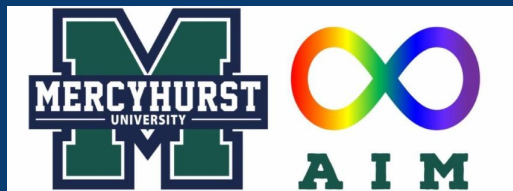


The AIM Advance

03/22/2024



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

- Full Spectrum Fitness 11-12:30 pm - MIC
- Career Path Freshman 3 pm - Sullivan 1 - biweekly
- Career Path Juniors 3 pm - Sullivan 2
- Cooking 4:30 pm Mercy 100
- BOOST 3-5:30 pm Hirt M213

TUESDAY

- Pickleball 2 pm Rec Center

WEDNESDAY

- Full Spectrum Fitness 11-12:30 pm - MIC
- PEERS 3 pm - Sullivan 1-2
- Healthy Relationships Class for Sophomores 3 pm - Sullivan 2
- Career Path Seniors 3 pm - Main 211
- BOOST 5:30-8 pm Zum 207

THURSDAY

- BOOST 3-5:30 pm Hirt U305
- Zumba 5 pm - Rec Center

FRIDAY

- Drum Circle 3 pm Prince of Peace Chapel

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

- BOOST 5-7:30 pm Hirt M213

Director's Note

Happy spring, everyone! It's a time not only for seasonal milestones but also for many important academic ones. We are over halfway through the semester; please check Blackboard or Self-Service for your midterm grades. Now is the time to see how you are doing in your classes. If you are happy with your grades, keep up the great work! If your grade isn't where you'd like it to be, your student support coordinator can connect you with resources and create a plan to work toward improvement or help you withdraw from classes. Reach out to us; we are here to help you!

Take time to enjoy Easter break with your family and friends! We wish you a happy, safe holiday! - Amanda





Student Spotlight

Meet Emily Del Valle

Emily is a senior Criminal Justice major. She would love to follow in the footsteps of her older brother, Nick, who pursued a career working with children. Emily has been an outstanding student, often landing on the Dean's list through her diligence and hard work. She also maintains a consistent work schedule at home, balancing life's challenges well. Some of Emily's favorite things to do are trying out new baking recipes and reading and writing letters in her spare time. Some of Emily's future goals are getting married, having kids, and working within a school system. Emily has been a fantastic addition to our program, and we are proud to introduce you to her!

Important Dates *Spring At-A-Glance Calendar*

- **Fall 2024 Registration - if you have not registered yet, please see your support coordinator.**
- Easter Break: March 27 - April 1
- Last Day to Withdraw from Spring Classes: April 19
- Spring Classes End: May 3
- Finals Week: May 6 - 9
- Graduation: May 11

AIM in the News!

Ryan Palm, the Executive Director of the Brad McGarry Center for Neurodiversity at Mercyhurst University, was featured last night on JET24's newscast. This conversation highlighted Mercyhurst's commitment to our AIM students and the role of neurodiversity, where we are proud to be a leader.

WATCH INTERVIEW



Autism Initiative at
Mercyhurst
Virtual Information
Session

Wednesday, March 27 | 7 p.m.

Register here: mhur.st/aim-info

Join us on 3/27 at 7 p.m. to learn more about the Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst and the CREATE summer program. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested in our program! mhur.st/aim-info

Vocational Trip to Washington, D.C.

Executive Director's Note

What an incredible trip we had



During spring break, seven adventurous students and three dedicated staff members took a vocational trip to Washington, D.C. The trip included a few stops at career opportunities - National Institutes of Health and KPMG, some advocacy experiences with the National Autism Coordinator and the Organization for Autism Research (hosted by our alumnus Ben VanHook), a visit with Senator Bob Casey's policy aide, and of course sightseeing and lots of good food!

These trips give our students an incredible opportunity to experience a new community, see first-hand what life is like in a big city, learn about employment opportunities, and build social community amongst AIM students and staff.

Special thanks to all who generously hosted us on this trip. We are truly grateful for your time and attention to our students!

(AISEV)



earlier this month to Washington, D.C.! We were able to see some prospective employers, learn about advocacy opportunities, meet a couple successful AIM grads, and see some of the many monuments and museums that DC offers. Kudos to all who joined AIM staff on the trip, and special thanks to Amanda and Tacie for their hard work in planning and driving!

As we get closer to the end of the year, we are continuing with our vocational opportunities for students in all grade levels. We look forward to a group heading to Columbus next month to visit JP Morgan Chase, another group attending a Cybersecurity conference in Philadelphia, as well as Career Path seniors heading to visit Marquette here in Erie! If I can be of any help to you as you consider careers, internships, or anything else related, please feel free to email me at rpalm@mercyhurst.edu and we can find a time to meet!



On Monday, April 8, 2024, at 3:16 p.m. Erie, PA will experience the rare phenomena of being in the path of totality of a total solar eclipse. Mercyhurst is opening our gates to the community with lectures and activities, plus an opportunity to view the eclipse from our campus. Activities include educational talks, glasses and glow-



ware giveaways, and a special viewing event at Saxon Stadium with music, food, and fun!

Mercyhurst University has been designated by NASA as a "Sunspot Viewing Site" and will be hosting a variety of events on the day of and leading up to the eclipse. We outline those events and provide resources for learning about the eclipse here. Erie won't be in the path of totality for another solar eclipse until the year 2144, making this a once in a lifetime experience!

ECLIPSE INFO

Cooking & Camaraderie

Two weeks ago, in honor of St. Patrick's Day, we made Sheppard's pie with crescent rolls and ready-to-bake cookies.

For Cooking and Camaraderie this week we enjoyed a dinner of Cheeseburger Helper and homemade brownies. The students all pitched in to make this quick meal, that was enjoyed by all! We often also talk about how pre-made meals and mixes can be added to in order to fancy them up or make them semi-homemade. Our goal is to meet the students at their interest level and taste buds alike. (15)







Full Spectrum Fitness

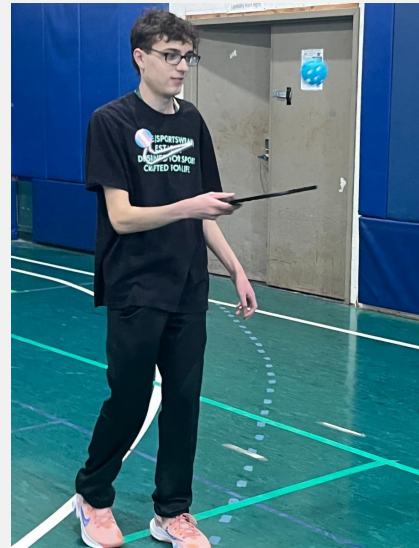
Full Spectrum Fitness is still going strong. We have several regulars, along with those who drop in as they are able. This program is personalized to each participant and is all about building core strength, just like the college athletes here at Mercyhurst. Coach Tyler calls it Pillar Prep as we go through the strength and conditioning programming. The students get to know one another, the coaches/interns, and their bodies as we meet on 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! (ISE)





Pickleball

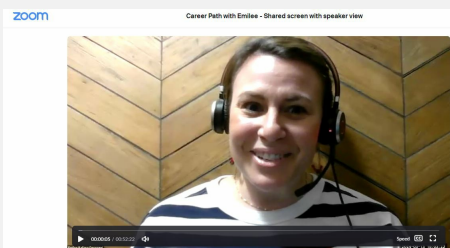
Pickleball has been up and running for half the semester now. Our attendees have learned the rules, the ins and outs of scorekeeping, and how to get extra movement in their lives. This program is a great stress reliever as the semester winds to a close. With Finals coming, feel free to come over and get your Pickleball game going at 2 pm on Tuesdays in the REC. Everyone is welcome! (ISE)





Career Path Update

On Wednesday, March 13th, Senior Career Path students had an excellent live virtual speaker, Emilee Ballaro Despagni, a Mercyhurst alum and recruiter in New York City. She shared incredible tips to help seniors create and strengthen their LinkedIn profiles and hone their professional networking skills. We are so thankful for outstanding alums like Emilee who take the time to guide our students!



Upcoming Campus Activities

Free Haircuts from Local Barber

The **Mercyhurst Men's Collective** will host a free haircut day in partnership with a local barber. Dapper Don's Styling Lounge will provide free cuts (no wash, no style) to any Mercyhurst student who presents their student ID on **Monday, March 25, from noon to 4 p.m.** Cuts are offered at 2527 Peach Street on a first-come, first-served basis. Transportation is available. To sign up for a ride or more information, contact Deonte Cooley at dcooley@mercyhurst.edu.

Nominate an Educator for 2024 Teaching Excellence Award

The Teaching Excellence Award, established in 1990, is presented annually to outstanding full-time faculty members in recognition that Mercyhurst's primary institutional priority has always been, and still is, exceptional teaching inside and outside the classroom setting. Students, alumni, and faculty are encouraged to **submit nominations** by Wednesday, April 3.

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

Coffee and Bagel Commuter Pop-Up



March 25 | 11:30am
Commuter Lounge

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COLLABORATE WITH PEERS• LEARN MORE STUDY SKILLS• STUDY INDEPENDENTLY• EARN ANCHOR POINTS
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PICKLEBALL

Open Class

⋄⋄⋄

TUESDAY
2 PM

@ THE REC CENTER



⋄⋄⋄

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

LAKER LIFE HACKS

Having trouble adulting?!?!?!?



****Want a simple way to work on skills to make life easier and have less trouble adulting???****

Join Counseling Center and Residence Life staff in Warde Hall Lounge on April 10, 2024
5-6 pm for Balancing Home/work/school!

READY FOR SOME STRESS RELIEF?!

JOIN THE COUNSELING CENTER & THERAPY DOGS UNITED

DEPRESSION SCREENING EVENT

3/25/24 @ WARDE HALL LOUNGE 5-7 PM

HANDOUTS PROVIDED, JENGA COMPETITION, COLORING PAGES

Autism Acceptance Day

Special guest: **Kerry Magro** | April 12th 2024 | At: Mercyhurst University

Buy Tickets Now! <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/lakeshore-community-services/autism-acceptance-day>

ADMIT ONE
Only \$20.00
12 April 08:00 AM



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,
ERIE, PA 16546-0001

[Unsubscribe amulder@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:amulder@mercyhurst.edu)

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Sent by amanda@autisminitiativeatmercyhurstuniversity.ccsend.com powered by



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