



# LEAHY CENTER'S 1888 CHALLENGE

BY: SARA AIJAZ

This academic year marked an important event for the University community; we celebrated the school's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its history from St. Thomas College to the University of Scranton as we know it today. For its part, the Leahy Community Health and Family Center pledged to complete 1,888 student volunteer hours to commemorate the year in which the University was founded. The Center achieved more than the 1,888 hour goal in the fall semester and is currently on its way to repeating that success for the spring semester. Dr. Debra Pellegrino, the academic dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies, kindly sat down to answer a few questions about the Leahy Center and its success with the 1,888 Challenge.

**Q: What role do you think the Leahy Center plays in the University community?**

A: The University's mission with respect to service and social justice is particularly relevant for the Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS). PCPS consists of a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs,

which share the goals of preparing individuals for "helping professions." Our graduates are committed to excellence in their professional careers and practice their skills in new knowledge in the interdisciplinary learning laboratory of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center and in the local, national and global community.

**Q: How do you think the Leahy 1,888 Challenge fits into the larger 125<sup>th</sup> year celebration?**

A: Imagine! 125 years after the founding of St. Thomas College, the act of faith that led Bishop O'Hara to establish a Catholic college has grown into the University of Scranton, while the compassionate, reform-minded impulses that led to the foundation of our University 125 years ago still remain in a new generation of students, women and men, who continue to "work with God". The Leahy 1,888 Challenge inspired our new generation to celebrate our heritage in a productive and creative way.

**Q: How do you think the 1,888 Challenge benefitted the clinic and its student volunteers?**

A: The 1,888 Challenge allowed students of the "helping professions" and across our University to fulfill the University's Jesuit mission of being "men and women for others". Undergrad and graduate students work together across different disciplines in the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, which includes the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured, the Alice V. Leahy Food and Clothing Pantry, physical and occupational therapy services, a counseling clinic, and an annual conference on disability. Through faith that does justice in the "helping" professions, our mission statement will continue to be a lived experience for years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS!

MICHELLE STEINMETZ

ON RECEIVING THE  
PCPS COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
AWARD

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

Q: How do I become a volunteer at The Leahy Community Health and Family Center?

A: Want to better understand the Scranton community's needs? Want to put the Jesuit ideals into action? Become a Leahy volunteer today: translator, discharge, food pantry or office volunteer. We especially look for local volunteers to help during the summer months and Intersession. Volunteer as much or little as you want. You will need the following: Criminal Background Check, Pa Child Abuse Clearances, HIPPA Video and Confidentiality Agreement, Vaccination Records, 2013-14 Flu Shot Documentation, and PPD (Tuberculosis) Test Documentation.

Contact [jessica.hatala@scranton.edu](mailto:jessica.hatala@scranton.edu) to begin volunteering.



## MHA INVOLVEMENT IN THE CENTER

BY MATTHEW CAMPO

The Leahy Health and Family Center has offered Masters in Health Administration (MHA) students a series of clinical and managerial projects in which they can utilize the skills they learned in the classroom to make a difference in the local Scranton community. The president of the Center's Advisory Board (David Linhares) collaborated with the director of the Leahy Center (Andrea Mantione) to establish a system where the needs of the clinic could be met with the implementation of MHA projects, while at the same time benefiting all students involved.

The students participating in these projects are not only getting hands on experience but additionally setting a foundation for future MHA students to follow in their footsteps. The MHA projects for this year are as follows: EMR Planning, Scanning, and Timeline (Charles Murray and Hayden Strickland), Scribes: Assessment, Plan, and Implementation (Rocky Sawyer), Survey and Demographics (Priya Patel), Quality Assurance (Matthew Campo), and Healthcare Information and Access to the Exchange (Winona Wiemann).



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/LeahyCenter](http://www.facebook.com/LeahyCenter)



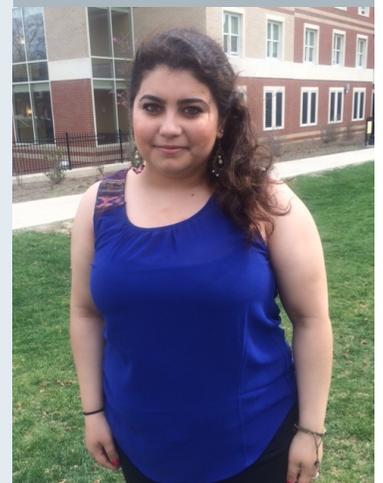
DR. KOSMAHL

Since 2008, Dr. Edmund Kosmahl has continuously volunteered his efforts to provide physical therapy services to patients at the Leahy Community Health and Family Center. He once stated that he hopes his services help individuals who otherwise wouldn't be served or have access to a physical therapist along with providing an atmosphere for DPT student to gain hands on experience. In return for helping citizens within the Scranton community, Dr. Kosmahl's involvement in the Center and PT Clinic provided him with routine clinical experience, increased his cultural competency, and supplied an environment enriched with various learning opportunities from both students and patients. We would like to thank Dr. Kosmahl for his commitment and dedication to providing therapeutic services to our clients and heightening the educational experience for students within the University.

**We wish you the best of luck with your retirement and all your endeavors to come!**

## TESTIMONIAL

As a native of the Scranton area, I have been involved with the Leahy Center's University of Success Program since my summer before high school. The University of Success is a pre-college preparatory program that seeks to guide its participants through their high school years and provides academic, social and cultural support. The program has both summer sessions and Saturday sessions to provide a wide range of activities including SAT prep and assistance in applying to colleges. Participating in both the summer programs and the Saturday sessions throughout my time in high school opened up my eyes to the option of continuing my education. It also increased my knowledge about college life and prepared me for the workload that comes along with it. Additionally, it allowed me to meet a variety of different people including professors, advisors, and fellow participants whom I still keep in touch with today. Currently a junior biology major here at the University of Scranton, I am grateful for my experience in the University of Success program. I believe that it is the reason why I am a dedicated member of the University and have decided to inherit the Jesuit tradition of serving others. I hope through my volunteer efforts at the Center along with being a mentor for students involved in the University of Success program, I can contribute to making a difference in our community.



Saghar Helen Akhondi  
University of Success '12  
University of Scranton '15