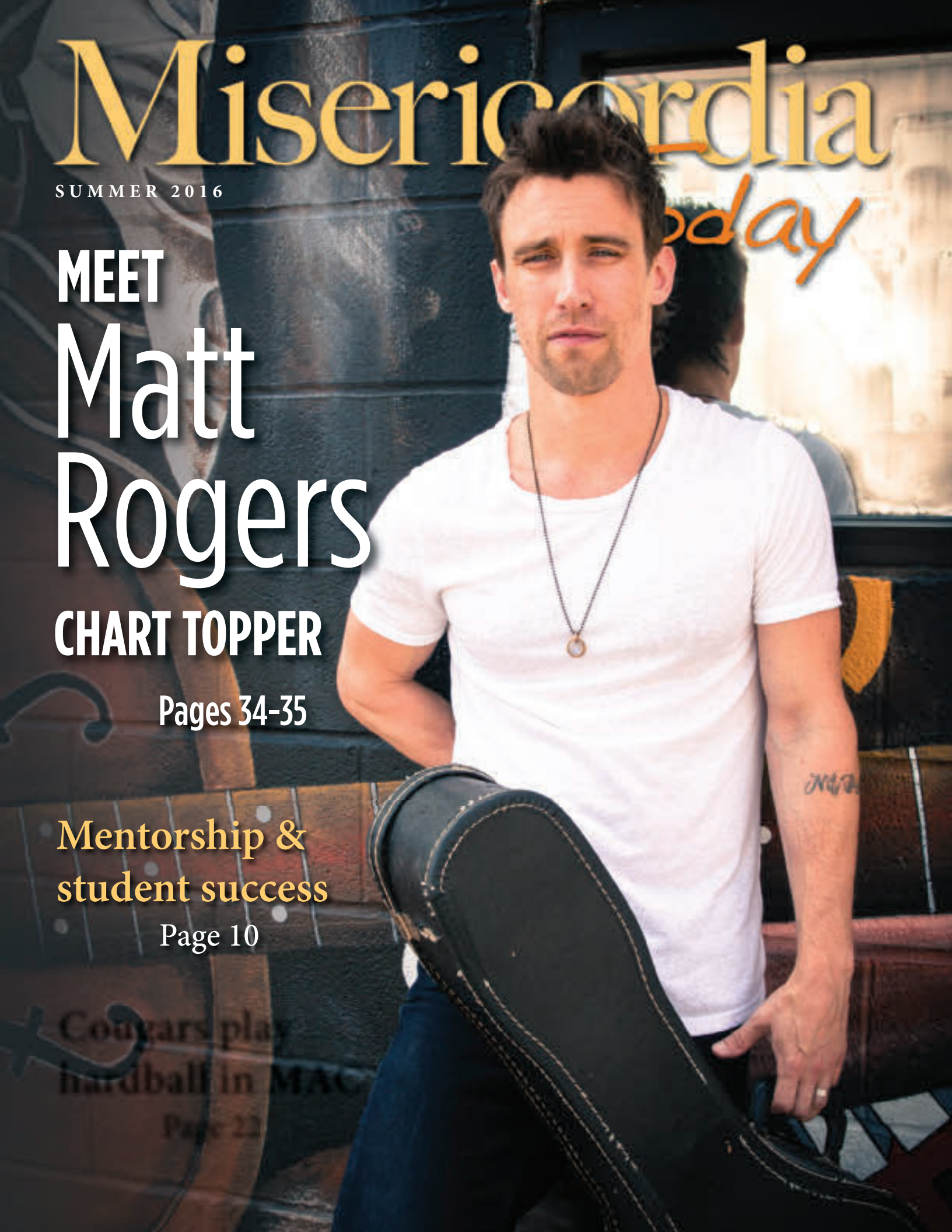
Misericordia today

SUMMER 2016



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

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University dedicates Mary and Allen Erwine Hall

Misericordia University formally dedicated Mary and Allen Erwine Hall on Friday, June 17 before family, friends and members of the campus community. The addition of the 5,000 square-foot building signifies the growth and demand for the academic programs in the College of Health Sciences, and also represents the special relationships the University forges with many of its alumni and friends.

"Mary and Allen Erwine Hall provides needed, modern space for our faculty and students, but the gift that supports this building means much more than bricks and mortar," said Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., president. "The gift from alumna and Trustee Mary Erwine is a clear indication that the leadership of this University believes in the institution's mission, and generously gives its time, talent and financial resources to improve the student experience."

Mary Hudack Erwine '90, '92 of Shavertown, Pa., has been an active member of the Misericordia community almost from the moment she stepped onto campus as an undergraduate student in the Bachelor of Science degree program in nursing (BSN). Shortly after earning her BSN magna cum laude in 1990, she enrolled in the Master of Science degree program in nursing, graduating in 1992.

Mrs. Erwine's scope and involvement with her alma mater continued to evolve through the years. She has been a generous benefactor, and member of Council Misericordia and, since 2011, the Board of Trustees.

"Misericordia gave me confidence and a sense of pride that provided me an opportunity at personal achievement," Mrs. Erwine said, "and enabled me to contribute to the greater good of the community."

The couple's benevolence and dedication to Misericordia is evident by their ongoing support, as their time and treasure have benefitted countless students.

As a founding member of the Misericordia University Health Care Advisory Board, Mrs. Erwine works in collaboration with regional health care educators and providers to address policy matters and the state of the national health care system by scheduling nationally recognized keynote speakers to address pertinent issues at the annual Misericordia University Health Care Lecture Series.

As a trustee, she has taken an active leadership role, serving as the vice chair of the Marketing and Development Committee. Thanks to the couple's generosity, the state-of-the-art Erwine Nursing Laboratory in Passan Hall features eight hospital beds, health care informatics and simulation technology.

"There are few alumni who are as dedicated to Misericordia as Mary Erwine," said Sue Helwig, M.S., vice president of University Advancement. "To say she is a proud alumna is only a small part of her story."



Misericordia dedicated Mary and Allen Erwine Hall on June 17. Members of the Erwine family, from left, Eric Schwartz, Megan Erwine Schwartz, Abby McLaughlin, Michelle Erwine McLaughlin, Allen Erwine and Mary Erwine '90, '92, pose for a picture after the ceremony.

Misericordia Today

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HONORS



Misericordia Today received recognition at the 2016 CUPRAP Conference in Hershey, Pa., in the spring. Staff writer Marianne Tucker Puhalla earned a CUPPIE Award Honorable Mention in the category of Creative Headline writing for "Defining Differences," a story on psychology students studying social norms on two continents in the Winter 2015 edition.

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



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ON THE COVER

How do you write a No. 1 song? Matt Rogers 04 knows. He is a member of the team whose song *We Went* was recorded by country artist Randy Houser and went to No. 1 on Billboard s Country Airplay chart. See Rogers story on Pages 34 35. Photo credit: Julie Moe Zooby Media.





The importance of being a mentor

This issue of Misericordia Today features a number of articles and videos about mentors, those who act as advisers or coaches to one who is learning about life, a profession, or any of a number of activities. The word mentor is unusual, as it was originally the proper noun Mentor in Greek literature. Mentor was a friend of Odysseus and was assigned to teach Telemachus while Odysseus was traveling for more than two decades. Later in the story, the goddess Athena tested Telemachus and found that he had been a good student, which reflected well on his teacher and coach, Mentor.

Our students have benefitted from a long tradition of mentors. Alumni tell stories about Sisters of Mercy who taught very permanent lessons here by example or in few words. Take Sister Crescentia, chair of the Department of Chemistry some 50 years ago, for example. She reminded students work was more important than social aspects by noting that in this laboratory, we practice the first five letters, not the last seven.

Students were often encouraged by the Sisters to take a second major or minor. In this case, Sister Ruth Kelly encouraged English majors to obtain a minor in writing. The extra courses were not required by the catalog, but they certainly were required of the students. Of course, as students moved through careers and life those extra academic options became a part of their continued success.

Today s students get their share of fabulous mentoring. As I prepared to write this letter to you, I asked some of our recent alumni about their mentors. I received responses such as, I was blessed with mentors who continue to advise me from afar. Dr. Melanie Shepherd helped me with my first paper presentation. Today, she continues to support me as I gain more knowledge and experience in the field of bioethics.

Dr. Chuck Lajeunesse is known for his quiz quiz, which requires students to take a quiz independently and in groups. The students then recognize the ability to get quite different answers to the same problem when the group dynamic is introduced. Another graduate noted, The close knit community provided the ideal opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with professors and administrators. Those I came to recognize as my mentors were individuals who took a genuine interest in my personal and professional development. They were the ones who helped me navigate the overwhelming task of seeking a job, who challenged me intellectually and spiritually, and who encouraged me to eliminate the chains of doubt in order to become the best version of myself.

In this issue, you will find stories of students who excel in the classroom, the laboratory, clinical placements, and in their service experiences. Our faculty and staff colleagues take classroom theory and teach students to translate it into policy and practice. But it is more than simple instruction, they display a sincere concern for student success in the way Mentor did for Telemachus.

Our graduates pass the test. They learn to succeed in their careers and in life thanks, in part, to the mentors prevalent on this campus. My hope is that each student will have many mentors and then become mentors themselves. Mentors work directly with each student at Misericordia for only a few years, but their impact lasts a lifetime.



President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.

At the 90th annual Commencement ceremonies, the University commemorated the service and study abroad of 24 students by presenting them with special stoles as part of their regalia in colors that represent the country they visited.

The recognition is part of a campus-wide effort to expand and enhance service and study abroad/away experiences for students. In November 2014, Misericordia joined the Generation Study Abroad Initiative, a program of the Institute of International Education (IIE) to form a coalition of institutions committed to doubling the number of American students who study abroad by the end of the decade.

"When we joined IIE, we had 32 students studying or doing service-learning abroad. We promised to double that number by 2019," said Marguerite Roy, J.D., coordinator of study abroad/away programs. "With 87 students in the programs for 2015-16, we have far surpassed projections, and I am very proud to say we are at approximately 140 percent of our goal."



Students received colorful stoles representing the counties where they participated in study and service abroad opportunities during their academic careers. Posing for a picture prior to Commencement, first row from left, are Kristi Cianfichi, Jenna Burgio, Maria Weidemoyer, Kathryn Santoro and Nicole Negron; second row, Rebecca Santoleri, Alexis Smerlick, Leah Davis, Rachael Alles, Sarah Pulice and Sarah Powers; third row, Carl Daubert, Jared Pinter, Kayleigh Morein, Amanda Casem, Amber Swartley, Elena Uribe, and Rebeka Buczeskie; fourth row, Caitlin Vitale, Zachery Sabaday, Kaitlyn Fink, Palmer Steiner and Kerri Ciriello.

More than 50 students will study abroad or participate in service learning during the summer and fall, including the first nursing and speech-language pathology majors to attend for a full semester. "We are working to expand opportunities abroad for students in the medical and health sciences, fields that historically were limited in travel because of laboratory and clinical requirements," Roy added. "By working with them as first-year students, we are able to get them the courses they need, so they can go abroad their sophomore year."

The graduates represented a variety of majors: biology, business, English, education, history, medical imaging, medical science, nursing, occupational therapy, philosophy, psychology, social work and speech-language pathology.

Misericordia University signed additional affiliation agreements with seven institutions of higher education during the spring semester to expand its study abroad and away programs for students beginning in the summer.

President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., approved the agreements with the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota; American University Paris, France; Centre International d/Etudes Francaises (International Center for French Studies) at the Catholic University of Angers, France; Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program, and Freie Universität Berlin International Summer and Winter University, both in Berlin, Germany; Santa Reparata International School of Art, Florence, Italy; and the Council on International Educational Exchange, a study abroad service provider based in Portland, Maine.

"I am very pleased that we are able to offer our students additional opportunities to experience the world and learn from the many different cultures, religions and ethnicities that enrich our lives," said Dr. Botzman. "More than ever, it is important that tomorrow's leaders embrace and understand the diverse world around them. This global understanding will better prepare them for successful and rewarding careers in their fields of study."



Misericordia approved additional affiliation agreements with seven institutions of higher education to expand its study abroad/away programs for students. Participating in the signing, seated, is Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., president, Misericordia University; standing from left, Charles J. Brody, Ph.D., vice president, Academic Affairs; Marguerite R. Roy, J.D., visiting professor, Department of History and Government; Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., professor of English, and Peter Fackler, C.F.A., C.P.A., interim vice president, Finance and Administration.

CAMPUS VIEWS

SLP student receives Von Drach scholarship

Tia M. Spagnuolo '16, a speech-language pathology (SLP) graduate student, was awarded the 2016 Von Drach Memorial Scholarship by the Pennsylvania Speech-Language- Hearing Association (PSHA) at the 57th annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., in April.

Misericordia SLP students have received eight out of the last nine scholarship awards. The prestigious award is given annually to an outstanding student from one of Pennsylvania's 14 SLP schools in honor of Dr. Robert Von Drach. Recipients are students who exhibit strong leadership abilities, outstanding academic performance, exceptional clinical skills, and scholarship within the profession.

"Misericordia University has provided me with inexplicably wonderful experiences and opportunities," Spagnuolo wrote in her application letter to PSHA. "I am grateful for the unwavering support from my mentor, Dr. Cari Tellis, as well as other faculty members in our department. I have received a quality education that has prepared me well for what is to come in my future career. My determination, motivation and strong work ethic have been enriched by my experiences."



Tia M. Spagnuolo '16, center, poses with Drs. Cari Tellis and Glen Tellis.

Inaugural AACN White Coat Ceremony recognizes sophomore nursing students

The Department of Nursing held its inaugural Arnold P. Gold Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing White Coat Ceremony for Nursing in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall by cloaking 52 sophomore nursing students who began the professional portion of the nursing program in the spring semester.

The University received financial support from the Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to establish the White Coat Ceremony. An international nonprofit, the Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the professions of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care.

At the ceremony, family and friends, as well as faculty and administration watched as sophomore nursing students took an oath that acknowledged their essential role as caregivers, with an emphasis on the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality. Students also received white coats and lapel pins that feature the Gold Foundation's logo to remind them compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice.

The students were cloaked by Cynthia Mailloux, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., professor and chair; Vanessa Mayorowski, M.S.N., C.R.N.P., assistant professor and director of the undergraduate program, and Kathleen Gelso, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., assistant professor.

Misericordia launches 'It's On Us' campaign to prevent sexual assault

Misericordia University held a rally on campus in the spring to launch the "It's On Us" campaign to encourage healthy relationships and prevent sexual assault. More than 400 members of the campus community, including students, staff and faculty attended the program that was hosted by the Promoting Healthy Relationships Through Education and Empowerment (PHREE) peer educators student organization.

The program included remarks by President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., Kathleen Foley, vice president for student life; Ewelina Taran, advisor of PHREE Peer Educators, and student PHREE peer educators Danielle Kissane, Bloomingburg, N.Y., and Devin Crevani, Milford, N.J. In addition, Chuck Edkins, director of athletics, and Amy Lahart, dean of students, co-chairs of PHREE, offered a presentation and concluded the program by issuing a Call to Action and asking students to sign a pledge poster.

The "It's On Us" pledge asks students to identify situations in which sexual assault can occur; recognize

CAMPUS VIEWS



The Department of Nursing held its inaugural Gold-AACN White Coat Ceremony for Nursing in the spring semester. Students participating in the program included, first row from left, Caitlin Walsh, Jessica Langone, Kristine Pavlicka, Rachael Taylor, Alyson Clegg, Victoria Avidano, Alexis Savage, Jessica Wood, Olivia Garcia, Kate Varallo and Christopher Hutter; second row, Emily Power, Jessica Watkins, Amanda Halchak, Shannon Post, Monica Murray, Lauren Butruce, Jaime Hannis, Felicia Turner, Melissa Galloway, Mary Stephens, Dana Warfel and Philip Fraher; third row, Mikhayla Michigan, Sarah Harder, Elyssa Yanik, Samantha Scalzo, Samantha Harden, Kayla Krishak, Alyssa Schwarz, Julia Spencer, Christina Guzinski, Lauren Hause, Emma Federinko, Valerie Pagano, Michael Ryan and Zachary Moody; fourth row, Jacob Wysocki, Gabby Watson, Kylee Hazur, Melanie Piser, Toni Baran, Rebecca Kunkel, Kallie Miller, Isabella Botak, Miranda Pardoe, Michelle Norton, Thomas Hircock and Tyler Arnold. All are members of the Class of 2018.



More than 400 members of the campus community participated in the launch of the 'It's On Us' campaign during the spring semester.

that non-consensual sex is sexual assault; intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given, and create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

"Misericordia is dedicated to making sure our campus is a place where students are safe, and in an environment free of harassment and any kind of partner violence by providing educational programming which addresses the role that everyone can take in creating a violence-free community," said Lahart. "Tonight is about standing together; standing as a Mercy institution; standing as a Misericordia community to take ownership of our part in our 'It's On Us' campaign, and pledge to be a part of the change."

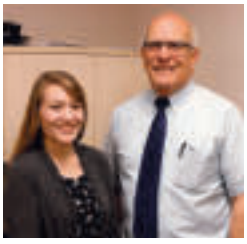
To see more pictures from the event, please type the address below into your web browser, http://bit.ly/itsonus16. It will take you to the University's flickr page.

Business student presents paper at national conference

Business administration major Christine Zopf '17 presented her research paper, *The Effects of the E-Book: A Financial Ratio Analysis*, at the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference in Cambridge, Mass.

An Honors Program student, the Department of Business also recognized Zopf by inducting her into the Sigma Beta Delta International Business Honor Society.

Zopf's research examined electronic book technology and how it has impacted the sales of physical books and the financial well-being of brick-and-mortar bookseller, Barnes & Noble. She also conducted a financial ratio analysis and benchmarking to compare Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com, Inc.



Business administration major Christine Zopf '17, left, with her mentor, Thomas Sweetz, M.S., instructor in the Department of Business.

"While Barnes & Noble experienced hardship in 2014, financial analysis reveals that the company is in a period of improvement, allowing for growth and increased consumer confidence," Zopf wrote in her conclusion. "Barnes & Noble has managed to stay competitive with the web giant, Amazon.com, which also saw improvement in financial standing between 2014 and 2015."

NRHC, a regional affiliate of the National Collegiate Honors Council, is an organization of students, faculty and administrators who are dedicated to the encouragement and support of undergraduate honors learning.

CAMPUS VIEWS

NE Cancer Institute recognizes C.A.S.U.A.L. team

More than 105 members of the campus community, along with state Rep. Karen Boback, were recognized in the spring for their participation in the 13th anniversary of C.A.S.U.A.L. Day (Colon Cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives), sponsored by the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

In a special on-campus ceremony hosted by the Cancer Institute, Rep. Boback read a State House of Representatives proclamation designating March 31, 2016 as C.A.S.U.A.L. Day in Pennsylvania.



Lt. Gov. Stack talks to students, from left, Abbey McCann '17, Alexandra Wagner '17 and Professor Frank DiPino, Ph.D.

PA Lt. Gov. Stack reviews innovative programs

Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Mike Stack toured campus, spoke with students and reviewed several innovative programs after meeting with President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D. in late April.

During his tour, the lieutenant governor spoke with students and faculty about their undergraduate scientific research that examines the relationship between the PAK2 gene and breast and prostate cancers.

Lt. Gov. Stack was joined by state Rep. Karen Boback, R-117, Harveys Lake, and state Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, D-121, Wilkes-Barre.



Receiving the books, standing from left, are Asia Thompson '17, student, and Katherine Pohlidal, director, Bourger WWC Program; and Donna Zeyher and Megan McAndrew, Dallas teachers, and Thompson's children, seated from left, Zaire and Kaitlyn-Denaye Kemp.

Dallas school donates 500 books to Bourger WWC

Fourth grade teachers and students at Dallas Elementary School donated more than 500 children's books to the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program.

As part of the school's Read Across America activities held in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday in March, the teachers asked the about 100 students to donate new or gently used children's books. They selected the Misericordia program as the recipient because a number of teachers in the school district attend classes at the University and had heard about the unique residential program benefitting women and their children.

Medical imaging majors capture Technibowl title

A team of medical imaging majors defended their title and captured first place for the second consecutive year in the annual Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists Technibowl competition that was held during the spring conference and business meeting in Coraopolis, Pa.

Seniors Kaitlin Fink '16 and Allison McIntyre '16 earned first place in the academic competition where students compete to answer questions in the field of medical imaging. Fink and McIntyre captured the title for the second consecutive year. McIntyre also won an Image Analysis Competition.

Students collaborate to preserve nursing history

Students in the course, American Women's History, are collaborating with the Center for Nursing History of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University to preserve the rich history of nursing in the region.

Under the guidance of Jennifer M. Black, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and government, students Lauren Hayden '16, Shane Kreller '17, Sierra Krohnemann '17, Elizabeth Long '17, Anthony Mancini '16, Lauren Nafus '17, Rebecca Schnable '17 and Christine Zopf '17 assisted in processing, rehousing and interpreting materials for the archival collections and collecting oral histories about the nursing schools of the Wyoming Valley.



Students working to preserve the history of nursing in the region, from left, are Elizabeth Long '17, Christine Zopf '17, Shane Kreller '17, Rebecca Schnable '17 and Sierra Krohnemann '17.

The Robert Y. Moffat Family Charitable Trust has a history of supporting initiatives that benefit families, education and the elderly in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Through the years, the trust has provided generous financial assistance to colleges and universities, educational programming for women and children, and community health programs for at-risk people.

Most recently, the Moffat Family Charitable Trust presented a $450,000 grant to the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program at Misericordia University. The award will enable the institution of higher education to expand the two-generation model program that removes barriers to academic and professional achievement for single mothers, and introduces their children to college.

"It's breaking that cycle of poverty," Yvette Wentland, trustee of the Moffat Family Charitable Trust, said about the novel program. "It's not only the moms, it's the children. I think this support was something he would have wanted: There's children involved, there's education involved, there's a need to provide support to these deserving women. Though some people really want to improve themselves, they don't always have the means."



Aubrey Connolly '16, a student in the program, poses for a picture with her daughter, Alison.

The Moffat family migrated to Lackawanna County and earned their wealth in the dairy farm and coal mining businesses, owning two breakers in Taylor and Dickson City. Mr. Moffat and his family understood the importance of education and giving people an opportunity to improve themselves, according to Wentland, who was Mr. Moffat's caregiver for the last 11 years of his life.

"When he was alive, people would come to his house randomly and ask for donations – even people he didn't know," said Wentland. "When Mr. Moffat and I would talk, his main concern and his whole family's biggest concern was they wanted to help with education. They were all educated. They all wanted to help others. They knew education was the way to better yourself."

As a result of the trust's funding, the program will expand to a third home at 111 Lake St., in Dallas Borough. The scope and reach of the program will grow considerably from a capacity of 10 to 16 mothers and from 20 to up to 32 children. "Robert Y. Moffat Family Charitable Trust funding and its impact on program growth enables us to replace despair with hope in the lives of these deserving women," said Thomas J. Botzman, president. "The Moffat support will leave an impression on student-mothers and their families which will last far beyond the conclusion of their studies."

Ann Marie Wysocki Hicks '65, M. Ed., simply says, "I am blessed, God is good," when asked what inspires her to open her heart as a servant leader in her community and stalwart supporter of the Misericordia mission. Having spent more than 18 years as a dedicated educator in the United States and Africa, Hicks believes it is her mission to give back and has tendered more than 45 years of volunteer service to the Annandale Christian Community for Action. She also has taken part in mission trips to Haiti and Southern India.

Motivated by the science faculty members she met while earning a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry and education at Misericordia, she began her career as a biology teacher, first in Maryland and then in New York.

She joined her husband, Norman Hicks, Ph.D., on assignment in Ghana, Africa, where he worked with the United States Agency for International Development to end global poverty. Within a week, she was recruited as a teacher in Accra, Ghana, and is credited with being one of 12 founding teachers of The Lincoln School that was developed to educate the children of Americans living in the region. She returned to the U.S. in 1970, resumed teaching in 1987, and was serving as chair of the science department at Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, Va., when she retired in 2003.

Listed among Misericordia's most loyal supporters, she and Norman have made donations to every fundraising campaign since the early 1980s. In 2011, they established a scholarship to support the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program. As a Class Agent, she helped her class earn awards for participation and largest class gift during their 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend in 2015.



Ann Marie Wysocki Hicks '65 receives her award from President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., left, and Trustee Christopher Borton.

She received The Mother Mary Catharine McGann Achievement Award in 2015 when she shared her inspiring story with incoming Misericordia students as Convocation speaker.



Misericordia University student researcher Rachel Bohn '16 works with her mentor, Frank DiPino, Ph.D., professor of biology, in one of the laboratories in Hafey McCormick Science Hall on campus.

The VALUE of MENTORSHIP

Students work closely alongside professors while searching for new knowledge in their undergraduate research projects

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI AND MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Tucked immediately outside his office, Frank DiPino, Jr., Ph.D., professor of biology, has what he refers to as a "teaching laboratory." It enables the students he mentors to gain an understanding of research methodologies and protocols while also exploring for the unknown as they conduct undergraduate research projects under his watchful eye. It features a collection of equipment, chemical compounds, supplies and other related materials.

"Students that join our research efforts learn current cutting-edge molecular cell biology and genetics methodologies, how to collect data, analyze experimental results, and draw conclusions and communicate their findings," says Dr. DiPino, explaining how mentorship opportunities benefit students at Misericordia University. "Without question, these are valuable experiences that prepare students to go on to jobs, medical school and Ph.D. programs. They also experience the unique thrill of creating new knowledge and discovering something that has never been known before."

In a way, the camaraderie in the laboratory mirrors Misericordia University's overall intimate academic environment. Students routinely store personal belongings there in convenient drawers as they balance valuable research time with their busy class and study schedules. On any given day or night, a singular student or a team can be found working on projects, pipetting samples, and operating various centrifuges, high-powered microscopes, vacufuges, thermal cyclers and more.

Biology major Rachel Bohn '16, for example, has been working on the "Mutagenesis Approach to Disrupt PAK2: A Protein Involved in Breast Cancer" project since it began in September 2013 on campus and at The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) in Scranton, Pa. She has been engrossed in the exciting cancer research project with fellow undergraduate research scientists, as well as faculty



Misericordia University student Rachel Bohn '16 collaborates with Jun Ling, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry at The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, Pa.

mentors, Dr. DiPino and Jun Ling, Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular biology at TCMC.

Dr. DiPino and Bohn each have their own unique way of describing the complex scientific research that has been a large part of their lives since they began examining the PAK2 gene and its interconnectedness to breast and colon cancers. Dr. DiPino, a molecular cell biologist, compares their work to "turning a light switch off and on," as they are focused on understanding how a "molecular switch" activates these deadly cancers. Bohn takes it a step further and uses the

Continued on next page



Undergraduate research students Andrew Phillips '17, Rachel Bohn '16, Trinity Sprague '17 and Palmer Steiner '16 pose with Dr. Frank DiPino, center, in one of the research laboratories on campus.

Mentorship & Science

from page 11

analogy of opening the hood of a car, cutting a wire, and later learning the brakes no longer work on the vehicle.

More precisely, though, Misericordia and TCMC researchers are engaged deeply in research that seeks to fully understand the autophosphorylation sites that regulate PAK2 and may cause it to lose proper regulation if it mutates, causing tumors and metastasis.

At Misericordia University and TCMC, Bohn and other students have cloned the human PAK2 gene – which plays a role in cell behavior such as cell division, migration and survival – and confirmed the gene by DNA sequencing. They now are utilizing bioinformatics technology and computer software to plan and outline the alteration of the gene, specifically in regard to designing primers. By mutating specific areas of the gene, researchers are working to understand which "molecular switch" in the protein encoded by the gene causes the cell to short circuit and eventually become cancerous.

"These sites might also be good drug targets for cancer therapies," says Bohn, the daughter of Mark W. Bohn, M.D., and Donna Hudick Bohn '89, Pharm.D., of Mountain Top, Pa., "and this can be foundational research for drugs of the future."

Researchers acknowledge their work is arduous and one piece of a much larger puzzle, as so many unknowns remain in understanding cancer. But as they take these baby steps together, the engaged mentorship these students receive proves invaluable as it prepares them to tackle graduate school and more complex research opportunities.

"Science is slow and there are a lot more steps involved than people realize. When you say you are doing a procedure, like a site-directed mutagenesis, it's a long, multi-step process," Bohn explains. "It's science, so things do go wrong and you have to go back and repeat.

"It's important to keep that goal in mind – that this is what we are working toward. When you have so many steps, it is easy to get lost in them, especially when you might have to repeat a procedure more than once. This research is going to go on long after I am gone and many people already have graduated from the project," she adds.

ART OF DISCOVERY

History is filled with important people whose brilliance, curiosity and devotion to explaining the unexplainable led to discoveries that changed humankind forever. Rudolf Virchow found that diseases are caused by malfunctioning cells; Ronald Fisher was one of the principle founders of population genetics, and Alexander Fleming is known for discovering penicillin.

At Misericordia University, Dr. DiPino is recognized for sharing his time and talent, as he believes the most important aspect of his job is the role he plays as mentor – inside and outside of the classroom. Whether the students are conducting coursework research on environmental field plants, cell biology, molecular biology or genetics, the veteran educator knows how influential and beneficial the student-professor relationship can be for the next generation of scientists, educators and doctors.

"The most rewarding part of my career is working with research students," he acknowledges without hesitation. "Some are drawn to research because they want to explore and discover new knowledge. Some are naturally curious. Some are stubborn people who use that tenacity to commit the time after classes, after studying and after working a job to go to the research lab and put more hours of work in on the project. And some are positive, optimistic people who are not discouraged by failed experiments. They adjust and improve

Type the shortcut, bit.ly/mumentorship, into your web browser or use your QR-code enabled smartphone to watch a video about the importance of mentorship to undergraduate research students at Misericordia University.



the experiment, and repeat it and repeat it."

Undergraduate students, though, learn more than scientific procedures, protocols and new knowledge when conducting research with a faculty mentor – they unlock their potential. They learn how to work as a cohesive unit in a collaborative team, while also developing interpretation, personal, troubleshooting and creative-thinking skills along the way.

"It's taught me to realize how things are interconnected," Bohn says. "Our results are not necessarily 'yes' or 'no.' We have to interpret and analyze our results to see if they are consistent with what we expected and move onto the next step. When you are a physician, for example, you are the decision-maker. You are deciding upon a plan of care for that patient. It'll be helpful to have the ability to think independently and consider all options."

SMALL SCHOOL FEEL

Even though Bohn's mother is an alumna, she did not seriously consider attending Misericordia because of its intimate size – until she made her first official visit. The Crestwood High School graduate mistakenly believed she needed to attend a "big" school in order to realize her dream of attending medical school.

"I really loved it," she says, recalling her first impression of Misericordia more than four years ago. "I felt at home here, and that's really important to me. After I came here, I went to other schools and they did not compare. I didn't know what I was looking for (when I was looking at colleges), but when I came here I saw it."

In the fall, Bohn will realize her dream of attending medical school when she participates in the annual White Coat Ceremony and becomes a member of the TCMC Class of 2020. In her acceptance letter, the medical school in Lackawanna County acknowledged the role her undergraduate research played in her being one of the 108 members of the incoming class.

"Many factors are considered in the admission process," said the letter signed by Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.,

Continued on next page

Summer Fellowship Program

The following students and faculty members are collaborating on the following scientific research and scholarly work projects for the 2016 Student Summer Research Fellowship Program:

Angela Asirvatham, Ph.D., associate professor, and students, Atasha Rehrig '18 and Michael Blazaskie '18: *Evaluation of Cyclic Adenosine Monophosphate Levels in Mitogen-Stimulated Schwann Cell Cultures.*

Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Laura Baut '19, Mike Boutanos '18, Gaetano Buonsante '19, Stefany Krasson '19, Briana Scorey '19 and Michael Shott '19: *Mapping Pittston's Past.*

Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor, and student, Alex Lester '17: National Federation for the Blind, 3-credit internship.

Lori Charney, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., assistant professor, and students, Lauren Apgar '17 and Amanda Salak '17: *Social Participation Improvement via Goal Attainment Scaling in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.*

Grace Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students Olivia Katulka '19 and Bailey Waltman '19: *An Exploration and Application of Digital Game-Based Learning in Biology at the College Level.*

Larry Corpus, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Amara Sikalias '18: Synanthropic Flies (Diptera) from Selected Sites in Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Alivia Womelsdorf '18: *Blackly (Diptera: Simuliidae) Distribution and Abundance in Trout Brook, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.*

Okla Elliott, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Nicole Grassi '18 and Taylor Rupp '16: *Holocaust and Comparative Genocide Pedagogy.*

Anna Fedor, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Victoria Bednar '18 and Thomas Scott '17: *Extraction of Green Tea Polyphenols and the Inhibitory Effects of these Health-Promoting Molecules on Digestive Enzymes.*

Beth Haas, Ph.D., assistant professor, and student, Leonard Watson '19: *Modeling Single Protein Diffusion on Bacterial Membranes.*

Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D., professor, and students, David Chacke '17: *You or the World? The Locus of Control's Influence on Academic Achievement in College Students;* Alec Kellish '17: *Spirituality/Religion, Coping Strategies and Perceived Stress in Graduate Students;* Karlee Naylon '18: *The Effect of Fear of Failure, Psychological Distress, and Quality of Life on Procrastination and Perfectionism in Graduate Students.*

David Perkins, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Michael Gottstein '17 and Tara Koskulitz '18: *KAMI and Collapsing Graphs.*

Charles Saladino, Ph.D., associate professor, and student, Shawn Dziepak '17: *A Unique Approach that Utilizes Luminometry to Study the Antioxidant Properties of Glutathione.*

Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., associate professor, and students, Alexandra Irr '18 and Andrea Veneziale '17: *Conversation Analysis: Determining the Function of Word Final Disfluencies.*

Jessica Kisenwether, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., assistant professor, and student, Jessica Dougherty '17: *What's the Consensus?: A Survey of Evaluation Methods Used by Professionals in the Area of Voice Disorders.*

Wilton Remigio, M.S., M.P.T., D.Sc., assistant professor, and students, Bridget Boyle '16 and Nicole Palanza '17: *A New Thermally Mediated Cardiac Reflex: Can Thermal Cutaneous Application to Skin Send Instant Messages to the Heart?*

Jeffrey Stephens, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Grace Emmett '17 and Andrea Nale '17: *Biological Applications of an Atomic Force Microscope.*

Christopher Stevens, Ph.D., assistant professor, and students, Ray Ellis '17, Sam Johnson '17 and Michael Podskoch '17: *Image Theory and Strategic Relation in the former Soviet Space: The Cases of Estonia and Latvia.*

Cari Tellis, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., associate professor, and students, Allison McCallister *'17 and Danielle Spagnuolo '18: Using Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy to Assess Cerebral Hemoglobin Changes Following Voice Training.*

Glen Tellis, Ph.D., C.C.C.-S.L.P., professor, and students, Abriel McCann '17 and D'manda Price '18: *Optical Measures to Determine Hemoglobin Concentration During Delayed Auditory Feedback Use.*

Mentorship & Science

from page 13

president and dean of TCMC. "The admissions committee was particularly impressed with your outstanding academic performance at Misericordia University, (and) your PAK2 research ..."

Bohn graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree and a 4.0 grade point average, earning a full medical scholarship to TCMC. She was one of two spring 2016 Class Valedictorians and addressed her fellow classmates and guests at Commencement. Her fellow Valedictorian, Gina Baiamonte, a biochemistry major from Ashley, Pa., will also attend medical school at TCMC in the fall. *(See story, page 15)*

COLLABORATIVE MENTORSHIP

Standing nearby in TCMC's molecular biology laboratory as Bohn prepares a sample for testing, Dr. Ling offers high praise for his mentee and the mentoring process at Misericordia that eventually linked her to the region's medical college as a sophomore.

"Rachel is an exceptionally dedicated young scientist," the California native says with the look of a proud father. "From the very beginning, she impressed me with her scientific attitude. She is very organized and a quick learner – you only need to show her something once. Decisions and diagnosis need to be made on the spot – it is critical that one be organized for medical science."

Having had the opportunity to work one-on-one with her in the lab, Dr. Ling calls Bohn a "thoughtful person," who shows maturity in her ability to analyze and exercise critical thinking. "When you put students' problem-solving abilities to the test day after day, you can predict their career. Rachel is a natural leader and will make a wonderful doctor," he opines.

Dr. Ling's belief in the power of mentorship may very well be what brought him together in collaboration and friendship with his fellow scientist, Dr. DiPino, after meeting at a conference. "As faculty, we need to care about student development. We need to work with them and guide them to give them a better chance to go to medical school. Working together, we give them a better chance to succeed. The educational collaboration we have – Dr. DiPino and I – is mutually beneficial. He finds outstanding undergraduate students and suggests that I train them. It is a system that is good for Misericordia and it makes my school (TCMC) stronger," he adds.

"Watching the students discover their potential and talents, and grow in confidence is extremely rewarding to me," Dr. DiPino adds. "Our students go on to be successful in any forum and compete with graduates from any institution. Preparing future scientists is the most important contribution I make as a biology faculty member."



Inspired by the memory of her grandmother who passed away from cancer, Rachel Bohn '16, examines a cancer cell image through a confocal laser scanning microscope in the laboratory of Jun Ling, Ph.D., at The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, Pa.

Student Researchers:

Since the PAK2 research began in September 2013, several undergraduate students have been engaged in research and mentorship opportunities. The following students have participated in the study:

Donna Castelblanco '14 of Edison, N.J., a professional studies major with minors in ethics and chemistry, graduated with a Master of Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. She served as a bioethics intern with the World Medical Association in France. She is pursuing a career in bioethics and public/global health.

Amelia Poplawski '14 of Plains Twp., Pa., earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, and is attending a Ph.D. program at Duke University, Durham, N.C. She used her computational chemistry expertise on a separate related PAK2 project.

Biology graduate Sara M. Sabatino '14 of Nuangola, Pa., earned a master's degree in forensic medicine at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa.

Rachel Bohn '16 begins her graduate studies at The Commonwealth Medical College in the fall.

Biology major Trinity Sprague '17 of Bel Air, Md., is in the pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Misericordia.

Palmer Steiner '16 of Millville, Pa., graduated in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He plans to pursue a career in cancer research.

Alexandra Wagner '17 of Tamaqua, Pa., is majoring in medical science.

Q&A

Misericordia University awarded 392 graduate and undergraduate degrees in May at the 90th annual Commencement ceremony. Two members of the Class of 2016 also will continue their education at medical and veterinary schools in the fall. Read about their undergraduate experiences in their own words:



Lydia Watkins

Major/minor: Biology, with minors in chemistry and mathematics

Hometown: Dimock, Pa.

Parents: Donny and Sharon Watkins

Graduate school: The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Why do you aspire to be a veterinarian?

"Veterinary medicine is challenging. Sure an animal can whimper if something hurts, but they cannot tell you specifically what the problem is. It is like a scientific puzzle that you need to figure out, and that's why I want to be a veterinarian. I want to be able to think on my feet to make the correct diagnosis. I not only want to be a veterinarian for difficult cases, but also because I will be able to educate owners about the wellness of their domestic pets and livestock. Having a good education about diseases of animals will help prevent zoonotic disease, and therefore I will be able to impact the overall health of humans as well. I cannot think of a better profession than veterinary medicine where I can be a positive influence to both animals and humans."

How did your education help you get one step closer to realizing your dream?

"I knew I wanted to be a vet before I went to Misericordia, but I chose to attend here because I knew it would help make my dream come true. Not only was personal attention and one-on-one interaction highlighted at Misericordia, but encouraged as well. My undergraduate education is much more than just a degree. The professors and staff members I have met along the way at Misericordia is why my dream is coming true. Their encouragement and confidence in me helped me believe that I was capable of coming this far."

Pick out one life lesson you learned at Misericordia and tell us how you will utilize it in life and your career:

"I would have to say the one life lesson that I learned is providing service. I tend to think of doing extravagant things, but really service can be something much simpler than that. I believe service can be as effortless as holding a door for someone."



Gina Baiamonte

Major/minor: Biochemistry (Pre-Professional Specialization)

Hometown: Ashley, Pa.

Parents: Mark and Dawn Baiamonte

Graduate school: The Commonwealth Medical College

Why do you want to be a medical doctor?

"My interest in the medical field started at a young age when playing doctor with my siblings. Frequent visits to my pediatrician strengthened my interest in the medical field. My doctor became one of my childhood role models because I hoped to one day be able to help others similarly to the way she helped me. As I grew older, my love for learning and science grew stronger with each class. The challenges presented by classes were not only enjoyable to overcome, but also fueled my desire to work in the dynamic field of medicine.

How did your education help you get one step closer to realizing your dream of becoming a physician?

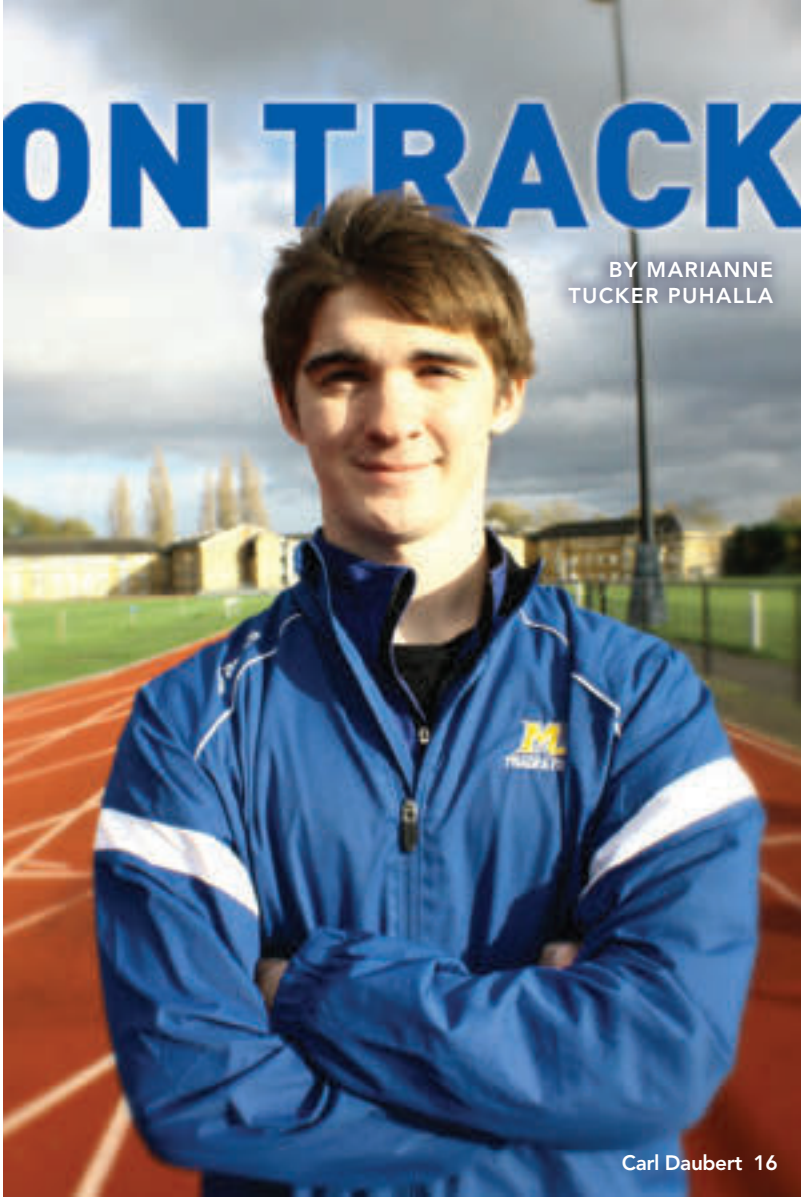
"One of the many amazing aspects of Misericordia is that students are able to form close relationships with their professors, who truly want them to succeed. Throughout my undergraduate education, I always knew that if I needed anything at all, I could go to any of my professors and they would be happy to help. My advisor, Dr. (Anna) Fedor, has gone above and beyond to make sure I had everything I needed to achieve my goal. The personal attention, support, and opportunities that Misericordia offered played a vital role in my success as a student and acceptance to TCMC."

Pick out one life lesson you learned at Misericordia and tell us how you will utilize it in life and your career:

"I've learned the importance of being an active member of the community and helping those in need. Over the past four years at MU, I've participated in many community service events. Whether it was volunteering my time tutoring peers, raising funds for charities, or brightening someone's day at the local nursing home, being involved in the community has instilled within me the importance of compassion, an open mind, positive attitude, and willingness to help others."

ON TRACK

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



Carl Daubert '16

Internship at Endurance Performance and Coaching Centre at St. Mary's University provides invaluable insight into a career in sport psychology

Psychology major Carl Daubert '16 says he laughed when his advisor, Professor Alicia Nordstrom, Ph.D., first mentioned that studying abroad at St. Mary's University in England might help him mold his interests in psychology and sports into a career in sport psychology. "Study abroad in London? Me? Yeah right," he remembers saying. Within months, he was spending his 21st birthday on an airplane crossing the Atlantic Ocean and being mentored by one of the most respected endurance running coaches in Great Britain.

Daubert says he developed an appreciation early on for the influence a good coach can make in the success of an athlete – helping them tackle the mental challenges as well as the physical ones of competitive sports. Under the tutelage of his father, Carl (a respected high school running coach), and mother, Michelle, Daubert tried a lot of different sports as a youngster, eventually finding his passion in track and cross country. A storied athlete in both at Hanover Area High School, he was recruited to run at Misericordia and chose psychology as his major when he enrolled in 2012.

His collegiate running career included many trips to the medalists' podium. Daubert was a member of the Misericordia men's 4x400 relay team that won the 2015 MAC Indoor Championships. His team set an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) qualifying standard in 2015 and went on to set a school record of 3:24.06 at the ECAC Indoor Championships, earning him All-ECAC recognition. He also received Coaches Awards in 2014 and 2016 for being a teammate who went above and beyond the usual roles of a team member, which included helping his teammates get physically stronger while also preparing them mentally for the stress inherent in competition.

"I've always had a passion for sport, especially running, and I have been interested in psychology ever since I first learned what it was back in high school," Daubert explains. "When I found out that there was a subset of psychology specifically meant for athletes and those trying to sharpen their mental game, it seemed like a perfect fit for me."

Although sport psychology is not a major offered at Misericordia, faculty in both the psychology and sport management departments collaborated so Daubert could take as many courses as possible in support of his career interest. The study abroad idea was born in his junior year during a meeting with Dr. Nordstrom.

"St. Mary's in Twickenham is known for its sports programs and has the School of Sport, Health and Applied Science," Dr. Nordstrom says. "It was a perfect fit for Carl to complete a practicum in sports psychology and shadow with sports psychologists and other professionals in their highly respected clinic."

St. Mary's houses the Endurance Performance and Coaching Center (EPACC), an elite training facility that attracts top runners from across Great Britain. The man in charge, Mick Woods, is world renowned as a top endurance running coach. "Coach Mick was an amazing wealth of information in dealing with athletes on and off the field," Daubert says. "He taught me that as a coach, athletes look up to you as a mentor and advisor and confide in you on all kinds of issues. He shared some of his best strategies."

In addition to mentoring with Coach Woods, Daubert helped run EPACC practices and had the thrill of running with the EPACC runners and members of the running club at St. Mary's. "Getting to train with the athletes of that caliber was an amazing experience. I worked with them and they confided in me. It gave me great insight into the profession," he adds.

A May 2016 graduate, Daubert's success was chronicled in a first-person essay St. Mary's asked him to write for *World Student* magazine. The full article can be found on Page 58 of the January 2016 issue at www.world-student.com.



David Malaquias '17

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

CAREER GOALS IN FOCUS FOR SOCCER PLAYER

Sport management major spends summer interning with the Manchester County Football Association in England

In the United States, we call it soccer. To the rest of the world, it is known as football. In the realm of competitive sports, there is no comparison. According to Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), there are as many as 270 million people – a full 4 percent of the world's population – involved with the game worldwide, and an estimated four billion (yes, billion) followers.

Few places are more invested in the sport than the industrial city of Manchester in the North West region of England. Its two hometown teams of Manchester United and Manchester City are ranked in the top 30 in the world, with four others – Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Leicester City and London's Arsenal – all located within a 200-mile radius. Manchester is, without a doubt, a hotbed of world-class football competition.

Finding himself smack dab in the middle of the action is Misericordia University rising senior David Malaquias '17, a sport management major and 6-foot-3-inch forward on the Cougars' soccer team. He spent nine weeks this summer living out a player's dream as an intern with the Manchester County Football Association (MCFA). The MCFA is an arm of The Football Association (The FA), the governing body for the sport in all of England. The MCFA oversees professional and amateur football in the city of Manchester, where the urban population of 2.5 million people pretty much live and breathe the sport every day.

"I love sports and I have played soccer all my life," says Malaquias, who earned All-Freedom conference honors as a first-year collegiate player. "I was recruited to play soccer for Misericordia and chose sport management as a major because I never want to have to give it up – whether it is playing it, or coaching, or working in the business side of the sport – I love soccer and I do not want to ever get away from it."

He says his father, Antonio Malaquias, made contact with the food company, United Biscuits in the United Kingdom, that helped him make the connection with the MCFA. A conference call with Daniel Green, COO of the MCFA, helped secure the position. Malaquias credits Marguerite Roy, J.D., coordinator of the study abroad/away program, for helping him with paperwork and in securing a visa.

Since starting work on May 31, Malaquias attended games at the storied Old Trafford (Manchester United) and Etihad (Manchester City) stadiums. He also enjoyed the rare opportunity to experience nearly every department of the MCFA, which works with professional teams, offers certification courses for all levels of referees, coaches and volunteers, and provides referees that work from the grassroots leagues to the professional level.

"I started with Football Development, where the task is to organize different ways to reach out to all people of Manchester – whether they love soccer or not – and to motivate everyone to exercise," he says about his 6-credit internship. "I worked closely with football development officers for adult players (ages 16 and up), inclusion (disabilities, women, etc.), youth (ages 6-15), education (coaches and players with potential professional skills), and college students."

Malaquias next spent time in the Marketing and Communications Department, where the staff enriches the brand of the MCFA and helps discern the organization from others that do similar work. He also worked with the Memberships and Discipline Department, where they take care of the teams joining the leagues hosted by MCFA and handle issues that happen on and off the field related to the players.

FIFA FACTS: FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD

265 million male and female players

+ 5 million referees and officials

270 million people actively involved (about 4 percent of the world's population)

TIME TRAVELER

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

History major educates public on the past while preparing for a career as a docent



History major Gina Coticchio served a three-credit internship at Eckley Miners' Village.

FOSTER TWP., Pa. – In the mid- to late-1800s, Eckley Miners' Village was a bustling mining community boasting some 1,500 people with a singular goal – fueling the industrial revolution by extracting veins of anthracite coal lying deep underground in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Today, it serves as an educational resource center for a new generation, as scant remnants of the industry, town and its people serve as an instrument to recall when coal was king in the region. The Delaware & Lehigh National and State Heritage Corridor site also acts as a training ground for future educators, like Misericordia University history major Gina Coticchio '18, who want to preserve the past and share it with others.

A summer intern at Eckley, Coticchio acts as a docent, sharing her knowledge of the era and region while guiding tourists in the Visitor Center and through the heart of the one-street patchtown that contains 23 buildings, many of them in their original condition.

"Gina's professional goals include pursuing a path in the museum field, so I aimed to set up a broad internship that would introduce her to a variety of departments," says Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and government. "Gina's interest in working at Eckley comes from her professional curiosity and desire to serve the public."

During her three-credit history internship, Coticchio is researching historic objects for the curatorial team, working with the site administrator to improve guided tours, assisting the educational and programming staff in planning educational activities for school-aged children and adults, and also providing guided tours for the historic site that attracted 12,200 visitors in 2015.

"This is something that I am really interested in," says Coticchio, who also has a minor in political science. "My internship will definitely provide me with the experience employers will be looking for when I graduate. I'll have experience giving tours and working with people. Hopefully, one day that will be me (giving tours at the National Archives) and I'll be very informative."

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Philosophy major draws inspiration from mother's disability in finding his own career path



Lester

His cell phone number's 818-area code is a subtle reminder of where he has been and also serves as the impetus for where he wants to go in life. Alexander Lester '17 is not your typical rising senior in college. He experienced the bright lights and glamor of acting in Los Angeles, Calif., as a teenager before stepping foot on a collegiate campus.

Happenstance and misfortune eventually brought him to Misericordia University as a philosophy major with a minor in ethics after he returned to the East Coast to care for his ailing mother, whose overall health was being compromised due to complications from diabetes.

"When I was 19, I was living my dream working as an actor when my mom's health started to decline," says Lester, 27. "I ended up moving back home to help her out. My sister also moved back home and we ended up relocating to Pennsylvania where both my sister and I were able to go back to school as well as help out with our mom."

Diabetic retinopathy eventually claimed the majority of Erma Lester's eyesight – making her legally blind. An "extremely independent" woman, according to her youngest child, Ms. Lester needed her children more than ever. "The loss of her sight made her feel like she couldn't live a normal life," says her son.

It did not take long for Jennifer M. Black, Ph.D., an assistant professor of history and government, to know that an internship at the National Federation of the Blind, was a perfect match for Lester, as he was motivated to work with and serve the visually-impaired community on a larger scale.

At his paid internship, Lester earned three credits while working for six weeks from June 6 to July 29. He worked with the archivist to rehouse and process several sub-sets within the organization's archival collections, transcribed oral histories, and provided general support in the department. Before finishing his internship, Lester wrote an article for *The Braille Monitor*, the organization's monthly newsletter, that addresses the consequences and ethical issues related to how people who are blind are represented in film and television.

The internship provided the aspiring graduate student in culture studies and philosophy with "a better understanding of the human condition," hands-on experience, and a published article for his pre-professional portfolio.



Misericordia University sophomore communications major Michael Gombita '18 conducts a media interview prior to donning his uniform and playing for the world famous Harlem Globetrotters during their North American tour.

GLOBETROTTER ... FOR A DAY

Communications major wins national 'Globies Draft Contest' and becomes first fan ever to suit up in a game with the world-famous basketball team

Misericordia University communications major Michael Gombita '18 of Equinunk, Pa., used the skills he learned as a collegian in the classroom and the abilities he developed from being around the game of basketball for years to win the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters' inaugural Globies Draft Contest and suit up for a game in March at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township, Pa.

Gombita's video entry on Instagram (http://bit.ly/gombitaentry) of him spinning a basketball with one finger and doing trick shots was one of more than 300 entries in the national contest. At stake was the winner getting to play in a game with the team made famous by Meadowlark Lemon and Curly Neal.

"The team welcomed me with open arms as soon as I walked into the arena," said Gombita. "It almost felt like walking around the Misericordia campus and how hospitable everyone is on a daily basis. They treated me like a teammate who has been playing for more than just one game. The best thing was that a majority of my family and friends had an amazing opportunity to watch me play with the team. It was probably the biggest and loudest crowd I have ever had in my career playing in sports and performing."

Before taking the court, the Globetrotter-for-the-day participated in a media event on campus in the Anderson Center that enabled him to show off his basketball talents, sense of humor – and media savvy, as he conducted several newspaper and television interviews. The son of Michael and Kelly Gombita also showcased his dribbling and shooting skills alongside long-time team member, Wun "The Shot" Versher.

On game day, Gombita donned an official uniform and participated in pre-game activities, signed autographs, posed for pictures and even scored four points during the game with the World All-Stars.

"I cannot express enough gratitude towards everyone involved in this opportunity. It could have happened to any of the 300-plus participants that decided to enter, but I was blessed with the opportunity of wearing those shorts and playing with such an iconic team."

★ Turn to pages 20-21 to see pictures of Gombita's experiences with the Globetrotters ★

Misericordia c[illegible]unications major M[illegible]ated in a pro[illegible]nal e[illegible]with a represent[illegible]orld-famous Harlem [illegible]betrotte[illegible]d media representatives on campus in the Anderson Sports and Health Center, and then suited up with the team for an afternoon game at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

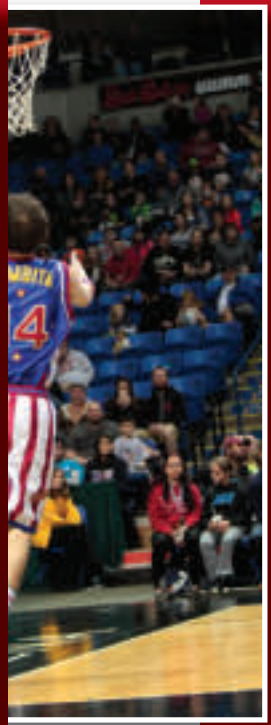
Dressed in an [illegible]fficial uniform, Gombita help[illegible]e Globetrotters en[illegible]ming it up on [illegible]ff the [illegible]with his new team[illegible]en managed to pitch i[illegible]n a few [illegible]ists and a couple of baskets. . . . And of course, the Globetrotters defeated the World All-Stars.





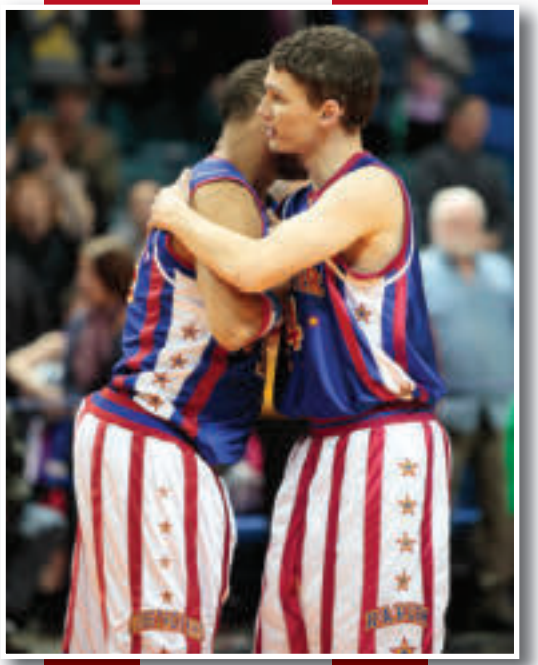










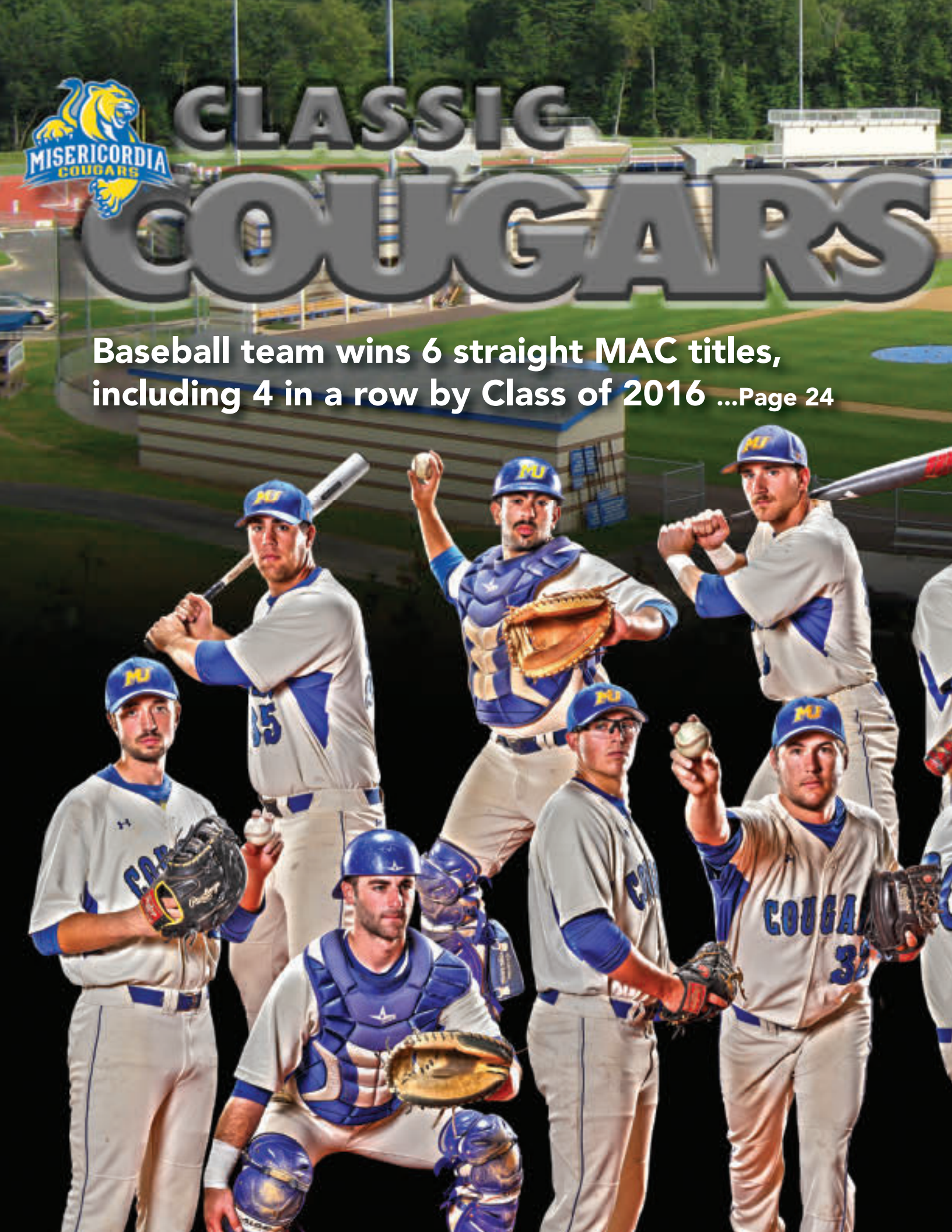




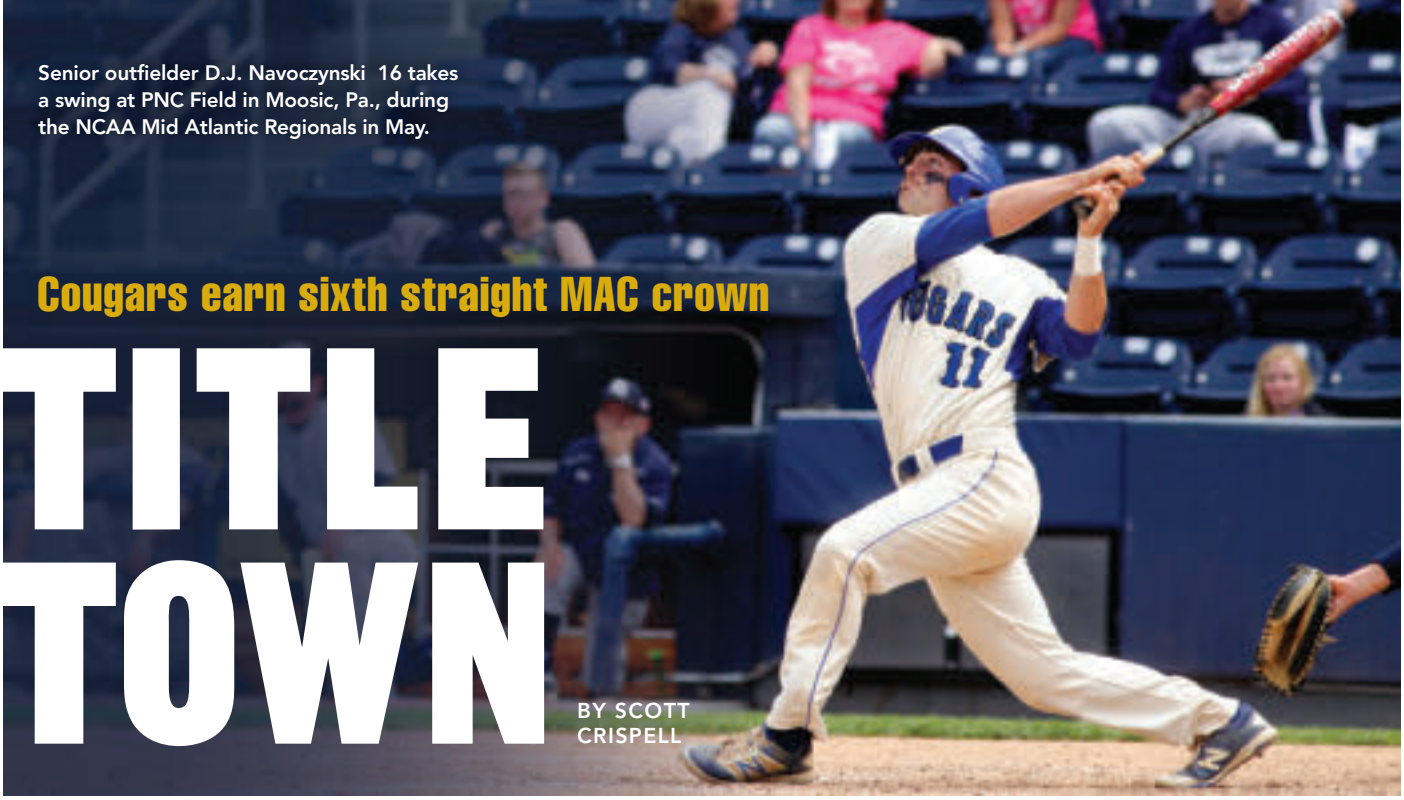
To watch communications student Michael Gombita '18 in action with the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters, please type this address into your web browser, http://bit.ly/gombitadebut, or use your QR-code enabled smartphone to scan the code and go directly to the video.



Video by: Earl & Sedor Productions


MISERICORDIA
COUGARS
CLASSIC
COUGARS
Baseball team wins 6 straight MAC titles, including 4 in a row by Class of 2016 ...Page 24


MU
COUGARS
11



Senior outfielder D.J. Navoczynski '16 takes a swing at PNC Field in Moosic, Pa., during the NCAA Mid Atlantic Regionals in May.

Cougars earn sixth straight MAC crown

TITLE TOWN

BY SCOTT CRISPELL

The Misericordia University baseball team has enjoyed tremendous success over the last half-dozen seasons, winning six Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom championships and making six appearances in the NCAA Tournament. While dozens of players have been involved in that success, perhaps no group of individuals is more responsible than the members of the 2016 senior class.

Collectively, the 15 seniors compiled a 135-52 record (.722) and won four consecutive MAC Freedom titles. "From day one, this class bought in to what we're trying to do as a program," said head coach Pete Egbert. "They lived it on the field, in the classroom, and around campus."

Part of the first team to play its home games at Tambur Field, the group re-wrote the baseball record books while setting nearly half of the school records. "This has truly been a special group of young men," said Chuck Edkins, director of athletics. "They have represented Misericordia University and the baseball program in quality fashion. It has been a pleasure to watch them mature as people, students and ball players. We are proud of each of them and are grateful for their contributions to Misericordia University."

At least one member of the class of 2016 is ranked among the top 10 in 19 of the 20 hitting and fielding categories, including seven school records. Kyle Lindsay '16 ranks first in career games played (187), at bats (685), hits (243) and runs scored (189), while Chris Boroch '15, '18 is tops in walks (98), hit by pitch (50) and assists (499). There are seven categories that include three members of the class of 2016 among the top 10.

Not to be out done, two senior members of the pitching staff are ranked among the top five, including the school record-holder in six of the eight pitching categories. Ryan Dorosh '16 holds the school record for starts (40), complete games (10), wins (29), innings pitched (273.2) and strikeouts (268), while Cory Vogeli '16 is the leader in career appearances (60).



Double-play combination Kyle Lindsay '16 (6) and Chris Boroch '16 (7) turn two.

From the time they first set foot on Tambur Field, the group made an immediate impact. Lindsay, Boroch and Mike Comerford '16 were four-year starters, while Dorosh was immediately inserted into the starting rotation. Vogeli served as the closer as a first-year player before making the transition to starter.

Al Reda '16 and Miles Westrich '16 started as sophomores, and D.J. Navoczynski '16 started for two years after transferring to Misericordia. Tim Burek '17 has been in the starting rotation for two years after missing the 2013 season with an injury and has a season of eligibility remaining.

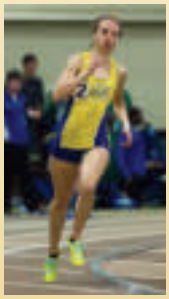
Steve Cuccio '16 started for two seasons before missing most of 2016 with an injury, while Ben Ciraolo '16, Brian Eshleman '16, Jim Tunison '15, '16, Anthony LoBello '16 and Dillon Del Rosso '16 have made contributions over four seasons.

"This class had some extremely talented players that went out and set a bunch of school records," said Egbert. "They were also extremely versatile as several players endured multiple position changes to help the team. They also showed tremendous perseverance by overcoming injuries or other obstacles. Each member of this class had a specific role on the team that led to the team's success."

Viti and Puckett named Wendy's Athletes of the Year

Amy Viti, '15, '16 and Jeff Puckett '16 were named the 2015-16 Misericordia University Wendy's Athletes of the Year. Viti also was named Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) NCAA Women of the Year.

A senior member of the cross country and track & field teams, Viti was an NCAA indoor runner-up at 800m and was the Eastern College Athletic Conference champion in the same event. She earned All-America honors with a fourth-place finish at 800m at the NCAA Outdoor championships.



Viti

She was the MAC indoor champion at 400m, 800m and the 4x400m relay. Viti received the MAC Outdoor Female Track Athlete of the Year Award after setting MAC records while winning the 400m and 800m at the MAC outdoor championships. In addition, she was part of the MAC championship 4x400m relay.

Viti earned first-team All-MAC status in cross country and was part of MAC championship teams in cross country, indoor track & field, and outdoor track & field.

Puckett, a senior football player, earned first-team All-MAC status at quarterback. He was the Misericordia team MVP for the fourth straight season after tying for the MAC lead with 22 total touchdowns. He finished third in the MAC with 974 yards rushing and was third with 2,419 yards in total offense.



Puckett

He set school single records and single-season records for completions (139), passing yards (1,445) and passing touchdowns (12).

The Wendy's Athlete of the Month program is in its 17th year.

Women's track team takes MAC title

The Misericordia University women's track & field team pulled off its second consecutive sweep as the Cougars captured the 2016 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Indoor and Outdoor championships.

Head Coach Chris Wadas '05 was named MAC Coach of the Year at both championships, while Bianca Bolton '16 was named the Female Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and Amy Viti '16, '17 was the Female Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year.

Viti went on to finish second at 800m at the NCAA Indoor championships and was joined by teammates Oniesha Clarke '20 (60m) and Reilly Wagner '20 (heptathlon) as All-Americans.

Viti was also recognized as the NCAA's Elite 90 award winner for the highest cumulative grade point average at the championships. A senior speech-language pathology major, Viti carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Viti ended her career with a fourth-place finish in the 800m at the NCAA Outdoor championships. Clarke and Wagner again earned All American honors at 100m and the high jump, respectively.

Bolton won the MAC indoor title in the mile and Sarah Wigg '15, '18 won the weight throw.

Clarke won at 60m and Viti, Kelty Fairchild '17, Katie Fairchild '17, '18 and Melanie Fry '18, '20 won the 4x400m relay.

During the outdoor season, Clarke won the 100m and long jump, while Wigg won the discus and hammer throw.

Wagner won the 100m hurdles and 400m hurdles, and Bolton won at 1500m.

Katie Fairchild, Fry, Kelsey O'Donnell and Clarke won the 4x100m relay, and Viti, Fry, Kelty Fairchild and Katie Fairchild won the 4x400m relay.

Lauren Hause '17, Bethany Killmon '17, '18, Jill Eberly '17, '18 and Bolton won the 4x800m relay.

Athletic teams earn post-season berths

Seven of eight Misericordia University winter and spring athletics teams eligible for post-season competition qualified for the MAC Freedom championship play in 2016.

The baseball team captured its sixth consecutive MAC Freedom title while men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse and women's tennis all advanced to the finals.

Men's basketball, softball and men's tennis also earned post-season berths.

Vogeli gets Academic All-American honors

Misericordia University baseball standout Cory Vogeli '16 enjoyed tremendous success on the diamond and in the classroom again in 2016. A senior mathematics major, he maintained a 3.98 grade point average and earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors for the second consecutive year.

He was a first-team All-MAC Freedom selection and helped the Cougars to their sixth straight MAC Freedom title. Vogeli led the team in wins (7-3) and strikeouts (64).

He ended his career as MU's all-time leader with 60 appearances, and ranks second in wins (20) and strikeouts (202). He is fourth in career ERA at 2.83.

BASEBALL POSTER

To order a copy of the poster featuring members of the Misericordia University baseball team s Class of 2016, please log on to earlandsedor.com and follow the Misericordia baseball link. The 12x18 and 16x24 posters are available in two print and pricing options: Traditional glossy and metallic prints at $40 and $55, and $65 and $85. Price includes shipping and handling.

ALUMNI NEWS



Mary Ellen Gulotti 87

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

Great things are happening on campus. Another Alumni Weekend is in the books and our campus simply looks beautiful with so many flowers and plants abloom to complement the vast greenery. As many of the alumni events require careful planning, our friends in University Advancement are gearing up for 924, the giving day, which will be held on Mercy Day, Sept. 24.

924 is a donor based event where the amount of money raised is not as important as the number of participants. Participation counts with any size gift. The overall goal is to reach 924 participants. Should we reach 924 donors, an endowed $25,000.00 scholarship will be released.

This event will bring the entire campus community including students, alumni, faculty and staff together for one common goal. 924 will also look beyond our campus walls to bring the Back Mountain community to campus that day.

University Advancement says it best: Our donor participation is a key qualifier in many grant application processes. Increased alumni connectedness is one of the main factors that puts us ahead in award selections. These grants provide a number of opportunities for current students, and will maintain and expand our University for generations to come.

Your gift will count towards the Annual Fund for the 2016 2017 fiscal year. Please consider extending your legacy with a gift on 924. Thank you in advance for your participation, and thank you for always being Misericordia Proud!

Mary Ellen Gulotti

CLASS NOTES

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

1959

Marilyn Strongoski Zlotek '59 and her husband, Don, welcomed two great-grandchildren in 2015, Lana and Zander. Marilyn and Don have been married 56 years. Marilyn is retired from the Wyoming Valley West School District. She served as class president for three years and was student council president in her senior year, and was selected Miss Recordia by the student body.

1964



Dr. Mary Raab-McConnell '64 was presented with the 2015 Citizen of the Year Award at the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Golden Gala at the Hilton Greenville, N.C. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology.

Andrea Vojtko '64 published the book of short stories, *Stories for Birders and Other Observers*. It is available on Amazon.com.

1966

Ellen Doyle Mondlak '66 received the Distinguished Woman Award by the Greater Pittston Chamber Womens Network. She was honored during a dinner at the Fox Hill Country Club, Exeter on March 8, 2016.

1983



Steven Haluschak '83 and his family made a pilgrimage to attend the Papal Mass celebrated in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the family wanted to make a special pilgrimage to strengthen their faith. The Haluschak family lives in El Paso, Texas. Steven was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014.

1989

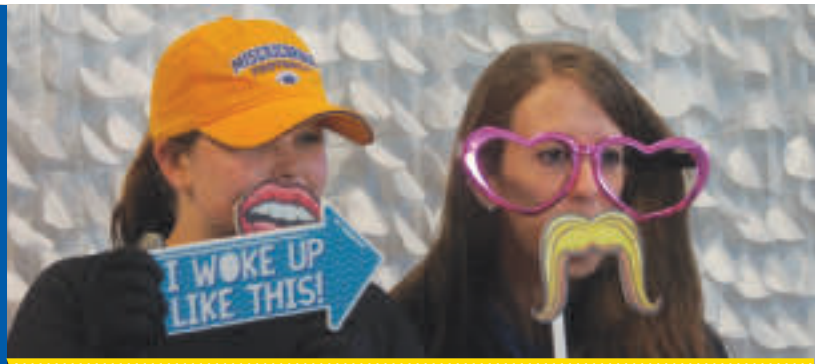


Christian J. Carbe, Ph.D., '89, center, joined The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, Pa., as a post-doctoral fellow. He earned his doctorate in medical and molecular genetics from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Ind. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology cum laude.

1994

Kimberly Seward '94, '09, '14 and **John Berti '10**, were married Dec. 30, 2015. Kimberly is a manager in the Application Restoration Department at MetLife, Inc.,

SAVE THE DATE!



HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2016
SEPT. 30 – OCT. 2
Register online: Cougarconnect.misericordia.edu/homecoming16

Clarks Summit, Pa. John is the IT and data processing manager at Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, Hanover Twp., Pa. The couple resides in Dallas, Pa.

1999

Mary Elizabeth Weinschenk '99 and Brian Matthew Zawatsky were married May 24, 2014. Mary works at Geisinger Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The couple honeymooned in Oahu and Maui. They reside in Exeter, Pa.

2002



Eric Crahall '02 and his wife, Christina, welcomed their daughter, Stella, on Dec. 9, 2015. She joins big sisters, Abigail and Grace.

2003

Sarah Kulakowski Williams '03 and her husband, Craig, welcomed their daughter, Emma Rachel, on June 2, 2015. She joins big brother, Tyler.

2004



Mandy Donmoyer Bixler '04 and **Mark Bixler '03** welcomed their daughter, Mia Addison Bixler, on April 7, 2016. She joins big brothers, Luke and Evan.

Jennifer Lee Yurkon '04 and Christopher Anthony Hetro were married Aug. 7, 2015. Jennifer is the director of communications at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, Scranton, Pa. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia and reside in the Back Mountain with their rescue dog, Champ.



2005

Amanda Politz '05 and Dean Kells were married Aug. 8, 2015 at the Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Hawaii.

Tarig Adwan '05 and his wife, Reem, welcomed a baby girl in August 2015.

2006

Jennifer Bitters Fumanti '06 and her husband, Rob, welcomed their daughter on Dec. 22, 2015.

Pamela Heiser '06 opened Pamela's Art Galleria in Exeter, Pa. The business offers services, including private lessons, parties and painting events. For more information, please log on to www.plhart.com. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology.

2007

Jillian Durr '07 was named Charles County Teacher of the Year. She is a third-grade teacher at Dr. James Craik Elementary School in Pomfret, Md. -

Jennifer Byrnes-Chulick Peiffer '07 and - her husband, Brian, welcomed their son, - Nolan, on Nov. 29, 2015. -

Kimberly Perlock Chorey '07 and her - husband, Joseph, welcomed their daughter, Leah, on Dec. 10, 2015. -



Nicole Sandrowicz Hemingway '07 and her husband, - Christopher, welcomed their son, Maxis Alexander, on May 25, 2015. He joins big brother, Ashur, and big sister, Soteria. -

2008



Todd DeSando '08 and Rachel Lord were married Aug. 8, 2015. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica. Todd is employed as an educational technology consultant with Spotslvania County Public Schools in Virginia. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica and resides in Richmond, Va.

Antionette Chepalonis Jones '08 and her husband, Joel, welcomed their son, Carson Anthony, on Nov. 3, 2015.

Daniel Johnson '08 and Molly O'Neill welcomed a daughter on Jan. 26, 2016.

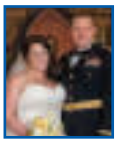


Kelly Dougherty Feinauer '08 and her husband, Justin, welcomed their daughter, Sophia Josephine, on March 16, 2016. She joins big brother, Wyatt.

2009

Andrea Moon Collins '09 and her husband, Brandon, welcomed their daughter, Kayleigh, on Dec. 22, 2015. She joins big brother, Nicholas.

Shannon Gleason '09 and her husband, Tony Franklin, were married May 30, 2015.



Courtney Begani '09 and Eugene Ingalls were married May 23, 2015. Courtney is a speech-language pathologist for RehabCare at Messiah Lifeways, Mechanicsburg, Pa. The couple honeymooned in St. John's, Antigua and live in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Alison Ostrum Schappert '09 and her husband, **Jude '08**, welcomed their son, Jude Michael, on Dec. 16, 2015. He joins big sister, Ayla.

Elizabeth Lee Clements '09 welcomed a son on Dec. 29, 2015.

Rachel Decker '09 and John Baldino were married Oct. 17, 2015. Rachel is the community relations manager at United Way of Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The couple resides in Hanover Twp., Pa.

Shannon McCann '09 and Edward Grant were married July 25, 2015.

Alicia Ann Kelley '09 and Ernest Gustinucci were married August 29, 2015. Alicia is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Twp. The couple reside in Wyoming, Pa., with their yellow Labrador Retriever, Harley.

2010

Jessica Wozniak '10 and Cody Ratliff were married Nov. 28, 2012.

Tara Mullen '10 and Anthony Urso were married June 6, 2015. Tara is an occupational therapist at Allied Services

Continued on next page

Misericordia Proud!

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



Skilled Nursing Facility, Scranton, Pa. The couple took a wedding trip to St. Lucia. They reside in Archbald, Pa.

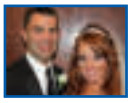
Abigail Bomboy '10 and Christopher Aughenbaugh were married in Annapolis, Md., on Aug. 8, 2015. Abigail is employed by the Baltimore City Public School System. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. They reside in Owings Mills, Md.

Shannon Marie Tinkham '10 and Andrew Kostuk were married Aug. 2, 2014. Shannon is a second grade teacher at Hartnett Elementary School, Truxton, N.Y. The couple celebrated with a honeymoon trip to Ireland.

Christina Saxton '10 and Bret Wetzel chose the Stone Barn Winery & Vineyard, Selinsgrove, Pa., as the setting for their wedding ceremony. Christina is an occupational therapist at Danville State Hospital, Danville, Pa. Following a honeymoon trip to Moorea and Bora Bora in the French Polynesia, they are living in Shamokin Dam, Pa.

Anthony Gennaro '10 and his wife, Tara Bresnock, were married July 4, 2015. Anthony is employed as the material manager at Simona America Inc., Archbald, Pa. The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the parents of the couple at Pines Eatery and Spirits, Hazleton, Pa. The couple reside in Sugarloaf Twp., Pa.

Lauren Hayduk '10 and Justin Fornataro were married Oct. 18, 2014.



Julia Glenn '10, '14 and Robert Corsi were married May 23, 2015.

Alexandra Rose Goble '10 and F. Stefan Fesenmyer were married Oct. 10, 2015.

A Giving Day: 9.24.16

University Advancement's Giving Day goal is 924 gifts by 9/24/16. Gifts made to the Misericordia Fund are unrestricted, which means they provide support tailored to meet the highest priority needs of students in a given fiscal year. For more information please visit **www.MUROAR924.com**.



Alexandra is a physical therapist at Rehabilitation Today, Olean, N.Y. The couple resides in Bradford, N.Y.

Christina Santhouse '10 and Vincent Paravecchia were married in 2014.

Courtney Novajosky '10 and Justin Burridge were married Oct. 18, 2014



Leah Marie Conant '10 and Nathan James Tibus were married Oct. 3, 2015 at St. Barbara's Parish, Exeter, Pa.

Sara Horton '10 and her husband, Mike Campa, were married Nov. 21, 2015 at St. Mary of the Mount. A reception was held at Stroudsmoor Country Inn. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii. Sara is a social worker at Brookmont Healthcare, Effort, Pa. The couple resides in Mount Pocono, Pa.

2011

James Taylor Polson '11 and Rosalyn Blake Wodlinger were married March 14, 2015. James is an X-ray, CT and MRI technologist for Inspira Health Network, Kennedy Health and Atlantic Medical Imaging.

Adrienne Cebrick Zulkoski '11 and her husband, Brian, welcomed their daughter on Jan 7, 2016.

Meghan Lee '11 married Robert Goldate, III on May 24, 2014. Meghan is an accountant for Panini America Inc., Irving, Texas. The couple took a wedding trip to the Bahamas and reside in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Jason Heller '11 and his wife, Heidi, welcomed their daughter on Dec. 29, 2015.

2012

Ashley Mihal '12 and James Ide were married June 6, 2015. Ashley is employed by Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton as a physical therapist. Following a honeymoon to the Bahamas, the couple resides in West Pittston, Pa.

Sara Solomon '12 and Ronald Woznock, Jr. were married June 6, 2015. Sara is a registered nurse for Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Following a honeymoon to Aruba, the couple resides in Kingston, Pa.

Margaret Young '12 and Jameson Kimball were married Oct. 10, 2015.

Rachel Gronchowski Coffee '12 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son, Preston Lawrence, on Nov. 27, 2015. He joins big brother, Michael.

Rachel Schultes Baker '12 and her husband, Charles, welcomed their son, Jackson Robert, on Oct. 15, 2015.

Joshua Wargo '12 graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. with his master of divinity in May 2016.



Meghan Franz '12 and John Koziel were married Oct. 31, 2015. The couple's wedding took place in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Audra Wehner Renner '12 and her husband, Chad, welcomed their son on Jan. 22, 2016.



Alicia Bryk Coolbaugh '12 and her husband, Howard, welcomed their daughter, Alaina Jane, on Dec. 14, 2015.

2013

Jomar Farrales '13 and Rebecca Cruz welcomed their daughter on Jan. 16, 2016.

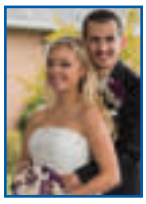
Erica Weber Perrin '13 and her husband, Donald, welcomed their daughter on Jan. 29, 2016.

Amanda Searfoss '13 and Scott Poplawski were married Aug. 1, 2015. The couple honeymooned at Secrets Maroma Beach, Riviera Cancun.

Benjamin Seybert '13 and Samantha Elston were married Sept. 5, 2015.

Bruce J. Reddock '13 was named an economic development specialist at the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, Scranton, Pa. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government, Law and National Security.

2014



Kelsey Mae Neumeister '14 and Andrew Blyler were married in Ashland, Pa., on Aug. 12, 2015. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They reside in Jonestown, Pa.

Aimee Detweiler '14 and her husband, Joshua, welcomed their daughter on Nov. 21, 2015.

Jessica Vanchure '14 welcomed a son on Dec. 31, 2015

Amanda Sutton '14 and Brent Lane were married Aug. 22, 2015.

Tia Miller '14 and Robert Space welcomed a son on Dec. 5, 2015

Alyssa Goulstone '14 and Arthur Jones, Jr. welcomed their daughter on Dec. 12, 2015.

Sr. Anne Elizabeth (Doatsie) McLaughlin, '63, RSM, D.Min.

January 2, 1942 - May 23, 2016


McLaughlin

Sister Anne Elizabeth (Doatsie) McLaughlin, '63, RSM, D.Min., former associate professor and chair of the Religious Studies Program at Misericordia University, died May 23, 2016 at Mercy Center, following a brief illness. A member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sisters of Mercy since 1961, Dr. McLaughlin spent a combined 32 years at Misericordia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1963. She also held a Doctor of Ministry and master's in religious education from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

She was passionate about the integration of theology and the human experience into the curriculum and valued the inclusion of service learning as well. Dr. McLaughlin was on the Board of Trustees of the Mercy Association of Higher Education, Washington, D.C., and was a former board member of Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, Pa. She received the Sister of Mercy Award from Misericordia's Alumni Association in 2003, and was honored with the title professor emeritus at Misericordia University upon her retirement from full-time teaching in 2005.

Dr. McLaughlin recently served as academic dean and director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C.

Memorial contributions in Dr. McLaughlin's name may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Center, P.O. Box 370, Dallas, PA, 18612; or to Anna's Purse Emergency Fund for the Poor, Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Community, 301 Lake St., Dallas, PA 18612.

1941
Mary Margaret Delehanty
February 28, 2016

1943
Mary F. Mulderig
January 20, 2016

1944
Alicia Murphy Dillon
February 1, 2016

1945
Marion Connors Murphy
March 1, 2016

1948
Margaret Lyon Higgins
October 27, 2015
Mary Gratia Frawley, RSM
February 14, 2016
Alice Rittell Grenell
April 6, 2016

1950
Kathleen Lundy Dunn
October 9, 2015
Rita Mulreany Moran
February 10, 2016

1951
Geraldine Ribaudo DeMarco '51
June 3, 2016

1952
Nancy McGrath McFadden
September 21, 2015
Helen Marie Mack Long
April 22, 2016
Sally Lee Schonfeld Sagenkahn
May 4, 2016
Bernadette Gesumaria Smith
May 11, 2016

1953
Marie Kownacki Hopkins
October 17, 2015
Eileen McHugh Brostoski
February 14, 2016
Sister Ann Hazuda, RSM
April 22, 2016
Sister Alice Hanks, MMS
May 20, 2016

1954
Anna Evan Gorski
January 23, 2016

1955
Ellen Fritz Stone
February 4, 2016

1956
Margaret DeWitt Willis
February 17, 2016
Sister Marie Chabanel Erzal, RSM
April 3, 2016

1959
Margaret Mary Basler Blaine
June 9, 2014
Mary Ann Henry Gobec
July 16, 2014
Margaret B. Maguire Austin
June 12, 2016

1961
Sister Mary Agnese Mikolaj, RSM
March 29, 2016

1962
Sister Anne Frances Pulling, RSM
May 14, 2016

1963
Regina Margaret Carey
January 28, 2016
Lorraine Pelczar Yourglivch
March 16, 2016
Sister Anne Elizabeth 'Doatsie' McLaughlin, RSM
May 23, 2016

1964
Arlene Lawrence Coughlin
December 26, 2015
Valerie Clarke Howard
April 1, 2016
Sister M. Sponsa Beltran, OSF
April 6, 2016

1965
Bernadine Barchik Pierontoni
February 9, 2016
Josephine M. Lepore Picone
July 5, 2015
Janice Eckenrode McNeal
March 23, 2016

1966
Elaine Levandoski Maslar
August 14, 2015
Ann Marie Gushanas Waters
November 19, 2015
Sister Mary Elizabeth Stanziola, DM
December 24, 2015
Alexandra Soletski
December 30, 2015
Marion Kosko Peleggi
February 14, 2016
Marianne Donahoe Sterle
March 24, 2016
Ann Marie Mott
April 14, 2016

1967
Eileen McGowan
January 14, 2016

1968
Caroline Strunk Andreas
April 16, 2016

1970
Sister Jolancia Kozlinski, CSB
April 6, 2016

1972
JoAnn Bobbin Bierdziewski, Ph.D.
February 20, 2016

1974
Helen Maher Evans
October 23, 2015

1975
Ellen Aumiller Wenthen
March 23, 2016

1978
Phyllis Cunningham
February 18, 2016

1979
JoAnn M. Schultz
June 2, 2016

1981
Sue Ann Bernhardt
June 11, 2015

1982
Norman J. Holzman, Jr.
May 6, 2016

1984
Donald Radnor
May 20, 2016

1985
John Centak
April 12, 2016

1994
Martha Mumma
February 21, 2016

1995
Suzie Salter Witherell
February 29, 2016

2000
Angela Stoshak Vitale
March 30, 2016

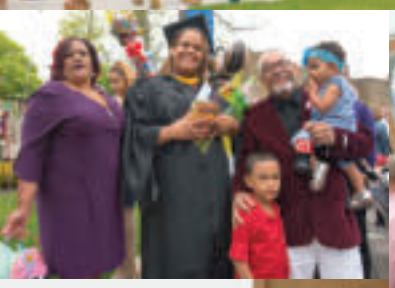
2001
Kimberly A. Jones McGinley
January 7, 2016

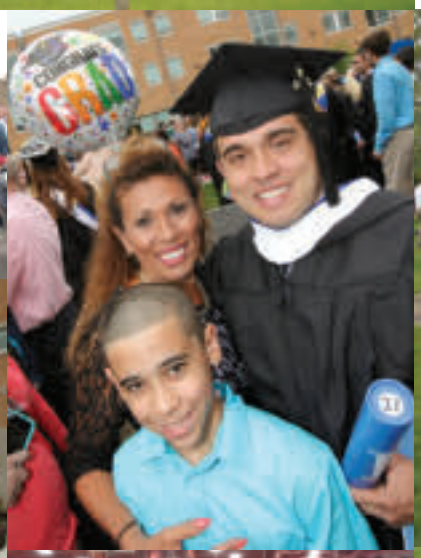
2016 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

May 21



More Spring Commencement memories can be found at **Bit.ly/mugradsmay16** and **Bit.ly/muundergradmay16**















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2016 ALUMNI WEEKEND

June 3-5









More Misericordia Alumni Weekend memories can be found at **Bit.ly/muaw16**

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Alumna's professional devotion leads to creation of occupational therapy residency program

BY GEOFF RUSHTON

Kristen Coolbaugh Maisano '05, O.T.D., has spent much of her young occupational therapy (OT) career taking on intense challenges and breaking new ground. And it was the foundation she built in Misericordia's OT master's degree program that has given her the confidence to open new doors in her field and guide the next generation of students.

"I feel very grateful that within the Misericordia community the professors are always open and available," says Maisano, who earned her undergraduate degree in psychology. "It was always a very evidence-based program. You needed to be able to explain the 'why' of what you were doing and not just know the 'how' of how you were going to do it. You always needed to justify what you were doing, how you were doing it and why you were doing what you were doing. I was more confident in my skills because the professors made sure we knew what we were doing."

Kristen Coolbaugh Maisano '05

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Maisano, who earned her doctorate in OT from Boston University in 2010, is the OT Assistant program director at Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C. More recently, she has been collaborating with MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital to develop the OT Neurologic Residency Program, which has been approved for candidacy by the American Occupational Therapy Association, the regulator for residency programs.

There are few approved OT residency programs to begin with, and there had been none specifically devoted to neurological impairments. "National Rehabilitation Hospital decided it would be a great learning experience and a great way to increase the profession's knowledge about neurological impairments and the rehab process," Maisano says. "We developed a curriculum that includes teaching, clinical work and a didactic curriculum."

During the 12-month program, residents will teach at Trinity while treating patients at National Rehabilitation Hospital and fellow MedStar Network facility Washington Hospital Center.

For residents, the result is a significant opportunity to distinguish themselves for potential employers in a challenging field. "The point of the residency is to basically make yourself more marketable to employers. The amount of OT students I believe has doubled in the last 10 years. At some point there is going to be a need to set yourself apart from the average OT grad," she explains. "We're really excited to be the only neuro program. We're really grateful to be able to share the knowledge it's taken us so long to gain and be able to filter it down and say, 'Here's what you really need to know and what is going to make your clinical practice grow and be as potent as it can be.'"

Maisano has been at Trinity since 2014. Prior to that she had a key role in growing the Department of Defense Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital near Alexandria, Va. It was a fairly new endeavor when she arrived and expected it to be a small clinic.

Mild traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, however, are among the signature injuries for military members who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Fort Belvoir's location between Marine Corps Base Quantico and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. – where Marines would most often go for treatment – meant that many Marines at Quantico would instead go to Fort Belvoir.

From first pursuing her doctorate to now being involved in education, Maisano says the Misericordia faculty's emphasis on research and lifelong learning has had an enormous influence on her. Her first presentation was with department chair Grace Fisher, Ed.D., O.T.R./L., at a statewide conference,



Amanda Gahlot, M.S., O.T.R./L., B.C.P.R., and Kristen Maisano '05, O.T.D., O.T.R./L., C.P.A.M., train on Bioness equipment in a therapy gym at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C.

and from there Maisano has presented many more times and will have her first book chapter published this year.

"I think the research base and the empowerment of the professors really made me reach for the doctorate and gave me the confidence I needed to go into a situation like the Department of Defense or this residency program," she says.

DRISCOLL HELPS MAKE HOOPS HISTORY AT HOLY CROSS

Former Cougar basketball player is a Division I assistant coach

BY DAVID DRIVER

Kevin Driscoll '04

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Kevin Driscoll '04 was an assistant basketball coach at Division III Albright in Reading, Pa., when he began to put a lot of time into networking, realizing that coaching was what he wanted to do long term.

The Misericordia University graduate began to contact several Division I head coaches, though Driscoll came to learn that "99 percent of them" do not return calls. But that was not the case with Joe Jones, the former head coach at Columbia, who is now at Boston University.

"I really had no clue what was going on (at the Division I ranks)," Driscoll recalls.

Jones called him back and told Driscoll that if he wanted to be a Division I coach he had to leave the Division III level.

So Driscoll got a job in New Jersey with Hoop Group, where he worked as the director of the Elite Eastern Invitational and the Skills/Pocono Invitational for four years. He was in charge of all phases of the largest basketball camps in the country, and worked with more than 3,500 players in the summer program. That eventually led to an assistant position in 2013 at Division I Holy Cross, a member of the prestigious Patriot League. Holy Cross defeated Brown in the first round of the CollegeInsider.com tournament in 2014 to give the Crusaders their first post-season victory in nine years.

Then this season Holy Cross struggled during Patriot League play, placing ninth out of 10 teams. But the Crusaders then won three straight games on the road in the league tournament and advanced to the title game on March 9 against host Lehigh. Holy Cross became the lowest seed to ever reach the league title game and became the first team to win three road games in the tourney. The Crusaders extended their Cinderella run by beating Lehigh, 59-56, for their fourth straight road win – and more importantly – the Patriot League title and automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.

In the play-in game, College of the Holy Cross topped Southern, 59-55, for the college's first NCAA tournament victory since 1953. In the West Regional first-round game, the Crusaders faced No. 1 seed Oregon from the Pac-12. The Ducks ended Holy Cross' season, 91-52, on March 18.

Needless to say, it has been a rapid rise for Driscoll, according to Pitt-Bradford head coach Britt Moore – who worked with Driscoll at Albright. "Kevin has had a remarkable career in the basketball profession. In a short time frame, he has gone from being a high school coach to a Division I coach playing (against) North Carolina and Kansas," Moore wrote in an e-mail interview. "Working with Kevin was great because of his daily enthusiasm. You will be hard pressed to meet someone with more energy. There is no doubt he will be a Division I head coach and a successful one at that."



Kevin Driscoll '04 is an assistant men's basketball coach at College of the Holy Cross. Driscoll, left, discusses in-game strategy with head coach Bill Carmody.

There are only about 1,000 assistant coaching jobs for men's teams at the Division I level and Driscoll feels his forte is recruiting. He was hired at Holy Cross by former head coach Milan Brown, now an assistant at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Driscoll is on the staff at Holy Cross under veteran coach Bill Carmody, a long-time coach at Princeton and Northwestern.

Driscoll began coaching at Hamburg (Pa.) High in 2004 after he graduated from Misericordia with a bachelor's degree in sport management. "It is hard to get into Division I," Driscoll said. "When you start at (age) 23 or 24 as a Division I assistant everyone wants to be a Division I coach. But everyone takes a different route."

Driscoll hopes the route he is on also leads to a head coaching job. And it all started when Jones returned his call.



Matt Rogers '04

Songwriter's talent turns him into a hitmaker for country stars in Nashville

TOPPING THE CHARTS

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



You have to admit, his story would make good lyrics for a song: A rookie songwriter moves to Nashville, Tenn., to pursue his dreams; after 10 years of hard work, he climbs to the top of the charts with a No. 1 hit country single, and meets the love of his life.

Fiction? No, it is reality for Misericordia alumnus Matt Rogers '04, whose song *We Went*, was recorded by country artist Randy Houser and hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* U.S. Country Air Play charts in March. The song is the lead single for Houser's fourth studio album, *Fired Up*, released by Stony Creek Records on March 11. For Rogers, who writes about 100 songs a year, hitting No. 1 in the country genre is a dream come true.

Some people might cringe at the idea of having to write as many as eight hours a day. But as a professional songwriter, Rogers is employed by ole, an international rights management company in Nashville, to do just that. He most often works in teams of two or three writers and says they spitball ideas – throwing out phrases and lyrics – sometimes, but not always, with a specific artist in mind.

He never knows what is going to inspire him. One night two years ago, he was listening to some Bee Gee's sound tracks. The next day, he and co-writers Justin Wilson and John King drilled out the lyrics and music to *We Went*. A coincidence? He'll never know.

Rogers says they had Houser in mind once they got started. The writing team sent a demo tape to Houser's producer, and he pitched it to the popular recording artist. Houser's team crafted what has been described as a "high octane" video featuring Good Deed bandits who steal money from a robber and go on a wild ride to give it away to the less fortunate. The music video premiered in August 2015. A YouTube posting of the song, found at http://bit.ly/houserwewent, has been viewed more than 5 million times. It may surprise some to know that Rogers and Houser have never met.

The song reached the top of the charts in March 2016 and became Houser's fourth No. 1 hit single and fourth No. 1 video. As a part of the launch, Houser performed *We Went* on ABC's *Good Morning America* on March 9. According to Billboard, sales of the song in the U.S. have exceeded 300,000.

"I am proud of the fact that song doesn't have any references to alcohol or misogynistic themes," Rogers says. "It is just a fun song that makes you feel good."

Matt, whose father Barry Rogers, brother Eric Rogers '08, nephew Joseph Rogers '06, and Joseph's wife, Kari Bratt Rogers '06 all followed him through Misericordia, earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies in 2004. Aiming for a career as a music journalist, he went on to Syracuse University for a master's degree in journalism. While there, it was an internship with Country Music Today magazine that lead him to Nashville, and his first job as a reporter for HealthLeaders Magazine. A guitar and piano player as well as a singer, he also performed in the area hoping to find his break into the recording industry.

"When I was 19 and 20, I wrote mainly pop songs. But when I moved to Nashville, my focus was on breaking into Music Row – the Nashville companies that form the heart of country music," he explains. "Although pop is infusing itself into country more and more, I find myself staying close to the country roots of the Nashville area."

One of his first claims to fame was when his song, *Send Me on My Way*, was selected as one of 20 finalists from more than 20,000 songs submitted during the 2007 Jordin Sparks-winning season of *American Idol*. In 2011, he and writing partner, Chris Weaver, had their song, *You Gotta Want It*, selected for the compilation CD, *Official Gameday Music of the National Football League, Volume II*.

One of his favorite compositions, *Hell On A Highway*, was co-written with Blake Bollinger and Ben Stennis, and recorded by Justin Moore in 2016. It is included on Moore's latest album, *Kinda Don't Care*, due out in August. It tells the story of a girl who is fed up with the way a guy treats her. "I am very proud of that song. It was a colossal production – I never heard him sound so good," Rogers adds.

Rogers says his Misericordia University background provided him a solid foundation, which he relies upon everyday. "I have carried with me what I learned during so many writing intensive classes in English and philosophy at Misericordia. In particular, I am very picky about grammar and tenses," he says. "Not everybody, especially in the country world, is as concerned with grammar as I am – truthfully, I fear it is a dying art form.

"I really can't think of any job better than being a staff songwriter," he says. "At ole, we have a great circle of about 12 writers and working with them is always very productive. I am extremely lucky to be able to make a career out of a hobby."



Photos by Julie Moe Zooby Media.

Rogers recently had a single recorded by singer Gary Allen, and the song, *World To Me*, co-written with Ash Bowers and Adam Craig, is featured on the most recent album of Dustin Lynch. Another single, *Our Soundtrack*, recorded by Canadian singer Wes Mack, recently reached Canadian Top 20 status. Another Rogers' single recorded by Mack, *Listen to Me*, is climbing the charts in Canada. By all accounts, life is good for the Kingston, Pa., native.

What might be the best part of Rogers' story is that he met his fiancée, Shellien Kinsey, when they both worked for Better Angels, a company taken over by ole three years ago. She is employed as creative administration manager on the business side of ole. The happy couple is planning an October wedding in Nashville.

Misericordia University alumnus Matt Rogers '04 co-wrote country singer Randy Houser's hit song, *We Went*, which hit No. 1 on the charts in March. The lead single is part of Houser's new album, *Fire Up*, which was released on March 11. For more information on Rogers' recent success, type this link, http://bit.ly/1V1lVnl, into your web browser or to read about the country star's new album go to, http://bit.ly/1Rxn8hy. To watch the music video, insert this link, http://bit.ly/houserwewent, into your browser.

LIGHTS … CAMERA … ACTION

Communications alumnus works on the sets of blockbuster movies

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Matthew Grant '12

COMMUNICATIONS

Merriam-Webster's College Dictionary defines starstruck as simply being "particularly taken with celebrities (as in movie stars)." By anyone's definition, Sylvester Stallone, Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Keanu Reeves are movie stars in the truest sense of the word.

Misericordia University communications alumnus Matthew Grant '12 has been working on the same sets as some of Hollywood's biggest stars as they filmed blockbuster movies, such as *Bridge of Spies*, *Creed*, *Sully* and *John Wick 2*. In between, he also has been transitioning into production work for hit television shows on the sets of *Dancing with the Stars* and *The Amazing Race*. "I learned early on that you have to be very professional," says Grant, while working on location in the northeastern United States. "You cannot be starstruck. You have work very hard and treat them like any person – not just a celebrity."

Grant acknowledges work as a production assistant for a major motion picture is as exciting as it is demanding. Depending on the movie and the scene being filmed, he can be assigned to escort the background talent for makeup and then to the holding area to wait for their scene, or be assigned as a "lockup" doing crowd control and making sure paparazzi do not sneak pictures of critical scenes prematurely.



Matthew Grant '12 has worked on the sets of *Creed*, *Sully* and *John Wick 2*.

"It's very hard to get a chance to talk with celebrities as a production assistant because it is behind-the-scenes work," Grant says. "You are always doing something whether it is consulting with background, locking up during a scene, or helping to set up a scene. The chances are very slim to get a lot of time to have serious interaction with people like that."

That is unless you are working with Stallone as he reprises his famous role as Rocky Balboa, alongside actor Michael B. Jordan. Grant and his colleagues worked feverishly on the set of *Creed* so paparazzi could not get images of Stallone and Jordan performing a scene on the "Rocky" steps at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pa.

"One by one all the production assistants stood with Stallone, talked a little bit and got their picture taken with Rocky Balboa himself," Grant says. "It was very generous for him to do that with everybody."

Student journalists win 2 Keystone Press Awards

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association presented the staff of The Highlander student newspaper at Misericordia University two 2016 Keystone Press Awards in the spring.

Web editor and columnist Jennifer Mathiesen '16 won a first place award for her photo story, *Jim Thorpe*, that appeared in the Nov. 11, 2015 issue of the biweekly publication. Colleen Garrison '15 received honorable mention in the Personality Profile category for the story, *The Life of a Student Mom: Exhaustion and Joy*, which was published Feb. 25, 2015.

Garrison's entry was a day-in-the-life profile of fellow adult student Sandra Pace that focused on how Pace balances the challenges of life as a mother, student and employee. Garrison was a member of the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program at Misericordia. She earned her bachelor's degree in communications in 2015. She was the recipient of the University's 2015 Communications Department Academic Achievement Award.

Misericordia competes in Division II of the Keystone Press Awards, which recognizes four-year colleges and universities with enrollment under 10,000. The Highlander can be accessed online at www.highlandernews.net. For more information about the Misericordia University Communications Program, please call (570) 674-6400 or log on to www.misericordia.edu/com.



Student journalists, from left, Jennifer Mathiesen '16 and Colleen Garrison '15, won Keystone Press Awards.

Home run

MBA student wins $10,000 entrepreneur contest sponsored by 'Bar Rescue's' Jon Taffer

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

What started out as a typical Sunday night watching *Bar Rescue* on Spike TV ended up being anything but ordinary for Misericordia University graduate student Jim Tunison '15 '16. A decision that night to enter an entrepreneurial contest sponsored by *Bar Rescue's* Jon Taffer, made the Misericordia Cougar's baseball team member $10,000 richer, helped kick-start his business plan, and landed him with as many as 225,000 fans on Facebook.

For Tunison, the concept of entering the Taffer Virtual Teaching (TVT) contest was a long shot he could not pass up. The winner of the online contest would get a round-trip ticket to Las Vegas, Nevada, and meet Taffer, the millionaire restaurant and bar consultant known for turning around struggling businesses. The winner also would receive $10,000 to launch a business. All Tunison needed was a video and a worthy business idea.



Jon Taffer, left, congratulates Jim Tunison '15, '16.

The Bath, New York native already had what he thought was a good concept – "Face To Face," a company to make instructional videos where viewers can learn to play instruments from the artists themselves whose songs they want to emulate. "I know plenty of people, myself included, who have gone to YouTube to learn to play an instrument – but how exciting would it be to learn from a famous artist?" he asks rhetorically. "Can you imagine learning to play the piano from Billy Joel, or having John Mayer teach you the guitar?"

Packing the description of his plan into a vote-generating, 60-second video took some doing. He spent an hour recording it on a computer at his dining room table – not very high tech, he admits. Once it was posted to the contest website, alongside other hopefuls, he was off and running to generate votes across the country.

The 21-year-old had plenty of newly minted business knowledge to rely upon. He was mid-way through classes for an MBA with a specialization in management at Misericordia, and had recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialization in marketing with the MU Class of 2015. The marketing acumen came in handy.

A senior and right-handed reliever for a highly successful Cougars baseball team *(See related article on pages 22-24)*, he first turned to his teammates and the MU Athletics Department for support, along with family and Haverling High School friends. Within days, he had the campus and much of northeastern Pennsylvania behind him – thanks to radio, television and newspaper interviews, and a rock-solid social media campaign, that resulted in about 400 Twitter followers and 225,000 likes on Facebook.

"I just cannot believe how everyone stepped up – the 40 guys on my baseball team and Coach Pete Egbert were amazing, MU's Marketing and Athletics Departments really helped, and my friends and family went crazy," he says with his enthusiastic grin. "I

Continued on page 43



Watch TV personality Jon Taffer, host of the Spike TV reality series *Bar Rescue*, announce Misericordia University student Jim Tunison '15, '16 as the grand-prize winner of the entrepreneurial contest, Taffer Virtual Teaching Contest, by logging on to http://bit.ly/tvtcontestwinner.



Mulier Fortis Ceremony recognizes 2016 graduate

The Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program (WWC) at Misericordia University held a Mulier Fortis Ceremony in May to honor program graduate Nicole Negron of Dallas, Pa.

Negron received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at the University's Commencement ceremony on May 21. She has been awarded a full scholarship to continue her education at Illinois State University, Normal, Ill., in a graduate program for visual culture. Also honored was her son, Justice, 6, who has lived with her on campus.

Negron is the 21st woman to graduate from the Bourger WWC program since its inception in 2000. A native of Jersey City, N.J., she lived in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., prior to enrolling at Misericordia.

President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., commended Negron for her academic accomplishments during the ceremony. As a participant in the Misericordia University Summer Research Fellowship Program in 2015, she was a member of a research team that completed an online public history exhibit and catalogued and preserved more than 6,000 photos and scans for the Greater Pittston Historical Society. The project was conducted under the direction of Jennifer Black, Ph.D., assistant professor of government and history. Negron aspires to work in museum outreach following graduate school.

She also participated in a fine arts study abroad program to Ireland in March 2016 under the direction of Ryan Weber, Ph.D., assistant professor of musicology and associate director of the Misericordia University Honors Program.

The Mulier Fortis ceremony included the presentation of a Misericordia ring by Sister Jean Messaros, RSM, vice president of mission integration and founder of the program. Fellow members of the Bourger WWC program participated in the ceremony with their children, and presented gifts to the Negron family. Program alumna Colleen Garrison '15 of Wyoming, Pa., presented a lavender cord to Negron to wear at Commencement as part of her regalia. Lavender was the favorite color of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, the religious order that established Misericordia in 1924.

"Nicole has been an exceptional role model and student leader within our program," said Katherine Pohlidal, director, Bourger WWC program. "Her commitment to academic excellence, coupled with her extraordinary work ethic as a full-time student and mother are to be admired. We are very proud of her accomplishments."

The program provides housing and support for academically qualified, single mothers and their children at three homes owned by Misericordia University. The program, one of only seven of its kind in the country, has seen baccalaureate degree graduates continuing in careers in nursing, education, communications, occupational therapy, social work, medical imaging, psychology, business administration and speech-language pathology.

For more information about the Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program at Misericordia University, please call (570) 674-6728 or log on to www.misericordia.edu/wwc.



Sister Jean Messaros, R.S.M., vice president of mission integration at Misericordia University, above, presents a Misericordia University ring to Nicole Negron '16, graduate of the Bourger Women with Children Program, during a Mulier Fortis Ceremony on campus.

At left, Nicole Negron '16, left, and Colleen Garrison '15 display the Misericordia University rings that recognize their completion of the program.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony marks completion of Lake Street sidewalk project

Misericordia University held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with students, administrators, and state and local officials on May 12 to mark the completion and official opening of the 1,000-foot long Lake Street sidewalk project. The University worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Northeast office to secure funding through the Keystone Communities Program (KCP) and the Luzerne County Local Share Account to undertake the project to improve safety along Lake Street.

"The completion of this streetscape brings considerable benefits in terms of pedestrian safety," said state Sen. Lisa Baker, R-20, Lehman Township. "The new sidewalks connect the area's residents, and students from Misericordia to our downtown, and that should help boost business. The look of the area is also improved. It shows what can be accomplished when everyone comes together to work toward a common goal."

"I am thrilled to see this project come to fruition," said state Rep. Karen Boback, R-117, Harveys Lake. "The construction of these sidewalks is an investment in public safety, and both students and local residents will benefit from this infrastructure update."



Misericordia University held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Lake Street sidewalk project on May 12.

KCP awarded $165,000 to Misericordia, in partnership with Dallas Township, to complete the funding component of the $330,000 project. Administered by DCED, the KCP program assists revitalization efforts by communities in the Commonwealth.

The University also received $150,000 through the Luzerne County Local Share Account in support of the project. Misericordia contributed $15,000, and will provide maintenance of the sidewalks during inclement weather and future repairs that may be necessary.

The collaborative project begins in Dallas Township at the historic archway, which serves as the main entrance to the University. The five-foot wide sidewalk connects to a small bridge that was erected over a stream before continuing south to the intersection of Center Hill Road and eventually connecting to the existing sidewalk that extends to the borough's downtown.

The sidewalk creates a safe pedestrian path from Misericordia's campus to the many university-owned buildings and houses along Lake Street, and also connects the University community to the Main Street business district of Dallas Borough.

Gladys Brooks Foundation grant supports purchase of interactive walls for library study rooms

The Gladys Brooks Foundation awarded Misericordia a $100,000 grant that was used for the purchase and installation of eight, 55-inch T1 Vision System Interactive screens for study rooms in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

The upgraded library technology will enable individuals or groups of students to connect, share and learn via the use of an intuitive, multi-touch user interface. The state-of-the-art technology features touchscreen capabilities that can be split into multiple active areas, allowing students and faculty to interact collectively or individually by linking to a single screen from a laptop, smartphone or tablet. The large HD screens also feature patented software that is designed for multi-touch, multi-user and multi-application interface use in order to engage more people across the platform.

"Thanks to generous benefactors, such as the Gladys Brooks Foundation, Misericordia students are able to access and use the most current technologies available in higher education to enhance their learning experiences and better prepare themselves to be tomorrow's leaders," said President Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D. "The grant from the Gladys Brooks Foundation will have a profound impact on the learning environment in the library, and touch countless students who are working toward a rewarding professional career."



Students Mariah Ebert, seated, and Annie Stewart work with one of the T1 Vision System Interactive screens.

COLLEGES REORGANIZE TO ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCE


Mercy Hall

The Misericordia University Board of Trustees affirmed the restructuring plan by the Office of Academic Affairs at its June meeting to reorganize and rename the three colleges that have been in place since the institution achieved university status in 2007.

Beginning Aug. 15, the University will feature the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Health Sciences and Education, and Business. The College of Business was previously known as the College of Professional Studies and Social Sciences, while the College of Health Sciences and Education was formerly called the College of Health Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences retains its original name.

"Reorganizing the academic colleges creates a more recognizable structure and provides better opportunities for curricular partnerships and initiatives," said Russ Pottle, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "New curricular partnerships and initiatives are always under discussion, of course, but the college reorganization will allow us to consider new ways to helps students seek to fulfill their intellectual potentials."

Several academic programs also have been affected by the reorganization and placed into new colleges. While the traditional arts and sciences disciplines will remain in the College of Arts and Sciences, it will also gain the Department of Psychology and sociology courses that were taught previously in the Department of Social Work.

The Department of Communications has been renamed the Department of Mass Communications and Design, and moved under the College of Business, which will retain its traditional business programs and also the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

"Our move to the College of Business situates the department and other academic programs within the college for growth," said Melissa Sgroi, Ed.D., chair, Department of Mass Communications and Design. "The media curriculum inherently aligns with business, and we will have the opportunity to create interdisciplinary programs and classes that will provide students with a holistic view of the media industry and an understanding of the diverse applications of their knowledge and skills."

The departments of Social Work, Teacher Education and Physician Assistant Studies will join the College of Health Sciences and Education. Social work and teacher education were housed previously in the College of Professional Studies, while physician assistant studies was in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Autism Center will be under the direction of the College of Health Sciences and Education.

The deans of the three colleges and department chairs initially began the thoughtful process of analyzing the needs of students and faculty in the academic programs and determining the appropriate steps for the reorganization. Faculty senate approved the plan during the spring semester and the Board of Trustees formally approved it June 17.

College of Arts & Sciences

The following academic departments and programs are included:

Biology department and programs; chemistry and biochemistry departments and programs; English department and programs; fine arts department; history and government department and programs; honors program; mathematics and computer science department and programs; medical and health humanities; philosophy department and programs; physics department; psychology department and programs; religious studies department, and sociology programming.

College of Business

The following academic departments and programs are included:

Business department and programs; information technology; mass communications and design department; professional studies program, and Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

College of Health Sciences & Education

The following academic departments and programs are included:

Diagnostic medical sonography department and programs; gerontology and geriatric care management; health care informatics; medical imaging department and programs; nursing department and programs; occupational therapy department and programs; physical therapy department and programs; physician assistant studies department and programs; social work department and programs; speech-language pathology department and programs, and teacher education department and programs.

UNIVERSITY EXPANDS ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Autism certificate program for health care providers

The College of Health Sciences has introduced a post-graduate and post-credentialed online certification program in Autism Spectrum Disorders for health care providers. The academic program in the Department of Health Sciences will prepare health care professionals in the fields of nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, speech-language pathology and more to work with clients who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

The need for specialized autism spectrum disorder training is evident across many settings, as outpatient, community-based and public sector professionals have received minimal education in the evaluation and treatment of the disorder, according to Leamor Kahanov, Ed.D., L.A.T., A.T.C., dean of the College of Health Sciences.


Kahanov

"Our Autism Certificate Program provides an environment for students and post-credentialed professionals to augment their knowledge and skills for an underrepresented and, in some circumstances, underserved community," said Dr. Kahanov. "By helping health care professionals provide optimal care for people on the autism spectrum, the program accomplishes its mission of enhancing the quality of services provided to people with autism and their families throughout their lifespan."

For more information, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/autismcert.

Medical and Health Humanities program

The Medical and Health Humanities academic program will launch with the fall 2017 semester. It offers an interdisciplinary approach for students who are interested in the humanities fields, as well as health care and medicine. The new program is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, as it offers Bachelor of Arts degree-level tracks in Medical and Health Humanities, Pre-Law Medical and Health Humanities, and Pre-Doctor of Physical Therapy Medical and Health Humanities, as well as a minor that complements an array of academic programs.

The program also provides students with strategic real-world experiences through fieldwork placements and observational rounds at nonprofit organizations and/or medical and health care facilities. During the internship, students will apply their academic knowledge to work experience, while students in an observational rotation will attend clinical meetings and participate in on-site observations.

The undergraduate degree offers students the flexibility to pursue a number of career paths, including medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, medical anthropology, physical therapy, health care ethics, public health, public policy, health care administration, health education, patient care coordination, health care lobbying, pharmaceutical sales representative, medical history, and more.

The 15-credit minor will enhance students' educational experience, particularly those who are majoring in the humanities, and health and social sciences.

For more information, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/medicalhumanities.

Patient Navigator program

The University introduced a Bachelor of Health Science with a Specialization in Patient Navigator degree and a certificate program in patient navigator beginning with the fall semester.

Professionals in the emergent field in patient advocacy, health education, wellness, and community health collaborate with patients and clinicians. They steer patients successfully through the complex health care system and any subsequent treatment plans, while also possessing the skills necessary to safely and effectively follow patients across the care continuum.

Overall, the undergraduate degree for traditional students and the 18-credit certificate program for adult learners will prepare professionals to be effective communicators for patients and practitioners.

The new academic program features three specialization areas: occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and patient navigator. Patient navigator is a four-year degree resulting in a Bachelor of Health Science. Students in the OT and SLP specialization tracks available in the five-year, entry-level master's degree programs will receive their Bachelor in Health Science Specialization in OT or SLP degrees at the conclusion of their fourth year of study.

The 18-credit certificate program offers online delivery with fieldwork coursework.

For more information, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/patientnavigator.

BS in sonography

Misericordia introduced the region's only entry-level Bachelor of Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography in order to prepare graduates to become leaders in the field of ultrasound and to complement the 18-month certificate and online BS degree programs that are geared toward adult learners. Classes begin this the fall.

The bachelor's degree program in sonography was developed in response to inquiries from students who sought a four-year degree and a traditional collegiate experience; the career mobility it provides compared to associate- or certificate-credentialed professionals in the field; the advantages a liberal arts education provides graduates, and an academic program geared toward traditional students.

For more information, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/sonography.

Exhibit, lectures focus on Hemingway's life

Valerie Hemingway delivering lecture in Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall

The College of Arts and Sciences, Pauly Friedman Art Gallery and the Soyka Fund for the Humanities are bringing together a photo exhibit, experts and students for a series of events in the fall to recount the life, talent and tragedy of American writer Ernest Hemingway.



Ernest Hemingway

His writing style is considered among the most influential prose of the 20th century, as Hemingway penned such classics as *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *From Whom the Bell Tolls*, and more. Fans of the late Nobel Prize-winning novelist, short-story writer and journalist will be able to hear first-hand accounts of his life from his former secretary, Valerie Hemingway, when the exhibit and programs begin Saturday, Oct. 22 in the Friedman Art Gallery and Lemmond Theater in Walsh Hall.

Valerie Hemingway will discuss her 2004 book, *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*, and also recount the two years she worked as his secretary and traveled with him and his wife, Mary, to Cuba, New York, Florida and Spain, as part of the opening of the photo exhibition, *Hemingway in Venice and the Veneto* in the Friedman Art Gallery. The exhibition runs through Dec. 10.

"Valerie's unique perspective on Hemingway, his life and writing offers Misericordia's students and the community a rare opportunity," said Matthew Nickel, Ph.D., assistant professor of English. "She worked with Hemingway during a crucial time in his life, when he was writing his memoirs of living in Paris as a young man, later published as *A Moveable Feast*. She can provide us with insights that no biographer can offer."

The exhibition showcases photographs taken by Hemingway and others of the people, places and things that were dearest to him during two important eras of his life: World War I and his time in Venice and Veneto, the northeastern region of Italy that surrounds Venice.

The schedule for the program includes MU student paper presentations from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Dudrick and Muth Rooms 216-217 of Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall. Nationally known Hemingway scholars will participate in a roundtable discussion from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Friedman Art Gallery. Panelists include the editor of the *Hemingway Review* Susanne de Giozzo, Ph.D., Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pa.; the lead editor on the Cambridge University Hemingway Letters Project Sandra Spanier, Ph.D., Penn State University, State College, Pa.; leading Hemingway scholar and Hemingway Board member Linda Miller, Ph.D., Penn State Abington, Abington, Pa., and president of the Hemingway Foundation and Society H.R. Stoneback, Ph.D., State University of New York, New Paltz, N.Y. Hemingway will deliver her keynote presentation at 5 p.m. in Lemmond Theater.

For more information, please log on to www.misericordia.edu/art.

Changes to bookstore a plus for customers

Earlier this year, Misericordia partnered with Follett Higher Education Group, an Illinois-based company that operates more than 1,200 campus stores and 1,600 virtual stores across the United States and Canada, to manage the campus store. The change opens significant additional services to University students and visitors, with more changes on the way.

New merchandise arrived quickly after Follett took over management in February. National brands, such as Under Armour and Columbia, have helped store sales increase nearly 50 percent over the same period last year.

Extensive renovations for the store in the Banks Student Life Center began in July and should be complete by the beginning of the fall semester.

Alumni and friends can visit the new online store at www.misericordiastore.com to see some of the offerings online.

Chick-fil-A, Starbucks and more coming to campus

Chick-fil-A is coming to Misericordia this fall, along with Proudly Brewed By Starbucks and a Chopping Block salad bar. The three new food and beverage outlets are being brought to campus by Metz Culinary Management, the dining management services company for the campus community.

Chick-fil-A will be located in the Cougar's Den, side-by-side with Chopping Block, a design-your-own salad station offering dozens of toppings, operated by Metz.

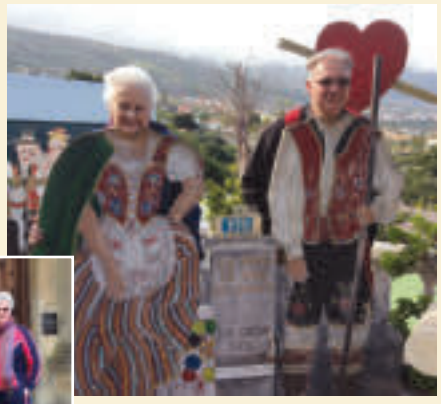
A patio will be added to the front of the Banks Center, providing tables with umbrellas and outdoor seating for 50. The Proudly Brewed by Starbucks will be in the lounge on the opposite end of the Banks Center.

In addition to the food service renovations, the townhouse complex is undergoing extensive interior renovations – complete with new furniture and appliances.

Students moving into McHale, Alumnae, McGowan and Gildea halls will have rooms outfitted with microfridge units.

Sister Noel's TRIPS WITH A DIFFERENCE

BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA





Jim and Nancy Wilson, above, pose for a picture in the Canary Islands, while, at left, guests prepare to enter the Jacobethan-style Highclere Castle in Hampshire, England.

Dr. Marie Noël Keller '65, RSM, knows the best place from which to view the Acropolis in Greece, and can make her way around the iconic sites of Italy, as well as the space and places of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, in Dublin, Ireland. It is the insider's knowledge and educational focus that make her "Trips with a Difference" just that – a step above a typical travel tour.

Dr. Keller has been involved with travel since 1975, and began offering her services at MU in the early 1980s when she was named director of Campus Ministry. She has been overseas more than 100 times. Now working through the Center for Adult and Continuing Education, she has orchestrated trips for more than 300 travelers to Poland, Ireland, Greece, Turkey, Scotland, and more in the past three years alone.

A September trip to Italy is sold out. Her next Christmas Markets trip is scheduled for Nov. 29, and will include 10 magical days in select cities of Germany, Austria and Italy. Adventures to Scandinavia, Russia, Ireland, Portugal and the Imperial Capitals of Central Europe are being planned.

For more trips, turn to back cover.

At just over 5-feet tall, Dr. Keller tackles her duties with the aplomb of a diplomat, the knowledge of a history professor, and the precision of a heart surgeon to make sure every guest has the best possible experience. Guests are provided copious notes to help them prepare before they go, and reflect upon when they return.

"I am an educator, and I prepare materials that supplement the tours so you come away with more than just a geographic overview," she says. "There is a big world out there that needs to be seen and these experiences are meant to broaden travelers' perspectives."

A member of the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic since 1961, Dr. Keller earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Misericordia in 1965. She also holds a master's in theology, and a master's and doctorate in New Testament and Early Christian Origins. She serves as executive director of the Institute on Sacred Scripture at Misericordia.

Alumna Anna Mae Lacey '54 and her husband, Nick Hudak, of Hershey, Pa., are "frequent fliers," having traveled with Dr. Keller on trips to Greece, Turkey, Poland, Australia and New Zealand. "Sister Noel is very well informed and conveys often overlooked facts and background to expand our understanding of each region," Lacey says. "One of our most memorable moments was attending a Mass at Ephesus, Turkey. Sister Noel gave the homily. The experience will remain with me forever."

Home run

from page 37

knew as soon as Jon Taffer favored some of my tweets that I had a shot."

Tunison was one of 10 finalists selected, and after a second round of voting, admits he was shaking when Taffer announced his name during a live video stream on Periscope in February. "Jim, you promoted your butt off – and if you don't promote a business you're never going to get the word out," Taffer announced then. "It (Face To Face) is a great concept, and with Jim's promotional mind, I think that he is going to knock this out of the park." Go to http://bit.ly/tvtcontestwinner to see the entire announcement.

Tunison and his mother, Suzette, flew to Las Vegas, Nev., in March to meet with Taffer, whose TVT tag line is "Give me two minutes, and I will change your life!" Tunison says Taffer was congenial and enthusiastic, and spent 90 minutes with him "throwing around" ideas. Taffer suggested the videos include a segment where the musician talks about the challenges they faced when they learned how to play their instrument. He also suggested a feature allowing the viewer to virtually play along with the musician, so to give them a "rock star" moment.

In late spring, Tunison took a full-time position as a corporate sale executive with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders minor league baseball team in Moosic, Pa. He has since had to balance a summer-intensive new job while pushing forward on his business plan. Tunison continues to meet with faculty members, including David Gargone, Ed.D., associate professor of business, as well as former executives, business founders and entrepreneurs. "Everyone has a unique perspective on things, so I'm trying to take a little bit of advice from each and mold it into a model that I can follow," he adds.

So far, he has used only a portion of the $10,000 to cover costs for making his business name official. His to-do list includes researching music licensing and studio fees, and contacting artists. His dream list includes Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen and the Zac Brown Band.

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Soul of a Fool *My Patch of Bitter Earth*

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Sept. 22
Deni Béchard Book Reading

Into the Sun

Sept. 24
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Sept. 30-Oct. 2
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Sept. 30
Athletics Hall of Fame Induction

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Oct. 22
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Dr. Noël Keller's Trips with a Difference

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Best of Christmas Markets

2017

May 27-June 9
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July 11-22, 2017
Ireland and Scotland

Sept. 22-Oct. 5
Imperial Capitals and Poland

Nov. 30-Dec. 9
Best of the Christmas Markets

Dr. Marie Noël Keller, RSM, Th.D., is a veteran of more than 100 overseas trips. Center for Adult and Continuing Education (570) 674-6776, (570) 674-6924 or srnoel@misericordia.edu.