The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead (towards) the Good.

— Pope Francis
Dear Friend,

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As most of you know, Mary Oliver is among my favorite poets. Just now, reading her latest collection, Felicity, for the fourth time! Continue to read and reread our issues of Challenges, to reflect on our PCPS road as we strive to think creatively to conceive such viable possibilities in driving our successful student learning outcomes to make a gorgeous world!

What Gorgeous Thing
Mary Oliver

I do not know what gorgeous thing the bluebird keeps saying, his voice easing out of his throat, break, body into the pink air of the early morning. I like it whatever it is. Sometimes it seems the only thing in the world that is without dark thoughts. Sometimes it seems the only thing in the world that is without dark thoughts.

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Mary Oliver, from Blue Notes. © Published by Penguin Press, 2014.

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.

The Leahy Community Health & Family Center

- Fundraising for the Leahy Center
- Leahy Clinic Impact: Sustained Service
- Leahy Community Health & Family Center

Vol. 15 No. 1 Spring 2016
Challenges in Theory & Practice Publication Committee
Raymons Schoenborn, M.S., Editor
Patricia Connolly, Editorial Assistant
Office of External Affairs, The University of Scranton

Panuska College of Professional Studies
Debra A. Pellegrino, Ed.D., Dean
Victoria Castellanos, Ph.D., Associate Dean
Dianne Posegate, M.S., Assistant Dean, Director of Advising Center
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Fundraising for the Leahy Center

The Leahy Student Organization includes over 100 students and the leadership of 12 committed graduate and undergraduate students. Together, they work in various management roles within the Leahy Community Health and Family Center ensuring that the community is served with dignity and respect.

In fall 2015, these students organized several fundraisers that benefited the Center. The Fashion Show on Nov. 6, 2015 featured clothing from several local businesses, including Friedman’s, Pop’le, and MODISH. Student models strutted down the runway in front of friends and family who supported the event. Attendees were encouraged to come “dress up” and participated in a profitable gift basket raffle. Complementing the evening, that took place in Leahy Hall Forum, were performances by DJ Skinny Matt, Max Caci, the University of Scranton a cappella groups the Royal Octaves and Royal Harmony, as well as the dance team, Urban Beats. Later in the semester, the group catered to hungry faculty, staff and students with a pasta dinner by La Trattoria in Scranton.

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Approximately 140 faculty, staff, and students were in attendance for the 2016 Panuska College of Professional Studies Community Celebration. Academic departments and the Leahy Community Health and Family Center used display tables to highlight the work of faculty, staff, and students during this academic year.

Mr. Edward R. Leahy presents the Leahy Award in Community Service to Sarah Russorovello, owner of Serendipity Therapeutic Riding Program, LLC. Serendipity TRP is a therapeutic horsemanship and equine facilitated learning program designed to assist individuals with special needs find an increased independence through the help of their equine partners.

Dear Dean Pellegrino,

What a treat it was for John and me to attend your gala community event last evening! Thanks for the invitation and the having dinner at the same table as well. Wri.

Julie and I commented on what a good idea it was for the people at the event to purchase the horse for the horse’s birthday! We had a good time with Vicki Castellanos, and her background in Castellanos, and her background in Castellanos, and her background in...
The professor told Dr. Silvernail that he was so inspired by him and his work that he had decided to go back to school for physical therapy.

The Soldier Life, the Scranton Life

Dr. Silvernail has always wanted to be a soldier (he began his service less than 24 hours after graduating from high school), but his love for physical therapy came after he dislocated his kneecap in ROTC training at Scranton. “I saw firsthand what PT was like,” he said. “Here was someone who understood, in-depth, the exact problem I was having and provided a prescription for getting better that worked, and it didn’t involve just taking more pills. I thought, This is what I want to do!”

Originally from Houston, Texas, Dr. Silvernail moved around a lot as a child. He ended up in Clarks Summit during his high school years and eventually chose Scranton for both the ROTC program and the promise of “the rigor of a Jesuit education.”

“Scranton woke up this academic side of me that got me to go all the way through to get two doctorates,” he said. “Scranton lit that fire for me.”

He received his doctorate from the University in 2006. He was selected for the Army-Baylor Doctoral Fellowship in Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy at Fort Sam Houston for subspecialty training and graduated in 2010, earning both a doctor of science degree from Baylor University and Fellow status in the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists.

Scranton was also a place he learned — as he put it — to “go, go, go.” He spent one undergraduate summer juggling his soldier life, the Scranton Life, the Solider Life, the Washington, D.C. life, the volunteer life, the patient life, the military life, the school life, the personal life, the Scranton Life, the Solider Life, the Washington, D.C. life, the volunteer life, the patient life, the military life, the school life, the personal life, the Scranton Life, the Solider Life, the Washington, D.C. life, the volunteer life, the patient life, the military life, the school life, the personal life. He missed the sense of reward he felt when a patient got better. “I need my patients as much as they need me,” he said.

Having A Heart

Prior to his current assignment at Walter Reed, Dr. Silvernail served on the U.S. Army performance triad team at the Office of the Surgeon General as the Surgeon General’s subject matter expert on exercise, fitness and musculoskeletal medicine. “I loved the work there, but I also learned how much I missed patient care. Just as I think that the military is a job that picks you, to some degree you have to have a heart to be in clinical practice … to be in that kind of ‘helping profession,’” he said.

He missed the sense of reward he felt when a patient got better. “I need my patients as much as they need me,” he said. “It really does go both ways.”
In our quest for perfection to be a model for the "Helping Professions," founder St. Ignatius Loyola, will "set the world on fire."

We will provide a superior, transformational learning experience, preparing students who, in the words of Jesuit manhood and integrity of all who share in its life.

The University of Scranton is a Catholic and Jesuit university animated by the spiritual vision and the tradition of service-oriented experiences that are intentionally designed to develop their knowledge and skills while challenging them to be men and women of faith and service to their communities through their knowledge-base in the helping professions.

PCPS is transformed by the academic mission and vision of the University of Scranton.

The pro bono services offered at the clinic will help patients with low vision "use their environment to do as much as possible," said Dr. Julie Nastasi, ScD, OTD, a professor in the University’s Occupational Therapy Department, and her students began offering services at the University’s Leahy Clinic designed to ensure that independence. A patient needs a prescription for occupational therapy and must be uninsured or underinsured to access the Leahy Clinic services.

A competition between The University of Scranton and the borough of Tunkhannock resulted in the donation of more than 10,000 children’s books to encourage reading.

The “friendly competition,” as described by Debra Pellegrino, dean of the University’s Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS), began when she, University faculty specialist Sandra Lamanna and Blue Ridge School District school psychologist Jenna Stoddard discussed literacy issues in the region as guests on the “Jasikoff and Friends” radio program.

The dean mentioned the “Blessing of the Books,” a PCPS program now in its ninth year, where books donated by members of the University community are personalized with a hand-written note by the donor or a student, blessed and distributed through Scranton-area organizations and children’s programs to promote literacy.

Louis Jasikoff, host of the program that airs on Wigs Cafe Radio, thought that the Tunkhannock community, through businesses, community organizations and schools, could collect more children’s book donations than the University. And so began the friendly competition. Tunkhannock area businesses, organizations, and community members responded with more than 10,000 donated children’s books to encourage reading.

Pro Bono Services now Offered for Those with Low Vision

Although people with low vision are not blind, daily tasks can become quite difficult for them. However, with therapy and an adapted environment, there is no reason they cannot remain independent. In October, Julie Ann Nastasi, ScD, OTD, faculty specialist in the University’s Occupational Therapy Department, and her students began offering services at the University’s Leahy Clinic designed to ensure that independence. A patient needs a prescription for occupational therapy and must be uninsured or underinsured to access the Leahy Clinic services.

The pro bono services offered at the clinic will help patients with low vision “use their remaining vision to stay independent,” said Dr. Nastasi.

Children Are ‘Real Winners’ of Friendly Competition

At a reception at Wigs Cafe in January, Louis Jasikoff (left), host of “Jasikoff and Friends,” which airs on Wigs Cafe Radio, and Debra Pellegrino, dean of the University of Scranton’s Panuska College of Professional Studies, thanked representatives of Tunkhannock area businesses, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, the Tunkhannock Area School District, the Rotary Club, Tunkhannock Area High School, the high school’s Interact Club, and others who organized and supported the collection more than 10,000 donated children’s books to promote literacy in the region.

The collection results were announced at a reception in January at Wigs Cafe; Tunkhannock collected more than 10,000 books. Dean Pellegrino was thrilled with the results. “You won,” she said to Jasikoff and community members at the reception. “But the real winners are the children who will receive these books.”

Jasikoff and Dean Pellegrino thanked community members who made the drive successful, including Ron Furman of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club; Terry Furman of the Literacy Club of the Quad County Independent Gazette.

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Health Informatics Master of Science Program Launched

The University launched its online Master of Science in Health Informatics program this spring to meet a growing need across the country. Designed for busy professionals, the program provides the foundation to become part of this rapidly growing sector of health care. Uniquely developed for the program, the courses draw upon the expertise of faculty from the Panuska College of Professional Studies, the Kania School of Management and the College of Arts and Sciences. The courses use an integrative approach to health informatics providing students with a foundation in health care, computer science, business, community health and research, policy and trends in health informatics.

Students have the opportunity to choose an elective based upon their unique needs and this even includes a study abroad option. A capstone focuses on the systematic application of digital technologies to health care. While our program is ideal for professionals with backgrounds in health, technology, computer science, or business, our specially designed program allows students with expertise in health or computer science to succeed. Taking classes with students who have diverse career backgrounds mirrors the interdisciplinary teamwork that is important in the myriad health informatics roles available to the graduates of the program.

Students and two Physical Therapy alumni, Christie Gregowicz and Meaghan Grenaldo, in daily treatments of patients in numerous locations in the Zacapa region. More than 150 patients were provided physical therapy care during the week. The trip, working with Hearts in Motion (HIM), proved to be a fantastic example of men and women for others who are committed to the service of faith and promotion of justice. As part of OT month, our members got a chance to appreciate what Camp Victory has to offer children with disabilities and learn about how to give back to the amazing community that the camp has created.

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Physical Therapy Faculty, Students, and Alumni Volunteer Services in Guatemala

This past January, the Department of Physical Therapy at The University of Scranton completed a 10-day service trip to Guatemala, Central America. Peter Leininger, PT, Ph.D., OCS, from the Physical Therapy Department, led 12 current DPT students and two Physical Therapy alumni, Christie Gregowicz and Meaghan Grenaldo, in daily treatments of patients in numerous locations in the Zacapa region. More than 150 patients were provided physical therapy care during the week. The trip, working with Hearts in Motion (HIM), proved to be a fantastic example of men and women for others who are committed to the service of faith and promotion of justice.

Students Present Research at American Medical Student Association Conference

Victor Dec, from PCPS, and Corinne Negrosky, from CAS, were recently accepted to present their research on telehealth at the American Medical Student Association conference in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2016. Their work involved the use of telehealth and inter-generational connectivity in the elderly population located in the greater Scranton area. The goal of the research is to demonstrate that seniors, with two or more chronic conditions, will have increased health, leading to better quality of life, when involved in the telehealth program. Their research will be exhibited to a panel of judges alongside students from numerous universities throughout the United States.

The inspiring campers attending this summer will use their background in service to help the camp get ready for the coming school year. Our members are looking forward to another great day spent at Camp Victory this April when they will use their background in service to help the camp get ready for the inspiring campers attending this summer.
Exploring an Ethics of Care in Kenyan Childhoods: The Case of Kwale County, Kenya

In continuation of their international collaboration on scholarship of early childhood in Kenya, the U.S. and Slovakia, Drs. Tata Mbugua, Branislav Pupala and Ondrej Kascak of Trnava University, Trnava, Slovakia, spent two weeks in Kenya in December 2015. The purpose of this engagement was to collect data and to contextualize the concept of an ethic of care in Kenyan childhoods. With the new political dispensation in Kenya, the team met with government officials including the Minister of Education and County Director of Education, Kwale County. Discussions centered on the county's strategic goal of increasing access to early childhood development and training.

At the invitation of the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) through Kwale District Center for Early Childhood Education (DICECE - Mr. Nicodemus Mbaluku and Ms. Immaculate Tindua), Drs. Mbugua, Pupala and Kascak provided teacher training workshops at the DICECE Teacher's Training College in Matuga.

Nursing Elective During Intersession

In January, 11 nursing students embarked on a trip to Dublin, Ireland, where they attended the Winter International School at Trinity College. The students participated in a course focused on Irish health care and Irish nursing. Students attended lectures with Trinity faculty; they participated in observational research regarding the health of Irish citizens; they met with Irish nursing students and compared nursing programs; and they debated the pros and cons of the U.S. and Irish health care systems. Students also visited Irish cultural sights including the Giant's Causeway, the Cliffs of Moher, the Wicklow Mountains, and the Connemara region. Dr. Barbara Buxton, Ph.D., nursing faculty and Deborah Zielinski, director of Nursing Elective During Intersession.

Counseling Faculty Participate in Pennsylvania College and Career Consortium

Julie Cerrito, Ph.D., and LeeAnn Eschbach, Ph.D., Department of Counseling and Human Services, are part of the newly formed Pennsylvania College and Career Consortium. The Consortium was initiated on the state level as part of the larger National Consortium for School Counseling and Postsecondary Success begun by First Lady Michelle Obama in her Reach Higher initiative.

Dr. Cerrito and Eschbach, along with representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Temple University, and local and statewide nonprofit organizations, have teamed up as key Pennsylvania leaders in this initiative to support more high school students across the Commonwealth to achieve their post secondary goals through navigating the often daunting college application process. The consortium strives to help address the achievement gap present among students of color, ethnic minorities, female students, and students from low socioeconomic or disadvantaged backgrounds.

University Hosts Lecture by Author of The China Study

Hundreds of area residents attended a lecture by T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., co-author of The China Study and professor emeritus of nutritional biochemistry at Cornell University, at The University of Scranton recently. The free, public lecture, organized by student officers of the Exercise Science Club, was part of the Panuska College of Professional Studies 2015-2016 “Embracing the Call to Care” celebration of the college and dedication of Leahy Professional Studies 2015-2016 “Embracing the Call to Care” celebration of the college and dedication of Leahy Professional Studies.
Third Level
Hand and Rehabilitation Laboratory: Designed to treat conditions to optimize the functional use of the hand and arm, and treat fractures of the hand or arm, lacerations and amputations, burns, and surgical repairs of tendons and nerves.

Edward R. Leahy Jr. Hall
Embracing the Call to Care

“The University of Scranton and greater Scranton community have benefited enormously through the heartfelt call made by Patricia and Ed Leahy to use our talent to care for the needs of those in our area.”

— Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., University President

First Level
Café: Community space featuring a historic display honoring the impacts of the YWCA building and our commitment to community health for the underserved.

Second Level
Dean’s Administrative Suite: Features a conference room with the stained glass from the former YWCA/Leahy Hall building.

Seventh Level
Physiology Laboratory: To study the body’s response to a wide range of physical exercise conditions.

Fifth Level
Hospital Simulation: For the training of Physical Therapy and Family Nurse Practitioner students in advanced patient-management skills in a realistic setting.

Sensory/Snoezelen Room: Designed to develop people’s senses through special lighting, music and objects specifically for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and older adults with dementia.
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