



Leadership

# formula for **SUCCESS**

by Julie Imel

To achieve success in the ever-changing world of career pathways, it's important to remain passionate, self-directed, and flexible.

This is solid advice for those entering the workforce from Marywood University alumna **Karen M. Murphy, R.N., Ph.D., (M.B.A. '01)**, President and CEO of Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton.

Dr. Murphy began her career in 1977 as a registered nurse at Moses Taylor Hospital. She was the founder and CEO of Physicians Health Alliance; Vice President of Planning and Managed Care; and she also served as a consultant for local and national health care organizations. Over the years, she has seen trends change in the workplace.

"The workplace is not as predictable as it once was," she said. "It's very important to be self-directed and to be flexible in order to fulfill the mission of the organization you're working for."

Dr. Murphy said it's also vital to be a team player, and to find passion in everything you do.

"Each job you take will be a building block for your career, and each job will contribute to who you become," she said. "Along the way, your passion may change—and that's just fine."

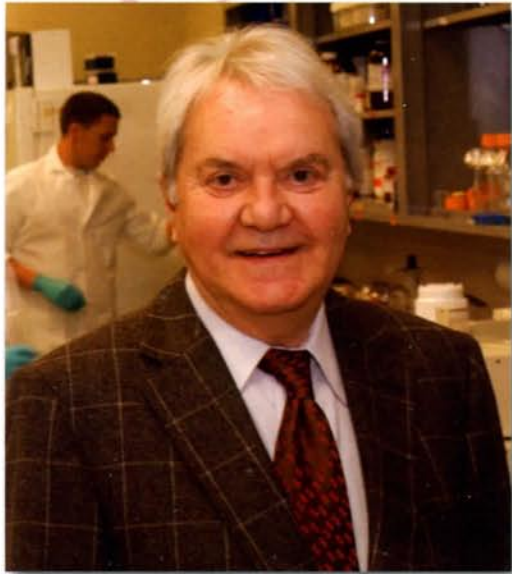
While job hunting can be challenging during this economic recession, Dr. Murphy remains optimistic, believing better times are ahead. She suggests job seekers keep an open mind, and they shouldn't worry too much about straying from their ideal career plan.

"Even if something isn't fitting in with your plan, that's okay. It's still a learning experience," she said.

Lifelong learning is something in which Dr. Murphy truly believes. She holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Temple University's Fox School of Business with a concentration in Risk, Insurance, and Healthcare Management. She also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Marywood University and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Scranton. She was granted a diploma as a registered nurse from the Scranton State Hospital School of Nursing, and she is a member of numerous prestigious professional organizations. In order to stay current in her profession, Dr. Murphy continues to learn through research, reading, and attending seminars.



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*Vito G. DelVecchio, Ph.D., founder of Vital Probes, Inc., has hired numerous Marywood students.*

In addition to being self-directed, flexible, open-minded, and passionate about work, **Vito G. DelVecchio, Ph.D.**, reminds job seekers to tap into their creativity. The founder of Vital Probes, Inc., Mayfield, Pa., and an accomplished scientist, Dr. DelVecchio recalled the best advice that a mentor ever shared with him.

"He said 'think creatively.' I loved the laboratory and my mentor told me that I needed to think beyond the lab," recalls Dr. DelVecchio.

And that he did. After teaching for 30 years at The University of Scranton, he decided to start his own company, Vital Probes, Inc., which is currently developing a vaccine for malaria in conjunction with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Dr. DelVecchio has hired numerous Marywood students on a part-time basis. He said those who are very bright and passionate about science will be successful. His advice to those looking for employment is to network and to bring passion into the work they do. And when it comes to finding a job, don't be shy. Look for opportunities online, and "don't be afraid to make calls and send e-mails," he said. "Take some initiative."

He also encourages everyone to hone their writing skills. "Writing makes you think more clearly, and it sparks creativity," he said.

Dr. DelVecchio has enjoyed an accomplished career doing work he loves. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Scranton and a Master of Science degree in Genetics from Saint John's University in New York. In addition, he holds a Ph.D. in Biochemical Genetics from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Geneva. At the Carnegie-Mellon Research Institute in Pittsburgh, he was Project Director of Fungal Genetics. He also served as a resident researcher at the Department of Epidemiology and Bacteriology at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio.

**Heather Hosie '08**, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology with a minor in Chemistry from Marywood, is among those mentored by Dr. DelVecchio. While still a student at Marywood in 2007, she was contacted by Vital Probes to work as a laboratory assistant. The experience launched her professional aspirations to work in the field of scientific research. At Vital Probes, Heather performed various tasks such as tissue culture maintenance, Western Blots, cloning, and assisting with various experiments being conducted by senior members of the laboratory staff.



*Heather Hosie '08 is working on a potential vaccine candidate for the erythrocytic stage of malaria.*

"It was very rewarding to begin performing the techniques that I had been learning in the classroom and university laboratories on a daily basis for a biotechnology company, before even graduating from Marywood University," states Heather. "I left Vital Probes feeling very accomplished and confident in my techniques."

From there, she pursued a master's degree in biotechnology from the Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA. As part of the requirements to attain her advanced degree, she needed to perform an independent research project and write a report on that experience. She submitted her resume to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and interviewed with several principal investigators in the Division of Malaria Vaccine Development, including Dr. Evelina Angov, who had collaborated with Vital Probes on some projects while Heather worked there. She was subsequently offered a co-op position in Dr. Angov's laboratory at WRAIR and began her research project. This led, in November 2009, to the offer of a full-time position as a laboratory technician upon her graduation from Penn State in December 2009.

Presently, Heather is a Molecular Biology Research Associate, working as a non-government contractor at WRAIR in Dr. Angov's lab. She is working on a potential vaccine candidate for the erythrocytic stage of malaria.

"Some of the work that I assisted with at Vital Probes, along with my assigned project at WRAIR, both as a student and a current employee, was based on the same vaccine platform that was developed at Vital Probes," Heather observes. "Working at Vital Probes had a great impact on my career, and I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to work there as a student." **M**

*Julie Imel is a freelance writer living and working in Northeast Pennsylvania.*

**Links:** <http://www.mth.org> • <http://wrair-www.army.mil>  
<http://www.vitalprobes.com>



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