The University of Scranton has announced plans for a 111,500-square-foot, eight-story center for rehabilitation education to provide a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduate and graduate programs in the Departments of Exercise Science & Sport, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

Story on pages 10–11.
The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment was founded in 1995 by Edward and Patricia Leahy to honor the life and memory of their son, Edward R. Leahy, Jr., whose personal disabilities were attended to with compassion and skill by many health professionals over the course of his life. The Leahy Endowment provides financial resources to support theoretical and applied research, faculty development and support for programs that advance the cause of disabled persons who need long-term assistance. The endowment supports the work of persons practicing in physical and occupational therapy, nursing science and related health care areas, with particular interest in individuals and groups that approach their practice as scholars, teachers and practitioners. Primary recipients are University of Scranton faculty from the Panuska College of Professional Studies, consisting of the Departments of Counseling and Human Services, Education, Exercise Science and Sport, Health Administration and Human Resources, Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

The endowment was established and is supported, in part, by the Leahy family and is enriched annually by gifts from corporations and individuals who wish to support the work of the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment.
Dear Friends of the Panuska College of Professional Studies,

What a remarkable fall we’ve had at Scranton! Our campus is teeming with excitement as we celebrate our proud past and embark on another chapter of our promising future.

At the beginning of the fall semester, we began a yearlong celebration of our 125th Anniversary. The 1888 laying of the cornerstone of then St. Thomas College by Most Rev. William O’Hara, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, was the first of several acts of faith that have formed The University of Scranton. Bishop O’Hara’s vision of providing a place for students “to learn first the faith and then to learn those other branches necessary for their welfare in the world” 1 has withstood the test of time.

In this, our anniversary year, another cornerstone—metaphorically speaking—has been laid for our promising future as work begins on our new Center for Rehabilitation Education. In announcing the project, University President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J. said, “The $47.5 million project will provide an advanced, modern facility to match the exceptional reputations already established by our physical therapy, occupational therapy and exercise science programs and will help grow these important academic departments.”

Enrollments in these programs have increased dramatically in the past five years, and demand is still growing. The larger, updated facility will allow for more students to pursue health-related occupations, which are in demand nationwide. Not only are these programs in demand, but they are also vital to our communities. In the Panuska College, we often refer to these as “the helping professions.”

Our 12th Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disABILITY, held in October, brought home yet again, the significance of helping and serving others. During the luncheon presentation, Joseph Grady, a longtime friend and supporter of the conference, reminded us all of the words of the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, when he said to his staff: “At some time in your life you will look back on your public service. When you do, the most important question will be: ‘What did I do when I had the power to make things better?’”

Ed and Patricia Leahy, honorary chairs of the conference, have selflessly devoted their lives to making powerful and positive changes to make things better for persons with disabilities. It’s an example we can all aspire to, an act of faith not unlike that of our founder Bishop O’Hara.

As I reflect on all of these events from the fall semester, I am reminded of the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, “Love is shown more in deeds than in words.” Please know that I am honored and humbled to serve as your academic dean, and particularly happy to be working with a group of Ignatian-minded individuals consisting of outstanding students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni sharing our common goal of being “men and women for others.”

Fondly,

Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D.
Dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies

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1 Bishop William G. O’Hara, August 12, 1888, Ceremony Blessing the Cornerstone of St. Thomas College
NEW FACULTY

Jessica Bachman joins the Department of Exercise Science and Sport as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Bachman received her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and is a registered dietitian. Prior to joining the University, Jessica taught at Marywood University.

Julie Cerrito joins the Department of Counseling and Human Services as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Cerrito was awarded a Ph.D. degree from the Pennsylvania State University. She is a licensed professional counselor and was employed at Berwick Area School district prior to her joining The University of Scranton.

Christopher Dunbar joins the Department of Occupational Therapy as a Faculty Specialist. Dr. Dunbar received his OTD degree from Misericordia University. Christopher has been an adjunct professor at Misericordia University and is an occupational therapist at Geisinger Wyoming Valley.

Mary Kovaleski joins the Department of Nursing as a Faculty Specialist. Mary is a registered nurse and received her master of science nursing degree from The University of Scranton. She has served as a clinical instructor for the nursing departments at The University of Scranton and Pennsylvania State University.

Lori Magnuson joins the Department of Counseling and Human Services as an Assistant Professor. Lori received her doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Iowa. Lori’s post-doctoral experience was at the Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities and she was a research associate at the University of Washington.

Mary Elaine Southard joins the Department of Nursing as a Faculty Specialist. Mary Elaine is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota. She currently does private practice consulting and coaching.

Benjamin Willis joins the Department of Counseling and Human Services as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Willis received his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is a licensed professional counselor associate and a national certified counselor.

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


COUNSELING

CHS Faculty Co-Chair State Conference

Dr. Amy Banner and Dr. Paul Datti of the Counseling and Human Services Department co-chaired the Pennsylvania Counseling Association annual conference this year. This vibrant professional conference attracts almost 200 counselor educators, students and practitioners each year. This year’s theme is “Efficacy and Advocacy: Advancing the Profession of Counseling in Pennsylvania” and took place at the Penn Stater Convention Center and Hotel on the Penn State Campus in State College, Pa., from November 8-10. The conference features several dozen educational and poster sessions, including intensive learning institutes related to ethical practices in counseling. Dr. Datti, along with new CHS faculty member, Dr. Julie Cerrito, presented at the conference.

EDUCATION

International Recognition

Dr. Tata Mbugua has been elected to serve a three year term, 2013-2016, as the Treasurer of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). An active member of ACEI since 1998, she has held various positions within the Association which include Chair, Training & Technical Assistance Special Interest Forum; Editor, Elementary Focus; Global Guidelines Taskforce and International Outreach Committee member.

ACEI is dedicated to promoting the education and development of children around the world through various programs and projects. ACEI is a constituent member organization of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now transitioned into the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). ACEI holds Consultative Status at the United Nations and membership in the NGO Committee on UNICEF. ACEI UN representatives participate in UNICEF Working Groups, and attend annual conferences sponsored by the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) in Geneva and New York.

EDUCATION

Faculty Present in Texas

Dr. Dona Bauman and Dr. Vanessa Talarico of the Education Department presented at the 2013 Council For Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo in San Antonio Texas, April 3-6. Their presentation was entitled The Sustainability of Inclusive Classroom Practices: Models of Excellence. The research that they presented has been funded by a Leahy Faculty Research Grant.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES

MHA Student Receives Prestigious Scholarship

Jessica Dowches G ’14, a Master’s in Health Administration student who is currently completing her administrative residency, has been selected as a 2013 recipient of the Foster G. McGaw Graduate Student Scholarship from the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The scholarship provides financial aid to students in healthcare management graduate programs to help offset tuition costs, student loans and expenses. Jessica is one of only eight students nationally to receive this honor and is the first University of Scranton recipient of the scholarship.

SHRM Chapter Receives Award

The University’s SHRM (Society for Human Resources Management) Student Chapter, under the direction of Dr. Terri Freeman Smith, SPHR, was awarded the SHRM Superior Merit Award for its excellence and achievements during the 2012-2013 Student Chapter Merit Award year. This exclusive recognition is listed in the SHRM edition of StudentFocus Magazine, distributed quarterly to 17,000 student members, and the announcement was made at the 2013 SHRM Annual Conference in Chicago.

APHA Presenters

Dr. Steven Szydlowski and Dr. Daniel J. West, Jr., presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, November 6, in Boston, Mass. The presentation “Building Community Capacity for Health Improvement: Collaborative and Integrated Approaches” focused on applied models developed in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
AT&T Supports Area High School Students

Twenty Scranton-area incoming high school freshmen have "graduated" from The University of Scranton's University of Success Summer Institute, which offers students the chance to experience college firsthand through a two-week residential program at the University. The students who completed the program also will receive ongoing mentoring, tutoring and college-prep support during the remainder of their high school careers.

J. Michael Schweder, president, AT&T Mid Atlantic, participated in the closing ceremonies and announced a $30,000 contribution to The University of Scranton to support the program.

"At AT&T, we support community programs that focus on high school success and workforce readiness for today's high school students—Pennsylvania's future leaders," said Schweder. "The projects students completed this week, combined with the mentoring, tutoring, and college prep they will receive throughout high school, will equip them with some of the essential tools they need for success."

The University of Success is a pre-college program designed to provide academic, social, and cultural enrichment to high school students. Since the program is funded almost entirely by corporate and foundation grants, there is no charge to students and their families.

According to Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies at The University of Scranton, the ultimate goal of this program is to assist participating students to successfully complete high school and gain entrance into a college or university. The University of Success helps students achieve this goal through a variety of activities and services from their current grade until they graduate from high school. Many Success students choose to apply and continue their education at The University of Scranton.

"We are thrilled to have AT&T join our team in supporting the University of Success. Their support will allow us to continue to prepare young men and women for a successful higher educational experience," said Dr. Pellegrino.

This year, student projects focused on renewable energy sources. For more information about the University of Success, visit http://www.scranton.edu/academics/pcps/leahy/success1.shtml.

J. Michael Schweder, president, AT&T Mid Atlantic, participated in The University of Scranton's University of Success Summer Institute closing ceremonies and announced a $30,000 contribution to support the program. Standing, from left: Schweder, Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., dean, Panuska College of Professional Studies; Margaret Hambrose, director, corporate and foundation relations; and Andrea Mantione, director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center.

The 1,888 Leahy Challenge

The first week of the fall semester was underway when the Advisory Board for the Leahy Community Health and Family Center met to discuss goals for the upcoming academic year. The student board was buzzing with ideas to get the Leahy Center the support and attention necessary for it to continue helping the underserved in Lackawanna County. By the end of the meeting, a concrete goal was established for the fall semester: Gather 1,888 service hours from more than 130 volunteers. This seemingly random number was actually chosen to correspond to the University's 125th anniversary celebration: 1,888 volunteer hours to commemorate the year in which The University of Scranton was founded by Most Reverend William O'Hara, the first Bishop of Scranton.

While 1,888 hours in one semester may seem daunting to some, the Center's various community-based services promise a busy few weeks for its volunteers. The students who come to work at the Center can choose between working in the various programs available, including but not limited to the Clinic for the Uninsured and the Food Pantry. With the Clinic often working at maximum capacity and the pantry constantly needing to be restocked, the Center has no shortage of work for its volunteers.

Volunteers can also anticipate an especially hectic semester at the Center due to the Clinic's transition from paper-based patient records to electronic medical records (EMR). The desire to provide better service and improve quality of health services led the Clinic's administrators to venture into a more efficient method of record keeping. However, the shift is not without its own obstacles as it requires an entire subset of volunteers dedicated to setting up the EMR system and transferring the hundreds of paper records into the computers.

Another challenge will be teaching the volunteers how to use the computerized record system, a task that may be easier said than done. Nonetheless, the more streamlined EMR system will provide more opportunities for student volunteers to get involved with this innovative approach. Most importantly, with respect to the 1,888 hour goal, the EMR system will allow volunteers to log in more service hours, smoothing the path to accomplishing the Center's grand goal for the semester.
Seniors’ Lessons in Service at the Leahy Center

W. Ryan Schuster and fellow seniors Kelsey Hassig and Olivia Haney reflect on their experiences volunteering in the Leahy Community Health & Family Center.

As the spring semester draws closer to its completion, senior volunteers reflect on the experience of service we have had at the Leahy Center. Although we plan to move on to diverse careers after graduation, we agree that the lessons of the Leahy Center have had a profound effect upon us and will continue to shape what we do beyond Scranton.

Kelsey Hassig, a senior biology and philosophy major, points out the Leahy Center’s influence on her aspirations to a medical career. She writes: “Mother Teresa once said, ‘If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other,’ which always reminds me of the Leahy Center. As I continue my education to become a doctor, I will always remember how the Leahy Center taught me about unity and how we each belong to each other as humans. I am going into medicine as a service to other people, so I can provide them with peace in the form of healthcare, just like the Leahy Center does for the people of Lackawanna County.”

Olivia Haney, a senior Spanish and theology major with a minor in counseling, shows that the Leahy Center provides valuable lessons even to students who do not seek healthcare careers. She notes that “Through my volunteer work at the clinic I was first exposed to a medical environment (at least the first time NOT as a patient), and I gradually came to discover that I enjoyed being surrounded by doctors, nurses, and other health professionals. It is because of the Leahy Clinic that I am now considering pursuing an advanced degree in Medical Social Work or something similar. I also know that no matter what I end up doing after graduation, I will use so much of what I have learned at the Leahy Clinic.” She credits her service at Leahy as an interpreter with improving her listening skills and teaching her to be more patient with herself, lessons she feels “will serve me in whatever occupation I choose as well as in my day-to-day interactions with others and the world around me as I go forth from my beloved Scranton to ‘set the world on fire.’”

Like Olivia, I became involved with the Leahy Center in order to practice my Spanish as an interpreter. As a philosophy major planning on attending law school, I was not involved with the healthcare field, but found great satisfaction in working with healthcare professionals to meet a genuine need in the community. For this reason, I am considering a future focus on healthcare law. But above all the Leahy Center taught me cura personalis: the responsibility to care for the neighbor right in front of you, a lesson that will influence all that I do in the future.

In short, as Kelsey’s, Olivia’s and my experiences show, the Leahy Clinic has done much to prepare all its senior volunteers to go out into the world and strive to be “men and women for others.”

—W. Ryan Schuster

The Leahy Center Student Advisory Board

One central responsibility of the Leahy Center Student Advisory Board (LCSAB) is succession planning. During the final weeks of the spring semester, current board members accept and review applications from numerous Leahy Center student volunteers—students who have shown a desire to go one step further in their volunteering efforts. From the applicant pool, only the most dedicated and promising volunteers are recruited for the board. The mission of the LCSAB is to ensure a rewarding learning and service experience for volunteers.

This year, the LCSAB decided to embrace St. Ignatius of Loyola’s illustrious line, “Go forth and set the world on fire!” Consequently, the board hopes to honor the Jesuit ideal of cura personalis by challenging, empowering and engaging our volunteers through service. In so doing, the board aspires to revive the cheerful spirit of volunteering and get recognition for all of the Center’s accomplishments throughout the university community.

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The 12th annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disABILITY, held Oct. 2, focused on employment, transition and independent living. National experts, policy makers and inspirational speakers presented at the daylong conference.

Hosted by the University’s Panuska College of Professional Studies with the support of the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment, the theme for the 2013 Conference on disABILITY was “Real Rehabilitation Renaissance: Ignited by Inspiration and Innovation.” Honorary chairpersons are Edward R. Leahy ’68, H’01 and Patricia Leahy, interim executive director of the National Rehabilitation Association.

Keynote speakers included John Ficca, program director of Hands On Educational Services, Inc. Ficca, who taught hospitality/culinary management, partnered with Hyatt Hotel Corporation and the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1998 to develop a reality-based, hospitality training program for persons with disabilities.

In addition, the conference featured sessions led by state and nationally recognized leaders. The sessions provided information on interagency collaboration in research and practice, the risk of addiction for persons with disabilities, and incorporating alternative microfinancing and financial education to obtain assistive technology, among other topics.

The conference closed with a presentation of “Handicap This! Stage Show,” an entertaining and inspirational presentation that seeks to dispel misunderstandings about cerebral palsy and other disabilities, and underscores the possibilities people possess to overcome obstacles. The performance featured Mike Berkson, founding member of Handicap This!, and Tim Wambach, president of the Keep On Keeping On Foundation and author of “How We Roll,” a book describing his relationship with Berkson, who was born with cerebral palsy.
The Power of Empowerment
A Reflection on the Handicap This! Presentation
by Kelly Tierney

Students and members of The University community gathered for an event known as Handicap This!, a live-stage educational program presented by Mike Berkson and Tim Wambuch at this year’s Disability Conference.

Mike has Cerebral Palsy, and Tim was hired as his personal aide in 2001. Together, the comedic friends have found a passion for raising awareness about physical disabilities. Mike and Tim spoke about several challenges they have faced together, including eating difficulties, teachers’ poor attitudes, dating issues, and broken elevators, along with many successes.

Through their stories, Mike and Tim were able to educate the audience about CP and simultaneously promote their positive attitude toward life’s challenges. “Improvise. Adapt. Overcome” was written on the Handicap This! Backdrop, and that is just what they have done time and time again.

In the PCPS programs, abilities come before disabilities. As we strive to help individuals achieve their potential, we might need to employ some of the creative skills that Mike and Tim have used in the past. Broken elevator at the movie theater? No problem. Tim will carry Mike up the stairs whether the management likes it or not. Empowerment is, well, powerful, and according to Mike, “it’s not what other people say you can’t do but what you know you can do.” If we ourselves can understand this message, and if the people we serve believe it as well, the possibilities of the work that we can achieve are endless.

In conclusion, it is important to remember one of the many powerful statements Mike emphasizes: “There’s no use crying over spilled Taco Bell.” With a positive attitude and a little perseverance, opportunities can often be found in unexpected places.

Student Reflections on the Handicap This! Presentation

“As a learning occupational therapist, this (presentation) has influenced the way I perceive ‘treatment.’ Those like Mike who have all their odds stacked against them can achieve so much more if someone, like Tim or an occupational therapist, encourages them to do so. Aim high because you can achieve anything.” —Erin Flannigan ’16

“Improvise, adapt and overcome.” These words put into a phrase release a powerful meaning toward our occupation. If a client has a passion that gives his or her life meaning and they seem to struggle to continue this particular interest, I want to be able to think creatively in order to plan a series of ways that will adapt to my client’s physical or mental condition.” —Taylor Pendergast ’16

“People come in all different shapes and sizes, just like they come with varying degrees of ability. The disability does not define the client, and I will make it a point to never define my client in such a demeaning way. I want to change lives, and Mike inspired me to do so with any way I can.” —Victoria Giamella ’16
The University of Scranton has announced plans for an
111,500-square-foot, eight-story center for rehabilitation educa-
tion to provide a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduate and
graduate programs in the Departments of Exercise Science &
Sport, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

“The $47.5 million project will provide an advanced, modern
facility to match the exceptional reputations already established
by our physical therapy, occupational therapy and exercise science
programs and will help grow these important academic depart-
ments,” said Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., president. “In approving this
project, the Trustees recognized the strength and strategic impor-
tance of these programs for the University.”

The center will be located on the southwest corner of Jefferson
Avenue and Linden Street on the site that is currently occupied
by two adjoining buildings that the University refers to as Leahy
Hall. The signature building will be designed to incorporate
limestone, native stone and glass to complement the architec-
ture of nearby buildings. Demolition and construction began in
September. The expected completion date for the project is the
summer of 2015.

During construction, the Panuska College of Professional
Studies Academic Advising Center and the Occupational Therapy
and Physical Therapy departments’ offices and laboratories will be
moved to Loyola Hall, opposite the new Loyola Science Center.
The department moves began June.

“Physical therapy is the only doctoral program offered by the
University and these undergraduate and graduate programs are
among the University’s most in-demand majors. The fields of occu-
pational therapy and physical therapy are also among the nation’s
fastest growing occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor
Statistics. U.S. News & World Report listed occupational ther-
pists and physical therapists among the top 10 “Best Jobs of 2012.”

“The current facilities do not adequately meet these departments’
needs for instructional and research equipment, practical learning
spaces, and study and collaboration areas,” said Debra Pellegrino,
Ed.D., dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

The center will provide classroom, research, office, clinical and
meeting space for the departments previously mentioned. It will
also connect to and create a unified entrance for McGurrin Hall,
which houses the remaining departments in Panuska College —
nursing, education, human resources, counseling and health
administration — in addition to the Leahy Community Health
and Family Center.

“Seamlessly integrating two floors of the new facility with
McGurrin Hall will encourage more interaction among other
departments within the Panuska College of Professional Studies,”
said Dean Pellegrino. “This building will also facilitate the fulfill-
ment of our Jesuit mission through offering continued services to
the local community, including pro-bono physical and occupa-
tional therapy provided by faculty and free developmental screen-
ings for children conducted by occupational therapy students.”

The University’s Department of Physical Therapy is nation-
ally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical
Therapy Education (CAPTE). The Department of Occupational
Therapy is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for
Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

The rehabilitation center will be designed and constructed in
accordance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
(LEED) standards for certification. The rehabilitation center
was designed by a team of local architectural firms — Hemmler
+ Camayd and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, assisted by Higher
Education Research Associates (HERA), a nationally recognized
expert in designing rehabilitation program space.

The Quandel Group Inc., Scranton, is the construction manager.
This undated photo of Jefferson (Leahy) Hall provides an historic perspective of the building. (Above)

The new center for rehabilitation education will be located on the southwest corner of Jefferson Avenue and Linden Street. (Left)

The instructional space in the former Leahy Hall did not adequately meet the growing need for more advanced facilities. (Top, Far left)

The portico of Leahy Hall will be preserved and incorporated as part of the construction of the new center for rehabilitation education. (Top left)

Construction crews work to take down Leahy Hall, site of the new center for rehabilitation education. The new center for rehabilitation education will be located on the southwest corner of Jefferson Avenue and Linden Street. (Center)

Construction fencing is placed around the perimeter of Leahy Hall prior to demolition, which began Sept. 16. (Left)

View of the demolition of Leahy Hall from the fourth floor of McGurrin Hall. (Above)
**Sports Administration Students Meet Professional Scout**

During the spring semester, students enrolled in the *Sport Administration* class had the opportunity to meet and listen to Mike Ondo, director of professional scouting. Ondo, a University of Scranton graduate, explained his journey from playing collegiate baseball, interning with the Philadelphia Eagles for a number of years, and serving as an intern with the Phillies until he secured his present position. He reinforced many important points highlighted by David Hair, course instructor and chair of the Department of Exercise Science & Sport. Several of those points included but were not limited to: maintaining a high grade point average, securing meaningful internships, developing a list of appropriate references, understanding that internships may require countless hours of labor, asking internship supervisors for more responsibility, not being afraid to introduce yourself to influential people within the profession, and the importance of shaking hands and looking people in the eye.

After Ondo’s presentation, held in the Phillies media center, the students were given an in-depth tour of Citizens Bank Park. After the tour, many of the students had to make a difficult Philadelphia choice: either a Geno’s or Pat’s cheesesteak.

*Sport Administration* is a required course for the Coaching Minor. The minor is housed within the Department of Exercise Science & Sport.

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**CHED Major Participates in Research Scholar Program**

This summer, Alexis Burgess, Community Health Education major, participated in the Lehigh Valley Health Network Research Scholar Program. Alexis was involved in a combination of research, as well as professional and clinical observations. She participated in two projects: the Adolescent Pregnancy Study and the Pediatric Asthma Program Study. Alexis gained an understanding of the risk factors and choices associated with teenage pregnancy. She also explored the necessary steps to improve clinical outcomes for children (ages 5-11 years) with asthma and their caregivers.

“‘This opportunity confirmed that I chose the right combination of academic majors: Community Health Education and Hispanic Studies,’” said Alexis. “‘There is a need for increased health education in underserved populations to eliminate health disparities. This experience has been a great supplement to my education and has motivated me to continue my education in the health education profession and research.’”
Nursing Professor Named Alpha Sigma Nu Teacher of the Year

Patricia Harrington, RN, Ed.D., professor and chair of the Nursing Department, has been named the 2012-2013 Alpha Sigma Nu Teacher of the Year.

The award, formally known as the Gannon Award, in honor of Edward Gannon, S.J., is the oldest teaching award at the University. Established in 1969 by the University’s chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national honor society for students in Jesuit colleges and universities, the award recognizes outstanding teaching among faculty. Student members of Alpha Sigma Nu select the professor to be honored.

Dr. Harrington joined the faculty at Scranton in 1984 and has taught courses across the nursing curriculum.

She is a founding member of the AIDS Awareness Committee and the Education for Justice Task Force and Advisory Committee. For more than 10 years, she offered American Red Cross training for student peer educators who offered the HIV/AIDS in a College Environment program (PEACE).

The Scranton chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu was founded in 1943 and is the oldest honor society at The University of Scranton. Juniors and seniors who have distinguished themselves in scholarship, loyalty and service are eligible for membership.

University’s Class of 2013 Names Dr. Deitrick Teacher of the Year

Ronald W. Deitrick, Ph.D., FACSM, associate professor and director of The University of Scranton’s exercise science program, has been named Teacher of the Year by the University’s class of 2013.

The award honors a faculty member who maintains high standards of academic excellence and fairness, and through enthusiasm and dedication, inspires the interest of students in a field of education. The award was instituted by the academic support committee of the University’s Faculty Senate in 1996.

Dr. Deitrick joined the University’s Exercise Science and Sport Department in 1998. Responsible for developing the academic program in exercise science, he currently teaches in the areas of exercise physiology and research methods.

A fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), he served as president of the organization’s largest regional chapter and has presented at more than 25 of its scientific meetings. He has also served as a clinical physiologist for the VA Medical Center; on the executive board of directors for the NEPA American Heart Association, receiving its volunteer of the year award in 2003; as a reviewer for more than 10 different professional journals; an invited grant reviewer for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; and as a performance physiology consultant to several professional sports teams and elite athletes.

80 Students Support Heart Walk

More than 80 University of Scranton students joined together on Saturday, April 20, at Kirby Park in Kingston to support the fight against heart disease for the annual 2013 NEPA American Heart Association three-mile walk. This was a service learning project-based event for sophomore level students. Dr. Joan Grossman served as The University of Scranton team captain with the support of Dr. Scott Breloff.

The students were responsible for the setup and breakdown of the event. They also managed registration and manned tables, including the heart advocacy group, women and heart disease, healthy trail mix, face painting, pumpkin seed planting and a nutrition educational display. The students participated in a flash mob to the music, “Staying Alive,” the learning tool for CPR chest compressions. Support provided by the students was instrumental in the success of this worthwhile event, and The University of Scranton team raised more than $540.
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Please type Edward Leahy Jr. Endowment in the field indicating "other."
The University conferred the most doctorate of physical therapy degrees in its history at its post-baccalaureate commencement on May 25 in the Byron Recreation Complex. The University conferred 65 doctoral degrees in physical therapy and 748 master’s degrees at the commencement.

Graduates represented 38 states, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia. Programs with the most graduates at Scranton were educational administration, curriculum and instruction, MBA, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Austin Burke, president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, served as the principal speaker. A leader in community development for four decades, Burke has served as the chamber’s president since 1981. He served in Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell’s cabinet as secretary for community and economic development.

“Graduates, the master’s degree you earned today will help you to prepare for a lifetime of surprises,” said Burke. “There will be great tests and disappointments, as well as great opportunities and achievements. You will encounter challenges and frustrations, as well as moments of pure euphoria. My hope is that your euphoria will be intense and richly satisfying; that your euphoria will be the result of endeavors which benefit our children and grandchildren.”

University President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., also addressed the graduates and their guests.

“In my brief time in Scranton, I have met few residents of this valley more committed to our common good and well-being than Austin,” said Father Quinn, who also congratulated the graduates on their achievements.