

# Misericordia *today*

SPRING 2009

## SERVICE IS WHO WE ARE



Misericordia tenets come alive through volunteer work in California, Louisiana, Texas, Guyana, Jamaica and Peru

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**cougarconnect**  
[cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu)



## President's Honor Roll recognizes MU service

For the second straight year, Misericordia University was named by the Corporation for National and Community Service to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service.

Service has been the hallmark of this institution since the Religious Sisters of Mercy founded Misericordia in 1924, said Linda Ross, director of the Service Leadership Center. By imbuing in each student a sense of service to others, Misericordia is helping students discover the opportunities they need to be successful in both their careers and lives.

The Community Service Honor Roll was launched in 2006. It is the highest federal recognition a college or university can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.



## Marketing Communications earns Silver Cuppie Award

The Marketing Communications Department earned a 2009 Silver Cuppie Award for a direct mail admissions piece as part of the annual CUPRAP Conference in Hershey, Pa.

CUPRAP is the Professional Association of Public Relations and Marketing Professionals for Higher Education in Pennsylvania. The Cuppies is an annual awards program that honors excellence in public and community relations as well as marketing communications efforts.

MU earned the award for *How to Choose*, a direct mail marketing piece for high school juniors that cleverly compared a deli sandwich to the complex process of choosing a college. The effort was an attempt to stand out from the immense amount of competitors direct mail marketing pieces.

Glenn Bozinski, Director of Admissions, and Jim Roberts, Director of Marketing Communications, co-authored the piece. John Clark developed the design.

## Misericordia mindful of economy

**T**he recent momentum Misericordia University has experienced has it positioned well for the future.

Becoming a university invigorated the campus and academic communities and played an important role in the institution receiving regional acclaim and national recognition.

In recent years, Misericordia has added doctoral programs in the health sciences and an innovative Master of Business Administration program. MU also continues to grow its campus community in order to support the curricular and co-curricular needs of the student body.

More than \$19 million has been invested in the last 10 years with the assistance of generous benefactors and state and federal grants. MU has added or renovated the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library, Banks Student Life Center, Mangelsdorf Field at the Anderson Outdoor Athletic Complex, Mercy Hall and Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

These investments in education and campus life have not been borne by students and their families through tuition dollars. More than 90 percent of the capital projects were paid with donations or grants.

To meet the growing needs for health care professionals, Misericordia University has purchased the former Frontier Communications building on Lake Street in April so it can expand the College of Health Sciences.

Forty-two percent of MU's full-time students and 30 percent of part-time students are enrolled in majors in the Health Sciences. Our Religious Sisters of Mercy institution has a strong history of developing health care professionals who are compassionate, well-educated and capable of dealing with the challenging demands of health care.

Misericordia needs alumni and constituency support in order to maintain the positive momentum. "The last few years have been remarkable at Misericordia," says Sue Helwig, Vice President of University Advancement. "The University has experienced tremendous growth in enrollment, academic programs and the physical plant. The recession has had an impact

McGowan and Insalaco Halls and the Frontier building have been added to campus.



on everyone, but in order to provide appropriate academic opportunities and scholarships, Misericordia needs your support now more than ever to continue our carefully planned growth."

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognized Misericordia's reputation for producing high-quality health care professionals. The state awarded the University \$2,750,000 for the College of Health Science's project through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. An additional \$750,000 was awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Misericordia University is mindful of how the national economy has affected current and prospective students, and their families. With that in mind, the institution has taken the necessary steps to mitigate the impact the recession will have on the University and student body.

The Board of Trustees approved an appropriate 3.9 percent increase in tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year, the lowest in six years. Misericordia's tuition remains the most affordable among private four-year colleges and universities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Next year, tuition and fees will be \$24,050 and room and board will rise by 4.1 percent to \$10,050, which includes the top 265 meal plan. The limited increase reflects the University's commitment to managing costs, while also maintaining its commitment to personal attention and challenging academics.

"Misericordia is cognizant about how the economy has affected our students and their families. In these trying times, a college degree remains the best investment one can make," President Michael A. MacDowell said. "Due to solid financial planning, we are in the position to assist students and families that are facing different economic circumstances due to no fault of their own. Our admissions counselors and administration are working very hard to make sure that a private college education is within reach."





# Misericordia Today

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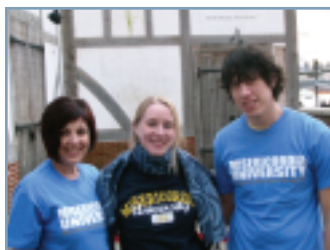


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### Where In The World Is MU?

Rebecca Steinberger, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Department Chair, traveled to London, England, for spring break and posed for a picture with Marissa Miller '09 and Chris Cimei '08 in front of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Cimei is a graduate student at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, pursuing his master's degree in literature.

Have an interesting travel photo to share? Show your Misericordia Pride by displaying an MU banner or wearing MU apparel around the world. Submit your pictures to [pkrzywic@misericordia.edu](mailto:pkrzywic@misericordia.edu).



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## Faith, service, academics

It has been almost one year since the 217 U.S. Catholic college presidents gathered at Catholic University to hear Pope Benedict XVI speak to educators. The Pope's message was heartfelt and wonderfully received. He commented on how the goals of scholarship and higher education in America's Catholic colleges and universities meld so well with the traditions of service to mankind.

For 85 years, Misericordia has successfully combined the rigors of a quality education with the Mercy ideals of mercy, service, justice and hospitality. As a Catholic university, the institution takes pride in its passion of delivering a quality education in an atmosphere where academic freedom is cherished and Catholic identity is upheld.

Recently, the Board of Trustees heard from several students who shared how their educational expertise and passion to serve others were exercised. Two represented the 10 students who, during their Christmas break, spent time in the poorest parts of Jamaica exercising their skills as nurses, physical therapists, speech language pathologists and teachers with orphans and some of the "forgotten" elderly. Another group of students reported on the "Power of One" conference attended by 21 staff and 16 student representatives from 10 of the nation's 18 Mercy colleges and universities. Over spring break, nine Misericordia students traveled to Laredo, Texas, to spend time with hundreds of the poorest and newest immigrants to the United States. Another group of students traveled to Slidell, La., where they helped rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

In May, the 19th annual Guyana Experience will take place. While the students are still studying health sciences, education and business, they will put their learned skills to work, serving those in need.

The act of helping others is in itself a worthy undertaking. The act of helping others while applying newly acquired skills learned at MU is quite another. For this reason, a Misericordia education is perhaps the best combination of head and heart that any young person can encounter.

A good university should offer its students the opportunity to hear different points of view; to see different people. To learn that while color, race and lifestyles may differ, all people respond to caring and understanding given unselfishly and with meaning. In fact, a survey among faculty, staff, alumni and trustees undertaken by Dr. Mary Hinton, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of our core curriculum project, underscored this point. Dr. Hinton found that the most often cited skills and attitudes that current students, faculty, staff, and alumni feel Misericordia students should possess upon graduation are cultural competency and knowledge of diversity. It is appropriate that those associated with MU believe strongly in exposing students to diverse points of view and people which not only make our students better people, but the world a better place.

*MA MacDowell*

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# Dr. Nyein

## named Dean of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education

Misericordia University named Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D., as Dean of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education.

Dr. Nyein is a native of Burma who comes to Misericordia from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), Durham, N.C., where he served as the director of the Division of Extended Studies and interim dean of the University College. He holds Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from the Institute of Medicine, Rangoon, Burma, a Master of Science in Health Science from Western Illinois University and a doctorate degree in health education from the University of Tennessee with a minor in exercise physiology.

At NCCU, Dr. Nyein provided administrative leadership to all facets of the University College, including distance education, continuing education, summer school, summer academic and sports, evening and weekend studies programs, and community engagement from 2005 to 2008. While he was acting dean, he managed the successful growth in distance education programs from an enrollment of 604 students in 2003-04 to 1,373 students from 2005 to 2007. Student credit hours and course offerings also rose substantially from 9,350 to 14,073 hours and from 280 to 315 courses during this same period.

Dr. Nyein also served as the assistant dean at NCCU from 2001-2004. In that role, he was a member of the strategic planning committee and administrative team, and assisted the dean in identifying and developing new programs for emerging distance education markets and distance learning niche degree programs. Dr. Nyein was also the assistant director of distance education at NCCU from 1999-2001 and played an



Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D.

**Expressway turns 10:** CACE's accelerated degree program offers adult learners the formats, courses for success. **Page 39**

integral role in strategic planning and program development. He also took the lead in integrating the latest technology for online courses and training faculty.

Misericordia University's new dean also has extensive experience as a faculty member at NCCU. He began as a graduate assistant in 1983 teaching undergraduate courses in the department of health sciences and was also an instructor, teaching associate and assistant professor in the departments of health education, health and safety, health and physical education and health education until 1999.

In Burma, Dr. Nyein was a house surgeon at Rangoon General Hospital and also was the research officer for the Ministry of Health, where he supervised a team of 12 nurses and staff that conducted field research on the transmission of Hepatitis B from mother to infant and conducted Hepatitis B vaccine trials under the direction of the World Health Organization.

## Career Exploration Camps provide insight into popular majors

Misericordia University is offering high school juniors and seniors the opportunity for hands on academic learning at seven Career Exploration Summer Camps.

The **Financial Fitness Camp** is June 21-24. The Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education is hosting students interested in being prepared to make good decisions about finance, careers, paying for college and more. The camp is \$85. To register, call Robert Williams at (570) 674 6777 or e mail him at [rwilliams@misericordia.edu](mailto:rwilliams@misericordia.edu).

The **Psychology/Social Work Career Exploration Camp** on June 21-24 allows students to gain an inside look into these professions by visiting clinical sites and meeting successful professionals. The camp is \$75. To register, call (570) 674 6364 or e mail Charles LaJeunesse, Ph.D., professor, at [clajeune@misericordia.edu](mailto:clajeune@misericordia.edu).

The **Future Teachers Career Exploration Camp** is June 21-23. Students interested in learning about education will participate in sessions designed to introduce future teachers to methods and strategies utilized by real educators. The camp is \$75. To register, contact Susan Tomascik, Ph.D., at [stomasci@misericordia.edu](mailto:stomasci@misericordia.edu) or by calling (570) 674 6290.

The **Communications & Media Summer Career Exploration Camp** on June 21-24 offers students the chance to explore careers in electronic media, journalism and video production. The camp is \$85. To register, contact Helen Bogdon at (570) 674 6378 or [hbogdon@misericordia.edu](mailto:hbogdon@misericordia.edu).

The **Biology Career Exploration Camp** on June 21-24 is designed for students interested in careers in the biological sciences. The camp is \$95. To register, please contact Anthony Serino, Ph.D., at (570) 674 6259 or [aserino@misericordia.edu](mailto:aserino@misericordia.edu).

The **Speech Language Pathology Career Exploration Camp** on June 21-24 allows students to become familiar with the career options in the SLP field. The camp is \$85. To register, contact Donna DiBlasi at (570) 674 6724 or [ddiblas@misericordia.edu](mailto:ddiblas@misericordia.edu).

The **Occupational Therapy Career Exploration Camp** on June 21-23 gives students the opportunity to learn about the profession. The camp is \$90. To register, contact Debbie Carey at (570) 674 6391 or [dcarey3@misericordia.edu](mailto:dcarey3@misericordia.edu).



# The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation

profiles in giving

Helps women succeed in higher education

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation's legacy of giving has led to \$12.4 million worth of scholarships for mature women students being awarded to institutions of higher education since it was chartered in 1979, including approximately \$350,000 to Misericordia.

In 2008, the Foundation contributed \$41,000 to MU, including \$16,000 that was designated for the establishment of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Endowed Scholarship Fund for Women with Children. The Women with Children program makes it possible for low-income single mothers to earn a college degree while living on campus with their children.

Misericordia and the Foundation have

been working together to ensure that mature women students realize their collegiate and professional goals. The Newcombe Foundation established the need-based Newcombe Scholarships for Mature Women Students at Misericordia in 1987. Since then, the Foundation has awarded \$292,000 to female students who are 25 years of age or older, are enrolled full time or part time in baccalaureate degree programs and have completed half the credits required for the degree. In addition, the Foundation has contributed an additional \$42,000 to support an endowment in the Newcombe name.

"We consider ourselves fortunate to have a partner such as the Charlotte W.


Newcombe Foundation to help us continue our tradition of making a private, liberal arts education affordable to mature women," says President Michael A. MacDowell. "We commend their efforts to alleviate barriers that can inhibit academic success for these women and look forward to continuing to work together on this important goal."

Recent recipients of the scholarship have diverse backgrounds and majors, but have one common theme — need.

"The Foundation has taken a financial burden from my family and helped me pursue my academic dreams," says Lauren Brigham, who will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. "In doing so, I can move forward in my career and improve both myself and my family. I am greatly indebted to the Foundation for all that they have done. It is extremely important for me to accomplish my higher education goals. I am aspiring to become an attorney and have a successful career. Education is the key to accomplishing my life goals."

## Strong values, work ethic equal success

STORY BY DEBORAH HIGGINS '09



JoAnn Speicher's introduction to collegiate life at Misericordia began with a "cold shoulder" from most of the sophomores during her freshman year. In 1962, Misericordia was an all-girls school. What she didn't know is that the sophomores were just following tradition. It didn't take long until that experience was replaced by "Sophomore Friends," a special bond that exists to this day, she says.

The memories, life lessons and friendships that Speicher and her extended family forged on campus remain dear to each of them today. Thanks to Misericordia, Speicher says her life and her work have been both rewarding and fulfilling because the college helped her to reinforce several important core values. That's why Speicher and her husband, Tim, support Misericordia through generous donations so others can benefit from the University's challenging academics and tenets of mercy, service, justice and hospitality.

Misericordia will name a computer lab in the new academic center, Insalaco Hall, in honor of the Speichers' generous support.

For Speicher, Misericordia's rigorous academics provided the foundation for her life's work. Today, the Speichers own a

successful exporting company that benefited from her education. "My background was in math and science," she says. "I knew nothing about business. But the teachers and staff at Misericordia helped me tremendously."

While still a student at Misericordia, she took a work study position in the dean's office. "Everything I learned about office etiquette and protocol I learned from Margaret Houlihan who was secretary to Dean Sister Marianna Gildea," she says.

The relationships she made during her years on campus "were the ones that made me a better person," she adds.

Years later, the Speichers founded T-R Associates, Inc., an exporting business, that led to The Northeastern Pennsylvania Business Journal naming her one of the Best and Brightest Women in Pennsylvania. This alumna believes in a strong work ethic, in loyalty to her alma mater and in supporting other students who welcome the opportunity to succeed.

"I think it's important to keep talent in our area and one way to do that is to financially support our scholars. A scholarship is what made my education possible," she says.



# MU SERVICE TOUCHES THE WORLD



Nursing students, faculty volunteer during spring break to educate and study alongside Guyanese students and health care providers, while providing personal care at mobile medical clinics for the underserved in Guyana

.....  
STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI



## Misericordia service engages students

From Northeastern Pennsylvania to Peru, Louisiana and Texas, Misericordia University shares the time and talents of its students, faculty and staff so they are engaged in the betterment of communities, neighborhoods and the world.

During March's spring break, 35 members of the Misericordia campus community did service work in Slidell, Louisiana and Laredo, Texas, a border town near Mexico. MU volunteers worked in a children's orphanage and volunteered in a domestic violence shelter in Mexico during an immigration experience in Laredo. They also participated in more Hurricane Katrina clean up efforts and worked on three homes through Habitat for Humanity during the service trip to Slidell.

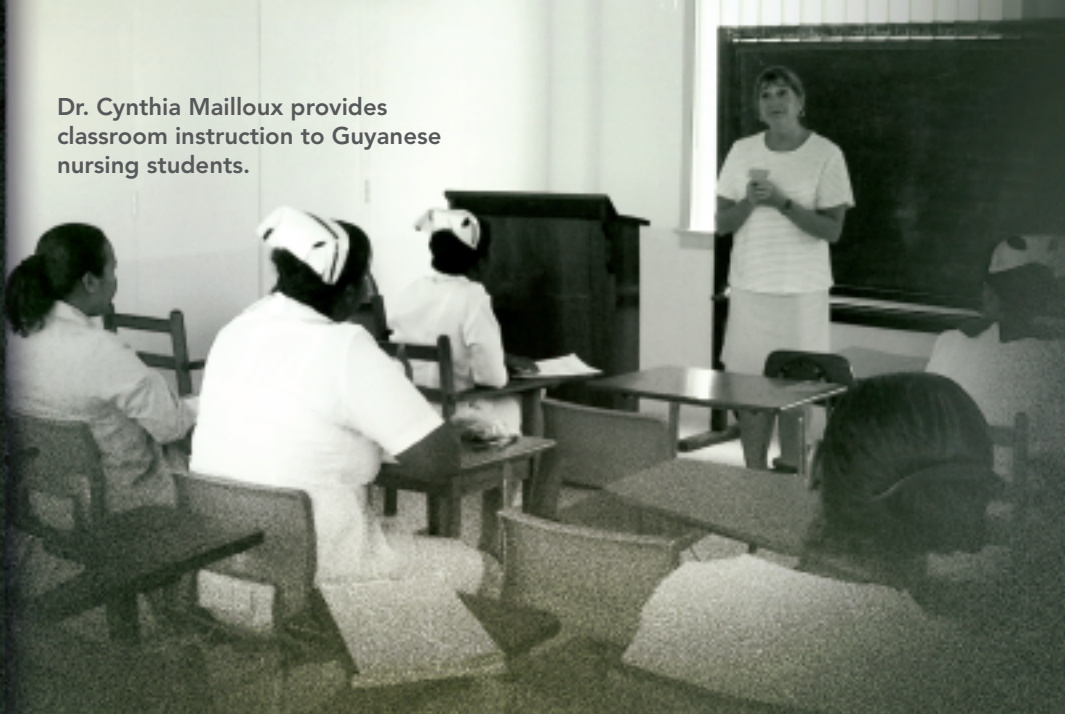
Misericordia's volunteer efforts benefit the underserved. The Campus Ministry service trips to Louisiana and Texas introduced students to new cultures and people, while also allowing them to experience real world issues such as homelessness, immigration and poverty in new settings.

Kathleen Gelso, Visiting Assistant Professor of Nursing; Christine Somers, Director of Campus Ministry; and Rev. Donald Williams, Campus Chaplain; chaperoned students Brian Glowatski, Kristen Fry, Brittany Adair, Jackie Rickus, Stacy Osenbruck, Erin Huppmann, Marianne Guarnieri, Tonya Kellerman, Ellen Wingert and Amanda Ollivier to Texas.

Lynn Aldrich, Associate Professor of Physics; Patrick McKamy, Coordinator of Student Activities; and Dan Kimbrough, Visiting Assistant Professor of Communications; chaperoned the Louisiana service trip for students Alecia Merrick, Alyson Neely, Alyssa Kunte, Amanda Howatt, Andrea Moon, Breanne Finagan, Daniell Cino, Jason Copeland, Jill Rafferty, Juliann Curry, Lindsay Buss, Lisa Witkoski, Shannon Kane, Megan McClary, Sam Sheets, Stephanie Pelligrino, Tanya Lang, Veronica Nelson and Kate Farrigan.

Misericordia's service also will touch the people of Peru from May 18-28. Volunteers will travel to Lima and Chimbote to work in ministries, hospices, schools and also assist the Sisters of Mercy's educational initiative to promote an understanding of the relationship of clean water and adequate sanitation to health.

Dr. Cynthia Mailloux provides classroom instruction to Guyanese nursing students.



**S**t. Joseph's Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana is like any hospital setting in Northeastern Pennsylvania: A dedicated team of nurses, doctors and other health care providers work diligently in tandem to care and cure patients.

The physical setting, though, is unlike any hospital in the United States: A medical-surgical ward is crammed into one large room where health care workers battle stifling heat and humidity, as well as the lack of proper medical supplies while conducting their daily rounds.

"We survived our first day," Erin Colby, a nursing student, acknowledged in a daily blog while in Guyana. "This was an eye-opener like no other. What I had envisioned as a hospital was not what we encountered. I was amazed at the diligence of the nurses, students and aides carrying out their duties.

"How fortunate we are as Americans where we take air conditioning for granted and feel that the health care we receive is a fundamental right. It was an unforgettable experience to be able to work alongside other nursing students. Conversation between students living worlds apart was intriguing as we all learned from one another — Misericordia students learning about a foreign culture and how to improvise, and Guyanese students observing techniques and methods practiced in the states."

As part of the international service-learning course, Global Health Issues in the Developing World, 10 members of the Misericordia University

**Nursing alumnus gives back to MU:**  
Larry Shotwell '03 outlines his career as a nurse anesthetist.

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Nursing Program spent Feb. 27 to March 6 in Guyana instructing, learning and practicing medicine alongside their South American counterparts.

"Providing students with an opportunity to do service learning in a developing country was extremely rewarding," said Brenda Hage, Ph.D., C.R.N.P., Director of Graduate Nursing Programs. "Even though this was my sixth trip to Guyana, I am still struck by how meaningful students continue to find the experience."

The naturally challenging environment introduced Misericordia students to new opportunities. By embracing the new culture and demanding working conditions, eight nursing students applied their classroom and clinical skills and learned how to react to difficult circumstances that can develop without notice in any hospital or clinical setting.

"The (Guyanese) students and staff are very willing to share their culture and we enjoyed working with them," said nursing student Deborah Morris. "The opportunity to experience firsthand the medical practices of a developing country is priceless. There are people there who are working to help make improvements, but there are still problems. There is garbage thrown all over the streets and standing water is everywhere."

To temporarily alleviate supply



“Some (students) cried and others embraced patients as they cared for them during their days in Guyana.”

— Cynthia Mailloux, Ph.D.

shortages, students and faculty members, Cynthia Mailloux, R.N., Ph.D., nursing department chair, and Dr. Hage, collected and delivered medical supplies, medications, stethoscopes, academic books, tympanic thermometers and pulse oximeters to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital.

“The students were empathetic to the lack of technology and supplies that we are so privileged to have in this country,” said Dr. Mailloux. “Some (students) cried and others embraced patients as they cared for them during their days in Guyana.”

At St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Dr. Hage and graduate students, Barbara Campagna and Angela Evans, provided modern classroom instruction. “Both of our graduate students did a wonderful job and the students were so respectful to us,” Dr. Hage said. “They participated and were enthusiastic about the content being covered.”

The workdays were long and tiring, but each Misericordia student returned from the spring break experience with an inspiring story or experience that enriched their personal and professional lives.

The Sisters of Mercy, the founders and sponsors of Misericordia University, operate a weekly free health clinic that has people lining up for appointments hours before the doors open. Treatments range from routine physical assessments and blood pressure screenings to hypertension monitoring and familiar stories about patients rationing their medications.

“The patients made a great effort to come and get their health checked because they don't have the capability to check these problems at home,” said nursing student, Marianne Karalunas. “I found the experience very rewarding.”

Misericordia's student nurses taught the Guyanese proper health care maintenance

and the importance of monitoring their chronic illnesses. “One diabetic patient described how she would rotate an herbal drink and her prescribed oral hypoglycemic daily to control blood sugar levels,” she says. “We left there feeling like we had maybe made a difference, if only in the patients' perception and ideas about health care maintenance.”

The international learning opportunity also introduced students to diseases that are unfamiliar in the United States, but are widespread in developing countries, like Guyana. Misericordia students and faculty cared for children with cleft palate, Dengue fever, malaria and sickle cell anemia. “The students gained a sense of pride in their country and a better appreciation for health care in the United States,” Dr. Mailloux said. “They left Guyana with a good sense of what service learning is all about.”

## Annual service trip touches heart of Jamaica

At Misericordia University, the campus community volunteers its time and talent because it is who we are. MU reaches out to those in need for important reasons. It is vital that students graduate with not just a knowledge of their chosen field of study, but that they graduate as compassionate, caring citizens who are concerned about the welfare of others and empowered to act on their behalf.

Students, faculty and staff reach out in many ways. Each January, a group of volunteers travels to Jamaica with Campus Ministry because of a sense of responsibility and a belief that people cannot be in the world without also being of the world. Ten students Maura Musial, Brian Glowatski, Jackie Rickus, Alyson Neely, Alyssa Scavone,

Nicole Moore, Tom Glowatski, Jessica Vozzella, Samantha Sheets and Monica Winshel joined chaperones Virginia Conrad, Assistant Director of Alumni, Community and Donor Relations; Christine Somers, Director of Campus Ministry, and Campus Chaplain, Rev. Donald J. Williams in Jamaica from Jan. 3-10.

Volunteers stayed with Father Patrick Mwangi of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Manchester and painted the church. At the Missionaries of Charity Home for the Elderly, students visited and worked with residents who have been abandoned by their families. School aged children at St. Joseph's Primary School benefitted from Misericordia instruction and playtime, and students spent a day at Mustard



**MU volunteers pose for a picture with several Jamaicans during the annual service trip to the island nation.**

Seed, a home for disabled young people and children with HIV.

The service trip is part of the service learning course, Theology of the Church. MU students

routinely participate in national and international service opportunities where they get to apply their classroom and clinical lessons for the betterment of others.



## MU employee shares homeland with students

BY MAKI MCCANN

In early October, 2008, I accompanied Misericordia University students Billy, Emilie, Frank, and Eric on a seven day trip to Macedonia. I was more than thrilled when I learned that I would be chaperoning the students to my home country. The trip was part of a semester long course in economic development, entrepreneurship, and public policy taught by MU Fulbright Scholar, Dr. John Sumansky.

Prior to their trip, the class met several times to prepare for a semester in Macedonia where they would be studying about ways to enhance regional economic growth and development through the promotion of entrepreneurship. The students also visited the business incubator in Wilkes Barre so they could later compare it with the newly established incubator in Tetovo.

Our long flight from JFK, New York, ended in the capital of Macedonia, Skopje. This is where I grew up and spent most of my life. We spent the first two days enjoying ethnic foods and drinking local favorites. When we weren't savoring traditional delicacies, we were exploring the historic sites in and around the capital: a 12th century church overlooking the city; a fortress built during the rule of the Romans; the Old Bazaar which has existed for more than 1,000 years, and other local attractions.

During the week, we stayed in the city of Tetovo, home of the State University of Tetovo, where our students embarked on an educational journey with fellow Macedonians. Each day, representatives from the national government, Tetovo, Skopje and local entrepreneurs talked to the class about creating jobs and improving Macedonian income and standard of living through the promotion of entrepreneurship.

It was interesting to learn about the similarities that Macedonia and Northeastern PA share in terms of improving entrepreneurship opportunities, economic development and public policy—an observation shared by Emilie. There is no better way to learn about another culture and its economy than by being exposed to these things first hand.

study abroad



# Planning For Macedonia

Students study alongside MU's Fulbright Scholar while he teaches economics and entrepreneurship in European country

The poor economic climate is more than a national recession. The consequences of abuses and excesses in the financial system have reverberated across the globe and reinforced the notion that 21st century global economies are inter-related.

In order for today's business students to be tomorrow's responsible and successful business leaders, they need to be able to embrace and understand the enormity of the global economy. Misericordia business students in the fall studied alongside Fulbright Scholar John Sumansky, Ph.D., business department chair and director of the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education at Misericordia, at the State University of Tetova in the Republic of Macedonia.

Northeastern Pennsylvania and Macedonia share many common characteristics that make them attractive and challenging. Situated in beautiful mountainous regions, their landscapes attract environmentalists, and promote outdoor activities like hiking and skiing to fuel a growing eco-tourism industry.

Their beauty and modest cost of living indexes aside, NEPA and Macedonia continue to struggle to establish an identity for their individual economies. The coal mining industry in the Wyoming Valley fueled the industrial revolution, but it has been dormant for a generation and today's industrial backbone is unsettled. Macedonians struggle with their national identity, poor infrastructure and the lack of dominant natural resources and industries

to grow and sustain a vibrant economy. To a large extent, both areas have placed hope in growing their economies in the promotion of entrepreneurship.

The striking similarities between the Slavic country and Misericordia's home region did not go unnoticed by MU business students who studied with fellow Macedonian professors and college students as part of the international business course, Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Public Policy. "Macedonia is a beautiful country, full of culture and hospitality," says Bill desRosiers '09, a history, pre-law and business management major. "After a week in the country, the most surprising realization I had was the states of Macedonia and Northeast Pennsylvania economies were essentially no different."

For four months, Dr. Sumansky taught economics and entrepreneurship to Macedonia students, lectured at the nation's 11 other universities and established the first Macedonian National Business Plan Competition to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week during his Fulbright professorship. "I was fortunate to have visited a dozen of Macedonia's universities and I had the opportunity to speak to more than 600 students," he says. "I stressed the importance of entrepreneurship and the significance of business plans as an educational tool and encouraged them to participate in the business plan competition because it was good for them and their country."

Misericordia University student Julianne Oliver, far right, and her sister, Jennifer, sell T-shirts in the Banks Student Life Center to support their Flyte & Moore Walk Across Pennsylvania that begins June 2.

MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

# Fight Against Cancer

MU student, twin sister  
to walk from Pittsburgh to  
Pittston to raise money

BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

All that stands between Julianne and Jennifer Oliver's dream is about 270 miles and a cure for breast cancer.

The Flyte & Moore Walk Across Pennsylvania that begins June 2 is more than a fundraiser for the Northeastern Pennsylvania branch of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. It's an effort by two members of the class of 2009 to offer tangible help to women who are battling the disease and to honor their maternal grandmother who died from it before they were born.

The twin sisters hope to raise \$100,000 through sponsorships by walking from Pittsburgh to Pittston from June 2-15 in honor of their grandmother, Evelyn Flyte, and Aunt Dorothy Moore, who successfully beat the disease twice. Sadly, Flyte died in 1983 after a 10-year battle with cancer, but a lot of her characteristics and spirit survive through the Oliver sisters.

"For as long as I can remember, my family has told us how much we remind them of our grandmother," says Julianne, who will graduate from Misericordia on May 16 with a degree in

philosophy and pre-law and a minor in psychology. "My grandmother never backed down from anything and that is what we share with her. So in the summer we will walk because we can't simply walk away."

The feisty and gregarious nature they share with their grandmother surely helped when they learned their newly married 25-year-old cousin had a double mastectomy three months after getting married in 2007. "Wow, she's 25!" says Julianne, recalling the conversation she had with her sister in downtown Scranton. "It runs in our family. We are young, but we can't be in denial any longer. There's a possibility we can get it."

"So Jen said, 'Let's do something about it.'"

Initially, the ambitious college seniors discussed walking across the country to raise money and awareness. But after a swift reality check, later that day they decided to make their goal a little more manageable. A few months later the regional Komen for the Cure branch helped them begin organizing the event.

First, they registered as a non-profit organization with Pennsylvania and opened a bank account before finalizing the name and route of the event. An innocuous question by a representative of the foundation, though, proved to

the girls how much the walk means to them personally.

"When we first started this, the affiliate told me I would have to make a decision on how the money's dispersed," says Julianne, 21. "I wanted all of it to go to research, but they asked me to sleep on it."

Five days later, Julianne and Jennifer decided 75 percent of the funding will benefit underinsured women so they can seek treatment and annual mammograms, and the remaining money will go to find a cure. "I went through such emotional turmoil," Julianne adds. "I want to find a cure, but I started thinking if my grandmother had the financial means to fight the disease she might still be here."

One year later, the sisters took their plan public. They've gone door-to-door soliciting donations from businesses and households during weekends and breaks from school. They organized Pink Week at Coughlin and Montrose high schools in Northeastern Pennsylvania where students formed human ribbons to raise money and awareness. Pink bracelets and T-shirts also were sold at the school events to raise money.

For more information or to make a donation, log on to [www.flytemoorewalkpa.org](http://www.flytemoorewalkpa.org).





# Investing In The Region

Sandy Insalaco's Nature's Way Purewater System is on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing private companies in America

**S**andy Insalaco's dedication to Misericordia is not hard to spot.

The names of him and wife Marlene adorn the start-of-the-art Insalaco Hall.

A member of Misericordia's Board of Trustees for more than a decade, he has led and been a major contributor to significant fundraising for the University, and established the Insalaco Center for Career Development.

As a longtime, successful entrepreneur, Insalaco knows a good investment when he sees one.

"Frankly, I was quite convinced that contributing to Misericordia was money that was an investment rather than a donation," he explains. "They are the finest stewards of money you can find."

He notes that the strengths of Misericordia can be leveraged to support and improve the surrounding community, particularly in health science fields.

"Misericordia is very strong in health sciences, and when you look at our area,

we have an aging community," he says. "You need to train people to serve the needs of the community. We have the support staff for those doctors, and I think that will bode well for the future of health care in our area."

After operating with his brothers 14 supermarkets in Northeast Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years, Insalaco sold the chain in 1993 and has gone on to lead water bottler Nature's Way, a business that has grown during his eight-year tenure thanks in large part to a commitment to new technology. Leaving the supermarket chain behind, however, also gave Insalaco the opportunity to give back to the community even more, something the Insalacos sought to instill in their corporate culture over four decades.

He joined the Misericordia Board of Trustees in 1998, at the behest of the late Monsignor Andrew McGowan. Finding an institution that shared his values gave Insalaco the impetus to become a university benefactor as well.

"At Misericordia, I found a

family-oriented place with good core values in the things that I believe in," Insalaco says. "I never expected any building to be named after me. With Dr. MacDowell, the administration, the board and everyone involved, when you see the progress that's been made, it's unparalleled. It's phenomenal. I look at where they were when I first joined the board, it's really just been taken to the next level."

And Insalaco is excited about where Misericordia still can go. He says the quality of education and values of the university will help Misericordia grow further as it attracts more and more students.

"Misericordia can and will expand its radius for students. I think we'll attract students from a broader area than we historically have," he says. "When potential students see the quality of education, and how as one of our former board chairs, Lou Alesi, said, 'we take good people and make them better,' that is so important in this day and age."

Karen Boback '73,  
Ph.D., transitions  
smoothly from educator  
to legislator

# A Natural Fit

After spending her career in education, the Misericordia alumna and adjunct professor is now in her second term as state representative for the 117th District. A philosophy imparted to Boback early in life that she carried throughout her career guided her in that transition.

It was my dad who instilled in me the philosophy that I had no right to sit back and complain about anything unless I was willing to stand up and do something about it ... This philosophy has always governed my life and provided the perfect transition for my retirement from the educational profession to the political arena.

Boback spent more than 30 years as a teacher in the Tunkhannock Area School District after earning her B.S. in elementary education from Misericordia.

She earned advanced degrees at other institutions, including her doctorate from Penn, before returning to Misericordia to earn another master's in education with a concentration on technology. The Harveys Lake resident also has been a faculty member at Misericordia, most recently as professor in charge of the undergraduate Language Arts Methods.

Her devotion to the University started early.

Misericordia helped shape me professionally, Boback said. At Misericordia, I had the opportunity to work with a dedicated, highly skilled faculty that encouraged and promoted my talents. The small class size allowed, and still allows, for personalized attention which builds confidence and promotes success. The programs offered by the University have always been renowned in professional circles. That is why I chose

it as a student, and promoted it as an adjunct faculty member. Without question, the caliber of education I received at Misericordia set the stage for my educational and professional accomplishments.

Serving the community is an integral part of Boback's life, and what she learned of activism from her mother was reinforced during her time at Misericordia. She noted that the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy that she saw in practice as a student when Misericordia opened its doors to the victims of the Agnes flood are alive and well at the University today.

Through all her achievements, for Boback, Misericordia will always be home. When I'm at Misericordia, I always feel like I'm home, she said.

It is and always has been an institution that reached out into the community.





## Alumna earns Living Legacy Award from American Montessori Society

# A Living Legacy

STORY BY  
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

She joined the Montessori School in Wilmington, Del., in 1968 and was appointed Head of School in 1980. As its director, she led the school's growth from 14 students when she started to 350 when she retired 20 years later. She served as president of the board of directors of the American Montessori Society (AMS), later taking the reins as the agency's interim executive director. She had the honor of representing AMS at the United Nations in briefings on world poverty and issues directly related to children. Her lifetime of dedication to the Montessori tradition of teaching has influenced the lives of thousands of children and adult learners across the country and around the world.

The American Montessori Society recognized the years of service and dedication Marie Lipo Dugan, 55, Biology, provided to the institution by presenting her with the 2009 Living Legacy Award. The society's top award was presented at the AMS annual conference in New Orleans, La., in February. She was also recognized by

the Wilmington Montessori School she founded with a reception featuring U.S. Sen. Tom Carper in January.

In my life, I feel like I am making a difference, Dugan says. I can honestly say that the turning point in my life was my experience at Misericordia.

Dugan says her father immigrated to the United States, settled in Swoyersville, Pa., and wanted his family to be educated. Science oriented in high school, she enrolled at Misericordia on a full scholarship as a day student in biology, traveling to the campus by car or bus. Her days as a member of the Misericordia Science Club are documented with a photograph that today hangs in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library. Not only did she meet her husband, George Dugan, a student at King's College, at a Misericordia social, but she also found inspiration in the Teacher Education Program. It was the beginning of her doing work for the good of the public. She graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in biology.

The Mercy nuns were very inspiring to me, and had a lot to do with who I

am today, she adds. I learned from them, and my mother, Mary Nycz Lipo, the importance of service work and giving of myself. It isn't until time passes that you realize just how important those experiences are on your life.

Among the many awards she has received, Misericordia honored Dugan in 2005 with the Alumnae Association Medallion Award, presented during Alumni Weekend festivities. The award is given in recognition of anniversary class members who have demonstrated outstanding community service, commitment to the strengthening of family life, and distinguished professional contributions.

Currently, Dugan is co-coordinator of the AMS Course for Montessori School Management (CMSM) at the College of New Rochelle, in New Rochelle, N.Y., and reports she feels at home, teaching and consulting with excellent Montessori public and independent schools all over the country. She and George live in Wilmington and have one son, two daughters and two grandsons.



Alumnus ready to assume command of USS Boxer that patrols Pacific Ocean near the Iraqi war zone

# Service To God & Country



Capt. Frank J. Michael

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Frank J. Michael '86 has seen the good and the bad the world has to offer. The career Naval officer has experienced the turbulence of the Middle East, the scenic beauty of Africa and exotic cultures of the Orient in Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia. Through it all, though, two constants have remained in his life: family and service.

Countless miles and seven deployments later, Captain Michael finds himself second in command aboard the Wasp class amphibious assault ship, USS Boxer (LHD 4), in the Pacific Ocean engaged in maritime security operations in the fifth and seventh fleet area of responsibility. We are prepared to go anywhere at anytime and carry out the mission assigned, the executive officer relays in a Feb. 24th e mail.

The Pacific Ocean is half a world away from his hometown of Dallas Borough, and seemingly a stratosphere from where his journey began at Misericordia University. The son of Frank J. Michael Jr. and Patricia A. Polly Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at MU. The rigorous academic structure of the Nursing Department, his family's history of serving others, and the popular *Top Gun* movie helped steer him to Aviation Office Candidate School and national service.

The sense of service was something instilled from childhood, the former Dallas Fire and Ambulance volunteer says proudly. Something I still admire very much in my parents is their selfless service to their family and to their community. The sense of service was certainly strengthened through my experience in the nursing curriculum. I recall vividly the sense of worth and satisfaction in working with the disadvantaged and those in need.

Captain Michael earned his Wings of Gold in 1988 from flight school and joined a helicopter squadron in Norfolk, Va. He flew the now retired SH 2F Seasprite that was used to perform a range of operations from anti submarine warfare to anti surface combat.

Following his initial squadron experience, Captain Michael served for three years as a flight instructor at a training squadron in Pensacola, Fla. He was then assigned to USS Guam (LPH 9) stationed in Norfolk and subsequently reassigned to San Diego, Calif. Following his service as flag aide to Commander, Naval Air Forces, headquartered at Naval

Air Station North Island, he was selected for command.

His first command was Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light FOUR SEVEN, stationed at North Island. During that tour, he embarked on the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and responded to Indonesia in the wake of the deadly tsunami. Soon after returning from his deployment in Asia, he took a squadron to New Orleans for search and rescue operations in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

At the Pentagon, Captain Michael served on the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff and shortly thereafter, received his present assignment for major command aboard USS Boxer.

Through his tours of duty, Captain Michael says he has drawn upon his background to complete his mission and lead the men and women under his command.

The discipline of the curriculum at Misericordia set me up for success, says Captain Michael, who also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of West Florida. It was well balanced and required a good deal of personal initiative to compete. The academic discipline I learned at Misericordia prepared me well for the rigors of flight training, leading an aircrew in operations and leading a squadron during contingency.

Eleven months from now, he will become USS Boxer's Commanding Officer. In mid April, the Boxer hosted U.S. cargo ship Captain Richard Phillips shortly after he was rescued from Somali pirates.



# A Life Of Service

STORY BY DEBORAH HIGGINS '09

**A** life of service that has been dedicated to others grew from a seed planted at Misericordia University. For Mary Louise Zurenda Austin (who goes by Mary Lou), her years as a student during the 1960s were filled with hard work in the classroom and a yearning desire to reach out to help those in need. Her idealism was nurtured by the Religious Sisters of Mercy at Misericordia that guided the young woman from West Pittston toward her life's work.

"When I was a student, I really had no idea at the time that Misericordia's legacy of mercy and service would transform into a mission for my life. It all began there and before I knew it, that mission had taken me around the world," Austin explains.

Before graduating in 1965 with an education degree, Austin served an internship in the late Congressman Daniel J. Flood's office where she continued to learn about client service, loyalty, patriotism, hospitality, and mercy. "Congressman Flood was very big into support for our veterans. He always said we owe much to our veterans who do so much for us. I

never forgot that," she remembers.

After graduation, Austin accepted a teaching position at an elementary school in Maryland. An opportunity to become part of the United Service Organizations (USO), presented itself shortly thereafter and she took the chance.

"I was familiar with the National Catholic Community Service (NCCS), one of the founding organizations of the USO, but I had no idea of the extent of their mission. Accepting a position with NCCS led me to a life of service and adventure," she says.

Austin met her husband, Richard, while she was working with her job overseas. As the years went by, she continued to travel and serve the country's military forces through her work with the USO. She has held various positions stateside as well as overseas and currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of USO of Georgia, Inc., where she guides 2,200 volunteers in addition to fundraising, organizing and planning efforts.

Her lifetime of service to others has been recognized by many people and organizations. Misericordia University presented her the Mother Mary Catharine McGann Alumni

**"I really had no idea at the time that Misericordia's legacy of mercy and service would transform into a mission for my life."**

**— Mary Lou Austin**

Achievement Award in 2002 for distinguished and sustained career accomplishments. Humbled by the numerous accolades and honors for her work, Austin is quick to acknowledge that the work of the USO cannot be accomplished without an army of dedicated volunteers.

"I'm just the orchestra leader," she says. "It's not just me who makes the USO work, it's the volunteers. I am awed by all the work they do. I receive my greatest reward when one of our service members comes up to me and says thank you for what you're doing. It's a very, very moving experience."



Kerri Miglionico changed her mind in the summer of 1999. Just before her senior year at Misericordia, Kerri chose to leave the Physical Therapy program. I finally

decided to honor that whispering voice I had been hearing telling me that this was not the career I really wanted, she offered during an interview in Chicago, Ill.

I settled on public relations after researching careers in the business field. I took a part time internship in Misericordia's college relations office and they helped me get hands on media relations training. She graduated with a degree in General Studies and went on to get her M.A. in public relations at the University of Florida.

Today, Kerri Miglionico Phipps works in the windy city at Ketchum, one of the top global agencies for public relations. She is responsible for reputation management at companies ranging from an organic and natural food and beverage manufacturer to a private equity firm, to retailers, to several nonprofit organizations. While the hours may be long and many months or even years can pass before you actually complete a project, I can't imagine doing anything else, Kerri reflects. Every client is unique and every day is different.

When Kerri picked Misericordia's Professor Emeritus Don Fries to be her new advisor in 1999, it was because she liked him from her freshman Western Civilization classes and felt confident he would offer sound advice. What I didn't know, Kerri recalls, was that his daughter was a successful executive at Ketchum in New York. I remember he spoke highly of the firm, so I applied there after graduate school. In a strange twist, I ended up working for none other than Dr. Fries' daughter, Kiersten

# The Places She's Going

STORY BY RICHARD CREW, Ph.D.,  
CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**New Specialization in PR/Advertising added to Communications degree program:** Track offers a unique integrated approach, combining courses from the Communications and Business Departments.

Zweibaum. It was such a pleasant surprise and a great start to my career at a public relations agency. And I've been with Ketchum ever since.

Misericordia's core curriculum courses have served Kerri well in her profession.

The broader knowledge base, Kerri says, makes you a well rounded professional in any field. While some of my classmates despised having to take art history or literature because they felt it had no relevance to their anticipated careers, these classes were my favorites. The liberal arts core curriculum at Misericordia without question prepared me for the career I have today.

While Kerri grew up in Pittston, the public relations career she ultimately chose has taken her all over the country on business, as well as to Russia and Europe. Perhaps, Kerri suggests, Dr.

Seuss might have written, Oh, The Places You'll Go! with the public relations career field in mind!

But the best part of her job, she says, is building relationships with clients.

There's nothing better than getting to know them, learning about what they'd like to accomplish and what challenges they face, anticipating their needs and helping them look like rock stars within their respective companies.

Maintaining a great client relationship is one of the hardest, but most rewarding aspects of my job.

Ten years later, she still remains close to several of her MU classmates. At the end of an early morning coffee meeting and before she left for another work day, Kerri recalled that her Misericordia professors and many administrators knew her by name and took an active interest in her education. I think about the close knit community and how just about everyone was genuinely kind. Everyone's college experience is different, but Misericordia taught me to be supportive, inclusive and, above else, empathetic.

## The Highlander student newspaper wins Keystone Press Award

The Pennsylvania Newspaper Association (PNA) awarded Misericordia University's student newspaper, The Highlander, a second place in the Keystone Press Awards.

The Highlander was recognized in the Ongoing News category for the newspaper staff's coverage last spring of Misericordia University's first Health Care Summit. LaSalle

University's student newspaper earned first place and Temple University received an honorable mention in the same category.

Student editors Amanda Janiga, Mallory Vough, Rachel Decker and Jennifer Gomez attended the annual PNA conference in April to receive the award. Melissa Sgroi, assistant professor, is the faculty advisor for The Highlander.



## Sophomore occupational therapy major co-authors research in national publication

For the DiGiovannis, choosing a profession in health care truly is a family tradition.

Today, Nicole DiGiovanni '12 is a sophomore occupational therapy major at Misericordia University thanks largely to the unique experiences she had at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia during her impressionable years in high school.

I like helping people and I knew I was going to go into health care, but I wanted to do something different so I chose occupational therapy, the daughter of Teresa Beck and Steve DiGiovanni explains.

There's a more personal level to OT.

The family's affiliation with health care began with DiGiovanni's grandmother, who was a nurse. It continues today through her mother, a nurse at Shriners Hospital, her two aunts, older sister and a cousin who are all nurses, and three additional cousins who presently are enrolled in nursing schools.

The job shadowing DiGiovanni conducted with her mother as a teenager eventually led to work as a research aid during her senior year in high school and freshman year in college. The work led to her co-authoring the research paper, Children's and Parents' Perspectives about Activity Performance and Participation following Spinal Cord Injury, with M.J.

Mulcahey, Ph.D., OTR/L, Director of Rehabilitation Services and Clinical Research at Shriners Hospital. The American Journal of Occupational Therapy accepted the paper for publication.

As a research assistant, DiGiovanni sorted through mounds of files that contained information from interviews that were conducted with parents and their children who had become quadriplegic or paraplegic due to accidents. She searched for common themes about life independence and accessibility in the research files.

Overall, 33 children and 13 primary caregivers participated in cognitive testing interviews to evaluate the wording and clarity of items and response scales designed to evaluate activity performance and participation by children with spinal cord injuries. The goal of the research is to develop the CAT or computer adaptive testing model that customizes questions about accessibility and life functions based on the subject's physical ability.

The research opportunity and job shadowing at the hospital also enabled DiGiovanni professional experiences that not many undergraduate students get to realize at this stage of their education. The touching statements that she read and researched at the hospital also proved to her that she chose the right career path.

STORY BY  
PAUL KRZYWICKI



Occupational therapy majors Maura Musial, left, and Nicole Moore play with children in Jamaica.

## Students leave their hearts in Jamaica

After spending a week in Jamaica, we can honestly say we are changed. We left for a week in Jamaica on January 3, embarking on this journey with our Theology of the Church class. Out of 10 students, four of us were occupational therapy majors (Nicole Moore, Maura Musial, Alysa Scavone, and Monica Winshel). We stayed with Father Patrick Mwangi of Kenya at the compound of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

This was an experience to remember, as we had the opportunity to participate in many service activities. Our favorite was volunteering at Mustard Seed Orphanage where we helped feed children with special needs and played with children who were HIV positive. The children were so

grateful and the experience allowed us to use some of the skills we are learning in our occupational therapy classes. The next day we went to St. Joseph's Basic School and had the opportunity to interact with children and learn Jamaican games, songs and dances! We also had the chance to meet members of the community who taught us so much about their culture.

It was very hard to leave Jamaica and the newly formed friendships. However, the people in Jamaica will always hold a place in our hearts and we can only hope we made a difference in their lives. They touched us in many ways because they are a selfless, welcoming people.

Maura Musial '11



**Ellen Howanitz '09, poses with Brahmas' goalie, David Cacciola.**

Senior sport management major and Cougar field hockey goalie Ellen Howanitz '09 is getting what she was promised. In only the first month, her paid internship with the Texas Brahmas professional ice hockey team near Dallas, Texas, provided her with hands-on experience in the business office, ticketing, community relations, game-day activities and direct sales. It is just what she wanted.

As a sport management major, with minors in accounting and marketing, she was hoping for an internship that covered

## Goalie scores with pro-hockey internship

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

lots of bases. When she attended a sports job fair, while visiting an aunt in Plano, Texas, Scott Plourde, director of sales for the Brahmas of the Central Hockey League promised her just that. "He told me I would get more experience with a team such as the Brahmas which has a smaller staff. He was right. I am really happy to be getting sales and business management training, since most starting jobs in this business are in ticket sales." An added bonus has been the chance to help with community relations. "In my third week on the job, I took two players to an appearance at an elementary school in downtown Fort Worth, many of them special needs students. It was great getting to see the kids faces light up. It has convinced me even more that I love this career."

No stranger to the rigors of life as an athlete, Howanitz was a star field hockey goalie during her high school years at

Northwest Area in her hometown of Shickshinny, Pa., and earned plenty of accolades when her career took her to Misericordia. As an award-winning goalie for four years with the Cougars, she recorded a 29-18 win-loss record, 3,278 minutes played, and 308 saves, for a 78.4 percent saves average. She led the league with saves her senior year earning her MAC Freedom Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors and her team's coveted MVP award.

Reporting that she feels well prepared on the job by her Misericordia education, Howanitz says that among the classes that have served her best is the sports economics class of Tom Sweetz. "The concepts and theories we went over, such as supply and demand, and examining the economic benefits of an arena to an area, are things that I often hear being discussed by the Brahmas general manager and others in the front office."

## Business student represents region in Miss Pennsylvania USA Pageant

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Misericordia University sophomore Kristina Hrabcak has years of modeling experience to thank for her appearance in the Miss Pennsylvania USA 2009 pageant that was held in November in Pittsburgh, Pa. Competing against 60 girls from across the state, Hrabcak represented Northeastern Pennsylvania in the preliminary pageant for the Miss USA title.

The former Miss Luzerne County 2006 is a Dallas High School graduate who is majoring in business. A model since she was a young girl, Hrabcak appeared as an

extra in the Nickelodeon network musical comedy, *The Naked Brothers Band*, a hit teen movie released in 2007.

In her first major pageant, Hrabcak chose dystonia as her platform. Dystonia is an acquired movement disorder that causes the muscles of the body to contract involuntarily. She hopes raising awareness will lead to a cure for the 300,000 Americans who are afflicted.

Hrabcak says she loves modeling and hopes to return to the runway in New York someday.





## Dreams come true with Disney wedding

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Even a lifetime of performing on stage didn't prepare Shannon Peduto Hernandez '03 for the thrill of a lifetime — exchanging wedding vows at Walt Disney World in Florida. Flanked by Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Shannon and her groom, Eric Hernandez, said their "I do's" in front of 60 invited guests and waltzed during their first dance to, *So This Is Love*, from the Disney movie, *Cinderella*. They were later whisked off to their quarters in Cinderella's horse-drawn coach.

A dancer with the group since she was a young girl, Hernandez is a co-owner and instructor for the Emerald Isle Step Dancers, and says even when she and her students performed at Disney World, she never imagined how magical a wedding there would be. The ceremony came complete with rings carried in on a glass slipper by a costumed footman.

The couple met as high school students at Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and had their first official date in 1998. It was at midnight on New Year's Eve in 2005, while on a vacation to Disney World, that he popped the question in front of Cinderella's Castle.

Hernandez earned her bachelor's degree in education from Misericordia, and was in the Education Club and inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. She says her experiences at MU fostered her desire to help people. In addition to the dance group, she is the Victim Witness Coordinator for the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office where she helps victims of all ages as they go through the justice system. Eric is the chief information officer for LWR Time, Ltd., an American distributor of premium watches. The couple resides in Mountain Top, Pa.



## Nurse anesthetist shares his knowledge with nursing students

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Bringing the textbook to life with a computer filled with real-life photographs of rare surgical procedures, Larry Shotwell CRNA MSN '03 made an immediate impression on the students in Visiting Assistant Professor Kathleen Gelso's medical/surgical class.

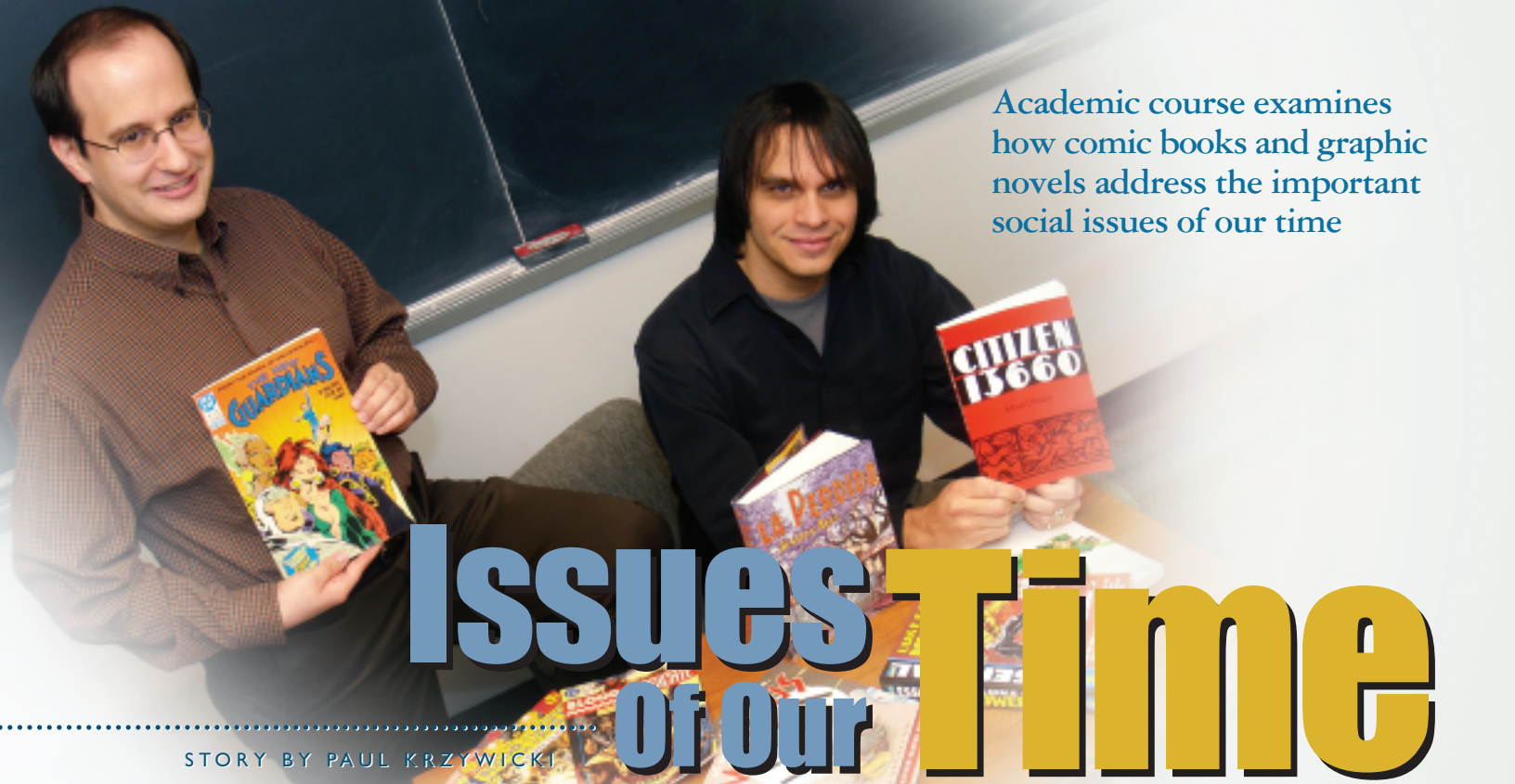
Shotwell '03, an MU nursing graduate, is a nurse anesthetist at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He served as a guest lecturer in the spring for a three-hour interoperative procedures lecture. As the students watched the images, Shotwell shared his first-hand knowledge of the importance of a nurse's role in the operating room.

Shotwell met his future wife, education major Renee Capozucca '99, through a mutual friend while both were commuter students at

Misericordia. Shotwell was a non-traditional student after spending seven years working for United Parcel Service. He earned his bachelor's degree in nursing and completed his MSN and certificate in Nurse Anesthesia at the Wyoming Valley Health Care System/University of Scranton School of Nurse Anesthesia. He credits the independent clinical he did in the Wyoming Valley Health Care System's ICU during his senior year at Misericordia for giving him the experience and motivation he needed to attend anesthesia school.

As a nurse anesthetist, he administers anesthesia to patients in the operating room and is responsible for monitoring their vital signs and adjusting treatment as needed throughout their procedure.





Academic course examines  
how comic books and graphic  
novels address the important  
social issues of our time

# Issues Of Our Time

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Tucked discreetly between the pages of *X-Men*, *Green Lantern* and other comic book adventure stories are themes that delve into more than extraordinary feats of strength or superhuman powers. Oftentimes, socially relevant messages of the time are delivered to readers of all ages, albeit, in an untraditional often unintended fashion.

The environmental, racial and political issues of yesterday and today are brought to life colorfully and creatively through the popular medium that has stood the test of time for more than 60 years. Comic books and graphic novels do more than create a fantasy world where good simply conquers evil through the superheroes created by companies like DC Comics and Marvel Comics.

Through the interdisciplinary course, *Race and Graphic Narrative in the Postwar United States*, students and professors alike at Misericordia University are exploring multiculturalism and other important social issues that are addressed in comic strips, comic books and graphic novels. Allan Austin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, and Patrick Hamilton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, designed the English 415/History 320 course by utilizing their common interest and professional backgrounds.

"One day, Patrick came into my office and asked if I'd ever seen the *New Guardians*," Dr. Austin recalls. "He showed me a blog that was just horrific.

Out of that, we started saying there's something to teach here.

"We're both really interested in issues of race, ethnicity and identity, and we're trying to find ways to draw students in," adds Dr. Austin, an avid collector and reader of comic books since he was six years old. "It seemed we could use comic books as a medium to discuss how terribly wrong multiculturalism went in 1980s comic books as well as other issues of race since mid-century."

The new course has been fully rostered for the spring 2008 and 2009 semesters. Coursework includes required readings of *La Perdida* by Jessica Abel, *Citizen 13660* by Miné Okubo, *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* (Vol. 1) by Dennis O'Neil and Neal Adams, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* (Vol. 1 — *My Father Bleeds History*) by Art Spiegelman and *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang, and writing brief weekly papers, longer essays along with classroom participation.

Each text allows students to view relevant social issues through a different prism. *Superman* comic strips and *Citizen 13660* engages them in Japanese American concentration camps during World War II, for example, and spawns scholarly discussion on the controversial topic. "I was very surprised that ethnocentrism played a role in some of the comics," says Marissa Miller '09, an English major who is enrolled presently in the course. "I was aware from reading a few

graphic novels on my own that the environment and multiculturalism can be found in this written form, but I was happily surprised to find depth and focus."

In recent years, comics and graphic novels have been looked at more critically in academia, similar to the way traditional literature is reviewed. Instead of stereotyping the boom!, bam! and splats! of action comics, high school teachers and college professors are using them as a gateway to engage their students in discussion, debate and scholarship.

"We try to get them to look at these with a more critical eye in terms of what sort of ideologies and ideas they are exposing," says Dr. Hamilton, who began collecting Marvel's *Avengers* series as a young child.

"It is vitally important that one never writes off a form of information based on its outside form," says Miller. "My grandparents were initially very shocked that I was taking a course on comics and graphic novels because they didn't understand the hidden depth and history behind the works.

"After sharing what I've learned with my family and friends, they've accepted that I am genuinely learning from a worthy academic course. I firmly believe that if an individual is to grow they must step outside of the confines of a set environment and venture into unknown territory," she adds.





## LEGEND:

Administrative Offices, Admissions, Adult Education,  
 Controller, Financial Aid, Registrar: *Mercy Hall*  
 Bookstore: *Banks Center*  
 Cougar's Den: *Banks Center*  
 Campus Ministry: *Banks Center*  
 Campus Safety: *Mercy Hall*  
 Chapel: *Mercy Hall*  
 Dining Hall: *Banks Center*  
 Diversity Institute: *Mercy Hall*  
 Fireside Lounge: *McHale Hall*  
 Pauly Friedman Art Gallery: *Insalaco Hall*  
 Insalaco Center for Career Development: *McAuley Hall*  
 Kennedy Lounge: *Banks Center*  
 Lemmond Theater: *Walsh Hall*  
 Munson Center: *Walsh Hall*  
 Post Office: *Banks Center*  
 Student Success Center: *Alumnae Hall*





# MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

## Campus Map



## Important campus telephone numbers

The following are contact numbers for departments and services at Misericordia University in the 570 area code:

<b>Admissions</b>	.....674 6264
<b>Adult Education</b>	.....674 6289
<b>Alumni Relations</b>	.....674 6764
<b>Alumni Volunteer Program</b>	.....674 6228
<b>Art Gallery</b>	.....674 6250
<b>Athletics</b>	.....674 6374
<b>Bookstore</b>	.....674 6271
<b>Campus Facilities</b>	.....674 6274
<b>Campus Ministry</b>	.....674 6495
<b>Campus Safety</b>	.....674 6300
<b>Cougar s Den</b>	.....674 6763
<b>Cultural Events Box Office</b>	.....674 6719
<b>Cultural Events Coordinator</b>	.....674 6418
<b>Dean of Students</b>	.....674 6238
<b>Expressway Program</b>	.....674 6791
<b>Food Service</b>	.....674 6269
<b>Health Center</b>	.....674 6276
<b>Library</b>	.....674 6231
<b>Planned Giving</b>	.....674 3341
<b>President s Office</b>	.....674 6215
<b>Registrar</b>	.....674 6297
<b>Residence Life</b>	.....674 6178
<b>Service Leadership Center</b>	.....674 6203
<b>Student Activities</b>	.....674 6407
<b>Student Financial Services</b>	.....674 6222
<b>Student Government Office</b>	.....674 6220
<b>Student Publications Office</b>	.....674 6737
<b>University Advancement</b>	.....674 3341
<b>VP for Academic Affairs</b>	.....674 6218
<b>Women with Children</b>	.....674 6728

## New Buildings

### College of Health Sciences:

The University purchased the historic Frontier Communications building at 100 Lake St. in April with plans to convert it into a state of the art facility for the Speech Language Pathology, Nursing, and Occupational and Physical Therapy Departments.

### Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan

**Student Residence Hall:** MU dedicated the facility in August. It features suite style rooms for 116 students, study rooms, activity areas and an atrium like lounge.

**Pauly House:** The 62 Lake St. facility allows the novel Women with Children Program to add four students and up to eight children to the program.

### Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall:

Students and faculty began using the technologically smart facility in March. It houses the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, business department, ATRI and classroom and conference space.



Ashley Wolanski to pursue  
lifelong dream at PA College  
of Optometry at Salus University

# Career In Focus

STORY BY PAUL KRZYWICKI

Some people can live a lifetime and never truly figure out what they want to do when they grow up. While for others, like Ashley Wolanski '09, their career paths have been clear to them for years.

The daughter of Paulette and the late Thomas Wolanski graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology May 16 during the 83rd annual Commencement ceremony. In the fall, she will enroll in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University in Elkins Park, Pa., to fulfill her nearly lifelong dream of becoming an optometrist.

"Becoming an optometrist has been a dream of mine since early childhood," the former Student Government Association president says. "At the age of four, I was fitted with my first pair of eyeglasses.

"My doctor made me feel special even though I wore glasses," adds Wolanski, a member of the National Biological Honor Society, Beta Beta Beta. "I began realizing back then that making a difference in people's lives through providing proper eye care would bring me great satisfaction and joy. I wanted to be Dr. Tanner. What

greater gift is there than helping someone to see more clearly?"

Wolanski has remained true to her professional dream by being a pre-optometry major at Misericordia and working as a technician at Eye Care Specialists in Kingston. "I only applied to (undergraduate) schools I knew had strong biology programs," says Wolanski, who was one of more than 900 applicants for the 150-member freshman class at PCO. "My major definitely helped me prepare for my admission's test. The one-on-one with the faculty has always been a key."

The pre-optometry curriculum at Misericordia University is challenging and requires long hours of study and dedication in order to succeed. That strong internal drive that is evident in Wolanski's academic prowess has also helped propel her to 10 gold medals in competitive figure skating in singles and pairs competition in the Keystone State Games and at Penn State University.

"I definitely get my work ethic from my mom and her belief in me," says Wolanski, who skates with Justin Carder in pairs competition. "I can say I want to

be an astronaut and she will support me and say that I can do it. She's always taught me that everyone is equal, no matter what race, gender or economic status. I believe that is an important value in order to succeed in society today."

Misericordia University prides itself on educating the entire person through challenging academics and initiatives like internships, club activities and service work because learning begins from day one at MU. Wolanski's tenure as SGA president is going to leave a positive impression on campus, but it has also opened up a new world of opportunity for her.

"It's helped me succeed in becoming more confident and helping me realize that things can change," says Wolanski, who has been a guest speaker at Convocation, and Cabinet and Board of Trustee meetings. "You just have to put your mind into it and be willing to put in the time and the effort."

In four years, Wolanski envisions being a pediatric optometrist in a small practice so she can continue to give the same personal attention to her patients that Dr. Tanner provided during her formative years.



# Chemistry major eyes career in pharmaceutical research

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

Two months before graduation, senior Jennifer Elward '09 finds herself in the enviable position of having multiple offers from graduate schools as she pursues her career in pharmaceutical and medical research. Crediting the personal attention she received at Misericordia University, Elward has accepted an offer to attend Temple University to earn her doctorate in physical chemistry and biochemistry in the fall.

The Plains Township, Pa. native says chemistry came easy at Coughlin High School and she has always found it interesting. When selecting a college, the close-knit atmosphere of the MU campus made her feel right at home.

"All the professors, especially Dr.

Charles Saladino in biochemistry and Dr. Anna Fedor in physical chemistry, helped guide me through the program and were very accommodating, making sure I was well prepared for graduate school," she says. "It is a small program, yet that was what helped me form so many great friendships. The science majors all support each other – we are definitely like a family."

Elward made her mark at MU as president for two years of the Dead Alchemists Society. Continuing in the spirit of mercy and service she found at MU, she plans to enter the pharmaceutical and medical research industry hoping to find better forms of drugs that can work without adverse side effects.



# Biology major to pursue medical career at Salus University

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

All it took was a ride-along with an EMT to convince Laura Leighow '09 that a career in the medical field was in her future. The Misericordia biology major and star Cougar field hockey player is one step closer to her dream after being accepted to Salus University near Philadelphia in the fall to pursue a graduate degree in the physician assistant program.

As a child, family vacations to Acadia National Park often included ranger hikes and gave Leighow the chance to talk one-on-one with experts and develop a love of nature. The idea of majoring in biology in college was solidified as soon as she attended a Misericordia open house and received a tour from Anthony Serino, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Biology Department. "I really loved the campus and liked what Dr.

Serino had to say about the biology program and the classes it offered," she recalls. "I've had a great experience here and feel completely prepared for graduate school."

Leighow believes faculty offer plenty of personal attention and not too many undergraduates have the opportunity to take anatomy and physiology, as well as an advanced cadaver anatomy class. She says she would like to thank Drs. Angela Asirvatham, Ph.D., and Barbara McCraith, Ph.D., for their support and guidance as her advisors in the program.

Leighow, the daughter of Michael and Barbara Leighow of Millville, Pa., has worked as a patient companion at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and hopes to return there as a physician assistant in the areas of trauma or sport medicine.





Cougars for Change, includes, from left, Nick DeStefano, Kristen Mitchell, Megan Baker, Elizabeth Snow and Rachel Roa.



## Earth Hour 2009 highlights year-long green efforts by Cougars for Change



Fueled by the Turn your lights off, turn the Earth on! slogan, Misericordia University's

environmentally focused student group, Cougars for Change, led the campus in a world wide initiative to draw attention to responsible energy use and global warming.

Earth Hour 2009 was estimated to have about 1 billion global participants that turned off all non essential lights for one hour, beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 28 a time chosen to coincide with the spring equinox and when the most places on the globe were suitably dark.

According to group member Nicholas DeStefano '09, an interdisciplinary studies major, Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 as a singular event with 2.2 million participants. The 2008 event involved 400 cities and 50 million people worldwide.

More than 60 countries committed to the 2009 event. It is amazing to think that this was a project that nearly a billion people around the globe were working on together, and we were able to make Misericordia a part of that community, DeStefano says.

The Cougars group worked with campus facilities to have all non essential lights turned off on campus, including an entirely dark Mercy Hall. They engaged alumni support with messages on Cougar Connect, sold T shirts bearing their slogan and created Facebook social networking pages to engage students, friends and family across the country. Efforts to make this a community event took them to businesses throughout Dallas borough and township, and to the Dallas Area School District, where they registered hundreds of participants.

The goal of the event is not the energy saved in that one hour, but to make a bold statement for climate

change, DeStefano adds. If we all work together we have the ability to create awareness and that will lead to change.

Electricity is definitely taken for granted by everyone and it's nice for each of us to play a role in conservation and awareness, adds fellow Cougars for Change member and Physical Therapy major Caitlin Bryson '10. I wanted to be involved because I felt it was important to give back to the community and the world. Misericordia, even though it is small, helped make a difference by its role in Earth Hour.

Earth Hour was important because it gave our relatively small campus a chance to be involved in a global event, reports committee member Rachel Roa '10, Accounting. It showed that we do care and that we (students, staff and faculty) are trying to make a difference.

Kathryn Wallace '10, Physical Therapy, adds, Cougars for Change was an opportunity for me to make a change on campus with the help of other motivated students who are not afraid

STORY BY  
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



## Light On



## Light Off



The campus community formed a human light bulb March 27 to raise awareness for Earth Hour 2009.

to speak their minds. Environmental sustainability is a passion of mine and by choosing this topic, and with our Earth Hour, I was able to reach out to the whole campus and community on what I believe is a critical issue.

Cougars for Change hosted an outdoor event during the hour, including an acoustic Open Mic Night featuring music, poetry readings and a performance by the Drama Club. There were also Ultimate (glow in the dark) Frisbee and football games, and a variety of booths set up offering information on ways to go green.

The nine member committee says Earth Hour 2009 was a successful cap to the Cougars for Change first year. Inspired by the green friendly and social justice initiatives they witnessed at the Power of One conference they attended in the summer of 2008 in Chicago, Ill., that involved students from Mercy colleges across the country, the students formed Cougars for Change when they

returned to campus in August.

The Mercy Conference was a very inspiring and motivating weekend for all of us, notes Bryson. After learning about so many social justice issues, each of us knew there was something we could bring back and share with the Misericordia community. As a group, we decided to focus on one issue, environmental sustainability. This was the inspiration that became Cougars for Change.

I am very proud of the first year that we have had, adds fellow Cougars for Change Kristen Mitchell '09, a Social Work major. We have been able to build something from the ground up with great enthusiasm. We have all worked very hard utilizing our resources, pulling in other student groups and organizations and working to energize and enlighten the entire campus community on environmental issues.

The group's first event was a campus specific Earth Hour in

September, and throughout the year they promoted the reduction of food waste by initiating Trayless Tuesdays in the student dining hall. That on going project now includes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and encourages students to carry only what they think they will eat. It is estimated to have reduced the amount of food waste generated by the campus from 100 to 70 pounds during each lunchtime meal.

Looking back on the year, Megan Baker '10, Medical Imaging, notes,

The most important thing to me was raising the awareness of going green, and for the most part, our campus has grasped the concept. Our next step is to take more action in making Misericordia green.

The Cougars for Change committee also includes Ashley Ballard '10, Communications; Zachary Migliori '10, History; and Elizabeth Show '10, Psychology.



## Students build toy chests for National Day of Service

Misericordia University students enrolled in the Honors Program built six wooden toy chests for the Catherine McAuley Centers in Scranton and Plymouth as part of the National Day of Service on Jan. 19.

Misericordia students, under the supervision of Honors Program director Scott Blanchard, Ph.D., held a six-hour Make-A-Thon to benefit children at the shelters in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. MU students volunteered for two-hour shifts and utilized woodworking tools to build the chests and electric sanders before finishing them.

Misericordia students, first row from left, Caitlin Hails, Allison Booth, Kayla Strach, Kristopher Pfirman, Meagan Donaldson, second row, Dr. Scott Blanchard, Scott Yarmel, Melissa Wasson and Ashley Pavill were some of the students who built the toy chests.



# Alumni News

For more information about alumni events and news, visit the MU website: [misericordia.edu/alumni](http://misericordia.edu/alumni)



**Mary Ellen Gulotti, '87**

I just want to take the time to say that these last three years have been great. I have really enjoyed serving as the Misericordia Alumni Board's President. However, I am not going anywhere anytime soon. I will still continue to serve on the Alumni Board as long as they will have me.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life of what we give." Several years ago, when I was searching for ways I could volunteer, I had a lot of options. I asked myself, "What am I most passionate about and where would I be able to do my best work?" I was able to answer my own question rather quickly. I wanted to be able to do something for College Misericordia (we were not a University at the time). During my four years as a student, Misericordia unlocked ideas and capabilities in me. I did not think I even had the potential to do anything beyond going to classes and doing what a typical college kid does. However, Misericordia set me up for a good future with solid footing. Since Misericordia gave me that big gift, it was now my turn to give back. In 2001, I joined the Alumni Board for the first time and it has been full steam ahead for me ever since. Everyone has the capacity to serve, whether it is frequently or from time to time. No gift of service is too little.

The four Mercy Charisms of mercy, service, justice, and hospitality are deep seated in many of Misericordia's Alumni. They serve in many ways, whether it be for Misericordia University, their church, or volunteer as a coach for a youth baseball or soccer team. If the chance comes along for you to serve, grab it. I know you will find it to be a rewarding opportunity.

Lastly, I want to take the time to thank all members of the Alumni Board. It has been a privilege serving as your President. I want to thank Denise Miscavage, Virginia Conrad and Bob Kaleta for the tireless hours they put in for the Alumni. No task is ever too large for them. I also extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to our new Alumni Board President, Helene Flower Reed '66. Helene, I know you will serve us well and continue to make us Misericordia Proud.

*Mary Ellen Gulotti*

# Class Notes



'58

Four members of the class

of 1958 held their own mini reunion in Ponce Inlet, Florida. They celebrated over 50 years of memories and friendship. Pictured left to right: **Mary Carey Wright**, Orlando, FL., **Grace Ann Ardoline Colarusso**, Ft. Myers, FL., **Joan Longenhagen Dougherty**, Port St. Lucie FL., and **Marilyn Marr Watson**, Lake Ariel, Pa., who was vacationing at Ponce Inlet, FL.

'63



A mini-reunion of the Bachelor of Music graduates of 1963 was hosted by **Carolyn Ainge**

**Lauver** (top left) at her home in Harrisburg on October 19, 2008. Many stories, both happy and sad, were exchanged as the group caught up on events of the last 40 years. Carolyn was the director of major gifts Lebanon Valley College, before her retirement in 2006. **Lorraine Rowe Dix** (top right) relocated with her husband to Harrison, Arkansas in 1993, and is presently a violinist with the Arkansas Philharmonic. **Frances Krispin** (bottom left) retired from Wyoming Valley West Schools as a music teacher for the past 40 years in 2003. She is living in West Wyoming, Pa. **Ann Lorraine Antonello Johns** (bottom right) is currently employed at the First Union Bank in Exeter. She lives with her husband in Wyoming, PA.

'70

**Elizabeth Golden Kennedy** is working on the national sales team of Encore Discovery,

a knowledge-based provider of electronic discovery and related services. Elizabeth has 20 years of experience in sales to the legal community, including senior sales positions at EED, Bowne's Digital Litigation Services Division. Most

recently, she served as an ESI Consultant at eMag Solutions.

'71

**Veronica Sullivan** has been a freelance writer for the past 20 years, first with the *Examiner* and now for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

'79

**Susanne Behr Traudt** volunteered with the American Red Cross Disaster Services for

many years. She has been elected to the Board of Directors of the local chapter and appointed board secretary. In addition, she just completed her 28th year with IBM where she works with the Integrated Health Services Organization. She is responsible for regulatory compliance for manufacturing environments with implementation of safety & environmental health initiatives. She also has US and global responsibilities. Susanne has worked with IBM in Manassas, VA, Endicott, NY and currently in Poughkeepsie, NY.

'80

**Mary Theresa Sciandra** divided time between Manhattan and northeastern

Pennsylvania and her business, Sharp Consultants Inc. In her business, she coordinates clothing for CEOs, attorneys, and other "busy, successful gentlemen" who want their clothes to make a statement.

'95

**Carmen Novitski** and **Lori Ann Wetz** exchanged wedding vows on October 11,

2008. Carmen is employed as a Flight Nurse with San Antonio AirLIFE. The couple resides in San Antonio, TX.

**Michelle "Micki" Fry Quigel** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a daughter, Kaitlyn Michelle, on September 21, 2007. Kaitlyn has an older brother, Brandon, who was born on August 17, 2002.



**Lori Donahue Lesante**

recently received the Professionalism, Excellence, Role

'97



Model and Responsibility (PEARL) Award from the Hazleton YM/YWCA. PEARL honors women in the community who have made contributions to their community and employers. She received the award in the human resources category. Lori is the president and CEO of the Hazleton Blind Association.

**'98 Heather Higgins Hiller** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a son, Conner Brian, on March 26. The Hiller family resides in Clarks Summit.

**Heather Lyn Walski** and Christopher Joseph Orrson were united in marriage on August 16, 2008 at St. Ignatius Church, Kingston. Heather is employed as a sleep technician at The Sleep Disorder Center at Cross Creek Pointe in Wilkes-Barre.

**'99 Leah Youells Brown** and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Collin Andrew, on September 10, 2008.

**Kara Golden** is a licensed social worker and opened a private practice in counseling for individuals and couples in Tunkhannock. In her practice, Kara specializes in bereavement, stress management, general wellness/health, and coping with chronic health conditions.

**Maria Mundenar** and Robert P. Kaluzavich chose St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, as the setting for their November 15, 2008 wedding. Maria is employed by Prudential Financial. The couple is residing in Kingston.

**'01 Tara Lehet Grigas** and

husband, Teo, welcomed a daughter, Ainsley Mae Grigas, on June 30, 2008.

Tara works as a therapeutic staff support worker for Children's Behavioral Health Services, Inc. The family resides in Benton.

**Lynn Babbitt Urban** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a son, Wesley Pierce Urban, on October 23, 2008. Lynn is the granddaughter of **Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Noll '47**.

**Kiley Harvey** and Robert Walsh were married on September 20, 2008.

**'02 Catherine Ann Argenio** and Frank David Ramiza were united in marriage on July 19, 2008 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter. Catherine is an occupational therapist for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18.

**Shannon Fisher Rosinski** and husband, John, welcomed their second son, Jacob Dante, on November 4, 2008. Their first son, John Joseph, was born on April 18, 2006.

**Brooke Bartolino Yarnal** and her husband, Adam, welcomed a son, Tanner, on September 21.

**'03 Brittany Bennett** and Joseph Czerw were united in marriage on October 11, 2008 at the Albright United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre. Brittany is employed as a physical therapist at the Rothman Institute, Philadelphia.



**Megan Ruckle Cook** and her husband, Sundar, welcomed a daughter, Myra Grace, on March 12. Megan is an occupational therapist at Valley Health System in Winchester, VA.

**Laura Kravitz Corgatelli** and her husband, Joshua, welcomed a daughter, Sierra, on December 3, 2008.

**Melinda Glodek** and Michael Galli were married on August 2, 2008. Melinda is employed as an occupational therapist at Golden Living Center-East Mountain. The couple resides in Swoyersville.

**Lauren Gianacopoulos Kresge** and husband, **Brad '04**, welcomed a daughter, Norah, on February 24. Norah joins her brother, Caleb.

**Katie Hope Markey** and husband, **Daniel '01**, welcomed a son, Shawn, on November 26, 2008.

**Erica Vanderwell Murray** and her husband, Bradley, welcomed a son, Gavin, on September 13, 2008.

**Richard Michael Peiffer** and Deana Marie Ricci were married on May 24, 2008 in St. Aloysius Church, Wilkes-Barre. Richard is employed by People First Rehabilitation as an occupational therapist at Kingston Commons Rehabilitation Center, Kingston.

**'04 Kori Beth Clark** and Jason Enders were united in marriage on September 27, 2008 at the Matamoras Community Church in Halifax. Kori Beth is employed as a fifth-grade learning support teacher by the Halifax Area School District and is working toward a master of education degree in teaching and curriculum from Penn State University.

**Allyson Young Eisenhour** and husband, Jason, welcomed a son, David Curtis, on February 11. The Eisenhour family resides in Palmyra.



**Paul Fontana Jr.** and Marissa Anne Kosydar chose the Club RIU, Ocho Rios, Jamaica as the setting for their November 4, 2008 wedding. Paul is employed by ULine. The couple resides in Olyphant.

**Sabrina Koeberle Matukaitis** and husband, **Todd '04** welcomed a daughter, Myra Suzanne, on April 5, 2008.

**Sara Rittenhouse** and **Geoffrey Fritz '03** were united in marriage on September 20, 2008 at Lake Wallenpaupack, Hawley, PA. Sara and Geoffrey reside in Breinigsville, PA.

**'05 Amanda James Cubas** and husband, **Jeremy '05**, had their first child, Elijah Moises, on March 13, 2007 at the Alaska Native Medical Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska.



**Kyle Holman** is working as an account representative for Turnstyles Ticketing, Whitehouse Station, NJ.

**William "B.J." Lewis** is currently working at the Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Michael Morak** is working at Artizen Management Group as a Director of Client Operations.

**Katie O'Neill** is a behavioral therapist at Lourdesmont Family Services in Clarks Summit.

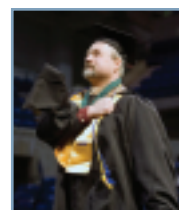
**Melissa Sliwinski** and James A. Moyer were united in marriage on May 31, 2008. Melissa is employed as a MRI technologist by Viewmont Medical Services. Melissa and James reside in Dallas.

**Jennifer Kennedy** and **Nicholas Wadas '05** were married on August 23, 2008.

**Lisa Walaski** and **Earl Zimmerman '05** chose St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, as the setting for their October 10 wedding. Lisa is a physician assistant for Summit Family Care, Clarks Summit and Earl is a quality control technician for Sanofi Pasteur, Swiftwater.

**Jody Wilbur** and Jason Hollister were married on May 31, 2008 at Centenary United Methodist Church, Lake Ariel. Jody is a mathematics teacher at Pocono Mountain West High School, Pocono Summit. The couple resides in Lake Ariel.

**'06 Mark Ceaser** received a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance & investment from





Marywood University on May 11, 2008. He is working at Stellar Financial, Stroudsburg in accounts receivable/fixed accounts and co-owns a Canadian environmental company, Absolute Sorbent Technologies, Inc.

**Katlyn Futoma** and Justin Bloss were married on June 14, 2008. Katlyn is employed at Berwick Hospital as an ultrasound technologist. The couple make their home in Reymburn.

**Kevin Heaney** has been named to the Richard Childress Racing communications staff for the 2009 NASCAR season. Kevin is the manager of communications for the No. 29 Holiday Inn/Holiday Inn Express team in the NASCAR nationwide series.

**Mary Beth Wyberski Lawless** and her husband, Joseph, welcomed a son, Joseph John, on October 15, 2008. Mary Beth's mom, Gail, is employed at Misericordia University.

**Leslie Ann Polak** and Jason Lawrence Andes were united in marriage at St. Leo's Church in Ashley. Leslie is employed by Geisinger Health System and Mercy Health Partners, Wilkes-Barre. The couple resides in Wapwallopen.

**Kari Bratt Rogers** and husband, **Joseph '06**, welcomed a daughter, Juli Elizabeth, into the Rogers' household on March 19, 2008. Joseph is the son of **Marion Zarnoch Rogers '89**.

**'07 Sharon Blackowski** is working at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in Chester, NJ as an occupational therapist.

**Kara Cochi** is teaching high school mathematics and physics at Towanda High School.

**Kimberly Perlock** has been employed by the Social Security Administration in the Wilkes-Barre field office as a service representative since April 2008.

**Nicole "Nicki" Sandrowicz** and Christopher Hemingway exchanged wedding vows on August 16, 2008 at McDade Park in Scranton.



**'08 Cristee Fitzsimmons** and Nathan J. Mihal chose the First Baptist Church of Factoryville as the setting for their October 20, 2008 wedding. Cristee is a physical therapist at Allied Services, Taylor. The couple is living in Factoryville.

**Diane Puchalski** was recently hired in the nursing department at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

## teacher education



Teacher Education Department members, from left, Michelle Brague, director of student teaching; Mollie Vitale, Ed.D., Associate Professor and Co Chair; Sister Patricia McCann, RSM, Ed.D., Associate Professor; Jim Renfer '99, Michael A. MacDowell, president; Susan Tomascik, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Co Chair; and Stephen L. Broskoske, Ed.D., Associate Professor, recognize Renfer, center, for teacher of the year award.

## Teacher Education honors Renfer

The Teacher Education Department honored James Renfer '99, for being the recipient of the Walmart Stores, Inc. Teacher of the Year Award at a reception on campus.

Renfer earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education. He is a teacher at Wyoming Area Catholic School in Wyoming.

The department also acknowledged Marybeth

Howell '00, a fourth grade learning support teacher at Tunkhannock Area School District; Lisa Morreale, a first and second grade teacher at Pittston Area School District; Matt Stretanski, an eighth grade teacher at Dallas Lohin District, and Ann Lohin, a fifth grade teacher at Gate of Heaven School, Dallas, for their dedication to students and the teaching profession.

## Program recognizes 4 students

The Teacher Education Department presented four students with Certificates of Excellence in recognition of their professional contributions to their career field at a reception and program during American Education Week.

The department recognized Nicole Garinger '09, elementary education; Justin Temperine '09, elementary and special education; Shannon

McCann '09, elementary education; and Alicia Decker '09, elementary education.

The students participated in a state education conference in Hershey, Pa., and made the presentation, *The Project Approach: Making Learning Fun for All Children*. The presentation was based on a project they did with students at the Gate of Heaven School in Dallas.



Recognizing student teachers, from left, are Susan Tomascik, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Co Chair; Nicole Garinger '09, Justin Temperine '09, Alicia Decker '09, Shannon McCann '09 and Sister Patricia McCann, RSM, Ed.D., Associate Professor.



# Campus-Faculty Notes

**Brenda Hage**, Ph.D., C.R.N.P., Associate Professor of Nursing and Director of Graduate Nursing Programs, had a contribution accepted as part of the European Silver Paper Commentary.

The publication was written in response to the European Silver Paper on the Future of Health Promotion and Preventive Actions, Basic Research and Clinical Aspects of Age-Related Disease presented at the European Summit on Age-Related Disease, Wroclaw, Poland. It was published in the November issue of *Gerontechnology*, the official journal of the International Society of Gerontechnology.

**Sister Patricia McCann**, RSM, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Teacher Education, was recognized for her volunteer work during the Catherine McAuley Center's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

Dr. McCann was one of six volunteer honorees who were recognized at the luncheon for their efforts on behalf of the women's shelters in Scranton and Plymouth. The McAuley Center also recognized Dr. McCann for securing, picking up and delivering donations from the Dial Corp. in West Hazleton.

**Charles Zola**, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Misericordia University, presented a research paper at the 10th International Conference of the Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum at Towson University, Maryland.

The paper, *Filial Responsibility for Aging Parents, Prudential Care*, examined how care ethics relates to elder care. It also offered practical guidelines for adult children who care for their elderly parents.

Misericordia University Board of Trustees awarded tenure to **Angela L. Asirvatham**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, **Jay R. Stine**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, and **Glen M. Tellis**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology.

**John N. Mellon**, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Business, and Michael P. Mellon, Mountaineer Gaming, Corporate VP of Operations, will make the poster presentation, *How to Save the Hospitality Industry Rating of the Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino*, at the International Council of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education Annual 2009 Conference in San Francisco, Calif., on July 30.

The real-world case study is a classroom and on-line discussion within a hospitality

strategic marketing course that seeks to save the hospitality industry rating of the famous Trump Plaza in New Jersey.

Eight **Medical Imaging** majors who completed the program in December passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists national certification exam in radiography.

The class' 100-percent pass rate continues a more than 20-year tradition for the program which has routinely experienced higher pass rates than the national average. Members of the Medical Imaging Department's December graduating class are **Tiffany Mathews, Kaitlyn Jones, Marissa Schimelfenig, Kevin Della Rosa, Tom Glowatski, Michelle Macking, Anne Lynch and Steve Hannis**.

**Alicia Nordstrom**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, presented pedagogical research at the international teaching conference, National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, in January.

Dr. Nordstrom's poster presentation, *The Experiencing Difference Project: Applying Models of Critical Consciousness in the Introduction to Psychology Classroom*, described a course assignment she used in the Honors Introduction to Psychology classroom. The course was funded through a Diversity Transformation Grant through the Misericordia University Diversity Institute.

The Journal of College Student Development published the research paper, *The Role of Peer Relationships in Adjustment to College*, in the November/December issue. Drs. Lisa Swenson, Penn State-Hazleton, **Nordstrom** and **Marnie Hiester**, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department, are co-authors.

**James Siberski**, M.S., Assistant Professor, Professional Geriatric Care Manager Certificate Program Director and Coordinator of the Gerontology Education Center for Professional Development, presented the workshop, *Alzheimer's ... Past, Present & Future* at the Cambria County Caregiver Conference for the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association Conference in Johnstown, Pa.

**Sheryl Goss**, M.S., R.T.(R), R.D.M.S., R.D.M.S., R.D.C.S., R.V.T., Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, had an article published in April by *Advance for Imaging and Radiation Professionals* magazine. The article stressed the importance of clinical experience, professional qualities and setting future goals for health care students.

## The Commonwealth Medical College president to address class of 2009



**Robert M. D. Alessandri, M.D.**

Robert M. D. Alessandri, M.D., president and dean of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC), will be the guest speaker when Misericordia University hosts its 83rd annual Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16 at 2 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center. A baccalaureate Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m.

During the commencement ceremony, Misericordia will present Dr. D. Alessandri with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree. The institution will also bestow the Catherine McAuley Medal to Sister Cecilia Meighan 58, RSM, Ed.D., J.D., the retired director of Planned Giving in University Advancement, and director and foundress of the renowned Institute of Law and Religious Life at MU, in recognition of her significant service to Misericordia and the values to which it aspires.

Sister Cecilia began her religious life and collegiate careers in 1951 as a postulant at Misericordia. She holds a bachelor's degree in music and English with a minor in German from Misericordia, a master's degree in English from the University of Scranton, a doctorate

in administration and higher education from Columbia University and a Jurist Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center. Sister Cecilia was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in 2005.



**Cecilia Meighan 58, RSM, Ed.D., J.D.**

Sister Cecilia is a member of the Mid Atlantic Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and is of counsel to the Kingston law

firm of Gallagher, Brennan and Gill. She was president of Mount Aloysius College and later returned to Misericordia to serve 17 years as a valued member of the Board of Trustees and as a faculty member, teaching law courses in the organizational management master's degree program.

Misericordia honored her dedicated and untiring service to the institution last year when the Board of Trustees announced in June that the University renamed the annual workshop, the Cecilia Meighan, RSM Institute of Law and Religious Life, in her honor. The 16th annual Cecilia Meighan, RSM Institute of Law and Religious Life will be held June 4-10 at MU.

TCMC is scheduled to open in fall 2009 and expects to accept 60 medical students and 30 Master of Biomedical Sciences students. Dr. D. Alessandri has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University and his Doctor of Medicine degree from New York Medical College. He completed postgraduate training at Metropolitan Hospital in New York and the University of Florida. He joined the West Virginia University faculty in 1977 and served as dean of the School of Medicine from 1989 to 2004.





# Alumni Weekend

**MU's extended family returns May 28-30**

STORY BY  
MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

A tennis clinic, make-your-own jewelry session, a workshop on gospels that are not in the Bible — and the chance to see Misericordia's newest showcase, the Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall — all are on the schedule for another fun-filled weekend of Misericordia spirit and camaraderie when Alumni Weekend gets underway May 28-31.

Alumni Weekend will kick-off with Early Bird registration from 4-8 p.m. on May 28 at the new Alumni Central, being held this year in the Dudrick Room of the beautiful, new Insalaco Hall. Registration will continue Friday from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and again on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## Friday, May 29

Dr. Michael and Tina MacDowell will host the Golden/Golden Plus Luncheon at the president's home at 130 Lake St. from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1959 and recognize Golden Plus anniversary years. The Alumni Association's Annual Board Meeting will follow in Insalaco Hall at 3 p.m. and is open to all alumni, as is the Italian Feast scheduled from 6-9 p.m. in the Cougar's Den in the Banks Student Life Center.

Campus tours will be offered both Friday and Saturday, including a chance to see the future home of Misericordia's College of Health Sciences, the Frontier Building at

100 Lake St. The University's new acquisition is best known as the former headquarters of Commonwealth Telephone and more recently, Frontier Communications.

## Saturday, May 30

The fun-filled Saturday includes a 9 a.m. tennis clinic and beginner's yoga workshop, and the chance to sit in the classroom with two of Misericordia's most-recognized faculty at 10 a.m. Dr. Stevan Davies, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies, will offer the talk, "The Gospel of the Apocrypha: The Gospels that are not in the Bible," and at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Allan Austin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, will discuss "Immigration and Politics."

In addition, Diane Wylam, Esq., Misericordia's newly named Director of Planned Giving, will answer financial planning questions in the "Financial and Estate Planning: Are You Prepared?" session also at 10 a.m.

At 11 a.m., Dr. MacDowell will bring everyone up to date on all that is happening on campus and what the future holds during his "Conversation with the President." Registration is required for this question and answer session that will be held in Insalaco Hall.

The afternoon will include class luncheons, the popular gem-stone jewelry designing

workshop by Dr. Corine Coniglio, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English and astute jewelry designer; and the workshop, "Insurance 101: Do You Have Enough/Too Much?," by Ted Wampole of Liberty Mutual Insurance.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 4 p.m. at the University Chapel in Mercy Hall, followed by the Alumni Awards Presentation Ceremony at 5 p.m. in Insalaco Hall.

Back by popular demand, the 2nd Annual Clam Bake will get underway at 6 p.m. featuring great food, drinks and music by one of Northeastern Pennsylvania's most beloved bands, The Poets, from 7-10 p.m. Babysitting is available on-site for children ages 3 and older.

## Sunday, May 31

The weekend will conclude with the Farewell Champagne Brunch from 10 a.m. to noon in the Dining Hall in Banks Center.

For a complete list of events and registration information, please contact Bob Kaleta at (570) 674 6764; [bkaleta@misericordia.edu](mailto:bkaleta@misericordia.edu); or go online to Misericordia's alumni home page, [CougarConnect](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu), at [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu)







## Sign up for alumni e-mail and stay connected for life

Want to renew friendships with your classmates or simply remain connected to your alma mater, Misericordia University?

Misericordia and Google have teamed up to create alumni e-mail, which will keep yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's students connected to their classmates, friends and professors. Signing up for alumni e-mail at Misericordia University is quick and easy. Simply join the CougarConnect alumni portal at [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu) and sign up for the Google-powered e-mail, [@alumni.misericordia.edu](mailto:@alumni.misericordia.edu).

"Alumni e-mail will help us communicate easily and efficiently with our alumni base and graduating students," says Virginia Conrad, Assistant Director of Alumni, Community and Donor Relations at Misericordia University.

For more information about alumni e-mail, sign on to [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu) or contact Virginia Conrad at (570) 674 6228 or [vconrad@misericordia.edu](mailto:vconrad@misericordia.edu).

"The new, user-friendly technology will help you stay in touch and also meet new friends through our online community."

### *Alumni Party in New Jersey*

Misericordia alumni can start their summer fun at a big alumni party at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como, N.J., on July 11 from 2-8 p.m. Enjoy happy hour prices, a barbeque and

plenty of friends. The \$10 fee includes a gift from MU, drink specials, wristbands, upgraded barbeque food and entrance into the nightclub.

For more information or to register, please log on to [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu). Deadline to register is June 1.

### *Misericordia Transcripts*

Misericordia students and alumni can now access copies of their academic transcripts by logging on to [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu). Simply log onto the NSC website and select Misericordia University to locate your transcript.

For answers to your questions, please call the Registrar's Office at Misericordia University at (570) 674-6297.



## Show off your Misericordia Pride

University Advancement at Misericordia University and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are offering the University's alumni another avenue to display their Cougar Pride everywhere they go through the new Misericordia University license plate.

Now available through Alumni Relations for \$30, the plate features Misericordia's historic arch and new University logo.

For more information or to order a license plate, please contact Denise Miscavage, Director of Alumni, Community and Donor Relations, at (570) 674 6248 or e-mail her at [dmiscava@misericordia.edu](mailto:dmiscava@misericordia.edu).



## Clark and Bochnovich earn post-season honors

The Misericordia men's swim team enjoyed its best season ever with an 8-3 dual meet record and a third place finish at the MAC Championships.



Clark

Sophomore Jeff Clark led the Cougars with four MAC titles. He won the 100 and 200 breaststrokes and teamed with Greg Vossler, Robbie Jacobs and Mike Dougherty to win the 200 freestyle relay.

Clark set a pool record in the 100 breaststroke at MAC's and established a meet record in the same event at the Longneck Invitational at Grove City earlier in the season. Vossler won the 50 freestyle at the MAC's and joined Mitchell Finch, Clark and Eric Schollmeyer to win the 200 medley relay.

### Indoor Track & Field

The indoor track & field season was highlighted by MU's Susan Bochnovich earning the MAC

Female Track Athlete of the Year at the 2009 MAC Indoor Track & Field Championships.



Bochnovich

Bochnovich won the 200m dash (26.67) and 400m dash (1:01.52) and

anchored the 4x200m relay (1:50.75) to win with Stephanie Pellegrino, Robin Razawich and Ashley Cory.

Ali Ostrum was second in the mile and third at 5000m at MAC's and went on to earn All-ECAC status at 3000m. Frank Redmond led the men's team with a runner-up finish at 800m at the MAC meet.

### Women's Basketball

In their first season in the Freedom Conference, the MU women's basketball team finished 13-12 (8-8 Freedom) and earned a playoff bid.

Though they lost 59-50 to King's in the first round, the team had much to celebrate coming out of the 2008-09 season. Lacey DeGraw was one of five seniors who closed out their college

careers this season.

DeGraw finished sixth in rebounding (7.6 RPG) and seventh in scoring (16.2 PPG) in the Freedom Conference and ended her career third in all-time rebounding (741) and fifth in scoring (1,196) at Misericordia.

She was the team MVP and earned second-team All-Freedom honors.

### Men's Basketball

The conclusion of the men's basketball season signified the end of one of the most successful individual careers in Misericordia history.

Senior forward Vinny Baumunk led MU with 15.8 points and 7.8 rebounds per game and was named team MVP along with being named second-team All-Freedom. Baumunk finished his college career first in school history in career blocks (113), fourth in points (1,455) and fourth in rebounds (639).

The Cougars finished 11-14 overall and 5-11 in the Freedom.

### Cheerleading

In true Misericordia fashion, the University's cheerleaders organized Cougars for a Cure during the final home basketball game to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

With the help of the MU dance team, a local all-star cheerleading team and the support of MU athletics, the event raised \$1,320 to help fight childhood cancer.

### Murphy sets NCAA hits mark

Eight hits is a good week for many college baseball players. For Misericordia's Mike Murphy, eight hits is an NCAA record.

Murphy set a new NCAA Division III single-game record by going 8-for-9 at Polytechnic, March 14. A senior third baseman, he is the second MU baseball player to hold an NCAA D-III single-game record.

Former first baseman Tim Arnold set his mark by keeping his bat on his shoulder - he drew six walks against King's College in 1995 without swinging at a single pitch. He shares the single-game record with three other players.



MU team members pose for a picture after winning the title.

## Women's swimming team captures first MAC title

BY SCOTT CRISPELL

The Misericordia University women's swim team has certainly made their presence known in their brief tenure in the Middle Atlantic Conference.

After finishing second in their initial MAC season a year ago, the Cougars reached the top step of the awards podium by winning the 2008-09 MAC Championship.

Just as they did a year ago, the Cougars put the rest of the conference on notice as Abby Kocon, Amanda McHugh, Chelsea Mixon and Alicia Bryk opened the meet with a win in the 200 freestyle relay.

Alaina Trent followed that up by winning the 200 individual medley to become Misericordia's first female individual MAC champion.

Kocon and Bryk finished 1-2 in the 50 freestyle and Trent, McHugh, Michelle Lacroce and Kocon capped a spectacular evening by winning the 400 medley relay.

The Cougars picked up where they left off the next night with Trent, McHugh, Lacroce and Bryk claiming the 200 medley relay title.

Although they didn't win another event that night, MU continued to pile up points thanks to their tremendous

depth. Lacroce, Crissy Conduis and Erin Schneck went 2-3-6 in the 100 butterfly and Kocon, Jessica Grant and Mixon finished 2-3-5 in the 200 freestyle.

McHugh, Bryk, Jessie Williamson and Katlyn Nelson all reached the finals of the 100 breaststroke and the Cougars had six swimmers score in the event.

They closed out the second day of action with Grant, Mixon, Trent and Kocon finishing second in the 800 free relay.

Grant, who finished third in the 500 freestyle on opening day, set the tone for the final day with a runner-up finish in the 1650 freestyle. In addition, she clinched MAC Rookie of the Year honors.

After Kocon and Bryk finished 1-2 in the 100 freestyle, they teamed with McHugh and Trent to put an exclamation point on the event by winning the 400 freestyle relay.

To top it off, Jason Morini was named the MAC Women's Coach of the Year. Everything came together for us, said Morini, who joined his team with a post meet leap into the pool.

It wasn't nearly as easy as we made it look. It was a total team effort as we took advantage of our overall team depth.



## Commonwealth awards \$2.5 M for College of Health Sciences

To address the growing need for health care professionals and services locally and nationally, Misericordia University is expanding the College of Health Sciences by purchasing, recycling and converting the former Frontier Communications building into a multi-purpose community and academic resource.

The \$6 million fundraising project is being supported by \$2.75 million in Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development funding through the offices of Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, state Senators Lisa Baker, Raphael Musto and Representative Karen Boback.

"All of us at Misericordia University are delighted that the governor has joined with Senators Baker, Musto and Representative Boback to provide us with this important support," said Michael A. MacDowell, president. "The purchase and renovation of the former Frontier Communications building represents a true partnership among the public sectors, and state and local government.

"The leadership that our state leaders has

provided is clearly the impetus behind this significant accomplishment," the president added, "but this civic-minded project has also received significant support from the private sector, the Borough of Dallas and Dallas Township as well."

The three-story, 40,000-square-foot building at 100 Lake Street will house the nursing, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy and physical therapy departments, and allows the university to meet the additional demand for free or low-cost clinics Misericordia currently offers to the community. It will also introduce a collaborative working relationship between the University and the Commonwealth Medical College's Wilkes-Barre-branch campus.

The purchase also includes the 200-space parking lot and 2,000-square-foot outer building that will become a computer lab for Misericordia students and faculty.

"Misericordia has a national reputation for producing highly qualified health care professionals in multiple fields," added President MacDowell. "The university is moving the

College of Health Sciences to a central location for the community's convenience, and expanding academic and clinical services at a time when the nation is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals, especially nurses."

More health care professionals graduate from Misericordia University than any other college or university in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The increased opportunities in the expanded College of Health Sciences will allow the institution to increase the number of graduates by 55 percent in five years. These new and superbly educated graduates will help to reduce the shortage of health care professionals and make health care in Pennsylvania more accessible and affordable.

MU is the leader in health science education, offering six bachelor's-level, four master's-level and two doctoral-level curricula in nursing, medical imaging, sonography, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology. The University also features strong pre-medicine, pre-optometry and pre-veterinary programs.



Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell talks to Misericordia Communications majors Amanda Janiga and Rachel Decker after addressing the campus.

## Pennsylvania Gov. Rendell promotes his 'Prescription for PA' at Misericordia visit

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell asked Misericordia students and local legislators to support his *Prescription for Pennsylvania* health care services plan during a visit to campus Friday, Sept. 26.

Invited to campus by the staff of The Highlander student newspaper as a follow-up to a healthcare summit the students held in April, the Governor discussed needs for a universal health care plan to cover the more than 770,000 Pennsylvanians who have no way to pay for a doctor's visit.

University President Michael A. MacDowell, along with Board of Trustees Chairman Paul "Chip" Siegel and Trustees Murray Ufberg, Esq., and Monsignor John Bendik, welcomed the guest of honor. The Highlander

Editor-in-Chief, Amanda Janiga, introduced Governor Rendell. Among those in attendance were a host of state and local government officials, including State Representatives Phyllis Mundy, Eddie Day Pashinski, Mike Caroll and Karen Boback; Paul Macknosky, representing U.S. Congressman Chris Carney; Luzerne County Commissioner Maryanne Petrilla, and Michael A. Lombardo, director of the Governor's Northeast Regional Office.

"Ours is a three-part plan of innovative practice strategies. First we need to contain costs so we can afford universal coverage. We can do this in part by controlling infection in the hospital setting. Infections cost the industry \$2.5 billion a year. Controlling infections will not only cut costs, but improve quality," he said.









Make more alumni connections.  
Visit [cougarconnect.misericordia.edu](http://cougarconnect.misericordia.edu)  
by using your unique log-in ID located  
above your address on Misericordia Today.

# M N I *Album*







Misericordia bestowed the Trustee Associates Award to the children of Patrick and Helen McAndrew O'Connor. Those gathered for the presentation, from left, are Joe O'Connor, James O'Connor, Esq., Maureen T. O'Connor Casey '63, Mary Ellen O'Connor McCormick, Patrick J. O'Connor, Esq., and Thomas A. O'Connor, Esq.

## Trustee Associates Award recognizes family of Patrick J. and Helen McAndrew O'Connor

Misericordia University honored the family of Patrick J. and Helen McAndrew O'Connor with the Trustee Associates Award at the annual Trustee Associates Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. The annual award recognizes those who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and generous support to Misericordia in its tradition of providing a strong liberal arts education through the values of mercy, service, justice and hospitality.

Born and raised in Kingston, Helen McAndrew O'Connor graduated from St. Mary's High School and married Attorney Patrick J. O'Connor. When Attorney O'Connor died at the age of 56, Helen found herself as single mother with 10

children to raise. Great support came from her husband's sister, Sister Mary Crescentia O'Connor, RSM, Ph.D., who served as a professor of chemistry at Misericordia, and her own aunt, Sister Amelia Connor, RSM.

Their assistance allowed Helen the opportunity to accept the appointment as Luzerne County Register of Wills in January 1961, a position she was subsequently elected to for eight consecutive terms.

Through the help of the Misericordia community and the Sisters of Mercy, Helen, a woman of great faith and deep respect for the value of education, was able to provide a Catholic education for her children, and see that they earned bachelor's and advanced degrees.

## Misericordia presents Founders Medal to the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund

Misericordia University awarded one of its highest honors, the Founders Medal, to the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund during the annual Trustee Associates Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. The prestigious award, bestowed only as merited by the University's Board of Trustees, recognized the McGowan Fund for a 14-year tradition of support to MU that has totaled more than \$1.5 million.

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund was established in 1992 to honor the legacy of William G. McGowan, recognized as both a visionary in the field of telecommunications and a humanitarian. It is dedicated to enhancing

the role of American business, medical research and providing support for the potential Mr. McGowan saw in the future of the country's youth.

Following a long tradition of support to Misericordia by William's brother, Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan, who served for many years on the Misericordia Board of Trustees; their sister, Misericordia alumna Lenore McGowan Rosica '44; and brother Thomas J. McGowan's wife, Patricia Ann Hannigan McGowan '56, the McGowan Charitable Fund has awarded gifts for the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library (\$1 million) and *Leading from the Heart* Campaign (\$500,000) in support of capital improvements on the campus.



Accepting the Founders Medal from left, are Daniel McGowan, Sue Gin McGowan, Diana Spencer, executive director, The McGowan Charitable Fund; Leo McGowan and Gertrude C. McGowan.



Honoring Sen. Lemmond, from left, are President Michael A. MacDowell, Paul 'Chip' Siegel, Chair, Board of Trustees; Sen. Lisa Baker, Senator Charles and Mrs. Barbara Lemmond, Rep. Karen Boback and Sen. Bob Mellow.

## Lemmond Theater at Walsh Hall opens with holiday concert

The newly-renovated theater at Walsh Hall opened to rave reviews Dec. 8. The auditorium is named for retired Pennsylvania Senator Charles Lemmond and his wife, Barbara, and recognizes their years of service and dedication to Misericordia's Dallas home and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The internationally renowned Boston Brass played to a packed 500-seat theater on opening night. Joining Senator Lemmond were Senators Robert Mellow, Lisa Baker, Ray Musto and state Representative Karen Boback, all of whom joined faculty, staff, trustees and friends in thanking the senator and his family for their years of service to the state and 20th District.



# Expressway Turns 10

Program has awarded more than 38,000 credits

Since the Religious Sisters of Mercy founded Misericordia in 1924, the institution has been committed to meeting the educational needs of adult learners through innovative programs, flexible schedules and convenient formats.

Ten years ago, the Center for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) under the leadership of Tom O'Neil identified a need in the community to provide novel programs and course work for adult learners in formats that were convenient and affordable. The Expressway Accelerated Degree Program reinforces MU's pledge to provide adult learners the tools they need to succeed in today's challenging work environment.

Designed for adult learners, the program allows individuals to earn a bachelor's degree by attending classes just once a week at four satellite locations in Nanticoke and Hazleton, Luzerne County; Tannersville, Monroe County; and Scranton, Lackawanna County. Most courses are also available on-line. Tuition for Expressway is \$320 per credit.

"Misericordia University has long been determined to meet the educational and customer service needs of the adult learner," says Tun Kyaw Nyein, Ph.D., Dean of the Center for Adult and Continuing Education. "With the advent of Expressway in August 1999, the University maintained this commitment by offering courses to adults in an accelerated, flexible evening, weekend and on-line format."

CACE is introducing a new Financial Services Sequence of courses within the business administration degree as part of Wall Street West. The 36-credit Business Administration major features a sequence in financial services that prepares students for employment in the financial services industry or any business field.

## Expressway majors:

**Business Administration  
Marketing  
Management  
Information Technology  
Professional Studies  
Health Care Management  
Nursing: RN to BSN  
Planned for late 2009:  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Medical Imaging**

CACE ensures that Expressway remains on the cutting edge of adult education by reviewing courses and how they are delivered. "We are constantly examining new majors, programs and satellite campus locations to make sure that we meet the needs of adult students, evidenced by our new on-line RN to BSN Program available this fall," says Barbara Leggat, Assistant Director, CACE. "We also examine emerging fields of study so our adult learners know about developing careers in today's challenging job market."

Through Expressway, individuals with an associate's degree can earn a bachelor's degree in as little as two and a half years because adult students are able to choose a format that best fits their busy lifestyle. Classes are offered in the evening, online and through the Expressway Weekend format that allows students to take up to two classes every third Saturday. Overall, Expressway offers five- or seven-week terms that are available eight times per year and feature multiple start times and flexible schedules.

The program has 537 alumni, and 37,935 credits have been awarded to students between the fall 1990 and fall 2008 semesters. In the 2008-09 semester, 350 adult students are enrolled in the program.

## Student finds pathway to professional success

BY JIM ROBERTS

Alumni know this well — once a part of Misericordia, you're always a part of Misericordia.

Pam Langdon '05 is a case in point. In 1969 as a high school senior, she was accepted to Misericordia and earned a music scholarship to play the cello. Ultimately, she chose to attend another regional college but never forgot Misericordia.

Decades later, now well established as a professional career woman with a family, Pam wanted to earn a business degree.

I looked around for a year for a degree program and couldn't find the value," says Langdon, who earned a degree in business administration. Then in 2003 she saw an ad for Expressway, MU's accelerated degree program. Misericordia made the classes convenient for working adults, with evening, online and weekend formats. For me it was weekend and evening classes that worked best.

She was also attracted by Expressway's affordable pricing as she could enroll in more classes under her employer's tuition reimbursement plan.

Today, Langdon is a graduate student in the organizational management program at MU. As an associate vice president with a major regional health care system, she enjoys immediate returns on her studies.

The courses are worthwhile, highly beneficial. The class work and research is on target and is often part of my daily experience at work," she adds. Pam also enjoys a 33 percent discount on her graduate tuition as an alum.

If MU ever established a Ph.D. program relevant to my work, I'd be among the first to register.

## Program accelerates career for nurse educator

Elizabeth Senczakowicz, B.S.N., R.N., C.N.O.R., is a professional nurse and an educator. As surgical technology program director for Luzerne County Community College and former nurse manager, she knows the value of excellence in nursing.

She enrolled in Expressway's RN to BSN program to solidify her already noteworthy skill set. I enrolled in Expressway in May 2006 and graduated in May 2007. I transferred in the maximum amount of general education credits and only needed to earn the required 30 credits at Misericordia to complete my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN)," she says.

I had worked with other nurses who had completed the program in the past," she adds. From the first meetings with Joanna Naylor and Annette Weiss, my experience at Misericordia was positive.

The hybrid and online formats allowed Senczakowicz to complete her degree quickly. That would have been much more difficult if I would have had to attend all live classes in a non-accelerated format," she explains.

After graduating from Misericordia with her BSN, Senczakowicz immediately began a graduate program at Drexel University, a premiere nursing education program. She will graduate with an MSN from Drexel in June. The Expressway program offers high quality education in a convenient format that allows working professionals to pursue higher education without sacrificing work and family commitments," she says.



## CACE names Director of Financial Services Education and Outreach



**Christine Stevens  
Slacktish**

The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education has named Christine Stevens Slacktish as the Director of Financial Services Education and Outreach Projects under one of two Wall Street West (WSW) grants.

She will be involved in active recruitment and corporate outreach to expand

financial services education and develop a skilled regional workforce in the financial services sector to support WSW goals. The investment creates programs that will strengthen the workforce capacity to make the counties of Berks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne the pre eminent locale for business attraction.

At Misericordia, she will help develop a curriculum for high school and traditional college students in the area of financial services, and work with adult students to develop continuing education classes and programs in financial services and banking. Slacktish has extensive experience in human resources, corporate sales and banking, and financing industry after serving as a mortgage loan specialist for Honesdale National Bank and as owner of Heritage Mortgage Group. She has an associate s degree in applied science from Luzerne County Community College and a Bachelor of Laws degree, LLB with honors, from the University of Buckingham, England, as a Rotarian Scholar.

## CACE announces Assistant Director for Off Campus Programs



**Maki McCann**

The Misericordia University Center for Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) has named Maki McCann as Assistant Director for Off campus Programs and Special Initiatives.

In her expanded role, McCann will continue to manage all accelerated off campus program locations for non traditional students

and oversee recruitment for the Expressway Program. She will also serve as the CACE liaison for Misericordia s special projects, such as the Wall Street West financial services initiative that services a 10 county area in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

McCann earned her master s degree in organizational management from Misericordia University. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in English from the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in her native Republic of Macedonia. Prior to joining the Misericordia staff in 2004 as executive secretary to the president, she taught English as a second language at a military academy, a private language academy, a primary school and a high school in Skopje, Macedonia. She also has certification as an English Language Instructor from the Defense Language Institute at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

# Learning Together

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA



**Barry Rogers**

You might say that Misericordia is in the blood of the Rogers family.

An "accident" may have steered Barry Rogers of Kingston, Pa., to Misericordia for his Master of Science

degree in Education, he says, but it was the outstanding service, flexible schedule, and supportive faculty and staff he encountered at the Center for Adult and Continuing Education that eventually lead him to multiple degrees and his two sons and nephew to the campus when they were ready for college.

Today, at 59, Barry is the educational director of Lourdesmont Partial Hospitalization Program in Clarks Summit, Pa., and is an adjunct faculty member at Misericordia. His son Matthew '04, received his degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. At age 27, he is a successful songwriter and journalist looking to make his mark on the music industry in Nashville, Tenn. His youngest son, Eric '08 earned his Sport Management degree at MU and is an admissions representative for Allied Medical and Technical Institute in Forty Fort, Pa. In 2006, his nephew, Joseph '06 received his Interdisciplinary Studies degree from Misericordia, while his Misericordia bride, Kari Bratt Rogers '06 earned her bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging. He is the distribution coordinator for Suburban Propane in Yatesville, Pa., and Kari is a medical imaging technician for Wyoming Valley Health Care System in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Barry's goal to be an educator began initially at King's College in 1967. He

began working in the building trades to earn money on the side, and although he earned his bachelor's degree in English, he delayed getting his teaching certification to go into the tile business. He says his would-be short stay in the tile industry turned into a 25-year career. It wasn't until the mid 1990s, when his work took him to the Misericordia campus that he decided to enter the master's program in teacher education.

He says his first encounter was with Debbie Fries, and after a 10-minute talk, he was hooked. He says "wonderful teachers," including his advisors Drs. Joseph Rogan, W. Scott Blanchard and Richard Lynch, guided him through classes in English and teacher education.

"My goal at the time was to retire from the tile and marble business, take life easy, and teach Shakespeare for the rest of my life in some little high school," he says. "None of those things ever happened. In 1999, Dr. Rogan directed me to Lourdesmont for a field placement and I have been there ever since."

Overall, Barry has earned his state certifications in Secondary Education/ English and Special Education at MU, and fulfilled a personal goal by completing MU's master's program in Supervision of Curriculum. He is currently enrolled in the Administrative Leadership Program at Edinboro University. He has completed the K-12 Principal's Certification and is scheduled to finish the Supervisor of Special Education Certification this spring.

"I credit MU for any success I have had in the field of education, especially Dr. Rogan, who has guided me, and has always been there when I needed him," Barry says. "Though my present position is very far from where I started,





The Rogers family, from left, Kari, Joseph, Eric and Matthew poses for a family portrait.

I feel it is where I belong at the moment. The children in the Lourdesmont program desperately need people who care about them and are willing to dedicate their lives in the fields of mental health, special education and social work."

It was no surprise to him that his son, Matthew '04, a standout track and field star at Wyoming Valley West High School, was recruited to join the fledgling Misericordia track program. When he entered the Honors Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, his father was 100-percent supportive.

Today, Matt is a songwriter and journalist, who has been recognized for a song that made it into the finals of the first American Idol songwriting competition. His song, *Send Me on My Way*, was one of 20 finalists from over 20,000 songs that were submitted during the 2007 season.

Matt credits the education he received for preparing him to get into one of the most acclaimed graduate programs for journalism in the country, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

"I knew I always loved to write and my major at Misericordia allowed me to take a lot of writing courses, in fact so many writing classes in English and Philosophy that I ended up with minors in both," he says.

While at Syracuse, it was an internship at Country Music Today magazine that lead him to Nashville, and his first job as a reporter for nearby HealthLeaders Magazine. With songwriting as his first love, he is currently spending five hours a day in songwriting sessions and performs as often as he can, hoping for that

elusive break into the recording industry.

Eric was soon to follow in Matt's footsteps. An outstanding high school track and field athlete, he loved the Anderson Outdoor Complex and Mangelsdorf Field, the small and intimate campus, and wanted to stay close to home.

As a Sport Management major, Eric interned with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees Triple-A baseball team and discovered he liked the sales side of the business. Those experiences lead him to his current position as an admissions representative at Allied Medical.

"Allied students are interested in learning a specific trade or skill. Some have been out of high school a while and are in need of a solid job," says Eric. "We try to walk them through the process and help them secure a job at the completion of their course sequence. It is very rewarding to see a student I enrolled graduate with a diploma and a good career opportunity."

Barry's nephew, Joseph Rogers was a member of the MU lacrosse team for four years and class president for three. He chose to major in Interdisciplinary Studies and was involved in Habitat for Humanity. Joe and his wife, Kari, who came to MU for the medical imaging program, married in 2005 and live with their daughters in West Wyoming, Pa.

"Misericordia has always been able to provide me with a course schedule that I could fit into the busy life I share with my wonderful wife, Betsy, and our sons," Barry summarizes. "That is why I pointed them and our nephew toward MU when they decided to enter college. It is a great institution. We have all had wonderful experiences there."



Deborah A. Higgins '09

## Journalism, public relations professional to realize academic dream

STORY BY MARIANNE TUCKER PUHALLA

The answer was simple and sincere, but those four encouraging words have helped Deborah A. Higgins '09 realize her lifetime goal of earning a bachelor's degree from Misericordia University.

Several years ago, an admission counselor's straightforward response of course you can encouraged Higgins to stay on task and complete an educational journey that began 25 years ago as an adult student.

The Center for Adult and Continuing Education recognized Higgins' hard work and perseverance by naming her the Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year for 2009. On May 16, the 57-year-old wife, mother, grandmother and media professional will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications at the 83rd annual Commencement ceremony.

The professional journalist and public and community relations coordinator for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District says the support and encouragement she received from faculty and staff helped her remain on track throughout a long and sometimes arduous academic journey.

For me, it has been a lifelong personal goal to earn my MU degree," she explains.

The daughter of Andrew and Amelia Petroski, Higgins grew up in the Back Mountain and remembers seeing the Chapel and majestic buildings on the beautiful 124-acre campus. She made a promise to herself to one day be a student there. "As long as I can remember, I always wanted to be a Misericordia student," she acknowledges, "and now I am going to be a graduate. What a satisfying feeling."

Higgins earned her high school diploma in 1970 from Lake Lehman High School, and soon married Ted Higgins. She started taking college classes in the early 1980s and first enrolled at MU in 1992. She soon found herself balancing the obligations of being a wife and mother of two daughters, working part time at night as a reporter at The Citizens Voice newspaper, and caring for her mother who was suffering from a terminal illness, while taking classes. She eventually earned her associate's degree in Liberal Arts at Luzerne County Community College. "It was the support of people, such as Dr. Dick Crew, Tom O'Neill and Larree Brown, who encouraged me and inspired me to continue," she says. "They couldn't have been more accommodating and supportive. I truly believe that without their help, I might not have stuck it out."



THEY SHALL BE  
INSPIRED WITH A  
SINCERE DESIRE  
FOR THE SALVA-  
TION OF MANKIND  
AND ENCOURAGED  
TO PRAY FREQUENTLY  
FOR ALL

RULE 1  
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PRAY  
FOR THE  
LIVING AND  
THE DEAD

## *In Memoriam*

Nancy Potasky Alexander 1954  
January 29, 2009

Sister Mary Corinne Alves, RSM 1941  
January 26, 2009

Pauline Bankovich 1944  
November 25, 2008

Sister Mary Alvernia Bystra CSB 1934  
February 6, 2009

Diane Bukuski Cebrick 1979  
December 15, 2008

Joan Rooney Connors 1952  
January 17, 2009

Sister Anne Devaney, RSM 1964  
November 1, 2008

Joan Leehan Diana 1948  
December 22, 2008

Elizabeth Johnson Dolk 1968  
December 30, 2008

Daniel E. Falcucci 1980  
March 7, 2009

Sister Joan M. Fisher, RSM 1960  
February 4, 2009

Frances Corrigan Flood 1940  
January 3, 2009

Jeanne Ward Griffith 1994  
February 28, 2009

Mary Bernadette McDonald Hogan 1947  
April 8, 2009

Margaret Muldowney Kozlofski 1952  
December 5, 2008

Therese Touey Kruse 1970  
March 26, 2009

Kathleen Quinn MacKay 1938  
February 21, 2009

Mary Ann Rasimas Manning 1967  
April 20, 2009

Esther McCaffrey Marlino 1948  
March 9, 2009

Marian Patton McGeehan 1936  
February 18, 2009

Dorothy Wierbowski Menone 1958  
December 24, 2008

Elaine Collins Metroka 1956  
December 10, 2008

Dorothy Guerra Moran 1938  
November 23, 2008

Patricia Mulgrew 1948  
December 14, 2008

Elizabeth B. Myers 1981  
February 10, 2009

Mary Louise Conway Paolucci 1951  
January 31, 2009

Patricia Burnside Post 1963  
January 11, 2009

Clarella M. Rovin 1961  
November 7, 2008

Loretta Campbell Runzo 1939  
January 31, 2009

Jane Krupka Salini 1972  
March 21, 2009

Angelo Schifano 1977  
February 8, 2009

Kathryn Grady Smith 1985  
March 23, 2009

Kimberly L. Staub, RN 1997  
April 16, 2009

Sister Mary Helene Thomas, RSM 1969  
January 13, 2009

Regina Trosko 1984  
March 1, 2009

Angeline J. Watts 1946  
November 5, 2008





## A tale about the world of academia

Former Misericordia University President, Dr. Albert Anderson, recently published his first work of fiction, *Prexy: From the Journals of a Rookie College President*, with Strategic Book Publishing.

Dr. Anderson was the president at Misericordia from 1995-98. He retired from a career in higher education and now resides in northern Minnesota. Prior to his book, Dr. Anderson had written numerous professional articles and books on philosophy, education and philanthropy.

His work of fiction provides an insider's look into the world of higher education in a traditional, small college setting. This heartwarming, humorous tale reads like a journal from inside the mind of a young man beginning a challenging position of leadership over more than 20 years. He is regularly tested, challenged, criticized and changed as he matures in his professional and personal life. The characters are rich and complex, the dialogue sharp and intelligent, and the story universally appealing.

Dr. Anderson's first foray into fiction writing has been met with positive reviews.

*Prexy* offers carefully crafted insights about leadership, its travails and triumphs, its impact on person and family, says Loren J. Anderson, President, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash. There are two ironies to boot: First, while *Prexy* focuses on the rookie year, the fact is that every presidential year is filled with the same serious academic work, unexpected events, and colorful personalities that make the academy a wonderful home.

Secondly, while *Prexy* never says it directly, the vocation of president is a gift; a gift because the mission of every college is precious, the dream of every student so important and the work as leaders is not work, it is a calling, President Anderson concludes.

For more information about the book or to order a copy, please log on to [www.strategicbookpublishing.com](http://www.strategicbookpublishing.com).



## Baez headlines Under the Stars Arts Festival

Folk music legend Joan Baez will headline the Under the Stars Summer Arts Festival at the Wachovia Amphitheater in July that will also feature Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks.

For Baez, 2008 and 2009 are landmark years. They respectively mark 50 years since she began her legendary residency at Boston's famed Club 47 and since she made her debut at the 1959 Newport Folk Festival.

The Starlight Concert, starring Baez, is Saturday, July 25 at 8 p.m. Festival tables that seat six are \$360, amphitheater tickets are \$30 and lawn seats are \$20. The Jazz in July concert, Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks' Remember the Scranton Sirens, is Tuesday, July 14 at 8 p.m. Festival tables are \$120, amphitheater tickets are \$15 and lawn seats are \$8.

Tickets for both concerts go on sale May 4 through the Misericordia University Box Office at (570) 674-6719.

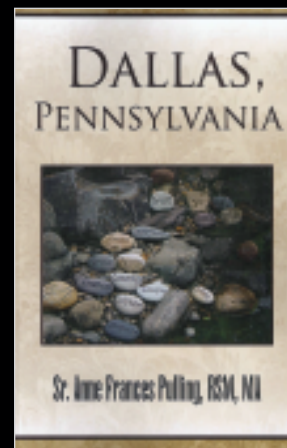
Baez's earliest recordings fed a host of traditional ballads into the rock vernacular, before she unselfconsciously introduced Bob Dylan to the world in 1963 and focused awareness on songwriters like Woody Guthrie.

In 2007, Baez was the recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy. *Day After Tomorrow*, her first new studio album in five years, was nominated for a Best Contemporary Folk/American Album Grammy Award.

Jazz in July features Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks revisiting the classic big band sounds of The Scranton Sirens. In 30 years as a bandleader, Giordano has become the authority on recreating the sounds of 1920s and 1930s jazz and popular music. "I just love the energy of the early jazz," he says. "I wanted to recapture some of that."

Giordano and the Nighthawks are renowned on the New York scene for their commitment to preserving and authentically presenting 1920s jazz and popular music. Together, they will recreate the sounds and reintroduce a generation to the sounds of Billy Lustig and the Scranton Sirens Orchestra.

[www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore](http://www.misericordia.edu/theartsandmore)



## Mercy sister authors Dallas history book

Detailing how Misericordia first opened its doors in 1924 as a small Catholic college in the midst of a decidedly Methodist community, Sister Anne Frances Pulling, RSM, 62, takes her readers on a vivid trek through the rich stories and compelling history of the local community in her latest book, *Dallas, Pennsylvania*.

The 12th book authored by this Long Island, N.Y., native explores the history of the town back to its beginnings as a summer colony and how it grew as anthracite coal fields attracted immigrants to the area.

In the book's final chapter, Sister Anne Frances, who holds a bachelor's degree in education from Misericordia and a master's degree from Fordham University, chronicles the history of Misericordia from its beginnings as the first four-year college in Luzerne County with 50 students and its rise to university status in 2007. The book is filled with nearly 200 historic photos she gathered from the Back Mountain Historical Society and University archives.

The cover is a depiction of the stone meditation garden at the well-known Windsor Park, the home of the local television series Windsor Park Stories.

Sister Anne Frances has had literary success taking readers inside many of the communities that she has served as a Sister of Mercy.

Her works include *Babylon by the Sea*, *Altoona*, *Punxsutawney*, *Wind & Water Mills of Long Island*, *Central Islip*, *Around Cresson & the Alleghenies*, and *Around Blair County*. She has also authored the title *Sisters of Mercy of Loretto and Cresson*.

Copies of *Dallas, Pennsylvania* are available for purchase by contacting Sister Anne where she resides at Mercy Center, Dallas, Pa., by phone at (570) 674-4778, or by email [afprsm@aol.com](mailto:afprsm@aol.com).

Her books are available at a number of local retail outlets including Fino's Pharmacy, the Heritage Shop and Ye Old Clock Shoppe, all in Dallas.

The first chapter is available online by going to [www.dallaspennsylvania.net](http://www.dallaspennsylvania.net).





**MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY**

301 Lake St., Dallas, PA 18612

*Founded by the Sisters of Mercy*

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# UNDER THE STARS SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

**JULY 14**

**JAZZ IN JULY**

*Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks  
"Remember the Scranton Sirens"*

Tuesday 8 p.m. The Scranton Sirens, the little publicized but effectively significant Dixieland band native to our Wyoming Valley, had reached the pinnacle of success by playing in the most sought after dance locations and hosting some of the hottest musicians of the era. Tickets: \$120 Festival Tables (seat 6); \$15 Amphitheater; and \$8 Lawn. Tickets go on sale May 4 through the Misericordia University Box Office at (570) 674 6719.

**JULY 25**

**STARLIGHT CONCERT  
AN EVENING WITH JOAN BAEZ**

Saturday 8 p.m. Joan Baez, whose name and cherished vocals have become symbolic of the folk music movement, has earned Top Female Vocalist and Lifetime Achievement Awards, and a Grammy nomination in 2008 for her new album, *Day After Tomorrow*. Tickets: \$360 Festival Tables (seat 6); \$30 Amphitheater; \$20 lawn. Tickets go on sale May 4 through the Misericordia University Box Office at (570) 674 6719.

## SUMMER

**MAY 29 31**

**ALUMNI WEEKEND**

Calling all alumni to meet, greet, and reminisce. Enjoy a cookout, tours, Alumni Mass, workshops, and games. Call the Alumni Box Office for more information or to register at (570) 674 6768 or log on to cougarconnect.misericordia.edu

**JUNE 4 10**

**CECILIA MEIGHAN RSM, INSTITUTE  
OF LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

The Institute, under the direction of Sister Bernadette Kenny, RSM, promotes professional development to those in leadership positions in Roman Catholic religious congregations of women, particularly in the area of civil and canon

law. To register, please call (570) 674 6161 or e mail Thea Kahn at tkahn@misericordia.edu.

**JUNE 13 18**

**ELDER RELIGIOUS & DIOCESAN  
PRIESTS WORKSHOP**

The 32nd annual workshop offers practical applications and solutions for those providing spiritual, psychological, medical and pastoral care to elders in religious congregations and dioceses. To register, please call (570) 674 6161 or e mail Thea Kahn at tkahn@misericordia.edu.

**JULY 19 25**

**ELDERHOSTEL AT MISERICORDIA**

Hospitality and educational excellence will be on the menu for the 30th Elderhostel. To register, please call 1 877 426 8056 or go online at www.elderhostel.org.

**JULY 26 31**

**INSTITUTE ON SACRED SCRIPTURE**

The 41st annual Institute promises a week of thought provoking scripture study. Hosted by Dr. Marie Noel Keller RSM, Th.D., it features nationally recognized speakers. To register, please call (570) 674 6161 or e mail Thea Kahn at tkahn@misericordia.edu.

**AUGUST 22**

**OCTOBER 25**

**GLASS  
SCULPTURE  
EXHIBITION**

Nationally renowned artist Christopher Ries displays work in the new Art Galleries at MU. Ries delights his audience by creating complex images of shifting pattern within sculpted forms of pure lead crystal. For more information, please contact Dona Posatko at (570) 674 6250.



## FALL

**OCTOBER 2 4**

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND**

**OCTOBER 21**

**TANGLEFOOT - Live in Concert**

Canada's most accomplished musical mythologizers turn their foot stomping, sweeping rhythms, elegant, sensitive musicianship, and rampaging enthusiasm into a riveting musical journey. Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Tickets: Misericordia University Box Office at (570) 674 6719.

**DECEMBER 5**

**BRUNCH WITH SANTA**

# Adventure Awaits...

*See new places, meet new people.*

## 2009

**September 5 17**

**Italian Vistas**

Experience begins in Rome and includes Pompeii, Sorrento, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Verona, Stresa and the Italian Lake District, crossing into Switzerland.

**October 19 29**

**Discover Croatia**

Departing from Newark, this trip features the Dalmatian Coast and Slovenia Highlights including Zagreb, Pletna Boat Ride, Trieste, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Diocletian Palace, Korcula Island and Dubrovnik.

**November 30 December 7**

**Alpine Christmas Markets**

Visit the Christmas Markets of Munich with its Hofbrau Haus and Um pa pa band, Innsbruck nestled in the Alps, Salzburg and Oberammergau.

For information or a brochure, call Dr. Noël Keller, RSM  
**(570) 674 6776** or  
**snoel@misericordia.edu**