Leahy Endowment Celebrates Ten Years

The University of Scranton celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment during a reception held September 28 on campus at the Joseph M. McShane Executive Center in Brennan Hall.

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment was created in 1995 with a gift from Edward R. Leahy and Patricia Leahy to honor the life and memory of their son, Edward, whose personal disabilities were attended to with compassion and skill by many health professionals over the course of his life. The Leahy’s founding vision, and subsequent accomplishments made possible by the endowment, were the basis for the evening’s celebrations. “The insight and wisdom of Ed and Patricia Leahy have left a legacy at The University of Scranton upon which all of us can build — a legacy of service, especially service to the least among us, and in particular, to children,” said Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S. J., President of The University of Scranton.

“As we look back over the past 10 years, we are proud to see the many ways in which the endowment, and now the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, have positively impacted the lives of persons with disabilities and the underserved,” said Mr. Leahy, who is an alumnus of The University of Scranton and former Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. “We are also deeply grateful for the unwavering commitment of our many friends and benefactors who have supported these efforts.”

The endowment provides resources to enhance the lives of persons, particularly children, with disabilities. It supports health-care initiatives that include physical and occupational therapy, nursing, research, and publications by faculty of the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

Over the past 10 years, the Leahy Endowment has awarded more than $300,000 to support 17 research projects relating to health-care issues for persons with disabilities, especially children. The results of this research are shared in professional publications, presentations at scholarly conferences, and presentations through various media such as educational television programming.

Through the endowment, the Leahy Faculty Fellow Program was established in 2001. This program rewards and encourages University faculty who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and service. To date, five faculty members have been awarded fellowships.

This year marked the fourth annual conference on disABILITY. Edward and Patricia Leahy serve annually as honorary chairpersons for this event, and the Leahy Endowment provides partial support. (See article on page 3.) In addition to these activities, in March 2003, the University opened the Leahy Community Health and Family Center.
Leahy Endowment Makes Contribution to Disabled Victims of Katrina

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment donated $5,000 to the Louisiana Center for the Blind in Ruston, La. According to Patricia Leahy, it is the intent of the endowment that the funds go directly to individuals with disabilities who are in need of assistance because of Hurricane Katrina. The Louisiana Center for the Blind was selected because it is already assisting about 40 people with disabilities who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Tim Hobbs, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Education, is a part-time resident of New Orleans and has family and friends who live and work there. All are safe. Reflecting on his and his family’s experiences, Dr. Hobbs believes that we should continue to remember and act to support the needs of post-Katrina victims as they put their lives back together. “All sorts of individuals, with and without disabilities, have had their lives horribly disrupted. The long-term effect on families is profound. They have lost everything and will most likely be suffering the aftereffects for some time,” he said.

University of Scranton and Mercy Health Partners Establish LPN to B.S.N. Scholarship Program

The University of Scranton and Mercy Health Partners have created The University of Scranton Mercy Scholars Program, which provides scheduling, advising, and scholarship support to Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) wishing to pursue bachelor’s degrees in nursing. Through the program, LPNs employed at Mercy Hospital can complete the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing part time while working full time.

Participating LPNs will receive a scholarship from Mercy Health Partners each year based on credit load, as well as an additional scholarship from the University which, together, will in effect leave the LPNs with the responsibility to pay only for books and lab fees. The agreement will be in effect for five years.

“The University of Scranton Mercy Scholars Program will enrich the lives of the LPNs who participate while increasing the level of skilled nursing at Mercy Hospital,” said James May, president and CEO of Mercy Health Partners. “It provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to highly qualified LPNs.”

“We are pleased to be part of a program that brings such obvious benefit to the community through improved health care,” said University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.

Qualified LPNs will be admitted into the University’s Dexter Hanley College for adult students and will typically enroll for 12 credits each year. LPNs in the Scranton area are welcome to enroll in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program. The University will assist them in locating financial aid to facilitate attendance. For more information, contact Dexter Hanley College for adult learners at (570) 941-5813 or DHCadmission@scranton.edu.

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University Hosts Fourth Annual Conference on disABILITY

On September 29-30, The University of Scranton hosted its annual conference on disABILITY. The conference was presented by the Panuska College of Professional Studies and the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment and sponsored by Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit #19, Project A.B.L.E.–Acceptance by Learning Experiences, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

This year’s theme was “From Disabilities to Possibilities: Strategies for Success.” Keynote speakers included Edward Hallowell, M.D., founder of the Hallowell Center for Cognitive and Emotional Health in Sudbury, Mass. Dr. Hallowell is a nationally acclaimed author and expert on the topic of attention deficit disorder. Keynote speaker Jerry Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder and director of the TaoSports Center for Athletic and Personal Development in Santa Cruz, Calif. He is known for his work with Olympic, national, and world champion runners and has authored numerous books.

Nearly 150 attended the conference, which also featured keynote presentations from Linda Rhen, Ed.D., Director of the Bureau of Special Education in the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Thomas Collins, Ph.D., Leahy Faculty Fellow, Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Services at the University and Chair of the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Day two of the conference ended with a special session sponsored by DeNaples Auto Parts. Mr. Jay Blake, founder and president of Follow a Dream, offered attendees a rare opportunity to hear an inspirational success story from a person with a disability. While working as the head mechanic of a transportation company in May 1997, Mr. Blake was involved in an industrial accident that caused him to lose vision, smell, and taste. His journey from then to now has resulted in his learning how to live his life as a blind person while realizing his “Dream” to own a professional auto-racing team. In addition to working on race-car engines and managing the racing team, Mr. Blake speaks publicly about his experiences and philosophy regarding following your dream. Jay’s 2002 Dodge Avenger Alcohol Funny Car (3000 hp) was displayed in front of Weinberg Memorial Library.
Leahy Endowment’s First Ten Years, cont. from page 1

Leahy Awards

The Leahy Awards are given annually to individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership and advocacy for persons with disabilities. This year’s recipients were U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa); Dr. Ralph N. Pacinelli, Regional Commissioner of Atlanta and Philadelphia Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education; and Brother Rick Curry, S.J., Ph.D., Founder and Artistic Director of the National Theater Workshop of the Handicapped. Awards were accepted in absentia.

2005-06 Faculty Research Award Announced

Tim Hobbs, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Education, was awarded a grant from the Leahy Endowment to conduct a project entitled “Bringing Research to Practice for Children with Disabilities.” Dr. Hobbs’ work with children with disabilities, their families, and their teachers led to the development of the Leahy Classroom as a prototypical module of teacher training in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

For more information on the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment, please visit the Web site, www.scranton.edu/leahyendowment.
International News

USAID Looks Back at University of Scranton Legacy

Eight years ago, the American International Health Alliance, USAID, supported a health partnership between The University of Scranton and Slovakia’s School of Public Health and Nursing at Trnava University. The funding for the initial project ended in 1999, but the partnership concept built through that Jesuit alliance has continued. The Slovakian partner now implements its own health partnership program in Kenya, South Sudan, and Cambodia. Primary care services, HIV/AIDS, a full-service hospital, and University degree programs are a few of the legacies from the initial partnership that are making a difference.

Center for Global Health and Rehabilitation Holds Second Annual Reception

On October 27, the Panuska College of Professional Studies’ Board of Visitors sponsored a reception at Jefferson Alumni Hall at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. The purpose of the reception was to raise awareness of global issues related to health and rehabilitation and to assist the University’s Center for Global Health and Rehabilitation. Special consideration is given to Collaboration, Credentialing, and Training across borders.

Center for Global Health and Rehabilitation Event Sponsors

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Study Abroad Students

Summer 2005
Lisa Carpenito – Richmond College, Italy
Sarah Dillmuth – Universidad Espiritu Santo, Ecuador
Danielle Graziano – Richmond College, Italy
Erika Marango – Universidad Espiritu Santo, Ecuador
Molly McNulty – Cultural Experience Abroad, Italy

Fall 2005
Joseph Naughton – University of Barcelona, Spain
Glenn Petriello – Richmond College, Italy
Lauren Scanlon – Bond University, Australia
Rachel Whalen – Bond University, Australia

Brianna Orrigo – Cultural Experience Abroad, Italy
Lisa Piegaro – Richmond College, Italy
**Education**

Associate Professor Patricia Gross, Ed.D., along with Dr. Nagy of Marywood University, was selected to receive funding from The University of Scranton/Marywood Cooperative Grant Program for “Investigating the Evolving Role of the Literacy Coach.”

**Exercise Science and Sport**

Adjunct Professor Virginia Corcoran, Ed.D., was one of five recipients of the 2005 Medallion Award of the American Dietetic Association. This award is given in recognition of contributions to the Association and the profession. This year’s recipients were chosen from a membership of nearly 100,000. Dr. Corcoran is the first recipient of this award from Northeastern Pennsylvania. The awards ceremony took place on October 23 at the ADA’s national convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Ronald Deitrick, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Program Director, is this year’s Leahy Faculty Fellow. Dr. Deitrick has amassed an impressive list of publications, presentations, and affiliations since joining The University of Scranton in 1998. His work with students is tireless, and he is active with several service organizations, including the American Heart Association. He most recently presented a paper at the American College of Sports Medicine conference (October 13-15) at the University of Illinois and at a Research Seminar in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Health Administration and Human Resources**

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded the M.H.A. program with federal traineeship funds to help graduate students with tuition. Only accredited programs are eligible to apply.

Peter C. Olden, Ph.D., has been promoted to Professor.

Daniel J. West, Jr., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, is the recipient of a 2005 Leadership and Service Award from the College of Education and Alumni Society at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. West was also appointed to the Graduate School Alumni Society Board of Directors at Penn State.

**Nursing**

The Nursing Department received notice of a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for Advanced Education Nurse Traineeships.

Sharon Hudacek, Ed.D., received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award, presented to her by Dean James J. Pallante.

Dr. Patricia Harrington is presenting “Teaching HIV/AIDS in a College Environment: An Interdisciplinary Course” at the annual conference for the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) in November in Orlando, Fla.

Juniors Heather Koehl and Carrie Inkrott were accepted into the Cooper University Hospital Nurse Externship Program. For this competitive program, Heather and Carrie were among nearly 60 applicants who were chosen from an applicant pool of more than 300.
Jo Ann Nicoteri, M.S., co-authored an article entitled “The development of health care seeking behaviors in traditional-age undergraduate college students.” The article appears in the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, 17(10), 411-415.

Occupational Therapy

Senior Nancy Duda completed an internship at Prime Time for Kids, a preschool for children with problems in motor skills development and sensory integration. Ms. Duda’s story, which included her preparation at The University of Scranton, was featured in the August issue of ArcLight, a publication of the Association of Retarded Citizens (The Arc).

Margaret (Meg) Waskiewicz ’05 was awarded a major scholarship from The Burke Rehabilitation Hospital of White Plains, N.Y., to support her graduate studies at The University of Scranton. Meg’s successful completion of a fieldwork placement at Burke during the 2005 intersession was a key factor in her successful bid for this scholarship.

Meg reports that the training she received at Burke and her outstanding educational experience at The University of Scranton have added considerably to her readiness to become an entry-level occupational therapist. She will be employed at Burke following graduation in May 2006.

Botto, Lori Sledgewski, and Chris Gnad co-presented a poster on “Activity Analysis: A Unique Approach.” This presentation was based on an occupational therapy course, taught by Karen Brady, which employs a problem-based learning approach.

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D., OTR/L, presented a workshop on “Making the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework User Friendly.” Rita Fleming Cottrell, M.A., OTR/L, presented a workshop on “The New Freedom Initiative: Opportunities for Psychosocial OTs.” This presentation was partially funded by an Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center for Faculty Research grant.

Lori Schwartz ’05 presented “Elders’ Perceptions of Spirituality as Experienced in Occupational Therapy,” a poster based upon research completed at The University of Scranton as part of her graduate work. Junior John Patro, who provided service to the Student Market Group at the Conference, represented the University’s Student OT Association (SOTA).

Rita Fleming Cottrell, M.A., OTL, FAOTA, authored an article in the September/October 2005 issue of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Her work, “The Olmstead decision: Landmark opportunity or platform for rhetoric? Our collective responsibility for full community participation” is based on research that was partially supported by Leahy grants.

Physical Therapy

Marybeth Grant-Beuttler, Ph.D., has been granted tenure.

Renee M. Hakim, Ph.D., N.C.S., has been promoted to Associate Professor.
Education

Rebecca Brill Moody ’97 is the recipient of the Pitman School District’s 2005 Teacher of the Year Award and the 2005 Pitman High School Teacher of the Year Award, Pitman, N.J. Rebecca received a B.S. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in English from The University of Scranton in 1997. While at the University, she participated in the Honors Program. She received her M.A. in Writing: Composition and Rhetoric from Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J., in 2004. In addition to teaching English at Pitman High School, Rebecca has found time to publish, present, and develop curriculum for the district. She volunteers regularly for school projects and committees and is the advisor for several student organizations.

Exercise Science and Sport

Joseph Pierce ’03 and Kevin Heffernan ’01 each received graduate research awards from the American College of Sports Medicine Meeting. Joe is attending Syracuse University. His research is on growth hormone and exercise. Kevin is working on his doctorate at the University of Illinois and his research interest is in the effects of resistance exercise on vascular compliance.

Melissa Behr ’05 is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina majoring in Exercise Physiology with an interest in Exercise Endocrinology. She is the recipient of the Exercise Science 2005 Major of the Year Award.

Occupational Therapy

Gregory Shahum, M.H.A., OTR/L, has traveled to Cambodia, Slovakia, central Europe, China, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. During his graduate studies he spent two weeks in China studying its health-care system and making comparisons to health care in the United States. In February 2005, Greg completed a four-month internship in Slovakia and Cambodia, where he worked with service providers providing care to HIV/AIDS children; taught health administration to graduate students at Trnava University; and collected data on the therapeutic modalities Slovakian physiotherapists use to treat physical impairments. Recently, Greg participated in Rotarian humanitarian projects to provide water, among other things, to impoverished children.

Greg currently resides in Slovakia with his wife, Andrea, a physician at Trnava Medical University. He plans to continue working internationally as a therapist and administrator.

Physical Therapy

Maj. Bob Feldman, M.A., PT, USAF, is the husband of Sara Feldman, senior physical therapist at the MDA/ALS Center of Hope at Drexel University’s School of Medicine. His article about his wife’s role in training counselors for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Camp near Philadelphia was featured in the July 2005 edition of Advance Online for Physical Therapists. This past summer Bob and his wife got to know a group of seven students from The University of Scranton’s PT program. “The Scranton contingent was enthusiastic, bright, and ready to learn what it means to be a primary care giver.” Bob and Sara were so impressed with Ellen Driscoll, Lisa Rutkowski, Colleen O’Connor, Jenn Evans, Megan Strong, Jenny Parry, and Melanie Bond that Bob called Department Chair John Sanko, Ed.D., to find out why The University of Scranton was so successful in having students volunteer at the camp. Dr. Sanko surmised that PT students generally enter this care-centered profession because they are caring and compassionate themselves. He suggested that the excellent faculty role models related to service are strong motivators as well as the fact that service learning has been part of the curriculum for the past 10 years. Finally, Dr. Sanko suggested that the increased emphasis on the University’s Jesuit identity has heightened awareness among faculty and students regarding community involvement and issues of social justice.
Panuska College Student Organizations

The Panuska College of Professional Studies is proud of its students’ commitment to their chosen professions and to the Scranton community. Each department has one or more highly active student clubs or organizations that focus on a combination of scholarship and service. Many of the clubs are nationally affiliated, and our student ambassadors consistently represent The University of Scranton well at regional and national conferences and meetings.

Counseling and Human Services

Counseling and Human Services Association (CHSA)
MISSION STATEMENT: The Counseling and Human Services program has a multidisciplinary perspective designed to develop in students the values, knowledge and skills necessary to work within a variety of human services settings. Through the interplay of counseling, skilled development, social work systems, rehabilitation services, cultural diversity, substance abuse and addictions, field work experiences, internship and service learning, students are prepared to enter into a variety of careers in the human services field or to pursue graduate studies.

President: Bridget Lally

Education

Student Education Club of the University of Scranton (SECUS)
PURPOSE STATEMENT: To bring together students with a mutual interest in Education and to provide academic and social enrichment for its members

Co-Presidents: Erica Sonzogni and Jennifer Wagner

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
MISSION STATEMENT: To promote the inherent rights, education, and well-being of all children in their home, school, and community. To work for the desirable conditions, programs, and practices for children from infancy, through early adolescence. To raise the standard of preparation for those actively involved with the care and development of children. To encourage the continuous professional growth of educators. To focus the public’s attention on the rights and needs of children and on the ways that various programs must be adjusted to fit those rights and needs.

President: Katie Ziarko
Vice President: Trevor Gogoll
Treasurer: Joe Fromknecht
Secretary: Beth Stoudt

Human Resources

Undergraduate Student Chapter, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
MISSION STATEMENT: SHRM serves the needs of the human resource management professional by providing the most essential and comprehensive set of resources available. In addition, the Society is committed to advancing the human resource profession and the capabilities of all human resource professionals to ensure that HR is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

President: Andrea Jaworski
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Nursing

Student Nurses Association
MISSION STATEMENT: To foster interest in and knowledge of the current trends and issues in the profession of Nursing. To create an atmosphere of collegiality between and among students and faculty. To broaden the interest of the University community and the Community at large in health related issues.

President: Katie Wentzell

National Student Nurses Association
MISSION STATEMENT: The NSNA mission is to organize, represent and mentor students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses, as well as those enrolled in baccalaureate completion programs; convey the standards and ethics of the nursing profession; promote development of the skills that students will need as responsible and accountable members of the nursing profession; advocate for high quality health care; advocate for and contribute to advances in nursing education; and develop nursing students who are prepared to lead the profession in the future.

(continued on back page)
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Reflections of a Young Man with Autism

Michael is mostly non-verbal and profoundly limited in most functional tasks, yet he communicates his thoughts about his swimming activities through the use of an electronic communication device. Carol Reinson, Ph.D., Department of Occupational Therapy, has been working with Michael in the University pool for the past two years. Michael is 16 years old.

My name is Michael and I am an autistic person. The University has a program that lets me take swimming as occupational therapy. I’d like to let you know what that means to me. I am very smart, but you would not know it to look at me. My physical appearance is normal, but I have a lot of behaviors that make me appear retarded. Motor movement issues overwhelm my being. To move is to look all spastic and impulsive. I cannot kick and move my arms at the same time in the pool. I cannot swim as a normal stroke yet. I have senses which fail to function as they should. My limbs can’t seem to coordinate. It was very scary in the water at first. I have trouble “knowing where I am in space” they call it. In the water, I didn’t know which way was up when under it. Nothing is more frightening than swimming in the wrong direction to air. But amazing things are happening. I am learning to feel my body as itself in water. It is a wonderful feeling to finally know yourself as separate. It is a wonderful learning experience. It yields major gains in movement. To move as an entity alone is a blessing. To move is a major goal for me – a major, and potentially life changing goal. You, as normal, do not appreciate what an autistic’s body can and cannot do. When young I could not move sometimes, “frozen in space,” I call it. I could not tell where I was or where I was going. Just try to touch your nose with no idea of where your face is. Try to move an object with no idea of what direction you are moving in. It makes you look and feel stupid. Swimming is far more than just swimming for me. It lets me develop my motor awareness and skills in a very fun way. My whole childhood has been about working to overcome my issues. There has been precious little fun in it. To get so valuable a lesson in a fun package is heaven itself to me. That is what swimming is – sheer heaven.

I loved yesterday to swim is to be flowing like water it is freeing really love the feel of surround swimming is heaven on earth thank you for taking me mke

Contribution to The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center

The work of The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center is supported by the Leahy 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 to achieve these goals by making a contribution today.

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☐ My check to The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center is enclosed.
Success By 6 Lackawanna County School Readiness Taskforce Completes Activities Calendar

Under the direction of Dona C. Bauman, Ph.D., Department of Education, the Success By 6 Lackawanna County School Readiness Taskforce developed and distributed a School Readiness Calendar filled with a year’s worth of activities and ideas that assist parents and children to spend quality educational time together. It lists community resources, age-appropriate books, games, tips, and activities meant to help parents create an environment for learning. The project was supported by the Lackawanna County Library System, area schools, community organizations, and childcare centers. Success By 6 is the Early Care and Education Program of the United Way of Lackawanna County.

Panuska College Student Organizations, cont. from page 9

Sigma Theta Tau International – The Honor Society of Nursing
Mission Statement: Provides leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research to enhance the health of all people. We support the learning and professional development of our members, who strive to improve nursing care worldwide.
President: Cathy McGeehan

Occupational Therapy
Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)
Purpose Statement: SOTA has been organized to provide service to The University of Scranton, the Department of Occupational Therapy, Scranton and area community, and members of the association. This mission will be accomplished through the active involvement of SOTA in University and community functions.
President: Patti Simpson

Physical Therapy
Physical Therapy Club
Mission Statement: To serve as a catalyst in promoting professional attitudes and competencies among its members through organized service opportunities. In supporting the Jesuit tradition of The University of Scranton, the club works to nurture the students’ educational, social, and professional development to therefore aid their success as entry-level physical therapists upon completion of the program.
President: Brittany Finch