

Local colleges schedule commencement exercises

College Misericordia

College Misericordia will host its 80th annual commencement ceremony Saturday, May 20, at 2 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center on campus. A baccalaureate Mass will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Fred Epstein, a world-renowned neurosurgeon and author, will be the guest speaker at the graduation. He and Yankel Ginzburg, an internationally acclaimed contemporary painter, printmaker and sculptor, will also be presented with honorary degrees at the ceremony.



Epstein

Also, Virginia Banks will be awarded the Catherine McAuley Medal in recognition of her service to the college. Banks co-founded Misericordia's "Theater on the

Green" Shakespearean Festival and was instrumental in having the former Merrick Hall renovated into today's Banks Student Life Center.

Epstein, along with Misericordia faculty members, combined their resources to bring a 4-year-old Guyanese child to New York City for a life-saving operation five years ago. Brenda Hage, assistant professor of nursing at Misericordia, was in Guyana as part of the college's annual service learning trip doing volunteer work and training health care professionals. Hage examined the child's medical records and realized he needed neurosurgical intervention. One month later, the child and his mother arrived in the United States after Hage's intervention helped secure free airfare, travel visas and medical treatment. The successful surgery was performed at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York by Epstein and his partner, Dr. George Jallo, through the "Save A Child Fund" which Epstein established at the hospital.

Epstein has had a distinguished medical career and has solved many of the problems related to neurosurgical treatment of spinal cord tumors. He was intimately involved in the creation of the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Beth Israel Medical Center. He belongs to numerous medical societies and associations, has published more than 200 papers and has trained pediatric neurosurgeons in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Ginzburg, born in Russia and educated in Israel, has been a prominent force in the contemporary art world for nearly four decades. At 17, he was the youngest student ever admitted to the Academy of Art in Israel. His work includes boldly colored paintings in acrylic, oil and watercolor, and optical-acrylic sculptures. His accomplishments have been chronicled in art books and he was recently the subject of a one-hour nationally televised documentary, "Ladders."

Ginzburg is also known for his humanitarian efforts. He established the "Fund for Democracy and Development," which has raised more than \$240 million to aid the people of the former Soviet Republics. He helped secure 2 tons of infant formula and medical supplies for Cambodia and personally delivered them. He has also been a strong advocate for the peace process in Israel, and serves as vice president of the International Jewish Fund for Disaster Relief and is a board member of The Middle East Policy Council.

For more information about the commencement exercises, visit <http://www.misericordia.edu/commencement>.