

Misericordia

today

WINTER 2012

The ARTS & MORE

New minor in fine arts introduces students,
community to credit and non-credit classes

... Pages 18-19

Special Section: Touching those in need one Charism at a time... Pages A1-A8



University earns Princeton Review designation



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

MU is one of 220 institutions of higher education that has been recommended in the *Best in the Northeast* section of the website feature, *2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region*, that's posted on PrincetonReview.com. The profile described Misericordia's academic programs as "very challenging" and "the coursework is rigorous," so "it all adds up in the end" to a highly marketable degree.

U.S. News ranks MU among the very best

Misericordia University ranks in the top tier, 52 out of 183 colleges and universities, in the Best Regional Universities – North category of U.S. News and World Report's 2012 edition of Best Colleges, which includes institutions of higher education in the northern United States that offer master's degrees.

MU's 52nd ranking is up 15 places from 2007 and its overall score of 48 is four points better than the 2011 report. In the latest rankings, MU is included in a tight grouping of 18 colleges and universities that are separated by four points for the rankings of 39 through 52, respectively.

Tradition of service gets national acclaim

Misericordia University is ranked among the top 28 percent of all master's degree-granting institutions of higher education in the country by Washington Monthly magazine in a survey that stresses community service and social mobility of students.

MU is ranked 158th overall among the 553 colleges and universities in the nation that were recognized in the *2011 Master's Universities* category. Washington Monthly ranks MU 20th in the nation for student participation in service.

CAMPUS VIEWS

John and Ann Passan receive TA Award

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees honored the philanthropy of John J. and Ann Passan by naming them the recipients of the 2011 Trustee Associates Award at the annual Trustee Associates Dinner in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

The award is given annually to friends of the University who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and generous support to Misericordia University. "Mr. Passan understands that quality medical care is very much dependent upon health care professionals in the fields of nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology," said Michael A. MacDowell, president. "His willingness to support that belief through his financial commitment to Misericordia and its students will make a big difference in the quality of life in our region for years to come."

Mr. and Mrs. Passan are loyal, ardent supporters of the health sciences and higher education overall. In August, Misericordia dedicated the building that houses the College of Health Sciences on Lake Street as John J. Passan Hall in honor of the Passan Foundation's generous support of the University and medical science education.

"The gift from the Passan Foundation is just the kind of philanthropy that allows us to continue to provide cutting-edge services to our clients with communication disorders,"



Carol Keup of the Passan Foundation accepts the TA Award on behalf of Mr. John J. and Mrs. Ann Passan. Posing for a picture after the presentation, from left, are Tina MacDowell, President Michael A. MacDowell, Ms. Keup, Robert J. Soper, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees; and Judith Ellis.

said Glen Tellis, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. "The impact of this generous contribution is acknowledged and appreciated each time our clients receive services in our clinic as they have access to state-of-the-art facilities that are not available anywhere else in the region."

Leadership in health education is a Misericordia tradition. Starting with the region's first nursing program in 1944, the University's curriculum has grown to include medical imaging, physician assistant, nuclear medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, sonography and speech-language pathology. The increased enrollment capacity provided by these programs will help to address the shortage of health care professionals in the region and nationwide.

On-campus housing needs change scope of building project

Due to the demand for on-campus housing, Misericordia University sought and received approval from Dallas Township for change orders in the design, construction and use for the new building that is being built near the North Gate of the upper campus.

Misericordia's initial plan for the new



37,000-square-foot building, located across the parking lot from the Anderson Sports and Health Center, called for the top two floors to house 90 college students in suite-style residence space. The lower level would be divided among two classrooms and a Hildebrandt Learning Systems-managed day care center to accommodate 112 children.

Combined with the University's growing enrollment and the desire of students to live on campus, the University changed the scope of the \$6.2 million project. By eliminating the day care facility, the new building will become a 118-bed, suite-style residence hall featuring the same amenities, such as kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and appliances. Each floor also contains a study lounge and laundry facilities. The first floor will now contain three academic classrooms.

MU also is constructing a \$4.1 million field house located by Mangelsdorf Field and Tambur Field, the new baseball diamond.

Misericordia University is constructing a new residence hall, pictured in this artist's rendering, near the North Gate of the upper campus.

Misericordia Today

Volume XIV, Number 1

12 Winter



FOLLOW US ON:



facebook.com/MisericordiaAlum



facebook.com/MisericordiaUniversity



twitter.com/MisericordiaU



youtube.com/MisericordiaU



misericordia.edu/publications



misericordia.edu/mutodayextended
Exclusive Online Content

categories

A-1



Campus community helps flood victims rebuild lives.

12



Alumnus spends lifetime preserving history.

10



Alumni help bring low-cost PT clinic to Passan Hall.

23



Cougar Pride shines during Homecoming festivities.

Misericordia Today

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

Contributing Writers: Scott Crispell, Jim Roberts, Marianne Tucker Puhalla and Julia Truax '12

Class Notes: Lailani Augustine, laugusti@misericordia.edu

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

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 2012

ON THE COVER

Misericordia University Artist-In-Residence, Skip Sensbach, M.F.A., seated at left, poses with fellow artists Georgiana Cray Bart, M.F.A., center, adjunct faculty of fine arts; and Babetta Wenner, M.S., assistant professor of fine arts and Art Studios coordinator, as Misericordia students practice throwing clay on the pottery wheels.



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



Alan J. Finlay 1934 - 2012

Misericordia lost a trusted friend and stalwart supporter with the death of Alan J. Finlay, who passed away Jan. 27, 2012 at the age of 77.

A member of the Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2009, Misericordia was fortunate to have the Dallas, Pa., resident as a valued member of its leadership team. He was a dedicated and involved volunteer whose knowledge of construction and real estate was significantly helpful to the institution during a period of unsurpassed growth.

"Alan Finlay's advice, support and commitment as a Trustee were unsurpassed," says University President Michael A. MacDowell. "He was always there when called upon. His ability to see what was really important to the University and to keep us on track was invaluable. He helped us apply the excellent and humanitarian business practices that made his company work well to Misericordia."

In recognition of his support, Mr. Finlay, and his wife, Evelyn, were presented the 2009 Trustee Associates Award.

An immigrant from Northern Ireland, Mr. Finlay, Evelyn, and their three children relocated to the Wyoming Valley after the Agnes Flood of 1972. His first business venture was the development of the Provincial Tower complex in Wilkes-Barre.

As the founder of Humford Equities, Mr. Finlay oversaw the property management company's growth that included development and management of a variety of commercial and residential properties. Although retired, he remained active with his son, Robert, who is the current president.

Mr. Finlay secured John Humes' wife, Patricia, and party leader David Trimble, the first minister of Northern Ireland, as Misericordia commencement speakers in 2000 and 2002. The two were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in crafting a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Finlay was most recently called upon by MU to help assess the feasibility and construction needs when the University purchased the former Frontier Communications Building for use as the new College of Health Sciences. He recently stated that over the past 10 years he and Evelyn had seen Misericordia become the best and best-known university in the region and were humbled to have been a part of the process.

Mr. Finlay is survived by Evelyn; their children, Maureen Matia, Wendy Casey and Robert; and six grandchildren.



Ronald David Ertley 1932 - 2012

Ronald David Ertley, 79, founding owner, creator and CEO of Ertley Motorworld, Plains Township, Pa.; founder of Tech Aviation at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, Avoca, Pa.; president of Ertley Dealerships, LLC, and a former Misericordia Trustee died Jan. 7, 2012.

Mr. Ertley of Dallas, Pa., was known in the auto industry for establishing the first mall-like shopping experience and for serving on many national automobile boards.

His passion for automobiles, though, took a backseat to his family, friends and community. Together, Mr. Ertley and his wife, Carole (Sis) Schalm Ertley, raised four children, Kristine Ertley McCarthy, Traci Ertley, Kimberly Ertley DeGooyer and David Ertley, and had four grandchildren.

Mr. Ertley also served his community in many ways. He was on the board of the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and was president of the Wilkes-Barre YMCA. Mr. Ertley was also a Trustee at MU from 1984 to 1996 and 1997 to 2006. He served on committees, such as the Marketing and Development, College Definition, and Building and Grounds committees, and also chaired the Science Building Capital Campaign.

"Ron's steadfast interest in the University was inspirational," says Michael A. MacDowell, University president. "His positive and optimistic outlook to all that we undertook in our efforts to grow Misericordia and expand its reach to students was very helpful. His can-do approach to life did not let impediments get in the way of progress. Mr. Ertley could always be relied upon to help, and he did so in many ways."

In the automobile business, Mr. Ertley had few peers. With the help of his friend, J. David Power, founder of JD Power and Associates, Ertley Motorworld opened in 1991 and featured 12 dealerships. His interest in automobiles began at a young age when he worked in his father's garage, Ertley's Super Service, pumping gas in the 1940s. Mr. Ertley later worked in the original Ertley Oldsmobile dealership, where he served as sales manager, general manager and president.

Mr. Ertley also served his country, attaining the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Duke University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Upon his honorable discharge from the armed services, he returned to the area to manage the dealership with his father, David Ertley.



Dr. Midori Yamanouchi, at right, poses for a picture with President and Mrs. Tina MacDowell at the 2011 Trustee Associates Dinner.

Meeting and interacting with a famous or highly accomplished person can inspire people to work harder than they thought they could to emulate that leader's contributions to society. Learning to succeed and reaching further intellectually are integral parts of the Misericordia experience.

Thanks to the support of Midori Yamanouchi, Ph.D., Misericordia University has established a new lecture series to bring world-class experts to campus for in depth interaction with students, faculty, staff and the community.

The inaugural Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series will feature famed journalist and author Carl Bernstein for the presentation, "His Holiness, John

Benefactor establishes the Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series

Paul II," on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

"Bernstein's appearance is certainly fitting for the Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series inaugural event. Dr. Yamanouchi understands the need to expose young minds to great thinkers and Bernstein's lecture will provide a thought-provoking educational experience for our students," said Michael A. MacDowell, University president.

The Bernstein visit and future lectures in the series would not be possible without the generosity of Dr. Yamanouchi. A friend of Misericordia for many years, she also has contributed significantly to the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program.

Dr. Yamanouchi is an accomplished teacher, author and community leader. A professor emerita at the University of Scranton, she taught for 30 years in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. She also served as vice president of academic affairs at Lackawanna College. Dr. Yamanouchi is a nationally recognized expert in consumer and

cross-cultural marketing and American-Japanese business relations.

"It is exciting to expose students to accomplished people so students realize they are living in a larger world," says Dr. Yamanouchi. "I'm delighted to work with Dr. MacDowell on this project. By the time a Misericordia student graduates, I hope this lecture series helps each one to know they can succeed and that they can interact with the type of person they aspire to be."

Bernstein and Bob Woodward investigated the Watergate scandal for The Washington Post for which they and the newspaper were awarded the Pulitzer Prize in the 1970s. Since then, Bernstein has continued to build on the "abuse of power" theme, in books, magazine articles, commentary, television reporting and as editor of an award-winning website.

He and Bernstein wrote two classic best sellers: *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days*, that outlined the end of the Nixon presidency.

— By James Roberts

Love of learning:

Lifelong teacher makes largest alumni bequest in school history

Helene C. Kretchik '43 was a beloved alumna who loved her college.

Throughout her life, she was quick to share stories about her experiences as an education major and gave high praise to the Sisters of Mercy who sponsored and founded the college, and especially those who prepared her for a career in education. In the classroom, Helene was recognized as a great teacher who espoused academic excellence, offering instruction that was caring and strict, traits she learned from the Misericordia faculty.

Upon her death in October 2011, just two months shy of her 90th birthday,

Helene's love of Misericordia became her legacy with a bequest of \$400,000, the largest alumni bequest in University history. The gift will establish The Helene C. Kretchik Scholarship Fund. Income from the fund will be used to award annual scholarships to deserving students who demonstrate good moral beliefs. "Helene had an infectious personality — lively, inviting and affable — and she loved to talk about the Sisters of Mercy who were such an important part of her life," said Michael A. MacDowell, president.

The youngest of seven children, Helene was a 1939 graduate of West Wyoming



Helene C. Kretchik

High School. She taught at Exeter and Wyoming Area High Schools. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Misericordia, she earned a master's in behavioral science from Bucknell University. She was a long-time member of the Misericordia Alumni Association and frequently volunteered for the American Red Cross. "Helene gave generously to Misericordia throughout her life, and chose to make an enduring impact by supporting the University in her will," said Barbara Merdiushev, director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. "Her generosity will enrich the lives of students for years to come. A grateful college will miss her."

— By Marianne Tucker Puhalla



Established in 1994, the Heart of Mercy Society recognizes those benefactors who have included Misericordia in their estate planning. To notify us if you have a planned gift, or to learn more about becoming a member and including the University in your long-term financial and estate plans, please contact Barbara Merdiushev at (570) 674-6167 or bmerdius@misericordia.edu.



CAMPUS VIEWS

SLP graduate student receives national scholarship

Nicholas A. Barone '11, who was awarded his master's degree in speech-language pathology at Winter Commencement, was awarded one of 12 prestigious national scholarships by the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation at the annual Founders Breakfast in San Diego, Calif.

More than 100 master's and doctoral level students applied for the scholarships made available by the ASH Foundation's 2011 Graduate Student Scholarship Competition. Other award recipients included collegians from Florida State University, University of North Carolina and many others.

State grant to support energy-efficient upgrades

Misericordia was awarded one of 13 clean energy grants totaling \$3.7 million from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA).

The University will use the \$273,841 grant to install energy-efficient lighting at the Anderson Sports and Health Center and in the Hafey- McCormick Science Building, reducing lighting energy use in the buildings by 39 percent. The funds will also be used to replace the steam boiler in the Banks Student Life Center, yielding an estimated 33-percent energy savings.

Campus community marks 10-year anniversary of 9/11

The campus community came together to observe the somber 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 with a slate of activities that were designed to educate participants and remember those who died in the attacks and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The activities began with the Government, Law & National Security Program-sponsored roundtable discussion, *9/11: Freedom, Security and Life in America, 10 Years Later*, that featured Keith Martin, the former director

and senior advisor to the governor for Pennsylvania Homeland Security.

The campus community participated in a special Mass in the University Chapel on Sept. 11. Afterward students walked in a special candlelight procession to the campus Peace Pole in front of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall, where a candlelight vigil and special prayer service were held.



Students, from left, Ryan Hassick '13, Kyle Slavetskas '12, Jeff Salvatore '12, Lisa Witkowski '12, Shannon Kowalski '12 participate in the candlelight vigil on Sept. 11.

Student's photo graces cover of PNA's 2012 calendar

The Pennsylvania Newspaper Association (PNA) chose a photo by communications major Mary Bove '15 as the feature photograph on the cover of its 2012 calendar.

PNA's state-wide competition gives student journalists at two- and four-year institutions an opportunity to showcase their work across the state. Bove chose a horizontal image of the picturesque Susquehanna River near Nescopeck and Berwick, Pa., after reviewing about a half-dozen landscape photographs she had taken in recent months.



Mary Bove '15 had her picture chosen by PNA.

Health science majors learn about future of health care

Students majoring in the health sciences learned about the future of health care from Nathan S.



Nathan S. Kaufman

Kaufman, managing director of Kaufman Strategic Advisors, LLC, during his special student-focused presentation on campus.

Kaufman also presented *Getting Your Organization in Shape for the 2016 Health Care Games: The Future of Access, Costs and Integration* to 150 professionals as part of the Misericordia University Annual Health Care Lecture Symposium.

Shakespeare Garden receives Horticultural Society award

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society presented a Community Greening Award to Misericordia University in recognition of the Sister Regina Kelly Memorial Garden outside Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall. The award is based on plant variety, design, use of space and horticultural practices.

The garden features plants that are mentioned in Shakespeare's works and is a setting for student rest and restoration of the spirit. The garden has been adopted by the Back Mountain Bloomers as a community project. Members of the Bloomers tend to the garden from April through November to keep the garden in perfect order for the enjoyment of the University and the regional community.

On Dec. 7, First Lady Susan Corbett recognized the award and

welcomed MU and Back Mountain Bloomer representatives to the Pennsylvania Governor's Residence in Harrisburg, Pa.



Members of the BM Bloomers accept award.

Three new Trustees named to BOT

John C. Metz named chair and Robert Soper named vice chair

Misericordia University and the Conference for Mercy Higher Education elected Stuart M. Bell, CFP; Mary Hudack Erwine, RN, MSN; and Robert C. Friedman to the University's Board of Trustees. They began their three-year terms in October.

The Board of Trustees also elected John C. Metz, a member of the board for 25 years, as chairman, and Robert Soper, a member of the board for five years, as vice chairman. Mr. Metz is the chairman and CEO of Metz Culinary Management of Dallas, Pa. Mr. Soper is president of Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, Plains Township, Pa.

Mr. Bell is the director and president of Luzerne Products, Inc., of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a privately-owned property management and holding company, and oversees the James E. & Constance L. Bell Foundation, a private charitable foundation, as secretary and treasurer. Mr. Bell is also the director, secretary and treasurer of Jebco, Inc., a wholly-owned investment subsidiary of Luzerne Products, and is a managing member of Plainsville Sports, LLC, a sports training facility of Luzerne Products.

Mrs. Erwine is the president of Erwine Home Health & Hospice, Inc., of Kingston, Pa., a health care company that serves five counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania. A community advocate, she has served and continues to serve on many community and nonprofit boards. Mrs. Erwine also has helped MU obtain a number of private gifts and government grants in support of the University's health science programs. A teaching lab in John J. Passan Hall bears her



Bell



Erwine



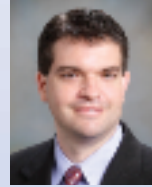
Friedman



Metz



Siegel



Soper

name because of the financial support she has provided to the health sciences.

Mr. Friedman is the past president of Friedman Electric Supply Co., Wilkes-Barre, and is a consultant with Friedman Electric. He is the owner of the River Street Jazz Café in Wilkes-Barre and Friedman Farms in Dallas. He is active in the community by serving on several boards, including the Family Business Council, Domestic Violence Service Center and Temple Israel.

Misericordia University also reappointed Dr. Ruth A. Connolly, Ed.D., Kristopher B. Jones, J.D., William H. Kent, Paul "Chip" Siegel, Dr. Deborah Smith-Mileski, Ed.D., and Sister Mayon Sylvain, RSM to new three-year terms. Mr. Siegel, who retired as board chair after five years, was presented with an engraved chair in recognition of his years of service.

Students give MU high marks in national higher education survey

Freshmen and seniors at Misericordia overwhelmingly rated their overall educational experience as positive and gave their University higher marks than other comparable institutions in several important categories in the 2011 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE.)

The survey included 416,000 randomly selected first- and fourth-year students from 673 colleges and universities in the United States. The results help institutions of higher education confirm good practices in undergraduate education and provide a benchmark by which schools can determine an accurate measure of quality education. This year's survey included 451 MU students.

In the study, 97 percent of first-year students rated their entire educational

experience as good or excellent, compared to an 89 percent average of other institutions. Eighty-eight percent of respondents said they would choose Misericordia again if they could start their collegiate careers over. Misericordia freshmen also overwhelming rated their faculty as available, helpful and sympathetic (97 percent) and said the University provided the support they needed to succeed academically (92 percent), compared to 81 percent at all other schools surveyed.

Comparatively, 90 percent of MU seniors rated their educational experience as good to excellent, higher than the NSSE average of 87 percent. Seniors also rated the quality of advising 10 percentage points higher than at other surveyed institutions.

Dr. Loftus named vice president

Barbara Samuel Loftus, Ph.D., has been named vice president of the Division of Planning, Assessment and Research.

Dr. Loftus previously served as vice president for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education where she helped guide member colleges and universities on institutional improvement through



Dr. Loftus

accreditation and in meeting external expectations for quality assurance standards.

Her focus will be on assessment and research functions, including leadership and coordination of University planning, institutional effectiveness, outcomes assessment, and institutional research. She will also guide the implementation of the strategic plan and the reaffirmation of the accreditation process.

Alumni Ambassador Program volunteers!

Gather with alumni for refreshments and conversation, while learning how to help MU by referring students through the MU Proud Program, volunteering at college fairs, and/or becoming a mentor for students or alumni.

Gatherings will be held:

Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.: MU campus, McGowan Room, Bevevino Library (March 17 snow date); **March 30 at 6 p.m.:** Stroudsburg, Pa., hostess, Michele Roy Ritchie '88, at Studebakers, Route 611; **April 24 at 4-7:30 p.m.:** Philadelphia, Pa., ParenteBeard Office, One Liberty Place; **Aug. 18 at 4 p.m.:** Host Ryan Beliveau '08, Bar Anticipation at Lake Como, N.J.; **Oct. 21 at 2 p.m.:** Hostess Lorraine Harmonas Henrich '66, at her home at 201 McAlpine St., Duryea, Pa.; **Oct. 26 at 6 p.m.:** Hostess Kelly Spencer McAndrew '79, incoming Alumni Board president, at her home at 5 Heather Hill Rd., Bear Creek, Pa.

For more information or to RSVP: Virginia Conrad, M.S., '05, '10, assistant director of alumni, community and donor relations, at vconrad@misericordia.edu or at (570) 674-6228.

A portrait of Dr. Carol Rittner, an elderly woman with short white hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket over a pink top. She is seated in a church, with a wooden bench and a blurred altar in the background. The word "Profile" is written vertically in a large, light grey script font on the left side of the page.

Dr. Carol Rittner

‘67, RSM, Board of Trustees

STORY BY JIM ROBERTS

Words have power. They can inspire or they can destroy. Few understand that better than Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM, ‘67, a member of Misericordia University’s Board of Trustees and a Sister of Mercy.

As an author, educator, editor, film producer and conference organizer, Dr. Rittner uses the power of the written and spoken word to foster greater understanding and awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides – human tragedies where one word — Mercy — was too often absent.

Dr. Rittner is the Distinguished Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Dr. Marsha R. Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. She is also the editor of *Mercywords* (www.mercywords.com), a quarterly e-journal forum for religious and laity that explores ideas and questions in theology, religious studies, spirituality and social activism.

Her association with Misericordia began with her time as an undergraduate student and spans decades. When asked about the strengths of an MU education, Dr. Rittner says, “We offer an education based in the liberal arts where we prepare students to deal with the ethical and moral questions that they will face in their professional lives. They will be prepared to think and act in those situations.”

A former higher education administrator, Dr. Rittner worked with Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel to

organize international conferences before becoming the first director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in New York City. In the time that followed, Dr. Rittner organized multiple international conferences and seminars on the Holocaust. She wrote and edited multiple books on it and related topics.

She was executive producer of the documentary films, *The Triumph of Memory*, and 1986’s, *The Courage to Care*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in the Short Documentary category.

Dr. Rittner is passionate about her current documentary project – an hour-long movie on American Sisters (nuns) in the Catholic Church.

“Women in the Church have worked long, hard and often unheralded. We are still here and still active in ministry making a positive contribution to the Catholic Church. That’s a story I want to tell,” says Dr. Rittner, who is currently seeking corporate sponsors for the documentary to add to the nearly \$300,000 she’s already raised.

Dr. Rittner is the recipient of The Richard Stockton College’s Ida E. King Medallion for outstanding scholarship and international service to the human community. In 2000, she was honored by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge and awarded the Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania medal. In 2008, Dr. Rittner was honored by the Conference for Mercy Higher Education with the Mercy Higher Education Award.

“Women in the Church have worked long, hard and often unheralded.”

— Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM, ‘67



The Department of Business and the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education, under the direction of John Sumansky, Ph.D., worked with students, from left, William F. desRosiers '09, '11, Meagan Simkulak '11, Brandi Brace '11 and others to secure important paid internships while enrolled at MU.

Collaborations benefit students, regional economy

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The economy in Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) has lacked a true identity since the Knox Mine disaster in 1959 flooded the anthracite mines in the Wyoming Valley and effectively ended the golden age of coal mining.

Anthracite from NEPA fueled the Industrial Revolution for the United States and it was also the stimulus behind a population boom and the creation of wealth in the region. After its untimely decline, the region's economy was reinvented through the manufacturing sector and the garment industry.

At the turn of the 21st century, the economy in NEPA was dominated by the warehousing, distribution, health care, higher education and service industries. What was lacking, according to several visionaries, was an attempt to capitalize on the emerging knowledge-based, technology-focused economy that was expanding economies around the globe. It was time for the "Great Valley" of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties to diversify in order to grow its own regional economy, they said.

The Battelle Memorial Institute of Cleveland, Ohio, was commissioned by the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Hazleton CAN DO, Inc., and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry to study the region and formulate a report that highlighted the challenges the

Quick Info

For more information about GVTA or NPTI, please log on to www.greatvalleyalliance.com.

region faced in developing this new economy. The "Great Valley — Pennsylvania's I-81 Technology Corridor: Growing a 21st Century Knowledge Economy in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties" report concluded in 1999 that NEPA had to address several weaknesses in order to compete and succeed in the united endeavor. The lack of financial support for entrepreneurs hampered the entrepreneurial business climate and the creation of jobs and personal wealth.

"A new economy is upon us," the report states. "Its cornerstones are knowledge, technology globalization and talent. In today's economy speed is critical. Product half-lives are becoming shorter and shorter and firm growth and survival may be as short as five years."

It also concluded that the lack of a major research-driven educational institution and less-than-ideal networking between the region's existing technology-based industries all were detriments to attracting and retaining talented people and technology-focused investment.

"We realized we had to make a bold statement in order to reenergize our economy and attract the necessary investment and people that would result

in good, family-sustaining jobs and careers," recalls Christopher Haran, the former president and CEO of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute (NPTI) and Great Valley Technology Alliance (GVTA). "We needed a sustained collaborative effort between the region's entrepreneurs and higher education and economic development leaders who were willing to lead and invest in our future."

The report concluded that regional economic leaders had to leverage the area's higher education institutions — 12 in all — to build a technology base and therefore capture the expansion of information technology and new media companies from larger metropolitan areas and capitalize on past investments in industrial and technology parks. These recommendations led to the formation of the GVTA in 2000, a private partnership designed to facilitate the development of the region's new economy. In 2003, a consortium of regional colleges and universities, including MU, formed the NPTI to serve as a vehicle for securing support and coordinating research, training, employment opportunities and knowledge exchange. Together, these regional public-private partnerships were designed to facilitate NEPA's transition to the 21st century economy and beyond.

Building a community with a strong entrepreneurial spirit based in state-of-the-art technology does not

See **ECONOMY**, Page 35



Partnering for a healthier • Community



John J. Passan Hall features low-cost community clinics
in speech-language pathology and physical therapy

Partnership yields physical therapy clinic

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

It didn't take long for Stevie Lynn Dorbada '11, M.S.P.T., to return to her alma mater, Misericordia University. Three months after being one of four valedictorians in her graduating class, she returned to campus to be one of two professional clinicians to staff the new John J. Passan Hall Physical Therapy Center on the lower campus.

The collaboration between NovaCare Rehabilitation and the Department of Physical Therapy at Misericordia University has created a professional clinic at 100 Lake St., which will provide additional clinical opportunities for students majoring in physical therapy, and an additional site for regional residents to receive standard and low-cost treatment for their ailments.

"I cannot explain how excited I am to be back and intimately involved with MU," says Frank Serino '99, M.S.P.T., market manager of NovaCare Rehabilitation. "We couldn't have planned it any better having the three of us involved. I feel so comfortable there and excited not only to treat students, staff and community, but we also will provide learning experiences for the students.

"We will be helping in their labs as well as having students spend time with us in clinic. It is very rewarding to be part of the team," Serino adds.

The Passan Hall Physical Therapy Center is similar to any other rehabilitation center staffed by licensed clinicians. It will accept most major medical insurances and it will provide therapy for orthopedic conditions, sports injuries, radiculopathy, workers' compensation claims, neurological disorders, gait dysfunction, stroke and more.

What separates the new clinic from others in the area is its dedication to providing care to those who cannot afford it, while also providing additional educational opportunities to MU students. "I believe that people who truly need skilled services should not be denied because an insurance company and/or life

QUICK INFO

For more information or to schedule an appointment at the Passan Hall Physical Therapy Center at Misericordia University, please call (570) 674-6230 or the NovaCare Rehabilitation Center in Plains Township, Pa., at (570) 825-7676. Walk-in appointments are welcome.

circumstances do not provide them the opportunity," says Serino, who manages 12 NovaCare clinics from Philadelphia to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"No one should be denied medically necessary care because an insurance company does not approve due to the level of plan the patient has or the circumstances of the injury," adds Serino, the son of Frank and Angeline Serino.

"Insurances place more and more restrictions on care and pay less and less. This should not determine the care a person receives. Granted, we cannot do pure pro-bono work, but to be able to give to those truly in need is really nice and gives me a sense of gratification in our profession."

The physical therapy center is the second low-cost clinic on campus. The Department of Speech-Language Pathology has been providing clinical opportunities to regional clients since 2003 in the Speech-Language and Hearing Center. To date, more than 2,500 people — 1,980 children and 520 adults

Clinicians, seated from left, are Dr. Susan Barker, Stevie Lynn Dorbada '11, standing, Frank Serino '99 and Dr. Joshua Hogan '99, '11.

— have been treated at the clinic by students and faculty members.

Misericordia's latest endeavor to provide outreach to the community also provides a venue for former students to give back to the profession and to remain true to the tenets of MU by helping those most in need. The center's chief clinicians, Dorbada and Joshua Hogan '99, '11, M.S.P.T., D.P.T., NovaCare Rehabilitation center manager, are excited by the opportunity.

"I think this partnership will really benefit the local and campus communities as well as give the physical therapy students some great opportunities to experience real cases and learn some of the business aspects of clinic operation," says Hogan, the son of Eugene and the late Marie Hogan. "I think it's great that Misericordia students have this opportunity right on campus. I feel it will be beneficial for NovaCare, which is looking to grow in the area, as well as strengthening an already strong Misericordia PT program with opportunities that didn't exist before."

"I don't think you can pick a career in health care without wanting to help those in need," adds the daughter of Susan Dorbada. "We realize just how important service is at Misericordia. It is instilled in us as we see the instructors and peers around us. It's what lets us know there are people that truly care in the world. I'm grateful that I will be able to show it through work at the new clinic."

Alumnus preserved state history, documented other notable events in books

Kenneth C. Wolensky '84

Hooked on History

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

In 1984, Apple Computer Inc., revolutionized information technology with the introduction of the Macintosh personal computer and pop star Michael Jackson won a record eight Grammy Awards for *Thriller*. For members of Misericordia University's graduating class, a former Pennsylvania governor delivered the Commencement ceremony's keynote address and encouraged each of them to leave their own lasting marks on society.

Twenty-eight years later, that message still resonates with historian Kenneth C. Wolensky '84, Ed.D. "I simply remember graduation day in May of 1984," he says after being asked about his fondest collegiate memories. "It was a great day. There were a lot of happy people and smiling faces. The keynote speaker was former Pennsylvania Gov. George M. Leader. What a coincidence it is that I would befriend him over the past 10 years and come to write his biography."

Dr. Wolensky also fondly recalls a no-nonsense professor whose demanding approach helped to shape him as a historian for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), and as an author. "Dr. Louis Maganzin was an excellent teacher who always brought out the best in me," he says. "He challenged me to think beyond the perceived boundaries of historical research, helped me hone my writing skills, and was just generally an

Quick Info:

Kenneth C. Wolensky '84

B.A.: Misericordia University

MPA: University of Delaware

Ed.D.: Penn State University

Books: *The Knox Mine Disaster: The Final Years of the Anthracite Coal Industry and the Effort to Building a Regional Economy* (1999); *Fighting for the Union Label: The Women's Garment Industry and the ILGWU in Pennsylvania* (2002); and *Challenging Complacency: The Life of Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader* (2011).

inspiration." Dr. Wolensky used the foundation he established at MU to preserve important historical artifacts, documents and property in the commonwealth, and to offer his expertise in the operations of state agencies, including the administration of former Gov. Robert P. Casey. In his spare time, he wrote three books that examined important periods of history and more than 25 articles, book reviews and monographs.

"I've always been interested in history," says Dr. Wolensky, who has given dozens of keynote addresses at ceremonies to note special historical anniversaries, such as the Battle of Wyoming. "I remember a Boy Scout trip to Valley Forge when I was about nine or 10 years old. I was fascinated by the fact that such important history

happened right in our own backyard, so to speak. I was hooked on history from an early age and loved it in high school. I've been interested in local, regional and Pennsylvania history as well as labor and industrial history."

Dr. Wolensky retired in July 2011 after working at PHMC for 15 years and 25 years overall with the state government. He and his wife, Cherie, live in Grantville, Pa. He is working on his forth book, a still untitled work focusing on the history of the United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania. Like his other publications, he bases his book projects on personal interest and focuses on particular aspects that have not been explored before by other historians.

"The Knox Mine Disaster was an infamous event that happened in the Wyoming Valley," he says, talking about the subject of his first book that he co-wrote with his brother, Robert P. Wolensky and his daughter, Nicole H. Wolensky. "While it was part of regional lore and many stories, no scholarly publication had ever fully explained it."

For Dr. Wolensky, leaving his mark on society meant preserving the path that so many before him chose to take for the betterment of humankind. "It gave me a solid foundation in history from which to pursue graduate school and then, in a roundabout way, eventually work as a historian," he says, explaining how MU gave him the tools he needed to succeed. "Misericordia helped me to hone my study skills to be successful in graduate school."

Dr. Hook secures Project NExT fellowship

As a young mathematics professor and researcher at Maryland's Mount St. Mary's University, Jonelle Hook '04, Ph.D., is already being recognized as a rising talent, having been selected as one of about 60 Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) fellows nationwide. But it was Hook's time as an undergraduate at Misericordia that provided her with the inspiration and guidance to follow her career path.

"Dr. Pat Touhey was the professor who encouraged me to continue mathematics on a graduate level," recalls Dr. Hook, a summa cum laude graduate and Swoyersville, Pa., native. "In a probability and statistics course at Misericordia, I remember coming up with an idea during lecture and discussing it in class. However small the idea was, Dr. (Jerry) Bradford entitled it the 'Hook Theorem' and this was the moment that fueled my drive to become a mathematician. Drs. Touhey, Bradford, and (Sister Pat) Lapczynski inspired me to become a professor."

Dr. Hook went on to earn her Ph.D. from Lehigh University in 2010, with a focus on combinatorics and graph theory, areas she was drawn to because they create visualizations of intriguing, often complex problems.

"Also, graph theory is a branch of mathematics that is accessible to undergraduates and has many real-world applications from computer science to

chemistry to network analysis," she says.

During her graduate career, she spent four summers teaching as an adjunct professor at Misericordia, which played a role in helping her land her first academic position as assistant professor of mathematics at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Md.

There she has taught courses from graph theory to calculus and developed a new, core math course called "Mathematical Thought and Problem-Solving." Dr. Hook designed the course to be interactive so students would be actively engaged and find mathematics less intimidating.

"I have been thrilled by the results and it is difficult to put into words the excitement I feel when non-math major students conjecture a mathematical idea and explain why it is true," she says.

The Mathematical Association of America has recognized Dr. Hook's efforts with a 2011-12 Project NExT fellowship, a professional development program for full-time teachers in their first or second year, addressing all aspects of an academic career.

"Project NExT has helped me to develop and enhance my teaching in innovative ways," she says. "In addition, it has provided me with guidance to begin and implement a successful undergraduate research program. The most significant advantage of Project

NExT is the network of peers and mentors it provides. As I began my career, I was faced with many new challenges in my teaching, research and university responsibilities. The Project NExT network has been an invaluable resource."

Hook's experience as an undergraduate at Misericordia has had a lasting impact. She said the same aspects of the University that appealed to her then attracted her to Mount St. Mary's to begin her professional career.

"I chose Misericordia as it was a Catholic liberal arts university that would help me to develop both as an intellectual and as a person," she acknowledges. "I was particularly drawn to the close-knit community, small class sizes and the opportunity to interact with my professors on a daily basis."

To read about more alumni,
student and faculty
accomplishments, log on to:
Misericordia Today Extended at
Misericordia.edu/mutodayextended.

Beth Cardell '88,
M.S., O.T.R./L.

Top of the Class

Alumna receives Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Utah

Whether it is to help her students in becoming occupational therapists or in

discovering what she most wanted in life, experience has been the key for Beth Cardell '88, M.S., O.T.R./L.

A 1988 Misericordia graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy, Cardell spent years as a traveling occupational therapist, building her career through stays in North Carolina, Utah and various California locales before finally heading back to Utah. There she found not only the place she wanted to live, but also her calling as an educator.

An assistant professor of occupational therapy at the University of Utah, Cardell earned the College of Health Distinguished Teaching Award for 2010-11. "I found it humbling," she acknowledges. "It makes me want to be a better teacher because I feel I have to live up to that. It makes me want to work harder and to do a better job, so I can say I feel like I deserved it."

A Blakely, Pa., native, Cardell learned about occupational therapy from an OT she met through her father's volunteer work with United Cerebral Palsy in Scranton, Pa.

"I liked the idea of problem solving and coming up with creative things to

"I enjoy helping students realize their potential ..."

— Beth Cardell '88, M.S., O.T.R./L.

help people, helping them get back into life and the things they wanted to participate in," says Cardell, a Valley View High School graduate.

Cardell chose to attend Misericordia because it had one of the few OT programs in the region, and because she became familiar with the campus through her mother, Elizabeth Sullivan Cardell, a 1954 graduate. Through her career at Misericordia, she valued the close sense of community that enabled many lasting friendships.

"It's a nice community with a beautiful campus where I really made some great friends," she says. "I loved living on campus, and the relationships that I formed with people there. It was possible to have really significant relationships with people and make great friends there because it was such a small community."

As her career progressed, she developed a particular interest in working with adults with brain injuries, many of whom are young adults, with whom she feels she can have an

especially positive impact.

After returning to Utah, she began to volunteer with the university's new OT program, the first of its kind among the state's schools. As her involvement increased, she was offered a faculty position, which has proven to be a rewarding career move.

"I enjoy helping students realize their potential and what they have to offer other people," she says.

Meanwhile, Cardell is finishing a Ph.D. in health promotion and education at Utah. She is involved with a number of service efforts as well, serving on two statewide boards and managing a monthly support group for adults with brain injuries. "I was raised Catholic and my mom went to Misericordia," Cardell says. "The whole idea of doing service and mission work is important and it's just what I grew up with. I think if you have time or skill that someone else can benefit from, why not go for it?"

She continues to practice professionally in a university clinic established by faculty that also allows learning experiences for OT students, something that is central to Cardell's teaching. "I really try to offer my students experiences," she says. "I try to give them experiences and things they can do to develop their own knowledge and construct how they understand things. I try to make it very experiential and very active."

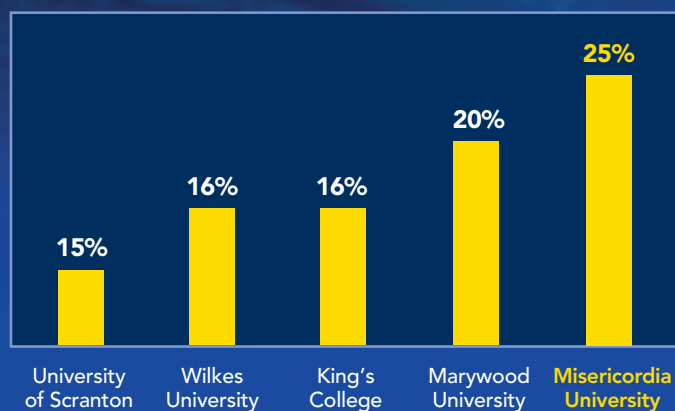


Maintain the Momentum

Misericordia University alumni are No. 1 in a very important regional category — alumni giving rate. Several prestigious national publications that rank colleges and universities utilize the percentage of alumni giving as one criterion in measuring institutional quality. As *MU* continues to become nationally recognized and regionally acclaimed, it is important to maintain the positive momentum we've experienced over the last several years. A lot of *Misericordia's* success is due to the generosity of our alumni. Regardless of size, your gift has a positive impact on *MU's* perception among its peers and on students of today and tomorrow in the form of scholarships and improved campus amenities.

Thank you in advance for supporting *Misericordia's* mission of high quality academics, superb career preparation and honing within each student the passion to serve others. But most importantly, thank you for being **Misericordia Proud!**

To make a donation to the Annual Fund, please contact **Jim Bebla**, director of development, at (570) 674-6740 or at jbebla@misericordia.edu, or **Owen Baillie**, assistant director of development, at (570) 674-8027 or at obaillie@misericordia.edu, or log on to www.misericordia.edu/makeagift.



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

*Source: U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2012

Passion for news

fuels alumna's success in media business

STORY BY JULIA TRUAX '12

Fresh out of college, the typical graduate could wait years before he or she has earned leadership positions in their respective fields.

Mallory Vough '08, though, didn't choose the most traditional path for her career in journalism.

In the second semester of her freshman year at Misericordia University, the communications major, with an English minor, was sitting in her journalism class when her professor asked if anyone knew how to use Adobe PageMaker. Having used the program briefly in high school, Vough timidly raised her hand and that was the beginning of her tenure with the University's student newspaper, *The Highlander*.

The Bushkill Township, Pa., native passionately dove into the newspaper business and would spend the next four years directing much of the publication. Under the supervision of her advisor, Melissa Sgroi, the chair of the communications program, Vough transitioned from managing editor to editor-in-chief, a position she held during her junior and senior years at MU. "I owe a lot to 'Mama Sgroi,'" says Vough, adding a smile. "She was always teaching you something."

Vough also served as an intern with *The Times Leader*, a Wilkes-Barre-based newspaper. She turned her intended one-semester practicum at the daily newspaper into a year-long experience in which she worked as a reporter, consistently writing front-page worthy articles. "If you have the opportunity to keep going and add to your portfolio then do it," says Vough, a practice that has proven most successful for her during her career.

Upon graduation, Vough was hired by Northampton Community College to work part-time in its office

of public information. There she contributed to the school's publications, covered campus events, submitted press releases and managed all of the school's social media sites. During her time at the institution of higher education, Vough also established a YouTube channel for the college, making it one of the first community colleges to have a presence on the social media site's EDU channel.

She then moved on to *The Patch*, an up-and-coming Internet news source sprouting up in communities across the nation. Vough was recruited to serve full time as the editor of the *Nazareth Patch*, one of 11 sites in the Lehigh Valley.

Patch is a community hub where residents can check on the latest happenings and even contribute their own comments, photos and blogs. Freelancers contribute stories on anything important to the community,

ranging from local sports, to municipal meetings, to community events. Vough's *Patch* edition celebrated its first anniversary on Dec. 1, 2011. "My boss came to me one day and said, 'You really love your *Patch*, we can't teach you to do that,'" she recalls.

Vough takes pride in the local *Patch* and the time she has dedicated to its development, but she will never forget her roots and those who took the time to help her evolve as a journalist. "I'm really lucky at 25 years old to be in the field I went to school for and to be so successful at my age," she says.

Vough credits much of her good fortune to the faculty and staff at Misericordia, and can't imagine having her 'start' anywhere else. "I'm glad I came," says Vough. "I'm really lucky to have had the faculty I had and the mentorship I had with Dave Phoenix and Sgroi. It was a really great experience being here, and now I will wait and see where the ride will take me."



Mallory Vough '08 is the editor of the *Nazareth Patch*.

Best of both WORLDS

Secondary education certificate helps alumna realize dream of working in nonprofit and education sectors

Rianna Carlisle '11 has a passion for both education and working with nonprofit organizations, so when in 2011 she took on the role of program manager for Junior Achievement of Northeastern PA (JANEPa), it was a natural fit.

"Junior Achievement was the best of both worlds for me — nonprofit and education," she says. "I knew from my first interview with the organization and my first tour of the facility that this is where I wanted to be."

Misericordia University's secondary education certificate program helped make that possible. A 2011 graduate of the program, Carlisle said the breadth of education she received gave her a leg up on the competition.

"The organization (JANEPa) needed someone that was capable of teaching K-12 and my Misericordia education was the perfect fit because I took courses in elementary education as well as secondary education," she explains. "It definitely helps me communicate with administrators, educators, and the business community because I understand and relate to the needs of many of my constituents and many students."

JANEPa, a member of Junior Achievement USA, serves 10,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade in 13 counties across the region. Through an array of programs, the organization teaches students about work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy

from a basic understanding of individuals' roles in communities through lessons in economics and management.

As program manager, Carlisle oversees and implements in-class programs across JA's service region and assists in



Rianna Carlisle '11 poses for a picture inside the Junior Achievement of NEPA facility.

developing simulated communities that teach students through experience a range of financial issues from personal to business to community. She's also responsible for recruiting and training volunteers, and teaching through experiential learning.

"I absolutely love that JA programs really do help students understand that they can own their economic success,"

Carlisle said. "I hear so many parents and volunteers tell me over and over that they wish programs like JA existed when they were in school."

A native of Waverly, N.Y., and a 2009 graduate of St. Bonaventure University, Carlisle, 24, said she knew she wanted to help students reach their potential and she wanted to hone her teaching skills. She chose Misericordia, she said, because of the superior reputation of its education programs. "Most importantly, I knew Misericordia was a small school dedicated to their students and their community," she says.

Carlisle, now a resident of Kingston, Pa., cites an important lesson that Steve Broskoske, Ed.D., associate professor of teacher education, taught her during classroom instruction: Success is measured not by wealth, but by how passionate you are about what you do.

"Truly waking up to a profession that we love every day and dedicating our lives to it is more important than the money in our pockets," she believes. "It feels good to know that I'm making a difference in the community and helping volunteers and students become better individuals. It's extremely rewarding."

MU Artist-In-Residence
Skip Sensbach, M.F.A.

Arts Spring

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Creatively speaking, the cube does not offer a lot to the staid mind or eye. The static, six-sided object, though, can be the starting point for unleashing the creative talents of budding and intermediate artists, according to Misericordia University Artist-In-Residence, Skip Sensbach, M.F.A.

"It is an abstract design," he says, addressing several MU students enrolled in a fine arts ceramic class at the Misericordia University Art Studios at 50 Lake St. "We don't have to rely on it being a TV. Think outside of the box and think a little deeper and go a little farther with it."

It's obvious by some of the work scattered around the studios' three tables that are reserved for hand building that Sensbach's advice has taken root. MU student Amanda Peslak '14 of Highland Lakes, N.J., one of 18 students in the ceramics course, traces leaves onto the side of her cube before carefully cutting the side of it open to unveil a butterfly in flight, extending outwardly from the formerly bland box of clay. "It's been really interesting," says Peslak, a psychology and doctor of physical therapy major, who is a novice in using the medium. "It's been difficult in parts, but it's great because Mr. Sensbach really works with you. He challenged us to take a box and make it into anything."

Peslak is one of 119 Misericordia University students who enrolled in one of the applied fine arts courses during the fall semester, such as applied music, photography, watercolor, chamber singing and instrumental ensemble — all of which also count towards the new minor.

The minor in fine arts program features specialties in studio art and music with tracks in dance and photography planned for the future. The addition of the minor and the leasing of the art studios facility also enabled the University to introduce non-credit art classes for the community. The non-credit courses were developed by the Department of Fine Arts, in partnership with the Center for Adult and Continuing Education, and have been designed for people who have a skill in the fine arts and want to refine it or for beginners who want to be introduced to a certain medium.

"The non-credit art classes compliment the offerings

Artist-In-Residence Skip Sensbach, left, poses with Babetta Wenner, seated, and Georgiana Cray Bart.

to Life

Minor in Fine Arts offers students an opportunity to refine talents, while offering non-credit courses to the community

Quick Info:

For a complete list of non-credit fine arts classes being offered at the Misericordia University Art Studios, please log in to www.misericordia.edu/finearts or call the Center for Adult and Continuing Education at (570) 674-6289.

of local, independent art instructors," explains Babetta Wenner, M.S., assistant professor of fine arts and Art Studios coordinator. "Our classes are valuable and unique because they focus on offering art instruction in a broad variety of art media, including three-dimensional forms and creative materials and techniques."

Misericordia has a storied history in the arts. Since 1924, MU has offered various courses, certificates, minors and majors in dance, fine arts, music, speech, drama and more. The University also offered three degree programs in music, a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, and a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy. In 1933, the Music Department became affiliated with Trinity College of Music in Mandeville Place, London, England, which at that time allowed Misericordia students to sit for the Trinity College examinations.

While many of those classes — dance, theater, choir, instrumental ensembles, voice and more — remained available to students it was not until the 2011-12 academic year that students could earn a minor with 15 credits. Reintroduction of an organized program offers students

selections in drawing and composition, ceramics, media arts and more.

"I think it's really great that Misericordia introduced the minor," adds Peslak. "I was even interested in a minor, myself. It shows, though, that we have a variety and it shows that it's not just a specific kind of school."

The courses in the fine arts required the Department of Fine Arts to add Sensbach as an artist-in-residence and several regionally acclaimed artists as faculty and adjunct instructors.

Sensbach has a bachelor's degree in visual communication and a Master in Fine Arts. He worked as an award-winning graphic designer in New Jersey. After moving to Pennsylvania, he began working in clay and opened Green Dog Pottery in Dallas in 1998. His studio work focuses on functional clay work as well as teaching. In 2010, Sensbach was the winner of the Ruane Graduate Award for Artistic Excellence. Sensbach's functional and sculptural ceramic works have been recognized in many regional shows, including Wilkes-Barre's Fine Arts Fiesta and in Binghamton, N.Y.'s WSKG-TV Art in Motion competition. His work also was accepted in the 2011 Art of the State exhibit at the State Museum in Harrisburg, Pa.

"We are very pleased and honored to have a well-known and talented artist-in-residence raise the profile of the University's non-credit and credit course offerings, and make the community feel welcome in the Lake Street Art Studios," says Russ Pottle, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Many wonderful artists are contributing to the Art Studios' excellent programming. Mr. Sensbach's regular presence in the facility

will help us extend outreach to a deserving community."

Wenner has a B.A. in art education and a master's in education. As the coordinator of the facility, she is responsible for developing and scheduling non-credit courses and recruiting talented adjunct artists as instructors. She also teaches credit-bearing fine arts courses.

"An outstanding educator needs to be extremely capable in not only passing along knowledge of the subject in a comprehensible, organized and innovative way, but also do so with enthusiasm," says Wenner, whose specialty is watercolor and drawing. "How will the students get excited if the teacher does not seem excited about her subject?"

Georgiana Cray Bart holds bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts and art education. The owner and operator of Georgiana Cray Bart's Studio in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., specializes in original paintings and drawings, including portraits and landscapes, but is best known for her pastel still-life paintings in a style related to Fauvism and Impressionism.

Misericordia invested \$285,000 in the renovation of the leased space and purchase of equipment and supplies. The Art Studios features two art spaces, one designed to facilitate three-dimensional work such as clay and sculpture, and the other for two-dimensional works, like drawing and painting. The facility also features 40 drying racks, 18 easels, 18 drafting tables, eight pottery wheels, three tables for hand building, three platforms for models, one clay pugger-mixer, one electric kiln, one glass kiln, one slab roller, one clay extruder and other intrinsic equipment and supplies.

Alumni News

For more information about alumni events, follow MU on twitter.com/misericordialum.



Helene Flower Reed '66

As you read this, my tenure as president of the Misericordia University Alumni Association is coming to an end.

These last three years have been exciting, challenging and very rewarding. Misericordia continues to grow by leaps and bounds. President Michael A. MacDowell is truly a man of vision, and that vision continues to manifest itself in an ever-expanding Misericordia. During my term, we have seen the acquisition of John J. Passan Hall, the completion of the McGowan Residence Hall and the acquisition of the Machell Avenue Residence Hall. The additional housing on campus is necessary because of MU's continued growth in enrollment. At this very moment, construction is underway on the upper campus for an additional mixed-use facility that features additional space for resident students and academic classrooms.

Misericordia also has established a football program. We now have a team under the able leadership of head coach Mark Ross and his assistant, Chris Gray. The team takes to the field this fall. Our award-winning Shakespeare Garden has grown to maturity and provides additional beauty to our outstanding campus. The Pauly Freedman Art Gallery has offered outstanding exhibits that are unparalleled in the region.

These improvements could not have been realized without the continued support of you, our alumni. You have chosen to support the mission of the Sisters of Mercy whose spirit permeates Misericordia. Misericordia is what it is today because of your support. For that, you should be very proud.

In closing, I want to thank Alumni Board Past-President Mary Ellen Gulotti for all of her invaluable help. The Alumni Board was always very supportive and encouraging. MU staff members, Denise Miscavage, Lailani Augustine and Virginia Conrad, were always available to lend advice and a helping hand. To the Misericordia family — students, faculty, staff, Sisters of Mercy, Mike and Tina MacDowell, Trustees, and fellow alumni — I want you to know how very special you have made these last three years. Thank you one and all. I wish all the best to incoming Alumni Board President Kelly McAndrew. I know with your continued support, she too, will have a very fulfilling term.

Helene Flower Reed

Class Notes

Stay in touch with friends, classmates and the MU community during the year by posting updates about your career, family and accomplishments on cougarconnect.misericordia.edu, or on facebook.com/MisericordiaAlum, or on twitter.com/misericordialum.

'60 Linda Gennaro Scappaticci '60 and her husband, Dr. F. Thomas Scappaticci, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 8, 2011.

'61 Mary Sue Jennings Lacovara '61 and her husband, Richard, of Little Egg Harbor, N.J., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 18, 2011. They have two children and five grandchildren. The couple celebrated with a Bermuda cruise and a family vacation at the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

'68 Dr. Susan Fort Sordoni, M.D., '68, was recognized by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and First Lady Susan Corbett as one of nine Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania. The distinction honors women who have shown distinguished service through a professional career and/or voluntary service.

'74 Kathleen Lukatch Clemente, '74, '00 was recently promoted to professor at Luzerne County Community College. Dr. Clemente is a faculty member in the Hospitality Business Management Department at LCCC. A registered dietitian, Dr. Clemente has a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and a Master of Science degree in organizational management from Misericordia University; a Master of Science degree in nutrition from Marywood University; and received a Doctorate of Education with a concentration in adult education from Pennsylvania State University last year.

'77 Mary Holdredge Anyomi '77 on May 7, 2011 received her second Master's degree in educational technology from the University of South Carolina, Columbia S.C.

'85 William Jones '85 has been named President and CEO at United Way of Wyoming Valley.

'86 Marie A. Pallante, J.D., '86 was appointed the 12th Register of Copyrights and Director of the United States Copyright Office, a division of the Library of Congress, in June 2011.

Mary Bartos '86, the owner of Bridal Trinkets, Shavertown, Pa., recently added a new store, Amore Jewelry and Gifts, at the same location. It is decorated in Misericordia blue and gold. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from MU.

'98 David Donohue '98 swam in the 2011 South End Rowing Club's 16th annual invitational Alcatraz Swim. For the event, David swam from Alcatraz Island, formerly Alcatraz Federal Prison, to the San Francisco, Calif., Hyde Street Pier on Sept. 17, 2011. David swam the mile and one-quarter distance of treacherous waters in a time of 35 minutes.

'01 Lynn Nowak Kamarousky '01 and her husband, Gabriel, welcomed their second son, Matthew, on March 11, 2011.

Lynn Babbitt Urban '01 and her husband, Brian, welcomed a baby boy on Dec. 28, 2011. Henry Wyatt Urban weighed in at nine pounds and joins his brother, Wesley (3 years), and sister, Adelaide (21 months).

'02 Dr. Maria Waselus '02 and her husband, Jason William Davenport, were united in the sacrament of marriage on Oct. 2, 2010. Maria is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. The couple honeymooned in Toronto, Canada. They reside in Hamburg Township, Michigan.

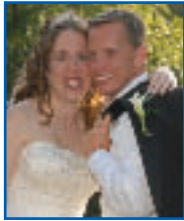
Eric Michael Crahall '02 and his wife, Christina Marie Curcio, were united in marriage on Sept. 17, 2011. Eric is employed as a social studies teacher by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The couple honeymooned in Cape May, N.J.

Continued from the previous page

They reside in Dallas, Pa.

'03 Maureen Gilroy '03 and her husband, Martin Salitis, chose St. Thomas Aquinas Church as the setting for their Sept. 9,

2011 wedding. Maureen is an occupational therapist with Genesis Healthcare at Wayne Woodlands Manor. Following a wedding trip to Aruba, the couple resides in Olyphant, Pa.



'04 Matthew Rogers '04, a staff songwriter with Better Angels Music Group, had a song he co-wrote with

Chris Weaver recorded by *American Idol* winner Jordin Sparks. *You Gotta Want It* was released on iTunes as part of the NFL's *Official Gameday Music of the NFL, Vol. 2* package.

'06 Stacy Matiskella '06 and her husband, Thomas John Horan, chose Nativity BVM Church, Tunkhannock, Pa., as the setting for their Oct. 22, 2010 wedding. Stacy is the clinical leader at Community Medical Center in the cardio-thoracic intensive care unit. The couple took a wedding trip to the Bahamas.

Stephen Stolarick '06 and Michelle Lynn Wentzel '06

were united in marriage on May 28, 2011 and were joined in marriage at the Misericordia University chapel. The couple resides in Dallas, Pa.



'07 Elsa Mary Antony Gates '07 and Christopher David Gates '05

welcomed their baby girl, Maya Anne Gates, born on Sept. 11, 2011.



'08 Kara Kuncio '08 and Jason Lukachinsky were married June 23, 2011 in an outside ceremony

behind the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Plains Township, Pa.

Amy Lynn Hughes '08 and Peter James Dyson chose McDade Park as the setting for their July 23, 2011 wedding. Amy is a learning support teacher in Pocono Mountain School District. They live in Tannersville, Pa.

Melissa Abrams '08, a graduate of the entry-level Master's OT program, was featured in the blog, NEWS-Line for Occupational Therapists and COTA's in January.

'09 Krstina Bach '09 and Wayne T. Kogoy '09 were married during a sunset ceremony on May 20, 2011 on the beach in Key West, Fla.

Ashlee Leonard Berry '09 and Kelly Berry '09 were married June 25, 2011 in St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton, Pa. A reception was held at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. The couple lives in Dallas, Pa.



Candice Kilmer '09 and Shane Edward Pagnotti '08 were married May 29, 2011.

Lauren Leigh Burgio '09 and William Francis Farber III were married at St. Rose of Lima Church on Oct. 2, 2010. Lauren is an occupational therapist at Genesis Rehabilitation. Following a wedding trip to Antigua, the couple resides in Greenfield Township, Pa.

Elisa Kennedy '09 and Ryan Weaver '08 were joined in marriage at the Misericordia University chapel on Aug. 6, 2011. The couple resides in Williamsport, Pa.

'10 Susan Lynn Gagatsek '10 and Richard Henry Shubilla were united in marriage Oct. 15, 2010 at St.

Stephen's Episcopal Church. Susan is employed as a registered dental hygienist. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana. They reside in Plymouth, Pa.

Rachel Roa '10 completed 18 months of service with the Franciscan Mission Service as a development associate and has been named finance associate and

office manager for PAX Christi USA, a national Catholic organization dedicated to peace education.

Janelle Elizabeth Montigney '10 and Brian Paul Evangelista were united in marriage on May 7, 2011. Janelle is employed at Sam's Club, Wilkes-Barre Township. The couple honeymooned on a Royal Caribbean Cruise to Bermuda and the Caribbean. They reside in Hunlock Creek, Pa.

Albert Lyons III '10 and Deanna Marie Lombardi '10 were married July 16, 2011 at St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Following a honeymoon in Las Vegas, Nev., they live in Hanover Township, Pa.

Megan Baker '10 and Nick DeStefano '09 were married Aug. 13, 2011. Megan is employed at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center as a radiologic technologist in the cardiac catheterization lab. Nicholas is employed at Misericordia University as a residence hall director.



President Obama addressed Ms. Prinz's students.

Kerriann Prinz '10, a teacher at Yeadon Regional Head Start Center in Delaware County, Pa., was proud initially to find out that her school was chosen by the White House for a presidential visit and then ecstatic when her supervisors chose her classroom for a special visit by President Barack Obama on Nov. 8.

'11 Stacey Osenbruck '11 and Stanley Rajjski '08 were married Sept. 3, 2011 in the Misericordia University chapel.

Mario Stetts '11 and Danielle Basile '11 were married May 27, 2011.

Alicia Drumheller '11 and Dr. Matthew Makuta were married in a double ring ceremony in Holy Rosary Church, July 2011. Alicia is employed at the Center for Pediatric Therapy in Wyomissing, Pa. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. They reside in West Reading, Pa.

ALUMNI *proud*

It takes three days at Alumni Weekend to catch up on everything Misericordia

We're getting ready for Alumni Weekend 2012 which is May 31 through June 3 on campus. In the meantime, we thought it would be fun to relive some of the excitement from last summer's event. It attracted more than 200 alumni, family and friends to campus for fun and games and the chance to reacquaint with classmates and our ever-expanding campus. After all, you truly need a long weekend to celebrate being Misericordia Proud!

You can also relive your experiences and browse through a collection of other campus photosets by visiting our expanded online photo albums found on Misericordia Flickr at <http://flickr.com/misericordia>.

In the meantime, celebrate our 2011 Misericordia University Alumni Association award winners and see what they have to say in our special question-and-answer feature, *Up Close*, in which we ask alumni to share their secrets for success and happiness.

UP CLOSE

What piece of advice would you like to share with the alumni community?

Sister of Mercy Alumni Award:

Patricia McCann, Ed.D., RSM, '69, associate professor of teacher education, received the Sister of Mercy Alumni Award, which is awarded periodically to a Sister of Mercy who has rendered exceptional service to the University and/or has demonstrated and sustained professional achievements. Presenting the award, from left, are Helen Flower Reed '66, Mary Bride Pollard, RSM, '58, Dr. McCann '69 and Jane Frances Kennedy, RSM, '60.



Patricia McCann '69: "Be a prism for the Charisms of the Sisters of Mercy: Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality. Let your lives and those you touch be imbued with the mission of Misericordia University. Reflect on service, not as a burden, but as a glorious gift from our God. Be passionate about what you do and have zest for life."

Alumni Medallion Award and Mission Award:

The Alumni Association presented the Alumni Medallion Award to Marge Moll Mangan '61 and the Mission Award to Mary Alice Lawlor Harrington '61. Posing for a picture at the award presentation, from left, are Helene Flower Reed '66, Harrington, Esther Burke Kapcsos '61 and Mangan. The Medallion Award is awarded annually to recognize anniversary class members who have demonstrated outstanding community service, commitment to the strengthening of family life and distinguished professional contributions. The Mission Award is given periodically to an alumna or alumnus who exemplifies the mission as set forth by the Sisters of Mercy.



Marge Moll Mangan '61: "Any day we get out of bed and put our feet on the floor is a good day! Do what you love and love and enjoy what you do. See God in everyone, appreciate the world God created and recognize Christ's presence in our lives."

Be kind, generous, give and share what you have. Give back and help others. Be your own person and don't let others change you or tell you how you should be."

Mary Alice Lawlor Harrington '61: "Keep active with the Alumni Community. Attend reunions, start or attend a gathering in your area, work on alumni programs such as Annual Giving or college fairs, and learn what Misericordia University is about now. The Alumni have so much to offer to each other."

Hilda Staub Garey Award:

Jeanne Tully Purcell '51 was presented with the Hilda Staub Garey Award, which is awarded periodically to an association member for extraordinary service to the University or the Misericordia University Alumni Association. Participating in the award presentation, from left, are Mary Ellen Gulotti '87, Purcell and Helene Flower Reed '66.



Jeanne Tully Purcell '51: "Let your life and those you touch bring out the intimacy of belonging to the Mission of Misericordia University. Be generous, kind, and give and share what you have. May you see yourself with the pride which God sees in you every moment."

Class of '61 receives Reunion Awards

Reunion Award Bowls — The Class of 1968 Award for the largest class gift, The Class of 1943 Award for the highest percentage of donors; The Sister Eloise McGinty Trophy for the highest average gift; and The Bettsi Jaeger 1968 Award for the highest percentage of classmates returning for Alumni Reunion Weekend — were each presented to members of the Class of 1961. At the presentation, from left, are President MacDowell, Sandra Della Croce '61, Rosemary Fitzpatrick MacIntyre '61, Claire Schall Simington '61, Elizabeth Glosser '61 and Mary Alice Lawlor Harrington '61.



2011 HOMECOMING

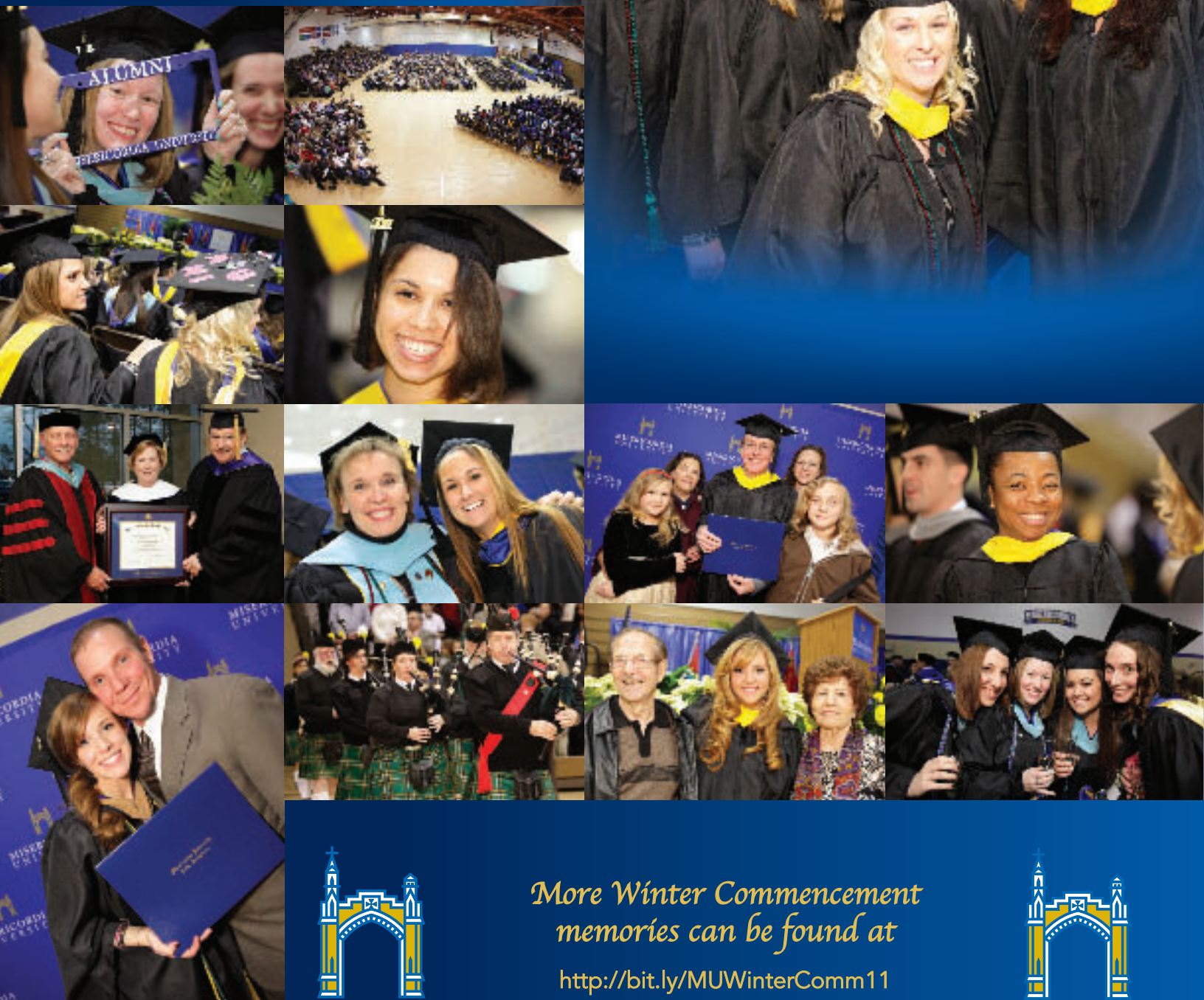
September 30 - October 2



*More MU Homecoming
memories can be
found at*

<http://bit.ly/MUHomecoming11>

2011 WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



*More Winter Commencement
memories can be found at*

<http://bit.ly/MUWinterComm11>





FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

In the fall of 2012, **Scott Blanchard, Ph.D.**, professor of English, is going to be published in *The I Tatti Renaissance Library Series* from Harvard University Press. He translated a 15th century dialogue on exile by the Milanese humanist Francesco Filelfo, who was writing on behalf of the exiled Florentine aristocrats who departed in 1434 at the rise of Cosimo de' Medici. His colleague, Dr. Jeroen DeKeyser of the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, prepared the Latin text and Dr. Blanchard prepared the translation.

Ellen McLaughlin, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., associate professor of occupational therapy and director of the doctorate of OT program, has been named chair-elect of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Dr. McLaughlin will serve as the chair-elect and then become chair for the 2012-15 term.

Sheryl Goss, M.S., R.T.(R.)(S.), R.D.M.S., R.D.C.S., R.V.T., chair and assistant professor of diagnostic medical sonography, has been re-elected as secretary for the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Board of Directors and chosen as the chair-elect for the Joint Review Committee for Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Lorie Zelna, M.S., R.T., (R)(MR), associate professor of medical imaging, has been awarded the Elsevier Faculty Development Scholarship in Radiation Science by the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology in support of her pursuit of an advanced degree.

Zelna was also one of 13 medical imaging professionals who completed the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Leadership Academy.

The Pennsylvania Senate confirmed the nomination of **Brenda L. Hage, Ph.D., D.N.P., C.R.N.P.**, associate professor of nursing and director of graduate nursing programs, to the Pennsylvania Council on Aging. Dr. Hage was nominated to the post by Gov. Tom Corbett in September. The state Senate unanimously approved her nomination Nov. 1.

Dr. Hage also completed the requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Donna Ayers Snelson, R.N., M.S.N., C.S.,

D.Ed., associate professor of nursing, was presented with the 2011 Nursing Education Award by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association at the Awards Ceremony at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Joseph A. Cipriani, Jr., Ed.D., O.T.R./L., professor of occupational therapy, had an article published in the international journal, *Nursing and Residential Care*. The article, *Improving Mental Health Through 'Giving Activities'*, was published in the volume 13, issue 10 October 2011, pages 490-492 of the United Kingdom-based journal upon invitation of the journal's editor.

Sister Patricia McCann, RSM, Ed.D., associate professor of teacher education, presented St. Patrick's Junior National School in Corduff, Ireland, with two Mercy crosses, a plaque and a Misericordia throw rug while on a retreat to acknowledge the partnership between the school and the teacher education department.

Stevan L. Davies, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, had his textbook, *The New Testament: An Analytical Approach*, published by Polebridge Press at Willamette University, Salem, Ore.

Robert L. Williams, M.S., has been named director of the Center for Economics and Entrepreneurship Education.

Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., medical director and Robert S. Anderson Endowed Chair of the physician assistant program, was presented with the Nathan Smith, M.D., Distinguished Service Award by the New England Surgical Society at its 92nd annual meeting.

Dr. Dudrick also was an honored invited lecturer and panelist of the Congress of the Polish Surgical Society in Poland.

James Siberski, M.S., C.M.C., CRmT, assistant professor and coordinator of gerontological education, co-authored a chapter in the second edition of the textbook, *A Practitioner's Guide to Clinical Occupational Therapy*.

Allen C. Minor, D.B.A., assistant professor of business, has been named to the Healthy Northeast Pennsylvania Initiative board.

Commencement speaker announced

Kerry Robinson, M.A.R., executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, will be the guest speaker when Misericordia University holds its 86th annual Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 19 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 Anderson Center.



Robinson



Dr. Cappello

During the Commencement ceremony, MU will present Mrs. Robinson and her husband, Michael Cappello, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the World Fellows Program at Yale University, with honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Nursing students' pass rates exceed national average

Misericordia nursing students who recently graduated from the Bachelor of Science program surpassed both the state and national averages for pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) exams during the past year.

BSN graduates achieved an 88.14 percent pass rate for first-time test-takers who took the NCLEX-RN examination between Oct. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2011. Misericordia graduates surpassed both the average national pass rate of 87.81 percent and the average pass rate of 87.66 percent at other colleges and universities in Pennsylvania.

In order to receive permanent certification, a nursing candidate must pass an examination that measures the competencies newly licensed, entry-level nurses have to perform safely and effectively.



Alumni celebrate winning a prize at 2011 Homecoming.



Fall 2011 Alumni Pie.



Alumni return to campus for Orientation 2011.



NY Yankees alumni gathering.



Men's soccer alumni return for annual Homecoming game.



Orientaton counselors and alumni volunteers welcome freshmen.



Many alumni renew acquaintances at gathering in Allentown.



Kristi Empett '03 wins

ALU Photo



Pizza and refreshments are prepared for study week.



Religious Sisters of Mercy who were among those honored at the Sisters Serving Sisters dinner in December.

M N I

Album

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



Alumni, including 3 members of the Ezdebski family, prepare gift bags for graduates at December's Commencement.



Field hockey alumni returned to campus to play in a game at their alma mater during Homecoming 2011.



Nook at Homecoming 2011.



Paul Egbert '10, left, served as a Commencement marshal at sister, Kristen Egbert's graduation, in December 2011.



Commencement marshals pose for a picture at MU's inaugural winter Commencement in December.

Campus AMBASSADOR

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Business major receives post with Northwestern Mutual Financial Group

Like a lot of people, Rachael Ayers '13 is quick to acknowledge that it took her a little extra time to find out what she wanted to be when she grew up.

The 2002 Tunkhannock High School graduate completed beauty school and enjoyed being a successful hair stylist for eight years. Ayers' budding career was detoured somewhat when she enrolled in Misericordia University's business management program in order to gain the expertise and knowledge she would need to own and operate her own salon.

Two years into her Bachelor of Science studies, Ayers's career path came into focus with the assistance of a competitive internship program with The Palmiter Financial Group of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network — one of the top 10 internship programs in the country, according to the Princeton Review.

With the hands-on business experience she gained as a financial advisor during her internship, Ayers believes she now has found her place in life and in business. "There is so much that I learned from a business perspective," she acknowledges, "but I also learned a lot about myself and who I want to be."

"The values brought to the table by Northwestern Mutual brought my life into perspective for my future. Passion,

integrity, love, family, purpose, courage, impact — these are all values that Northwestern strives to achieve every day. The amount of growth both personally and professionally available to me through this process has made me want to continue to develop."

Ayers' overall growth during her internship led Northwestern Mutual Financial Network to name her a "campus ambassador" — one of only two interns hired by The Palmiter Financial Group in the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., area. In the position, she is responsible for introducing the company's paid internship program to prospective student interns and representing the firm at collegiate career fairs and club meetings.

"Rachael's maturity, her demonstration for not being afraid to work hard and her discipline were what we found the most attractive," says Kevin R. Palmiter '90, C.L.T.C., managing director of The Palmiter Financial Group, outlining the qualities that led to her appointment. "She demonstrated how she wanted to have a positive impact in our local community. An intern in our program can continue the intern experience in any state in the country, however, Rachael's desire to stay local and to consider starting her own practice here upon graduation was a big plus with our company."

The internship program with Northwestern is very rigorous. Select students are required to complete a two-week training exercise and become licensed and registered financial advisors in the state. Afterward, they have the same responsibilities as a full-time

representative. "Our internships are extremely competitive and the selection process is very rigid," explains Palmiter, a 1990 graduate of Misericordia with a bachelor's degree in marketing and a minor in management. "It's a real-life, real-work, paid internship that provides real-world situations and teaches the art and science of selling."

Ayers began the internship in May 2011 after listening to Palmiter make a presentation in class. His talk made her curious and the experience gave her enviable accomplishments to build her resume around. "I grew with the company with support from all angles when needed and the push to succeed," Ayers says. "I just had to want it. I thank Mr. Palmiter every day for walking into that classroom because I love my job. It is not just an internship to me. I could see it as my career."

Ayers arrives at the office daily at 7:30 a.m. to prepare for her day. On Tuesdays and Fridays, special meetings are scheduled between interns and the college unit director to discuss successful appointments and new clients. The company also has a weekly development session in which, for example, concepts of permanent life insurance, are discussed.

"My main goal and responsibility is to find the value that I can bring to each and every client I sit down with," Ayers says. "There is no one holding a brick over your head demanding that you do it. You just do. Being a financial representative creates discipline because you have to learn to be your own boss and manage your time wisely."

Rachel Ayers '13, left, is a campus ambassador for The Palmiter Financial Group under the direction of Kevin R. Palmiter '90.

& associates
cashman
PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

RESUME building

Communications
major prepares
for career with
several internships

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

The resume of Misericordia University's Katlin Bunton '12 includes doing event photography for a nonprofit project involving NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb, writing press releases for Mitchell & Ness apparel company and coordinating a fashion segment for ABC News 6 in Philadelphia, Pa. And if that isn't enough to make future employers sit up and take notice, she is also an award-winning writer and is editor-in-chief of The Highlander student newspaper at MU.

Such is the whirlwind life of Bunton, a senior communications major specializing in journalism and public relations. Bunton has made the most of her career preparation at Misericordia by landing a coveted internship with Cashman & Associates, a public relations and special events powerhouse in Philadelphia. Cashman's high-profile client list includes Mitchell & Ness, the well-known maker of authentic numbered sports jerseys, the prestigious Rittenhouse Hotel, Bernie Robbins Fine Jewelers, Stephen Starr Restaurants and 611 Lifestyle — the iconic Philadelphia record label-turned-fashion label.

In preparation for The Philadelphia Collection, the city's own version of Fashion Week, Bunton used the writing and graphic design skills she learned at Misericordia to help a Cashman client,

Fiona's Children's Special Occasion, promote special trunk show events. She also helped facilitate a back-to-school fashion segment for a morning television news show by helping style student models alongside Kristin Munro, editor-in-chief of Philadelphia Style magazine.

Her work at Cashman also included research to match clients with media to maximize public relations opportunities. "I learned so much about myself and about how fast-paced the industry is," says Bunton. "I know that I am small in stature and have a quiet voice, but I found myself working alongside some major NFL stars (during an anti-bullying fundraiser hosted by Eagles offensive lineman Todd Herremans). I learned I needed to be assertive and confident."

A transfer student, Bunton soon made her mark after joining The Highlander staff during her sophomore year. She won a 2010-11 American Scholastic Press Association first place award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting for an article she wrote regarding a controversial sculpture display in the campus art gallery. The competition included entries from high schools and colleges across the country.

She needed to call upon her crisis-management skills almost as soon as she returned to campus for her senior

Katlin Bunton '12 made good use of the skills she learned in public relations and advertising classes at Misericordia University to work with high-profile clients during an internship at Cashman & Associates Public Relations and Special Events in Philadelphia, Pa.

year as editor-in-chief of The Highlander, a job that includes overseeing a staff of 20 writers and four editors. Widespread flooding in the region wreaked havoc on the very first press run of the academic year. The commercial newspaper that prints the student newspaper was evacuated from its offices putting production on hold. Bunton, though, worked with the newspaper's management team to reschedule the printing and the issue was distributed shortly thereafter.

"Everything I've learned in my communications classes and projects — PR writing, editing, social media, graphics, adhering to deadlines — absolutely made me more confident at my internship where I was creating content for actual clients and working with real media contacts," she says. "And my experience there has definitely shaped my understanding of the industry and developed further interests. I'm excited about graduating because I know I've worked hard to develop a strong portfolio that reflects my abilities."

Four brothers enjoy successful careers after earning computer science degrees

The Fung-A-Fat Family Legacy

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The Fung-A-Fat family was like a lot of other hardworking Guyanese families in the 1970s and 1980s in Georgetown, Guyana — one of the least economically developed countries in South America at the time. With the economy in sharp decline due to socialist-like government policies and a growing national deficit, the prospects for the next generation of Guyanese children appeared dim.

The contracting economy, though, did not deter Mr. Rudy and Mrs. Maureen Fung-A-Fat, as the entrepreneurs managed to establish the Queens Town Garage and carve out a successful taxi service in the nation's capital by transporting government and industry employees from one appointment to the



'It is much harder to learn about compassion, honesty, integrity

and respect. These are principles that transcend time ...'

Mark Fung-A-Fat '91

envisioned for their children — Nigel, Mark, Randolph and Shane.

"I can still remember the constant reminder from my parents," says Nigel Fung-A-Fat '88, the first of the brothers to attend and graduate from Misericordia. "A good education is of primary

importance. It is something that is a must for anything that you hope to accomplish in this world. It is also something that no one can take away from you."

Unlike soon-to-be high school graduates in the United States, Nigel did not begin to dream about pursuing a college education until a few short months before the 1984 academic year — and even that was by happenstance. The ministry of the Sisters of Mercy has had a familial presence in Guyana for more than 100 years and has been tending to those most in need. When the Fung-A-Fat family developed a friendship with several Sisters of Mercy, little did they realize it would provide an educational opportunity for their children, albeit a half a world away from home.

"During the 70s and 80s, the political and economic structure of the country did not really provide for any long-term goals of advanced education," recalls Nigel, who married his college sweetheart, Michele Sanguiliano '87, who graduated with a B.S. in computer science and a minor in mathematics from MU and is a metrics specialist with IBM. "Without the support and help we received from the Sisters of Mercy and

Misericordia, we would not have been able to pursue any opportunities outside of Guyana."

Today, Nigel is a principal consultant for radiology interfaces with Siemens Healthcare in New Jersey after graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in computer science and mathematics. He also began the family legacy at Misericordia, and in its computer science and mathematics majors as each brother earned B.S. degrees with honors from the same two academic programs.

Mark '91 graduated summa cum laude; Shane '94 graduated magna cum laude; and Randolph '95 earned his degree summa cum laude. Through hard work and determination, the Fung-A-Fat brothers capitalized on the unique opportunity that was presented to them by Misericordia and the Sisters of Mercy and have established strong careers in the burgeoning information technology industry.

"Like my brothers that attended MU before me, I had never worked on a computer before but I knew that I had to follow the tradition of Nigel and Mark and get the double major — such pressure," says Shane, the manager of database administration and data architecture for the Massachusetts Medical Society. "My educational focus was always to make my family proud of what I was able to accomplish. My parents and siblings were always supportive and the realization of short-term and long-term goals always kept me going."

The opportunity to earn a college

The Fung-A-Fat family returned to campus in August for Convocation. Posing for a picture in the Mary Kintz Bebevino Library, standing from left, are Nigel '88, Michele '87, Randolph '95, Mark '91 and Shane '94 with their mother, Maureen, seated in front of them.

degree, though, did not come without its challenges. To pay for their schooling, Mrs. Fung-A-Fat had her sister, Evelyn Tai-Oy-Yong of Toronto, Canada handle her nephews' college finances.

Already thousands of miles away from home, the brothers also had to learn new customs and traditions. During the holidays, they remained on campus while the rest of the study body returned home to be with family and friends.

"Being able to attend Misericordia at the same time Shane was there definitely made it much easier for me," says Randolph, who, as an applications system engineer, is part of a team that is responsible for the development and maintenance of an auto finance system for Wells Fargo in Allentown, Pa. "Being away from home was intimidating, but factor in that I was thousands of miles from home and in another country and you can start to understand my appreciation of having a sibling close."

"Being away from home was very difficult," adds Mark, the director of software development and operations for

the Massachusetts Medical Society, publishers of the New England Journal of Medicine, "especially during the holidays when the other students would go home and I was left alone on campus. I learned to occupy my time and stay busy. It was also good for me from a discipline perspective because I learned to create routines and schedules."

The brothers returned to campus together in August to participate in Convocation, as Mark delivered the keynote address to the incoming freshman class. They recollected their good times at MU, reintroduced themselves to former professors and friends, and also toured the campus to take in the dramatic changes in the landscape since Randolph graduated in 1995. With increased enrollment and additional academic majors, Misericordia has added numerous buildings to the upper and lower campuses for additional classrooms, laboratories and residence space. What pleased the Fung-A-Fats the most, though, was that the Misericordia mission remains true to this day through

the Religious Sisters of Mercy's tenets of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality.

"To me, Misericordia will always mean hope and opportunity," Nigel shares. "The hope my parents had was that they could provide a proper education for their children to prepare them for any of life's challenges. The opportunity provided by the Sisters of Mercy and Misericordia through four years of learning and experiences helped to prepare me and my brothers for where we are today and where we hope to be tomorrow."

"The most important thing to me is Misericordia's mission," Mark acknowledges, readily.

"The education is outstanding, but quite honestly there are many top-ranked educational institutions in the USA. It is much harder to learn about compassion, honesty, integrity and respect. These are principles that transcend time and majors, and are more important than what you know intellectually. They are more important because they shape your character," he adds.



ATHLETICS

Show Cougar pride by participating in the Walkway of Champions

Misericordia invites alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends to take advantage of two ways to join our team and show your support of the MU athletics program – the Walkway of Champions and the Locker Naming Program.

Located at the entrance of the new Field House, participants can have their name inscribed on a paver in the

Walkway of Champions with a gift of \$1,000 (payable up to four years).

In addition, friends of the University can sponsor a locker in the new Field House via the Locker Naming Program. An inscribed plate will be affixed to the sponsored locker. Gifts for both locker naming opportunities can be fulfilled in one to four years.

Traditional-size lockers in the women's or men's locker rooms are available for naming with a contribution of \$500 while larger football lockers can be named with a donation of \$800.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact James Bebla, director of development, at (570) 674-6740 or at jbebla@misericordia.edu.

Women's soccer earns first NCAA win

The women's soccer team earned its first NCAA Championships victory in program history with a 1-0 win over Farmingdale State in the opening round.

The Cougars schedule featured matches against three teams that reached the NCAA Division III Final Four. MU beat Ithaca and lost in overtime to William Smith. While Misericordia lost to Messiah, 4-1, the Cougars were one of just four teams to score a goal against the Falcons.

Women's soccer dominates All-Freedom Conference team

The women's soccer team dominated the All-Freedom Conference team with six first-team selections and the Player, Rookie and Coach of the Year Awards. Junior forward Sam Helmstetter was named Player of the Year, while Erin Roberts was Rookie of the Year and Mark Stauffer earned the Coach of the Year.

Helmstetter and Roberts were joined on the first-team by Laura Roney (also team MVP), Erin McGreal, Alyssa Mocion and Kate Usher.



The resurfacing project on Anderson Field was completed in early winter. FieldTurf Revolution allows the field to be used by soccer, field hockey and lacrosse teams for practice and games in less-than-ideal weather.



The cheerleading team sponsored a food drive in conjunction with its Eighth Annual Cougar Cheer and Dance Challenge and collected nearly 2,500 non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Men's soccer continues dominance of Freedom

The men's soccer team continued its dominance of the Freedom Conference as the Cougars claimed their third conference title in four seasons. After clinching a post-season berth on the final day of the regular season, the Cougars knocked off top-seeded Manhattanville in penalty kicks in the semifinals and beat Eastern, 1-0, in the title match.

The Cougars landed three players on the All-Freedom team, including first-team selections Andy Bush and Dan Pinto. Bryan Kulbacki made the second team. Misericordia, 13-2-4, was ranked as high as 13th nationally during the regular season.

Eichhorst surpasses 1,000 career points

Men's basketball standout Ethan Eichhorst started his senior season off with a bang as the senior forward went over the 1,000 point mark for his career in the opening round of the 20th Annual McCarthy Tire Laurel Line Tournament.

He became the 17th men's basketball player to reach 1,000 career points.

Misericordia grad selected in American Lacrosse League draft

Former Misericordia University men's lacrosse standout Matt Carey '06 was chosen by the Jacksonville Bullies in the inaugural North American Lacrosse League draft.

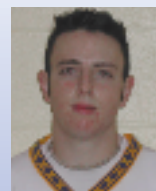
Carey was a four-year starter at Misericordia from 2003-2006 and was a four-time all-conference selection.

A two-time team MVP, he was one of the top scorers in University history.

He holds the school single-game scoring mark with eight goals

and is the career leader in goals with 150. He is second in school history with 188 career points and is fourth all-time with 38 career assists.

"Matt was one of the finest players to play lacrosse at Misericordia," said Misericordia University lacrosse head coach Jim Ricardo. "This is an exciting opportunity for him and for our program."



Matt Carey '06

A Passport to Success

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

MU students Kelly Pelcher '12, left, and Tara Coughlin '12, share a plate of cookies with L-L student Joe Rader.



It can be said that learning is a two-way street, but rarely is it so evident than in a unique service-learning project by one class of Misericordia students who are themselves learning to be teachers.

Describing their experiences as life changing and profound, the 14 students in the fall semester of the Teacher Education Department's "Methods in Life Skills" class of Molly Vitale, Ed. D., associate professor, have taken a huge leap into the unknown as they experienced firsthand the challenges and rewards of teaching special education. In addition to their class work, the students met nine times during the semester with special needs students from the life skills class at Lake Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

Each week, the MU students offered an interactive social studies lesson on a different culture, including Italian, Asian,

Hispanic, Irish, Native American and Eastern European. Each lesson plan featured stations where they taught geography, made arts and crafts, discussed culture, offered a music and/or dance component, and brought in culture-specific foods for the group to enjoy. A highlight of the semester was a shared Thanksgiving dinner, complete with a fresh batch of cookies that the two groups baked together during the session on Native American culture.

All agreed that the class profoundly changed their perceptions of special education and gave them an unexpected appreciation for the value and rewards of teaching students with special needs. "I can honestly say I was really apprehensive about teaching special education, but now I love it," says Shaelynn Dragon '13. "We have seen these students progress so much each week and develop more confidence. I can tell you, as they are getting more comfortable with us... we're getting more comfortable with them — and that's what this project is all about."

"I initially thought that meeting together once a week would be just an added academic requirement to an already busy schedule, but now I feel that once a week isn't enough time for us to be with them," adds Tara Coughlin '12.

"If there's anything I could change, I would like more hours with the students. That or just have two required life skills

service-learning classes instead of one."

"It is most exciting to see the Lake Lehman students smile as we work on projects and explain things to them. I never thought we could make such a connection," senior Krystle Novak '12 enthusiastically adds.

"This has been the most wonderful opportunity and we have learned so much more than if we were just observing," notes Carolyn Kaminski, '12. "It has totally changed my perception of what teaching is all about."

The smiles seemed to multiply as the weeks went on. The Lake Lehman students were given a "Passport" and earned a stamp each week that was relevant to the culture they "visited." They were also required to write journal entries about their experiences. During the Thanksgiving dinner, a number of the Lake Lehman students placed their Misericordia "teachers" on the list of things they were thankful for.

"It isn't until they meet with the students and begin to interact with them that our students truly get the understanding of the wide spectrum of abilities in special education," says Dr. Vitale. "For many, it is their first introduction to the great challenges and equally great rewards of teaching students with a variety of disorders such as autism and Down syndrome. We are one of the few teaching programs that give our students the opportunity to interact with low-incidence students with such significant challenges."



A highlight for students in the Teacher Education Life Skills project was hosting a Thanksgiving dinner with Lake Lehman students. At top left, MU student Shaelynn Dragon '13 shares a special moment with L-L student Michelle Chappell. L-L student Michael Wojciechowski, center, rolls dough with students, from left, Callie Whitesell '12, L-L student Joe Rader, Krystal Novak '12, L-L student Brianne Smith and graduate student Nicole Pisacino.

In Memoriam

Nancy Potasky Alexander 1954
January 29, 2009

Kristi Lim '97
May 1, 2009

Helen Shehadi Oktavec '45
December 3, 2010

Sr. Mary Domitilla Temprine, RSM '46
April 8, 2011

Sr. Mary Marjorie Downing, RSM '61
April 23, 2011

Sr. Patricia Neilson, RSM '57
May 13, 2011

Beverly Bride '63
May 25, 2011

Jean Munley McCoskey '39
May 26, 2011

Kathleen O'Donnell Dufallo '64
June 6, 2011

Leona Davis Dudascik '70
July 5, 2011

Deboarh Samko Pearlman '93
July 6, 2011

Jane Leonardo Pugh '84
July 8, 2011

Maureen Hannon Yegley '85
July 11, 2011

Shirley Tetzlaff Bezek '53
June 14, 2011

Louise Evans McGarry '51
June 22, 2011

Eleanor Chicallo Burlant '39
June 24, 2011

Mary Ann Marek '02
July 26, 2011

Sr. Mary Assumpta Ferrara, RSM '39
July 31, 2011

Leona Jones Tobin '51
August 3, 2011

Sr. Madeline Boback, OSBM '46
August 9, 2011

Catherine Connor '71
August 10, 2011

Sr. Mary Blanche McCann, OP '37
August 11, 2011

Margaret Marcelonis '51
August 13, 2011

Loretta Hair Hayton '56
August 13, 2011

Jane Lambert Kilduff Delaney '38
August 13, 2011

Margaret McEnrue Mulhern '45
August 15, 2011

Kathleen Dorris Reese '50
August 16, 2011

Sr. Mary Gemma Brennan, RSM '46
August 20, 2011

Melissa Javorski '06
August 22, 2011

Anne Feeney Hanahue '38
September 4, 2011

Mary O'Rourke Ackerman '50
September 15, 2011

Mary Butera Wine '47
September 16, 2011

Susan Zurinski Stolarick '54
September 19, 2011

Margaret Strome Donohue '43
September 22, 2011

Claire Graham Paralys '56
September 27, 2011

Helene Kretchik '43
October 1, 2011

Mary Frances Carey Wright '58
October 1, 2011

**Sr. Mary Frances de Chantel Murray,
RSM '58**
October 7, 2011

Doris Ellen Cooney Turnbull '48
October 9, 2011

Ann Manganello Rached '62
October 17, 2011

Mary Lou McGroarty Battin '50
October 29, 2011

Ursula McAndrew Burke '63
November 1, 2011

Margaret Kelly Costello '67
November 1, 2011

Maureen Conway Peterson '70
November 7, 2011

Marlene Bobar '67
November 7, 2011

Sr. Rosemary Budd, RSM '50
November 11, 2011

Mary O'Brien Callahan '37
November 12, 2011

Karen Fuhr Schrader '01
November 16, 2011

Theresa Cullinan '54
November 16, 2011

Joan Wojcik Lukach '52
November 19, 2011

Sr. Mary Aidan Byron, RSM '42
November 23, 2011

Rosalyn Cresko '68
November 23, 2011

Elizabeth Sloyan Hessler '49
November 24, 2011

Ruth Tully Swift '63
November 28, 2011

Karen Jachimczak Bednarski '72
November 29, 2011

Linda Davis Kishbach '95
December 3, 2011

Beverly Smith Fritzges '47
December 4, 2011

Sr. Mary Sharon Gallagher, RSM '58
December 12, 2011

Bonnie Sutton '82
December 16, 2011

Sr. Clare Marie Higgins, RSM '73
December 26, 2011

Helen Olsakowski '58
December 27, 2011

Elaine Roman Makowski '70
December 9, 2011

Mary Kratz Galazin '81
January 9, 2012

Ann Marie Dombroski Daniels '51
January 12, 2012

A Mother's Love



Members of the Bourger family gather with representatives of the Misericordia community for the naming of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program.

BY MARIANNE PUHALLA

180th anniversary of Sisters of Mercy and naming of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program noted

Misericordia University recognized those whose foresight founded the University and celebrated a milestone in one of their most important missions with a special event, the "Sisters Serving Sisters, Families Helping Families" gala held at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs on Dec. 3, 2011. The event celebrated the 180th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy and the 10th anniversary of its novel Women with Children Program (WWC), which was formally named the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program during the event.

The 150 in attendance included 35 Mercy sisters who were honored. The Sisters of Mercy founded Misericordia in 1924 and MU started the program in 2000. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the naming of the WWC program, which recognizes the family of Ruth Matthews Bourger and the family's trust for their exceptional support of the program. John T. Bourger, and his daughters, Brenda Bourger McGinley and Blythe Bourger, also attended.

"When we were growing up there was always an expectation in our family to help others," said Blythe. "It was also a given that education was really important. We were rewarded for earning A's ... and it was just expected that we would go to college. Knowing that this program helps other women go to college, it is a program my family is proud to support."

Physician assistant students begin classes in August

The College of Arts and Sciences has named Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D., as the Robert S. Anderson Endowed Chair and medical director; Scott L. Massey, Ph.D., P.A.-C., founding chair, program director and professor; and Darci Brown, P.A.-C., as director of clinical education and assistant professor, for the new five-year combined Bachelor of Science in Medical Science and Master of Science in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies.

Undergraduate and graduate work for Misericordia's new PA program can be completed in five years for students who enroll as freshman and complete the master's portion of their studies or as a post-baccalaureate program in 24 months for incoming graduate students.

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 his international contributions to the medical field, Dr. Dudrick will hold the Robert S. Anderson Endowed Chair — the first such academic position offered by the University.

Dr. Massey has 20 years of PA educational experience. He is known nationally for his strong track record of scholarship and publishing related to student learning and faculty development, and he is also recognized for his ability to improve the certification pass rates and scores for PA programs. Brown formerly worked at Coordinated Health Inc., Bethlehem, Pa., where she assisted a team of plastic and orthopedic surgeons in all aspects of their practice, including at the specialty surgical center, hospital and in the operating room.

The program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) conducted a campus visit in October 2011. ARC-PA will review its findings and will issue its decision on provisional accreditation in March. The program expects to accept students for the fall 2012 semester.

Economy

from page 9

happen overnight, though. An army of interested parties have been working together to build the foundation that will result in the development of new businesses and will contribute to growing the region's new economy.

As a result of the efforts of NPTI and GVTA, millions of dollars have been secured and invested in the form of grants and tax credits.

"These dollars and efforts have resulted in start-up companies introducing new ideas and new products, and more importantly, creating good jobs," says MU President Michael A. MacDowell. "Hundreds of regional college students also have secured paid internships and gained invaluable job experience that have helped them secure their futures."

NPTI played a significant role in helping to establish EthosGen, a biomass producing company that created an innovative way to grow and process C4 grass for fuel; Net Driven, an Internet-support company that drives business to auto repair shops, and others.

The GVTA Business Plan Competition has awarded almost \$240,000 in seed money — which was provided by civic-minded business leaders — and more than \$680,000 in in-kind services in nine years to fledgling entrepreneurs.

The largest regional Keystone Innovation Zone program in the Commonwealth has led to more than 300 paid internships, including 31 from Misericordia.

MU graduate Brandi Brace '11 earned her B.A. in English and secondary education. NPTI provided her an internship with Resource Media, a Kingston, Pa.-based company that harnesses the advantages of new media for its clients. From fall 2009 to spring 2010, she gained valuable experience and the opportunity to network with area professionals while earning an equally valuable stipend for her work. "The internship gave me a chance to prove myself," says Brace. "The opportunity I was given has helped prepare me for the job market by showing that I am capable of handling whatever I commit myself to."



**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**



THEARTS&MORE

Alumni Box Office (570) 674-6768 | Misericordia University Box Office (570) 674-6719
On the web: www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore

March 16

After Hours with Misericordia
The 'V' Spot, 906 Providence Rd.,
Scranton, Pa., 8-11 p.m.
Alumni Box Office

March 17-31

Student Art Exhibition: Mixed Media, Friedman Art Gallery
Fine Arts faculty exhibit,
MacDonald Art Gallery

March 29-31

Misericordia Players Theater:
The Laramie Project
8 p.m., Lemmond Theater; \$5, adults;
\$3, students/senior citizens.
MU Box Office

March 31

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch with the Easter Bunny
Brunch: 10 or 11:15 a.m., Banks
Student Life Center. Egg hunt: 11 a.m.,
rain or shine. Reservations required.
\$10, adults; \$5, 5-12 years; under 5 free.
Alumni Box Office

April 9-29

Nina Davidowitz & Skip Sensbach:
Essence of Form
Pauly Friedman Art Gallery: Recent
paintings, clay and wood on exhibit.
MacDonald Art Gallery: An installation
by Leigh Pawling. The opening
reception scheduled for Saturday, April
14, 5-8 p.m.

April 12

Journey Through the Arts
Students' achievements in music,

drama, and more, 7:30 p.m.,
Lemmond Theater, MU Box Office.

April 17

Carl Bernstein: Dr. Midori Yamanouchi Lecture Series
Noted journalist, author Carl Bernstein
presents, *His Holiness, John Paul II*.
Program features VIP presentation at
6 p.m., lecture followed by Q&A at 7
p.m.; book signing, 8:30 p.m.
MU Box Office.

April 19

Ensemble Evening: Dance
Dance students perform in a variety
of styles, 7:30 p.m., Lemmond Theater.
MU Box Office.

April 21

NEPA Wine Country Tour
Enjoy an informative excursion to the
region's vineyards for \$50. Includes bus,
wine and food tastings at 5 wineries,
afternoon meal at Twigs, 11 a.m.- 7
p.m., Alumni Box Office.

April 25

Ensemble Evening: Music
Jazz band, wind ensemble, chamber
singers and Beyond Harmony, 7:30
p.m., Lemmond Theater,
MU Box Office.

April 27

After Hours with Misericordia
Lucky's Sporthouse, 110 Schechter Dr.,
W-B Twp., 8-11 p.m. Alumni Box Office

May 6-June 29

The History & Impact of Nursing

Education in Luzerne County from 1893-2012

Center of Nursing History of NEPA
at MU exhibit features a collection
of artifacts that documents history
of nursing in region. Opening
reception: Sunday, May 6, 1-4 p.m.

May 31-June 3

Alumni Weekend

Meet, greet and reminisce. Enjoy a
cookout, tours, Alumni Mass,
workshops, games. Call the Alumni
Box Office for more information or
register at
cougarconnect.misericordia.edu.

June 17-21

Diversity Camp

Diversity Institute hosts a 5-day, 4-night
diversity camp for high school students
entering 11-12 grades. Call Diversity
Institute at (570) 674-1483 for an
application. Misericordia.edu/diversity.

July 9 & 27

Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival

July 9

Jazz in July: Midiri Brothers Septet
Enjoy the sounds of the Swing Era at
Wells Fargo Amphitheater, 8 p.m., MU
Box Office.

July 27

Starlight Concert: Neil Sedaka
Singer-song writer's career spans more
than 50 years of hits and millions of
records sold; Wells Fargo Amphitheater,

8 p.m., MU Box Office.

Aug. 18

By the Beach at Bar Anticipation, Lake Como, N.J.

Join alumni for a bbq, live entertainment,
contests, drink specials and a gift from your
alma mater; \$10 per person, Alumni Box Office.

Oct. 4-13

Cruise Mediterrean with alumni, friends

Spend first day touring and an overnight stay
in Barcelona, Spain, followed by 7 days of
cruising. Ports include Provence and Cannes,
France; Florence, Pisa, Rome, Naples and
Capri, Italy. \$2,389 (inside cabin), includes
air, transfers, all transportation, taxes.
\$250 deposit by April 16. Call Val Brezanski
at Tucker Travel Agency at (570) 823-4100
or tucker87@epix.net.

Trips with Distinction

Sept. 2-12

Russian River Cruise—Moscow to St. Petersburg on the MS Furmanov with a Newark, N.J., departure.

Nov. 29-Dec. 7

Christmas on the Danube featuring a 6-night Danube River Cruise on the MS Amadeus Royal or Diamond. Depart from Newark, N.J.

FOR INFO OR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT:
Dr. Noël Keller, RSM, Th.D., Tour Director
Center for Adult and Continuing Education
(570) 674-6776, (570) 674-6924 or
srnoel@misericordia.edu

MISERICORDIA TODAY SPECIAL SECTION

Mercy, Service, Justice, Hospitality



AT MISERICORDIA, SERVICE TO OTHERS COMES IN MANY FORMS

Freshman class introduced to University's charisms during inaugural Orientation Day of Service

The Misericordia Way

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

The importance of volunteerism cannot be overstated. It fills a void in the social fabric for underserved people, while it also teaches values and builds character in those who participate. It comes in so many forms that people of all ages and from all walks of life can give back to humankind or to their communities in some fashion or another.

Consider the 19th century Lands at Hillside Farms in Kingston Township, Pa., for example. Without the efforts of countless volunteers and organizations, this valuable nonprofit organization nestled among the historic back country roads and picturesque creeks of the Back Mountain would not be able to offer important educational programs to regional children and residents.

"We wouldn't exist," Guy Kroll, director of events and volunteers at The Lands at Hillside Farms, says frankly. "We would never be able to afford the labor to keep the place going. Volunteers are the backbone of the organization."

Misericordia's inaugural Orientation Day of Service on Saturday, Aug. 27 sought to create a sense of community among the

369 members of the freshman class by having them give back to the communities, people and nonprofits in the area. "It was an incredible opportunity for our students to get to know the area they now call home," says Kristen Mitchell Samuels, M.S.W., community outreach coordinator at MU. "I was so impressed by the feedback. The students were incredibly positive and open to the experiences and many have come through the office asking about how they can participate in more service activities."

Overall, more than 500 members of the campus fanned out across eight locations in the community to offer their time and talent. Teams repaired flood-damaged sections of the Back Mountain Trail; planted trees and erected fence posts at Blue Chip Farms; prepared Camp Orchard Hill for the season; planted 450 seedlings at Francis Slocum State Park; prepared a greenhouse for another planting season at the Lands at Hillside Farms; befriended residents at Mercy Center; became wheelchair transports at the Meadows Nursing Center; and conducted detailed landscaping work at the Dallas Senior Center.

The myriad of work also has left a lasting impression on the volunteers and on those it benefitted most. "Without the

volunteers, it would have been difficult to have this work done," Sherlene Long, director of the Dallas Senior Center, comments as she watches MU students clean out debris-filled gutters, cut grass and use a power washer to clean the building's vinyl siding. "I love to see the younger people volunteer like this. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Between light showers and overcast skies, Jenny Borton '15, pulled weeds and cleared brush around the landscape of the Dallas Senior Center. "I think the service opportunity is good. I enjoy it because I like helping people," she says.

Inside a historic greenhouse, 37 MU volunteers loosen and scoop up aged dirt that has been used over the years for flowers and vegetables at The Lands at Hillside Farms. With the soil removed, the volunteers haul in fresh dirt for new plantings.

"I've done a lot of community service," acknowledges Jenna Reel '15, "but this is different than anything I've ever done. It's a good experience. We get to know more of the area and get to know more people in our class. It helps to stay involved a lot because you are going to have to know the community and because a lot of students would probably stop with community service."

More than 500 members of the campus community volunteered at Mercy Center, the Back Mountain Trail, Meadows Nursing Center, Francis Slocum State Park, The Lands at Hillside Farms, Blue Chip Farms, Camp Orchard Hill and the Dallas Senior Center.



Students, faculty and staff
help to relocate Holy Rosary
Grade School after flood
waters damage school

Back to School

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

For a few hours on a late summer morning, Misericordia University students went back to grade school. They weren't there to refine their basic skills in mathematics or reading, but rather to assist a school community relocate its classrooms after regional flooding destroyed the lower level of Holy Rosary Grade School in Durys, Pa.

The damp stench of the Lackawanna River still lingered in the lower level of the Diocese of Scranton school when 15 students, faculty and staff from Misericordia arrived on Friday, Sept. 16 to move school supplies piece-by-piece to the former St. Mary's School in Avoca, Pa.

"Misericordia asked for volunteers and they (Holy Rosary) really needed them," says Debbie Keys '15. "I knew I really wanted to do it. I knew there was no other way I wanted to spend my Friday."

"Whether you've been affected by the flooding or not, it's very important to help. It's crazy thinking about this happening at Misericordia. We've had an earthquake, a hurricane and a flood. Knowing it's so close to Misericordia really brings it into perspective. It's a scary situation," adds Keys.

Grade-by-grade, classroom-by-

classroom, scores of volunteers packed the contents of the three-story school into bags and boxes, and hauled them and desks for more than 200 students to Avoca so classes could resume Monday, Sept. 19. It will be some time before Holy Rosary reopens as the flood waters destroyed the furnace, as well as the lower-level library, cafeteria, and art and music rooms.

As Holy Rosary Grade School kindergarten teacher Nancy Rafferty worked feverishly with other teachers to get their classrooms back in order in a new school and in a different town, they heard the pace of the work pick up. More volunteers had arrived in Avoca to unload the trucks filled with school supplies.

"It's overwhelming to see the response of people we don't even know," says Rafferty, a kindergarten teacher at Holy Rosary. "It's comforting to know that people care and they are there for you. The support has been great. God has us here for a reason and we have to carry out the mission."

Starting in the parking lot, volunteers unloaded the trucks as they arrived and formed a bucket brigade to pass books, chairs and desks up one, two and then

three flights of stairs so teachers could put their classrooms back in order. The heavy lifting, seasonable weather and formerly moth-balled school made it a challenging endeavor, but the spirit of community was alive throughout the move.

"It was tough work, but it feels good," acknowledges Colleen Noga '14, an OT major. "It's time and it's hard work, but it's worth it. The atmosphere of everybody being together is great."

Kristen Egbert '11, bypassed an opportunity to go home and spend time with her family and friends for her birthday weekend. The daughter of Brian and Lynda Egbert thought it was more appropriate to help flood victims.

"When I got the e-mail, I thought this would be a better way to spend my birthday and help people here," says Egbert, who also aided cleanup efforts in Noxen, Pa., later in the evening. "I love it (the camaraderie). I think these guys (members of the Holy Cross and Holy Redeemer football teams) were great with the singing. I live in New Jersey, so meeting new people out here is a lot different. I'm glad I decided to get up and do it and not stay in my room all morning."

Regional print and broadcast news outlets documented scores of volunteers relocating the school, including Kristen Egbert '11, far right, and other MU students, staff and faculty, at right.



Under the direction of coaches Jim Ricardo and Vincent Redko, every member of the team volunteered for recovery efforts.

Men's lacrosse team helps 2 families recover from flooding's aftereffects

The definition of TEAM

.....
STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

James Ricardo, the head coach of the men's lacrosse team, can empathize with fellow residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania as they face the uncertainties and worries that accompany flooding and the long road to recovery.

As he stood beside a modest Susquehanna Avenue home in Exeter, he gave approving glances and nods to his players as they lugged cinderblocks and scooped up debris from the basement of the home and wheeled them to the banks of the Susquehanna River. "It shows the commitment they have not only to the team, but also to the school," the Binghamton, N.Y., native and Dallas Township resident says quietly. "It demonstrates that they understand what Misericordia is all about."

Ricardo and his entire team — 41 members strong — volunteered for cleanup duty in Exeter and on Park Street in West Pittston on a sunny Saturday, Sept. 17 after receiving the call for assistance from Campus Ministry. A few days after he made his appeal to the players, they gathered behind the Anderson Sports and Health Center to form a caravan to travel from campus to the Greater Pittston area.

"Coach said everyone got hit hard," says Jack Stang '14. "We have a house in Ocean City, Md., and we got hit pretty hard with the first hurricane. I thought it would be good to come down and help out. It's definitely a feel-good kind of situation with everyone here. It's positive all around."

That exuberance also rubbed off on the Lynch family, as they directed volunteers to various projects around their property and then two doors down to the home of Mrs. Cindy Lynch's father. "I feel fortunate," comments Mr. Greg Lynch, as he looks over his mud-encrusted tools in the garage. "I'm overwhelmed with this help. You have to

have a big heart to do this and help your neighbors when you don't even know them. I feel fortunate compared to other people."

Ricardo also was counting his blessings that afternoon as well after he spent a few sleepless evenings the week before worrying about his mother and the family home in Binghamton that also was affected by record flooding. At one point, Ricardo received a phone call from a family friend to let him know his mother did not want to leave her house. After a phone call and a little nudging by her son, Mrs. Tina Ricardo agreed to evacuate the house.

"It was tough knowing that she was alone in Binghamton and I was here," says Ricardo, a husband and father of two. "My childhood home sustained a lot of flood damage, but my main concern was my mother. Thankfully, she is alright."

For the lacrosse team, the cleanup sites offered different, but rewarding challenges. At the Lynch family home, the team concentrated its efforts on removing debris from the once partially finished basement. Players removed belongings from a shed in the rear of Mrs. Lynch's father's home.

"When I heard they needed volunteers, I didn't even think about it," says Nick Kestler '14. "We just want to help because it's just awful what these people are going through. We are trying to make a little difference and make their lives better."

In West Pittston, the players were starting from scratch. The owners of 50 Park St. live in Allentown, Pa., and began their own cleanup efforts when the team arrived. Piece-by-piece, all the damaged remnants of the basement were removed and placed curbside to be hauled away to a landfill.

"We completely moved everything out of the basement," Ricardo says, "which had tons of mud, water and who knows what else. It was a real experience for my young men to say the least."

Students assist
devastated riverside
community recover
from historic flood

Irene and Lee leave A Lasting Impression

When a collection of Misericordia University volunteers descended upon Myo Beach in Wyoming County, Pa., on an unusually cold and muggy Saturday morning days into the fall semester, they had no idea what to expect. They had heard and seen pictures of the untold devastation this quaint, riverside community experienced when the swollen Susquehanna River left its natural banks due to the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

More than 30 miles from campus, the remnants of this idyllic community were scattered into disarray. Homes were torn from their foundations; park benches and toys were clinging to tree branches; and mud-caked automobiles sat motionless — perhaps for good.

Randy Stark, an adjunct business professor, grew up in the close-knit community in Meshoppen, Pa. His parents, Rick and Holly Stark, were one of the dozens of families that had many, if not all, of their worldly possessions destroyed. "These houses were completely underwater," says Stark, as his

STORY BY JULIA N. TRUAX '12

eyes scanned over the damage. "This is better than it was, but some of the houses are completely gone."

Stark contacted Campus Ministry hoping they could organize a group of students to help the displaced Myo Beach residents, many of whom are elderly and physically incapable of completing the tasks of shoveling through debris or moving heavy timber, appliances, telephone poles and piles of mud away from their properties.

"I didn't even know where to begin," Stark adds.

MU student volunteers, Ryan Hassick '13, Jim Miller '14, Matt Leighow '11 and Andrew Casanova '14, spent the morning and early afternoon carrying heavy appliances out of the homes and moving larger branches and debris towards the rapidly growing bon fire, while female volunteers shoveled and raked the lighter rubbish aside and sifted through the ruins hoping to salvage personal effects. Students occasionally consoled distraught residents as they stood by and helplessly watched as their material lives were thrown onto the flames. The group of students tried to brighten spirits by asking residents about their positive experiences of summer traditions, such as rafting down the river and hosting community pig roasts and barbecues.

Misericordia holds the tenet of Service highly, as do its students. For them, helping others is a major part of their college experiences and daily lives. "I like helping people," acknowledges Hassick, who is also actively involved with Campus Ministry. "I don't know how students can say there's nothing to do on the weekends at Misericordia. Look around you, there are people in need of your help."

Amanda Peslak '14, also urges others to give of their time to those in need. "I like to help, too," she says. "I wish more people would do the same."

Peslak has completed multiple terms as a Scholar in Service to Pennsylvania with the national service organization AmeriCorps. She is now serving as a Community Fellow at MU. She says there is a constant need in the community, and as young, able-bodied students, it's up to them to provide the extra help. "If I was in this situation, I wouldn't know what to do. I know I'd appreciate the extra help and I'm glad to provide it," she adds. "The fact that we're giving up our one Saturday to help I'm sure makes a difference."

Miller says the light flooding damage Misericordia experienced on Lake Street is nothing compared to the extensive damage that impacted area communities.

"We were upset and inconvenienced for 24 hours," he says. "These people have been out of a home for at least three weeks."

Myo Beach sustained heavy damage from floodwaters. A team of MU students, top right, and at left, Ryan Hassick '13 and Matt Leighow '11, helped residents piece their lives back together.



Student Johnna Miller '15, '16, bottom right, carries a flood-damaged countertop with Emily Kudlacik '15, while above fellow students, from left, Kelly Studwell '16, Jesi Swoboda '14 and Maria Weidemoyer '16 begin removing debris from the basement.



Students answer the call of A Neighbor in Distress

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Josephine Mudcik, 87, knows the history of the city of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., intimately. For 82 years, she's lived at 22 W. Beatty St., in the Parsons section of the city and has never experienced flood damage to her childhood and adult homestead.

As a child, she saw the damage and devastation wrought by flooding in 1936 and as an adult she experienced Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972. Subsequent high-water events also failed to affect the home she grew up in and then raised her niece in with her late husband, Nicholas. That was until Tropical Storm Lee arrived in September 2011.

The heavy rainfall and record-setting Susquehanna River level caused sewer lines to back up and seep into her basement, and rainwater from nearby Hollenback Park to pond and eventually flow through the windows of her finished basement. By the time the river crested and the rain had stopped, Mudcik's basement had accumulated about four feet of foul-smelling water.

Single and a month shy of her 87th birthday, Mudcik knew that her health and age would not allow her to cleanup from the flood's aftermath. After receiving some assistance from neighbors, she placed a call to Misericordia University's Campus Ministry office.

"I am very grateful because I couldn't do anything," says Mudcik, a few days

after the cleanup operation. "I used to do that kind of stuff, but I have a pacemaker and I'm a diabetic and I have other problems, too.

"I was really, really surprised how hard they worked," she adds during a phone interview.

Misericordia University student Jim Miller '14 of Ashland, Pa., surveyed the damage prior to everyone's arrival and secured crow bars, hammers and other necessary tools from Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity. A longtime volunteer firefighter with the Washington and Fountain Springs Fire Departments in his hometown and with the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Department, the son of John and Ann Marie Miller also volunteered at Myo Beach and at evacuation shelters and with pumping details around the Dallas area.

For this operation, Conor Brennan '15, Stockholm, N.J.; Emily Kudlacik '15, Parsippany, N.J.; Johnna Miller '15, '16, Wapwallopen, Pa.; Kelly Studwell '16, Glen Gardner, N.J.; Jesi Swoboda '14, Price, Texas; Maria Weidemoyer '16, Perkiomenville, Pa.; and Miller tore down drywall and removed a raised floor and cabinetry.

"I was very shocked that these girls could do all that work and the two gentlemen were terrific," says Mudcik. "I was thinking to myself, 'what are these little ones going to do with crowbars.' They had all this down in two to three

hours and it was two cellars that they really worked on."

The Misericordia University campus community assisted regional residents with recovery efforts. Teams of volunteers traveled to Wyoming County to work in Meshoppen, Tunkhannock and Noxen, and also helped residents and other volunteers in Avoca, Duryea, Exeter, West Pittston and other communities.

"I felt good about helping the elderly woman because there was no way she would have been able to perform the work herself," says Miller. "I am an occupational therapy major because I enjoy helping others. I see this in most of the health science majors, as they are often seen volunteering at different events."

"I decided to volunteer my time and help because Wilkes-Barre was greatly affected by the flooding and I wanted to help as much as I could because it is what I enjoy doing," adds Kudlacik, a nursing major. "Helping others in need is a very satisfying feeling because you are making a person's life better. I also enjoy interacting with the person I am helping because it feels even better to get to know them and know how grateful and appreciative they are.

"I would definitely recommend volunteering to others because it gets you involved with different communities and makes you feel like a better person," Kudlacik says.





Misericordia University student Chelsea Mixon '12, left and below right, poses for a picture with food pantry co-chairs Margaret Holmgren and Pearl Race, and Rev. Linda Bryan.

Campus Ministry spearheads a yearlong service project in Noxen

Adopting a Community in Need

STORY BY
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Fueled by a desire to make a difference in the region, Campus Ministry has organized a yearlong community outreach program to assist those in need in nearby Noxen, Pa. About 11 miles from campus, the community has a significantly lower income level compared to the national average and has a higher percentage of residents and families living near or below the poverty level, according to 2000 U.S. Census data.

Community services in the small, rural community of about 1,630 residents were stretched in 2011 by government budget cuts and severely damaged infrastructure that was caused by flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Student volunteers are providing assistance to a variety of organizations and populations in Noxen. Spearheading the effort is Chelsea Mixon '12, a social work major, who has undertaken the project as part of an internship with the Social Work Department.

When the heavy rainstorms struck back-to-back just weeks into the fall semester, Mixon immediately stepped into action and helped coordinate student cleanup efforts at dozens of homes in the community. "Chelsea was a God-send during the flooding," says Rev. Linda Bryan, pastor of the Noxen United Methodist Church. "If it wasn't for her helping bring student volunteers to our area, people would still be trying to clean out their houses."

Mixon is also helping Pastor Bryan staff the Food Pantry, where about 80 families in the region are served each month. During her weekly visits, Mixon helps to

stock the shelves and assists a team of church volunteers that helps the families select their monthly allotment. The adults couldn't be more thrilled by her help, which often means making more than 30 trips up and down the flight of stairs to the basement facility, carrying cartons of canned goods and supplies. "She is such an amazing help to us," says Pearl Race, a retired nurse who formalized the operation of the food pantry in 2007. "Chelsea is vibrant, ambitious and responsible. If there is something that needs to be done, you can count on her to do it."

Mixon also assists Pastor Bryan on visits to elderly residents of the region who are homebound, and is coordinating assistance from MU students in the health science majors, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing and speech-language pathology, as needed.

Under Mixon's direction, Misericordia volunteers are also helping to organize and sort clothing weekly at the community's Clothes Closet, a clothing bank set up by a local community development group. A group of students recently delivered a van full of clothing to the Clothes Closet as a part of its efforts.

Misericordia students Sarah Munley '13, an early childhood and special education major from Vernon, N.J., and Alina Busch '14, a social work major from Waldorf, Md., are also offering an after-school tutoring program for grades 3 through 6 at the Lake Noxen Elementary School. The tutoring sessions are helping dozens of local children.

The Noxen Library was also on the receiving end of the students' efforts. The

Sigma Tau Delta Chapter, the international English Honor Society, held a book drive in the fall and donated a portion of the books to the flood-damaged library.

Mixon says the student outreach in the Noxen community will continue throughout the spring semester. She says her goals include continuing efforts at the food pantry, and increasing the level of help at the library and clothing bank.

According to the 2000 U.S. census, the median income for a family in Noxen Township was \$35,833, compared to \$50,046 in the U.S. The per capita income for the township was \$14,488, compared to \$21,587 nationally. In the community, 13.8 percent live below the poverty line, compared to 9.20 percent in the nation. The rate of individuals in the community who live below the poverty line is 17.1 percent, compared to the U.S. rate of 12.4 percent.

Donations to the Noxen project are welcome and can be made by contacting Campus Ministry at Misericordia University at (570) 674-6495.





In Tune With Nature

Students learn about sustainability of life on fall break service trip

STORY BY SHANNON KOWALSKI '12

I have to admit I was excited when I first heard the Fall Break Service Trip being offered by Campus Ministry was to an organic farm. Most of the trips offered through Campus Ministry focus on humanity-based social justice issues, such as the rights and dignity of the human person, the dignity of work, or the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. But the Sisters of Mercy, the founders and sponsors of Misericordia University, also see the care of the earth as a critical concern, and work to reverence it and create a sustainable environment for us to live.

The New Dawn Earth Center is also sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. It takes the best of both worlds by combining education and physical labor to teach the importance and correlation of mankind to the environment. This trip surely promised to be unlike any other offered by the University and I think that is why it had such a draw.

Sister Denise Truscott, RSM, the director of the center in Cumberland, R.I., had a lengthy and extensive list of tasks we were expected to accomplish throughout our four days with her. We had 11 students and two chaperones to split the work assigned to us. As we found out, the old saying, "many hands make light work," is true. Each day, we blazed through our tasks and found time for some extracurricular activities, such as a hayride, a stop at the ice cream stand

and participating in an ecumenical harvest moon festival where we experienced Buddhist chanting, Native American singing, a night hike and a drum circle.

Throughout our time with Sister Denise, we accomplished many things for the center. Six saplings were relocated, the herb garden was weeded and cut back, crops were planted, plant beds were cleared, a deck was stained, and the trail system was cleared and maintained. In addition to all our physical labor, we also learned about the economical benefits of buying goods that are locally produced. We ate organic meals and got a taste of vegetarian cooking with vegetables that we had handpicked.

The morning we were scheduled to leave was certainly bittersweet. We had all forged bonds with Sister Denise and members of the staff at New Dawn — and especially with one another. I think I can speak on behalf of the whole group when I say the entire trip was extremely rewarding. It was gratifying to see the physical differences we made on the farm and to see immediate results and improvements. It was rewarding to know that we were doing our part, though small as it may be, to tend to the earth and care for God's creations. While some of our tasks may have seemed trivial, they were things that needed to be done for the sisters and would have fell by the wayside had we not helped. When it came time to say our final goodbyes, Sister Denise presented each of us with our own homemade and personalized

certificate of appreciation on behalf of New Dawn. That was the most satisfying moment of the trip.

A fall break service trip seemed almost natural to me. While most other students were returning home to see family and friends, I looked forward to getting away and offering a hand to someone who needed it. I believe that service is a two-fold experience that not only benefits those receiving the service, but those who are giving it as well. Based on past service experiences, I knew this trip would be energizing and fulfilling, and I knew that's just what I needed to kick off my senior year. For so much of my Misericordia education, service has been the catalyst that prompted me to step outside myself and do bigger and better things for myself and for others. It was almost second nature to sign up for such a trip.

Overall, the fall break trip allowed all of us to take some time from an already crazy semester to refocus on what is important. We learned a lot about the environment and about each other. We forged new friendships while exemplifying Misericordia's charisms of mercy and service. What better way to spend fall break!

Students, top left, Shannon Kowalski '12, Sarah West, '14 and Rachel Brooks '13, take a break from working, while classmate Mark Werger '12, right, clears brush. At bottom right, students pose for a picture in Campus Ministry before departing.

