

Misericordia

today

WINTER 2011

**CIE
LEAD
HE** **CE** **IBLE**

Faculty and student researchers are making a difference in laboratories on campus and in some of the finest research, medical facilities in the country. **Pages 13-21**

MU
FOOTBALL
Pages 22-23

CAMPUS VIEWS

Misericordia University earns Princeton Review designation



Misericordia University has been named one of the best colleges and universities in the

Northeast, according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. MU is one of 218 institutions of higher education it recommends in the *Best in the Northeast* section of its PrincetonReview.com feature, 2011 *Best Colleges: Region by Region*, and book, *The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2011 Edition*.

The recommendation is based on an 80-question student survey, institutional data and personal visits to the schools.

U.S. News & World Report lauds Misericordia University

Misericordia University ranks in the top tier, 51 out of 165 colleges and universities, in the Best Regional Universities - North category of U.S. News & World Report's 2010 edition of America's Best Colleges, which includes institutions of higher education in the northern United States that offer master's degrees.

The 51st ranking is up 15 places from 2007, and is one point behind a five-way tie for 46th. For smaller colleges like MU, name recognition plays a negative factor. Twenty-five percent of the score is derived from peer reviews from other college presidents, academic deans and admissions directors who might not know MU as well as they could.

Washington Monthly ranks MU among the very best

Misericordia University is ranked by Washington Monthly magazine in the top 12 percent of bachelor's and master's degree granting institutions in the country for stressing social mobility of students and service to the greater community.

MU is ranked 66th overall among 551 other colleges and universities in the nation that were recognized in the 2010 master's universities rankings. Misericordia is ranked 4th in the nation for student participation in community service and 14th in institutional support for service.

Partnership yields higher ed pipeline to health care careers

Misericordia University is part of a partnership with The Commonwealth

Medical College (TCMC) and other area educational institutions to expand the number of applicants entering health care professions in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Through the *Regional Education*

FAST FACTS

WHO: TCMC is offering REACH-HEI to provide a pathway to college and post graduate education for economically disadvantaged students in NEPA who are interested in medicine or health related professions.

Academy for Careers in Science-Higher Education Initiative (REACH-HEI), TCMC and MU are partnering with LCCC, East Stroudsburg University, Northeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, and Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton area high schools to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully enter and graduate from medical or other health profession schools.



Participating in the announcement, from left, are Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; Michael A. MacDowell, President, MU; U.S. Sen. Robert Casey; Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski; Ida L. Castro, VP, TCMC; and Robert M. D'Alessandri, M.D., President, Dean, TCMC.

REACH-HEI is funded by a federal grant awarded to TCMC, and supported by U.S. Sen. Robert Casey and former Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski to strengthen and expand the workforce by increasing diversity. The grant awarded \$745,513 for year one and recommended more than \$800,000 for the next two years. Over the next three years, MU and its partners will develop programs tailored to the needs of students that will educate, support and mentor students who desire to pursue health care professions.

"It is a privilege to be among this prestigious group of institutions that recognize the need for improved health care and are eager to join together to educate and mentor students with the goal to improve access to care across the spectrum of all health care services," said Michael A. MacDowell, president of MU.

MU receives high marks in national survey



Seniors and freshmen gave Misericordia significantly higher marks in several important categories when compared to other colleges and universities, according to the 2010 National Survey of Student Engagement (www.misericordia.edu/nsse).

Students overwhelmingly reported that the University provides a supportive environment, and promotes active and collaborative learning. They rated their educational experience as positive, felt MU's intellectual and creative work was academically challenging, and felt they completed a significant amount of service to humankind. Also, 89 percent of MU's

first-year students said the University provided the support they needed to succeed academically compared to 80 percent at all other schools surveyed. Freshman respondents also stated they forged quality relationships with other students (92 percent) and faculty members (95 percent). Overall, 92 percent rated their educational experience as good or excellent and 86 percent said they would choose MU again. Ninety-five percent of MU seniors rated their educational experience as good to excellent, while 89 percent said they would choose MU again.

Use your QR-code enabled smartphone to find out why MU receives high marks from its students.



Misericordia Today

Volume XIII, Number 2

'11 Winter



FOLLOW US ON:



facebook.com/MisericordiaU



twitter.com/MisericordiaU



youtube.com/MisericordiaU



misericordia.edu/publications



misericordia.edu/mutodayextended
Exclusive Online Content

Misericordia Today

Jim Roberts, **Director, Marketing Communications**, jroberts@misericordia.edu
Paul Krzywicki, **Editor**, pkrzywic@misericordia.edu

Contributing Writers: Scott Crispell, Marianne Tucker Puhalla and Robyn Valentine '11

Class Notes: Lailani Augustine, laugusti@misericordia.edu

Contributing Photographers: Scott Crispell, Paul Krzywicki, Earl & Sedor Photographic, Charlotte Bartizek and Jack Kelly

Misericordia Today is published twice a year by Misericordia University. The magazine is distributed free of charge to alumni, parents, and friends of the University. To request a subscription, call (570) 674-3341. Postmaster: send address changes to Alumni Office, Misericordia University, Dallas, PA 18612-1090. © Misericordia University 2011

categories

5



Friends, alumni help today's students experience the Misericordia way.

32



Mark your calendars and join us for Alumni Weekend on June 3-5.

39



Women with Children program has provided opportunities for 10 years.

26



SLP alumnus writes award-winning children's book.

Circle of Pride

Sisters honored in Circle:
Mary Chrysostom Dougherty RSM '57;
Mary Noreen Mulherin RSM '48; Mary
Magdalena Parker RSM '52; Mary
Elaine Tulanowski RSM '58; and Mary
Gertrude Joseph Sheerin RSM '30.



cougarconnect.misericordia.edu

To sign on to *CougarConnect*, use your *unique ID* located on the address panel.



Student research on campus

In the history of American higher education, there has been traditionally two types of universities: Those where faculty were engaged almost entirely in teaching and those where research ruled. The rules have changed, and Misericordia is in the forefront of that transformation. Here at MU faculty members are engaged in research, but unlike at major research based institutions, undergraduate and master's level students also are involved in important and groundbreaking research efforts.

It is important to understand the reasons for this shift at MU. In the areas of the sciences, health sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, students learn the subject better by actually doing it. Hence, faculty research that engages students helps them to better understand their chosen majors and the complexities of research. As you will see from the articles in this issue of Misericordia Today, the research in the health sciences that both faculty members and students undertake directly helps patients. In the area of the sciences, the research delineated in the following pages has the potential for supporting groundbreaking scientific innovations, curing diseases, and improving the quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. Within the social sciences, research projects are improving the quality of life as well and are helping various social service agencies to better serve their constituents.

Most impressive is that there seems to be little, if any, trade off between research and teaching at Misericordia. The research with which our faculty are involved—particularly that which includes the students—reinforces good pedagogy and visa versa.

The University has established research funds and awards that both support and recognize work on promising research projects.

The Jonathan '95 and Linda '98 Brassington Research Scholar Award, for example, was awarded to Dr. Cari Tellis in our Speech Language Pathology Department to examine the use of a novel instrument to determine oxygen consumption in the intrinsic laryngeal muscles. The Louis HD '03 and Barbara Alesi Excellence in Scholarship Award is presented annually to faculty members in recognition of their academic contributions. In recent years, Dr. Grace Fisher, an associate professor of occupational therapy; Dr. Frank DiPino, a professor of biology; and Dr. Stevan Davies, professor of religious studies, have been acknowledged at Commencement for their scholarly work and student engagement. These funds support preliminary work on promising research projects and often offer some release time from teaching.

The research being conducted here helps our students go on to Ph.D. programs at prestigious institutions, to professional schools in medicine, the health sciences and law, and helps prepare them for careers in health care, business, and education.

MA MacDowell

mmacdowe@misericordia.edu

Administration

Michael A. MacDowell, Ed.D., President
 Susan Helwig, M.S., V.P., University Advancement
 Mari King, Ed.D., V.P., Academic Affairs
 Mary Dana Hinton, Ph.D., A.V.P., Academic Affairs
 Sr. Jean Messaros, RSM, V.P., Student Affairs
 John Risboskin, C.P.A., V.P., Finance, Administration

Board of Trustees

Paul Siegel, Chair
 Andrew Cornell, Vice Chair

Michael Amory '85
 M. Therese Antone, RSM, Ed.D.
 Monsignor John J. Bendik
 Christopher L. Borton, P.E.
 Jonathan Brassington '95
 Dr. Ruth A. Connolly
 Scott Dagenais
 Dr. Mary Ann Dillon, RSM '68
 Patricia Finan-Castellano '73
 Harold E. Flack II
 Dr. Martha Hanlon, RSM '60

Roger G. Howell
 George Huntzinger
 Sandy Insalaco, Sr.
 Kristopher B. Jones, J.D.
 William H. Kent
 Scott Lynett
 Sherry A. Manetta '72
 Sr. Catherine McGroarty, RSM '74
 Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan '71
 John C. Metz
 Daniel Meuser

Dr. Deborah Smith-Mileski '75
 John D. Moran, Jr.
 John T. Queenan, M.D.
 Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM '67
 Rosemary A. Sigmond
 Robert J. Soper
 Sr. Mayon Sylvain, RSM '84
 Murray Ufberg, Esq.
 William C. Williams
 Anthony J. Grosek, Jr., Emeriti
 Harold Rosenn, Esq., Emeriti

Leading The WAY

Nursing alumna's commitment to community and health care on display in new state-of-the-art College of Health Sciences building

Mary Hudack Erwine '90 returned to school as a registered nurse, and in 1990 earned her bachelor's of science in nursing and two years later her master's. She used her Misericordia degrees to start the Kingston, Pa. based Erwine Home Health with just three employees.

Today, Erwine's business has grown to more than 90 employees serving a five county area, and she has grown into a business and community leader. In the process, Erwine has used her success to assist countless community and philanthropic organizations to help others reach their potential. Part of those efforts includes a gift for the new College of Health Sciences building on Lake Street that enabled Misericordia to reach its campaign goal for the new facility.

In leading a successful home health care company that has evolved with technology and new discovery, Erwine knows the need for the most up to date facilities and equipment.

Today, as a business leader, I am so proud of what Misericordia University has done with its nursing department and the Health Sciences Building, says Erwine. The nurses graduating from the program are ready to start their careers in nursing. Their skills are perfected after using the state of the art nursing lab. Health care facilities look to hire Misericordia University nursing students for that reason. And it is not only nursing students, but occupational, physical and speech therapists as well.

Erwine's business, volunteer and philanthropic endeavors have been significant and well recognized throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Greater Wilkes Barre Chamber of Commerce honored Erwine Home Health, which has expanded to add

hospice service and now telemedicine, as Small Business of the Year in 2006. The Chamber also has presented her the Athena Award, which recognizes someone who helps women reach their full potential.

She and her husband, Allen, have been lauded by the Greater Wilkes Barre Association of the Blind with the Blind Benefactor Award for their years of service to helping the blind. The Arthritis Foundation has honored her for her work in health promotion.

Erwine said Misericordia imbued her with the skills she needed for a highly successful career as a health care professional and business leader. I chose Misericordia because the flexible nursing program allowed me to continue a BSN and I was so glad I did because I fell in love with the faculty and the school. The faculty went above and beyond to make learning a pleasant and meaningful experience. I am grateful to Misericordia University for giving me the knowledge and self confidence to be a successful business leader, she adds.

Use your QR code enabled smartphone to take a video tour of the new College of Health Sciences building.



A legacy of giving

Former Trustee's foundation continues to support the community he cherished

During his lifetime, John A. McCole had a deep and abiding interest in giving back to his community, particularly to the private institutions of higher education in Luzerne County that have served the needs of many first generation college students.

He provided valuable leadership to then College Misericordia as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1988, and served as a trustee emeritus until his death in 1994. With the assistance of family and friends, Mr. McCole established the John A. McCole Foundation in 1987 to ensure the entities he supported and loved in life were also provided for after his passing.

Since then, the foundation has supported regional colleges, universities and preparatory schools such as Misericordia University, King's College, Wilkes University and Wyoming Seminary, the arts community and charities. The institutions that he felt were an asset to the community he loved continue to be supported by the foundation, says Attorney Allan M. Kluger, a member of the foundation board. The foundation continues to give to the charities he gave to during his lifetime.

The John A. McCole Foundation established the John A. McCole Scholarship and Elizabeth Richards Umphred Scholarship at MU. The McCole Scholarship is awarded to academically eligible and financially deserving students that major in business, preferably to students who have an interest in entrepreneurship. The Umphred Scholarship is presented to a non traditional female student in need preferably from the Back Mountain that is majoring in elementary education with a 3.0 GPA.



CAMPUS VIEWS

OT student's paper published in noted professional journal

Nicole DiGiovanni '11, a graduate OT student, had a research paper she co-authored with five Shriners Hospitals for Children colleagues published in the August edition of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

The paper, *Children's and Parents' Perspectives About Activity Performance and Participation After Spinal Cord Injury: Initial Development of a Patient-Reported Outcome Measure*, details the results of a study on life after a spinal cord injury for children and their caregivers.

President MacDowell receives Eminent Eagle Award

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America presented Michael A. MacDowell, president, with the 2010 Eminent Eagle Award at the Eminent Eagle Award Dinner on Jan. 14, 2011. President MacDowell was the third recipient of the award from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council.

Three Dog Night attracts record crowd at UTS

More than 2,000 adoring fans attended the Three Dog Night concert as part of the annual Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival at the Wachovia Amphitheater on campus.

The legendary rock music icons from the 1970s played Top 40 hits like *Joy to the World*, *Black and White* and *One*. The annual Jazz in July concert featured The Ken Peplowski Octet playing jazz standards from *The Great American Songbook*.



A record crowd enjoyed Three Dog Night.

American OT Foundation awards scholarship to Kramer

Occupational therapy major Erin Kramer '11 was awarded the 2010 Reba M. Sebelist Scholarship of the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.

The daughter of Brad and Margaret Kramer has a 3.98 grade point average and has been actively engaged in campus and community service activities.

MU Colleges Against Cancer organizes Pink Week events



Campus community forms a pink ribbon.

Colleges Against Cancer at Misericordia University organized Pink Week from Oct. 25-29 on campus to raise awareness and support for the American Cancer Society.

Members of the campus community wore pink on Pink Day and came together to form a pink human ribbon on the lawn behind McHale Hall. Pictures of the formation were sold by students for \$1 and all proceeds benefitted the American Cancer Society.

Service-learning course eases radiographic fears for children

The Department of Medical Imaging introduced a service-learning component to the course, Radiographic Procedures, to help ease young children's fear of radiographic procedures.

Twenty eight, four- and five-year-old children from Little Meadows Learning Center and Adventures in Learning day care facilities were introduced to x-rays



Medical imaging majors engage the students.

through an array of interactive lesson plans during the fall semester at MU's Bone Academy. Sophomore medical imaging majors acted as "bone coaches" for the children and facilitated various projects and introduced the pre-schoolers to science and radiography by engaging them in fun projects.

Students in Free Enterprise Chapter awarded to MU

The Department of Business has formed the Misericordia University Students in Free Enterprise Chapter (SIFE) to bring MU students together with "the top leaders of today and tomorrow to create a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business."

The MU chapter will enable students to partner with regional businesses and civic organizations to share their talent and vision for a better and more prosperous world for everyone. Overall, SIFE is active in 39 countries and features more than 1,500 college and university chapters with more than 52,000 collegians.

Teacher education earns high praise from PDE

The pre-kindergarten-to-4th grade Teacher Education Program has been recognized as a model program offering innovative practice by reviewers for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The state's Bureau of School Leadership and Quality Teaching gave the program "approval with special designation." The honor recognizes that the program excels at meeting state standards in the areas of mission statement, academic standard and assessment anchors, field experience, and student teaching.

Trustee Insalaco receives Monsignor Andrew McGowan Cornerstone Award

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and The Most Rev. James C. Timlin, Bishop Emeritus, were among the more than 250 people in attendance when the 2010 McGowan Cornerstone Awards Committee presented the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Cornerstone Award to Sandy Insalaco, Sr.

Insalaco is a member of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees and is a well known entrepreneur and philanthropist. He was recognized for his dedication to education and community service, and for upholding the ideals by which the beloved Monsignor lived. The event was hosted by Misericordia University. Judith Ellis, manager of government, corporate and foundation relations at MU, chaired the committee.

Insalaco is president and CEO of Nature's Way Water Co., Pittston, Pa., and a principal in Insalaco Development Group. He is a director and past chairman of the Board of Landmark Community Bank in Pittston. He is also the former general manager and chief financial officer of Insalaco Supermarkets and former chairman of the board of directors of Affiliated Food Distributors.

A founding member of the McGowan Cornerstone Committee, Insalaco's vast



Participating in the ceremony, from left, are Judith Ellis, The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Sandy Insalaco, Sr.; Marlene Insalaco, Michael A. MacDowell, Tina MacDowell, and The Most Rev. James C. Timlin, Bishop Emeritus.

community service includes having served as chair or co-chair for capital campaigns for the Greater Hazleton Philharmonic Society, Greater Pittston Memorial Library and St. Maria Goretti Church. He has also served as chair of the Mercy Healthcare Foundation. A member of Misericordia University's Board of Trustees since 1998, he was instrumental in establishing the Insalaco Center for Career Development on campus. He has also been recognized as a lead donor at the campus, and with his wife, Marlene, was awarded the Founder's Medal in 2006. Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall was also dedicated in their honor in 2009.

Three elected to MU Board of Trustees

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education elected M. Therese Antone, RSM; Roger G. Howell and John D. Moran, Jr. to the University's Board of Trustees. They began their three-year terms in October.

Sister Therese is the chancellor of Salve Regina University and a Religious Sister of Mercy. She was appointed chancellor in July 2009 after serving as president of Salve Regina. Her career has included teaching at all levels and serving as principal of a coeducational secondary school, and director of finance and secondary education for the Sisters of Mercy in Rhode Island and Central America. She has served as faculty member, director of development, vice president for institutional advancement, and executive vice president for corporate affairs and advancement at Salve Regina.

Mr. Howell is a 33-year veteran of the benefit and HR consulting industry, and founder, principal and chief operating officer of Howell Benefit Services, Inc., of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a leading provider of



Howell



Moran



Sr. Antone

employee benefits and administration, 401(k) plans, executive planning and HR technology with headquarters in Northeastern Pennsylvania and satellite offices in Lancaster and Allentown, Pa.

Mr. Moran is the president and CEO of Moran Industries, Inc., a premier warehousing and logistics company based in Watsonstown, Pa. In 1988, Mr. Moran joined the family business that his father, John D. "Jack" Moran, Sr. founded in 1975. Moran Industries holds more than 2 million square feet of warehousing space and is the only company in Central Pennsylvania to control eight rail heads. The company maintains strong relationships with Norfolk Southern Railway and many other Fortune 500 companies.

Aqua America CEO to speak at Commencement

Nicholas DeBenedictis, chairman, CEO and president of Aqua America, will be the guest speaker when Misericordia University hosts its 85th annual Commencement ceremony on



DeBenedictis

Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center on campus. A baccalaureate Mass will precede the ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the University chapel in Mercy Hall.

During the Commencement ceremony, Misericordia will present Mr. DeBenedictis with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree.

Prior to joining Aqua America, Mr. DeBenedictis spent three years (1989-1992) as senior VP of corporate and public affairs for PECO Energy.

From 1986 to 1989, he was president of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Mr. DeBenedictis successfully designed and implemented various economic and business development programs to service the chamber's growing membership, which dramatically increased to more than 5,500 businesses, putting it among the five largest in the nation.

Mr. DeBenedictis also held two cabinet positions for Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburg, serving as secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources from 1983-86 and director of the Office of Economic Development from 1981-83. Before joining the cabinet, he spent eight years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

He has received numerous awards for public service and civic leadership, including the 2010 Ellipse Award for Improvement of Quality of Life Through Infrastructure, the 2009 Heart of Philadelphia Award, the 2008 Man of the Year Award, the 2007 Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the 1995 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award.



George S. Huntzinger

Board of Trustees

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Born and raised in the Wyoming Valley, Board of Trustees (BOT) member George S. Huntzinger remembers his early family ties with the University. One of his aunts was a Sister of Mercy and another did work for Misericordia. He also had a cousin who attended the campus.

Those early memories give him a unique perspective on the growth and transformation of Misericordia and have fueled his willingness to take an active leadership role during a time that has seen the small Catholic college grow to a regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized University.

Huntzinger is chief executive officer and president of The Huntzinger Management Group, a management consulting firm specializing in strategy, organization, marketing, operations and information technology. His expertise encompasses development, deployment and management of software and information technology solutions in healthcare, and building and growing both management consulting companies and information technology consulting organizations.

Initially leaving home to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard, Huntzinger returned to the area and began his career at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa., where he got his first taste of information technology (IT) programming. He was instrumental in helping develop the IT functions for the start up of the Geisinger Wilkes Barre hospital campus.

He next worked for Delaware Blue Cross and Blue Shield, where he started two businesses within the organization including an HMO. Switching gears from software engineer to management, he subsequently took over the healthcare division of CSC Healthcare, one of the nation's largest providers of computer software and business process

outsourcing for healthcare organizations. As president, he grew the Michigan based company from \$10 million to more than \$400 million in revenue and 2,300 employees.

In 1999, Huntzinger secured the job as president of Superior Consultant Holdings Corp., a premier provider of management and technology consulting and IT outsourcing services for the healthcare provider sector based in Detroit, Mich. As president of Superior, he is credited with the turnaround of the public company that resulted in a 338 percent return to shareholders over a five year period.

Retiring from Superior in 2003, Huntzinger began the most recent chapter of his 35 year career with the start of his own consulting firm, The Huntzinger Management Group, in 2007. Offering a 100 percent focus on healthcare advisory and management consulting services, the Wilkes Barre based company has been growing at a rate of almost 100 percent per year. It features 32 employees and does business in 17 states.

Sharing his vast expertise as a member of the Finance and Investment committees of the BOT, Huntzinger says the University is well positioned to help meet the high demand for health care service providers. Misericordia is in the right place at the right time, he says. I admire the work done by President Mike MacDowell and his team to transform Misericordia to a leader in health care education. From a business standpoint, you always want to play to your strong suit and they have done that well.

Huntzinger holds a bachelor's degree in marketing management from the University of Delaware, an associate's degree in business finance from Susquehanna University and is certified in computer programming.

"I admire the work ...
to transform
Misericordia to a
leader in health care
education."

— George S. Huntzinger

Higher ed is 4th largest private industry in state

AICUP study shows Misericordia University has a total statewide economic impact of more than \$74 M

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The owner of J & J Deli on the Memorial Highway in Dallas knows firsthand the economic impact Misericordia University has on the Back Mountain region.

As a small business owner, John Wertman knows customer service and a quality product are as vital to his success as his business' location. Working behind the counter, he makes sure his hoagies and sandwiches are piled high with the freshest ingredients. He can also tell when the academic year is in session by the familiar faces he sees in his shop.

"Being down the street from campus for more than 25 years has been a tremendous asset for our business," he acknowledges. "We receive strong support from the local community, but thankfully we are also well known on campus."

A short distance up the highway, Steve Kepic established his first Wendy's restaurant franchise in 1996. Through the years, the establishment has formed a great relationship with the Back Mountain and campus community. For 12 years, the business has recognized the recipients of the Wendy's Athlete of the Month Awards by prominently displaying the male and female recipients' names on its sign. At the conclusion of the academic year, Mr. Kepic sponsors a Wendy's Athlete of the Month Dinner on campus.

The Back Mountain businessman takes great pride in engaging Misericordia's student body and recognizing their accomplishments. He also acknowledges that the restaurant's close proximity to the University and its more than 3,000 students and employees plays a big role in his restaurant's success.

"The Misericordia campus has been very good to our franchise in Dallas Borough, so it seemed natural for us to sponsor an award that recognizes the great accomplishments of Misericordia's student athletes," says Mr. Kepic, who owns 11 franchises in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. "Our location provides a lot of everyday traffic because of the busy highway, but we also have a stable audience because of the University and all of its activities."

Discretionary spending by MU students, estimated at more than \$3.6 million annually, is just a small part of the University's overall economic impact across the Keystone state as measured in a recent report by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). Every five years, AICUP conducts a study to gauge the community and economic impact of its member institutions.

MU has a total statewide economic impact of \$74,283,488, according to the report. "Our recent growth and expansion has added economic vitality to our Back Mountain home," says Michael A. MacDowell, president. "The salaries we pay; the students we attract; the visitors who come to campus add significantly to the regional economy."

Despite the recent recession, the state's 94 private colleges and universities have combined to add 16,338 jobs over the last decade, according to the report. In 2009, the industry employed 79,213 people — the fourth largest private industry in the state based on payroll, and contributed more than \$16.1 billion to the economy.

Misericordia is a symbol of higher ed's overall success in Pennsylvania. In recent years, MU has completed two successful capital campaigns, constructed and remodeled two academic buildings and a student residence hall, and added rigorous academic programs.

"Due to the hard work of our students, faculty and staff, a Misericordia education is regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized for being among the very best," says President MacDowell. "A lot of today's economic development leaders tout the virtue of having a college or university as an anchor for economic wellbeing. MU plays that role nicely here."

The study says Misericordia provided 519 jobs paying \$21,322,946 in wages for 2009, and spent \$29,248,869 on construction and various products and services. MU employees pay \$535,620 in state income taxes and \$414,485 in taxes to local governments. Overall, the study found that employees of the privates pay more than \$130 million yearly in state income taxes and \$100 million in taxes to local governments.



Lemmond Theater adds to the region's attractiveness by scheduling critically-acclaimed authors such as Sandra Cisneros.



In March 2008, Misericordia started construction on Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, foreground, and was completing Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Student Residence Hall.



Misericordia University students, from left, Kate Hahn of Dallas, Pa., Shana Weinstock of Dallas, Pa., and Jill Edwards of Kingston, Pa., share some time together in the Bevevino Library.



Misericordia University students, from left, Lisa Midwinter of Barkhamsted, Conn.; Kiersten Whitaker of Plainfield, N.J., and James Miller of Ashland, Pa., talk about class in one of the student lounges in Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Student Residence Hall.

Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R., director of research and development for the Assistive Technology Research Institute at Misericordia University, holds the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Assessment Toolkit or ADA CAT, which features 11 instruments to measure whether public facilities are in compliance with the federal law.



Unlocking Accessibility

The Assistive Technology Research Institute's ADA-CAT easily measures whether or not public facilities are in compliance with the federal law

.....
BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R., director of research and development for the Assistive Technology Research Institute (ATRI) at Misericordia University, has worn a lot of different hats in his professional career. Each one — from construction worker to researcher and professor to occupational therapist — has moved him one step closer to achieving an altruistic goal.

My goal is to change the world, Anson says, and make our environment accessible to everyone through objective standards that are easily determined through a series of yes no, pass fail answers that just about anyone can employ.

By utilizing the expertise he's acquired during his 30 years of practice and application of assistive technology and occupational therapy strategies, Anson has devised and brought to market the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Assessment Toolkit or ADA CAT to measure whether public facilities are in compliance with the federal law that was enacted 20 years ago.

Because the ADA guidelines and checklists are written by engineers, they are not always in language that non engineers can understand, says Anson. And, some of the concepts are difficult to explain. By utilizing the toolkit, it is easy to determine if a doorway or light switch or a handicap accessible ramp meet federal guidelines.

The ADA CAT is a screening tool that allows people without advanced technical training to assess the architectural barriers of the built environment, according to Anson. The kit is composed of two parts — the audits and measurement kit. The audits define the characteristics of an accessible and usable environment and feature a scoring system that produces a numerical score

for accessibility and usability compliance. It is available online at <http://ada.cat.misericordia.edu>. The measurement kit is a set of 11 instruments that have been developed to allow individuals to quickly determine whether or not features of the environment meet the standards of the ADA and audits, like a turning radius for a wheelchair or height requirements for outlets, grab bars and shower seats.

The ATRI designed kit costs about \$500 and has been developed and manufactured for market by the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Institute of Wooster, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pa. The cost includes one year access to the website which is maintained by ATRI, and costs \$70 annually after the introductory year.

The concept was born in a nondescript, academic setting at Misericordia. In teaching the Environmental Aspects of Disabilities course for MU's occupational therapy program, Anson noticed that some of his students did not clearly understand the complicated ADA standards for signage, slopes and other applications. Some of the standards for accessibility are hard to grasp without actual demonstration. In an effort to find a better way to enable the students, I came up with instruments to help them test the difficult features more easily, he says.

His rudimentary, hand built prototypes were developed further with the assistance of design engineers at Pride Mobility Corporation in Exeter, Pa., the world's leading designer and manufacturer of personal mobility

products. The end result is a product that offers quick answers to questions of accessibility. The multifaceted Story Stick, for example, identifies barriers to wheeled accessibility along sidewalks and hallways, while also measuring a wide range of height requirements from desktops to light switches.

Slopes are specified by the ADA in grade ratios such as 1:12 or 1:48, Anson says. People with limited math skills may find it difficult to assess slopes. The block takes the difficulty out of the process by providing a simple pass fail test.

The standards for accessible signage, likewise, are very complex. They are described in terms of ratios that are based on the height of a letter. The ratios are complex enough that many sign makers cannot reliably interpret them. The ADA CAT Font Guide helps determine whether signage meets mandated requirements. Although the allowable sizes are hard to figure without a tool, says Anson, the Font Guide allows an assessor to test whether the letter height, width, spacing and line spacing meet ADA guidelines without performing any mathematical calculations. All the calculations are done by the tool in one, simple adjustment.

The market for the kit includes occupational and physical therapists who teach others how to assess facilities. It also includes managers of public facilities ranging from schools to independent living centers to public parks and county fair grounds. Disability support groups in communities could also use it.

“My goal is to change the world and make our environment accessible to everyone ...”

— Denis Anson, M.S., O.T.R.
director of research and development for ATRI

Students seek school and medical supplies for return service trip to Haiti



MISSIONS OF MERCY

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Inspired by a service learning trip to earthquake ravaged Haiti this summer, two Misericordia University occupational therapy (OT) students have started a regional fundraising effort in order to collect medical and school supplies to take with them when they return to the island nation in May 2011.

Devin Koslap '12, of Bethlehem, Pa., and Sarah Terry '12, of Orrtanna, Pa., assisted with surgical procedures, distributed clothing to the homeless and played with orphaned children during their weeklong volunteer mission in August. The seniors will graduate from MU's five year master's degree program in OT in May 2012 and plan on dedicating their lives to helping others.

The medical service trip was sponsored by Lifechurch parish in Allentown, Pa., and it took them to Santo 19, just outside of Port au Prince. Their team included two nurses, 19 teenagers from the Allentown area, and three adult chaperones. An Allentown area doctor scheduled to make

the trip was sidelined by a family emergency, so the group teamed up with a Haitian doctor upon their arrival.

The first order of business was to set up a free medical clinic for the community in a newly constructed building and unpack the supplies the volunteers brought with them from home. The team then treated 250 people over the next two days, including performing minor surgeries with nominal anesthesia and the MU students steadying one patient during a procedure.

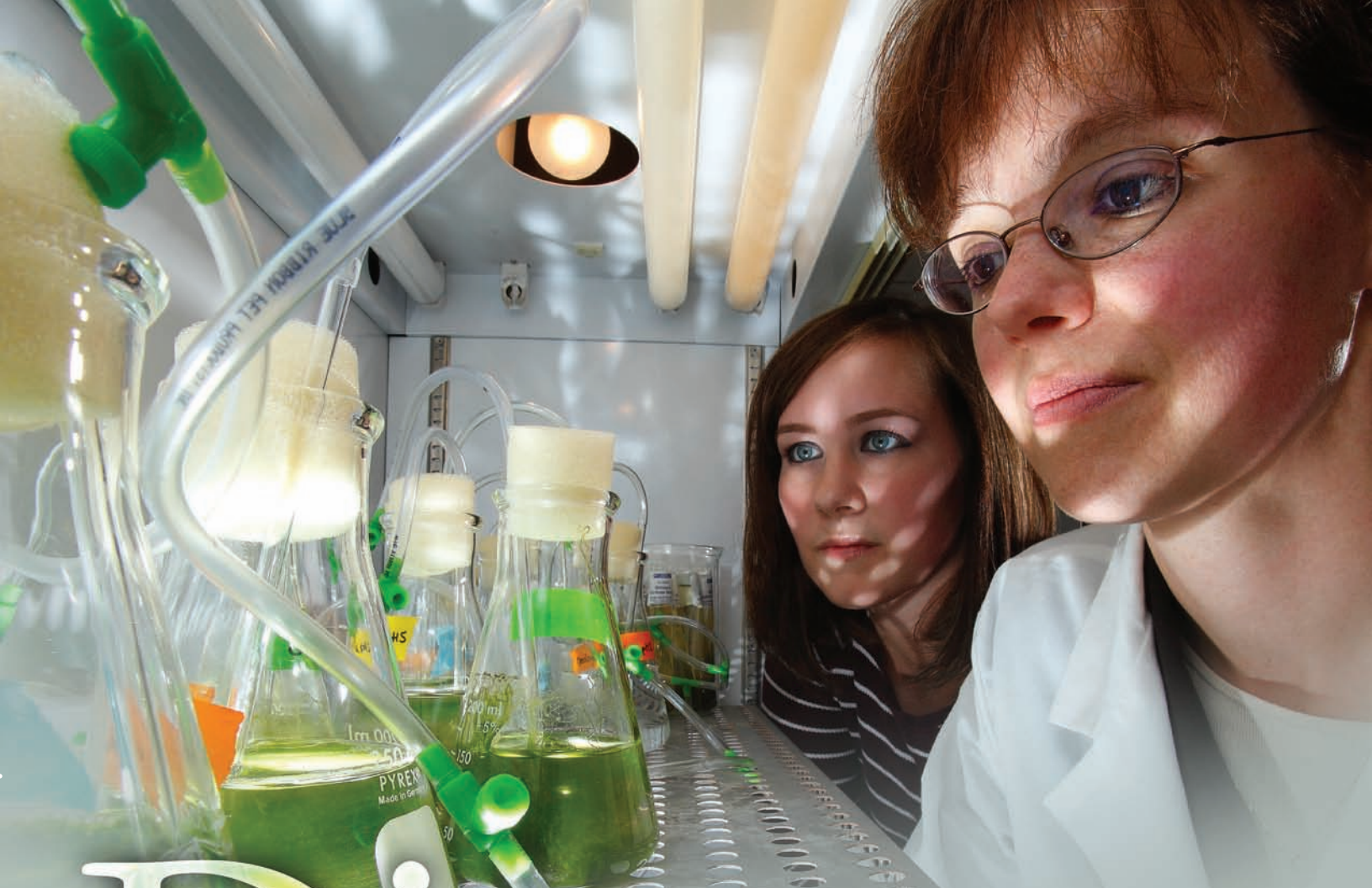
The clinic was run in conjunction with the nearby Rescue Children Orphanage, where Koslap and Terry also spent time with the children and helped distribute clothing, food, books and medical supplies. The kids from the orphanage would rush out as soon as they saw us and they wanted to hold our hands, Koslap recalls. They are just so trusting after all they went through. We spent the last day dancing and singing Michael Jackson songs. They made me promise to bring my iPod when I come back.

One of the sights that impacted me the most was taking a tour of a sugar cane refinery not far from where we stayed, adds Terry. It was like an oasis in the middle of the chaos. It was still standing and surrounded by beautiful flowers yet all around it everything was broken, destroyed.

The two women still both smile at the memory of hearing a mango fall onto the metal roof of the clinic and the children running outside to pick it up once it hit the ground.

The students plan to return to Haiti in May 2011 before they begin a semester of clinical rotations and are hoping to collect monetary donations to offset the cost of their trip, as well as medical and school supplies to take with them. Items such as triple antibiotic ointment, bandages, children's Tylenol, hand sanitizer, baby formula and diapers are on their wish list. They are also accepting notebooks, paper tablets, educational toys and puzzles, and books in French. Creole is the native language of Santo 19 residents.

Donations and supplies can be dropped off to the Misericordia Occupational Therapy Department in the College of Health Sciences building, 100 Lake St., Dallas, Pa., or mailed to Devin Koslap, 301 Lake St., Box No. 58, Dallas, PA 18612.



Discover


Be part of a team... Find a cure... Be the solution...



Use your QR code enabled smartphone to learn more about MU's rigorous academics.

Sciences offer limitless opportunities

Pages 14 21



Dr. Asirvatham and student researcher Erin Shoemaker '11 aspirate samples of Schwann cells under the tissue culture hood in order to remove used media and introduce new media to help the samples grow.

Inside Hafey-McCormick Science Hall at Misericordia University, Angela Asirvatham, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, and student researcher Erin Shoemaker '11 carefully induce Schwann cell growth in the sterile cell culture laboratory.

The delicate method involves feeding and processing the cells for certain signaling proteins in order to stimulate growth. Countless microscopic cells are needed as the MU scientists seek a better understanding of the cells themselves and their application to cure or lessen the impact of degenerative disorders like multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries.

"These cells are like children," says Dr. Asirvatham, who has been working with Schwann cells since 2004. "They need feeding and they don't go on your schedule. If they need food, they need to get it right away."

Schwann cells are known for their roles in supporting nerve regeneration, but extensive research has been unable to determine what molecular mechanisms induce Schwann cell division. The MU research project, in collaboration with Dr. David Carey of The Sigfried and Janet Weis Center for Research in Danville, Pa., is investigating the mechanisms by which Schwann cell division is regulated.

"This would have an impact on a lot of people if we could figure this out," Dr. Asirvatham acknowledges. "With science, it's not one breakthrough that makes a difference it's a lot of work from a lot of research scientists. I see myself as part of a big team and that's very inspiring."

More than 2.5 million people worldwide

are afflicted with multiple sclerosis, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and many more with related nerve injuries. With the support of Misericordia University Faculty Development and Faculty Research grants, Dr. Asirvatham discovered that the anchoring protein of the nucleus, otherwise known as AKAP95, is necessary for cell division after she knocked out the protein during her research at the Weis Center. She also found that AKAP95 and cell cycle proteins, such as cyclin D3, must work together for Schwann cells to divide.

"Breakthroughs like that are very exciting," Dr. Asirvatham says. "Things like this don't happen overnight. This was a big breakthrough for me because these things take a lot of time."

Thanks to her discovery, research scientists know that the presence of both AKAP95 and cyclins are crucial for cell division. Since Schwann cells secrete myelin, which nourishes, insulates, protects and regenerates neurons, they are vital to the rapid conduction of nerve impulses that flow from healthy neuron to healthy neuron inside the human body that in turn creates sensation.

Damaged neurons mean slower reaction times, blurred vision, poor coordination, slurred speech and other side effects. By unlocking the mysteries of Schwann cells, scientists like Dr. Asirvatham hope to one day reverse the effects of disease or injury to the peripheral nervous system by introducing myelinating cells that will heal or regenerate neurons so the paralyzed can walk or the blind can see.

Misericordia University biology professor, student researcher seek treatment for injuries, diseases that attack the nervous system

Unlocking the Keys

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

"The work research scientists are performing across the globe is so exciting," says Shoemaker. "I am extremely confident that most of the disorders and diseases that are currently considered untreatable will be remedied or cured within my lifetime. To know that I can be a part of that process is very exciting."

"There is so much good left to do in the world," she adds, "including curing diseases like multiple sclerosis and improving plant growing conditions to alleviate hunger. These are the causes I am firmly devoted to. I want my work to improve life for people across the world."

MU research laboratories also serve as a training ground for future scientists. Undergraduate students get to apply their classroom lessons in a real-world setting that may also one day yield life-altering results for countless people.

"It was extremely important that I get hands-on research experience so I could relate to the scientific process, instead of just memorizing the method," says Shoemaker, who wants to focus on signal transduction in graduate school.

"Hands-on research at the undergrad level gives us the chance to identify problems, isolate possible causes or solutions, test remedies and analyze results over and over again until we become comfortable with them. I could not have attended a school that didn't have a strong emphasis on hands-on research because I feel like an important step in learning biology, and learning in general, would have been missed," Shoemaker adds.

Dr. Wiese and student researcher Courtney Ruegner, at left, work with fresh water algae samples as part of their ongoing research.

Understanding a healthy, diverse ecosystem

Misericordia researchers examine effects of acidic precipitation on fresh water algae

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Throughout its rugged terrain, Ricketts Glen State Park in Luzerne, Sullivan and Columbia counties offers visitors a snapshot of what to expect in Northeastern Pennsylvania's great outdoors. Panoramic views, fresh water lakes and diverse wildlife abound in the 13,050-acre park.

It is also a microcosm of our national ecosystem, sharing the same beauty and hidden secrets that go along with a growing stressed and polluted environment. Like other state and federal parks, each season Lake Jean hosts countless swimmers, campers and fishermen. They enjoy the 245-acre lake's warm-water game fish and refreshing water. Unbeknownst to many visitors, though, Lake Jean and its tributaries are being stressed by acidic precipitation and natural conditions, according to Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., associate professor of biology. It is the byproduct of a society that is dependent upon fossil fuels to power automobiles and electrical plants.

That's why Misericordia faculty and student researchers have undertaken the study, *Effects of Acidic Precipitation on Fresh Water Algae*, to better understand the various organisms. "It's the importance of algae in their own right," says Dr. Wiese. "In addition, they are the first level of the food chain so all other life

in a lake or a pond depend on those algae. It would stand to reason without a food source the remaining organisms in the fresh water ecosystem would die off."

At MU, faculty members routinely work with students to conduct research, in order to give them the opportunities they need to succeed in graduate school, their chosen profession and in life. Dr. Wiese and her student researchers, Jennifer Foti '11, Jennifer Laskowski '11, Courtney Ruegner '11 and Leanne Kauffman '11, are trying to gain a broader understanding of the impact of acidic pH on freshwater algae, while also determining why some species of algae are more tolerant than others.

"The hands-on research will definitely help me in the future in regard to methods and getting into the routine of doing research," says Kauffman. "It gives you more responsibility and it gives you something to continuously work on."

Five algae species — *Oedogonium*, *Spirogyra*, *Mougeotia*, *Zygnema* and *Ulothrix* — are being grown in a controlled environment in a Misericordia lab. They were selected because of their differences and commonalities. *Spirogyra* is known to be more tolerant of higher pH levels, while *Zygnema* is very sensitive and the remaining species have varied levels of tolerance. The question confronting MU researchers is why?

Federal research


Cosima Wiese, Ph.D., is also conducting research with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Wiese and her colleagues are investigating the effects of air pollutants on the physiology and biochemistry of plants that are important in agriculture and also are explaining how these plants defend themselves against air pollutants.

She is also contributing to the writing of the Integrated Science Assessment document for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that examines atmospheric ozone and its impact on humans, plants and natural ecosystems.

The EPA approached Dr. Wiese to contribute to the document, which evaluates the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for pollutants in the atmosphere every five years. In the process, the investigation required her to review the scientific literature in this area for the past five years and summarize her new findings in a report that offers recommendations to the EPA to either maintain standards or make appropriate adjustments.

The document is in the peer review process and the final version is expected to be submitted to the EPA by the end of 2011.

See **ALGAE**, page 42



Dr. Frank DiPino, front center, works with student researchers, from left, Kassie Lutchko 11, Katie Kilmer 13, Samantha Dunleavy 13 and Neil Dorman 13.

‘Bioprospecting’

Misericordia faculty, student researchers developing high throughput assay to test large numbers of samples

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

NO one knows where the next miracle drug will be found. It may be discovered in the tissues of plants and animals living in the murky swamps of Florida, the dense tropical rainforests of Brazil or the muddy ponds of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Due to the rise of drug resistant microbes and new and emerging infectious diseases, the search is on to find a new generation of drugs that will combat infection and treat patients with infectious diseases. Antimicrobial agents including antibiotics have been used for decades to cure and treat everything from strep throat to post operative infections. However, their overuse has allowed rare, drug resistant bacteria to proliferate.

These new strains of bacteria often result in infections that cannot be controlled by common antibiotics. In some cases, resistant forms of bacteria evolve and spread rapidly through the body and cause life threatening complications or even death. We are facing new challenges from new strains of common bacteria that are resistant to standard control measures, explains Frank DiPino, Ph.D., professor of biology. They are creating new challenges because they are not responding to our current battery of antibiotics.

The process is analogous to an arms race in that microbes become virulent by evolving new ways to invade the normally sterile tissues of the human body and to evade human immune and drug defenses. Through evolution, these microbes are designed and fine tuned to be more successful at reproducing oftentimes in a human host.

So around the globe, research scientists are working on ways to catch up to these microbes. In a Misericordia University laboratory, Dr.

DiPino and his student researchers are developing and testing a high throughput process that enables them to test up to 96 samples within minutes for the presence of antimicrobial agents.

If we are having a hard time finding antimicrobials, maybe it's because we are looking in the wrong places, Dr. DiPino says. Antimicrobials can be produced by almost any organism and it is difficult to predict where the next powerful antimicrobial will be found. That's where I think the high throughput assay comes in because we might find them in places that we did not expect. The technique is similar to panning for gold or bioprospecting since we are looking for a relatively rare and desired substance in a vast amount of common, useless material.

The search for a new generation of antimicrobials began shortly after research scientists discovered them in alligator blood a few years ago. Despite their aggressive nature, the reptiles rarely develop serious infections from their wounds and now researchers know why. Alligators appear to have serum that contains potent antibacterial proteins. The discovery has teams of investigators looking for other sources in amphibians, aquatic vertebrates and plants so they can discover new antibacterial agents that can be used to combat new strains of human pathogens.

It's really important as an undergraduate to gain this type of experience. I visited a lot of (graduate) schools this summer and I met with different professors who asked me if I am working on any research, says Kassie Lutchko 11, a biology major who wants to attend graduate school for microbiology and immunology. We apply a lot of techniques we learn in class, but I feel it is more important to

See **BIOPROSPECTING**, page 42

Histology studies in MU cadaver lab provide pathology insights

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Being able to see the physiological correlation between the amount of fat on a body and the build-up of plaque in a heart is just one of the histological studies being undertaken in the cadaver lab at MU.

Under the direction of Anthony Serino, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and chair of the Biology Department, students get a firsthand look at anatomy and physiology in the classes that are studying the lab's eight cadavers. They are also garnering histology training, mounting organs on slides and conducting microscopic studies on a number of pathologies, including the correlation between a body's fat pack and polyps in the colon, and the pollution and carbon deposits in the lungs.

"Our students recently discovered

asbestos fibers in a lung, which show up as glass spikes surrounded by tissue packs, proving how the body tries to wall them off once they get inside," he says. "With a filter on the microscope, the fibers appear with an iridescent glow that makes them easy to identify."

Histology and pathology have been the focus of Dr. Serino's research throughout his education. He holds both a bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in biochemistry, both from the University of Scranton, and earned his doctorate in physiology from Penn State University.

The students are also using their histology training to study the physiology that causes the hatching muscle of a chicken to swell to 20-times its size while helping the egg tooth break through the

shell. "We know that there are chemical changes in the muscle, but the cause has never been studied," Dr. Serino reports. "It looks as if there is a protein change that is causing the physiological event."

In addition to being the director of the Pre-Professional and Clinical Laboratory Science Programs, Dr. Serino is program director for the Biology Department's Science Education Enhancement Program (SEEP), a free community outreach program designed to increase Luzerne County's access to advanced education, technology and methodologies. The program, made possible by a Misericordia Strategic Initiative Grant, encourages an interest in the sciences by providing hands-on demonstrations and unique experimental experiences for regional elementary and secondary students. The programs are held on and off campus, and also expose in-service teachers to methods of capturing and cultivating scientific curiosity in their students.

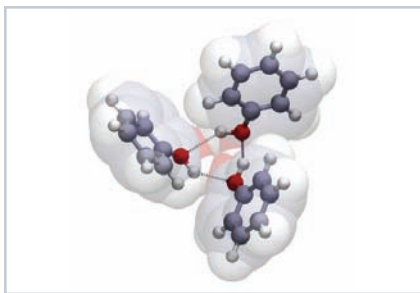
Elementary school students reach for the stars at Misericordia

Students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes of the Wyoming Valley Montessori School, and their families, took part in an astronomy observation hosted recently by the Misericordia University Physics Department.

Michael P. Orleski, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, coordinated the program with the help of eight Misericordia students in Introduction to Astronomy, a service learning class at the campus. The service component of the class requires each student to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service during the semester. The Misericordia students provided views of the moon and Jupiter through telescopes owned by the Physics Department and pointed out constellations. They also explained the workings of the telescopes to the younger students. The date of the event was chosen to coincide with the first quarter phase of the moon.

Dr. Michael Orleski, assisted by MU student Jacob Garner, at right, points out features of Jupiter to Hallela Hinton Williams, who is looking through the telescope, and Alyssa Kristeller and Sereina Brenhofer, students from the Wyoming Valley Montessori School.





The predicted structure, at left, of the phenol trimer using the Gaussian '03 computational chemistry package.

Computational chemistry research explores role of hydrogen bonding

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

To the uninformed, the colored dots and connecting lines on the computer screen may resemble pop art, but to Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, being able to digitally mimic the behavior of a simple hydrogen molecule may someday lead to a better understanding of biological processes.

"We are able to use computational chemistry to look at biological models and study how they hydrogen bond and form higher order clusters," Dr. Fedor says.

Using a Gaussian '03 computational chemistry package, Dr. Fedor has introduced her students to theoretical chemistry, giving them the opportunity to learn about hydrogen bonds in amino acid models. Students can construct molecular structures using the program and calculate key molecular properties.

"The scientific community is currently redefining what a hydrogen bond is," adds Dr. Fedor, who joined the MU faculty in 2008. "I believe our students need to understand the small stuff and better understand how hydrogen bonds are the glue that keeps these molecules together."

A Wilkes-Barre area native, Dr. Fedor says she has always been good at math and credits strong female influences in grade school math and science for pushing her toward a career in the sciences. She earned her bachelor's degree at Penn State University and her Ph.D. at Syracuse University — both in chemistry. At Misericordia, she teaches chemical principles and physical chemistry.

Researcher seeks greater understanding of North American river otters

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

As an animal scientist, Evelyn Neunteufel, Ph.D., had spent years studying the nutrition of sheep and the behavior of animals, including dolphins and beluga whales. Yet all it took was one astute observation of an otter feeding in a zoo to change the direction of her research focus and ultimately bring a greater understanding of the intellect of one of nature's most intelligent animals.

MU's assistant professor of biology may have been among the first to record an otter selectively washing dirt off its food, the only carnivore known to carry on that particular behavior. She is hoping to publish research on her findings within the year. "Oftentimes, scientific discoveries are a matter of seeing something in a new light, and I just happened to realize that what he was doing was something I had never seen another animal do before," she says.

Exploring the possibilities in science

STORY BY ROBYN VALENTINE '11

With a shovel in hand, biology major Andrew Roccograndi '11 trudges along a dusty, dirt trail on the campus of Misericordia. Several other students lug large white buckets filled to the brim with odd gadgets of all shapes and sizes, including wooden stakes with pink fluorescent flags, measuring tapes, Ziploc bags and large metal pruners.

The students walk with their equipment to the vast woods behind Mangelsdorf Field to participate in the new course, *Evolution, Genetics and Ecology*, under the direction of Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at MU.

The course focuses on the basic principles that describe how and why living things change over time and how they adapt to their environment. Using the concept of evolution as the central theme, the course ties

several biological disciplines together into one semester, according to Dr. McCraith. "Our hope is to help give direction for students in choosing their professional field or graduate school."

Students explore the woods in order to examine local varieties of shrubs, mosses and ferns. They pound stakes into the earth and a 100-meter area is marked off with rope. "It's a very interesting class because it covers a diverse group of studies," offers biology major Sandra Bukeavich '13. "This is the first time I have gone outside for a science class."

The Biology Department recently replaced the one-semester introductory biology course with three new courses that examine biological interactions in more depth. The courses are: *Evolution, Genetics and Ecology*, *Cell and Molecular Biology*, and *Organismal Structure and Function*.



Dr. McCraith, center, works with freshman students, from left, Emily Hullings, Sara Sabatino, and Jessica Webber to identify plants and animals in the underbrush of a wooded area on campus.

One Step Closer

Internship at Merck & Co. allows student to experience pharmaceutical research

trivial matters such as how to make a solution or how to properly pipet, I was able to jump right in and learn the methods at hand in order to advance my learning."

Each day, Townsend carefully developed and refined new assays in the Bioprocess Analytical and Formulation Sciences group at Merck. The new assays are used to check the concentration of active product in vaccines and it is also required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and European Union prior to the new drug being released to consumers.

"My internship has lived up to my expectations as the research I am doing could potentially help many people someday," she says. "Furthermore, while I was at Merck, I have enjoyed meeting people from a wide variety of backgrounds as the company truly has a global presence. Merck's internal diversity is truly important because it reflects the diverse patients that we serve around the globe."

Data she gathered daily from running the Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay was presented to pharmaceutical research scientists through electronic files. Townsend graphed the results of her tests and submitted them to her supervisor for feedback. She then prepared reagents so she could run additional analysis the next day.

"I learned how to use advanced scientific equipment along with the benefits and drawbacks of automation (in the laboratory)," says Townsend. "In addition, I learned a great deal about immunology and the immense specificity that goes into antibody: antigen binding. Furthermore, I also learned how to develop assays."

Today, Townsend works for GlaxoSmithKline in King of Prussia, Pa., after completing her degree in December and dreams of working in its research and development department.

"My internship at Merck was a dream come true and another step in helping me find a cure to the disease that has affected my father," Townsend adds.

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Misericordia University biochemistry major Tracy Townsend '11 knows firsthand how a single moment in time can change the course of one's life forever — even for a first grade student.

Fifteen years ago, the Bridle Path Elementary School student received the stunning news that her father had been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Days later at a school assembly, she was introduced to the role of a pharmaceutical research scientist, a noble profession, but one that could also hold the key to finding a cure for the debilitating disease that has afflicted her father.

"A scientist from Merck came to speak about her work and the kind of research that is conducted at a pharmaceutical company," the biochemistry major recalls. "We were shown slides of cells and scientists in labs — and it fascinated me. The woman spoke about how scientists at

Merck are dedicated to conducting research to create medicines that could potentially save lives. From that point on, I realized I could be the one to save my father's life. It has now become my goal to cure diabetes or discover a new medication to help treat it."

That impressionable first grader has come a long way since that startling revelation and her introduction to scientific research. The North Penn High School graduate enrolled at MU and has learned proper lab techniques for meaningful research under the guidance of Drs. Charles Saladino, Frank DiPino, Jr., Xuegang Jia, Anna Fedor and Larry Pedersen. In the summer, she completed a prestigious internship in West Point, Pa., for Merck & Co., which offers one of the top 17 internship programs in the country, according to BusinessWeek magazine.

"My education at Misericordia prepared me for this internship as I knew all the lab techniques needed for my position before I arrived," she says. "Since I did not need to worry about

Biochem major completes another leg in her journey to become a research scientist with internship at Albert Einstein Medical College

Searching for Answers

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Many of the finer details of her younger sister's rare genetic disorder have faded gradually over time from Meagan Donaldson's memory. The biochemistry major at Misericordia University, though, has been inspired by those early feelings of doubt and uncertainty in her family's life to become a pharmaceutical research scientist.

Today, Shannon Donaldson is leading a normal life. She is a college freshman majoring in fine arts with a concentration in photography. Eleven daily milligrams of biotin are the last remaining remnants of her early childhood struggles with the biotinidase disorder that is a co-factor for metabolic processes in the human body.

I was so young and I didn't necessarily understand what was going on yet, but I knew that something was wrong inside my sister and a doctor and a research scientist were able to fix it, Meagan says, remembering the genetic testing her family members underwent some 18 years ago. I didn't know I wanted to be a research scientist that young, but my pathway stemmed from there.

She recently completed another chapter in her drive to become involved in pharmaceutical drug design and research with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration when she completed a prestigious internship at Albert Einstein

Medical College in Bronx, N.Y. Meagan was one of 57 undergraduate students accepted into the summer program out of 400 applicants. The application process for the internship was extremely grueling, she says. I knew how competitive it was to get into. I was absolutely thrilled when I was accepted into Einstein, a grad school where I wanted to get my foot in the door.

From June through August, the Misericordia undergrad worked on the research project, Solution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Study of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Adenosine Triphosphate Synthase Subunit C, in an effort to develop new drugs in the ongoing battle against tuberculosis.

If we knew exactly the mechanism by which the C subunit rotates, she explains, it'll provide a whole new route to design newer, more effective drugs against TB.

Tuberculosis is a contagious disease, like the common cold, and is spread through the air. Every second, someone in the world is infected with the disease. An estimated 1.3 million people died from TB

in 2008, according to a World Health Organization report from March 2010.

So each day, the daughter of Pam and Tony Donaldson drew on her early childhood experiences and grew familiar with procedures and high tech equipment that are used to develop the next great miracle drug. She grew bacteria, isolated necessary proteins and operated the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectra at Einstein for the ongoing research. She also worked in the molecular pharmacology lab and observed heart and brain surgery on mice, and learned how to genotype them.

The entire experience reinforced her career path and her decision to attend Misericordia University. From talking to science majors from different schools, they didn't have to take the amount of upper level math that we do, says Meagan, recounting how well MU's academics prepared her for the internship.

A lot of the upper level chemistry classes were extremely rigorous and I feel the upper level biology courses that I took really played a part in preparing me as well.

"I feel the upper level biology courses that I took really played a big part in preparing me."

— Meagan Donaldson '11

Misericordia University biochemistry major

Senior conducts molecular plant research at Brown University

Student targets global food supply

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Erin Shoemaker '11, a biology major at Misericordia University, knows her way around a research lab thanks to the hours she spends working side by side with fellow students and MU faculty conducting research and various experiments in Hafey-McCormick Science Hall.

Yet, she couldn't help but feel nervous upon learning she had secured a prestigious paid internship with the Brown University Leadership Alliance program in the summer. After all, Shoemaker would be conducting molecular cell biology research alongside students from much larger institutions of higher education, such as Northwestern University, the University of Miami, and the University of California at San Diego.

Those early reservations proved to be unfounded. The results of her research are expected to be published in a professional journal this year and the experience helped her solidify plans to pursue her Ph.D. in the field of plant molecular biology with a concentration on signal transduction once she graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree from MU in May.

By landing the highly competitive internship, Shoemaker had the opportunity to work with Alison DeLong, Ph.D., associate professor of molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry at Brown. She studied how the salt stress response in plants was carried out with the hope of creating plants that are more tolerant in salty soil.

"It is estimated that approximately 20 percent of the world's irrigated and cultivatable land is currently undergoing salt stress," says Shoemaker, who also worked with Brown post-doctorate candidate Joshua Blakeslee, Ph.D., who now teaches at The Ohio State University and is in the process of publishing the research they worked on together. "If we can make plants more tolerant of salt, we can increase the food production yield and directly impact global food supplies."

"I was one of a few students from a smaller school, but felt as prepared as I could have been because of the opportunities I have had at Misericordia to work one-on-one with Ph.D.s in class and in the lab," adds the daughter of Barbara Jo and Dean Shoemaker of Hughesville, Pa. "I was able to jump right into the research working with Brown professors."

Shoemaker admits her education plans, including



Misericordia biology major Erin Shoemaker of Hughesville, Pa. pours liquid nitrogen into a cooler as she prepares to conduct a leaf boil procedure in the DeLong Laboratory at Brown University in Providence, R.I. The process will allow her to extract DNA from plant tissue in her research to create plants that are more tolerant in salty soil.

spending the summer in Providence, R.I., took a surprisingly circuitous route. As a graduate of Hughesville High School, she enrolled at Misericordia in 2007 planning to earn a doctorate in physical therapy. But a second-year genetics class with biology professor Frank DiPino, Ph.D., opened her eyes to molecular cell biology research.

"I knew it was one of the best schools in the area for the health sciences and that is what brought me to Misericordia," she acknowledges. "When I heard him talk about the research he did in grad school and his experiences, I thought that molecular biology research might be a better fit for me."

She soon switched her major to biology with a chemistry minor and began work to try and determine which area of the field she wanted to pursue. She worked with mice versus cell culture versus plants — all of which are very different. "Soon as I had some

experience in the Brown plant lab, I knew that was for me," she says.

The prestigious Leadership Alliance is a consortium of 33 leading research and teaching institutions, including Columbia, Cornell, Johns Hopkins and New York universities. The 10-week summer research program offers the opportunity for undergrads to collaborate with veteran researchers in the sciences, social sciences and humanities to encourage them to pursue research careers in the academic, public or private sectors.

"Once I get my Ph.D., I hope to stay immersed in the field of research for a time. I'm not sure if life will keep me in academia or if I will venture out into industry, but I am sure that there are an infinite amount of things left to be discovered in this world and I intend to help do that," she adds. "At some later point in my career, I would like to be a professor so that I can give back and encourage the growth of the scientific community."

Ross chosen to mold new football program

After announcing in October that it would add varsity football, Misericordia University immediately embarked on an extensive national search for a head coach.

Three months later, the committee named Mark Ross of Athens, Pa., as the first head football coach at MU. It is my pleasure to welcome Mark Ross to the Misericordia University community, said David Martin, director of athletics. We're excited to have Mark on board to develop and lead our football program.

A native of Athens, Ross has spent the last 10 seasons as an assistant coach at Ithaca College and also has coached at East Stroudsburg University. I'm excited about the opportunity to be a head coach and build a program at Misericordia, said Ross. I'm looking forward to implementing my own coaching philosophy and organizational ideas.

Ross, who has served as the defensive coordinator/linebackers coach for the Bombers since 2007 and previously coached linebackers, defensive line and place kickers, is looking forward to being part of MU. In addition to recruiting, one of the first orders of business will be to get out and meet people on campus. I plan to build a program that will be an integral part of the campus.

A graduate of Penn State with a degree in secondary education, Ross also spent four seasons as an assistant coach at East Stroudsburg where he earned a master's degree in sport management.

The 14th sport added since MU joined the NCAA Division III in 1992, football brings MU's total number of varsity intercollegiate offerings to 23. MU joins Albright as the only MAC institutions to offer each of the conference sponsored varsity sports.

The decision also comes in conjunction with the ongoing improvements to facilities. A larger fitness center has been relocated to the upper level of the Anderson Center and Mangelsdorf Field will undergo a facelift. In addition to the turf being replaced, the complex will see increased seating capacity and a field house/press box. Anderson Field will be converted to artificial grass and the baseball field will also be upgraded.



MU named Mark Ross head football coach in January. Participating in the news, from left, are Dave Martin, director of athletics; Ross, Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of student affairs, and President MacDowell.

Gridiron action coming to M

Board of Trustees approves addition of football program for intercollegiate athletics

Misericordia University will put its 88-year football unbeaten streak on the line as the Board of Trustees has approved the addition of football as a varsity sport.

The move to add football supports Misericordia's recently approved strategic plan that calls for thoughtful growth and an increase in the University's regional acclamation.

This is an exciting time for the Misericordia University community, in particular the intercollegiate athletics program, said David Martin, director of athletics. This is one of the most impactful changes in the history of our institution.

The 14th sport added since Misericordia University joined the NCAA Division III in 1992, football brings MU's total number of intercollegiate offerings to 23.

In an ongoing effort to meet the demands of our student athletes, our athletics program has grown in proportion to the University over the last two decades, said Martin. The addition of football will have a significant impact on our entire operation.

Shortly after the Board of Trustees approved the addition of football, the Athletics Department launched a national search to find a head football coach as the Cougars prepare for their inaugural season in 2012. Martin, Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of student affairs, and President Michael A. MacDowell announced Mark Ross' appointment as football coach.



at a formal press conference in the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

While the addition of football has been rumored for at least 20 years, the possibility became more realistic with MU's transition to the MAC and Freedom Conference in 2008—the Cougars will become the 10th MAC school to offer football. Being in a conference that sponsors football certainly added fuel to the football fire on campus, said Martin. The change in conference affiliation was one of many factors in our decision.

The decision also comes in conjunction with the on going improvements to Misericordia's athletics facilities. Our goal has always been to provide our student athletes with a first rate experience which includes quality facilities. Our fitness center has been relocated to the upper level of the Anderson Center and has been more than doubled in size. The previous fitness center is being converted into office space.

Mangelsdorf Field, the current home for MU's soccer, field hockey and lacrosse teams, will also undergo a facelift. In

addition to the 10 year old turf being replaced, the complex will see increased seating capacity and a field house/press box. These are major upgrades which will have a positive impact on a large percentage of our student athletes as well as visiting teams.

Anderson Field, the previous varsity soccer field, will be converted to artificial grass and the baseball field will also be upgraded.

“This is an exciting time for the Misericordia University community, in particular the intercollegiate athletics programs.”

David Martin

Director of Athletics

M inducst five into Athletics Hall of Fame

The Misericordia University Athletics Department welcomed its 2010 Hall of Fame class as part of Homecoming Weekend.

The honorees included Staci Hughes '98, Bob Johnson '95, Susanne Masterson McDonnell '59, Michelle Myers '99 and Jeanette Manorek Niebauer '00.

Hughes was the women's basketball team MVP and a first team All Conference selection as a senior. She holds school single game records for rebounds (24) and blocked shots (7) and owns single season marks for field goals (179), rebounds (297) and rebounds per game (11.0). She is the school's all time leader in rebounds per game (9.9) and ranks eighth in career rebounds (534).

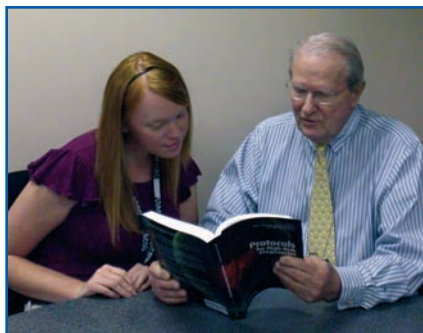
Johnson, who was inducted posthumously, was a three time team MVP in men's soccer and ranks fourth in career goalkeeping wins (33). He is third in career shutouts (22). A three time All Conference honoree, he helped MU to its first ECAC title.

McDonnell, a standout women's basketball player, joins her sister Kathleen Masterson as the only siblings to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. She was a four year letter winner and her playmaking abilities set the stage for MU's frontcourt that helped the team to three consecutive one loss seasons in the late 1950s. She was named Miss Recordia as a senior.

Myers was a three time MVP for the volleyball team after earning the Coach's Award as a freshman. A four time All Conference player, she led NCAA Division III in blocks per game as a junior and finished fifth as a senior. She ranks among MU's top 10 in career kills (3rd), hitting percentage (1st) and blocks (1st) as well as single season hitting percentage (2nd) and blocks (1st).

Niebauer was the women's soccer team MVP as a senior and is third in career goals (41) and points (98) and seventh in assists (16). She was a three time All Conference selection and was named the Wendy's Misericordia Female Athlete of the Year as a senior. A two sport athlete, she earned honorable mention All Conference in basketball as well.

scripsell@misericordia.edu



Sara Coleman '11 reviews her work with Dr. John T. Queenan during her internship.

Internship reinforces student's lifelong dream to be a doctor

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Having completed a prestigious internship at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., Sara A. Coleman '11 is a Misericordia biology major who is more convinced than ever that she is on the right career path. The fact is, she has wanted to be a doctor since she was a little girl.

Coleman was selected to participate in the Misericordia University Health Care Science Summer Internship Program under the direction of John T. Queenan, M.D., professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown and a member of the MU Board of Trustees. She interned in various OB/GYN departments, including the Prenatal Diagnostic Ultrasound Center, where she observed ultrasounds on obstetrics cases and was then able to follow some of the mothers through to labor and delivery. "For me, a defining moment was getting to see the birth of a baby who wasn't breathing and needed to be rushed to the NICU. When we saw him on rounds the next day, he was doing just fine. It was then that I knew for sure that I wanted to go into pediatrics," Coleman says.

She also completed rounds with a lactation consultant in both the labor and delivery area and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). As part of an initiative to make Georgetown a baby-friendly hospital, she helped design a breastfeeding module for obstetricians and gynecologists to help mothers initiate breastfeeding.

Dr. Queenan, also the editor of *The Green Journal* — the official journal of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists — shared with her the entire medical journal publication process and the rigors doctors must go through to get their work published.

Coleman was attracted to Misericordia's Honors Program where there are as few as 10 students in classes. She admits to loving the human cadaver anatomy class of Frank Serino, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, who she not only considers a special teacher but a mentor. "I have had Dr. Serino for all of my physiology and anatomy classes and his influence has been instrumental. Everything I learned about physiology, I learned from him," Coleman says.

With medical school in her future, this Carbondale, Pa., native is in the midst of her senior research project, working with Dr. Serino to explore the cause of death of the cadavers in the lab and studying any medical conditions which may have contributed to the death.



Erin Kramer '11 poses for a picture during her internship at Duke University Medical Center.

OT student gains trauma case experience at Duke University

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Misericordia senior Erin Kramer '11 hoped her summer occupational therapy (OT) fieldwork would help her gain real-life experience and prove what she could do in the world as a "real OT." The result was all that and more.

Placed on the neurology and neurosurgery floors of the prestigious Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., a 788-bed facility, Kramer worked with patients with varying diagnoses that included traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, brain tumors, multiple sclerosis, strokes, Alzheimer's and spinal column surgeries.

"As part of the Duke experience, I also toured the medical center and learned more about the use of the hyperbaric chambers," she says. "I even spent a day with the pediatric OTs in the hospital and visited their outpatient site at Lenox Baker."

Kramer, an OT major with a minor in psychology and pediatric specialization, began her day at Duke reading the evaluations on new patients to help determine which ones would be seen that day, and then she would assist with those treatments. Her responsibilities included doing computerized evaluation reports and treatment notes on every patient she saw.

"I would work on activities of daily living, such as brushing teeth, shaving and making the transition from bed to chair," says Kramer, who will graduate in May from MU's five-year master's degree program. "Everything that I did was somehow connected to making them as functional as possible to either return home or to go to another facility for further rehabilitation."

Kramer has since completed her second fieldwork at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in the Harrisburg, Pa., area, where she worked mostly with preschool-aged children with varying diagnoses such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. Kramer says she liked both the think-on-your-feet nature of the hospital setting as well as the opportunity to be part of a long-term care process with school students. "In the future, I know that wherever I settle as an OT, I would love to be a supervisor and provide fieldwork experience for others."

Duke University Medical Center has been named to the Best Hospitals Honor Roll by U.S. News & World Report and is frequently recognized as one of the world's top health care providers by publications, such as *Time Magazine*.



Mario's Field Of Dreams

Sport Management graduate parlay's internship into dream job with NY Yankees

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Mario J. Oliveri, 10, still has trouble believing that he works for the New York Yankees and gets to watch batting practice while having lunch. The 2010 sport management graduate parlayed an internship with the storied franchise into a permanent appointment in October, joining fellow MU alumnus Alfred Santasiere III, class of 2001, director of publications, in the corporate offices in Yankee Stadium.

Oliveri was slated to start his internship in July when a mid season position opened in the Season Tickets Department, so he was able to make his mark as an account executive intern placing telephone sales calls and helping provide customer service to 3,000 season ticket holders.

Making easy work of the intense learning curve, he was soon recognized by his supervisors for his enthusiasm and energy, which translated into a high volume of successful sales calls. I have three brothers and a sister, and we have always been huge Yankees fans. I have been going to games since I was little,

says Oliveri, who was selected from among 1,000 applicants for the permanent position as a Sales Representative. Al was a huge help throughout the internship process, giving me a strong recommendation prior to my interviews. It has been great having a Misericordia alumni connection.

While he was a student at Misericordia University, Oliveri volunteered with the Penguins for four years, doing anything he could to get experience in team management. I did a little bit of everything, interning and shadowing and working with the Pens at the ice rink where they practiced. It was then that I developed this great mentor relationship with Greg Petorak and he was the one who reached out to Al Santasiere and helped me make the most of the Misericordia Yankee connection.

Mario came to me three years ago and asked if I would be his mentor, explains Petorak, executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins AHL ice hockey team. Since then, we have met as frequently as once a month and it didn't take long to figure out that Mario was one of those students who asked the right

questions. He has an incredible amount of energy and I have no doubt he will do well in the sports management industry.

Oliveri earned an associates degree in business administration at Penn State Wilkes Barre before transferring into the bachelor's degree program in sport management at MU in 2008. He completed his coursework and walked with the 2010 graduates in May, still needing to complete an internship to earn his degree.

Greg helped me prepare and send out my internship resume to a number of organizations, including the Philadelphia 76ers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Madison Square Garden. It is thanks to his and Al's help that I was able to get an interview with the Yankees human resources office, Oliveri adds.

It is not often that I will recommend people to a professional organization, but I just knew Mario would do us proud, adds Petorak. Al also got his start as an intern with the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins, and it is impressive that Misericordia has two graduates now working for the Yankees. That is quite a feather in the university's cap.

Passion to Communicate

Speech-Language Pathology
alumnus writes children's book

Erik X. Raj '08 is transcending boundaries in the pursuit of his passion. Not only has the energetic and outgoing graduate of Misericordia's master's degree program in speech-language pathology parlayed his enthusiasm for helping children into a highly successful career as a diagnostician and therapist, he has harnessed his creative skills to author an award-winning children's book.

"I always knew that I wanted to become an educator of children because I wanted to convey my love of discovery to young-learners and to ultimately motivate those children to become life-long learners," Raj explains. "Communication is a passion of mine so it was only natural for me to gravitate towards the field of speech-language pathology."

Since graduating, Raj has worked for the Hamilton Township School District in New Jersey helping a caseload of more than 60 pre-kindergarten through fifth grade children with various speech, language, voice and fluency disorders. In 2010, he was awarded the Governor's Certificate of Recognition for teaching excellence and the national Therapy Times Most Influential Award, presented to one practitioner each in eight therapy professions for passion and dedication in providing high-quality care.

"I attribute much of my success to my students who constantly inspire me," says Raj. "Every day my students push me to become a better speech-language pathologist. I am constantly creating new



Erik X. Raj's children's book can be purchased at www.erikxraj.com.

methods to connect with each student to deliver more effective therapy. I believe creativity and not being afraid to challenge standard therapy methods helped me achieve where I am today."

He also credits MU for preparing him to transition easily into his professional life. "Through the clinic on campus, I was able to gain the practical experience necessary to implement what I had studied," he says, addressing the clinical services at the Speech-Language and Hearing Center. "The professors are truly motivating and have become my lifelong mentors. I always felt Misericordia embraced individuality and creativity, which are two things I bring into my professional work as a speech-language pathologist."

Raj's creativity has extended into other pursuits. In 2010, he published *One Seashell, Two Seashell, Flap Flap Flap*, the story of a little fish with a big idea to get out of the ocean and his regular routine. He relies on the help of his friends and hard work to reach his goals. The book has garnered numerous laurels, including the

Premier Book Award for Children's Book of the Year and the Creative Child Magazine Preferred Choice Award.

The book grew out of Raj's use of storytelling and reading to enhance children's language skills and his desire to personalize this for his clients while incorporating a positive life message.

"When reading my book, I encourage the listener to predict the characters' actions and describe the pictures using nouns, verbs and adjectives, which do wonders for a child's communication abilities," Raj adds. "Even as an adult, we should never stop dreaming. I want to continue to write books, not only for myself, but to relay an important message to children who may not have that inspiration in their lives."

Skilled in multimedia, Raj in the past has created comedy video productions geared to the 16-34-year-old demographic that have appeared on MTV and many other national media outlets. Now he's looking to write what could be a pilot for a children's TV show with an emphasis on creative thinking.



Erik X. Raj '08 returned to campus to read his book to preschool children.

SLP alumnus reads award-winning book to preschoolers

Students at The Adventures in Learning Preschool in Dallas received a special lesson in how to achieve their dreams when award-winning author and speech-language pathologist Erik X. Raj '08, read and signed copies of his award-winning book, *One Seashell, Two Seashell, Flap, Flap, Flap*.

Generating smiles and questions from 24 three- and five-year olds, the author reading was held to coincide with a free hearing screening for the preschool students by student and faculty members of Misericordia

University's Speech-Language Pathology Department. The screenings are offered to the students annually as part of the clinical services provided at the Misericordia Speech-Language and Hearing Center in the College of Health Sciences. The department also provided free copies of the book to children, which Raj autographed.

"I always knew Erik was a special student," said Lori Cimino, clinical director and assistant professor. "It is easy to see the love he has for his work."

Caring ays

FNP alumna provides old time health care at rural health clinic

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

The nursing career of Betsy Gaffney '03, M.S.N., C.R.N.P., has taken her from medical research to critical care to graduate education, where she earned her master's degree as a family nurse practitioner and now finds herself caring for patients that range in age from newborn to octogenarian.

As the sole medical provider of a family clinic operated by PhysicianCare, P.C. in Laceyville, Pa., this Misericordia graduate and adjunct faculty member says she finally feels like she is doing what she was meant to do – get involved with her patients and take care of them and their families in what may seem to many as old-time health care.

"This is a rural clinic, and my practice includes babies, their parents,

grandparents, aunts and uncles," she says. "It is family health care in the truest form."

Gaffney sees about 500 patients a month, many from the region's large Hispanic population. The majority of her patients are uninsured and underserved, so a lot of her work also involves wellness education. "The key is listening," Gaffney says. "Often what they come in for is not the real problem and I need to look past the physical issues to the family and social dynamics. I need to earn their trust and let them know that I really care about them."

Her success is evident in the fact that the practice has grown mostly by word of mouth. As a primary care nurse practitioner, Gaffney can prescribe medication and order ancillary services, such as occupational and physical therapy.

She handles most of the diagnoses and treatments herself, but also collaborates with a local physician. "For the most part, the buck stops with me, whether it is a cold, the flu, a chainsaw injury or someone with their ear cut off," says Gaffney. "We are trained to handle it all."

Gaffney earned her bachelor's in nursing from MU in 2001, and completed her master's with a clinical specialization of Family Nurse Practitioner in 2003.

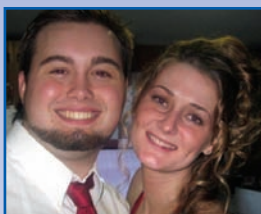
She has parlayed her degrees into a rewarding career. She spent more than 20 years as a critical care nurse at Wyoming Valley hospitals and began teaching lab courses in 1999 as adjunct faculty. Since finishing her NP specialization, she has been teaching a graduate nursing course in pathophysiology.

Living the Mission of Mercy with a priceless gift of life

STORY BY ROBYN VALENTINE '11

What would you do for a college friend? Buy a cup of coffee? Treat them to dinner? Would you donate a kidney? That is exactly what Misericordia student Brittany Brouse '08, did for another. On March 16, 2010, Brouse gave the gift of life to her longtime friend, Tim Lagerman '11.

A star on the MU track and field team, Lagerman was busy studying sport management when he began to get sick — really sick. It was his junior year and he could barely find the strength to get out of bed and go to class some days. A visit to his doctor's office delivered somber news: Lagerman was told his kidneys were functioning at less than 20 percent. "I knew what that meant but I wasn't prepared to hear it. I was almost at the



Brittany Brouse '08 poses for a picture with friend, Tim Lagerman '11.

end," he adds.

Riddled with kidney problems since the age of two, Lagerman was in dire need of a kidney transplant. His father began preparations to become his son's donor but those hopes were diminished when due to his own health problems the process had to be terminated.

"I didn't want to ask anybody to be a donor for me," says Lagerman. "You're asking someone to save your life by giving up a part of theirs." Instead, he chose to place his name on a national kidney transplant list and took his number

in line for the average five-year wait.

Brouse, a friend since the age of 3, could see what was happening in Tim's thinning face and knew what she had to do.

"Timmy is a really good friend who all in all is a really great person," said Brouse, who received her degree in psychology.

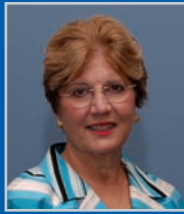
During her senior year at MU, Brouse began the courageous steps to determine if she was a compatible donor match.

"I wanted to be able to give him back his old life of playing baseball, sports and going out with friends. You know, the normal life of a 24 year old," Brouse says.

Eight months later, Brouse and Lagerman sat in a hospital room bandaged and teasing each other over their tolerance for pain. The kidney transplant was a success. In fact, Brouse's doctors commented, "if kidneys were like cars, she had a Ferrari." Tim's health improved shortly after the surgery.

Alumni News

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



Helene Flower Reed '66

Making dreams come true

Being well into my second year as your president, I find myself continually in a state of wonder, discovery and awe. I have had the opportunity to meet with and talk with many fine young men and women who are students at Misericordia University.

These students and their families tell me how grateful they are for the scholarships given to them by the University and the Alumni Association. They go on to tell me that without these scholarships, they would not be able to attend Misericordia and have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams for a higher education. I was taken aback when several of the scholarship recipients and their families thanked me in person or wrote to me to thank me for the scholarships they have received. I then came to realize that I was simply the current face of the alumni and that I represented all of you the alumni of Misericordia.

You made their dreams come true with your generous support of our annual giving campaigns. It is your continued and generous financial support that makes dreams come true.

These young men and women are truly exemplary people. Upon graduation, many choose to forgo lucrative career opportunities, opting instead to devote a year of their lives to service in mission. They are now living out the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy as they work in the mission field both in the United States and abroad.

The students at Misericordia never cease to fill me with inspiration. I am awed by their desire not just to attain an outstanding education, but to their desire to commit themselves to service for others. I continually discover new facets to lives of these bright, interesting young people and I can't help but wonder what the future holds for them. Whatever that future may be, it is possible in a large part because of you. You, through your continued financial support, have the power to make dreams come true and that is truly awesome.

Helene Flower Reed

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 coulgarconnect.misericordia.edu or facebook.com/MisericordiaU.

'58 Mary Ellen (Murphy) Thornton '58 and William Thornton, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 20, 2010. Mary Ellen is a retired school nurse for Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18. The couple attended the Scranton Diocese's 50th Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera on June 13, 2010 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

'59 Marlyn Zlotek '59 and her husband, Donald, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 23, 2010. Marlyn was a substitute teacher in the Wyoming Valley West School District for many years.

'62 Mary (Brennan) Carden '62 and Frank J. Carden celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married on Nov. 21, 1970 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Pittston, Pa. Mary is a retired assistant professor of business from Misericordia University.

'80 Charlotte Traver Slocum '80 and her husband, Ernest (Bud) Slocum, Dallas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 10, 2010. Charlotte is the director of health services and former head softball coach at Misericordia University.

'92 Lynne Huber '92 received the 2010 POTA Master Clinician Award at the annual professional conference. It recognizes an OT who consistently provides high-quality service.



'93 Mary Teresa Powers '93 and Terrence Paul Dougherty were united in marriage on Jan. 23, 2010 at St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church, Shavertown. Mary is employed as an occupational therapist. The couple resides in Shavertown.

'95 Frank Casano, Jr. '93 and Marianne Volpe were married by Father Michael Bryant on Aug. 28, 2010 at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, MA. Frank is the director of field operations for MBP, LLC. The couple resides in Needham, Mass.

'96 Kimberly Ann Serafin '95 and Keith Scott were married on May 15, 2010 at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Kim is employed with Mercy Special Care. The couple resides in Exeter.

Krea A. Moskosky '96 and Raymond M. Price chose St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, as the setting for their Aug. 7, 2009 wedding. Jennifer is a third-grade teacher at Carbondale Elementary School. The couple resides in Carbondale.

Catherine (Valonis) Riggs '96 and John Riggs celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in



July 2010. They live in Lancaster, Pa. with their 3 children: Emily, Billy and Brock.

'98 Jennifer Dabney '98 and Jamison Snyder chose Sandals Grande, Antigua, as the setting for their Nov. 10, 2009 wedding. Jennifer is employed by University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia as a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist. The couple resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

'99 Lisa (Jones) Russ '99 and her husband, Eric, welcomed a baby boy, Tanner Jackson on May 21, 2010.

Trevor Daniel Woodruff '99 and Melissa Elizabeth Golden chose St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church, Dunmore, Pa., as the setting for their Sept. 5, 2009 wedding. Trevor is the head men's basketball coach at MU. Following a wedding trip to Hawaii, the couple resides in Plains Township.

Crista Ferretti '99 and Matthew DeLaMater were united in marriage on the beach at Pass-A-Grille, Fla., on March 27, 2010. Crista is employed as an occupational therapist in Florida where the couple resides.

'01 Alicia (Rybka) Podwika '01 and her

husband, Dan, welcomed their third daughter, Kelcey Lindsey, on Dec. 31, 2009.

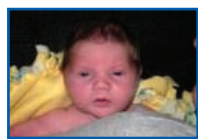


Susan Janelle Buckley '01 and Larry Vitale II were united in marriage on July 18, 2009 in the chapel at MU. Susan is employed at Fairfax County Public Schools and at the National Rehabilitation Hospital at Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C. They live in Reston, Va.

John Cicon '01 and Nicole Waldron were married on May 22, 2010 at St. Rocco's Church, Pittston. The groom is a 2001 graduate of College Misericordia. He is employed as a training consultant by New Horizons Computer Learning Centers. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

'02 Michael Hollos '02 a senior graphic designer at Solid Cactus, was a Silver Award winner in the 2009 International Davey Awards in the website category. He had also won a Silver Award in 2006.

'03 Crystal (King) Seidel '03 and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their first child, Kevin John, on July 22, 2009.



Kristen (Bell) Siler '03 and her husband, Bill, are happy to announce the arrival of Benjamin

Richard Siler. Ben was born on May 1, 2010 at 12:43 a.m. He joins his big brother, Ryan Michael.

Sarah (Kulakowski) Williams '03 and her husband, Craig, welcomed their first son, Tyler Rhys, born on July 14, 2010.

Jamie Lynn Hallowich '03 and Edward

John Lastaukas Jr. were united in marriage on Aug. 15, 2009 at St. Mary of Czesochowa Church, Eynon. Jamie is employed as a third grade teacher in the Valley View School District. The couple resides in Eynon.

Bonnie Crossman '03 and Donald Race chose Fiorelli's Catering, Peckville, Pa., as the location for their Sept. 20, 2009 wedding. Bonnie is employed as an occupational therapist for Wayne Memorial Health System. Following a wedding cruise, the couple resides in Clifford Township.

Elizabeth Margaret Kovalchik '03 and Francis John Carden III '93 were united in marriage on Oct. 15, 2010. The Chapel at Misericordia University was the location for their ceremony. The couple currently resides in Nazareth.

Maureen Shovlin '03 and Bryan Pikas were united in the sacrament of marriage on July 24, 2010. Maureen is employed by Wyoming Area School District as a teacher and head swim coach. Following a honeymoon to Jamaica, the couple resides in West Wyoming, Pa.

'04 Scott Charles Napkori '04 and Sara Ann Pape were united in marriage on Sept. 26, 2009 at St. Therese Church. Scott is a history teacher at GAR High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The couple resides in Hanover Township, Pa.

Melissa Marie Pedley '04 and Richard Mercado Jr. were united in marriage on May 20, 2010 at a beach ceremony in Negril, Jamaica. Melissa is employed as a cardiac surgery physician assistant at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem. The couple will reside in Fork's Township.

Helene Jadus '04 and Richard Davis were united in marriage on June 19, 2010, at Sacred Heart Church, Duryea, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. They reside in Duryea, Pa.

Mandy (Donmoyer) Bixler '04 and her husband, **Mark Bixler '03**, welcomed their first child,



Evan Ryne, on July 16, 2010.



Jessica (Barr) Keim '04 and her husband, Steve '04 welcomed their first child, Ian Joseph Keim, on Oct. 29, 2010.

'05 Sean Abbott '05 and Jill Lemoncelli chose The Inn at Woodloch Pines, Hawley, Pa. for their May 14, 2010 wedding. Sean earned a bachelor's degree in medical imaging from MU and is a radiologic technologist at Geisinger Wyoming Valley. Following a wedding trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, they live in Peckville, Pa.

Brock Belles '05 and Nicole Deitrick chose Mt. Vernon Beach, Cape May, N.J., for their June 12, 2010 wedding. Brock is a senior computer programmer/application developer for Geisinger Health Systems, Danville, Pa.

Jason Woodruff '05 and Amy Paciej chose Montdale Country Club, Jermyn for their Aug. 20, 2010 wedding. Jason is employed at Lackawanna Insurance Group and is a part-time OT.

'06 Megan (Benjamin) Jackson '06 and her husband, Joshua, welcomed their first child, Boston Jay Thomas, on Oct. 2, 2009.

Amanda Ptashinski '06 and Timothy Connell '04 were united in marriage on May 16, 2009, at the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church. Amanda is employed with Allied Services John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine as a pediatric speech-language pathologist and as a dance instructor at the David Blight School of Dance. Timothy is employed with Sentry Insurance as a sales representative. The couples resides in Trucksville, Pa.

Kimberly A. Ziegler '06 and John F. D'Aiello '06 were united in marriage on June 27, 2009 at Holy Trinity Church, Swoyersville. Kimberly is employed with Wyoming Area School District as a high school learning support teacher. John is employed with Mercy Hospital as a nuclear medicine technologist. The couple resides in Swoyersville, Pa.

Lisa Ann Mushinsky '06 and Charles Walter Angelo chose Sacred Heart Church, Wilkes-Barre, as the setting for their July 18, 2009 wedding. Lisa is employed by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The couple is residing in Plains Township, Pa.

Christie Weaver '06 and George Spanos '05 were married on July 26, 2009.

Tina Billias '06 and Michael Giannetta chose Our Lady of Snows Church, Clark Summit as their setting for their Sept. 24, 2010 wedding. Tina is a physical therapist for Pro Rehabilitation Services. Following a southern Caribbean cruise, the couple resides in Scott Township, Pa.

Mary Elizabeth Karsnak '06 and Nicholas DeGeorge chose the Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, N.J., as the setting for their Sept. 12, 2010 wedding. Mary is pursuing certification in diagnostic medical sonography at Misericordia University. The couple resides in Scranton, Pa.

'07 Kathryn Biesecker '07 and Darren St. Claire '07 were united in marriage on Nov. 28, 2009 at St. Francis Xavier Parrish in Gettysburg, Pa. The couple now resides in Washington.

Katrina Patricia O'Day '07 and Michael Berish IV were united in marriage on May 14, 2010, at St. Ignatius Church, Kingston. Katrina is employed as a social worker by Mountain View Care Center, Scranton. Following an Eastern Caribbean cruise, the couple resides in Kingston, Pa.

Matthew Frank '07 and Lori Kowaleski were united in marriage on June 19, 2010 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Wilkes-Barre. Matthew is currently employed at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. The couple honeymooned in Mexico, and they now reside in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Jessica Brennan '07 and Michael Tornambe were married on Sept. 18, 2010 at St. Patrick's Parish. Jessica is a registered diagnostic medical sonographer at Mercy Hospital and an adjunct clinical instructor for the medical imaging program at Misericordia University. Following a wedding trip to Riviera Maya, Mexico, the couple resides in Scranton, Pa.

Jennifer Chulick '07 and Brian Peiffer were united in marriage on Oct. 9, 2010, in an outdoor ceremony at Irem Country Club, Dallas, Pa. Jennifer is employed as a speech-language pathologist by Genesis Rehabilitation Services. Following a honeymoon to Punta Cana, the couple resides in Shavertown, Pa.

'08 Mary Jo Elizabeth Seamon '08 and Timothy Leonard Kluger were united in marriage on May 22, 2010 at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church by Deacon Joseph DeVizia. Mary Jo is employed as a nursing supervisor and charge nurse in Dallas. The couple resides in Hanover Township, Pa.

Ashlee Fagula '08 and Patrick Stoodley exchanged vows on May 22, 2010 during an evening garden ceremony at The Highlands at Newberry Estate, Dallas. Ashlee is currently employed by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit. The couple resides in Kingston, Pa.

Kristen Marie Hritz '08 and Richard Michael Bitto were united in marriage at St. Cecilia's Church on May 22, 2010. Kristen is employed as an older toddler teacher by Hilderbrandt Learning Center. The couple resides in Plains, Pa.

Jodi Kozlevcar '08 and Peter H. Gaunt '07 were married on June 12, 2010. The wedding took place at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, Pa., with a reception at the Merion Golf Club in Ardmore. Jodi is an occupational therapist at the Devon Manor and Peter is a financial advisor for Devon Financial Partners. The couple resides in Devon, Pa.

Kerri Marie Petro '08 and Justin Joseph Garruba '06 were united in marriage on July 11, 2010 at Sand Springs Country Club. Kerri is currently pursuing a doctor of psychology in clinical psychology and Justin is employed at Lincoln Financial Group. The couples resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

Antoinette Marie Chepalonis '08 and Joel Carson Jones were united in the sacrament of marriage on July 17, 2010 at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains Township. Antoinette is employed as a substitute teacher and therapeutic staff support for autistic children. The couple honeymooned at Maroma Beach, Mexico.

Taryn Ann Irizarry '08 and Michael Trudnak '04 chose St. Ann's Basilica as the setting for their Sept. 25, 2010 wedding ceremony. Taryn is a physical therapist at Allied Services in Carbondale, and Balance Pediatrics in Jermyn. Michael is director of corporate partnerships with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees. Following a wedding trip to Hawaii, the couple resides in Jessup, Pa.

Janelle Kathryn Baggetta '08 and Matthew Krenitsky chose Montdale Country Club in Jermyn, Pa., as the setting for their Oct. 2, 2010 wedding. The bride is a special education teacher at Wallenpaupack Area High School.

Melody Alexis Robinson '08 and James Hamill chose the Campus Theatre as the setting for their Oct. 9, 2010 wedding. Melody is an intensive workforce specialist for Central Susquehanna Opportunities Inc. The couple resides in Lewisburg, Pa.

'09 Kristen Mitchell '09 received her master's degree in social work on May 23, 2010 from Fordham University, New York.

Keri Marie Donahue '09 and Cpl. Eric Teufel were united in marriage May 30, 2010, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Keri is currently pursuing a master's degree in psychology. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico.

Jeffrey Thomas Kettel '09 and Tammy Zedek chose St. Peter's Cathedral for the setting of their Aug. 7, 2010 wedding. Jeffrey is employed by Comserve. Following a wedding trip to Riviera Maya, Mexico, the couples resides in Scranton, Pa.

Kristen L. Mitchell '09 and Gary Samuels were married on Sept. 5, 2010. Kristen is currently employed at Misericordia University as a Community Outreach Coordinator.



Katie Coolbaugh '09 and Anthony Colardo '06 had their wedding pictures taken on campus after their May 8, 2010 wedding. Katie earned a master's in occupational therapy and Anthony received a Bachelor of Science degree in sport management.



Alumni visit Catherine McAuley House of Mercy in Dublin

A highlight of the Misericordia Alumni Association sponsored trip to Ireland in October was a visit at Sister Catherine McAuley's first House of Mercy, known today as the Mercy International Centre.



A Taste of Life

Alumna completes internship, accepted into Ph.D. program at Clemson

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Aubrie L. Pfirman '10 is well on her way to accomplishing her dream of earning a Ph.D. in chemistry and becoming a research chemist and college professor. She graduated from Misericordia University with a degree in chemistry and secondary education, and completed a prestigious research internship through the National Science Foundation at Clemson University in South Carolina.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher, and although I could be very content as a high school chemistry teacher, my internship in a research laboratory showed me a taste of the life in graduate research," she says. "I made up my mind to continue my education as a research chemist and someday return to Pennsylvania as a college professor working with students doing research."

Today, she is using imaging techniques such as atomic force microscopy, scanning electron microscopy and UV-vis spectroscopy at Clemson University as she pursues her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. She also plans to continue the research she started there as an intern that involves synthesizing silver nanoparticles.

Pfirman credits the personal attention she received at MU as well as the

hands-on research experience she gained in chemistry for instilling in her the confidence she has needed to pursue her doctoral degree. "The Misericordia chemistry program is very small," she acknowledges. "It allowed me many opportunities that may not have come my way in a larger school. The faculty, in both education and chemistry, brought so much experience, knowledge and care to the lectures that I truly felt well prepared for graduate studies."

There is no substitution for experience and Pfirman gained plenty of laboratory time at MU and during her internship. That combination has served her well in graduate school. "As a freshman, I was given extra opportunities to collect data in the lab and do dry-runs of experiments," she adds. "Little did I know my advisor was helping to build my confidence and skills in a laboratory setting. Even though I feared that I didn't know enough chemistry to be given such responsibility, I was offered the position of lab assistant. I can say that the added experience helped me tremendously during my summer research internship."

Pfirman worked closely with assistant professor Anna Fedor, Ph.D., who encouraged her to apply for the internship at Clemson. "I was hoping to get real hands-on experience where I could truly

put the laboratory and research methods I learned at Misericordia to the test," she says. "I wanted this experience to help bolster my lab skills and to become involved in ground-breaking research. It built upon what I had learned at Misericordia in the labs and the classroom. Most importantly, it also confirmed for me that research was the path I wanted to take after graduation. I may never have considered graduate school without the support and encouragement from the chemistry faculty."

The internship at the Biosystems Research Complex at Clemson, which is known for bioengineering and toxicology research, afforded her the opportunity to work in a high-tech lab. "I refined my technique for growing silver nanoparticles to specified dimensions and shapes, and then proved it spectroscopically," she explains. "I also did research to find and measure ohmic contacts on the slides between silver and selenium to support data being collected by my Clemson adviser. As part of the program, I prepared a poster, abstract and article for our culminating symposium."

In addition to taking three graduate level courses in chemistry during her first semester at Clemson University, Pfirman has also been serving as a teaching assistant for a general chemistry lab.



Alumni Weekend

Save the Date: Alumni Weekend is June 3-5. Come celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Nurse Practitioner Program.

You've been hearing and reading about all that is new at Misericordia! Here is the chance to come see for yourself! Join your classmates for a fun-filled weekend of hospitality, spirit and camaraderie at Alumni Weekend 2011, on Friday, June 3 through Sunday, June 5. Start the weekend off with a tour of campus, enjoy a mini-class or two, and get a first-hand update on MU by President MacDowell during the popular *Conversation with the President*. Watch **CougarConnect** for complete details, or visit the Alumni Weekend 2011 link at www.misericordia.edu/alumni or call the Alumni Office at (570) 674-6768.



FACULTY NOTES

Joseph Rogan, Ed.D., professor of special education, presented the results of the Misericordia University research project, *Connecting with Students: Using Learning Expressways in College*, at the Kansas University Center for Research on Learning Annual International Conference in Lawrence, Kan.

Dr. Rogan, along with MU teacher education program colleagues Susan Tomascik, Ph.D., associate professor, and Molly Vitale, Ed.D., associate professor, researched the effects of a communication system college professors might use to develop rapport and build academic relationships with their students.

W. Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor of English, has been selected as one of 12 international researchers to participate in the Renaissance Humanism and the Ambiguities of Modernity Workshop sponsored by the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, on June 19-21.

Nursing faculty members **Cynthia Mailloux, Ph.D.**, associate professor and department chair; and **Brenda L. Hage, Ph.D., C.R.N.P.**, associate professor and director of graduate programs, participated in a national call-in conference initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama to discuss the new Patient's Bill of Rights and important benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Mailloux has been re-elected to a second term as secretary for the Pennsylvania Higher Education in Nursing Schools, which is comprised of deans and chairs from baccalaureate and graduate programs throughout the commonwealth.

Lalit J. Shah, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy, co-chaired the 33rd annual Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Conference.

He was assisted by **Joe Cipriani, Ed.D., O.T.R./L.**; **Erin Kramer, O.T.S.**; **Gwen Bartolacci, O.T.D., O.T.R./L.**;

Jen Washko, M.S., O.T.R./L.; **Dawn Evans, M.S., O.T.R./L.**; and **Amy Gerney, O.T.D., O.T.R./L.**

Allan W. Austin, Ph.D., associate professor of history, was awarded the Carroll Prize for his article, *Let's do Away with Walls!: The American Friends Service Committee's Interracial Section and the 1920s United States*, that was published in *Quaker History*.

Paula Pate-Schloder, M.S., R.T., (R), (CV), (CT), (VI), associate professor of medical imaging, was named to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Practice Analysis Advisory Committee for Vascular-Interventional Radiography.

The Department of Mathematics hosted the Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties Mathematics Symposium.

The symposium featured MU mathematicians **Steven Tedford, Ph.D.**, assistant professor; **Jay Stine, Ph.D.**, associate professor; and **Pat Touhey, Ph.D.**, professor.

New faculty members for 2010-11 are: In the College of Arts and Sciences, **Amanda Caleb, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of English; **Francis P. Kelly, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of physics; and **Amanda Van Lanen, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of history.

In the College of Health Sciences, **Gina Capitano, M.S.**, assistant professor of medical imaging; **Lori Cimino, M.S.**, assistant professor of speech-language pathology; **Dawn Evans, M.S.**, assistant professor of occupational therapy.

In the College of Professional Studies and Social Services, **Kingsley Banya, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of teacher education; **Kelly Filipkowski, M.S.**, assistant professor of psychology; **Joan Foster, M.E.T., M.B.A.**, assistant professor of business; **David Gargone, M.A.T.**, assistant professor of business; **Timothy Kearney, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of business; and **Margaret Ann Rapp, Ph.D.**, associate professor and chair of social work.

Pottle named dean of CAS

Misericordia University has named Russ Pottle, Ph.D., as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Pottle comes to



Pottle

Misericordia from Regis College in Weston, Mass., where he was the founding dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Liberal Arts, Education, and Social Sciences. Previously, he served as academic dean, director of admissions and Abbot David Melancon Endowed

Professor of literature at Saint Joseph Seminary College, in Saint Benedict, La. He has done extensive work in directing strategic planning, curriculum development, and new program initiatives.

As dean of the Misericordia College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Pottle is responsible for fostering development of new programs and initiatives within the college and raising the University research profile of educational programs and faculty. The college includes the departments of biology, chemistry and biochemistry, communications, English, fine arts, mathematics, computer science, philosophy, physics and religious studies.

Dr. Pottle brings a wealth of experience and significant academic administrative abilities to Misericordia, said Michael A. MacDowell, University president. He will be a real asset to the students, faculty and the entire community served by Misericordia University.

Having conducted his doctoral work in American and Comparative literatures, Dr. Pottle received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, in Baton Rouge, La. His Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees, both in English, are from Southeastern Louisiana University, in Hammond, La., where his family has a long history of service to the university and the higher education community. My grandfather founded the music department at Southeastern and was its chair for decades, he said. My father taught there as an artist in residence, and I taught for a number of years in the English department and the honors program.

Dr. Pottle's research interest is in travel writing studies. He is the U.S. vice president for the International Society for Travel Writing; a member of the Board of Advisors for the Society for American Travel Writing; and a member of other scholarly literary and cultural studies societies.



Alumni Men's Lacrosse Reunion Game



Friends reunite at Homecoming 2010



Alumni Night with the Penguins



Alumni Tea

ALU Photo

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



Choice Program



Alumni Baseball Team Reunion Game



Friends gather at Homecoming 2010



Alumni Tea



ins



Alumni Cheerleader Reunion



Alumni Basketball Reunion Game

M N I

Album



Alumni Night with the Penguins



Alumni New York Yankees Baseball Trip



Legacy Brunch



Trustee Associates Dinner



Legacy Brunch

MBA students develop winner in Virtual Firebox

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

For an initial investment of \$7,300 and their own time and expertise, William F. desRosiers '09 and Michael Slacktish wrote their own business plan and conceived the company, Virtual Firebox LLC, to electronically store vital information for real estate industry professionals and homeowners.

By winning the Great Valley Technology Alliance's 8th annual Great Valley Business Plan Competition, the MBA students at Misericordia University received \$20,000 plus in-kind services that will be used to grow and establish the company. DesRosiers and Slacktish have established an office for their start-up company in the Twin Stacks Center at 1198 Memorial Highway, Dallas.

"Winning the competition was an exhilarating experience," said Slacktish, who is scheduled to complete his MBA in 2012. "It was nice to see that other highly

successful business people saw the possibilities in our dream. It just helped to re-emphasize that we had a great model."

Virtual Firebox service is a safe, secure and convenient method to store valuable information in an electronic data storage and online access system. The service caters to Realtors, title companies, brokers, homeowners and property owners, but can also be used by anyone who is interested in protecting valuable documents easily and effortlessly. Through the use of a bar-coding system, standardized documents are stored effortlessly in the system and are accessible at any time. Virtual Firebox can also be customized for individual real estate agencies and businesses.

"We decided to focus our strategy on one segment of the market — real estate," said desRosiers, who also earned



MBA students William F. desRosiers and Michael Slacktish, center, pose with Dr. Sumansky, left, and Dr. MacDowell.

his undergraduate degrees in management and pre-law from MU. "We designed something specifically for this industry that is unique and cost effective."

The entrepreneurs also utilized their professional backgrounds to develop the product. Slacktish has been a real estate professional for many years and owns and operates Century 21 Signature Properties, while desRosiers has spent the last two years running Back Mountain Systems in Dallas, a disaster remediation business that specializes in electronic cleaning and data recovery.

Misericordia and Temple collaborate for MSW



Misericordia and Temple faculty and administration who worked on the program, seated, are Link Martin, director, Temple University Harrisburg, assistant dean for administration, school of social work; and standing from left, Margaret Rapp, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of social work at Misericordia; Dennis Fisher, M.Ed., associate professor of social work at MU; and Deborah Mills, B.S.W., visiting assistant professor at MU.

Unique curriculum incorporates MU's Geriatric Care Management Program into new coursework

The Department of Social Work at Misericordia University and Temple University Harrisburg have collaborated to offer a Temple University Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree program on the Misericordia campus for working professionals.

The Temple University MSW in clinical social work practice is being offered in a part-time format in two programs. The 60-credit MSW is available for working professionals who hold a bachelor's degree in another discipline and wish to pursue a social work degree. Students can complete the program in as little as three years.

The 34.5 credit Advanced Standing Program is tailored for students who have a bachelor's degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited institution of higher education and five years of

experience. The program can be completed in as little as 18 months.

"The partnership with Misericordia University creates a valuable opportunity to provide masters level professional social work education to residents of the area. Misericordia University's highly regarded BSW program is a natural connection to Temple's MSW program," said Link Martin, assistant dean of Temple University Harrisburg.

The MU-based Temple program meets one night a week and every other Saturday on campus. The summer sessions are hybrid courses offered primarily online. Misericordia's program offers students an opportunity to integrate coursework to receive both a master's degree and certification from the Misericordia Geriatric Care Management Program.

Expressway opens new site in Hawley



Participating in the ceremony, from left seated, are Raymond Angeli, president, Lackawanna College; Michael A. MacDowell, president, Misericordia University; second row Attorney Anthony Waldron, III, owner/partner Hawley Silk Mill, LLC.; Mark Volk, executive vice president, and Bridget FitzPatrick, associate vice president for Advancement, Lackawanna College; Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D., dean, Center of Adult and Continuing Education, Misericordia University; and Joe Fabricatore, district project director for the U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District.

MU and Lackawanna College presidents announce partnership

Misericordia University and Lackawanna College recently launched a new educational partnership that will offer adult students the only bachelor's degree opportunity available on-site in Wayne County, Pa.

The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education, in cooperation with Lackawanna College, began offering the Expressway Accelerated Degree Program in Hawley in the fall. Classes are being held online and on-site one evening a week at Lackawanna College's new Lake Region Center (in the former Hawley Silk Mill) at 8 Silk Mill Dr., Hawley.

The formal signing ceremony included remarks by Raymond Angeli, president, Lackawanna College; and Michael A. MacDowell, president, Misericordia University. Among those in attendance were Joe Fabricatore, district project director for the U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District, and Don Kyzer, president of Hawley Borough Council.

A two-hour information session followed, which allowed prospective students, including many Lackawanna College

alumni, the opportunity to speak to Misericordia University admissions counselors and academic advisors about the popular Expressway degree format.

The Expressway program offers adult learners the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in as little as two and a half years at convenient locations and at an affordable \$320 per credit. Students can enroll eight times during the year, helping them fit shorter class sessions into their schedule.

Misericordia is offering bachelor's degrees in both Business Administration and Professional Studies in Hawley and will expand academic offerings as interest grows.

The Misericordia Expressway Program was established in 1999 by offering bachelor's degree courses one day a week at Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) in Nanticoke, Pa. The program has expanded over the years and is now also offered at the LCCC Hazleton Center in Hazleton, Luzerne County; Lackawanna College in Scranton, Lackawanna County; and the LCCC Center in Shamokin, Northumberland County.

NP nursing students get certification

All 10 students who recently completed the Department of Nursing's graduate family nurse practitioner program successfully passed the national board certification examination in family practice.

Seven students received their Master of Science degrees in nursing in the family nurse practitioner track and three students successfully completed requirements for the post master's certificate program in the family nurse practitioner track.

Members of the 2010 family nurse practitioner program graduating class are: Barbara Campagna, Mountaintop, Pa.; Andrea Constanzo, Bartonsville, Pa.; Linda Davis, Williamsport, Pa.; Stephanie Grencavage, Bear Creek, Pa.; Karolina Levesque, Kingston, Pa.; Katrina Maurer, Clarks Green, Pa.; Amelia Tewksbury, Wyalusing, Pa.; Kathy Vidumsky, Glen Lyon, Pa.; Sherry Zeshonski, Dunmore, Pa.; and Lisa Ware, Dunmore, Pa.

Primary care family nurse practitioners are in high demand in our local community and nationally, said Dr. Brenda Hage, director of graduate nursing programs.

Expressway introduces ABS degree

The Center for Adult and Continuing Education has added a distinctive Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences to the popular Expressway Accelerated Degree Program for adult learners who want to advance their careers or prepare for graduate school.

The Applied Behavioral Sciences program is an interdisciplinary social science program that includes core curriculum and core major requirements. Through a combination of convenient and predictable schedules and formats, the new program provides adult learners the foundation they need for entry level employment or advancement in positions that address the human condition, like social services, social work or psychology oriented professions. It will also help adult learners who wish to pursue graduate work in any of the behavioral sciences of psychology, sociology or social work.



Pella workers apply caulking to new windows in Mercy Hall.

Projects make buildings more energy efficient

Misericordia completed two renovation projects on campus to make buildings more energy efficient with the assistance of a \$170,602 grant from the Pennsylvania Conservation Works! Grant Program.

The funding was used to reduce costs, conserve energy and improve services for the university. Lighting enhancements in Gildea Hall included the replacement of 162 fixtures. The project also included replacing 48 windows in Mercy Hall, which was built in 1924. Overall, the projects cost \$420,602.

Rasmussen recognized by BOT

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees honored Joann Spain Rasmussen by naming her the recipient of the 2010 Trustee Associates Award during the annual Trustee Associates Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Mrs. Rasmussen is an ardent supporter of the Women with Children Program. In 2000, Mrs. Rasmussen offered her financial support and today it is flourishing thanks in part to the support and generosity of Mrs. Rasmussen and her late husband, Arthur.

They established the Grace Jones Spain Scholarship, which is named in honor of Joann's mother, and the Bertie Fowler Rasmussen Scholarship, honors Arthur's mother.

ON CAMPUS

MU cuts ribbon on new fitness center

The University unveiled its new fitness center in the Anderson Sports and Health Center to the campus during a formal ribbon cutting ceremony in November.

The \$750,000 project more than doubles the size of the previous fitness center and creates 4,800 square feet of new space to house treadmills, elliptical machines, exercise bicycles and a life stepper. The updated fitness center also has a comprehensive range of high-tech selectorized weight machines and an extensive free weight area. The renovation also includes a conference room.

"The expanded fitness center is a natural byproduct of the careful and well-thought out growth in recent years at Misericordia that has resulted in record enrollment," said Michael A. MacDowell, president. "We continue to invest wisely in our campus community to better serve our students of today and tomorrow."

David Martin, director of athletics, conducted the ceremonial ribbon cutting



The new fitness center features treadmills, elliptical machines, exercise bicycles, selectorized weight machines and free weights.

with President MacDowell and Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of student affairs, who also offered brief remarks. University chaplain, Rev. Don Williams blessed the building and the center opened officially for use.

The new fitness center is part of a long list of improvements Misericordia University has made on campus in recent years. More than \$28 million has been invested in the campus community through construction and campus amenity projects, like Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, Banks Student Life Center, College of Health Sciences, Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Student Residence Hall, Alumnae Hall and Gildea Hall.

Log on to <http://athletics.misericordia.edu/fitnesscenter> for a photo gallery

First Lady's outdoor beautification project

For more than a decade, Misericordia's brand of personal attention and rigorous academics has grown to become nationally recognized and regionally acclaimed. As demand for an MU education has grown, the campus has expanded to include new academic and residential buildings on Lake Street and on main campus.

Misericordia's growth in esteem and size, though, has been complemented by a well-thought out master plan that supports the preservation of green space and its suburban feel. The \$100,000 First Lady's Outdoor Beautification Project is another step in maintaining MU's beautiful landscape.

In honor of Misericordia's First Lady, Tina MacDowell, and in response to an identified need throughout campus, Misericordia is raising money from alumni and friends to purchase high quality outdoor furniture that will stand the test of time, like a Misericordia education.

Several pieces of the furniture, planters and trash receptacles are already in place in high



Several benches and trash receptacles have already been purchased for campus.

traffic areas on campus such as the Circle of Pride that honors our founding Religious Sisters of Mercy, and the beautiful water feature in the center of campus.

The ongoing project allows benefactors to purchase ash urns, trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables and four-seat tables. The pledges may also be made for up to three years. Beautification items purchased include attractive donor recognition plaques with room for up to 50 characters. For more information about the project, please contact Jeanne VanDuzer at (570) 674-6333 or jvanduze@misericordia.edu.

For 10 years, novel program has been helping single mothers realize potential

Following the path of promise and possibilities

STORY BY ROBYN VALENTINE '11

Jennifer Kates, a pre med student, spends time studying with her daughter, Lissenda Sutton.



Valentine '11

Beep, beep. The kitchen timer alerts Emily Bittner '14, that her salmon is done. I take in the robust aroma. I don't normally eat fish, but the marriage of lemon with butter and garlic convince me it can't be all that bad. I set a place for my daughter and I am at a dinner table

which seats 15. Reaching into the cupboard for the Uncle Bens, I pause at the wonder of this moment. These are no ordinary cupboards.

With foods as diverse as the people they represent, 10 women unite: sharing a home, a dream, their tears and a stove. It is a story of acceptance, connection and hope in the most extraordinary of circumstances. This is the Women with Children program at Misericordia University.

This unique program reaches out to single mothers striving to complete their college education by offering a network of support and living arrangements on campus with other mothers and their children. "The Women with Children is one of only two programs in

Pennsylvania, and seven nationwide serving single mothers who have the qualifications and desire to pursue a college degree," explains Vicki Austin, director of MU's novel program.

My car was packed to the roof when I drove 2,078 miles from Utah to Pennsylvania to be a part of the Women with Children program. I left behind every familiar face and comforts of home for the promise of a better tomorrow.

An article in Oprah Magazine led me here. The article spotlighted colleges throughout the U.S. implementing programs for single mothers. After researching the colleges, the mission of mercy and atmosphere surrounding MU seemed a perfect fit. It was the decision of a lifetime. As a participant in the Women with Children Program, my future is now full of possibility. The program has held the same promise for 10 women who have successfully graduated from MU.

"I am grateful for the women who have graduated from the program and those presently navigating their way through classes, program requirements and children's concerns," says Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of student affairs and founder of the

program. "They inspire me. Their presence has deepened my continued belief that the program promotes and supports the cycle of growth, not just for the women, but for their children as well."

In May, I will be the eleventh graduate. Achieving this goal required hard work, self belief, patience and a positive attitude, but I have not accomplished this alone. Through the gracious funding of donors and support of the campus community, this dream became a reality. It is support like campus ministry hosting Kids on Campus, a night when students volunteer their time to play with our children so we can have quiet time for homework that made this program monumental.

Someday when I share stories with my daughter of our time going through college together, she may tell me I am her hero. But I cannot wait to tell her that she is mine. It was my daughter, Ayzure Reynolds, 9, who jumped up and down screaming, "your dreams are coming true, mama," when I proudly showed her my first published journalism piece. The Women with Children program empowered not just one life, but two.

10 Years of C Graduates

Since Misericordia University introduced the Women with Children Program in 2000, 10 students have graduated from the program. They are: **Jodi Hnn S rish eL ca '02**, social work, disability claims adjudicator, Bureau of Disability Determination, Social Security Administration; **enise Widner Wallace '04**, English/secondary education, language arts teacher, Commonwealth Connections Academy; **S ephanie . Lahr '04**, medical imaging, radiologic technologist; **Margare eis '04**, psychology, working part time and raising her children; **eidi ' more '07**, physical therapy, PT, Pediatric, Orthopedic Women s Health Services; **Sarah Mar in Ilis '07**, elementary/special education, learning support teacher, Southern York County School District; **hris ine Pierce '08**, psychology, social worker, Hometown Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; **T chana ord '08**, SLP, speech language pathologist, EBS Health Care; **manda Poole '0**, MBA student at MU; and **Linda M llen, '0**, secondary education/biology, biology and environmental science teacher, Cambridge South Dorchester High School.

UA names Bebla director of development



Bebla University Advancement has named Jim Bebla as the director of development. He has more than 30 years of experience in the advancement field and most recently was director of development and alumni relations at MMI Preparatory School in Freeland, Pa.

Merdiushev appointed director of major gifts



Merdiushev Barbara Merdiushev has been named director of major gifts and planned giving. She will work with Jim Bebla and Sue Helwig, vice president of UA, to further enhance the University's major gift and planned gift fundraising efforts.

Baillie named assistant director of development



Baillie Owen Baillie has been appointed assistant director of development in UA. He is responsible for the University's direct mail and phonathon fundraising appeals. Baillie has served as manager of young alumni giving programs and as a regional gifts officer at the University of Scranton.

Mitchell Samuels named Outreach Coordinator



Samuels Kristen Mitchell Samuels '09 has been named community outreach coordinator. In this new position, she will spearhead outreach and service activities for groups, clubs, teams and individuals to work with non profits and social service organizations throughout the region.

ON CAMPUS

Misericordia University developing Physician Assistant Program

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at Misericordia has named Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., a Professor of Surgery at Yale University of Medicine, as medical director for the prospective physician assistant program that is currently under development.



Dr. Dudrick The proposed entry-level master's degree in physician assistant studies would be the first graduate program for CAS. The application for provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant has been made. A formal site visit is scheduled for October and a decision on the provisional accreditation status of the program would be issued in March 2012. Provisional accreditation is granted for a limited, defined period to a new program that, at the time of the comprehensive review, has demonstrated its preparedness to initiate a program in

accordance with required standards.

The first graduate students are expected to be admitted into the prospective program in May 2012, although regular undergraduate students will be admitted into a pre-professional portion of the curriculum for the 2011-12 academic year.

The prospective program is making significant strides in recruiting personnel and developing the pre-professional and undergraduate portion of the curriculum. Dr. Dudrick, an eminent surgeon and educator, is chairman emeritus in the Department of Surgery and director emeritus of the Program in Surgery at Saint Mary's Hospital, a Yale University affiliate in Waterbury, Conn. He also holds an appointment as professor of surgery in the Yale University School of Medicine.

As medical director, Dr. Dudrick will ensure that the curriculum meets current patient care practice standards and will be active in teaching and evaluating student and program performance. In recognition of Dr. Dudrick's international contributions to the medical field and the stature his presence will confer upon the new graduate program, he will hold the Robert S. Anderson Endowed Chair, the first such academic position offered by the University.

The Apostle Paul celebrated in Sister Noël Keller's new book

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Marie Noël Keller, RSM, Th.D., '65 is a biblical scholar and director of the Institute of Sacred Scripture at Misericordia University, a post she has held since 1980. Recently, she joined with fellow Biblicists to write one in a series of eight books on the apostle Paul and his missionary co-workers as they worked, lived and traveled together.

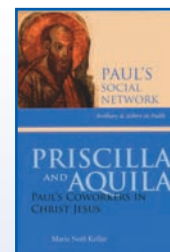
"The book, *Priscilla and Aquila: Paul's Coworkers in Christ Jesus*, offers great insight into Early Christian communities," reports John R. Donahue, SJ, research professor in theology at Loyola University Maryland. "Carefully researched, with ample bibliography and provocative suggestions about how their lives challenge the church today, this book should be a vade mecum (a book of ready reference) for anyone interested in Pauline Christianity."

The Misericordia alumna says she chose Priscilla and Aquila because she believes the couple's support of Paul in his work and

leadership as laypeople can inspire members of church communities today to work together as teachers and preachers of the gospel.

"While each of them (Paul's co-workers) is worth knowing by themselves, it is largely because of their standing within that web of social relations woven around and about Paul that they are of lasting interest," adds Bruce J. Malina, S.T.D., of Creighton University, editor of the book series which is entitled Paul's Social Network – Brothers and Sisters in Faith. "For Christians of Western tradition, these persons are significant ancestors in faith."

As a member of the staff of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at MU, Dr. Keller regularly conducts trips to places where the Apostle Paul lived, worked and worshiped as well as to other interesting sites overseas. Her book was published by Liturgical Press and is available at www.litpress.org or by contacting her at (570) 674-6924.



IN THE NEWS

Media tap into expertise of Misericordia faculty experts

Glen Tellis, Ph.D., professor and chair of the speech-language pathology program at Misericordia University is one of about 200 board-recognized fluency specialists in the world. He is delighted with the just-released movie, *The King's Speech*, which received seven Golden Globe nominations and is one of the early favorites to receive an Oscar for Best Picture.

"There is a lot of positive buzz about it in our profession," says Dr. Tellis, who was interviewed by national media about the film. "It's one of the first movies to depict people who stutter in a good light."

The film is about Britain's King George VI who was aided by speech therapist, Lionel Logue, to the point where the King was able largely to manage his condition and speak in public and on radio, which was critically important in the World War II era of his reign.

Dr. Tellis says that Logue effectively used some aspects of a method today called "fluency shaping" with King George. It is one of several therapies employed to treat stuttering and involves air flow management among other things. It is still used today in some therapy programs.

"There is no cure for stuttering," says Dr. Tellis, "but it can be managed effectively. And there is no single method used to manage it. Therapists work with methods such as fluency shaping or stuttering modification — which changes the form and shape of stuttering,

to manage it."

"Humor, counseling and empowerment can play a positive role in stuttering therapy and the film also shows that," Dr. Tellis notes. And so can positive reinforcement. "Logue was known for positive reinforcement in his therapy," says Dr. Tellis, "and the King had been through previous treatments that were not successful."

As with all films, there are departures from the historical record, Dr. Tellis notes. "King George VI actually began working with Logue in 1926, about a decade before the film indicates that he did," he says. "And some have said that the King may not have been as disfluent as the film suggests." But those are small things and Dr. Tellis is pleased that *The King's Speech* is mainly on the mark and tells an important story: that stuttering can be effectively treated and managed.

"This is the first major Hollywood movie to have a lead actor stutter and also show speech-language therapy," he says. "It's a welcome contrast to movies that depict stuttering characters negatively."

"There is no cure for stuttering, but it can be managed effectively."

— Glen Tellis, Ph.D.



Dr. Glen Tellis has been interviewed for his expertise on stuttering.



The move to become nationally acclaimed

The Marketing Communications Department uses a series of tools to help Misericordia become regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized.

The department utilizes the services of Dick Jones Communications, a national public relations firm that specializes in building media relationships for institutions of higher education; Newswise, a subscription and web based service that matches national journalists with experts in higher education; and the expertise of the public relations department.

The article about Dr. Glen Tellis and the movie, *The King's Speech*, at left, is an example of efforts that are made to position faculty experts for interviews. In recent months, members of the staff and faculty have been featured in top national markets, including CareerBuilder.com (Carolyn Yencharis Corcoran); Woman's Day magazine (Dr. Glen Tellis); *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* (Dr. Mary Hinton); The Cutting Edge website (Drs. David Wright and Allan Austin); Connecticut Post (Dr. John Sumansky); Bucks County Courier Times (Dr. Michael A. MacDowell); Philadelphia Inquirer (Dr. Brian Carso); Harrisburg Patriot News (Dr. Timothy Kearney); Burlington County N.J. Times (Dr. Hinton); Catholic News Service (Dr. Joe Curran); University Business (Glenn Bozinski); Torrington Conn. Register (Dr. Carso); Associated Press (Dr. Marie Gray); WVON Talk Radio, Chicago, Ill. (Dr. Carso); WHYY NPR, Philadelphia, Pa. (Dr. Tellis); and KIRO FM Northwest Nights, Seattle, Wash. (Dr. Carso).

Spring Phonathon

Misericordia University student callers are currently preparing for this year's Spring Phonathon from Feb. 20 to April 10. University alumni, parents and friends, who have not yet made a gift to this year's Annual Fund by the time the Phonathon begins, will be personally contacted by one of our students and asked to support the University. Gifts to the Annual Fund are instrumental in continuing to provide a quality education to all students.

Our student callers enjoy the opportunity to talk with alumni and friends about their shared experiences at MU. A few minutes spent on the phone means a lot to a Misericordia student caller. For information and questions, please contact Owen Baillie, assistant director of development, at obaillie@misericordia.edu or at (570) 674-8027.



MU students, seated from left, Andrea Brognano '11 and Dan Welsh '13, are preparing for the Spring Phonathon along with Lisa Malcolm, left, advancement support manager; and Owen Baillie, assistant director of development.

Algae, from page 15

Zygnema is so sensitive that it died in the culturing system only a few days after being exposed to an acidic pH.

"The techniques we're using are interesting and I will be able to use that knowledge in future research," says Ruegner. "It's really valuable. Working with a mentor and other students is something you're going to have to do no matter what kind of future you want to have in science."

With the Zygnema sample put aside, MU researchers then exposed the remaining species to pH3, which created a whitish appearance in the algae indicating the absence of chlorophyll and concomitant cell death. At pH5 and pH7 levels, which are less acidic than pH3, the species survived and showed no outward appearance of being stressed. They also are examining cell morphology at various time points during treatment to see if there are any changes in cell size or the cell wall.

Understanding acidity levels and algae species in fresh water is important because of their impact on the ecosystem. Prolonged acidic conditions can alter entire ecosystems by killing less tolerant species and increasing the population of others. In the end, those abundant panfish and trout in Lake Jean that feed upon certain algae, for example, may one day become nonexistent. So Dr. Wiese and her students continue to look for answers by examining cells, species, sites and acidity levels until they find an answer to a growing concern.

Bioprospecting, from page 16

learn them while doing research because we are going to use them for our post-grad work and in our professions."

In their search, student researchers have examined fish blood and heart tissue, frog skin and frog eggs. Student researchers Samantha Dunleavy '13, Katie Kilmer '13, Neil Dorman '13, and Lutchko began working with Dr. DiPino in the spring 2010 semester to develop a method of protocol for detecting antimicrobials by using a high throughput approach so scientists can expand their search. "We're excited about the opportunity to perform this research on a topic that is brand new," Dorman says. "It's exciting to try and find out what might have these properties. It's like connecting the dots."

"Our research is a new topic that current scientists are exploring," adds Dunleavy. "It's really fascinating how we are exploring how common, simple bacteria may possess antimicrobial agents. New things are being explored and we are finding out about them."

MU researchers have tested about 30 assays with varying degrees of success. One day this high throughput process designed at MU may enable a scientist to develop the next miracle drug. "I'm excited about having the opportunity to test a lot of samples," Dr. DiPino says. "Do I think we will find a new cure-all tomorrow? No. But our undergrads are exploring the possibilities and learning research processes. And who knows? There's no reason we couldn't come across a sample that's a very powerful antimicrobial once this method is developed."

In Memoriam

Lorraine Visneski '68
January 6, 2010

Dolores Pesta Wisnosky '56
March 16, 2010

Marjorie Meier Gallagher '38
September 10, 2009

Anne "Nancy" Kane '49
September 15, 2009

Margaret Lynch Marcoux '34
October 19, 2009

Barbara Nezzo Goodell '70
November 2, 2009

Eleanore Walsh '55
March 3, 2010

Helen Klockgether Bain '56
April 18, 2010

Regina Harcharik Engdahl '70
April 18, 2010

Elizabeth Fosko Dellarte '49
April 22, 2010

Emily Lewis Zubrod '36
April 23, 2010

Anne Marie Perkins Gola '68
May 2, 2010

Sister Mary Ruth Kelly, RSM '52
May 8, 2010

Ann Lynn Mizenko '77
May 19, 2010

Sister Mary Jocile Pekala, RSM '56
May 26, 2010

Mary Eloise Zelenak Ryan '61
June 1, 2010

Claire Hart Cummings '41
June 6, 2010

Marie Madeline Baigis '56
June 8, 2010

Alice McFarland Hargrave '54
June 28, 2010

Mary Tribendis Gavenonis '49
July 6, 2010

Amelia Gallo Dohanich '65
July 7, 2010

Ann Zabresky Tripp '65
July 12, 2010

Arline Latosek Matiskella '58
August 12, 2010

Phyllis Kovalcik MacWilliams '63
August 24, 2010

Sister Mary Agatha Mannix, RSM '62
September 11, 2010

Virginia Dargis Jordan '55
September 19, 2010

Margaret Lynch Bilbow '39
September 19, 2010

Charlotte Heal Kirk '48
September 21, 2010

Ann Marie Jamilkoski Epifano '61
September 27, 2010

Lois Ward Creamer '55
September 28, 2010

Maria Kimmel Miller '89
October 6, 2010

Alma Noll '75
October 11, 2010

Sr. Mary Ellen McElheney, RSM '58
October 17, 2010

Helen Mang Maloney '43
October 20, 2010

Nell Wojnarski Vernarski '42
October 25, 2010

Anita Santarelli Hovanec '41
November 5, 2010

Sister Mary Aloysius Thomas, RSM '55
November 26, 2010

Dr. Rosemarie Barkus '01
November 28, 2010

Sister Mary Benedict Heiss, RSM '57
December 14, 2010

Bernadette Barzeloski Ziminski '52
December 17, 2010

Ave Maria Turnbull Longley '47
December 20, 2010

Nancy Louise Binker '75
December 26, 2010

Winifred Glenn Gardella '65
December 31, 2010

Sister Theresa Marie Prekel '53
December 25, 2010

Wanda Vogt Tipton McMahon '60
September 24, 2010

Holly Bushko Croop '08
January 11, 2011



Mary Wilson of the Supremes headlining Under the Stars at MU

Display of gowns from July 23 to Oct. 17 is simply 'Supreme'

Mary Wilson, one of the original founding members of the original Supremes, is headlining the annual Misericordia University Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival at the Wachovia Amphitheater on Saturday, July 23. The two-day festival also includes the Jazz in July concert, *Old Time is Still a-Flying: The New Torch Bearers of Classic Jazz*, with Dan Levinson and six spectacular musicians on July 18.

Ms. Wilson is best known as a founding member of the world's most famous female trio. With Diana Ross, Florence Ballard and Ms. Wilson, the Supremes recorded 12 No. 1 hits from 1964 to 1969, such as *Baby Love*, *Stop in the Name of Love* and *Back in My Arms Again*. The Supremes is also the only group to record five consecutive number one hits.

A unique feature to her concert at Misericordia is a coordinating exhibit of the group's gown collection, which recently completed a world tour. It will be held in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall from July 23 to Oct. 16.

The Starlight Concert starring Ms. Wilson of the Supremes and the Jazz in July concert are scheduled for 8 p.m. For ticket information and prices, please call the Misericordia University Box Office at (570) 674-6719.

Tickets for the special opening reception at the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery featuring the gowns of the Supremes and the lecture in

Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall with Ms. Wilson on July 22 can also be purchased by calling the MU Box Office.

The formation of the Supremes began more than 50 years ago when Ms. Wilson started singing as a teenager while living in Detroit's Brewster-Douglass Projects. She performed at an elementary school talent showcase and befriended Ms. Ballard. The friends made a pledge to remember each other if they joined a singing group. In 1959, they joined the Primettes, which also included Ms. Ross.

Motown President Berry Gordy, Jr., signed the Primettes to his recording label and had them change their name to the Supremes on Jan. 15, 1961. Two years later, their string of hit songs began when *When the Lovelight Starts Shining Through His Eyes* reached number 23 on the Billboard pop chart.

In 1967, Mr. Gordy renamed the trio, Diana Ross and the Supremes. Shortly thereafter Ms. Ballard left the group and was replaced by Cindy Birdsong. Ms. Ross left the Supremes in January 1970 to pursue a solo career, but the trio continued as the New Supremes with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Birdsong being joined by Jean Terrell. The New Supremes scored a series of hits, including *Up the Ladder*, *Stoned Love*, and *Nathan Jones*, which reached No. 10, No. 7 and No. 16 respectively on the charts in the states.

The New Supremes had their last Top 20 hit single, *Floy Joy*, in 1972, which was written and produced by Smokey Robinson, and their final U.S. Top 40 hit, *Automatically Sunshine*, with Ms. Wilson on lead vocals. The last hit climbed to No. 37 on the charts. In 1977, Ms. Wilson embarked on her solo career and toured Europe and Asia. She has recorded two solo albums, including her self-titled debut in 1979 with the single, *Red Hot*, and her 1990 release, *Walk the Line*. She is currently recording another album.

Special Alumni Events

The Alumni, Community and Donor Relations Office at Misericordia University is holding several special events in the New Year.

An alumni bus trip is scheduled for Sunday March 6 to the **Philadelphia Flower Show**.

An alumni gathering will be held in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.** Tickets can be purchased at the Alumni Box Office at (570) 674-6719. Brunch will be served at the event.

The popular **Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch** with the Easter Bunny will be held Saturday, April 9. The egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. with children of all ages searching the lawn outside the Banks Student Life Center for seasonal treats. The brunch in the Cougar's Den features two sittings at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Please indicate which seating you prefer when registering for the event. Adults are \$10 and children ages 5-12 are \$5.

A professional photographer will also be at the event to capture the wonderful memories of the Easter Bunny with children and friends. Reservations are required and can be made by call the Alumni Box Office at (570) 674-6719.

On Friday, April 15, there will be an alumni gathering in conjunction with the **American Occupational Therapy Association Convention in Philadelphia**.

Everhart exhibit features alumni

Four Misericordia University alumni from the health sciences are featured prominently in the Everhart Museum's community exhibit, *Medics in Action: Caring for the Wounded*, which runs through July 17 in Scranton, Pa.

The exhibit highlights the experiences of medics and medical personnel in the military from Northeastern Pennsylvania.

MU alumni featured in the exhibit include Capt. (Ret.) Jack Volpe '98, O.T.R./L., U.S. Army Reserves; Capt. David Share '08, R.N., U.S. Navy; Capt. Frank J. Michael '86, R.N., U.S. Navy; and Col. (Ret.) William J. Hartman, '79 R.N., M.S.N., A.N.P., U.S. Army.



Col. (Ret.) William J. Hartman, '79 R.N., M.S.N., A.N.P., received the Combat Medical Badge during the first war in Iraq. His picture, above, is one of several being presented of MU alumni who served their country in the armed forces in the Everhart Museum's community exhibit, *Medics in Action: Caring for the Wounded*. Hartman's photo of trauma resuscitation care was taken in Somalia in 1992-93.

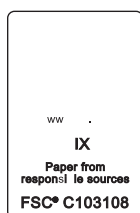


**MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY**

301 Lake St., Dallas, PA 18612

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy

PRSR T STD
NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
P A I D
MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY



printed using
**SOLAR
ENERGY**



HEARTS&E

Alumni Box Office (570) 674 6768 | Misericordia University Box Office (570) 674 6719

SPRING 2011

March 6, Sunday

*'Springtime in Paris'
at Philadelphia Flower Show*

Dinner at the Chart House Restaurant, at historic Penn's Landing along the Delaware River. \$85 per person, includes show, dinner, taxes, gratuity. Depart from MU at 9 a.m.
Alumni Box Office

March 13 April 21

*Exhibit: Luzerne County Women
in Pastel Invitational*

Georgiana Cray Bart, Anna Ostapiw, Mary Lou Steinberg, Tobin Balin Grossman, Shirley Triebel, Alice Laputka, Liz Bignel Plashinski and Natalia Kerr. **MacDonald Gallery:** Alice Welch Jenkins.
Pauly Friedman Art Gallery

April 7 9, Thursday Saturday
*Misericordia Players Theater
'The Drowsy Chaperone'*

8 p.m., Lemmond Theater;
\$5 adults; \$3 students/senior citizens.
Misericordia Box Office

April 9, Saturday
*Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch
with the Easter Bunny*

Brunch: 10 or 11:15 a.m. in Banks Student Life Center. Egg hunt at 11 a.m. Reservations required. \$10, adults; \$5, 5-12 years; under 5 no charge.
Alumni Box Office

April 10, Sunday
*Washington, D.C.
Alumni Gathering*

Join fellow alumni and enjoy conversation. Brunch will be served. Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Alumni Box Office at 866 262 6363 (option 3, then option 4)

April 15, Friday
*Alumni event in Philadelphia at the
American Occupational Therapy
Association Convention*

More details to follow.
Alumni Box Office

April 18, Monday
Ensemble Evening: Dance

Student performances in dance; 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater; no charge.
Misericordia Box Office

April 28, Thursday
Journey Through The Arts

Showcase of student talent in the performing arts.
7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater, no charge. Misericordia Box Office

May 1 June 19
Steve Poleski: Mixed Media

Pauly Friedman Art Gallery

May 2, Monday
Ensemble Evening: Music

Energetic performances of wind, jazz, and chamber singers.

7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater, no charge.
Misericordia Box Office

SUMMER 2011

June 2 5, Thursday Sunday
Alumni Weekend 2011

A special event will note the Nurse Practitioner Program's 15th Anniversary.
Alumni Box Office

July 18, Monday
Jazz in July

*'Old Time is Still a-Flying: The New
Torch Bearers of Classic Jazz'*

Performed by Dan Levinson and six spectacular musicians.
Wachovia Amphitheater, 8 p.m.
Misericordia Box Office

July 23, Saturday
*Mary Wilson of the Supremes
Under the Stars Starlight Concert*

One of the founding members of the original Supremes will perform the chart-topping hits of the world's most famous female trio.

8 p.m., Wachovia Amphitheater
Misericordia Box Office

July 23 through October 16
The Supremes Gown Collection

Fresh off a world tour, many of the distinctive gowns the female trio wore while climbing the music charts will be on display.
Pauly Friedman Art Gallery

Dr. Noel Keller's Trips with a Difference

2011

March 17 27

Southern Italy and Sicily

Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast and Sicily
\$2,999 + \$140 air tax
Call (570) 674 6776 or (570) 674 6924

May 26 June 6, 2011

France Magnifique

Paris, Seine River Cruise, Normandy, French Riviera, Avignon, Monaco, etc. \$3,599
Call (570) 674 6776 or (570) 674 6924

September 2 12, 2011

Gems of the Baltic Cruise

Tallin, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm and Copenhagen
Starting at \$2,048 (includes airfare)
Call (570) 674 6776 or (570) 674 6924

October 19 29, 2011

Greece: In the Footsteps of St. Paul

Features a 3-day Greek Isles and Turkey Cruise
Athens, Mykonos, Ephesus, Crete, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi and Corinth
\$3,249
Call (570) 674 6776 or (570) 674 6924

November 30 December 7, 2011

Alpine Christmas Markets

For info, call (570) 674 6776 or (570) 674 6924

FOR INFO OR RESERVATIONS, CALL:
Dr. Noël Keller, RSM, Th.D., Tour Director
Center for Adult and Continuing Education
(570) 674-6776 or email: srnoel@misericordia.edu