Joliet Township High School students and staff raised more than $8,000 for Relay for Life Joliet.

The new and unique Professional Clinical Practicum course, taught and created by Dr. Elizabeth Kozak, associate professor of biology, was offered for the first time in the spring semester. Upperclassmen biology majors shadowed health professionals in various departments at Presence St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Joliet. Students in the course had the opportunity to rotate through cardiac rehabilitation, oncology, the operating room, physical therapy, advance care of the elderly, immediate care and respiratory therapy. They observed medical protocols, various types of patient care and how to handle patients in different medical situations. Enrollment into the course was done on a selective basis.

Local students include Amanda Miller of Minooka, Haleigh Saari of Romeoville and Clayton Shelton of Plainfield.

WILL County area agencies sponsor conference

ROMEOVILLE—Three WILL County area agencies partnered to enhance understanding about mental health in young children. On May 15, they sponsored "What are the Mental Health Issues that Affect Birth to Five Families?" at Lewis University’s main campus in Romeoville. The seventh annual Early Childhood Mental Health and Development Annual Training Conference provided professional development credits for social workers, parent educators, licensed counselors, domestic violence advocates and school personnel.

Several experts in mental health and early childhood development offered insights throughout the daylong event. "An Overview of Child Welfare in Illinois/Navigating the System” was presented by Martha Knight, child welfare staff development coordinator at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). "Autism for the Pediatric Professional” was presented by Valerie Lentz, medical diagnostic and autism program coordinator at Easter Seals Joliet Region. "Using the Public Library: Save Yourself and (or) Agency Time and Money” was presented by Anita Quinlan and Kristin McGaffic, of Plainfield and Shorewood public libraries.

Homer Glen resident receives medicine degree

HOMER GLEN—Rami Martini of Homer Glen received a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee, on May 9. Martini received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Visit www.lmu.edu/ocm.

Haines School participates in activities to fight cancer

NEW LENOX—On May 27, Haines School in New Lenox participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay Recess. The students spent the afternoon walking, exercising with hula hoops, jumping rope and playing beanbags. The Relay Recess was the culminating activity of the month of fundraising along with learning about how to lead a healthy life. Eating healthy was promoted on a "dress as your favorite superhero" day. The students were educated on sun safety while wearing hats, sunglasses and visors. On Relay Recess day the students cooled off with popscicles. More than $3,100 was raised for the American Cancer Society. This is the sixth year Haines School has participated. The tradition began with one second-grade class selling lemonade and cookies after reading a story about a lemonade stand. The event has grown to a month of educational activities, which have raised more than $14,000. The Haines staff and students also participate in the New Lenox Relay for Life, held this year on July 10 at Lincoln-Way West High School.

Resident attends camp for burn-injured children

PLAINFIELD—Reese Lange of Plainfield suffered a burn injury at age 6 when she was burned by a crockpot of hot soup at a party. She received burns on her neck, chest, left arm and right hand. During her recovery at the burn unit at Loyola University Medical Center, she learned about a camp in Illinois for burn-injured children, Camp "I Am Me." The camp provides a safe, nonjudgmental environment for young burn survivors with opportunities to build their self-esteem. Reese first attended camp last year and recently attended for a second time. Now, she is a featured participant in the camp’s 25th anniversary campaign, "25+ Faces for 25 Years.” For information about Camp "I Am Me," visit www.IFSA.org/Camp-I-Am-Me.

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