

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • ISSUE 1, VOLUME 1

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Misericordia University has partnered with four regional healthcare systems to provide all Nurses, RN through DNP, and Patient Navigator educational options at a discount rate to facilitate the development of more health care providers and employees in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Working adults seeking additional education or a career change are perfect candidates for these programs beginning Fall 2016.

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- Above average passing rate for all boards 93% – 100%
- 50% increase in Faculty/Student presentations from 2014-2015
- 30 Study Aboard and International faculty/student presentations
- Faculty published three books
- 900 Community members receiving health care services
- \$750,000 in pro-bono health care delivered to community

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

The 2015-2016 academic year has been flush with advancement including two new clinics, a new center, and three new programs. Likewise, faculty and students have continued to incur high passing rates and increases in service-learning activities, and scholarships. The integration of community service and student clinical education has fostered the development of a falls prevention program for seniors, pediatric occupational therapy clinic, and an autism center. In addition to the new services three unique programs have surfaced to assist in developing and augmenting specialty practitioners, including a health provider autism certificate, patient navigator certificate and major, and a bachelor in sonography. These programs are unique in scope and practice and offer additional opportunities for individuals seeking a career in health care.

We are currently transitioning into a new college structure. Beginning August 2016, the College of Health Sciences will add six departments, Education, Health Care Informatics, Physician Assistant, Applied Behavior Science, Medical Science, and Social Work. We will also transition our name to the College of Health Sciences and Education. The planning began in January and included the development of programs and activities across

departments to enhance our interprofessional and interdisciplinary array of experiences for students and services for the community.

We are proud of the college and student accomplishments. Please peruse the pages of the newsletter to read about our programs, students, and faculty accomplishments. Feel free to like us on Facebook or Twitter for up to date information.

—**Leamor Kahanov**, EdD, LAT/ATC  
Dean, College of Health Sciences

## SERVICE TRIPS



*Alison Hausman*

Imbuing the value of service throughout our health sciences programs created more than 100 different local, regional, and national engaged activities. Of note are the faculty-led service trips to

Tanzania, Rwanda, and Jamaica to provide health care and educate students in vastly different settings.



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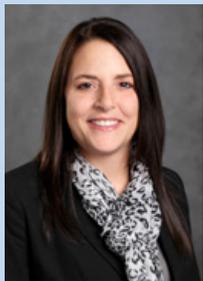
# MEDICAL IMAGING



## 100% PASS RATE

It has been a successful academic year for Medical Imaging. The class of 2016 had a 100% pass rate on the certification examination.

## MEDICAL IMAGING FACULTY IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to **Gina Capitano**, Assistant Professor in the Medical Imaging Department, for being elected to serve as the Vice President of the

Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists (PSRT). She is continuing in a second term of the position, and will serve another one-year term (3/16-3/17).

## STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

- **Kaitlin Fink and Allison McIntyre** First Place in the Student Techni-BOWL competition
- **Jennifer Natishak** was selected to serve as a Student Intern during the annual conference
- **Allison McIntyre** is the winner of the Image Analysis competition, identifying Pyloric Stenosis
- **Cheyenne Wullf and Emily Donovan** were selected to represent Pennsylvania at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists annual Student Leadership Development program this summer, in Las Vegas, NV.

## LAMBDA NU NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



*Seated, left to right: Jennifer Natishak, Cheyenne Wull, Nicole Noss, Katie Santoro*  
*Standing, left to right: Allison McIntyre, Nicolas Troller, Kelly Lynch, Kaitlin Fink, Allison Beltz, Courtney Anne Ichthorn*

## PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATE (PACS)

Misericordia University offers the only Picture Archiving and Communications Systems Administration (PACS) certificate program in the United States that is post-professional, online and stand-alone (lacks requirements of full-time student status). PACS joint curriculum between Business and MI is rejuvenating the program with a new website and marketing material. We currently have students nationwide that enroll in the program.





## MARY AND ALLEN ERWINE HALL DEDICATION



The newly renovated 199 Lake Street Building was named for Mary and Allen Erwine in support of nursing education. Mary Erwine is a Misericordia University Alumna, Board of Trustee member, and owner of Erwine Home Health and Hospice.

## SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO TANZANIA



Four nursing students (**Kathryn Hurley**, **Lisa Tondora**, **Haley Hall**, **Alexandra Giannone**) and **Dr. Mailloux** will be participating in a service learning trip to Tanzania.

## AWARDS WINNERS 2015-2016

Forty-three senior nursing students presented their projects at Nursing Research Poster Day in the Insalaco Hall on May 5, 2016. The students presented their projects on topics such as: achieving UN Sustainable Health Goals and Transformational Leadership.

## NURSING 1ST PINNING CEREMONY

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

Misericordia University received financial support from the Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to establish the White Coat



Ceremony. An international nonprofit, the Gold Foundation established the ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the professions of medicine and to underscore the importance of humanistic and patient-centered health care.

## NURSING RESEARCH

On May 6, 2016, fifteen graduate students in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track presented their evidence-based practice projects at the Graduate Nursing Scholarly Synthesis Poster Day in John J. Passan Hall's College of Health Sciences. The various themes of the students' projects reflect clinical practice questions that when investigated have the potential to improve patient outcomes and heighten student clinical performance.



*Rachel Rolison*

Another high point during the Graduate Nursing Scholarly Synthesis Poster presentation day was the awarding of the Dr. Marcie Jones Award. The Dr. Marcie Jones Award is conferred annually to a graduating MSN student in good academic standing who demonstrates living the mission of the University: mercy, service, hospitality, and justice. This year's honorary recipient was **Rachel Rolison**.

Another group of students recognized during the poster ceremony where three of the graduating FNP students who scored high on a standardized practice exam that is modeled after the national FNP certification exam taken once all course and clinical requirements are completed. The three students recognized were: Rebecca Cavill, Lauren Lomando, and Rachel Rolison.

# PHYSICAL THERAPY



## STUDENT NEWS

At the DPT recognition ceremony on December 13th the following students were recognized: Catherine Perry Wilkinson Leadership Award, **Steven Clemson**; Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award, **Kayla Whipple**; and Physical Therapy Student Achievement Award, **Mirsada Gudic**.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Laurie Brogan** was recognized for earning certification as a Geriatric Clinical Specialist at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Anaheim.

**Richard Haydt** was recognized for earning re-certification as an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Anaheim, California.

## RESEARCH

- The Physical Therapy department hosted a research consortium where 12 student research groups presented their graduate research (in the form of a systematic review) to fellow students, faculty, and former clinical instructors. Approximately 40 clinical instructors attended to receive six contact hours per day toward the therapist's licensure renewal.
- Richard Haydt and former DPT students: **Ryan Hassick**, **James Schreffler**, **Jamison Perkins**, **Michael Henahan**, and **Rachael Richards** had an article accepted for publication in the *Indian Journal of Physical Therapy*: The article compares the effects of segmental and global stabilization exercises on patients with lower back pain secondary to spinal instability.

## MUSIC AND MEMORY

An interprofessional team of students, led by **Dr. Laurie Brogan**, were inspired to create a music therapy program after the screening of "alive inside." Students collected iPods from donation drives and filled them with approximately an hour or music based on recommendations from the nursing home. Residents who participated in the project experienced increased energy and connection. One resident spoke a word for the first time in 4 years to acknowledge her enjoyment, one-word, but that's a step.

Brogan said music and memory programs help increase cognition and alertness in patients by taking them back to a time in their life they may have forgotten. "The benefits are so much more than medications, and it's a small price to pay



Photo courtesy *The Times Leader*

*Misericordia University students Amy Viti, left, and Juls Munda play songs on an iPod that are familiar to Elizabeth Jane Wallace, 86. Elizabeth's husband Frank, 89, sits by her side.*

for keeping our elderly adults happy, more oriented," Brogan said. "There's been some positive results with that."

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS OBTAIN SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

**Nicollette Hensel**, **Katie Wisser**, **Cailin McCullion**, **Lauren Paulshock**, **Rebecca Wehr**, **Katie Drayton**, and **Alivia Richter** recently attained certification in LSVT BIG through LSVT Global in Cherry Hill, NJ. LSVT Training and Certification Workshops are two-day programs designed to train rehabilitation therapists in an evidence-based treatment approach for individuals with Parkinson disease and other neurological disorders.



## SCHOLAR ATHLETE

On Tuesday, May 3rd at the Annual Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Awards Luncheon, DPT student **Maureen Ciccossanti** was recognized as a student-athlete that best-represented success in the classroom and on the playing field in her sport in the MAC (soccer).

**THE FIRST TIME PASS RATE ON THE NATIONAL PT EXAM FOR THE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED IN DECEMBER 2015 WAS 98%.**



## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The OTD program received national recognition in ADVANCE for OTs as one of 30 of the Best Online Doctorates in Occupational Therapy. Schools were listed by Nonprofit Colleges Online, a resource promoting nonprofit colleges and universities offering online degree programs, released Dec. 7. Please follow the link below to read more about it:

<http://occupational-therapy.advanceweb.com/News/Daily-News-Watch/List-of-Best-Online-OTD-Programs-Released.aspx>

## DR. SHAH TRAVELS TO SINGAPORE

Dr. Lalit Shah recently attended and did a presentation on the “Study of Pre-Handwriting Factors Necessary for Successful Handwriting in Children” on March 3-4, 2016 in Singapore. The research was part of the completion of the project done with students in the weekend master’s program at Misericordia University. Student researchers are **Katarzyna Bialek, OTS; Melinda L. Clarke, OTS; and Jessica Jansson, OTS.**

## OT ADJUNCTS IN THE NEWS

Jessica Piatak and Kristina Carraccia developed an approach to therapy called The Food Exploration Discovery Program (FED): See more: <https://timesleader.com/features/513008/misericordia-professors-helping-picky-eaters-expand-their-palettes-with-food-exploration-discovery-program>

## MEET OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

- **Kathy Hughes Butcher**, Fieldwork Coordinator
- **Orley Templeton**, Assistant Professor

## OT RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

During the spring 2016 semester, Misericordia University’s Department of Occupational Therapy offered 12 free weekly group occupational therapy sessions for children with developmental delays. The group promotes play and social skills in the children. The sessions filled quickly so no further referrals can be accepted. The children receive an individualized evaluation at the start of the program from Assistant Professor **Dr. Orley Templeton**. Dr. Templeton facilitated the group sessions each week, in conjunction with four junior level occupational therapy students. The students completed a pediatric fieldwork requirement toward completion of their occupational therapy entry-level master’s degree.

**Dr. Dawn Evans** spoke to Teacher Education students about suicide focusing on signs of suicidal tendencies among young students. The story about the OT/TED collaborative workshop appeared on WBRE-TV 28. <http://www.pahomepage.com/news/misericordia-student-teachers-learn-to-spot-student-suicidal-tendencies>. Dr. Evans is certified in this area by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She also recently completed certification as an Instructor in the QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Certification Program. This story was also picked up and shared across the state by Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP).

## RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS IN OT

The Occupational Therapy Department at Misericordia is well known for supporting faculty/student research. Students and faculty

had 26 presentations/publications during the 2015-2016 academic year in both national and international conferences.



*OT weekday program 2016 graduates with Dr. McLaughlin and Dr. Charney, left to right: Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, Kelsey Maas, Logan Zeitler, Dr. Lori Charney; Crouching, Carly Zaklukiewicz, Danielle Makadon-Malone presenting “Linking Sensory Strategies and Social Skills Training to Improve Social Participation in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.”*

## MISERICORDIA'S OT HONOR SOCIETY

Pi Theta Epsilon, meaning advancement in occupational therapy, is Misericordia University’s occupational therapy honor society. This honor society is a national organization that recognizes the academic accomplishments of hardworking occupational therapy

students. It also promotes research and scholarship among students as a means to advance the field of occupational therapy. Members of Misericordia’s Pi Theta Epsilon engage in a number of scholarly and service-oriented activities.



## INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) FALLS PREVENTION MOBILE CLINIC

The interprofessional committee facilitated sixteen activities ranging from grand-rounds to nationally recognized guest speakers and integrated simulations. Approximately 1,000 student engagements occurred both inter and intra-institutional IPE events.

One highlight activity included a mobile falls prevention program for aging adults between occupational therapy and physical therapy students both on campus and at area nursing homes. Forty-five patients/clients and 59 students gaining clinical experience participated in the program. The falls prevention clinic provided approximately \$18,000 in free care. The clinic targeted seniors, 65 and older, who limit their activities due to a fear of falling, the sessions were held as part of a National Fall Prevention project. Misericordia University faculty members **Lori Charney, OTD, OTR/L**, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and **Nicole Evanosky, PT, DPT**, assistant professor of physical therapy, and students from both departments collaborated on the program. This interdisciplinary model of instruction was an initiative of the interprofessional education task force as Misericordia University to encourage better role identification and respect throughout a team process of health care delivery.

## AUTISM FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING

The College of Health Sciences will be Misericordia University begins the Autism Center, Fall 2016, a new program to service adults with autism who have aged out of the state educational system. The mission of the Autism for Lifelong Learning (ALL) is to educate and train adults with autism to integrate and function independently in and with the community, by acquiring life and employment skills leading to supported or competitive employment to live their full potential as individuals with dignity and fulfillment. The creation of the program is the result of the unavailability of services specifically designed to meet the needs of adults who fall within the Autism Spectrum of Disorders. Until the ALL program was established, no comparable services were available to adults with autism in our region. The program is currently provided to clients through grants and generous donations.

The Autism Center is also expanding access with a grant to create a sensory, social-focused outdoor playground. The Center will continue to provide services through the Speech-Language-Hearing Center, Summer Autism Sensory Camp (through

OT) and the Student Club. Autism Speaks will be providing community resources as the major components of the center.

**Dr. Manasco**, a speech-language pathology professor, keynotes 'Together for Autism' conference in Texas: <http://www.misericordia.edu/page.cfm?p=500&newsid=2568> <http://ow.ly/VD29X>



*Among the various services which are provided by the Autism Center, Misericordia offers a Sensory Camp in the summer in which OT fieldwork students participate."*

## AUTISM CERTIFICATE STARTS FALL 2016

Misericordia University in conjunction with the Autism Center starts an autism certificate specifically for health care providers (occupational therapists, physical therapists, physician assistants, speech and language pathologists and nurses) to enhance skills related to the specific needs of individuals

with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The coursework qualifies individuals to take the Autism Competency examination to earn an Autism Certificate or become a Certified Autism Specialist through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES).



## SLP HIGHLIGHTS

This year, the six tenure-track faculty members, **Denis Anson**, **Lori Cimino**, and **Adina Rosenthal** conducted 86 workshops and seminars raising the profile of the SLP department locally, nationally, and internationally. The faculty also published 14 peer-reviewed papers, chapters in books, and textbooks. The department was featured in several newspaper articles, radio interviews, and television interviews during 2015-2016. Faculty had a total of 100 scholarly articles, seminars, workshops, and presentations. They also chaired prestigious national and international organizations and served as reviewers and editorial consultants for premier journals in our discipline.

Conducted and presented research:

- 22 students presented research at the 2015 ASHA convention in Denver, CO
- 20 students presented research at the 2016 PSHA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA
- Four students presented research at the 8th World Congress on Fluency Disorders, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Two students presented research at the Fall Voice Conference in Pittsburgh, PA

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Lois Kam Heymann, M.A., CCC-SLP, a leading authority of auditory processing disorder spoke to 300 individuals as our honored speaker for this year's series. Heymann authored of "The Sound of Hope: Recognizing, Coping with and Treating Your Child's Auditory Processing Disorder," which is a parents' guide to the importance of listening skills development in children from birth to 8 years old.

## SLP SERVICE LEARNING

The student service projects raised over \$11,000 for charity.

- Established a team for Misericordia's Relay for Life event, raising \$879
- Hosted a successful benefit concert for Make-A-Wish and raised \$3,900
- Participated in the 2nd Annual "Don't Tell Me to Slow Down" 5K race held by the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Stuttering Association, raising \$2,000 for the organization
- Sold Threads of Hope bracelets, in which \$290 was sent to the women in the Philippines who made them, and \$270 went directly to Operation Smile to fund an additional surgery
- Generated an additional \$232.50 for Operation Smile through the use of the Charity Miles app
- Organized a benefit concert for Operation Smile that raised more than \$3500 which was enough to cover the cost of 15 cleft palate surgeries in third world countries

## SLP IN THE NEWS GROUNDBREAKING VOICE RESEARCH

SLP faculty and students were recognized for their groundbreaking research. The 5-year study used non-invasive research using a Near Infrared Spectroscopy Cap to record brain activity during the speech process. Fifty individuals with stuttering and other speech disorders are compared to normative data. Doctors **Cari** and **Glen Tellis** collaborated on the recently published article in NIR news (Using Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy with Fluent Speakers to Determine Hemoglobin Changes in the Brain during



Speech and Non-Speech Tasks," in the online edition of NIR News, Volume 27 Issue 3; 2016).

**For more information:** <http://www.pahomepage.com/news/misericordia-professors-receive-international-recognition-for-groundbreaking-speech-research>

## STUDENT HONORS

The Misericordia University NSSLHA Chapter won the Chapter Honors Award. The group was also given the Membership Award for the Chapter with the largest student membership. Both awards were announced at the PSHA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA on April 8th.

Also, 5th-year student **Tia Spagnuolo** won the Von Drach Memorial Scholarship at the

PSHA Convention, and junior **Samantha Buldo** was recently awarded the NESHAP (Northeastern Speech-Language Hearing Association of Pennsylvania) scholarship.

**Glen Tellis** was named to the Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and confirmed by the State Senate of Pennsylvania.

# SONOGRAPHY



## DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

Beginning fall 2016, the department will be accepting applications for the new full-time entry-level Bachelor of Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The additional of the full-time option allows individuals interested in sonography to experience a traditional college experience and provide them with a liberal arts education that expands their knowledge globally and enhances career opportunities or pursues a graduate degree. This opportunity complements the certificate program and the Expressway BSDMS degree for RDMS credentialed sonographers desiring an undergraduate degree.



*Brittany Harris, Shavertown was the 2016 recipient of the Academic Achievement Award for attaining the highest GPA.*

## SONOGRAPHY CERTIFICATE CLASS

The Sonography Certificate Class of 2016 completed their program in March. All 17 students successfully passed the Sonography Physics and Instrumentation (SPI) exam and the Abdominal Specialty exam before completion. This earns them the credential of Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS). Sixteen of the students completed the OB/GYN specialty exam within two weeks of completion with a 100% pass rate. The 2016 class is the first class that all graduates have successfully earned their RDMS at the time of completion March 13, 2016. The



program continues its tradition of 100% or near 100% in all three exams students are prepared for.

## SONOGRAPHY NEWS

- Six sonographers graduated with their BS DMS degree from the Expressway online program. The department was very pleased to be able to personally meet the graduates who traveled in from Virginia, Maryland and two residing in PA.
- Students participated in several interprofessional education activities. Students of the class of 2017 collaborated with occupational therapy students regarding ergonomics while the class of 2016 attend the TeamSteps – Communication and teamwork collaborative activity. Gathering students from other professions helps the sonographers understand the roles of other healthcare professions and share the role of sonography to others. Most often all students are surprised at the various roles of each profession.

- **Sheryl Goss**, Department Chair, was sworn in as President of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) and the SDMS Foundation at the annual conference in Dallas, TX on October 1, 2015. She will serve two years as President until fall 2017.

The SDMS is the largest professional organization for sonographers with a membership over 28,000. As part of her role, she recently facilitated a Musculoskeletal Injury Consensus Conference with over 25 different organizations being represented to update the Industry Standards for work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

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