Message from the Dean

Dear Friend,

The end of the academic semester is a hectic time, but also a time of reflection and giving. As a friend of the Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS) at The University of Scranton, please take a moment to reflect on the transformation of our students in the PCPS undergraduate and graduate programs as they become “men and women” for others in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

As you read our stories, you can see the passion and dedication of our faculty, staff and students in our classrooms, clinicals and internships. We are the “helping professionals.”

Your contributions have helped PCPS students give back to communities from Lackawanna County and Appalachia to Haiti and Guyana, transforming themselves and the legacy of PCPS and The University of Scranton in the process.

When you give to PCPS, you are helping this legacy by supporting the many academic service-based learning opportunities, and their experiential learning such as the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, including the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Clinic for the Uninsured. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Let’s continue to grow together in the year to come!

Warmest regards,

Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D.
Dean of PCPS

Depth of thought and imagination in the Ignatian tradition involves a profound engagement with the real, a refusal to let go until one goes beneath the surface.

— Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus


The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment

Founder’s Society • $5,000 and more
Benefactor’s Circle • $2,500-$4,999
Patrons • $1,000-$2,499
Friends • up to $999
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 healthcare 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.

Each fall the endowment publishes a Call for Proposals to identify faculty candidates for next year’s grant awards. Awards are granted in May for the following year. The selection committee is comprised of members of the University’s allied health faculty and the dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

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 Center Student Advisory Board

The Leahy Center Student Advisory Board has been hard at work during the spring 2012 semester. The board consists of student volunteers and clinic staff who represent all facets of the operation: administrators, student nurses, translators and office staff. It contains specific subcommittees for public relations, fundraising, coordinating volunteers and managing the Alice V. Leahy Food & Clothing Pantry. At monthly meetings, the board evaluates the progress of the clinic from student, client and community perspectives to ensure that it meets in an exemplary way the needs – educational and medical – of all those involved. Specifically, according to the mission statement drafted in February, the board seeks to serve as a liaison between the University and members of the community who seek the services of the center, ensuring that the clinic provides an opportunity to practice the Jesuit ideals of “cura personalis” and being “men and women for others.”

Reflections from the Leahy Community Health & Family Center

As a graduate student in healthcare administration, I was intrigued to learn that student and community volunteers – under the leadership of University professionals – perform the day-to-day operations of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center (LCHFC). I began my experience as a volunteer in spring 2011 and experienced the Jesuit principle of “men and women for others” by serving the needs of the community. I was then given the opportunity to be an administrative intern for the center, where I offered to write the policies and procedures for student volunteers. The experience of being an intern helped me apply the theories and concepts in healthcare administration.

Leahy Center Receives Grant

Andrea Mantione, MSN, CRNP, director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, applied for and received a $14,000 Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Grant for the 2012 grant period. This grant, in addition to $56,000 in grant monies received in 2011, will be used for projects in the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured.
**The Leahy Center: A Living Laboratory of Jesuit Values**  

By W. Ryan Schuster

Andrea Mantione, MSN, CRNP, director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, often describes the center as a “living laboratory,” where University students can practice their skills in a hands-on, realistic environment, thereby combining learning with service to the community. I first began volunteering as a student interpreter at the Leahy Clinic last spring in order to fulfill the community service requirement for my theology class. As a student seeking to attend law school, I saw it as a good opportunity to serve the community in a professional setting while sharpening my Spanish in an organic setting. I have come to the realization that in addition to developing my language and professional capabilities, I have learned more in this “laboratory” about what the Jesuit tradition means than anywhere else at the University.

The newly composed mission statement of the Leahy Center Student Advisory Board states a desire to foster the Jesuit spirit of developing “men and women for others.” Indeed, at the Leahy Center this transformed from a platitude into a reality before my very eyes. Every Thursday afternoon in the crowded waiting area and examination rooms of the clinic, I saw people putting this idea into practice. Student nurses, office volunteers and interpreters, as well as the clinic’s devoted administrative staff and dedicated physicians from the community, giving their time to help others in genuine need. The opportunity to join them validated every hour I had spent practicing Spanish conjugations and learning vocabulary. Here, for the first time, I felt I had found a service opportunity where I could put a skill I had worked hard to develop toward making a real difference for others.

In its “for others” orientation, the Leahy Center embraces the Jesuit idea of “cura personalis.” I have heard this phrase translated from Latin in two different ways: “care of the whole person” and “care of the individual.” I feel that the Leahy Center incorporates both. It embraces all dimensions of the lives of its clients and treats them as “whole people” by providing clothing and food assistance, counseling services and educational programs, in addition to the medical care it provides. More important than this, the Leahy Center staff treats each client or patient as an individual, not simply another number. The center was the first service opportunity where I could look another person in the eye and realize that my efforts went directly toward helping them, even if that help was as simple as medicine for a cold. Getting to serve individuals in Leahy’s “cura personalis” culture, rather than working for the benefit of an unseen, distant beneficiary like at many service sites in the past, has made my work there the most rewarding service experience I have had.

My time at the Leahy Center has been one of the most formative aspects of my education here at the University. In addition to providing a first-hand experience of medicine and foreign language, this “living laboratory” teaches what Jesuit education is all about.

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**Thank You for Your Support**

The Leahy Community Health and Family Center would like to thank those foundations and individuals who have supported and continue to support its programming. Funding sources supporting the center, which are secured by Margaret Hambrose, director of corporate & foundation relations, include:

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<th>LEAHY CLINIC including Medical, Physical Therapy, Counseling &amp; Health Education</th>
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Blessing of the Books Project Sees Record Number of Donations

Five years ago, Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., established the “Blessing of the Books” program in the Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS). The program’s goal is to collect donated children’s books and distribute them to needy children both locally and across the nation. This year’s effort involved more than 50 PCPS student service-learning volunteers collecting books from 20 donation boxes located across campus, as well as local churches, for two months. They collected more than 4,600 children’s books – 1,000 more than the previous year. On Dec. 6, 2011, University President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., blessed these children’s books spread around the Christmas tree in McGurrin Hall. PCPS students, faculty and staff, as well as community members, attended this ceremony to promote literacy in the Scranton area. A good portion of the books from this year’s collection were donated to the library of Holy Rosary School in Duryea, which was flooded in September 2011. The St. Joseph’s Center and the United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania were among other local organizations that received books. In its five years, the program has collected nearly 14,000 books.

INSET: This is a “Thank You” card from Holy Rosary School in Duryea.

Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., president of The University of Scranton, provides the blessing at the Blessing of the Books ceremony in December 2011.

Pictured (from left) are Graduate Assistant Jason Savino, Holy Rosary Principal Kathy Gilmartin and PCPS Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D.

Scranton Spirit Reaches Far & Wide

Maria Marx ’12 knew she wanted to bring a piece of the Scranton spirit of “cura personalis” to those in need during her intersession service trip to Inez, Ky. She just didn’t know that it was already there. Marx, a counseling and human services and theology double major, volunteered to participate in the Christian Appalachian Project, a nonprofit, interdenominational organization designed to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of people in Appalachia. She served as a teacher’s aide at the Martin County Child and Family Development Center for three weeks, working in the center’s daycare and preschool. While preparing to read a book to the students, Marx found a small sticker on the inside cover with the inscription, “Donated by The University of Scranton Blessing of the Books Project.” “I was so excited to find a piece of home in this ‘middle of nowhere’ town in Kentucky and so proud to find that books from such a wonderful event made it so far,” Marx said.

INSET: I Love You with All My Heart

This donated book from Blessing of the Books Project found its way to Inez, Ky.
Practicum & Internship Accomplishments

Approximately 100-120 undergraduate and graduate students in the Counseling and Human Services (CHS) Department are involved in internship and/or practicum each semester. Undergraduate counseling and human services majors complete two internship experiences. Graduate rehabilitation and school counseling students complete a practicum and internship experience. Graduate community counseling students complete a practicum and two internship experiences. Practicum and internship students engage in a variety of direct and indirect experiences, as well as supervision and professional development opportunities. We asked counseling and CHS students to highlight their clinical learning experiences for us. Some excerpts follow:

Counseling and Human Services Program

Paul Luongo
My internship experience at the Scranton Counseling Center helped me develop both personally and professionally through interaction with experienced professionals and reflection upon the experience. This reflection helps me to develop my own sense of professionalism while keeping in mind the Jesuit ideal of the “magis” – the ability and desire to do more and to go beyond our own limits to reach our potential. This internship has given me an opportunity to strive to be more than I thought I could be.

Kerry A. Madden
As an intern at the Children’s Advocacy Center of NEPA, I work with a broad range of individuals with the mission of moving one step closer to a solution for child abuse and neglect. Every day I am inspired to be a better person by my coworkers and the children who benefit from our services. On one of my first days, I was approached by an animated young girl who asked me if I would like to play. After she left, I found out about the traumatic experience that brought her to the center. Apparently, she barely spoke during her first few visits to the center. I couldn’t believe it was the same girl who invited me to play. This showed me what the advocacy center does for children. I am empowered to do my part to prevent and address child abuse and neglect.

Community Counseling students

Michael Capozzi
One thing that has been on my mind recently has been something I now call “engagement intelligence.” It is exactly what you would think it means: how involved should you be with your client? My internship at Marworth has taught me that I am only a moment in time when I get to see clients. These individuals are here because they need to refuel their spirits and it’s my job to lead them in a direction where they can find options to achieve that at their pace, not the pace I want. Counseling at Marworth is different; I had to adjust my scope of practice to suit the facility’s need. Therefore, I came up with an acronym to sum up my role as a counselor there. I call it the “three S’s” – safety, sobriety and support. The “three S’s” are the most helpful way for me to gauge my involvement with a client and to promote the reality of his or her situation. The “three S’s” allow me to focus on the main goals of counseling at Marworth and redirect me if I get off course.

Michalle White
I have had great support from my supervisors during practicum and internship. The work I completed during practicum for the Shoplifter’s Group really propelled me to propose and facilitate my own group at the Friendship House. I implemented a group for adolescent females, ages 12-18, who struggle with positive self-esteem. This group discusses self-defeating behaviors that in turn relate to self-esteem issues. My internship supervisors have given me the flexibility and opportunities to really make a contribution. Most recently, I was asked to work as a part of the organization’s core team, which promotes the mission of the agency and influences the treatment process and unity of an organization as a whole.

Rehabilitation Counseling students

Scott Cardoni
Practicum and internship have been two of the most challenging and fulfilling experiences of my life. I worked hard. Yet, I have never felt more ready to face the challenges that await me when I begin my professional counseling position. I have my supervisors and clients to thank for this wonderful education.

Kyersten Rozanski
Practicum was a clinical experience that allowed me to put my academic journey into practice. I observed my counseling skills and began to fine tune them. Above all, practicum furthered my understanding of what it means, and the importance of creating a therapeutic relationship, to begin to build a foundation of hope with an individual seeking someone to simply listen to their story.
**School Counseling students**

**Dana Hall** When West Pittston was devastated by the September 2011 flood, I was working as an intern at Wyoming Area School District. I had the opportunity to be directly involved with the crisis response, which meant meeting with FEMA, assisting with coordination efforts to ensure the basic needs of our students were met, and working individually with elementary students who were not only confused by what they experienced, but also scared because they lost something they had. What an eye-opening and valuable experience as an aspiring school counselor!

**Kate Keglovits** My practicum experience was incredibly valuable. It provided me a safe environment in which I was able to navigate my identity as a counselor while receiving a great deal of support and supervision. Although practicum required me to stretch myself and presented many new challenges, the supervision allowed me to feel prepared to stretch along with my clients. I also learned to recognize that the counseling process is unique to each and every counselor/client relationship, and can look radically different from client to client. I recognized that there truly is something to be learned from each client. My clinical experiences required a great deal of self-reflection as I learned about myself and how I view the world.

**Traci Leidel** As a school counseling practicum student, I practiced counseling skills that I learned throughout my coursework. Through group and individual supervision, I was able to identify a counseling theory that I felt comfortable and competent working with. Now, as an intern at a local high school, I am learning common school policies and procedures, attending training seminars, and gaining experience working with students both individually and in a group setting.

At my internship site, I am currently working with a student who has lost counseling services because of funding cuts. She has a multitude of issues in her home life, including being in foster care. She currently lives with her father, and her adoptive mother has a terminal disease. We are working on coping strategies. I am presenting classroom guidance lessons on test anxiety before the stress of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment exams begin.

**Financial Literacy: The University of Scranton and the Junior Achievement Program**

During spring 2011, Dr. Tata Mbugua, Ph.D., and Professor Scott Reilly, education professors in the Pansuka College of Professional Studies, and Satajit Ghosh, Ph.D., economics/finance professional in the Kania School of Management, collaborated with Wells Fargo on a financial literacy project titled “Junior Achievement.” The mission of Junior Achievement is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy by focusing on seven key areas: business, economics, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, workplace readiness, citizenship and ethics. The program held at Abington Community Library had two components: grades 4-6, “More than Money,” and grades 7-12, “Personal Finance.” The interdisciplinary collaboration among the three faculty members provided an academic service learning opportunity for the University students as “men and women for others” by giving back to the local Abington community. Outcome-based teaching and learning research supports interdisciplinary collaboration as an effective model of teaching and learning through team-planning and co-teaching approaches. Both University and grades 4-12 students reported the experience was educational and rewarding.

**Education Department Welcomes Visiting Professor**

During the fall 2011 semester, Andy Mu-Jin Chen, Ph.D., professor of college of education, National Cheng-Chi University (NCCU), Taipei, Taiwan, completed a three-month term as a visiting professor in the Education Department through The University of Scranton's Asian Studies program. Dr. Chen presented his research on “School Principal Training and Mentor Principal’s Experience Inheritance Model: Taiwan Case Studies.”

**Scranton’s ACHE Chapter to Host Healthcare Symposium**

The University of Scranton’s chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) hosted its 17th Annual Healthcare Symposium on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. The symposium’s theme is “Unleashing the Power of Innovation in Healthcare.”

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On Feb. 27, 2012, the Regional Hospital of Scranton sponsored an education day for the nursing staff. In collaboration with the clinical liaison nurses (CLN) on 4East, eight senior nursing students and Catherine Lovecchio, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing, developed a poster on the new drug Pradaxa for submission to the Education Fair. The CLN program was initiated two years ago in response to the high acuity level of patients and the need to provide additional teaching support for nursing students. The program, developed by Sharon Hudacek, Ph.D., and Dr. Lovecchio, is currently functioning on three clinical units at Regional Hospital and two units at Moses Taylor Hospital. The purpose of this collaborative teaching model is for expert staff nurses and academicians to work together to enhance nursing skills and critical thinking for our students. Findings of a quasi-experimental study showed that the new teaching model has improved student satisfaction of their clinical experience and enhanced the learning environment. Collaborative projects, such as this educational poster, are ways in which the expert clinicians and academic faculty have paired together to improve overall education for nurses and students. There are plans for expanding the program to more clinical units in the near future.

In curricular news, the Counseling and Human Services (CHS) undergraduate program implemented two new courses. The first, “Individual Assessment,” was researched and developed by Paul Datti, Ph.D., and taught in the spring semester for the past two years. The course addresses integral information beneficial to students at the undergraduate level, and has recently been approved for regularization by the Faculty Curriculum Board. In addition, Dr. Datti, along with part-time faculty member Vanessa White, developed another elective titled “Counseling Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons.” Also integral to CHS practice, this course was successful in its first run, and has been added to the upcoming fall schedule. In addition, Amy Banner, Ph.D., is in the process of making many substantial changes to the Community Counseling curriculum, including designing a new course, in order to prepare for the program’s transition to a Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.

Finally, kudos to Dr. Banner for accepting the appointment of conference co-chair of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA). Dr. Banner will be reviewing presentation proposals and coordinating sessions for the conference, slated for Oct. 19-21, 2012 in State College. PCA members and non-members, including students, are encouraged to submit counseling-related proposals for the conference. The conference theme is “Transitions and Transformations” and proposals are due to Dr. Banner by May 15, 2012.
**Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Alumni Trip to Haiti**

On Sept. 16, 2011, a group of University of Scranton alumni and faculty assembled in Miami, Fla., in preparation for our flight the next morning to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Sarah Dutcher, the in-country director for Hope for Haiti, met us at the airport in Port-au-Prince. After touring the damage still visible from the country’s crippling January 2010 earthquake, we began the four-hour trek to Les Cayes — this is the in-country home base for Hope for Haiti. From there, our team went to work. We spent a day at the Missionaries of Charity Orphanage where we worked with the staff providing services and training for the many disabled children under their care. A highlight was the sensory integration experiences provided by Occupational Therapist Barbara Linder, a University adjunct faculty member. We spent another day in the geriatrics home where the group led an exercise session modeled after the “Seniorsize” program PT students perform at several senior independent living centers in Scranton. The team was gratified to hear several weeks later that the residents at the home seemed to be more active and mobile following our visit. An hour-long boat ride to Ile a Vache, a small island off the coast of Haiti, provided more adventure and an opportunity to work with children at the orphanage on the “Island of the Cows.” Physical Therapist Karen Wientjes Albaugh ’94, a certified wound care specialist, assisted Sr. Flora Blanchette, director of the orphanage, in the treatment of several children with wounds. On the final day, Dave Patrick, a physical therapist who went on to become a certified prosthetist/orthotist, as well as an adjunct in the D.P.T. program, spent the day at a prosthetics/orthotics shop operated by International Medical Corps. Patrick was quite impressed with the sophistication of the devices being produced. Other members of the team included Amy Tafil Coyle ’96, Jennifer Stephens Murawski ’97, Susan Pyrzynski Ficken ’87 and John Sanko, PT, Ed.D., OT/PT Department chair. Upon returning home, the team agreed it was a very challenging, but extremely rewarding week.

**Rehabilitation in the Rainforest**

Barbara Wagner, D.P.T., Verna Eschenfelder, Ph.D., and students from the Department of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy traveled to Guyana in January 2012 to participate in a service-learning experience, focusing on the health and rehabilitation needs facing the country’s population. During the service-learning trip, student-faculty teams traveled to a variety of healthcare sites that offer general acute and rehabilitation treatment, an orthotic/prosthetic clinic, school-based programming, residential pediatric care, nursing home services, and a residential center for persons with Hansen’s Disease. During these integrative, hands-on learning experiences, small, student-faculty teams worked closely with the local therapists to consult, diagnose and address treatment needs of the Guyanese people. Students also experienced Guyanese culture through visits with children of Georgetown’s orphanages, participation in a cricket match with the locals, and discussions with the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Corp Volunteers in Georgetown.

Kaela Mahon (from left), Rebecca Henthorn, Kaitlin Patullo, Allison Carbone, Kaitlin Arduino, Allison Merlo and Jacqueline Delorenzo were among the occupational therapy students who travelled to Guyana in January 2012.
5th Annual PCPS Community Celebration
1 Pictured (from left) are SusanBeth Purifico, Steven Szydlowski, D.H.A., Lauren Majewski, Edward R. Leahy, Monsignor John Jordan, Sister Ann Walsh, IHM, director of the Friends of the Poor, and Robert Purifico.

2 Harry Dammer, Ph.D. (second from left), chair of the Department of Sociology/Criminal Justice, and University nursing students discuss the Homeboy Industries initiative.

3 Pictured (from left) are Harold Baillie, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs at The University of Scranton; Brian Conniff, Ph.D., dean of the University’s College of Arts and Sciences; Gerald Tracy, M.D., associate dean for regional campus development at The Commonwealth Medical College; and Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., dean of the University’s Panuska College of Professional Studies.

4 PCPS Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D. (right), with Andrea Mantione (second from left), director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, present the Outstanding Service & Inspirational Leadership Award to Paulina Maida (left) and Arielle Ferry. Not pictured are fellow award winners Cara Brindley and Kathleen Lavelle.

5 Edward R. Leahy (back, center) gathers with staff, physicians, nurses and volunteers from the Leahy Clinic for the Uninsured.

6 Pictured (from left) are PCPS Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D., Panuska Service Learning Award Winner Minnel Meglioranza and Ann Feeney, nursing instructor.

7 Attendees from the St. Joseph’s Center included Sister Maryalice Jacquot, IHM (left), president/CEO, and Tracy Bannon.

8 Ellen M. Coyne (center) receives the Ignatian Service Learning Book Award from PCPS Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D. (right), and Dona Bauman, Ph.D., associate professor of education.

9 Hope for Haiti’ Founder and Chair JoAnne Kuehner (second from right) gathers with Doctor of Physical Therapy students and faculty.

10 Outstanding Community Member Award recipient Anne Domin (left) poses for a photograph with Andrea Mantione (center), director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, and PCPS Dean Debra Pellegrino, Ed.D.

11 Audience members enjoy the Panuska College of Professional Studies presentation.

12 Members of the University and community gather to celebrate in the Rev. Bernard R. McIlhenny, S.J., Ballroom in the DeNaples Center.
Reflections from ARAMARK Healthcare Manager Grand Rounds

Steven Szydlowski, D.H.A., led students from the Department of Health Administration and Human Resources for the Manager Grand Rounds at ARAMARK headquarters in Philadelphia on Feb. 15, 2012.

Manager Grand Rounds provide graduate students of various universities and colleges the management implications inherent in a 21st century healthcare organization. ARAMARK Healthcare provides the perspective of what an outsourced services company can do to help hospitals achieve higher efficiency and provide better quality of care. Presentations on the topics of leadership, marketing, operations, strategy and human resources were made by senior leaders of ARAMARK Healthcare.

The experience helped students gain a perspective on the importance of clinical support services in healthcare delivery. ARAMARK Healthcare’s philosophy, “It’s All Connected,” gave students an insight on the importance of managing the environment along with clinical care for improving the overall patient experience.

Nursing Department Local Service Project

From Jan. 25-27, 2012, 13 senior nursing students provided health screenings and health education at several local community sites including the Leahy Clinic, West Scranton Senior Center, St. Joseph’s Center and the mother infant program, Friends of the Poor’s afterschool program and food pantry, Scranton Primary Health Center’s prenatal care clinic, and St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen. Ann Feeney and Wendy Manetti, faculty members of the Nursing Department, coordinated the service project.

Students led group activities including elder chair aerobics and nutrition bingo at the senior center, a smoking cessation program at the prenatal clinic and the mother infant program, and a dental hygiene presentation for children in the afterschool program. The successful series of events concluded with Mass, dinner and reflection. Monthly health educational handouts and posters made by students will be given out regularly to clients using food pantries. Participants included nursing faculty members Feeney, Manetti, Dona Carpenter, Ed.D., Patricia Harrington, Ed.D., and Annette Tross, as well as community volunteer Tracy Bannon. Nursing students participating in the program included Christina Halma, Cara Brindley, Danielle Phillips, Jen Farrell, Dana Bambe, Ali Graebe, Steven Spironello, Natalie Dwier, Julie Ozycz, Emily Halpin, Brittany Phillips, Melissa Lancaster, Samantha Wagner and Maggie Bannon.

Murals with Meaning

Exercise science and community health education students completed murals representing the meaning of their service-learning project, the Growing Stronger Program. During their service, students monitored strength training, taught nutrition, and conducted fitness testing. Common mural themes symbolized dedication, friendship, strength, vitality, empowerment and aged to perfection.
For a week in January, seven nursing students, seven criminal justice students and a graduate student traveled to Los Angeles, Calif., to learn about gangs and urban health issues. Catherine Lovecchio, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing, and Harry Dammer, Ph.D., chair of the University’s Department of Sociology/Criminal Justice, designed this new course to offer the students a unique learning experience, whereby they would blend didactic opportunities with service learning.

This unique six-day excursion included a two-hour presentation by a gang specialist at the Los Angeles Police Department; a three-hour tour of the largest jail in the country; two days at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen serving meals, offering supportive conversation and dancing with the elderly patrons; a visit and health fair at Homeboy Industries with Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J.; an enriched experience with the chaplains of the St. Joseph’s Providence Hospital on spiritual care; and a tour and health fair at the Dolores Mission Church and School. The days were long, but probably the “most rewarding” experience of my lifetime, stated one student.

Each evening, led by Jason Downer, N.S.J., the students and faculty reflected upon their experiences and connected these with the educational components of the course. From the beginning, Dr. Lovecchio and Dr. Dammer were deliberate in making the course further the ideals of the University’s Catholic and Jesuit mission. Without reflection, the faculty believed that the students would not be able to take these experiences into their lives and transform themselves.

The course was a perfect example of what Jesuit education should be. The group was immersed with the poor, served the underserved, and met with reformed gang members. Even though textbook and other scholarly readings were required, it was interacting with the people and learning from them that provided the most rewarding experience. In addition, joining the two disciplines together provided for an enriched learning experience. Both groups of students gained an appreciation for the work of the other. They commented on how they are similar in their values and goals of helping people in their time of need. Prior to this class, the nursing students and criminal justice students could find few similarities. Interdisciplinary educational opportunities such as this can be an integral growth experience for students and faculty.

Joining faculty members Marian Farrell, Ph.D., and Professor Cathy Harrington on their service trip to Savannah, Ga., in January 2012 were senior students Kelsey Glynn, Caitlin Hayes, Kristen Pecka, Alexandra Weis, Kathleen Meehan, Valeria Fanelli, Kate Lundberg, Juiceann Ostroski and Caitlin Brady.

In preparation for the trip, the students were asked to review “Healthy People 2020” and to focus particularly on indicators related to cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, prenatal care and newborn outcomes. The majority of the trip was spent with Sister Patricia Baber at St. Mary’s Center in Savannah. Students engaged clients at the center, assessed the level of services received (e.g. Medicare), and administered mini mental status exams and depression scales. They conducted a clinic for individuals with diabetes providing information on diabetes and self-care, focusing on the importance of foot care. Students reviewed nutrition plans using MyPlate.Gov and selected a meal appropriate for individuals with diabetes and went shopping to purchase the food. This was a great opportunity not only to select the foods, but to experience first-hand what it is like to eat healthy on a limited budget. (Clients in this area often fall well below the poverty level.) Students then returned to the center and prepared the meal while other students demonstrated the meal preparation to the clients.

Several students on the trip (Brady, Ostroski and Glynn) have been active since last year in a student-directed group called “Nurses-2-Newborns.” This group brought a collection of items to be distributed to mothers in need through one of the center’s collaborative projects. Students participated in a community “baby shower” and provided blood pressure screenings for pregnant women. Students also participated in a program called “First Steps” which focused on reducing child abuse by promoting healthy growth and development of children by working with women who are pregnant.

Students attended two other clinics – St. Mary’s Health Center and the Good Samaritan Clinic. Direct services included survey assessments and vital signs. In addition, students helped with cleaning and organizing materials at the two sites.


Barber Receives Sursum Corda Award

Geri Barber, M.S., NCC, LPC, director of the David W. Hall Counselor Training Center, received the Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts) Award in the professional staff category during the spring 2012 convocation ceremony. The Sursum Corda Award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional dedication and/or creativity in the discharge of his or her duties, built, contributed to, or nurtured the sense of community that has always been a hallmark of the campus community, or contributed in a significant way to the Ignatian mission of the University. Barber was recognized for her contributions to the campus and local community, including her collaboration with the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, the creation of the Peacemakers program to assist primary-age school children in conflict resolution and conflict avoidance, collaboration with community health education majors in the creation of a nutrition program for children in local schools, and a program developed in cooperation with the Lackawanna County judicial system to counsel and evaluate young shoplifters as an alternative to judicial punishment, along with many other initiatives.

Pictured (from left) are Vice President for Finance Edward Steinmetz, Sursum Corda Award Recipient Geri Barber and University of Scranton President Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.
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