows. Burns won an Emmy for her work in children's television and earned recognition from the National Education Association. One of her proudest moments, though, came when the Geisinger Foundation created the Miss Judy Award, given periodically to a person who has exhibited uncommon service to the youth of the region.

"My days at Misericordia were very special to me," she says. "Misericordia was young when I was there and educating women was becoming more acceptable. Although others feared I would only get a degree and then get married, my mother would often say, 'Education is never a burden.' She was right. I never would have accomplished the things I did if I didn't have a Misericordia education. Because it was an all-girls school, we were encouraged to take on leadership roles. It was there that I developed the confidence I needed for my career."

www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LspewCCnE

Photo by Rod Bolten



FAMILY VALUES

*Alumna honors scholarship
by educating future leaders and
volunteering in her community*

BY TOM VENESKY

As a senior in high school, Jane Carroll Rymer '49 had to face a lot of adult responsibilities.

Rymer's mother, Agnes Carroll, passed away suddenly during her freshman year and her father, John, was a police officer who worked long hours. That left Rymer, the oldest of three children, with the task of caring for her younger siblings, managing the household and keeping up with school work.

Rymer, 84, juggled all three and when she graduated from high school in 1945, she was handed an opportunity that would change her life. My uncle was a priest assigned to St. Joseph's Parish in Wilkes Barre (Pa.), and he also had duties at Misericordia, Rymer

recalls. When I graduated, he arranged for an opportunity for me to get a work scholarship to Misericordia.

In order to attend Misericordia, though, it would require additional sacrifice by her family—particularly from her father. Because she had spent the last four years sacrificing for the betterment of her family, Rymer's father was ready to do the same for his eldest daughter. My father was an Irish immigrant and never went past the eighth grade, she says. Even though he would be losing my help, he agreed that I should go to college. I've appreciated that ever since.

Shortly thereafter, Rymer boarded a bus in her hometown of Paterson, N.J.,

and left for Misericordia. When she arrived it was a different world. She was away from home for the first time, had nobody to care for and didn't have to cook.

It was like a country club for me, Rymer says.

She majored in social studies and completed her bachelor's degree in four years. With her college degree in hand, Rymer moved back to her home in New Jersey and began putting it to good use. There was a strong demand for elementary school teachers, so Rymer earned her certification and taught for the next five years in various schools around Patterson.

In 1954, Rymer married and moved to Ridgewood, N.J., where she went on to raise four children. It was during this time that her degree from Misericordia would pay off once again.

I was asked to teach children who were at home because of an illness or injury. Because I had a degree the school really wanted me to do this, Rymer adds. The principal would call me every day and I would go to the home of a child who couldn't make it to school. I did that for 12 years.

Rymer's career as an educator, though, was still evolving. When a shortage of special education teachers arose in 1968, she expressed her interest immediately. With her children older, she felt the time was right to pursue a new opportunity. She took a course in special education at a local college and was offered a fellowship to earn a master's degree. Rymer jumped at the chance, and from there went on to a 20-year teaching career in Ridgewood, retiring in 1988.

I never would've had that opportunity without my bachelor's degree from Misericordia, she says.

Throughout my career, I kept the values and standards that I learned at Misericordia.

Today, Rymer still lives in Ridgewood and spends her time as a volunteer for numerous community organizations. Although she graduated 63 years ago, Rymer has never lost touch of her Misericordia roots. She returns for alumni weekend each year and still keeps in touch with several former classmates.

I'm so proud to be a part of Misericordia and I love just going back and being on the campus again, she adds. I give Misericordia the credit for starting me out. My mother would've been so proud to see me go there.

2012 WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



*More Winter Commencement memories
can be found at <http://bit.ly/MUWinterComm12>*

Alumni News

For more information about alumni events and news, visit the MU website: misericordia.edu/alumni



Kelly Spencer McAndrew '79

We honor today while looking to the future

What an exciting time in the history of our alma mater! After 15 years of exceptional leadership, President Michael A. MacDowell, and his lovely wife, Tina, are retiring as the president and first lady of Misericordia University. The next few months will provide many opportunities for Alumni to say goodbye and to thank them for their dedication and for their vision, which has resulted in unprecedented growth and opportunities for our University. Mike and Tina's *Journey Among Friends Tour* will provide alumni and friends of Misericordia an opportunity to donate to the legacy of philanthropy that the MacDowell's have championed.

Have you visited our campus recently? For those of you who have not, I encourage you to plan on attending upcoming events. Although our football team did not enjoy a winning season, our Misericordia community enjoyed our beautiful new football field and John and Mary Metz Field House. Tailgating has come to Misericordia! Cougar Village was filled to capacity at each home game with MU football fans enjoying our scenic campus. These games were a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow Alumni and to meet our students and their parents. I hope you will consider reserving a tailgating spot next season.

As a member of the presidential search committee, I can confidently say that the process of selecting our new president was a thorough and extensive process involving the entire University community. As we welcome Dr. Thomas Botzman to serve as our 13th president, please extend a warm welcome to our new First Family. Our president elect, his wife, Vanessa, and their daughter, Gabriela, embrace the charms of the Sisters of Mercy and value the significance of a Catholic education as well as the culture and history of our alma mater. Please welcome the Botzman Family into our community at upcoming Alumni events. These are exciting times indeed!

Kelly Spencer McAndrew

Class Notes

Stay in touch with friends, classmates and the Misericordia University campus community throughout the year by posting updates about your career, family and other noteworthy and fun accomplishments on cougarconnect.misericordia.edu or facebook.com/MisericordiaAlumni.

'59 Norma Barbacci Nardone '59 and her husband, Vincent, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 27, 2012. Norma is a retired teacher. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Misericordia and taught chemistry at Seton Catholic High School, Pittston, Pa. A family celebration was held at Cafe Toscana following a Mediterranean cruise and a renewal of their marital vows in the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.

'61 Marjorie Moll Mangan '61 was chosen by St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Binghamton, N.Y., as the 2012 recipient of the Immaculata Medallion. The award, instituted in December 2011, recognizes and honors lay people who generously and unselfishly volunteer time and service to their parishes.

'71 How far would Misericordia go to find alumni? Our very own Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies Darci Brown found **Mary Beth Sowa '71** on a Danube River Cruise in October 2012. Mary Beth currently works for the World Education Services as a regional director in Washington, D.C.



'76 Filomena Sharpe Mancuso '76 and her husband, Ralph, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2012. They have both spent more than 35 years as educators in the Wyoming Valley and have three children: Katie, Ralph III, and Rachel. Filomena and Ralph celebrated their anniversary with a dinner after a family beach trip to Sea Isle City.

'96 Vanessa Pannunzio Mayorowski '96 and her husband, Attorney Gale Mayorowski, of Old Forge celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2012. Vanessa is a nursing professor at Misericordia University and Gale is an attorney for Penn Warranty Corporation.

The couple has three daughters: Aubre '12, Galen and Olivia.

Monica Tatkovski Wierzbicki '96 and husband, Edward, welcomed their third child, Zachary Quinn, on April 27, 2012. He weighed 9-pounds, 5-ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. He joins big sister Camille, 5, and big brother Jackson, 2.



'99 Trevor Woodruff '99 and his wife, Melissa, welcomed a baby boy, Bryce Robert Woodruff, on April 22, 2011.



'02 Gennifer Pauley '02 and her husband, Timothy Oefelein, were united in marriage on Sept. 1, 2012, at Long Point Winery, Aurora, N.Y. Gennifer is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood literacy and is employed by the Lake-Lehman School District. The couple honeymooned in the Virgin Islands. They reside in Noxen, Pa.

Amy Landosky '02 and her husband, - Matthew, welcomed - their daughter, Gabriella Amy Landosky, on March 2, 2012 at 4:27 p.m. She weighed 7-pounds, 2-ounces and was 18.5 inches long. -



'03 Jennifer Kalie '03 and her husband, Michael Powlus, were united in marriage on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011. Jennifer is a senior talent specialist at Benco Dental, Pittston, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Las Vegas, Nev., and Maui, Hawaii. They reside in Shickshinny, Pa.

Laura Phillips Howell '03 and her husband, Dr. Todd Glynn, renewed wedding vows on the beach of the Polynesian resort at Walt Disney World, Fla., on Dec. 10, 2011. They were

celebrating four years of marriage. The couple's three-year-old son was in attendance. Laura is a stay at home mom and a proud graduate of Misericordia's 2003 nursing class. She was an endoscopy nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital until the birth of the couple's son.



'04 Mr. Michael Anthony Krauson '04, '10 and his wife, Mrs. Mary Blair Long, O.D., were married April 28, 2012. A dinner reception was held at the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. A rehearsal dinner was hosted by the parents of the groom at Theo's Metro, Kingston, Pa.



Dr. Christina Stango '05 and her husband, Richard Hutchins, were married Sept. 17, 2011 at St. Mary of the Mount Church in Mount Pocono, Pa. Christina is currently employed as a behavior specialist at a center for adults with intellectual disabilities. The couple met in a Misericordia theatre production. They reside in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Jennifer Zanghi '05 and her husband, Jamie King, chose the Immaculate Conception Church as the setting for their June 22, 2012 wedding. Jennifer is an OT for Genesis Rehabilitation Services at The Willowbrook assisted-living facility. Following a wedding trip to Riviera Maya, Mexico, the couple resides in Scranton, Pa.

Erin Reedy '06 and her husband, Kyle Dempsey, chose the lake at Woodloch Springs, Lackawaxen Twp., as the setting for their June 9, 2012 wedding. Erin is employed by Northeast Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living. Following a wedding trip to Jamaica, the couple lives in Moosic, Pa.

Mary Turner '07 and Mark Tranguch were united in marriage on July 16, 2011 under the outdoor gazebo at Bentleys, Ashley, Pa. Mary is a teacher

for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The couple traveled to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, for their honeymoon. They reside in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., with their two dogs, Benni and Petey.

Jamie Lynn Havard '07 and Peter Anthony Moska, Jr. '07 were united in marriage on July 14, 2012 at St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin, Pa. Jamie is employed by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. Peter is employed by Interstate Blood and Plasma Inc. The couple honeymooned in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They reside in Plains Twp., Pa.

Alicia Ann Zaremski '07 and Jody Joseph Humphrey were united in marriage on April 28, 2012. The couple honeymooned in the Hawaiian Islands.

Megan Heibeck '07 and John Heggland were married on July 14, 2012.

Amy Marie George '07 and Andrew Feldman were united in marriage on June 16, 2012 in an outdoor ceremony at the Inn at Pocono Manor. The couple traveled to Montego Bay, Jamaica, for their honeymoon. They reside in Trucksville, Pa., with their black Labrador, Stella-Roo.

Rachel Holmberg Oberg '07, '10 and Ted Oberg were united in marriage on May 19, 2012 at St. Therese's Catholic Church. The couple honeymooned in the Mediterranean. They reside in Shavertown, Pa., with their two dogs, Sassy and Raven. Rachel earned a bachelor's degree in sport management and an MBA. She is the assistant director of admissions at Misericordia.



Jamie Deer '07 and William DesRosiers '09, '11 were married Nov. 10 in St. Paul's Church, Stroudsburg, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Sedona, Ariz. Jamie earned a B.S. in biology and is employed as a microbiologist at the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, Jessup, Pa. William is employed by Cabot Oil & Gas as an external affairs coordinator after earning his undergraduate degree in management and his MBA. The couple resides in Harveys Lake, Pa.

Kristen Renee Danko '08 and her husband, Jason Cunningham, were

'08 united in marriage on June 18, 2011 on the beach at sunset in North Cape May, N.J. Kristen is employed by a local area school district. The couple honeymooned in Antigua.

Laura Schmidt Rorick '08 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Abigail Rosemary, on March 20, 2012 at 11:46 p.m.



Taryn '08 and Michael '04 Trudnak welcomed their first child, Sophia Ann, born on Aug. 27, 2012.

'09 Katrina Emerick '09 and Ryan Roa '08 have announced their engagement. Ryan proposed to Katrina during sunset at Lake Wallenpaupack in Hawley, Pa., on Sept. 19, 2012. The couple will exchange wedding vows on July 25, 2014 during a ceremony in Long Neck, Del. Ryan received his bachelor's degree in teacher education.



He is teaching sixth grade math and science in the Delaware Valley School District, Milford, Pa. Katrina earned her master's degree in speech-language pathology. She is a rehabilitation manager for All Aspects Home Health Agency, Milford, Pa.

'10 Ashlee Leonard '10 and Kelly Berry '10 were united in marriage on June 25, 2011. Ashlee is a physical therapist at Golden Living-Summit and Kelly is a physical therapist at PRO Rehabilitation. The couple resides in Dallas, Pa.

Tanya Sellevold '10 and James Clark '09 were married on June 4, 2011 at St. Mary's of Westfield. A reception was held at the Ludlow Country Club. The couple celebrated with a honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas and resides in Connecticut.

Sarah Ann Swankoski '10 and Stephen Michael Nesgoda were united in marriage on Nov. 5, 2011. Sarah is employed as a registered nurse at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital. The newlyweds reside in Walnuthport, Pa.

2012 HOMECOMING

September 28-30



Use your QR code enabled
smartphone to watch the
video of Homecoming 2012.

*More MU Homecoming Memories
can be Found at*
<http://bit.ly/MUHomecoming2012>

HOW MU RU?

ATHLETICS

Trivia Questions

1. Who scored the first touchdown in Misericordia football history?
2. Cailin McCullion '12 broke the MU volleyball record for career kills. Whose record did she break?
3. Women's soccer player Sam Helmstetter '12 finished second in career scoring with 122 career points. Who is Misericordia's all-time leading scorer in women's soccer?
4. Who did Andy Bush '13 surpass as Misericordia's all-time leading scorer in men's soccer?
5. After two seasons of playing their home games off-campus, the Misericordia baseball team will debut a new on-campus facility in 2013. What is the name of the new baseball field?
6. Before joining the Middle Atlantic Conference, Misericordia spent 16 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. Which Misericordia team won the first PAC championship and when?

MU student Cael Evans '14 shows his team spirit at the University's first home football game on Sept. 15, 2012.

Answers: 1. Dean Lucchesi '17, Sept. 8, 2012 at Lebanon Valley; 2. Kelly Coppage '07; 3. Miki Bedics '06; 4. Todd Bardua '01; 5. Tambur Field; 6. Volleyball, 1992.

Lady Cougars' soccer team places 4th in nation

Erin Roberts receives NCAA Elite 89 Award for highest GPA at championships

BY SCOTT CRISPELL

The Misericordia women's soccer team recorded the most successful season in school history as the Cougars advanced to the NCAA Division III Final Four. In the process, the Cougars set a school record for wins in a season, 20-3-2, and earned numerous individual awards while establishing several school records.

Misericordia put together a 13-match unbeaten streak en route to a Freedom Conference championship and a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

After beating Eastern, 1-0, in overtime in the Freedom finals, MU posted four more shutouts to earn a trip to the Final Four in San Antonio, Texas. Despite a 3-0 loss to Messiah in the national semifinals, the Cougars established themselves as one of the top teams in the country and placed fourth in the final national rankings.

Samantha Helmstetter '12 was named

the Freedom Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive year and was joined on the All-Freedom first-team by classmates Laura Roney '12 and Nikki Hensel '12 and sophomore Erin Roberts '16.

Nicolette Ruffler '13, Erin McGreal '16 and Megan Lannigan '15 were named second-team All-Freedom, and freshman goalkeeper Maureen Ciccocanti '16 earned honorable mention and was the Freedom Rookie of the Year.

Helmstetter was a first-team NCSAA All-American and Mid-Atlantic All-Region selection while Roney, Ciccocanti and Hensel were second-team All-Region choices. Roberts made third-team All-Region.

Roberts and Lannigan were named to the All-Tournament Team at the Final Four and Roberts was presented with the NCAA Elite 89 Award for maintaining the highest grade point average at the

championships. The sophomore speech-language pathology major carries a perfect 4.0. Roney was named a second-team Capital One Academic All-American by CoSida. The senior physical therapy major has a 3.89 GPA.

Helmstetter and Roney ended their careers among the all-time scoring leaders at Misericordia. Helmstetter had 18 goals and 45 points in 2012, both the second-highest single-season total in school history. She finished second in career points (122), third in career goals (44) and set the school record with 34 assists.

Roney finished fourth in career points (103), seventh in goals (35) and second in assists (33).

Ciccocanti set school records for wins (20), shutouts (13), save percentage (91.7 percent) and goals against average (.43).



Hall of Fame induction ceremony highlights Homecoming Weekend activities

The MU Athletics Department inducted Nick Bressler '01, Dennis Fisher, Ryan Foley '99, Emma (Engler) Lang '61 and Megan (Kopicki) Marx '99 into the Athletics Hall of Fame as part of Homecoming Weekend.

Bressler was a men's soccer standout and served as team captain in 2000 while leading the Cougars to their first NCAA Tournament appearance. He was the MVP of a team that finished 19-2. Despite playing his entire career as a defender, he ranks fourth in career assists. He was a first-team All-Conference and All-Region selection and ranked among the NCAA D-III leaders in assists as a senior.

Fisher is recognized as a coach and administrator after being named the first baseball coach in Misericordia history in 1982. A member of the social work faculty, he spent seven seasons at the helm and led the Cougars to their first

BY SCOTT CRISPELL



Misericordia inducted, from left, Emma Lang, Megan Marx, Nick Bressler, Ryan Foley and Dennis Fisher into the Athletics Hall of Fame.

conference championship in 1988. He was also named Coach of the Year.

Foley was a standout goalkeeper for the men's soccer team and led the Cougars to a pair of conference titles. He

is the school's all-time leader in save percentage, goals against average and shutouts, and ranks second in career wins. He holds single-season school records for shutouts, save percentage and goals against average. The team MVP as a senior, Foley was a two-time All-Conference selection and four-time All-Academic honoree.

Lang was a key member of the women's basketball team that enjoyed success throughout the 1950's and 1960's. A forward, she served as team co-captain and led the team to an 8-3 record as a senior.

Marx was a standout women's basketball player and was a two-time team MVP. She was a three-time All-Conference selection and scored more than 1,000 career points. She is Misericordia's all-time leader in steals and ranks second in assists.

What's in a name?

Meet Archibald McGrowl

Since the cougar was officially designated as the Misericordia mascot in the 1980s, no record exists of the mascot having a name. In order to build spirit and generate some additional excitement for the inaugural season of Misericordia University football, the Marketing Communications Department organized a fun-filled community effort to name the cougar.

After several months of accepting suggestions regarding our mascot's name from students, employees, alumni, friends and family, an ad hoc "mascot" task force reviewed all 170 submissions. They looked at creativity, appropriateness to mission, and marketability.

The group identified four finalists: Archibald McGrowl, Claws, Catch, and Chase.

The finalists appeared on an online ballot that attracted 772 votes before voting ended. Archibald McGrowl, submitted by Erika Deckard '15, a

Speech-Language Pathology student from Dallas, Pa., was the winner with 317 votes.

Nameless no more, Archibald McGrowl made his debut during the talent show as part of Homecoming 2012. To see Archie's first public appearance, watch the highlight video of the 2012 Homecoming at www.youtube.com/misericordiau or with your QR-code enabled smartphone scan the code embedded on Page 30 of the magazine to watch the video.

Misericordia is looking at ways to enhance the mascot program and build on the momentum of the new name in coming years.

Read Erika's clever biography about Archibald and get a glimpse of the contest overall at www.misericordia.edu/namethecougar.

— By Jim Roberts



Men's soccer team captures Freedom Conference title

The Misericordia men's soccer team enjoyed another successful season as the Cougars finished 13-6-3 and won its fourth Freedom Conference championship in five seasons. MU advanced to the NCAA Tournament and was five minutes away from a 1-0 opening round win against Rochester, but eventually dropped a heartbreaking decision in penalty kicks.

Freedom Conference Player of the Year Andy Bush '13 was joined on the All-Freedom first team by Nick vonEgypt '15, T.J. Schaefer '14 and Rob Wiacek '15. Dennis Halpin '14 and goalkeeper Billy Sopko '14 both earned honorable mention status. Bush was a second-team NSCAA All-Region selection and concludes his career as MU's all-time leader in points (111) and goals (45). A senior accounting major, Bush was a first-team CoSida Academic All-District selection.

McCullion earns first-team honors

The volleyball team had the most wins since 1997 and qualified for the Freedom Conference championships.

Senior Cailin McCullion '12 was named first-team All-Freedom, while Kat LaBrie

Athletics in Brief

'14 and Nicole Korgeski '13 both received honorable mention. McCullion became the first player to reach 1,000 kills for her career and finished with 1,062. A physical therapy major with a 3.98 GPA, McCullion was an Academic All-District honoree by CoSida.

Three Cougars named to MAC All-Century team

The Middle Atlantic Conference is in the midst of celebrating its 100th anniversary and recognizing its top athletes by naming them to the conference's MAC All-Century Team.

Misericordia's Ali Ostrum Schappert '09 and Marina Orrson '13 were named to the MAC All-Century team in women's cross country, while Sam Helmstetter '12 was recognized in women's soccer. All three were named to the 2003-2011 era team.

Ostrum competed from 2006-2009, including MU's first two seasons in the MAC. She had two top-five finishes at the MAC Championships and was an All-Mideast Region performer as a senior.

Orrson, a senior, recently earned first-team All-MAC status for the fourth consecutive season and achieved

All-Region status for the third straight year.

Helmstetter, a senior, was a four-time first-team All-Freedom selection and a two-time Freedom Conference Player of the Year. A four-time NSCAA All-Region selection, Helmstetter was a two-time NSCAA All-American, including a first-team selection this year. In addition, she was the Freedom Rookie of the Year in 2009.

Misericordia unveils new football program

A new era of athletics was unveiled in 2012 as the Cougars completed their first season of varsity football. Despite going 0-10 (0-9 MAC), head coach Mark Ross and his squad laid the groundwork for a promising future. John Ameen '16 earned honorable mention All-MAC status as an offensive lineman and Juwan Petties- Jackson '16 received the same honor as a special teams player. Three seniors, Steve Clemson '13, Lane Dickey '13 and Tom Messner '13, competed on the 66-player roster.

Social media

Keep up to date with Misericordia Department of Athletics:

Facebook: facebook.com/MUATHLETICS

Twitter: @MUCougars.



Student Aaron Orchard '14 dressed up as an elf for the Alumni Association's annual Santa Brunch in the Banks Student Life Center.



Barbara Nalesnik Gulvas '62 participates in Alumni Weekend.



Students enjoy Alumni Pie in preparation for finals.



Alumni and friends enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise together in October.



Sister Therese Marie Marques, RSM, '63 receives the McAuley Medal at winter Commencement.



Sisters Martha Hanlon '60, Jayne Pruitt, Catherine McGroarty '74 and Jane Frances Kennedy '60 at the Trustee Associates Gala.

A L U

Photo



Alumni return to campus to act as Commencement marshals at the second annual December ceremony.



Tina MacDowell serves tea to guests at Alumni Tea.

M N I

Album

Make more alumni connections. Visit cougarconnect.misericordia.edu by using your unique log in ID located above your address on Misericordia Today.



December 2012 Class Valedictorian Leah Kaiser '12 poses for a picture.



Carol Gulla Williams '67 and Catherine Pugliese Cortegerone '67 catch up at Alumni Weekend.



Donna Bolinsky Kopicki '83 poses with her son, Aaron, 15, and daughter Kateri at the Legacy Brunch.



William and Helene Reed '66 attend the 2012 Trustee Associates Gala in December.

Alumna featured on the cover of
Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine

MYSTERY MAVEN

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

The daughter of a Polish immigrant, Marianne Wilpiszewski (Wilski) Strong, M.A. '64, says her father and his six brothers and sisters spent much of their childhood in Poland sitting around a fire sharing stories about their homeland. Her fondest memories growing up are of her father retelling those vivid stories to her. Mesmerized, she would sit and listen for hours as he shared hair raising ghost tales and stories about how their relatives, who lived in the Lake District under Russian rule, worked to evade the Russian inspectors while keeping up their outlawed Polish language and traditions.

I listened to those stories with great intensity, and I am sure that the great storytelling skills of my father and his family spurred a love of stories and mysteries in me, she says. So from my childhood, I was a voracious reader and have always had a passion to be a writer.

The author of more than 40 short stories, the Misericordia University graduate is listed among the elite of mystery writers and for the second time in 10 years has been featured on the cover of the Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. The December 2012 issue labels her as a perennial reader favorite and includes her story, *The Abbot and the Diamonds*, the second in a series she has written for the magazine featuring the characters, Abbot Joseph and Brother Leo.

Strong earned her bachelor's degree in English and history at Misericordia and now lives in Silver Spring, Md., where she taught literature at Prince George's Community College for 29 years, and successfully melded a career in education and writing. Many of her stories are set in and around her hometown of Wilkes Barre, Pa., and she frequently returns to northeastern Pennsylvania to do research. She also has shared her love of literature through classes she taught over the past 10 years for the Road Scholars (formerly Elderhostel) program

at Misericordia, and in lectures at the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes Barre, and around the Washington, D.C. area, where she often talks on the history of detective fiction.

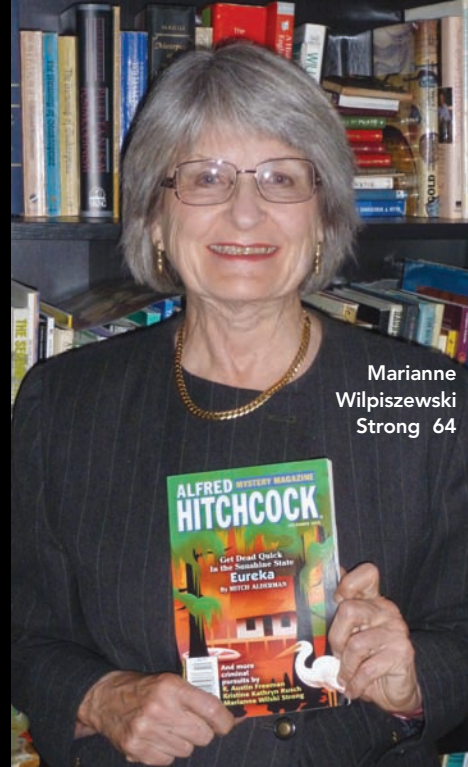
My time as a Misericordia student was some of the best of my life, says the Pushcart Prize nominated author. I enrolled as a literature major and the love Sister Denise Wilkens of the English faculty had for literature and good writing came through to me so beautifully. She helped me understand what good writing is. I have to say that in addition to my dad, she was the second most influential person in my life.

It was in the Misericordia Library where Strong first came across the writings of Bernard Knox, considered one of the world's leading authorities on ancient Greek literature, and the third person of influence on her career.

I would sit there for hours and read his works. Later, when I was chair of the Literature Department at Prince George's Community College in Maryland, I secured a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant and arranged for him to come to the college and lecture. Later, my colleagues and I expanded the lecture program statewide, and then to the national level. I consider my work with Knox as one of the major achievements of my career.

Inspired by Knox, Strong wrote a series of 10 mystery stories on Ancient Greece. Set in 5th century Athens, the series takes the reader from the beginning to the fall of the world's first democracy. She was interviewed about the series on *Sybil and Sleuth*, a website that features historical mysteries of Ancient Greece, and she has often given lectures on Greek mythology.

Strong, who retired from teaching in 2000, says the joy of writing has had many rewards. She vividly remembers winning \$5 in a community wide writing contest as a Misericordia student, and fondly recalls the day she got her first



Marianne
Wilpiszewski
Strong '64

contract in the mail to write for Hitchcock Magazine. Career highlights include when her story, *The Honored Guest*, which centered on the murder of a mine boss, was included in the book, *Mystery: The Best of 2001*. It first published in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine.

Other highlights include having her story, *The Flood*, inspired by the 1972 Agnes flood, published in *Mordsweiber*, a German anthology of mystery stories printed by Elefant Press.

In an interview for Hitchcock Magazine, Steven Torres, the well known author of the *Precinct Puerto Rico* series of mystery novels by Macmillan Publishing, listed Strong along with Joyce Carol Oates, Rob Barnard, and Canadian born James Powell as authors who I will go out of my way to read.

She is currently working on a contemporary novel set at French Azilum, the settlement near Wyalusing, Pa., built for Marie Antoinette and other refugees fleeing the French Revolution. The tale of buried treasure involves one of the settlement's founders and the ties his aristocratic family had to the French criminal underworld and the theft of the French crown jewels. She has a completed draft in hand, and with the help of her husband and editor, David Strong, is in the process of reviewing it for historical accuracy.

She also recently submitted a new short story to the Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. *The Second Skeleton* involves two skeletons found in a mineshaft by young boys and the mystery surrounding the family of the miner who was killed.



Maria Livrone 71

DISCOVERING an INNER TALENT

Foreign language major creates niche for herself in the art world

BY TOM VENESKY

Maria Livrone's '71 journey to her career goal took her from her hometown of Plains Twp., Pa., to the Haight Ashbury District in San Francisco, Calif., and through France and Switzerland.

And in the middle of it all was Misericordia.

Livrone is the director of Arts Seen Gallery in Pittston, Pa., a place that is home to more than 30 local artists who showcase and sell their works. An artist herself, the building is also home to Livrone's studio, and has been a vital part of the effort to revitalize the downtown.

With her boyfriend, Bill Zack, both of whom are self-taught artists, Livrone uses glass and metal to create one-of-a-kind works of art. Her pieces can be found in stores and galleries across the United States and Canada.

Livrone's path to becoming an artist actually began years ago in her garden. Unable to find the funky and unusual pieces she wanted to decorate it, she took matters into her own hands and began making them herself – beginning with pottery. "Things started blossoming after that," she says.

While her medium has since switched from clay to glass and metal, Livrone says she continues to draw on the education she received at Misericordia to help her create works of art today. Livrone graduated from Misericordia in 1971 with a Bachelor's degree in French and a minor in Spanish. Learning a language is artistic, she says today, and her time at Misericordia fueled her artistic side.

"When you learn a language, you learn creative thinking," she says.

Her path to Misericordia is as diverse as her artwork. She spent time in San Francisco living in the Haight Ashbury District in the same building as Jerry Garcia, founder of the Grateful Dead. San Francisco opened up another world for Livrone, but she eventually decided there was more to accomplish back home in Plains Twp. "I met a lot of colorful personalities there, but I'm happy I came back," Livrone says.

That's because Livrone returned and enrolled in Misericordia, where the college experience took her overseas. Every year, Livrone says, Misericordia offered its students an opportunity to study abroad. Because she was a French

major, Livrone was offered an opportunity to study at a university in Dijon, France.

"It was an amazing experience and one that helped my creative side," she says.

Livrone's time at MU also sparked her business side, which is based on her artwork. "When I was at Misericordia, I was known as the queen of macramé (using knotted cord to create items such as belts, bracelets and wall hangings)," she recalls. "I created things and sold them for extra money while in college."

Today, in addition to her gallery in Pittston, Livrone also has a studio in her Plains home where she works on her commissioned artwork. The gallery is also thriving and currently has a waiting list of 35 artists hoping for the chance to display their work.

"Being an artist can be feast or famine at times, but it's right for me. I can't see a day when I'm not creating," Livrone says. "When you're in college, you go through classes and wonder what you're ever going to use this for. But all the while you're learning things like creativity, timeliness and punctuality. What you think you won't use, you will at some point in your life," she adds.

Corporate Training Program shows businesses the importance of investing in their workforce

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education launched the Corporate Training Program in the fall to provide career training programs and life-long learning experiences for employees of small-, medium- and large-size businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The first business to retain the new program was Nature's Way Purewater Systems of Pittston, Pa. Located in the Grimes Industrial Park, Nature's Way is a dynamic, growing business operated by Sandy Insalaco, Sr. Due to the introduction of new product lines, the company experienced unprecedented opportunities for existing employees and an added demand for new employees. Since July, the company has doubled its workforce by hiring 50 people.

"In our competitive business environment, we feel it is important to invest in our workforce so they know they are an important part of the future success of the company and the products they produce," Mr. Insalaco says. "We also are hoping that the program with Misericordia will help us increase employee retention

throughout the company. This type of program will enable our employees to grow with the company and be a part of it in the long term."

The program offers customized employee and management development training programs for businesses and nonprofit organizations. The non-credit program ensures that workforces are prepared for the challenges of today's ever-changing work environment by developing entry-level through executive-level skill training programs that equip employees with the skills they need for themselves and the business to succeed, such as conflict resolution, people skills, time management, performance management and much more.

To start, the corporate training and business skills development services program conducts a needs assessment through a series of meetings with the business' management team in order to identify the skill gaps that might exist in



Sandy Insalaco, Sr., of Nature's Way Purewater Systems, was the first business executive to hire the Corporate Training Program.

the workforce. Upon reviewing the results, Misericordia works collaboratively with the business' leadership team to identify management topics for each training session. The training sessions are facilitated by a qualified trainer and delivered on site or remotely to meet the needs of the workforce and business. Pre- and post-assessments are conducted to measure each training session's overall effectiveness so business leaders can gauge the return on their investment.

For more information about the Corporate Training Program, please contact Joseph J. Grilli, M.P.A., D.P.A., at (570) 674-8155 or e-mail him at

tDPT program phasing out

Misericordia University has chosen to close the Transition Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the end of the fall 2015 semester. The last section of tDPT 801 Orientation to Doctoral Study will be offered in the summer of 2013. All Misericordia students who graduated from the Master of Science in Physical Therapy will be eligible to enroll, provided they have a current license to practice physical therapy.

Students currently enrolled in the program will be provided with a phase out schedule of courses, including when each course will be offered for the last time. Students will be required to enroll in the courses before they are phased out. Students will not be eligible for graduation if they are not able to complete the courses within the scheduled phase out period.

Expert in health care policy headlines lecture series

The Annual Health Care Lecture Series presented, *The Future of Health Care: A Washington Perspective*, by Janet L. Shikles, a senior advisor to health policy leaders, in the fall.

Sponsored by Misericordia University, in collaboration with the Misericordia University Health Care Advisory Board, the lecture welcomed 120 health care managers and executives, business leaders and members of the general public to hear how the outcome of the presidential and congressional elections could shape the future of health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act during a morning presentation. She also addressed how various changes in health care reform could affect providers and their patients.

More than 250 health science majors at the University also participated in a one-hour presentation and question-and-answer session.



Janet L. Shikles addresses health science majors at the Health Care Lecture Series.

A senior advisor to health policy leaders, Ms. Shikles has been involved in a wide range of issues, including health care coverage, health care quality and financing, and information technology. Her clients have included the March of Dimes, the National Committee on Quality Assurance, Johnson & Johnson, Commonwealth Fund, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, the Agency for Health Care Research and more.



Members of the Physician Assistant program's first graduate class gather around Dr. Scott L. Massey to learn about the intricacies of conducting a screening examination of the optic disc with the ophthalmoscope.

Patient Assessment Laboratory welcomes first physician assistant graduate students

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Inside the new Patient Assessment Laboratory in the John J. Passan Hall Annex on the lower campus, 20 graduate students in the five-year combined Bachelor of Science in Medical Science and Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program gather in the 10 simulated examination rooms as part of their Patient Assessment class.

Broken down into groups, the first graduate students of the program learn how to properly use an ophthalmoscope, conduct an abdominal exam, and check for blockages of the carotid artery in the 2,775-square-foot building that is designed to resemble a real-life emergency room.

"The cost of converting the annex building to a state-of-the-art facility exemplifies the commitment to providing a quality physician assistant education," says Scott L. Massey, Ph.D., P.A.-C., the founding department chair, program director and professor. "This lab provides a real-life paradigm to provide training in patient assessment and interviewing skills that provide the foundation of physician assistant practice."

In this class, Dr. Massey, along with assistant professors Darci Brown, P.A.-C., and Abigail Davis, P.A.-C., provide personalized instruction on various aspects of patient examinations. The one-on-one opportunities between student and faculty are possible because of MU's commitment to small class sizes. The average size of a PA class in the country, according to the Physician Assistant Education Association's

26th annual report, is 44. The class size at Misericordia is 20, among the smallest in the nation, according to Dr. Massey, which "provides a rare opportunity to establish an effective faculty-student learning relationship in the laboratory setting."

Graduate student Sagar Naik '14 learns the finer details of conducting a thorough abdominal examination as Dr. Massey guides Naik's hand along the abdomen of fellow student Kevin Della Rosa '14, who acts as the patient in this teaching moment. The exercise provides students with a better idea of how to quickly locate a patient's liver and then determine if the vital organ is healthy or enlarged.

Finding a partial blockage of the carotid artery in a timely fashion can also save lives, so Jennifer Rizel '14 and Laura Weatherholtz '14 listen closely as Davis demonstrates how to conduct a proper assessment with their stethoscopes.

"The coursework in physician assistant school is very rigorous," Rizel says. "From day one we were inundated with information, techniques and equipment. I feel the personal attention made the transition much smoother, helped to build our confidence, hone our skills, and feel comfortable with all of the knowledge and skills."

Dr. Massey also explains to Kayla Healey '14 and Becky Jackson '14 how to use an ophthalmoscope. By using the instrument properly, physician assistants can determine if an eye and the optical system is healthy or if an injury has occurred, such as a detached retina.

Graduate PA students elected to national Student Academy

Two graduate students in the Physician Assistant Studies program have been elected to the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants House of Delegates.

Alicia Dill '14 and Jenny Rizel '14 have been selected to be members of the 51-member Student Academy, which represents about 18,000 physician assistant students in the country. "It's an exciting leadership opportunity for these students and also gives them an opportunity to run for higher office," said Scott L. Massey, Ph.D., P.A.-C., the founding department chair, program director and professor of the PA Program. "We are very proud that two of our students were elected. Jenny and Alicia will be voting on important issues that impact the profession for both students and practicing physician assistants at the spring conference."

"What a spectacular and unique accomplishment for our two students to be appointed national representatives," added Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., the Robert S. Anderson Endowed chair, medical director and professor of the PA Program. "We will be counting on our representatives to continue to make us all proud of them through their future accomplishments as they use their talents, motivation and values to advance the physician assistant profession at the national as well as the regional and local levels."

Dr. Grilli appointed to new position

Misericordia has named Joseph J. Grilli, M.P.A., D.P.A., the director of Corporate and



Dr. Grilli

Institutional Recruitment. In this newly developed position, he will work in collaboration with the director of admissions to advance strategic

recruitment and admissions initiatives in the area of non traditional student enrollment, particularly in the corporate and business sectors.

He holds a bachelors degree from Wilkes University, attended the Penn State University graduate program in public administration, and received his masters and doctorate degrees in public administration from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Massey to serve on the PAEABOD

Scott L. Massey, Ph.D., P.A. C., the founding department chair, program director and professor of the Physician Assistant Studies



Massey

program, has been elected to serve on the Physician Assistant Education Association Board of Directors.

The Physician Assistant Education

Association is the only national organization in the country representing PA programs.

Dr. Massey has an Associate of Science in physician assistant studies from Kettering College of Medical Arts, Kettering, Ohio; a bachelors degree from Regents College External Degree Program at The State University of New York at Albany, N.Y.; a Master of Science in education from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio; and a Ph.D., in leadership from the Andrews University Leadership Program, Berrien Springs, Mich. He also completed the management development program at the Harvard University School of Education.



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FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Joseph Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L, professor of OT; **Stephanie Forbes '13** and **Holly Young, O.T.R./L.**, '09, made the presentation, *The Use of Altruistic Activities to Advance the Health and Well-Being of Older Adult Residents of Care Homes: What Does the Research Tell Us?*, at the 11th Annual World Conference of the International Federation of Ageing in Prague, Czech Republic.

Patrick L. Hamilton, Ph.D., associate professor of English, published the book, *Of Space and Mind: Cognitive Mappings of Contemporary Chicano/a Fiction* (University of Texas Press, 2011).

Sheryl E. Goss, MS, RT (R)(S), RDMS, RDCS, RVT, FSDMS, assistant professor of diagnostic medical sonography and chair of the Department of Sonography, was named a Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Fellow, the highest honor bestowed by SDMS.

James Siberski, M.S., C.M.C., CRmT., assistant professor, wrote the cover story, *Dementia and DSM-5*, for the November/December issue of Aging Well magazine.

Steve Filipiak '05, web content coordinator, earned a bronze award in the 2013 CASE District II Accolades Awards – Creativity on a Shoestring category. The winning project was the 2011 Christmas Video featuring an audio track from MU's Beyond Harmony.

Allan W. Austin, Ph.D., professor of history

Use your QR code enabled smartphone to view the Christmas video project by Steve Filipiak that received a bronze award from CASE.



and government, published the book, *Quaker Brotherhood: Interracial Activism and the American Friends Service Committee, 1917-1950*, (University of Illinois Press, 2012).

Kathy Scaler Scott, Ph.D., assistant professor, **Glen Tellis, Ph.D.**, professor; **Maria Kidron '13**, **Danielle M. Cino '11**, **Amanda Tomaselli '15**, **Nicholas Barone '11** and **Jennifer Lozier '12**, had their research presented at the 7th World Congress on Fluency Disorders at the Vinci International Convention Center in Tours, France.

Jeffrey Passetti has been named the assistant director of Campus Ministry.

Jennifer Lee, M.A., coordinator of writing in the Student Success Center, has been appointed to serve as a judge in the Achievement Awards Program for the National Council of Teachers of English.

Darci Brown, P.A.-C., director of clinical education and assistant professor of physician assistant studies, has been appointed to the finance committee of the Physician Assistant Education Association for a two-year term.

SAVE THE DATE!



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2013

MAY 30 – JUNE 2



Sweet tweets

Follow MU on Twitter @MisericordiaU

@MisericordiaU: Check out this snowy surprise left on campus!
Pic.twitter.com/MMEjNuZm



@sarahhhxjoo: First home MU football game :)
Pic.twitter.com/qD78oEOs

@nicholerambus:
@MisericordiaU showing our school pride at the first ever Misericordia home game
pic.twitter.com/ZOMXX7S6

@LBartone: Still Cougar proud. Congrats to Women's soccer on an epic season. Heads held high. Cougar pride!

@coachchambersmu: Best of luck to the Misericordia Women's Soccer Team today in the Final Four!

@slano43:
My man @WallysWorld09 and I with Franco Harris
Instagr.am/p/QKdBBqswW9/

@ashxward: My girls!
Instagr.am/p/QKn 7nNO1j/

@johnmurray30:
Nice tailgating pic MT
pic.twitter.com/YFCD98kv

Science students make news in Pennsylvania and Missouri

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

As many as a quarter of a million viewers watched members of the Misericordia Dead Alchemists Society make pumpkins spew and bubbles glow in the dark during a live television news show in the fall. WNEP-TV reporter Ryan Leckey broadcast his popular "Leckey Live" morning newscast from the Hafey-McCormick Science Center on Oct. 26 from 5-9 a.m.

Under the direction of Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, the students demonstrated spooky science experiments that viewers could do at home and also taught Leckey how to make gooey slime by mixing borax powder, water and white glue. Some segments were videotaped and aired on the ABC affiliate throughout the weekend.

One taped segment was acquired by Fox affiliate WDAF-KC in Kansas City, Mo., and ran during a Halloween-themed newscast on Oct. 29. The Kansas City television market reaches more than 900,000 households.

Throughout the WNEP-TV show, members of The Misericordia Players, Residence Life staff, Cougar football team, and men's and women's soccer teams also garnered significant airtime to promote upcoming events. It was Leckey's fifth live broadcast from campus in three years.

Photos of the day can be found at <http://bit.ly/MUSpookyscience>



Known for his early morning antics on air, WNEP-TV 16's Ryan Leckey, center, hams it up for the camera with members of the Dead Alchemists Society and Dr. Anna Fedor, while making a diet soda geyster.

Misericordia goes Mobile

Misericordia University has developed a useful app for students, staff, faculty, and the MU community. Visit <http://www.misericordia.edu/MUMobile> for more information today.

For the first time in six years, CougarConnect has a new look! Visit <http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu> to search for classmates, update your information, post a class note, discover MisericordiaU news and alumni events, and more! CougarConnect is now also mobile optimized for Apple devices.

In Memoriam

Jeane Haughwout Nolan '46
December 23, 2002

Victoria Kot Horner '41
June 21, 2012

Mary Aurea Kirkpatrick, RSM '57
August 8, 2012

Suellen Wiltse Miller '73
December 10, 2010

Marian Maceiko Zurinski '57
June 29, 2012

Sarah Gill '11
August 9, 2012

Marilyn Goeckel Mahoney '51
February 26, 2012

Anne Touey McMenamin '45
July 22, 2012

Helen Czerniakowski Thurrell '56
August 22, 2012

Dolores Kapinsky Abbey '47
June 16, 2012

Carlton Brown '91
July 26, 2012

Elizabeth Farrell O'Hara '70
June 27, 2012

Loretta Brookus Wodicka '51
August 6, 2012

Legacy from page 24

of the finest institutions of higher education today.

"He understood and respected our traditions and our roots and what had been built before. He set about for the first time to look far ahead into the future. Before that, by-and-large, Misericordia lived in the moment," Mr. O'Neill says. "Mike secured our present and pointed us in the right direction for the future. He put us there."

Before he arrived, the college had well-credentialed faculty like today who had a reputation for being innovative and for producing outstanding graduates. Although the campus community lived its charisms in many ways, Misericordia was not well known in the region, let alone on a state or national level.

"We probably thought we were doing well. We produced good students," Mr. O'Neill says. "Mike turned up the lamp and took the lid off the basket and let the true light of Misericordia shine. When I go downtown, people now say, 'Mike MacDowell.' They now know us. The media does not ignore us. I know they did not do it intentionally. They had to be reminded."

President MacDowell often reminds members of the campus community how he gets paid to worry for everyone. Many of those concerns are the same he had when he arrived and will be the same well into the future, especially for private colleges and universities.

"Mike always says that small, private,

regional, tuition-driven liberal arts colleges don't have any inherent right to exist," Mr. O'Neill says, recalling the president's mantra. "No margin, no mission. You have to be financially secure and then you can live out your mission and your dreams. Mike understood that margin and mission go together."

Misericordia's recent success has enabled the University to live its mission more fully, as it has expanded service-learning courses and service trips around the globe, while also offering low-cost medical clinics on campus for the community. By imbuing this sense of service in each student, MU graduates become successful both personally and professionally, while also being more apt to volunteer and be active in their own communities.

Capstone Year

Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, is synonymous with a Misericordia education. A Sister of Mercy for 46 years and a member of the campus community for 30 years, Sister Jean is the vice president of student affairs. She has nurtured and counseled countless students, and has collaborated with the president and others on a common vision for the University and its mission.

"He certainly has made the charisms prominent," says Sister Jean. "I think both Tina and Mike have loved this place. I have heard them individually and together say this is their home. I believe them when they say that."

Nowadays, the MacDowell administration's time is measured in months, not years, but the president and

first lady have not slowed down a bit. If anything, they have gained a second wind. In recent months, they have been participating in the *Journey Among Friends* tour across the nation in which they've taken the time to thank everyone for making the last 15 years so memorable and filled with accomplishment.

For the MacDowells, their time at MU has been marked by relationship and image building. In a few short months, the couple will turn the page on their presidency and move to Harveys Lake. In the winter months, they will make their home in Florida. No matter where they are hanging their hats, they have assured the campus community that MU will not be far from their thoughts.

"We have been fortunate to have been touched by an institution whose founders and sponsors, as well as its mission, comport well with what we feel is important," says President MacDowell. "The charisms are palpable at Misericordia. Whether it's prospective students, visiting dignitaries, or alumni coming back after years to see their campus, the feeling of satisfaction one derives from seeing how pleased they are with Misericordia has changed us."

"We have a deeper and greater respect for the Sisters of Mercy every day we are here. Their steadfast allegiance to their charisms and their understanding of the special characteristics of this institution have driven Tina and me to do more than we initially thought we could. That drive and dedication will continue to be a major part of our lives – even in retirement," he concludes.

CULTURAL EVENTS



The Lettermen

March 22, 7:30 p.m. - Lemmond Theater

The timeless songs of The Lettermen will fill the air of Lemmond Theater when they come to campus to perform many of their hits, such as *Put Your Head On My Shoulder*, *When I fall In Love*, *Traces/Memories*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You* and *Hurt So Bad*.

Their signature sound of romantic standards scored them more than 25 chart-topping singles in the 1960s and

70s. Among the 32 consecutive albums that charted in the Top 100 in the United States, four were certified gold: *The Lettermen!!!!...And Live* in 1967, *Goin' Out of My Head* in 1968, *Best of the Lettermen* in 1969, and *Hurt So Bad* in 1970.

At the same time, The Lettermen toured with George Burns, Jack Benny, Bob Hope and Bill Cosby; performed with Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Lewis, Dean Martin, Jimmy Durante, Debbie Reynolds, Sam Cooke, and Sammy Davis, Jr. The group also appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Red Skelton Show* and *The Hollywood Palace*.

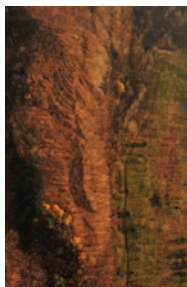
During their more than 50-year career, The Lettermen have averaged at least one album a year. The trio has gone through a few personnel changes over the years. Today, the band is comprised of Tony Butala, an original and founding member, Donovan Tea and Bobby Poynton.

Tickets for the show are available exclusively through the MU Box Office at (570) 674-6719. Premium House Center tickets are \$35 per person and general admission seats are \$20 per person.

Peter J. Stern: Pennsylvania From Above – Aerial Photography

April 6 – June 2

Artist and photographer Peter J. Stern will present the exhibition, *Pennsylvania From Above – Aerial*, in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery. The exhibit will feature 40 framed photographs from when he "sought out the artistic and spiritual beauty of any area on earth that has been rearranged by quarries and excavations." Many of his prints focus on eastern and central Pennsylvania.



In the adjacent MacDonald Art Gallery, the exhibit, *Thomas Stapleton: Recent Landscapes in Oil*, will also be presented. Both exhibitions open Saturday, April 6 with an opening reception from 5-8 p.m.

Mr. Stern will offer lectures on his aerial photography on April 11 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Huntzinger Room 218 of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

Jazz in July Concert: The Emily Asher Quartet

July 8, 8 p.m.

The 2013 Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival's Jazz in July Concert will feature the Emily Asher Quartet at the Wells Fargo Amphitheater.

Ms. Asher, a trombonist and vocalist, is a rising musical personality in New York City, N.Y., leading the Garden Party and The Emily Asher Quartet. She has toured North America with the ground-breaking Mighty Aphrodite Jazz Band and Europe with New Orleans' Tuba Skinny. Ms. Asher has also performed at small, private events for Kofi Anan and Barbara Walters.

Tickets for the concert will be available for purchase exclusively through the MU Box Office at (570) 674-6719 at a later date.

The date and musical act for the festival's annual Starlight Concert will be announced at a later date.



Bernstein to deliver keynote at Commencement

Famed journalist and author Carl Bernstein will be the keynote speaker when Misericordia University holds its 87th annual Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 18 at 2 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center on campus.



Bernstein

A baccalaureate Mass will precede the ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the Anderson Center.

During the Commencement ceremony, Misericordia will also present Mr. Bernstein and the Most Rev.

Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton with honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Mr. Bernstein is returning to campus after being the guest lecturer for the inaugural Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series last April.



Bambera

Few journalists and authors in American history have had the impact on their era and their craft as Bernstein. He has written, among other works, the definitive accounts of the lives of three of the dominant figures of the past half century: President Richard Nixon, Pope John Paul II and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In the early 1970s, Bernstein and Bob Woodward broke the Watergate scandal for The Washington Post and set the standard for modern investigative reporting, for which they and the newspaper were awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Since then, Bernstein has continued to build on the theme he and Woodward first explored in the Nixon years – the use and abuse of power, in books, magazine articles, commentary, television reporting and as editor of an award winning website.

Together, they also wrote two classic best sellers: *All the President's Men*, which was turned into a movie starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, and *The Final Days*, that outlined the denouement of the Nixon presidency.

In the 1990s, Bernstein turned his attention to one of the towering figures of the age, Pope John Paul II, resulting in the ground breaking papal biography, *John Paul II and the History of Our Time*. Bernstein's most recent book is the national bestseller, *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton*, published in 2007.



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March 9 23

Misericordia University Student Art Exhibition: Mixed Media

Student exhibit in Friedman Art Gallery. 19th Century Book Illustrations curated by MU student, Nathan Delmar, in MacDonald Gallery. Opening Reception: March 9, from 2 5 p.m.

March 22

The Lettermen in Concert

Iconic trio offers their timeless hits of the 60s and 70s. Lemmond Theater, 7:30 p.m. House Center, \$35; General Admission, \$20. MU Box Office.

March 23

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch with the Easter Bunny

Brunch: 10 or 11:15 a.m., Banks Student Life Center. Egg hunt: 11a.m. Reservations. \$10, adults; \$5, 5 12 years; under 5, free. Alumni Box Office.

April 3

A Journey Among Friends: The MacDowell Capstone Year

Cocktail reception hosted by Sherry Manetta 72 at the Hartford Golf Club, W. Hartford, Conn. RSVP by March 25 to (570) 674 6768.

April 4

A Journey Among Friends: The MacDowell Capstone Year

Cocktail reception hosted by Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan 71 at The Union League Club, 38 East 37th St., New York, N.Y. RSVP by March 25 to (570) 674 6768.

April 6 June 2

Peter Stern: Pennsylvania From Above – Aerial Photography

Peter Stern photography exhibit in Friedman Art Gallery. *Thomas Stapleton: Recent Landscapes in Oil* in the MacDonald Gallery. Opening Reception: April 6 from 5 8 p.m. Lectures by Stern on his local aerial photographs on April 11 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in 218 Insalaco Hall.

April 11 13

Misericordia Players Theater

Misericordia Players present *Working*, a musical from the book by Studs Turkel adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso. Lemmond Theater, 8 p.m. Adults \$5; students and senior citizens \$3. MU Box Office.

April 23

Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series

Counterterrorism, national and homeland security expert Frances Fragos Townsend, who served as an assistant to President George W. Bush, to offer lecture, *Government, Law and National Security*. 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater. No charge, but tickets are required. MU Box Office.

April 20

EPPA Conference

Annual Conference of the Eastern Pennsylvania Philosophical Association hosted by Applied Philosophy Project and Department of Philosophy. Keynote: Professor Vincent Colapietro, Department of Philosophy, Penn State

University. Registration: \$25, faculty; \$10, students. Reservations: Dr. Melanie Shepherd. mshepher@misericordia.edu.

May 1

Ensemble Evening

Misericordia students, staff and faculty offer an evening of music and dance. Lemmond Theater. 7:30 p.m.

May 2

Exceptional Art – Exceptional Artists

Art exhibit and reception featuring artists of the Verve Vertu Art Studio of The Deutsch Institute, sponsored by Speech Language Pathology Department. John J. Passan Hall. 5 8 p.m. Reservations: (570) 674 8255

May 30 June 2

Alumni Weekend 2013!

Enjoy a cookout, tours, Alumni mass, workshops and games. Call Alumni Box Office for more information or register at cougarconnectc.misericordia.edu

June 1

President's Retirement Roast

President Michael A. MacDowell Retirement Roast, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, Plains Twp. Reservations required. MU Box Office.

July 8

Jazz in July Concert: The Emily Asher Quartet

A rising jazz star, trombonist and vocalist, Emily Asher will perform. 8 p.m. Wells Fargo Amphitheater. MU Box Office.

Dr. Noel Keller's Trips with a Difference

2013

May 6 16

Splendors of Eastern Europe – 11 days

Tour Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Prague. \$3,197 (includes airport taxes and most meals) From JFK.

Sept. 15 24

NEW – Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Barcelona – 10 days

\$2,949 (includes taxes and most meals) From JFK. Book before March 15 and save \$250.

Oct. 21 29

NEW – Italia Classica – 9 days

Tour Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan. \$3,099 (includes taxes and most meals.) From JFK. Book before April 20 and save.

Nov. 29 Dec. 7

Classic Christmas Markets – 9 days

Tour France, Germany and Austria with stops at Strasbourg, Nuremberg, Munich and Innsbruck. \$2,999 (includes taxes and most meals.) From Newark. Book before June 30 and save \$250.

April 2014

Springtime Tulip River Cruise featuring Dutch and Belgian Waterways

FOR INFO OR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT:
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Center for Adult and Continuing Education
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