

# Learner

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through the five-week course, doing her final class presentation sitting down as her feet were so swollen she could barely get her shoes on.

Oster found out she was pregnant a week after she registered for her first classes at College Misericordia. She obtained an associate nursing degree from Luzerne County College in 1993 and is now a student in College Misericordia's Expressway R.N. program, where she will graduate in July with a bachelor's degree in nursing and then continue for her master's degree on the "Fast Track" plan. "I keep taking a step up," said Oster. "L.P.N., R.N., B.S.N., and hopefully M.S.N. someday. Maybe someday I'll even have a Ph.D."

In the Expressway R.N. program, nurses with at least an associate's degree and prior clinical experience can obtain a bachelor's degree swiftly, taking intensive five, seven and 10 week courses offered on Tuesday evenings in four-hour marathon classes.

A 1986 graduate of Dallas High School, Oster

*"This will be an example I can set for my daughter."*

Cheryl Oster  
Jackson Township

attended Penn State as an English major and then decided to become a licensed practical nurse to find out if she liked the nursing field. She received her L.P.N. in 1989 from the Wilkes-Barre Area Vocational Tech Practical Nursing Program and went on to get an associate R.N. degree in 1993 from Luzerne County Community College. "By far, my best learning experience has been through College Misericordia," she said.

Going back to school after a long absence was tough, Oster said, especially being pregnant. "I've never done things the easy way," she added. Overachievement is an old habit. Nearly 10 years ago, while working for her Associate R.N. degree at

Luzerne County College, Oster and her husband, Mark, bought their new home and were busy fixing it up. Holding a book in one hand and a paintbrush in the other, she would try to read, study and paint well into the night. "I can remember waking up on the floor," she laughs.

Alexandra (Lexie for short) Oster was born April 13, 2001 on Good Friday. "Nine years of marriage and I'm finally a mom," Oster said as she stroked her daughter's hair. At three weeks, her mommy lulled her to sleep by reading to her from a statistics textbook. "I told everybody her first word will be 'algorithm,'" "

Oster's refrigerator is covered with award letters — one from Jean Steelman, her advisor and the Expressway R.N. Program Director, nominating her for the Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year Award, another from the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society and an invitation to a Senior awards dinner — and her report cards showing a perfect 4.0 GPA. She plans to make them into a

portfolio and save them for Lexie.

"This will be an example I can set for my daughter," she said somewhat shyly, but with the passion only a mother feels. "Someday Lexie's papers will be up on the refrigerator."

## Program is fast track to degree

College Misericordia's Expressway program offers bachelor degrees in Business Administration, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing as well as the BSN in Nursing for RN's. Classes are offered on Tuesdays or Saturdays. The deadline to register for the first summer session is May 7. For more information, contact Jo Anna Naylor, Coordinator of the Expressway Program, at 674-3022 or Jean Steelman, the Expressway RN Program Coordinator at 674-6440. Or visit College Misericordia's web site at [www.misericordia.edu](http://www.misericordia.edu).

# Dining Guide

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Delicious, massive schnitzels - pork cutlets that are breaded and pan fried, are definitely the most popular items in the restaurant. Zigeunerschnitzel, Schnitzel Cordon Bleu and Jagerschnitzel, headline the menu at Dusseldwarfs. Other favorites include Roladen, which is lean beef, rolled with onions, bacon and spices; Kassler Ribs, smoked and cooked pork loin chops or Paprika Goulash served over homemade Spatzle. And don't forget the Sauerbraten, ours is certainly the best around. If sausages are more to your liking, the restaurant offers such favorites as Bratwurst, Weisswurst, Bauernwurst and Kreinerwurst, brought in fresh from a small German butcher shop in New York City, to insure the most authentic taste. Included with these specialties are our own homemade Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage, Potato Dumplings, Beer Battered French Fries or German Potato Salad. Only the freshest meats and produce are used, nothing artificial or out of cans!

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