



**Winter Commencement**  
Sunday, December 17, 2017



## Class of 2017

The seventh annual Misericordia University Winter Commencement Ceremony recognizes the accomplishments of 331 graduates who hail from 18 states, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin.

Among the academic programs with the most graduates, the College of Health Sciences and Education has 59 students graduating from the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program. In addition, 26 students will receive their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The College of Business is awarding 33 Bachelor of Science degrees in business administration.

The University has a rich 93-year tradition of preparing graduates to succeed in life and in their chosen field of study by providing them with individualized attention, challenging academics and superb career preparation, while also imbuing in each student a passion to serve others.

Misericordia University is proud of the Winter Commencement Class of 2017 as the graduates prepare to enter the next important phase of their lives. Misericordia's newest alumni understand and embrace the Religious Sisters of Mercy's charisms of Mercy, Service, Justice and Hospitality — and will always be Misericordia Proud!



### Academic Processional

Ceol Mor, *Pipe and Drum Band*

### Invocation

Sister Carol Gallagher, RSM '66, *Trustee*

### National Anthem

Jennifer Black, Ph.D.	Sarah Peiser
Ayanna Dexter	Christine Zopf
Charles Lajeunesse, Ph.D.	Ryan Weber, Ph.D., <i>Piano</i>
Jacklyn Nat	

### Welcome

Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., *President of Misericordia University*

### Conferring of Honorary Degrees

Christopher L. Borton, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

### Doctor of Humane Letters

Elisabeth "Lisa" Fontenelli  
Rev. James Martin, S.J.

### Remarks

Lisa Fontenelli

### Address to Candidates

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

### Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

David B. Rehm, Ph.D., *Vice President of Academic Affairs*

### Remarks

Michelle Nicole Melody '17, *Student Speaker*

### Induction of Graduates into the Alumni Association

Adam Grzech '13 '17, *Alumni Association Board*

### Alma Mater

Jennifer Black, Ph.D.	Sarah Peiser
Ayanna Dexter	Christine Zopf
Charles Lajeunesse, Ph.D.	Ryan Weber, Ph.D., <i>Piano</i>
Jacklyn Nat	

### Benediction

Msgr. John Bendik, *Trustee*

### Academic Recessional

Ceol Mor, *Pipe and Drum Band*

American Sign Language (ASL) by Cherish Francik  
*Certified Interpreter for the Deaf*

The audience will please remain seated until the graduates have filed out.





## Elisabeth Fontenelli

Former Wall Street executive Elisabeth “Lisa” Fontenelli is being recognized by Misericordia University for her lifelong support of the Sisters of Mercy and the Mercy educational traditions.



Ms. Fontenelli recently retired after a highly successful 30-year career as a leader in the global financial industry. Having joined Goldman Sachs in 1992 in U.S. Equity Research, she was appointed to the global research management team in 2000. She assumed the role of divisional chief administrative officer in 2005 and was named chief operating officer of the division in 2007. Ms. Fontenelli was named managing director in 2003 and partner in 2006. Prior to her retirement, she served as deputy head of Global Investment Research, overseeing all equity and credit research globally.

Ms. Fontenelli holds a dual Bachelor of Science degree from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and the School of Management at Syracuse University. She currently serves on the Advisory Council of the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. In 2016, she completed 12 years of service as a trustee at Georgian Court University, founded in 1908 by the Sisters of Mercy in Lakewood, N.J.

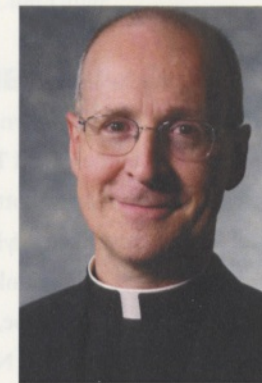
Ms. Fontenelli’s connection to the Mercy tradition began as a student of the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary Academy in Lakewood. She says her philanthropy and support of Mercy education is guided by the Mercy core values she inherited from her parents, experienced as a child and developed as an adult. She is a supporter of Mercy Center and Sister’s Academy in Asbury Park, N.J., and has been a sponsor of the Mercy Girls Rising Project for more than 10 years. The project provides for Mercy-sponsored high schools to send students to the annual Mercy Leadership Conference to hone skills in leadership, collaboration, and the use of education to help eradicate global poverty.

Ms. Fontenelli has contributed to other global Mercy missions with an emphasis on education and leadership for women and girls, an area that is one of the five critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy.

During the commencement ceremony, Misericordia University will present Ms. Fontenelli with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

## The Rev. James Martin, S.J.

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., is a Jesuit priest, editor-at-large of *America* magazine, a *New York Times* best-selling author and recently named by Pope Francis as a consultant to the Vatican’s Secretariat for Communication.



A native of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., Father Martin holds a bachelor’s degree in economics with a concentration in finance from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business. After working six years in corporate finance, he entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1988. He attended the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, where he received his master’s degree in divinity in 1998 and his master’s in theology in 1999.

During his Jesuit novitiate, Father Martin worked in a hospice and at an orphanage in Jamaica, as well as at a Jesuit school for inner-city boys in New York City. He studied philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, Ill., and worked in an outreach program with street-gang members in Chicago housing projects. He also served as an associate editor at *America* in New York City. After completing his Jesuit studies, he was ordained a Catholic priest in June 1999.

A prolific author and editor, Father Martin’s most recent book, “Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Sensitivity and Compassion,” was published in 2017. His book, “Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus,” was published in 2016, and his first novel, “The Abbey: A Story of Discovery,” preceded it in 2015.

His 2014 book, “Jesus: A Pilgrimage,” was a *New York Times* best seller and Christopher Award winner, as was his book on Jesuit spirituality, “The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life.” His memoir, “My Life with the Saints,” also received a Christopher Award and was named one of the “Best Books” of 2006 by *Publishers Weekly*. It has sold more than 150,000 copies and is used in universities, high schools, parishes and book clubs around the world.

Father Martin has had articles published in major Catholic publications as well as major news outlets including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *O Magazine*, *Slate*, *Time*, *CNN*, *The Huffington Post* and websites for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. He has commented on religion and spirituality on nearly every major radio and television network, and served as a commentator for ABC News during the 2013 papal conclave and during Pope Francis’s 2015 visit to the United States. On Sundays, he assists at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City.

During the commencement ceremony, Misericordia University will present Father Martin with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.





**BACHELOR OF ARTS****BIOLOGY**

- Sabrina Grace Belasco, Blakeslee, PA  
 Kailee Crockett, Smithtown, NY *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Justin Joseph Forbes, Coal Twp., PA  
 Mitchell Joseph Haney, Pottsville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Tyler Todd Hunyara, Schuylkill Haven, PA  
 Andrea Michelle Nale, Kunkletown, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Nicole M. Palanza, Monroe, NY *Cum Laude*  
 Damian Peter Pierontoni, Nanticoke, PA *Cum Laude*  
 Christopher S. Rehrig, Walnutport, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Justin M. Shipe, New Columbia, PA *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Gregory Shultz, Milton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kayla Stephani, Columbia Cross Roads, PA *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Jacob Neil Stone, Binghamton, NY  
 Gerald Joseph Struble, III, Hamburg, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Michael C. Gombita, Equinunk, PA  
 Ron Williams, Harding, PA *Cum Laude*

**ENGLISH**

- Shane Christopher Kreller, Sweet Valley, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Gabriella LaManna, Hillsborough, NJ *Cum Laude*

**GOVERNMENT, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

- Michael Cheslock, Endicott, NY  
 Randall Compton Davis, Wheatley Heights, NY  
 Lyndsay Devens, Plymouth, PA  
 Isaiah K. Harvey, Miami Beach, FL  
 Kyle John Lewis, Forty Fort, PA  
 Matthew James McGuigan, Scranton, PA *Cum Laude*  
 Alliyah Janelle Moore, Effort, PA  
 Robert Theodore Sitkowski, Jr., Wyoming, PA

**HISTORY**

- Timothy Daniel Ford, Trucksville, PA  
 Shane Christopher Kreller, Sweet Valley, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kimberle Elizabeth Maro, Tunkhannock, PA

**MATHEMATICS**

- Robert L. Heft, III, Montrose, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES**

- Bethany Mae Flanders, Dallas, PA

**PHILOSOPHY**

- Brandon Eric Dean, Monroeville, NJ *Cum Laude*

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE****ACCOUNTING**

- Lynn K. Aldrich, Taos, NM *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Francesca Carannante, Pittston, PA  
 Beth A. Cottle, Shavertown, PA *Summa Cum Laude*  
 James Egan, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Melanie Jayne Fry, Ambler, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Alyssa Maria Gawlas, Hanover Twp., PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Alicia Giambra, West Pittston, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Rebecca Lee Sweetra, Shavertown, PA *Cum Laude*  
 Toni Marie Zalewski, Tunkhannock, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

**APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

- Sarah Elizabeth Gawat, Hanover Twp., PA  
 Allison Patrice Hodge, Nanticoke, PA  
 Sarah Anne Kreidler, Bear Creek, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kelly A. LeSofski, Factoryville, PA  
 Tina Marie Lopez, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Cum Laude*  
 Jamie Lynn Nissen, Kingston, PA  
 Laura Rae Pagan-Robbins, Kresgeville, PA *Summa Cum Laude*  
 Kristy L. Rice, Swoyersville, PA  
 Laura Lynn Ruchinski, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Magna Cum Laude*  
 Jeffrey Thomas Salak, Clifford Twp., PA  
 Stacey Caryn Zerphrey, Palmyra, PA

**BIOCHEMISTRY**

- Rachel A. McCormick, West Chester, PA *Summa Cum Laude*





**BIOLOGY**Atasha Lynn Rehrig, Lehigh, PA *Cum Laude***BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**Theodore Robert Allabaugh, Nanticoke, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Emily Taylor Buerger, Hunlock Creek, PA

Brittany Alexandra Campbell, Coal Twp., PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Macho Alberto Cartagena, Scranton, PA

Dana Catherine Cutler, Clarks Summit, PA

Brandon Eric Dean, Monroeville, NJ *Cum Laude*Mariah Lynn Ebert, Minersville, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Karissa R. Flick, Bloomsburg, PA *Summa Cum Laude*Joseph G. Forgach, Newtown, PA *Cum Laude*Melanie Jayne Fry, Ambler, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Jacob D. Klein, Scranton, PA *Summa Cum Laude*Jake D. Kocovsky, Andover, MN *Cum Laude*Joseph Anthony Levandowski, Nanticoke, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Robert Michael Lopata, Dupont, PA

Patricia Milewski, Pittston, PA

Bradley Christopher Miller, Ocean City, MD *Cum Laude*

William Novoa, Lake Ariel, PA

Kristen Ogonowski, Rock Tavern, NY

Stephanie Ann Oliverio, Jackson, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*

Anthony J. Panico, Henryville, PA

Lauren Elizabeth Paretto, Wyckoff, NJ *Cum Laude*

Michael Alan Pegarella, Sr., Shickshinny, PA

Sarah Jessica Peiser, Weatherly, PA *Cum Laude*

Dylan Phoenix, Hamilton, NJ

McKenzie L. Ruffing, Montoursville, PA *Summa Cum Laude*Amy Elizabeth Sokol, Old Forge, PA *Cum Laude*Haley Stack, Manahawkin, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*Sarah Elizabeth Stevens, Orangeville, PA *Summa Cum Laude*Olivia Sumeriski, Toms River, NJ *Magna Cum Laude*Jacob John Szczecina, Summit Hill, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Alexander William Tirko, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Cum Laude*Emma Lauren Weber, Atlantic Highlands, NJ *Cum Laude*

Gregory Zotian, Hillsborough, NJ

**CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

Ruqayyah Alhejji, Allentown, PA

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**Nicole Grassi, Pottstown, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Joseph E. Grzech, Mountain Top, PA

Robert L. Heft, III, Montrose, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Amy Margavitch, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Cum Laude***EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**Michelle Nicole Melody, Naples, FL *Summa Cum Laude*Allison Rosselli, Spring Brook Twp., PA *Cum Laude***HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT**Allison Elice Amos, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Britney Nicole Cresswell, Milton, PA

Anthony Edward D'Eliseo, Jr., Wilkes-Barre, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Trevor James George, Pompton Lakes, NJ *Cum Laude*Margaret L. Martin, New Windsor, NY *Magna Cum Laude*

Kyle Allen Reese, Lancaster, PA

Tristan J. Snyder, Bloomsburg, PA

Brandon M. Winslow, Nazareth, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Robert Wozniak, Jr., Frackville, PA

**HEALTH SCIENCE**Margarite L. Connor, Selden, NY *Cum Laude*

Tierney Rose Hafner, Newtown, PA

Jena Skrosky, Kingston, PA *Cum Laude***INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Ahmed Oudah Alghamdi, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Souad Essa Almoumin, Pittston, PA

Douglas Nahogyil, Hawley, PA *Cum Laude*Jason D. Piskorick, Zion Grove, PA *Cum Laude***MATHEMATICS**Michael John Gottstein, Drums, PA *Cum Laude*



**MEDICAL IMAGING**Shelby Lane Aruscavage, Laflin, PA *Cum Laude*

Doreen M. Hossage, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Stephanie Marie Kachelries, Plains, PA *Cum Laude*

Ashley Elizabeth Klein, Exeter, PA

Breana Marie Mosier, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Blair Elizabeth Muehlhauser, Ramsey, MN *Magna Cum Laude*

Brielle Ann Shuster, Oak Ridge, NJ

**MEDICAL SCIENCE**Sean Thomas Luzzi, Bethpage, NY *Cum Laude***PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

Thomas Robert Begley, Dunmore, PA

Robin Marie Belvedere, Dalton, PA

Suzanne J. Bowman, Mountain Top, PA *Summa Cum Laude*

Laura M. Hiraldo-Walker, Los Angeles, CA

Jacqueline Faye Kirkwood, Haddonfield, NJ

Kimberly L. Klick, Wilkes-Barre, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Heather Lee Pilcavage, Dallas, PA

Patrick J. Ruane, West Pittston, PA

Tammy G. Schnable, Dallas, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Philip C. Semenza, III, Yatesville, PA

Jessi Morgan Sullum, Honesdale, PA

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Coleby Wheeler Charlier, Lindley, NY

Victoria Paige Ciszak, Hawley, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

Leah L. Dixon, Liverpool, NY

Erin Michelle Duvinski, Schwenksville, PA

Julianne Marie Ferrie, Downingtown, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Rebecca Ann Fiorillo, Clarks Summit, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Ariana Marie Gagliardi, Wantagh, NY *Magna Cum Laude*Emily Breanne Gonzalez, Beachwood, NJ *Cum Laude*

Jordan Hazel Hoffman, Schnecksville, PA

Crystal Anne Morris, Prompton, PA *Magna Cum Laude*

James Severin Pedersen, II, Glasco, NY

Alexandra Noel Rego, Dallas, PA *Magna Cum Laude*Amanda Marie Sheehan, Dunmore, PA *Magna Cum Laude***SPORT MANAGEMENT**

Donald Bender, Jr., Erie, PA

Mark D. McMaster, Gouldsboro, PA

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Joan Ayers, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Shelly Elizabeth Belanchik, Wapwallopen, PA

Molly M. Breazeale, Dallas, PA

Mary Sheryll Coloso, Easton, PA

Priscilla Ann Coyne, Yatesville, PA

Melissa Ann Czock, Swoyersville, PA

Jill Ann Ferretti, Shavertown, PA

Kellie-Anne Frazier, Hanover Twp., PA

Natalie Cellucci Herron, Dallas, PA

Ronald D. Kasisky, Wyoming, PA

Heidi Ann Kosmer, Williamsport, PA

Katelyn Nicole Krebs, Dallas, PA

Michele Jade Maczuga, Mountain Top, PA

Jordan Lee Marzani, Madison Twp., PA

Brenda Ortega, Hazle Twp., PA

Stephanie Lynn Rubino, Harding, PA

Michelle Sasso-Wilkus, Hazleton, PA

Edward Serafin, Easton, PA

Nicole Shearer, Shickshinny, PA

Evelyn Sharmini Sirisani, Bethlehem, PA

Gina Marie Stefanelli, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Edward Thomas Stish, Jr., West Hazleton, PA

James Walker, West Hazleton, PA

Kelly Walsh, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Anthony C. Wilkie, Mebane, NC

Alisea Maria Williams, Dupont, PA

Jennifer A. Williman, Pittston, PA

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

William N. Faust, Hunlock Creek, PA

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Jennifer L. Ardoline, Courtdale, PA

Rachel Julia Baker, Maryland, NY

Kristopher Bianco, Carbondale, PA





Caitlin Brozzoski, Whitehall, PA  
 Timothy Burek, Valatie, NY  
 Nicole A. Callender, Scranton, PA  
 Adam Cappucci, Shavertown, PA  
 Ryan Michael Carey, Exeter, PA  
 Tommie Marie Crego, Tunkhannock, PA  
 Tracey Gavlick-Hall, South Abington Twp., PA  
 Jacob A. Lehnowsky, Mountain Top, PA  
 Kelsie Leigh McNamara, Dallas, PA  
 Angela M. Pasquini, York Springs, PA  
 Danielle E. Praefke, Carbondale, PA  
 Tammy R. Prinzo, Tobybanna, PA  
 Joan Danielle Rozanski Reed, Moosic, PA  
 Rebecca S. Rhodes, LaGrande, OR  
 Matthew Robinson, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Ian P. Silkworth, Endicott, NY  
 Tiffany Ann Sopko, Dunmore, PA  
 Jordan Joseph Timlin, Wilkes-Barre, PA

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

### EDUCATION

Ashley Elizabeth Blazaskie, Shavertown, PA  
 Jennis Kristina Bunnell, Mountain Top, PA  
 Kelsey Marie Cameron, Pringle, PA  
 Jessica Cashner, Shickshinny, PA  
 Stephanie Rose DeRemer, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
 Jessica Ann Hotz, Monroe Twp., PA  
 Ashley Elizabeth Jevin, Forty Fort, PA  
 Melissa Kirwan, Larksville, PA  
 Krystle Marie Novak, Olyphant, PA  
 Jack Thomas Port, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
 Lara Lynn Romanowski, Shavertown, PA  
 Aubrey R. Verdekal, Mountain Top, PA

### HEALTH CARE INFORMATICS

Rebecca Antal-Spudis, Dupont, PA  
 Sarah K. Davis, Kingston, PA  
 Karyn Renee Miller, Allentown, PA  
 Eric Steven Reich, Mountain Top, PA  
 Harshal Thomas, Philadelphia, PA

## ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Beth A. Borel, Meshoppen, PA  
 Lee Ann Chamberlain, Hanover Twp., PA  
 Matthew J. Cunningham, Dallas, PA  
 Michael Anthony DiMare, Shavertown, PA  
 Francis Joseph Dombrowski, III, Kingston, PA  
 Marissa Joanna Green, Dallas, PA  
 John Joseph Hoeffler, Cranford, NJ  
 Megan L. Jackson, Corning, NY  
 Anita Janoski, Hanover Twp., PA  
 Philip Kaiser, Grafton, OH  
 Carrie Ann Keller, Pittston Twp., PA  
 Dana Rose Middleton, Dallas, PA  
 Allison Nulton, Surf City, NJ  
 Kylie M. Patterson, West Pittston, PA  
 Lissette C. Pena, Hazleton, PA  
 Warren Michael Shotto, Dunmore, PA  
 Melissa Leigh Spinden, Wilmington, DE  
 Adriana Rotz Vullo, West Pittston, PA  
 James M. Werner, Huntington Station, NY  
 Kelly Zaltauskas, Scranton, PA

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Melanie A. Beck, Whitehall, PA  
 Trevor Behler, Slatington, PA  
 Gerardina Bogdanovic, Bridgewater, NJ  
 Laura Katherine Bradley, Honey Brook, PA  
 Jackie Brocious, Plains, PA  
 John Adotey Bruce, Bronx, NY  
 Terri Bugelholll, West Pittston, PA  
 Hope Cohen, Voorhees, NJ  
 Katlyn Michelle Dillow, Brooklyn, NY  
 Wilfredo Lazarus Dones, Jr., Albrightsville, PA  
 Naromie P. Fleury, Columbia, MD  
 Tierney Rose Hafner, Newtown, PA  
 Dominique Lemire-Ross, Dallas, PA  
 Lyndsey Ione McGrevy, Jim Thorpe, PA  
 Rebecca Hewit Pickel, Hummelstown, PA  
 Magdalena Rooney, Phoenixville, PA





Kaitlyn Ryan, Ellington, CT  
 Lee M. Ungaretta, North Plainfield, NJ  
 Eric Win, Cherry Hill, NJ

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Mary Margaret Armstrong, Endwell, NY  
 Tanner Ray Bulkley, Granville Summit, PA  
 Adam Michael DePorter, York, PA  
 Jaclyn A. Fudala, Philadelphia, PA  
 Michael Douglas Goetz, LaPorte, IN  
 Eric P. Hong, Staten Island, NY  
 Dacin Idaya Kemmerer, Lehighton, PA  
 Katelyn Mae Mantz, Hazle Twp., PA  
 Sunny Mehta, Lawrenceville, GA  
 Kayleigh Monica Morein, East Meadow, NY  
 Danielle Angela Olenginski, Shavertown, PA  
 Shannon Marie Queiser, Pittsburgh, PA  
 Alexandra Marie Schuller, Friedensburg, PA  
 Taylor R. Swenson, Gig-Harbor, WA  
 Blake Ward, Marshall, WI  
 Audrey Jane Warner, Needham, MA  
 Matthew Whitbord, Huntington Beach, CA  
 Ruth Elaine Wyman, Factoryville, PA

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Amy Nichole Austin, Pittston, PA  
 Kaci Leigh Birosik, Hanover Twp., PA  
 Linda Brennan Borenstein, Hatfield, PA  
 Gabriella Maria Cesare, Moosic, PA  
 Jennifer Lynn DiVirgilio, Zion Grove, PA  
 Alyssa Mocion, Laffin, PA  
 Patricia Maria Rodriguez-Hudson, Sugarloaf, PA  
 Victoria Romano, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
 Jennifer Lynn Zimmerman, Harding, PA  
 Catherine M. Zurawski, Mountain Top, PA

## DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Gerardina P. Forster, Whippany, NJ  
 Carrie Lynne Gorman, Jacobus, PA

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jessica Anderson, West Deptford, NJ  
 Luke Atkins, Richland, PA  
 Alexander J. Bair, Harrisburg, PA  
 Aaron Thomas Blank, Pittsburgh, PA  
 Kyle Bradley, Jim Thorpe, PA  
 Joshua Joseph Brennan, Scranton, PA  
 Conner James Campbell, Palmyra, PA  
 Ryan Patrick Cannon, Milton, DE  
 John T. Chillo, North Massapequa, NY  
 Alexa Croley, Pottsville, PA  
 Mara-Nicole Danoski, Endicott, NY  
 Jeffrey C. Dittmer, Garnerville, NY  
 Dayna Ellen Ehlers, Dingmans Ferry, PA  
 Rebekah Elizabeth Evangelista, Hellertown, PA  
 Taylor Marie Furry, Allentown, PA  
 Emily Paige Gherghel, Montgomery, PA  
 Anthony Goodall, Old Forge, PA  
 Rachael Anne Harding, Ringwood, NJ  
 Kathryn Heffner, Summerset, NJ  
 Aubrey Rose Hegge, Bethany, PA  
 Kelsey Elaine Heller, Binghamton, NY  
 Danielle Elizabeth Hesler, Leonardo, NJ  
 Rebecca Kate Hindman, Sinking Spring, PA  
 Jason Thane Hunter, Mountain Top, PA  
 Sarah Elizabeth Hurley, Sayre, PA  
 Elizabeth Joanne Jackson, Lebanon, PA  
 Katerina Marie Kindig, Mechanicsburg, PA  
 Megan J. Lannigan, Paramus, NJ  
 Megan Lemocelli, Scranton, PA  
 Alyssa Lauren Lieberman, Hillsborough, NJ  
 Thomas Joseph Machi, Mooresville, NC  
 Mia Marie Mancuso, Old Forge, PA  
 Heather Marie Marsico, Duryea, PA  
 Kaileen Ann Metzger, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
 Johnna L. Miller, Mountain Top, PA  
 Giuliana Marie Mucaro, Howell, NJ  
 Julianne Margaret Munda, Oxford, CT  
 Brooke Ashley North, Denver, PA





Robin K. O'Dell, Bridgewater, NJ  
 Jacqueline Pearson, Dallas, PA  
 Alexander M. Pereira, Bath, PA  
 Jessica Lynn Petz, Columbus, NJ  
 Alexa Anais Plevyak, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Jessica Lynn Raab, Pylesville, MD  
 Sean P. Reid, Lake Hopatcong, NJ  
 Andrew Reynolds, Pine Brook, NJ  
 Nathalie A. Ruiz, Hicksville, NY  
 Melinda LaBarre Russell, Rome, PA  
 Rachel Ann Scanlon, Pittston, PA  
 Mary K. Shea, Binghamton, NY  
 Jeffrey Douglas Smith, Lake Ariel, PA  
 Megan M. Smith, Elmer, NJ  
 Bradford Thomas, Wappingers Falls, NY  
 Christopher Craig Tiffany, Laceyville, PA  
 Benjamin Torres, Warrington, PA  
 Corinne Elizabeth Walker, Parsons, PA  
 Danika Watto, Freeburg, PA  
 Alexa Elizabeth Yoder, Orwigsburg, PA  
 Aryn Zimmerman, Murrysville, PA

Undergraduate students are awarded baccalaureate degrees with distinction for exceptional academic achievement. A student must have completed at least 60 credits at Misericordia University to qualify for academic honors. Honors listed are accurate as of the print date of the program. Actual honors for August graduates will be announced at the ceremony. Estimation of honors appears in the program for students who are completing their course work in December.

Distinction	Grade Point Average at Graduation
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	3.90 and above
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	3.70–3.89
<i>Cum Laude</i>	3.50–3.69

The class valedictorian is the full-time matriculated student with the highest cumulative undergraduate average who has completed all course work at Misericordia University with the exception of the 12 credits allowed through off campus requests or advanced placement credits. The Winter 2017 Valedictorian will be announced after final grades are submitted.

The student speaker for the 2017 Winter Commencement is the student with the highest grade point average based on grades earned at the start of the fall 2017 semester.

#### 2017 Winter Commencement Student Speaker

Michelle Nicole Mellody

Students who have completed the *University Honors* curriculum while achieving a grade point average of 3.25 or better are awarded University Honors. Students awarded include:

Julianne Marie Ferrie  
 Melanie Jayne Fry  
 Nicole Grassi  
 Olivia Sumeriski

The *Academic Excellence Award in Nursing*, conferred annually to a PTENP student who has attained the highest academic standing overall, was presented to:

Katelyn Nicole Krebs

The *Clinical Excellence Award*, presented to a student whose GPA is greater than 3.0 and who is judged by the faculty to administer superior nursing skills in clinical practice, was awarded to:

Kellie-Anne Frazier





The *Kaplan Secure Predictor*, presented to the student who has attained the highest score on the comprehensive NCLEX review examination, was awarded to:

Katelyn Nicole Krebs

The *Daisy in Training Award*, presented to the student who meets the criteria of the Daisy Foundation for providing compassionate care to patients, was awarded to:

Priscilla Ann Coyne

The *Judith and Harold Harding DNP Award for Excellence in Policy, Activism, and Advocacy*, conferred annually to a graduating DNP student in good academic standing who best exemplifies a commitment to health policy change, patient advocacy and community activism, was presented to:

Patricia Maria Rodriguez-Hudson

The *DNP Award for Excellence in Evidence Based Practice Change*, given annually to a graduating DNP student in good academic standing who demonstrates excellence in evidence based practice change, was awarded to:

Catherine M. Zurawski

The *Winter 2017 Outstanding Biology Student Award*, presented to a graduating senior student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in Biology by earning the highest cumulative GPA in the major, was awarded to:

Kayla Stephani

The *Occupational Therapy Curricular Award*, presented to a graduating Occupational Therapy student who has demonstrated exemplary academic performance and leadership potential in the profession, was awarded to:

Kaitlyn Ryan

The *Excellence in Fieldwork Award*, presented to an Occupational Therapy student who consistently has above average performance in fieldwork, displays outstanding interpersonal skills and contributes to fieldwork sites by applying and integrating classroom learning, was awarded to:

Melanie A. Beck

Kaitlyn Ryan

The *Catherine Perry Wilkinson Leadership Award*, given to a graduating student who demonstrates exemplary potential for leadership in the profession of physical therapy, was presented to:

Dayna Ellen Ehlers

The *Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award*, given to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, clinical performance, leadership skills and service to the university, community and profession, was presented to:

Katerina Marie Kindig

The *Physical Therapy Student Achievement Award*, given to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding abilities to successfully complete the physical therapy curriculum in the face of unique life experiences, was presented to:

Jeffrey C. Dittmer

The *Academic Excellence Award in the Physician Assistant Studies Program*, given to a graduating student who achieved the top GPA throughout the program, was presented to:

Mary Margaret Armstrong

The *Top Clinical Year Student Award*, presented to a graduating student who achieved top GPA throughout the clinical year of the physician assistant studies program, was awarded to:

Jaelyn A. Fudala

The *Spirit Award*, given to a student who demonstrated the true spirit of the Misericordia physician assistant studies program by going above and beyond to help support the program, was presented to:

Katelyn Mae Mantz

The *Psychology Student Achievement Award* for academic excellence, was presented to:

Rebecca Ann Fiorillo





Students admitted to the Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education:

Shane Christopher Kreller Allison Rosselli

Students admitted to the Psi Chi Honor Society for the recognition of scholarship and achievement in Psychology:

Victoria Paige Ciszak Ariana Marie Gagliardi Crystal Anne Morris  
Julianne Marie Ferrie Emily Breanne Gonzalez Amanda Marie Sheehan

Students admitted to the Psi Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon, National Occupational Therapy Honor Society:

Laura Katherine Bradley Wilfredo Lazarus Dones, Jr.

Students admitted to the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, an honor and professional society for students of the biological sciences:

Sabrina Grace Belasco Tyler Todd Hunyara Atasha Lynn Rehrig  
Kailee Crockett Andrea Michelle Nale Christopher S. Rehrig  
Justin Joseph Forbes Nicole M. Palanza Kayla Stephani  
Mitchell Joseph Haney Damian Peter Pierontoni Gerald Joseph Struble

Students admitted to Phi Alpha Theta, National Historical Honor Society:

Shane Christopher Kreller

Students admitted to the Theta Phi Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society for Nursing:

Randi Michelle Bunchalk Dara Clark

Students admitted to Sigma Beta Delta, International Business Honor Society:

Caitlin Brozzoski Alyssa Maria Gawlas McKenzie L. Ruffing  
Adam Cappucci Alicia Giambra Haley Stack  
Anthony Edward Jacob D. Klein Olivia Sumeriski  
D'Eliseo, Jr. Joseph Anthony Alexander William Tirko  
Francis Joseph Levandowski Adriana Rotz Vullo  
Dombrowski, III Kelsie Leigh McNamara  
Karissa R. Flick Joan Danielle Rozanski  
Melanie Jayne Fry Reed

Students admitted to Alpha Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society:

Shane Christopher Kreller Gabriella LaManna

Students admitted to Phi Sigma Tau, Kappa Chapter, International Philosophy Honor Society:

Brandon Eric Dean Emily Breanne Gonzalez

The Guaranteed Placement Program (GPP) integrates classroom instruction, experiential education, service leadership on- and off-campus, and career focused activity experiences. The following represents traditional GPP and GPP Gold and Blue Level students who have successfully completed the program:

Aaron Thomas Blank  
Rebekah Elizabeth Evangelista  
Taylor Marie Furry  
Katerina Marie Kindig  
Megan Lannigan  
Alyssa Lauren Lieberman  
Heather Marie Marsico  
Johnna L. Miller  
Andrea Michelle Nale  
Aryn Zimmerman



# ACADEMIC COSTUME IN AMERICA

Colors Indicating Fields of Learning

Worn as a border on the hood

ACCOUNTING  
Drab

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE  
Gold

BIOCHEMISTRY  
Golden Yellow

BIOLOGY  
Golden Yellow

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
Drab

CHEMISTRY  
Golden Yellow

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE  
Golden Yellow

COMMUNICATIONS  
Crimson

COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Golden Yellow

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY  
Golden Yellow

EDUCATION  
Light Blue

ENGLISH  
White

GOVERNMENT, LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY  
White

HEALTH CARE INFORMATICS  
Gold

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT  
Golden Yellow

HEALTH SCIENCE  
Golden Yellow

HISTORY  
White

American academic dress has its origins in the garments worn at medieval British universities, particularly at Oxford, which was founded in the 12th century. At the time, academic institutions were similar to guilds or associations, called *universitates*. The academic organization was a guild of Masters of Arts, with the bachelor an apprentice.

Gowns and hoods were common clothing in medieval times, with quality and design decreed according to the wearer's social status and wealth. While general fashions changed, academic attire remained the same, both as a tradition and as a means of identifying members of the university. Hoods evolved from a simple head covering or cowl into a symbolic garment with a strictly assigned system of colors and patterns which identified each graduate's institution, rank, and discipline.

The Oxford or "mortar board" cap came into use during the 16th century, but authorities differ on its origin. Some say the cap is square like a scholar's books; others that it was derived from the master workman's mortar board; still others suggest it was patterned after the quadrangular shape of the Oxford campus. A more plausible explanation is that the scholars wore skull caps while they worked indoors and square caps called birettas when they went outdoors; if they simply donned the biretta over their skull cap, the look would be very much like the mortarboard.

Although caps and gowns had been worn in many American schools since Colonial times, in 1885 there was a widespread student movement for their use at commencement ceremonies. The faculties adopted the use of gowns for themselves to wear at academic ceremonies. Each college developed its own arbitrary design and standards, as the British universities had, until the Intercollegiate Commission met to develop a code for academic costume in 1895. The new code regulated design of gowns, hoods, and colors in a way that would signify each scholar's achievements and institution. It was approved by 95 percent of American universities and colleges, and is still in use today.

The official code provides for three types of gowns. Those worn by the bachelors are black and have long, pointed sleeves. Masters may wear either black silk or woolen gowns, made with a long closed sleeve with an arc appearing near the bottom and a slit for the arm. The doctors' gowns are usually of black

silk with full, round, open sleeves. The color of the velvet trim may be black or the same color as the velvet which edges the hood. Although the color is normally black, some institutions have authorized doctoral gowns in their school colors.

The hood is worn at the back, suspended near the shoulders. The length of the hood and the width of its velvet border indicate the level of the degree held. Bachelors wear a hood which is three feet long, with a two-inch velvet border. The hood for the master's degree is three and one-half feet long, with a three-inch border. The doctor's hood is four feet long and the border is five inches wide.

The inner lining of the hood is in the official color or colors of the institution conferring the degree; therefore, Misericordia University's hood is lined with blue and golden yellow. The color of the velvet border indicates the field of learning in which the degree was earned. Tassels are traditionally black for the bachelor's and master's degrees, and gold for doctor's degrees and the governing officers of educational institutions.

Additional ornaments have been added in some institutions to indicate honors or memberships in honor societies. At Misericordia, a gold stole is worn by graduates receiving University honors; colored cords draped over the robe indicate membership in an honor society; distinctive pins worn on the gown also indicate particular honors.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
Golden Yellow

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES  
Golden Yellow

MANAGEMENT  
Drab

MARKETING  
Drab

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
Drab

MATHEMATICS  
White

MEDICAL IMAGING  
Golden Yellow

MEDICAL SCIENCE  
Golden Yellow

MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES  
White

NURSING  
Apricot

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
Golden Yellow

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT  
Golden Yellow

PHILOSOPHY  
White

PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)  
Teal

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
Kelly Green

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES  
Golden Yellow

PSYCHOLOGY  
Golden Yellow

SOCIAL WORK  
Citron

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
Silver

SPORT MANAGEMENT  
Sage Green



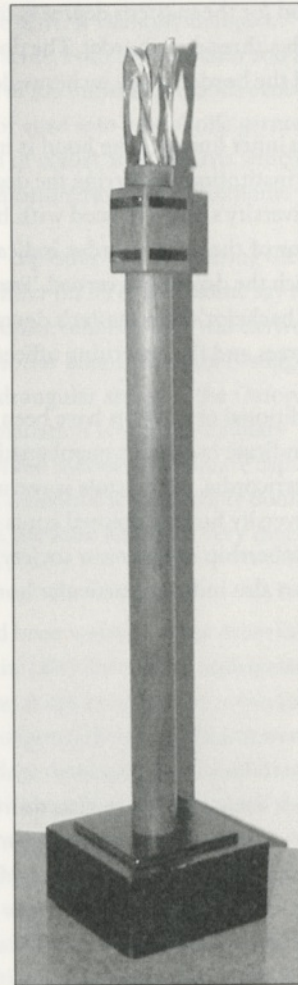
The mace is made of black walnut and bronze. The dark, rich wood symbolizes the woodlands surrounding the University campus referred to in the Alma Mater.

The unusual shaft works its way from rough cast, difficult beginnings into the textured, polished finish of a double base—angled, yet harmoniously fitted. The form represents the structured ideals of the Sisters of Mercy liberal arts education and the individual struggles for acquisition of knowledge.

Open, free forms of brass represent the open, free spirit, which is the basis of Compassionate Service, while the rich beauty and strength of walnut depict the fullness, value, and strength of Judeo-Christian education.

Highlighting the head of the mace is gleaming, textured bronze in the shape of an open flame. The fire represents two events in the history of the University: the burning of St. Mary's Convent in Wilkes-Barre, which necessitated the Sisters' move to Dallas, and the first night on campus when fires almost prevented the University from ever opening its doors. A flame open to searching for truth, and open to new ideas is symbolic of the light of learning: always striving for, never reaching, the fullness of finish.

The University Mace was designed and executed by Regina Kiel, RSM, goldsmith and silversmith. It is a gift of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Dallas Regional Community.



Misericordia University was founded by the Sisters of Mercy.

The flags on display today represent the countries where the Sisters of Mercy, faculty and students from Misericordia University have ministered. Also included are the flags of our graduates who are from foreign countries. The United Nations flag represents the Sisters of Mercy's NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

Brazil	Peru
China	Rwanda
Guyana	Saudi Arabia
Jamaica	Turkey
Kenya	United Arab Emirates
Liberia	United Nations
Palestine	

### Marshals

Amelia Caruso '05, '12	Colleen Newhart '75, '09
Marilyn DeHaven '06	Jessica Randall
Heather Fritz '97	Maureen Rinehimer
Adam Grzech '13, '17	Thomas Sweetz '01, <i>Grand Marshal</i>
Bridget Guarnieri '15	Tiffany Wiernusz '04
Matthew Hinton	

### Ushers

John Bankus	Annmarie Narcum
Michael Dubinski	Callie Rimpfel
Lindsay Freitag	Matt Sommers
Brenna Gallagher	Don Stacknick
Breanna Gorski	Emily Walsh
Bailee Hymers	Bailey Waltman
Greg Lewis	Rebecca Zaneski





Christopher Borton, *Chair*  
 Dr. Deborah Smith-Mileski '75, *Vice Chair*

Michael Amory '85  
 Monsignor John J. Bendik  
 Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.  
 Jonathan Brassington '95  
 Alfred Casale, M.D.  
 Cornelio Catena  
 R. Gregory Collins '82  
 Dr. Ruth A. Connolly  
 Jody Cordaro  
 Harris Cutler  
 Mary Erwine '90  
 Patricia Finan-Castellano '73  
 Harold E. Flack, II  
 Sister Carol Gallagher, RSM '66  
 The Honorable Tina Polachek Gartley '88  
 Dr. Martha Hanlon, RSM '60  
 Roger Howell  
 Philip Johnson  
 Kristopher Jones  
 Scott Lynett  
 Sherry A. Manetta '72  
 Marjorie Marquart '85  
 Sister Catherine McGroarty, RSM '74  
 John C. Metz  
 Daniel Meuser  
 Dr. Mary Helen Nugent, RSM  
 Dr. Carol Rittner, RSM '67  
 Paul Siegel  
 Robert Soper  
 Mary Beth McNamara Sullivan '71  
 Sister Mayon Sylvain, RSM '84  
 Mark Van Loon, Esq.  
 Paul Woelkers '81

### Trustees Emeriti

Dr. Mary Ann Dillon, RSM '68  
 Sandy Insalaco, Sr.  
 Harold Rosenn, Esq.  
 Rosemary Sigmond  
 Murray Ufberg, Esq.

### Alumni Board President

Mark Oberstaedt, Esq. '89

## MISERICORDIA ALMA MATER

Woodland home on Dallas heights,  
 Majestic, grand in view  
 Your loyal students far and near,  
 Proclaim their love for you.  
 Your banner bright of truth and light  
 Shall proudly o'er us wave  
 Its shining gold and azure blue  
 Denote your spirit brave.

### Refrain

Misericordia! We're proud of you.  
 We love your murm'ring pine trees,  
 Your groves and grotto, too.  
 You are our Alma Mater,  
 And to you we will e'er be true  
 Misericordia we hail! Dear Misericordia!

When from you we must depart  
 Our spirit shall remain  
 We'll ne'er forget your rolling hills  
 Whose beauty all acclaim.  
 Your classic halls are our delight, Your campus is our pride;  
 Your shield of honor, strength and might  
 Shall ever be our guide.

### Refrain

Misericordia! We're proud of you.  
 We love your murm'ring pine trees,  
 Your groves and grotto, too.  
 You are our Alma Mater,  
 And to you we will e'er be true  
 Misericordia we hail! Dear Misericordia!

—Sister Teresa Mary Moyles, RSM







@MisericordiaU



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Share your well wishes and best commencement photos of your favorite graduates on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter by tagging them #MUGrads and/or with @MisericordiaU in your postings. They may be shared on MU social media sites.



MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY.

*Founded by the Sisters of Mercy*