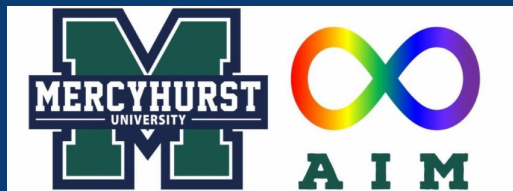


The AIM Advance



04/12/2024



AIM Updates

AISE-V DOMAIN KEY
Opportunities AIM creates or supports are focused on the AISE-V Domains. The events listed may fall under a variety of domain areas (A,I,S,E,V).

A - ACADEMIC
I - INDEPENDENT LIVING
S - SOCIAL
E - EMOTIONAL
V - VOCATIONAL



WEEKLY AIM ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Full Spectrum Fitness 11-12:30 pm - MICCareer Path Freshman 3 pm - Sullivan 1 - biweeklyCareer Path Juniors 3 pm - Sullivan 2Cooking 4:30 pm Mercy 100BOOST 3-5:30 pm Hirt M213	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pickleball 2 pm Rec Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Full Spectrum Fitness 11-12:30 pm - MICPEERS 3 pm - Sullivan 1-2Healthy Relationships Class for Sophomores 3 pm - Sullivan 2Career Path Seniors 3 pm - Main 211BOOST 5:30-8 pm Zum 207
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BOOST 3-5:30 pm Hirt U305Zumba 5 pm - Rec Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drum Circle 3 pm Prince of Peace Chapel	
SUNDAY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BOOST 5-7:30 pm Hirt M213		

Director's Note

April is a special time of year as we celebrate Autism Appreciation Month. We chose to embrace appreciation over acceptance because we don't merely accept our students; we genuinely appreciate them and all the fantastic ways they enrich our campus, diversity, and culture at Mercyhurst and worldwide. We are happy you are here! Join us for the Annual Walk for Autism on April 27 or outside the Grotto on April 29 for Autism Appreciation giveaways! Please continue working hard to utilize your resources and support to finish the semester strong. We're here to help; you got this! - Amanda Mulder



Diversity is our strength



April 2

World Autism Awareness Day
AUTISM INITIATIVE AT MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY



Student Spotlight

For this week's student spotlight, we are featuring Cara Bonavita, a unique, one-of-a-kind student in our program. Cara is an incredible senior student in AIM with many accomplishments and academic honors. Most recently, she was one of six students selected to attend the Sign Tau Delta Honors Society English Honors Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, to read her incredible poem, "I Am Your Spaniel." Cara is also president of the Society for Creative Anachronism Medieval and Renaissance Club, where she has planned and led the group on many off-campus adventures to the Pittsburgh Renaissance Club and Agincourt, Ohio State Renaissance Conference this year. Cara is a robust and resilient leader; she found a creative way to make an off-campus trip to Medieval Times in Toronto happen next week despite many scheduling difficulties. Cara has been accepted into the Special Education master's program here at Mercyhurst, and we are delighted that the 'Hurst will be her home for a couple more years. Way to go, Cara! We are so proud of you!



“I Am Your Spaniel”

By Cara Bonavita

A beast is what they call me.
A mangey, rotten old thing
with canines falling from my gums
and musty paws weighted by blunt claws.
They say, "You love like a dog,"
I say, "I can love like no other."
I cling to the leash and the collar.
I lick the hand that feeds
and I nuzzle the fist that beats.
I can't help it if my heart
thinks for my brain.
I favor loyalty until it kills me.
I will let you pull the leash tighter
and as I raise my head higher,
I will look at you with the eyes of Argos,
dropping my ears and wagging
my tail as I revere you like
the god you never were.
I'll sleep at the foot of your bed
if it means I get to be with you.
I will give up every piece of myself
like something not worth loving back.

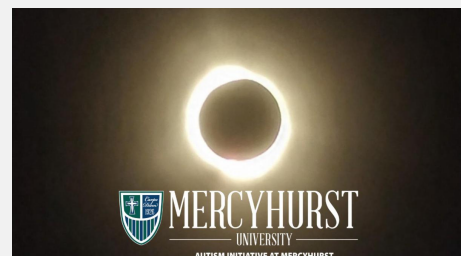
Important Dates [Spring At-A-Glance Calendar](#)

- **Fall 2024 Registration - if you have not registered yet, please see your support coordinator.**
- Last Day to Withdraw from Spring Classes: April 19
- Spring Classes End: May 3
- Finals Week: May 6 - 9
- Graduation: May 11

Vocational Trip to JP Morgan Chase in Columbus, OH

Eight students and three staff members enjoyed an amazing event at JP Morgan Chase last week. The company hosted a Student Symposium for Neurodivergent college students at their offices in Columbus, OH. Participants learned about the company,

Eclipse Viewing



toured the beautiful offices, and gained insight into employment opportunities at this incredible organization. We think it is the start of a strong relationship and we look forward to hosting members of their team for events both virtually and on campus in the future! Great job to all the staff and students who participated!

(AISEV)



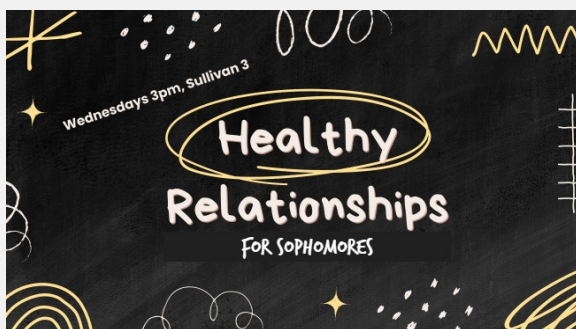
Career Path Update

GRADUATION PRACTICE

We are having an optional graduation ceremony practice on Monday, April 15. The van will depart from the Mercy 200 Apartments at 3:00 PM.



Please RSVP to Amanda at amulder@mercyhurst.edu if you plan to come! You will see where graduation will occur, and we will practice parts of the ceremony. Thank you!



With the spring semester winding down, two healthy relationship sessions remain. An array of topics has been covered with the sophomores who have attended

On Monday, April 8, 2024, at 3:16 p.m. Erie, PA we experienced the rare phenomena of being in the path of totality of a total solar eclipse. AIM students and staff enjoyed a fun day on campus with eclipse related activities and a sensory-friendly viewing spot.



Full Spectrum Fitness

Full Spectrum Fitness is a new offering this semester. We had a few new students stop in to give it a try, along with our regulars who attend. The student athletes and majors that work with us are always welcoming and knowledgeable.

This program is personalized to each participant, and is all about building core strength just like the college athletes here at Mercyhurst. The students get to know one another, the coaches/interns and their own bodies as we meet Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12:30 in the MIC.

AIM students are always welcome, it is just one more area of our lives that we want to keep in great shape!

weekly. Students have immersed themselves in the many different scenarios we provide each session. These scenarios cover topics such as having conversations with parents, friends, and partners, addressing conflict, etc. We recently discussed many real-life scenarios addressing roommate conflict and starting conversations with professors. Students went on an in-depth tour of the Rec center before Easter break. This mini field trip was provided as we had heard that some students would like to utilize what the center offers. However, many were uncomfortable as they did not know anyone or how to use the equipment. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable and kept the students engaged while also showing them how to use each piece of equipment in the center and helping ease any anxiety and/or nervousness they may have felt. He reminded us that we must remember that every person who goes to the gym had their first day in the gym at some point and never to give up and keep moving towards our goals.

In the last couple of sessions, we will continue to utilize real-life scenarios, allowing the students to put themselves in the situations and think about how they would feel in a certain situation and how they would approach it. The scenarios presented are real-life and video clips for us to depict fantasy versus reality. We will be looking ahead to summer and fall as well. They will be reminded where to go online to see what clubs and organizations the university offers and start thinking about their hobbies and interests. They will be encouraged to check the site throughout the summer and make notes if there are any clubs or organizations they may want to join when they return to campus in the fall. We will continue our conversations on communication and boundaries while focusing on co-workers, as some students may have summer jobs or are starting to think about job opportunities beyond college. We will also touch on applying for and interviewing for jobs and continuing to look at and discuss non-verbal communication.



We wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to expanding on the current healthy relationships sessions in the fall.

Executive Director's Note

Another incredible AIM trip last week to JP Morgan Chase in Columbus – great job to our staff and students who represented Mercyhurst so well! We are very excited about growing our partnership with them in the coming years – stay tuned for more!

Special thanks to our friends at Parkhurst Dining – specifically Jackie and Tori at the Roost – who hosted our seniors for an Alcohol Awareness course at the Roost.

We are excited for a few more trips to wrap up the semester and then to start planning for the fall. Do you have ideas on what employers you might like to visit or connect with in a virtual presentation? [Email Ryan](#) or talk with your student support coordinator!

We have another virtual information session coming up at the end of this month – [more details here](#) – please share with friends and family who might be interested in learning more about AIM/CREATE!



Upcoming Campus Activities

Break the Thai: Thai Beef Salad or Vegan Spring Rolls?

Join Chef Art on Wednesday, April 17, in the Grotto's Community Dining Room from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a cooking class! Learn to make Thai Beef Salad and Vegan Spring Rolls. Supplies will be provided. [Sign up here.](#)

[Join Community Engagement](#)

Support Women's Basketball at Chipotle Fundraiser

Dine at Chipotle (6611 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509) on Thursday, April 18, from 5 to 9 p.m. to support the Women's Basketball team. A portion of sales will benefit the Lakers. Contact [Molly Glick](mailto:mglick@mercyhurst.edu) at mglick@mercyhurst.edu with any questions.

Conference on Sustainability

The Community Engagement department is hosting a mini-conference entitled "Our Erie Environment: Spaces for Everyone" on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Responding to the academic theme of "Earth," the event will focus on the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainability in Erie. Open to faculty, staff, students, and community partners, this free conference is a perfect opportunity to experience the intersection of community engagement and sustainability in our city. The conference features keynote speaker Dr. Eric Pallant of Allegheny College, breakout sessions with faculty and Erie community members, lunch, and a Green Tour of campus. Community Engagement will also provide transportation to attendees wishing to join the National Water Dance activities on the Bayfront at 4 p.m. To register, [click here](#). Contact [Bethany Woods](#) at bwoods@mercyhurst.edu with questions.

Celebrate Campus Pride Month

April is Campus Pride Month and Mercyhurst will host several events open to the campus community.

Saturday, April 13, 7 p.m., Drag

Bingo. Join MAC/SAC in the green gym for a fun night of bingo hosted by a local drag queen.

Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m., Visibility Walk

Poster Making. Join Lesbians of Mercyhurst in making posters for the LGBTQIA+ Visibility Walk in the Multicultural Lounge in the Student Union. All supplies are provided.

Monday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., LGBTQIA+ Visibility Walk.

Meet at the Student Union Great Room to take part in the Mercyhurst University LGBTQIA+ Visibility Walk to hear about student experiences and learn about resources in Erie. Open to everyone including faculty and staff.

Wednesday, April 24, 4 p.m., Lavender Ceremony.

Attend the first-ever Lavender Cord Ceremony in honor of graduating LGBTQIA+ seniors and allies in the Student Union Great Room. There will be light refreshments and speeches by Tyler Titus and Mercyhurst community members. Non-seniors, faculty, and staff are welcome.

Literary Festival Events

Songs of the Earth, Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., Luke's Landing

Enjoy an evening of songs focused on this year's academic theme: the earth. Featuring performances by Mercyhurst faculty, students, alumni, and friends, along with featured guest Jim Tometsko and his band, the event highlights work by contemporary and classic artists, including Joni Mitchell, Blue Rodeo, Carole King, Imagine Dragons, and more. This music honors our connection to the natural world in all its splendor and fragile beauty, reminding us of our shared responsibility to care for the earth.

Lumen Unveiling and Student Awards, Thursday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Taylor Little Theatre

The Literary Festival concludes with the presentation of the P. Barry McAndrew awards for excellence in student writing and the unveiling of *Lumen*, the student-produced, award-winning multimedia magazine of the creative arts at Mercyhurst. Students are invited to share their works during an open mic session.

Sister Maura Smith Earth Day Lecture Series Welcomes Rachael Shenyo

The **Sister Maura Smith Earth Day Lecture Series** returns on **Wednesday, April 17**, at 7 p.m. in the Walker Recital Hall. **Rachael Shenyo**, will deliver her talk: "Climate Cause and Effect: The Disproportionate Effects of Climate Change Across the World." A passionate environmentalist who sacrificed a comfortable life to study climate change where the needs are greatest, Rachael will discuss her observations of climate vulnerability in the rural highlands of Guatemala and her work to combat carbon emissions. Hosted by the **Office of Sustainability** and the **Office for Mission**, this event is free and open to the public.

Monday, April 29, 5 p.m., Dedication Ceremony. Join us in the Multicultural Lounge to dedicate an LGBTQIA+ bookcase in honor of the late Dr. Heidi Hosey-McGurk.

Motivation is what gets you started.

Habit is what keeps you going.

— Jim Ryon

23rd Annual Walk for Autism

Join us for the 23rd Annual Walk for Autism! This empowering two-mile walk aims to raise awareness about Autism while funding crucial programming and activities for individuals with Autism in our community. All proceeds, a full 100%, remain here in our local area.

CLICK TO JOIN



Join Mercyhurst AIM

for the
23RD ANNUAL

WALK FOR AUTISM

APRIL 27, 2024



Please join the Mercyhurst team by clicking on the link below

<https://autismsocietynwpa.app.neoncrm.com/AIMatMercyhurst>

Team Captain Michele Garvey
mgarvey@mercyhurst.edu

Mercyhurst April 2024 Campus Pride Month Events!

3rd- 10th	Artwork Showcase Visit the hallway outside of Grotto Commons and look at artwork created by members of the LGBTQIA+ community!
Tuesday 9th @ 5pm	Queer Conversations Come to the community dining hall to take part in a student led conversation on a topic surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community!
Saturday 13th @ 7pm	Drag Bingo Join MAC/SAC in the green gym for a fun night of bingo hosted by a local drag queen!
Sunday 14th @ 4pm	Visibility Walk Poster Making Come make posters for the visibility walk in the Multicultural Lounge in the Student Union!
Monday 15th @ 7:30pm	Visibility Walk Meet at the Student Union Great Room to take part in an LGBTQIA+ visibility walk around campus!
Wednesday 24th @ 4pm	Lavender Ceremony Attend the first ever Lavender cord ceremony for LGBTQIA+ seniors and allies at the Student Union Great Room!
Monday 29th @ 5pm	Dedication Ceremony Join us in the Multicultural Lounge for a dedication ceremony in honor of Dr. Heidi Hosey-McGurk.

 Sponsored by Multicultural Student Services 

Proudly Presents the Sister Maura Smith Earth Day
Lecture Series

**“Climate Cause and Effect: The
Disproportionate Effects of Climate
Change Across the World”**

Presented by: Rachael Shenyo

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 7 P.M.
WALKER RECITAL HALL**

Free and open to the public.



Groundbreaking climate scientist Rachael Shenyo will discuss why the problem of climate change must be solved not just by environmentalists, but by all of us. Grounded in her experiences in rural Guatemala, Rachael discusses her 9 observed indicators of climate vulnerability and how the communities who are contributing the least amount of carbon are often the ones most affected by the climate crisis.

Sponsored by the Office of Sustainability and the Office for Mission

MERCYHURST 2024 EARTH WEEK EVENTS

APRIL 15 MON	<u>PLANTS AND POTTERY</u> Join the Sustainability Club to make pottery with plant impressions using repurposed clay! TIME: 6 pm LOCATION: Ceramics Lab
APRIL 16 TUE	<u>PROTEST SIGN MAKING</u> Join the Citizen's Climate Lobby to make cardboard protest signs for use in eco rallies! TIME: 7 pm LOCATION: Hirt 214
APRIL 17 WED	SISTER MAURA SMITH EARTH DAY LECTURE: Rachael Shenyo TIME: 7 pm LOCATION: Walker Recital Hall
APRIL 18 THU	<u>SPEED PLARN</u> Join Morgan in a special competitive plarn event, where we'll see who can turn bags into plastic yarn the fastest! TIME: 6PM LOCATION: Multicultural Lounge
APRIL 19 FRI	<u>MOVIE NIGHT "This Changes Everything"</u> Join the Green Team to watch an inspirational climate documentary, one which will empower positive change! TIME: 5 PM LOCATION: Zurn 114
APRIL 20 SAT	<u>SUSTANIBILITY MINI CONFERENCE</u> TIME: 9AM LOCATION: Mercy Heritage Room <u>WATER DANCE</u> TIME: 4PM LOCATION: Maritime Museum
APRIL 22 MON	<u>EARTH DAY FAIR</u> The Green Team hosts Earth Day fun, with trivia, scavenger hunts, prizes, and a game of kickball! TIME: 4PM LOCATION: Green Rec. Gym

HOW TO STUDY EFFECTIVELY

COME TO BOOST

Sunday: 5pm-7:30 - Hirt M213
Monday: 3pm-5:30- Hirt M213
Wed: 5:30-8:00 pm - Zurn 207
Thursdays 3:00 -5:30pm- Hirt U305

We have BOOST monitors Jordan and Soren to help you with the following:

- Study strategies and note-taking
- Reading for comprehension
- Organizing ideas for writing assignments
- Prioritizing and study planning for the weekends



REMEMBER YOUR GOALS

On the journey of studying, there will be a time when you get bored or feel lazy. Always remember your goals and what you want to achieve.



MAKE A STUDY SCHEDULE

The first thing you can try is to make a study schedule. Decide a perfect time and study at the same time every day. It will practice your brain as well.

GET MOTIVATED AT THE

STUDY STUDIO

CAE 311 4:00PM - 8:00PM	WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
-------------------------------	---------------------------

- COLLABORATE WITH PEERS
- LEARN MORE STUDY SKILLS
- STUDY INDEPENDENTLY
- EARN ANCHOR POINTS

The poster features a dark blue background with scattered colorful geometric shapes: plus signs, circles, and dots in yellow, red, green, and light blue. The text is white and colorful, with 'STUDY' in large, multi-colored outlined letters and 'STUDIO' in smaller, multi-colored outlined letters.

PICKLEBALL

Open Class

▼▼▼

TUESDAY
2 PM

@ THE REC CENTER

▼▼▼

The poster features a dark grey background with a white diagonal line and a blue circular area. Three yellow pickleballs are arranged in a triangle on the blue circle. The text is white and yellow, with 'PICKLEBALL' in large white letters and 'Open Class' in yellow script. There are three white chevrons pointing down on both sides of the text.

Trying to find something to
do on campus?



Go to: mercyhurst.presence.io

Login with your Mercyhurst credentials

Download "Modern Campus Presence" on the App Store

The poster has a dark blue background with colorful musical notes and symbols. At the top, "Drum Circle" is written in large, stylized yellow and blue letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is "TUNE INTO HEALING: GROUP MUSIC THERAPY SESSIONS". A dark blue horizontal bar contains the text "FRIDAYS • 3:00PM-3:50PM • PRINCE OF PEACE CHAPEL" in white. The center features an illustration of a blue drum with yellow drumsticks and musical notes. At the bottom, the text "EVERYONE IS WELCOME, NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED." is written in large yellow letters. A small white asterisked note at the bottom reads: "* PRINCE OF PEACE CHAPEL IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE STUDENT UNION". At the very bottom, in small white text, it says "EMAIL BECKY AT RFERGU94@LAKERS.MERCYHURST.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION".



LET IT MOVE YOU™



Amanda Mulder

Zumba Dance Fitness Class

REC Center

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Thursdays starting January 25, 2024!

My Zumba classes are the hottest mixes to lighten your feet and spirit. Please join me for various salsa, merengue, pop, Afro-punk, hip-hop, belly dance-inspired routines, and more! No experience is necessary, this class is taught as a progressive workout for all! Join the party! You won't regret it!

For class details Contact your licensed Zumba® instructor.
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ZUMBA.COM

CO-SPONSORED BY CAMPUS MINISTRY
AND THE COUNSELING CENTER



A student support group for those navigating
grief and loss of a loved one.

Contact Marissa m Bailey@mercyhurst.edu to get involved



MERCYHURST

UNIVERSITY

AUTISM INITIATIVE AT MERCYHURST

Phone: (814) 824-2000

Address: 501 East 38th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16546

Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst University | 501 E 38th Street, Erie,
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