Third Annual disAbility Conference

The theme of The University of Scranton’s third annual conference on disAbility, held September 30 and October 1, was “Strengthening Family-Professional Partnerships: Strategies for Success.” The conference was hosted by the Panuska College of Professional Studies, Edward R. Leahy Jr. Foundation and the Office of Equity and Diversity.

Featured speakers included Dr. Thomas Powell, president of Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary; Dr. Loring Brinckerhoff, director of the Office of Disability Policy at ETS and consultant to Harvard Medical School; Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, deputy secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education in Pennsylvania; Dr. Ellie Rothstein, founder of PARENTALK Family Services in Montreal; and Chris Burke, actor and spokesperson for the National Down Syndrome Society.

Senator Robert J. Mellow received the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Award for Excellence in Rehabilitative Leadership. He was nominated by Keith Williams, a well-known advocate for individuals and systems change in state, national and international venues and last year’s Leahy Award winner. Senator Mellow represents the 22nd district of Pennsylvania, which encompasses Lackawanna County and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties. Since being elected to office in 1971, Senator Mellow has been an advocate for people with disabilities. He consistently supports increased funding and the expansion of existing services such as education, attendant care and transportation. The award was accepted by Michael Kushner, the senator’s aide in the District Office in Peckville.

(continued on last page)
The University of Scranton's physical therapy program was created in 1996, to meet the increased sophistication in medical technology and the greater responsibility placed on physical therapists in the field. The University of Scranton has created its first doctoral program, The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. As a first step, the Department of Physical Therapy began offering a Master of Physical Therapy degree. The current master's program is being phased out and will be replaced by a three-year post-baccalaureate Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The current master's program being phased out and replaced by a three-year post-baccalaureate Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The current master's program is being phased out and replaced by a three-year post-baccalaureate Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program.

New Doctor of Physical Therapy Unveiled

The University of Scranton has created its first doctoral program. The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree was established to ensure that the University's physical therapy graduates remain at the forefront of their field. The vision of the American Physical Therapy Association for physical therapists for the year 2020 is that physical therapy will be provided by a physical therapy doctor who is recognized as the practitioner of choice for the assessment, evaluation, treatment and prevention of physical impairments.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the move for the University to begin offering a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

“The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program more accurately reflects the extensive preparation needed for current and future practitioners in this field,” said James Palante, Ed.D., dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies. “The DPT follows the direction that the profession is heading, one in which the physical therapist holds clinical doctorate status for reimbursement purposes and that reflects clinical competence.”

According to John Sanko, PT, Ed.D., associate professor and chair of the Physical Therapy Department, the DPT program will offer an education background more suitable for physical therapists to enter clinical practice capable of examining, evaluating, diagnosing and intervening with patients based on the outcomes of evidence-based practice.

“The Doctor of Physical Therapy not only allows us to prepare our students for the future this discipline holds in store for them, but also advances the technological capabilities that will make possible faculty and student participation in advanced research studies and clinical practice here in Northeastern Pennsylvania,” said University President Rev. Scott R. Pilara, S.J.

“The University of Scranton demonstrated the type of technologically advanced equipment used in the physical therapy field today at a news conference formally announcing the doctoral program. Maribeth Grant Beutler, PT, Ph.D.(C), assistant professor of physical therapy, demonstrated the region’s only CODATA® motion analysis system. The motion analysis system is capable of analyzing movement and motor activity of people from infancy to advanced age.

There is an undergraduate and graduate path through the Graduate School. Applicants must possess a valid physical therapist’s license and have at least one year of clinical experience as a physical therapist. The DPT program consists of Web-based courses in the areas of evidence-based practice, pharmacology, pathology and differential diagnosis. All transitional courses are offered entirely on-line with the option of on-campus discussion/review sessions once or twice a semester. Each course also includes a case-based component.

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James J. Pallante, Ed.D., Dean, Panuska College of Professional Studies

Nursing Program Receives Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, awarded The University of Scranton’s Nursing Department a two-year, $274,000 grant for further expansion of the nurse anesthetist program. Funds are allocated for purchasing additional instructional equipment and consultant services to investigate the potential to use video teleconferencing and distance education for the program. The nurse anesthetist program prepares registered nurses to administer to patients all types of anesthesia to diverse populations in a variety of clinical settings. The 60-credit master’s degree program is for baccalaureate-prepared nurses and is offered through an affiliation between The University of Scranton and the Wyoming Valley Health Care System-Hospital of Nurse Anesthesia.

The Leahy Community Health and Family Center: An Emerging Model

Construction of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center (LCHFC) in McGurrin Hall, funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, was completed in spring 2003. The dedication ceremony put forth the promise of innovative opportunities for faculty, students and the community to work together to fill gaps in health, wellness and educational services in marginalized and underserved populations. Since this time, the LCHFC has actively sought to uncover gaps in services and work with community agencies and individuals to develop meaningful and sustainable responses to these needs.

The LCHFC envisions a community where all individuals have access to services that help them achieve, improve or maintain a quality of life that is consistent with optimal health and wellness. The collaborative partnership between the community and the LCHFC is intended to provide the resources necessary to support high-quality service and applied learning.

Although the LCHFC is generally regarded as a physical space, it is also an emerging conceptual model. The physical space was designed so that existing college departments and lab facilities would act as an extension of the LCHFC facilities. As a result, LCHFC services and activities may take place in the LCHFC, in college departments and labs, or in community-based facilities.

Conceptually, the LCHFC seeks to connect curriculum to the needs for health and wellness services in the community. By connecting services to curricular, we maximize the sustainability of services and continue to augment our applied learning pedagogies. The LCHFC also seeks to be a place to create interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students to pursue community partnerships and create new knowledge through collaborative research.

The Department of Nursing was also awarded an $111,000 grant from Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation to provide scholarship monies for students to attend The University of Scranton’s undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. Eligible students include licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, non-traditional nursing students pursuing bachelor’s degrees and graduate nursing students. Awards will be granted based on need and credit load.

New Faculty

Prof. Kevin Wilkerson, Assistant Professor, Counseling and Human Services

Prof. Steven J. Saydlozowski, Lecturer, Health Administration and Human Resources

Prof. Antonio T. Troia, Lecturer, Nursing

Dr. Robin Snyder Waters, Lecturer, Exercise Science and Sport

Dr. Yasmeen Bilal-Zulinski, Lecturer, Education
Global Health and Rehabilitation Reception

The Panuska College Board of Visitors hosted a reception on October 25 at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia to support the international activities of the college. The event was sponsored by Joseph Sebastianelli, president and CEO, Jefferson Health System; CBA Management International; Ruddle Health System; and S.R. Wojdak & Associates.

Board Chair Robert Purifico observed that Panuska College’s international work has been remarkable. “We are all very proud to be able to support the college’s efforts to promote the globalization and integration of the health and rehabilitation professions. We are particularly pleased that this work is being done within a context of social justice and service to the poor.”

Dean James Pallante stated that “we are pleased that our international experience continues to inform and enrich work of our college and that we are able to use this experience to the advantage of the communities in which we work – Philadelphia included.”

Exploring Faculty-Student Exchanges

Dr. Patricia Gross, associate professor in the Department of Education, visited Oaxaca, Mexico, last summer at the invitation of graduate student and graduate assistant Aracely Hernandez. Together they met with representatives of the Benito Juarez University to explore faculty and student exchange possibilities.

From left: Mark Leyes, U.S. consul for Oaxaca, Subhail Suirez Alonso, director of international programs for Benito Juarez University, Dr. Patricia Gross.

International Conference

The First Interamerican Counseling Congress, entitled “Counseling in the Americas: Creating Alternatives,” is being held November 17-19 at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. Join us for the first hemispheric conference devoted to serving the counseling needs of poor populations in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean Basin. The conference (co-sponsored by Universidad Iberoamericana and The University of Scranton) is funded in part by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and NBCC-International.

Call for papers, information, and congress registration are available in English and Spanish. For additional information, please contact Dr. Thomas M. Collins at collinst1@scranton.edu or Dr. Elizabeth J. Jacob at jayaphd@aol.com.

Nursing Faculty Participates in HIV Train-the-Trainer Program to Benefit Africa

Dr. Patricia Harrington, associate professor and chair, Department of Nursing, is participating in a project at Marquette University that trains nurses and community health workers from East African countries to provide preventative and primary care to persons with, or at risk of contracting, HIV/AIDS. The four-year program, funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), seeks to enhance the capacity of nurses in East African countries to deal with this devastating epidemic. With 14,000 new infections every day, some project that there will be 5 million newly infected this year and 3 million will die. This train-the-trainer model combines training in clinical and teaching skills with best practices to nurses who then train other health-care and community health workers. Dr. Harrington teaches and conducts research on HIV education and prevention.

HIV trainers and nurses from Africa at Marquette University. Dr. Harrington is second from right, standing.

Panuska College Students Participate in University’s First International Service Trip to Kenya

The first international service trip to Kenya, East Africa, was coordinated by Dr. Tata Mbugua, assistant professor, Department of Education, and the University’s Center for Social Action and Service Initiatives. Participants included Dr. Mbugua and four students from several University of Scranton majors; Ann Marissa Ambacher (Education), Anthony Giancatarino (Theology/Religious Studies), Kate Redmond (Counseling and Human Services) and Steve Clark (English).

The group was based in Nairobi at Hekima Jesuit College, Catholic University of East Africa. The purpose of the international service trip was in response to the U.S. Catholic Bishop’s call to be “in solidarity with Africa.” Students participated in educational study tours, cultural immersion, and service activities.

Panuska College Students

For additional information, please contact Dr. Thomas M. Collins at collinst1@scranton.edu or Dr. Elizabeth J. Jacob at jayaphd@aol.com.

The service trip was taken in response to the U.S. Catholic Bishop’s call to be “in solidarity with Africa.”

From left: Dr. Tata Mbugua, Anthony Giancatarino, Kate Redmond, Steve Clark, Ann Marissa Ambacher

Ann Marissa Ambacher volunteers in a preschool in Nairobi.

From left: Dr. T ata Mbugua, Anthony Giancatarino, Kate Redmond, Steve Clark, Ann Marissa Ambacher
Dr. Kathleen Montgomery accepts award from University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.

The University of Scranton

Dr. Kathleen Montgomery

Education


Associate Professor Kathleen K. Montgomery, D.Ed., was elected Teacher of the Year by the University's 2004 graduating class.

Counseling and Human Services

Gerianne Barber, M.S., NCC, LPC, joined the department in the full-time professional staff position as the director of the Counselor Training Center. Her specialty areas include crisis intervention, domestic violence, sexual assault and family violence. She previously served as a full-time faculty lecturer in the department. Ms. Barber was also crucial in developing interdisciplinary initiatives and collaborations as the first co-director of the Lehigh Community Health and Family Center.

Thomas M. Collins, Ph.D., NCC, LPC, was promoted to full professor. Associate Professor David W. Hall, Ph.D., NCC, CRC, LPC, was recognized for 20 years of service to the University community.

Dr. Hall was awarded the Pro Deo et Universi- nate certificate and citation on September 11 at his residence by Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of the University.

In addition, the department is dedicating its counselor training program in honor of David Hall. Dr. Hall has been a critical member of the department and of the counseling profession in Pennsylvania, culminating in his successful leadership of the licensure coalition. He was also instrumental in designing the layout and technology of the Counselor Training Center in McGuinn Hall.

Dr. Anne Marie Tobolcak was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Burley Employment and Rehabilitation Services for a three-year term. Burley is a private, nonprofit corporation offering a full range of employment options to persons with disabilities living in the greater Pocono Mountains.

The department welcomes Kevin Wilkerson, Ph.D., NCC, to the faculty this year as a full-time assistant professor. Dr. Wilkerson received his Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University in 1990 and a Master of Science in counseling with a certification in school counseling from the University of Vermont in 1995. In 2004, Dr. Wilkerson was the recipient of a Doctoral Dissertation Award from Syracuse University.

Exercise Science and Sport


Department faculty were featured promi- nently in a recent issue of Medicine and Sci- ence in Sports and Exercise, volume 36, May 2004, and at the annual conference of the American College of Sports Medicine. The titles of the articles and presentations were:


Nursing

Dr. Margareet Lieb Zalon, professor, Nurs- ing Department, received the Pennsylvania State Nursing Association’s (PSNA) 2004 Distinguished Nursing Award on October 23 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. This award is the highest award accorded by the PSNA. It recognizes a member of the association who has dem- onstrated leadership characteristics and ren- dered distinguished service to the nursing profession, and whose contributions and accomplishments are of significance through- out the Commonwealth.

Joan Nicolosi, nurse practitioner and pro- fessional staff in the Nursing Department, has published two articles. The first, entitled “The Discovery of Unique Nurse Practitioner The- ory in the Literature: Seeking Evidence Using an Integrative Review Approach” and written with C. Andrews, is published in the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

The second, “Tracking Pap Test Results,” is published in The Clinical Advisor.

Meghan Burns and Melissa Ann Kalinowski were selected by the Nursing Founda- tion of Pennsylvania Awards committee to receive awards from the Pauline Thompson Nursing Education Scholarship fund. The awards were presented at the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association Awards Banquet, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, October 23.

Dr. Kathleen Montgomery accepts award from University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.

OT Grad Students Learn Lessons in Drug Court

The Forensic Health Intercultural Con- centration between the Departments of Nursing and Criminal Justice has been quite successful. This year the Forensic Health Certificate was launched through Dexter Hanley College, the master’s degree in nursing with a forensic nursing concentration, and the graduate-level Forensic Nursing Certificate program.

Occupational Therapy

- Identifying Dimensions of Empowerment in Consumers of Psychiatric Services” by Rita Cottrell was published in Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, Volume 21:1.

Physical Therapy

Barbara R. Wagner, clinical education coordinator for the department, received a DPT from Temple University. She is the first member of the department to receive a clini- cal doctorate.

OT Grad Students Learn Lessons in Drug Court

For the past two years, occupa- tional therapy graduate students in Dr. Elizabeth Caravino’s Advanced Interpersonal Dynamics course have been providing a life skills program for adults in the Lackawanna Coun- ty’s Drug Treatment Court. This pro- gram was initiated because the treat- ment court team was concerned about how offenders in Phase 3 of the court’s program were spending their time away from their mandated activities. In addition, the team noted that their clientele needed help with time management, budgeting and many basic life skills. Since this phase of the drug court program focuses on community reintegration, the provision of occupational therapy services to teach life skills to the offenders was a natural fit.

Dr. Caravino, who chairs the Occupational Therapy Department, worked with Drug Court staff to tai- lor the treatment schedule for these clients to coincide with the Universi- ty’s calendar. The resulting student-led group, “Better Living through Life Skills,” enables students to provide an innovative community service that successfully meets the service-learning requirements of the Panuska College of Professional Studies. Judge Michael Barrasse has been extremely enthusiastic about this pro- gram, and student response has also been very favorable. Most importantly, feedback from participants has been positive, with all commenting that having a group where they could work together, along with individual ses- sions, was very useful. This current academic year, Dr. Caravino is work- ing with a senior OT student to develop a research project to measure outcomes from this treatment court program. Topics covered in the life skills groups, recidivism factors and the utility of the life skills program will be the focus of the research. In addi- tion, this year’s program will draw clai- mants from Phase 2 of the treatment court, based upon feedback from the treatment court team that earlier inter- vention may be even more effective.

Details about this innovative course and this unique service learn- ing opportunity will be featured in the “Careers” column of the Novem- ber 29 issue of the American Occupa- tional Therapy Association’s national publication, OT Practice.
Challenge in Theory: A Topic for Discussion and Action

Academic integrity has been a topic of interest and considerable discussion for several years within the Panuska College of Professional Studies. At the college’s December 2003 Dean’s Conference, faculty and students challenged the college to move from discussion to action. As a result, a series of events that discuss academic integrity as an issue of culture, and that culminate in a meaningful and usable product, was designed to address this topic.

The first event took place at the March Board of Visitors evening programs, publicly announcing the intent to formalize Academic Integrity within the structure and function of the college. The results of student and faculty focus groups were analyzed and shared with the entire college as a precursor to this year’s activities.

This year, in addition to combined faculty and student focus groups, the objective is to keep the discussions alive and focus on the initial steps toward the enculturation of honesty, integrity and just behavior into our academic, professional, and personal pursuits. Departments are being encouraged to use this process as part of a larger action leading to publishing departmental case books that address academic integrity. Students will be invited within their disciplines to use their real-life experiences to write cases or vignettes that pose an ethical dilemma. These cases will be reviewed for inclusion in the department’s text on academic integrity along with supplemental material such as current data on academic integrity and the following principles/values that emerged from the Board of Visitors session.

1. Academic integrity should permeate all aspects of one’s life.
   a. It is a way of thinking and believing.
   b. It is a way of behaving.
   c. It is important in how one enters and develops relationships. The stronger and more meaningful the relationship with faculty, the less likely a student would be to engage in academic dishonesty.

2. In a culture of community, competitive behavior is not seen as motivating or positive. Rather, it fosters a cheating environment. Concern for others and the will for all to succeed are believed to motivate academic integrity.

3. Exercising dishonesty at the college level will spill over into professional life. Professional reputation is important.

4. The University’s reputation is important. Attending a school known for dishonest behavior or participating in behavior that might result in University’s reputation is counterproductive on a professional, social, and personal level.

5. Policies and procedures relating to academic integrity should be understood and reinforced on a regular basis and in a variety of venues.

Half-Million-Plus Education Grant Awarded

The Department of Education received a $620,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Higher Education Initiative to deliver a three-year professional development program in mathematics for pre-K through 12th-grade teachers in the Scranton School District and surrounding schools. The program specifically targets teachers with a high number of English-as-a-second-language (ESL) and economically marginalized students. It builds on the already successful partnership between the Scranton School District and The University of Scranton, which was initiated through a collaborative effort in 2002. Participants include 42 teachers, 30 school administrators, 10 undergraduate education students and numerous parents and community members. This “train the trainer” model is part of a sustained professional development initiative called S.H.A.R.E. (Students’ High-level of Achievement through Research in Education). Activities include summer academies, workshops and seminars that span the three-year period of the grant, with new participants each year.
The Center for Faculty Research supports projects on an annual basis. This year’s awards which relate in some way to direct service projects that relate to health care issues for persons with disabilities, especially children, which relate in some way to direct service provision. The center awards appropriate projects on an annual basis. This year’s awards go to the following recipients:

• Dr. Dona Bauman: *Assessment of Factors in Young Children Contributing to the Future Diagnosis of Serious Emotional Disturbance – A Pilot Study. Dr. Bauman is assistant professor, Department of Education.

• Rita Cottrell: *An Exploration of Community Integration Programs that Enable Individuals in Significant Disabilities to Live in Environments of the Choice. Ms. Cottrell is an instructor, Department of Occupational Therapy.

• Dr. Renee Hakim: *A Modified Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT) Program for the Upper Extremity of Adults with Chronic Stroke. Dr. Hakim is assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy.

• Dr. Tim Hobbs: *Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Georgia (former Soviet Union). Dr. Hobbs is associate professor, Department of Education.

Leaky Faculty Fellow

Faculty who have distinguished themselves through their teaching, scholarship and service are eligible to be chosen for the Leaky Faculty Fellow Award. This award is presented annually and the recipient holds the title for two consecutive years. The award is intended to supplement faculty research and professional development activities. This year’s Leaky Faculty Fellow is Thomas M. Collins, Ph.D., NCC, LPC, ACS.

Contribution to The Edward R. Leaky Jr. Center

The work of The Edward R. Leaky Jr. Center is supported by the Leaky Endowment. Contributions from the friends and benefactors of the Center support its mission to explore new ways of delivering quality health care to underserved children and their families. Please help us achieve this goal by making a contribution today.

Founders Society + $5,000 and more

Benefits Circle + $2,500-$4,999

Patrons + $1,000-$2,499

Friends + up to $999

Dr. Sharon Hudack: Making a Difference: Stories from the Point of Community Nursing Care. Dr. Hudack is associate professor, Department of Nursing.

Dr. Deborah Lo and Dr. Tim Hobbs: *A Mexican-American Exchange for Curriculum and Educational Development Project in Special Education and Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities. Dr. Lo is chair and associate professor, Department of Education.

Peter Leininger: *The Effects of Yoga Intervention on Health Community Dwelling Older Adults. Dr. Leininger is assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy.

Edward R. Leaky Jr. Center for Faculty Research Awards for 2004-05

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The conference was attended by nearly 200 parents, practitioners, school administrators, counselors, related service personnel, paraprofessionals, social workers, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty/educators, post-secondary support services, and vocational rehabilitation professionals. It was sponsored, in part, by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through a Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Parents of Down Syndrome of Lackawanna County (PODS) and the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU) #19.