

# Shavertown mother and daughter achieve goals together at Misericordia

## Khan family celebrates degrees

Thea and Rachel Kahn of Shavertown share more than a special mother-daughter bond.

Together, they learned through hard work, determination and perseverance, both traditional and non-traditional students can achieve their dreams in higher education, especially when working toward a common goal.

Both mother and daughter received degrees at Misericordia University's 83rd annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16. Thea earned a master's degree in organizational management while her daughter, Rachel, received a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education.

Allan, Thea, Rachel and Rebecca Kahn have always been a close-knit family, oftentimes juggling typical work and school schedules to meet other responsibilities.

Their busy, everyday schedules, though, are not new to them, as Allan has worked evenings for years and Thea has been employed in Misericordia University's Center for Adult and Continuing Education. When the full-time MU employee, mother and wife added part-time student

to her job description, the family supported her decision.

"There were nights she would come home for dinner," said Rachel, 22, the eldest daughter. "She'd cook for us and then go to school. I remember watching Rebecca and dad working nights. I'm very proud of my mom. She worked very hard for her degrees."

In between receiving her high school and college diplomas, Thea Kahn married and had two daughters, Rachel and Rebecca, essentially delaying her college education. Today, Thea proudly holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in business and a Master of Science degree in organizational management from Misericordia University.

Her sense of accomplishment was amplified as both mom and daughter processed together to receive their graduate and undergraduate degrees from MU.

"Getting my master's degree completes a dream I've had since I was a young woman," Thea said. "I'm one of six children and I was the only one who did not have a college degree. I actually attended Misericordia in the late 1970s and left to get married in my junior year and never com-

pleted my degree. It's a chance-of-a-lifetime experience to share this with your daughter."

Thea's daughter shares her enthusiasm equally and is eager to apply the skills she acquired in the classroom and student teaching.

"I'm a graduate; I have my degree," an excited Rachel announced with a satisfying smile. "I can go out into the world and do what I want to do. Nothing can stand in my way. I'm proud of both of us."

"Although it's wonderful to receive my master's degree for me, Saturday was all about Rachel," a proud mother stated, looking over at her daughter minutes after receiving their degrees. "There is nothing more rewarding as a parent to see your child succeed and to see Rachel's dreams fulfilled."

"There are not enough words to describe how it feels when children are learning from your instruction," said Rachel, who will marry her high school sweetheart, Adam Sutliff of Harveys Lake, on August 8 after he served 18 months serving in Al Anbar Province, Iraq with the Army National Guard.



Thea Kahn, left, earned a master's degree in organizational management from Misericordia University while her daughter, Rachel, received a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education. The Kahns reside in Shavertown.

### MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2009

Misericordia University's 83rd annual commencement ceremony held Saturday, May 16, saw 483 members of the class of 2009 receive degrees.

The following Back Mountain students were among this year's graduates:

- Jeffrey Balara, Shavertown, Accounting, BS
- Cheri Balmer, Dallas, Psychology, BS
- Susan Barry, Dallas, Organizational Management, MS
- Lisa Bressler, Wyoming, Speech-Language Pathology, BMS
- Jacqueline Brocius, Dallas, Information Technology, BS
- Andrea Cappucci, Sweet Valley, Speech-Language Pathology, MS
- Bruce Coolbaugh, Dallas, Business Administration, BS
- Sallyann Cusma, Dallas, Biology, BS
- Julie Ann Davis, Hunlock Creek, Business Administration, BS
- Danielle De Fazio, Wyoming, Sport Management, BS
- Matthew Debiase, Dallas, Psychology, BS
- Jonelle Dickson, Dallas, Speech-Language Pathology, MS
- Kelly Marie Dougherty, Shavertown, Elementary Education, BS
- Krista Dymond, Tunkhannock, Elementary Education, BS
- Kristin Engel, Dallas, Organizational Management, MS
- Christine M. Evans, Tunkhannock, Speech-Language Pathology, MS
- Danielle Evans, Shavertown, History/Secondary Education, BA
- Kimberly Evans-Zikowski, Harveys Lake, Organizational Management, MS
- Sean Fleming, Shavertown, Professional Studies, BS
- Nichole Garinger, Hunlock Creek, Elementary Education, BS
- Jill Guyette, Harveys Lake,

- Education, MS
- Edward Hennigan, III, Wyoming, Business Administration, BS
- Deborah Higgins, Dallas, Communications, BA
- Samantha Hubert, Tunkhannock, Elementary Education, BS
- Memory Hurst, Dallas, Nursing, BSN
- Daniel Brendon Johnson, Shavertown, Professional Studies, BS
- Jason Jolley, Dallas, Communications, BA
- Rachel Kahn, Shavertown, Elementary Education, BS
- Thea Kahn, Shavertown, Organizational Management, MS
- Melissa Kapsick, Shavertown, Nursing-RN, BSN
- Marianne Karalunas, Wyoming, Nursing, BSN
- Ronald Kasisky, Wyoming, Marketing, BS
- Alicia Kelley, Harveys Lake, Nursing-RN, BSN
- Joanna Kelley, Dallas, Nursing, BSN
- Timothy Kerestes, Dallas, Physical Therapy, BMS
- Emily Koplak, Wyoming, Professional Studies, BS
- Kimberly Kotulski, Wyoming, Nursing - RN, BSN
- Susan Lazur, Dallas, Information Technology, BS
- Kelly Lenahan, Dallas, Education, MS
- Laura Lewin, Tunkhannock, Nursing, BSN
- Holly Mac Bain, Tunkhannock, Psychology, BS
- Joanne Louisa Maloney, Tunkhannock, Professional Studies, BS
- William Mcintosh, Dallas, ND
- Donna Menig, Dallas, Nursing, BSN
- Lori Miller, Dallas, Social Work, BSW
- Linda Mullen, Dallas, Biology Pre-Sec Education, BS
- Kenneth Nardi, Dallas, Nursing, BSN
- Tammy Lynne Nudo, Tunkhannock, Elementary Education,

- BS
- Chad Oldt, Dallas, Organizational Management, MS
- Julianne Oliver, Dallas, Philosophy, BA
- Amanda Poole, Dallas, Professional Studies, BS
- Mark Rossick, Shavertown, Business Administration, BS
- Amanda Sagan, Dallas, Nursing, BSN
- Bianca Saucedo, Dallas, Occupational Therapy, MS
- Kimberly Seward, Harveys Lake, Information Technology, BS
- Lisa Stein, Harveys Lake, Nursing-RN, BSN
- Kaaron Swanson, Dallas, Education, MS
- Holly Swartz, Dallas, Information Technology, BS
- Jonathan Taylor, Wyoming, Philosophy, BA
- Renee Waligun, Shavertown, Nursing-RN, BSN
- Phyllis Leigh Walter, Harveys Lake, Accounting, BS
- Sally Wesoloski, Hunlock Creek, Nursing-RN, BSN
- Ashley Wolanski, Shavertown, Biology, BS
- Jacqueline Zabresky, Dallas, Nursing - RN, BSN

### KING'S COLLEGE CLASS OF 2009

King's College held its 60th commencement exercises on May 17. Back Mountain residents among the 463 graduates receiving degrees are:

- MASTER OF EDUCATION**
- READING**
- Sean Vincent McLaughlin, Dallas
- MASTER OF SCIENCE**
- HEALTH CARE ADMIN.**
- W. Hans Baerwald, Dallas
- Jeffery Roman Kile, Shavertown
- Matthew Talbot O'Donnell, Shavertown
- BACHELOR OF ARTS**
- COMMUNICATIONS**
- Nicole Macri, Dallas
- Lauren Nicole Pyskoty, Dallas
- Laura A. Williams, Shavertown
- ECONOMICS**
- Stefanie G. Schultz, Dallas
- ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**
- Mary C. Roman, Shavertown
- ENGLISH**
- Gracemarie Mike, Shavertown
- HISTORY**
- Ryan M. Arcangeli, Shavertown
- Gracjan A. Kraszewski, Dallas
- MATHEMATICS**
- Robert A. Rostock Jr., Shavertown

- POLITICAL SCIENCE**
- Stephanie L. Chesnalavage, Trucksville
- Lauryn Ference, Shavertown
- John Paul Yanik, Dallas
- SOCIOLOGY**
- Lisa Boucher, Dallas
- SPANISH**
- Mirna E. MacKay, Shavertown
- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**
- ACCOUNTING**
- Justin A. Carder, Shavertown
- Janine Marie Mitkus, Shavertown
- Jessica K. Ryan, Dallas
- Melissa A. Supczenski, Trucksville

- ATHLETIC TRAINING**
- Camille D. Valvano, Dallas
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
- James Judson Holdredge, Trucksville
- Robert R. Jordan, Dallas
- Laura E. Mould, Dallas
- COMPUTER SCIENCE**
- Mark William Yanchik, Dallas
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**
- James John Savitski, Shavertown
- FINANCE**
- Ashley Sabella, Dallas
- NEUROSCIENCE**
- Christopher Joseph Belles, Dallas

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