Connecting Your Freshman Year

On October 7th, about 30 freshmen gathered together on the school bus to embark on the first CONNECTIONS retreat of 2011. I was lucky enough to be on this life-changing retreat. I wanted to share with you a little bit about what happened at our time at Chapman Lake, and about the impact that it has had on me.

When we first arrived at the lake house, everyone was very quiet. We sat in a circle on the floor of the lake room looking at each other, wondering if we have seen these people around campus before. Then we ended up as friends. The end.

Ok well, that’s not exactly how it went. The first thing we did was attempt to learn everyone’s names. We all laughed at the fact that nobody could remember each other’s names. Good thing we wore our name tags all day! We then started our retreat with an opening prayer, which consisted of passing around a ball of yarn until everyone had a length of yarn in their hands. This symbolized that everything that we do has an effect on other people’s lives. If one of us yanked on the string, it would be felt by everyone in the circle. Then the string was cut into pieces for everyone to signify that although we live our separate lives, we are all still attached as one. The string was worn as a bracelet for the weekend. Some people still have it on even today!

We then split up into our small groups. These were the small groups that we would stay with for the retreat. We would reflect on our sessions and just be open and honest with each other about anything that was on our mind. One thing we learned about ourselves and others on the retreat is that every one of us has a story. Each story makes us special and shaped our lives. Four of our CONNECTIONS leaders were kind enough to share their stories with the entire group. One was about life before Scranton, two were about life during Scranton, and one was about preparing for life after Scranton.

One thing that really stuck with me was the metaphor that life is like a book. Most of the people in our lives never get to see inside our book; they just get to read what’s on the back cover. However, the more you open up to people and write on the back cover, the more fulfilling life is. Just because someone doesn’t have all the information of their lives on the back cover does not mean that things aren’t going on.

CONNECTIONS was an absolutely amazing retreat. This weekend was one that I will never forget. Before going on this retreat, I only really knew the freshmen that were either in my dorm or in my classes. Throughout the day and night, I met some amazing people with many similar interests. I especially bonded with the people in my small group. I definitely made some connections…but more importantly I made friendships that I know can last a lifetime.

Dylan Lang
Class of 2015
“Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.”

Pedro Arrupe, S.J., 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Valencia, Spain, 1973

The Community Outreach Office provides information on Volunteer Opportunities for individuals, groups, clubs, and residence hall floors. Our office is located in The DeNaples Center, Room 205B, and our webpage is www.scranton.edu/volunteers. We are also on Facebook! Like Us!

Check out our new webpage at www.scranton.edu/volunteers for a complete list of current opportunities, agency information, upcoming events and more!

**Christmas Holiday Bureau** - Voluntary Action Centers needs Interviewers for families seeking holiday assistance. Volunteers will conduct preliminary interviews over the phone 1st 2 weeks, then face-to-face interviews the 2nd 2 weeks. Weekdays Nov 14-23 9am-12pm or 12-3pm, November 28-Dec 1 9am-12pm or 12-3pm, December 5-8 9am-12pm or 12-3pm. Orientation provided. Contact Nancy Post at rsvp@vacomnea.org or call 570-347-5616

**Elm Park Church** - Linden and Jefferson across from O’Hara Hall, needs volunteers to help with annual apple sale. Peeling apples, weighing dough, rolling crust, filling pies, etc. Contact Andrea.Mulrine@scranton.edu or call 570-941-4155

- Thursday, Nov 17 – 1-7pm
- Friday, Nov 18- 10am-7pm
- Saturday Nov 19 – 7am-12pm

**Friends of the Poor** - volunteers needed to stock food pantry (must be able to lift 50lbs +) and help with seasonal dinners and giveaways. Contact Sister Ann Walsh at friendsofthe-poor@frontiernet.net or call 570-877-3929

**Meals on Wheels of NEPA**: needs a runner to accompany a driver to deliver meals to recipients in the community. Thursdays and Fridays 10:30am-12pm in the Dunmore and Greenridge area. No car necessary. They will pick you up. Contact Shannon Cooper at shannoncoop-er@comcast.net or call 570-346-2421.

**Santa Parade** - the Scranton Greater Jaycees need volunteers over 18 years of age to be balloon handlers and banner walkers at the annual parade, Saturday November 19 from 730am to 11am. Easy walk to this downtown Scranton location. Dress appropriately for winter weather. Contact Christopher Beeman at chris@iyouvo.com or call 570-574-2570.

**St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen**: Clothing House, November 15 and 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm. Contact Tom DePietro, 570-342-5556, ext. 4.


**Village Park Apartment: Tutor/Homework Facilitator** - Help at homework club for students in grades 1-12. Help with homework, areas of difficulties and preparing for tests. Monday thru Fridays 3-4:55pm. Valid childabuse clearances are necessary for this site. Contact 570-346-8874 or email villagepark4@comcast.net

**Webster Towers** - A Senior Living Community, Webster Towers offers companionship with contemporaries. Several opportunities exist for volunteers. Easy walk from campus. Contact Judy McLane at wthsc1@verizon.net or call 570-961-8716
### Exploring Prayer

Are you interested in exploring different ways of praying? Do you want to discover the importance of discernment in your life? If yes, join us for this overnight retreat at Chapman Lake. The retreat will begin on Friday night, February 10 at 5 pm and conclude on Saturday, February 11 at 5 pm.

Sign up for this opportunity in University Ministries. Cost is non-refundable $10.

Questions? Contact Sister Carol Tropiano, RSM at tropianoc2@scranton.edu.

### The EXAMEN

Are you looking for some quiet time to spend with God? Come spend 20 minutes in a reflective form of Ignatian Prayer....

**Every Thursday at 9:45 PM in Sacred Heart Chapel**

Please join us on November 10th!

### Post-Graduate Service Fair

**Sunday, November 13**

4-6pm

DeNaples Ballroom

How can YOU give back for a year or more after you graduate? Over 30 Agencies will be present to show you how:

- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Covenant House
- MercyWorks
- Rostro de Cristo
- Good Shepherd Volunteers And MANY More!

### Mass of Remembrance

**Thursday, November 10th at 4:40 PM in Madonna della Strada Chapel**

Please join us as we remember in prayer the deceased family members, friends and loved ones of the students, faculty and staff of the University of Scranton. As part of the Mass, there will be a ritual reading of the names of those who have died since this time last year. If you have lost a loved one and would like their name included during the Mass please e-mail Amy at hoegenaz@scranton.edu.

### Recruiter Visit

**Post-Graduate Service Fair**

Sunday, November 13

4-6pm

DeNaples Ballroom

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- Good Shepherd Volunteers And MANY More!

### Silent Retreats

These retreats, rooted in Ignatian Spirituality, are an opportunity to enter into silence and create space for God in your life.

**3 Day Silent Retreat - November 18th -20th Chapman Lake**

Retreat begins Friday at 5:00 pm and concludes Sunday afternoon. Cost is $20.

Register in University Ministries. Deadline for registration is November 14th.

**5 Day Silent Retreat - January 24-28, 2012 Chapman Lake**

Retreat begins Tuesday afternoon and concludes Saturday afternoon. Cost is $40.00

Register in University Ministries. Deadline for registration is December 2.

Questions? Contact Sister Carol Tropiano at tropianoc2@scranton.edu
Weekly Collection

This week’s collection will be given to St. Francis Soup Kitchen - local soup kitchen reaching those most in need.

Last week’s collection to the St. Francis Soup Kitchen was $312.

Thanksgiving Drive

The Community Outreach Office’s 8th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is underway! We are hoping to make 200 baskets this year at a cost of $35 each. Please donate! We accept Royal Card, cash, and checks made out to “The University of Scranton”. Our students will be doing table sits every Mon-Wed-Fri through Thanksgiving on the 2nd floor of DeNaples.