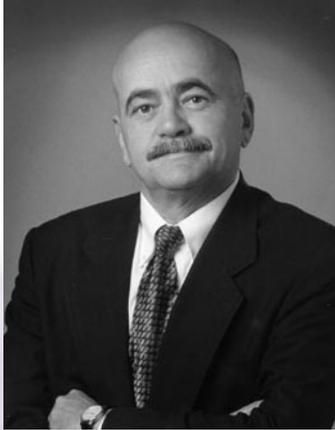


CHALLENGES IN THEORY & PRACTICE

THE J. A. PANUSKA, S.J., COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Dean Pallante Retires from Panuska College of Professional Studies



James J. Pallante, Ed.D.

James J. Pallante, Ed.D., who led the Panuska College of Professional Studies through a period of exceptional growth, retired as Dean on August 18, 2006. University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., expressed regret for Dean Pallante's departure and gratitude for his many contributions to the College's development during his 15-year tenure.

When Dean Pallante arrived at The University of Scranton in 1991, the College of Health, Education and Human Resources had seven undergraduate programs with a combined enrollment of 667 students. The College was renamed in honor of President Emeritus J.A. Panuska, S.J., in 1997. By the time of Dean Pallante's retirement, the Panuska College of Professional Studies' undergraduate enrollment had increased 44% to 1,174 students, with an impressive array of new curricular and departmental growth in undergraduate and graduate education.

Dean Pallante shepherded the development of the University's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy; the creation of the Occupational Therapy Department's undergraduate and graduate programs; and the introduction of new undergraduate programs in Counseling and Human Services, Exercise Science, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Health Administration, and Human Resources Studies.

A new headquarters for the College became a reality with the completion of construction of McGurrin Hall in 1998.

Because of his conviction that all disciplines should be taught and understood through a balance of theory and practice, Dean Pallante instituted the College's service-learning program in 1994. Further, he supported the growth of

international teaching, research and service opportunities for faculty and students in Mexico, South America, Haiti, Slovakia and the Republic of Georgia. The creation of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center in 2000 strengthened opportunities for

(Continued on p. 11)

PCPS Announces First Fulbright Scholar

William G. Wallick, Ph.D., CHE, SPHR, Associate Professor in the Health Administration and Human Resources Department, has been named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and is currently serving as a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Law and Management at the University of Mauritius for the 2006-07 academic year. Dr. Wallick's



William G. Wallick, Ph.D.

responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in human resource management, supervising and assessing students' dissertations, and conducting research on HR-related topics with his academic colleagues in Mauritius.

Dr. Wallick is one of 800 American faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to 150 countries this academic year through the Fulbright Scholar program. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

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 health-care 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 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.

Rita Boyle Named Director of Leahy Community Health and Family Center

Rita Boyle, M.S.W., joined the Panuska College of Professional Studies in June as the first full-time director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center. Ms. Boyle has more than three decades of experience in health and human services, higher education and community development. Her career reflects a lifelong commitment to economically disadvantaged children, families and communities. During two decades in San Francisco, Ms. Boyle directed an ethnically diverse community center, served two mayoral administrations in policy matters affecting children and families, and facilitated several public-private community initiatives. As a program officer at The San Francisco Foundation, she designed and managed a \$3 million grant-making initiative for children and families in poverty.



Rita Boyle, M.S.W.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Ms. Boyle returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1998 as the founder of the Children's Alliance of Luzerne County. At King's College, she planned and developed grant proposals for higher education-community partnerships, including outreach to Hispanic immigrants

and downtown revitalization. During the course of her career, Ms. Boyle has secured more than \$7 million in grants for human services, higher education and community development.

Ms. Boyle holds a bachelor's degree in political science from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Social Work degree, with a concentration in community organizing, from West Virginia University. She lives in Mountaintop with her husband and son.

Leahy Center "Incubates" New Nonprofit Promoting Cultural Competence

In 2006, Scranton-based entrepreneur Jorge Coronel launched a private sector venture to create a free, bilingual, Internet portal that connects Hispanic/Latino people to resources and tools that promote their advancement and success in all aspects of American life. The Hispanic Resources Network (HRN, www.hispanicresourcesnetwork.com) is a private company owned by Jorge L. Coronel, president of the Coronel Management Group.

During the planning and establishment of this business to create a Hispanic portal, Mr. Coronel grew increasingly concerned about two gaps throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania:

a) few voluntary community associations led by and for Hispanic/Latinos that serve multiple roles – encouraging mutual aid, celebrating and preserving Hispanic culture, developing new leaders and responding to issues affecting immi-

grant people and communities;

b) few nonprofit and faith-based service agencies that have the expertise, language capacity and resources to respond to rapid demographic changes.

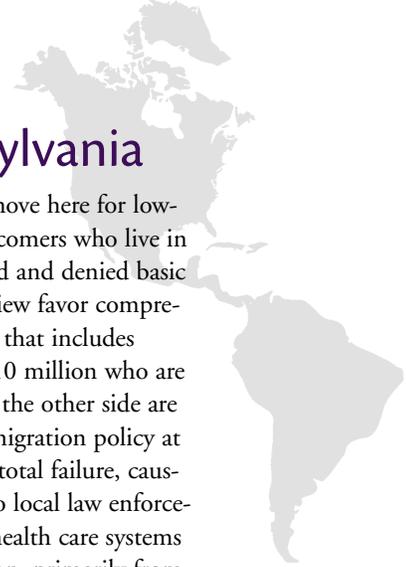


Jorge Coronel

This lack of infrastructure and capacity at the local level leaves many immigrant families without assistance in navigating unfamiliar institutions, employment opportunities or school systems and in adjusting to the realities of daily life in a new country and community.

Concluding that an Internet portal was an essential but insufficient part of meeting this challenge, in 2005 Jorge Coronel

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Immigration and Northeastern Pennsylvania

Northeastern Pennsylvania is experiencing its largest increase in foreign-born immigrants since the first quarter of the 20th century.

The seven-county region of Northeastern Pennsylvania includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Wayne counties. Settled largely by European immigrants during the Great Wave from the mid-1800s through the 1920s, more than 97% of Northeastern Pennsylvania's population has historically been white.

The 2005 census estimates there are 35,660 Hispanics living in the region, most likely an undercount since census statistics historically underestimate recent immigrant populations. Further, the Hispanic/Latino influx in Northeastern Pennsylvania is largely a "secondary migration," with immigrant families moving from the urban concentrations in New York and New Jersey to smaller Pennsylvania communities in search of lower housing costs, more jobs and safer schools. This population movement is often not captured in census data.

This demographic change has been rapid and dramatic. In the decade from 1990 to 2000, Scranton's Hispanic population as recorded by U.S. Census rose 249% to 2.6% of the population. However, based on growth in school enrollment records, in 2006 Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty estimated Hispanics to comprise 13% to 16% of the city's 74,000 residents, totaling between 9,000 and 11,000 residents.

Within the city of Hazleton in Luzerne County, just 40 miles south of Scranton, the rapid influx of Hispanic/Latino newcomers has led to social and political conflict. Within one decade, the immigrant population in this small city rose to more than 10,000, or an estimated one-third of the population. National attention focused on Hazleton in the summer of 2006 when a local ordinance was passed to punish businesses and landlords who employ or rent to "illegal" immigrants. The ordinance also featured an English-only language requirement for all official city business.

In absence of a coherent national policy on immigration, Northeastern Pennsylvania is experiencing conflict and polarization at the local level. On one side are those who believe that U.S. employers have encouraged, with the tacit permission of the federal government,

unauthorized migrants to move here for low-wage jobs, resulting in newcomers who live in the shadows, often exploited and denied basic rights. Proponents of this view favor comprehensive immigration policy that includes earned legalization for the 10 million who are already in this country. On the other side are those who believe U.S. immigration policy at the federal level has been a total failure, causing unacceptable burdens to local law enforcement, school districts and health care systems as a result of illegal migration, primarily from Mexico. They favor strict constraints on employers who hire undocumented workers, and some advocate for deportation of those who are in this country illegally.

Regardless of one's opinion about immigration policy, it is clear that communities of Northeastern Pennsylvania have been far more racially homogeneous and less diverse than much of the nation. It is therefore not surprising that battle lines are drawn in communities such as Hazleton. The challenges and opportunities of diversity – racial, ethnic, linguistic – have arrived to this region, and the next half decade will demonstrate whether harmony or conflict prevails.

Why Should a Catholic University Care about Immigrants?

The Catholic Church has historically held a strong interest in immigration and how public policy affects immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. Based on scripture and Catholic social teachings, as well as experience as an immigrant church in the United States, the Catholic Church speaks on behalf of those who are marginalized and whose rights are not respected.

In 2003, the bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope," which pointed to the human suffering and moral consequences of the current immigration system in America, calling for fundamental and comprehensive reforms.

In 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the "Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope" campaign to mobilize a network of Catholic institutions, individuals and other persons of good faith in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform.

Among the 165 institutional members of this coalition are the Jesuit Conference and Jesuit Refugee Services.

Catholic Teaching

The Gospel of Matthew calls us to "welcome the stranger," for "what you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me" (Mt. 25:35, 40).

(Continued on p. 6)

Mission and Goals of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center

Mission

The mission of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center is to mobilize the expertise and resources of The University of Scranton's Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS) in response to compelling community needs and opportunities in Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania. This mission is animated by the principles of social justice in the Jesuit tradition, and by the commitment of PCPS faculty who strive for excellence as practitioners, educators and scholars.

Strategy

Through mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations and agencies, the Leahy Center seeks opportunities for teaching, service learning and research in response to unmet community needs in health, human services and/or education.

Target Population

Partnerships that improve outcomes for children, families and individuals challenged by poverty, disability or special needs form the core of the Leahy Center's commitment to respond to unmet, community-identified needs.

Strategic Goals

- a) To serve as a broker, information clearinghouse and learning lab for community engagement efforts that involve the PCPS and community partners.
 - b) To design, implement and evaluate partnerships with community organizations, agencies or institutions that
 - respond to unmet community needs in health, education and/or human services.
 - are based on principles of mutual benefit and reciprocal learning,
- offer new opportunities for faculty and student learning, service and research in community settings, linked to the curriculum of the Panuska College of Professional Studies.
 - are sustainable over time through continuity in curriculum and funding.
- c) Strive for community engagement efforts that
 - promote interdisciplinary collaboration.
 - advance culturally competent practice in diverse settings.
 - serve as applied expressions of social justice in the Jesuit tradition.

Resources Offered to Community Partners

- 1) **The expertise of more than 125 faculty members** of the Panuska College of Professional Studies who teach the following disciplines: nursing, counseling and human services, health administration and human resources, physical and occupational therapy, exercise and sport science, nutrition, plus four levels of teacher education: early childhood, elementary, secondary and special education. All PCPS disciplines are taught and understood through a balance of theory and practice, enhanced by applied learning in community settings or "classrooms without walls."
- 2) **The enthusiasm and assistance of undergraduate and graduate students** enrolled in health, human services and education majors throughout the PCPS. Students are engaged in "service learning," a teaching and learning strategy that integrates community service with academic instruction to enrich

- learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.
- 3) **An exceptional learning lab** equipped with examination and counseling rooms, a child observation/play room and a technologically advanced seminar room. This 4,000 square foot modern facility is located on the lower level of McGurrin Hall. Its Kressler Court entrance is just steps from Scranton's Courthouse Square, with public transit and parking within one block.
- 4) **Assistance with the design, implementation, evaluation and funding of campus-community partnerships and initiatives** to improve outcomes for children and families challenged by poverty, disability or special needs.

Current Program Goals

- I. To form sustainable partnerships with community organizations and agencies that
 - improve access to primary health care for uninsured residents of Scranton and nearby communities.
 - connect immigrant families with a range of community resources that promote health and well-being, educational achievement, and family self sufficiency as they transition to life in Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania.
 - enhance the effectiveness and cultural competence of nonprofit organizations serving diverse people and communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
- II. To support faculty-initiated programs and projects that are responsive to Leahy Center strategic goals (see above).

Fifth Annual disAbility Conference

A variety of advocates, practitioners, researchers, faculty and family members participated in the Fifth Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disAbility, held October 18-20 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton. Presented by Panuska College and the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment, the theme of this year's conference was "Being, Belonging and Becoming: Mobilizing Partnerships to Enhance the Quality of Life of Individuals with Disabilities."

Conference presentation topics included employment, education, self advocacy, spiritual needs and quality of life issues, and technology for those with disabilities. Two themes captured much of this year's attention: employment of people with disabilities, especially young adults; and autism spectrum disorders across the life span.

A pre-conference program on successful employment partnerships was moderated by Ralph N. Pacinelli, D.Ed., CRC, LPC, former Regional Commissioner for Atlanta and Philadelphia Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education. Panelists with disabilities, local employers and counselors from Northeastern Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation discussed successful collaborations.

Pre-conference speaker Peggy Anderson, M.S., discussed essential components of a comprehensive approach to job development and placement. Ms. Anderson is the State Coordinator of Employer Development and ADA Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.



Keynote speaker Andy Imparato, President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities

Mr. Imparato encouraged a transformation of disability employment policy in the 21st century. A lunchtime awards program featured remarks by David Wenzel, appointed by President Bush to serve on the National Council

on Disability, a retired veteran of the United States Army and former mayor of Scranton.

Friday's keynote speaker was Lee Grossman, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America. Mr. Grossman, who plays an integral advisory role in federal autism research and services, is the father of three sons, one with autism. Luncheon speaker was advocate Joseph Gaskin, whose daughter, Lydia Gaskin, was named in the historic settlement of litigation designed to change the quality of special education services throughout Pennsylvania.

Dianne M. Posegate, M.S., RN, Assistant Dean and Director of Academic Advising, and Tracey Collins, Ph.D., Instructor of Physical Therapy, were conference co-coordinators.

5TH ANNUAL NORTHEASTERN U.S. CONFERENCE ON DISABILITY
*Being
 Belonging
 Becoming*
 Oct. 18-20, 2006, Scranton, Pennsylvania



Keynote speaker Lee Grossman, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America

Literacy Center

The Literacy Center of the Panuska College of Professional Studies, formerly known as the Reading Clinic, provides individualized reading instruction to struggling elementary-school-aged readers from the greater Scranton area. Dr. Kathleen Wasser-



Sophomores Molly Knight and Jamie Fiorello offer assistance to Nina Grattolino, a third grader at St. Mary's of Mount Carmel.

man is the Director of the Literacy Center.

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade are accepted into the program based upon a teacher's recommendation. Each elementary student is tutored by a pair of University of Scranton students who are enrolled in graduate or undergraduate sections of the Foundations of Reading course. The theme for this year is "Life in a Tropical Rainforest."

After a thorough assessment of each child's literacy strengths and weaknesses, individualized goals are developed in consultation with the professor for the child's word work, reading, listening comprehension, and writing. Each student is tutored for a series of 12 sessions using a balanced approach to literacy acquisition. The experience concludes with a parent conference, during which each child shares a book he or she has published. The tutors provide the parent with a detailed case study and suggestions for continued literacy development at home. This individualized attention allows the reader to work on their specific areas of difficulty, and to gain valuable literary experiences in a personalized environment.

*Those who flee wars
and persecution
should be protected
by the global
community...
Regardless of their
legal status,
migrants, like all
persons, possess
inherent human
dignity which
should be respected.*

– “*Strangers No Longer:
Together on the
Journey of Hope*”

Catholic University and Immigrants, *continued from page 3*

The following excerpts from “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope” describe the most relevant of Catholic social teachings on the issue of migration.

- All persons have the right to find in their own countries the economic, political, and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. In this context, work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.
- The Church recognizes the right of sovereign nations to control their territories but rejects such control when it is exerted merely for the purpose of acquiring additional wealth. More powerful economic nations, which have the ability to protect and feed their residents, have a stronger obligation to accommodate migration flows.
- The Church recognizes that all goods of the earth belong to all people. When persons cannot find employment in their country of origin to support themselves and their families, they have a right to find work elsewhere in order to survive. Sovereign nations should provide ways to accommodate this right.
- Those who flee wars and persecution should be protected by the global community. This requires, at a minimum, that migrants have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration and to have their claims fully considered by a competent authority.
- Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity which should be respected. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.

Why Does the Church Care about Immigration Policies?

The Church believes that current immigration laws and policies have often led to the undermining of immigrants’ human dignity and have kept families apart. The existing immigration system has resulted in a growing number of persons in this country in an unauthorized capacity, living in the shadows as they toil in jobs that would otherwise go unfilled. Close family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents

must wait years for a visa to be reunited. And, our nation’s border enforcement strategies have been ineffective and have led to the death of thousands of migrants.

Does the Catholic Church Support Illegal Immigration?

The Catholic bishops do not condone unlawful entry or circumventions of our nation’s immigration laws. The bishops believe that reforms are necessary in order for our nation’s immigration system to respond to the realities of separated families and labor demands that compel people to immigrate to the United States, whether in an authorized or unauthorized fashion.

Our nation’s economy demands foreign labor, yet there are insufficient visas to meet this demand. Close family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents face interminable separations, sometimes of 20 years or longer, due to backlogs of available visas. U.S. immigration laws and policies need to be updated to reflect these realities.

Does the Catholic Church Support “Amnesty”?

The Catholic bishops are proposing an earned legalization for those in this country in an unauthorized status and who have built up equities and are otherwise admissible. “Amnesty,” as commonly understood, implies a pardon and a reward for those who did not obey immigration laws, creating inequities for those who wait for legal entry. The bishops’ proposal is not an “amnesty.”

The bishops’ earned legalization proposal provides a window of opportunity for undocumented immigrants who are already living in our communities and contributing to our nation to come forward, pay a fine and application fee, go through rigorous criminal background checks and security screenings, demonstrate that they have paid taxes and are learning English, and obtain a visa that could lead to permanent residency, over time.

For further information, please see www.justiceforimmigrants.org, sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform.

Eight Appointed to Panuska College Faculty

Arthur Chambers has joined the Education Department as a Lecturer. Mr. Chambers earned a B.S., M.S. and a certificate of advanced studies in educational administration from the State University of New York at Cortland. Mr. Chambers has extensive public school experience, most recently as Superintendent of Schools at the Mountain View School District.

Assistant Professor **Virginia Corcoran** is the newest member of the Department of Exercise Science and Sport. Dr. Corcoran earned a B.S. in foods and nutrition from College Misericordia, an M.S. in nutrition from Marywood University, and an Ed.D. from Temple University. Dr. Corcoran is also a Registered Dietitian. Dr. Corcoran has taught courses in the department as an adjunct faculty member for several years.

Kathleen Juracek joins the Department of Counseling and Human Services as a Lecturer. Ms. Juracek earned a B.S. in secondary education from the New York State University College at Oneonta, an M.S. in special education from the New York State University College at New Paltz, and an M.S.W. from Marywood College. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Marywood University. Ms. Juracek has been an adjunct faculty member of the department for several years prior to this appointment.

Catherine Lovecchio joins the Nursing Department as an Assistant Professor. Ms. Lovecchio earned her B.S. in nursing from Villanova University and her M.S. in nursing from College Misericordia. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Villanova University. Prior to returning to The University of Scranton, Ms. Lovecchio was the Director of Health and Wellness Education at Villanova University. Some of you may remember Ms. Lovecchio when she was the University's Director of Health Education and Wellness from 1998 to 2002.

Debra Miller joins the Physical Therapy Department as a lecturer. Dr. Miller is no stranger to this department, having served as a Lab Assistant for the past few years. She has been instrumental in assisting the department with their accreditation process with the application for substantive change with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Dr. Miller received her B.S. in physical therapy at

Temple University, her M.S. in health education at Russell Sage College, and her D.P.T. from Temple University.

Rebecca Murley joins the Education Department as a lecturer. Ms. Murley received her B.S. in education from Mansfield University and her M.S. from Wilkes University. Ms. Murley is familiar with the department, having taught courses as an adjunct faculty member for several years.

Vanessa Silla-Zaleski joins the Education Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Silla-Zaleski earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees from The University of Scranton and her Ed.D. from Indiana State University of Pennsylvania. She also holds certifications in Elementary School Counseling and Applied Behavior Analysis for Special Education, and she is a Board-certified Behavior Analyst.

Kimberly Subasic joins the Nursing Department as a Lecturer. Ms. Subasic received her B.S.N. from St. Francis University and her M.S. from The University of Scranton. Most recently she completed a certificate program in "Teaching and Learning in Web-based Courses" from the Indiana University School of Nursing. Prior to joining the University full time, Ms. Subasic was a part-time clinical faculty member for the department.



Arthur Chambers



Virginia Corcoran



Kathleen Juracek



C. Lovecchio



Debra Miller



Rebecca Murley



V. Silla-Zaleski



Kimberly Subasic

New Major in Community Health Education

The Panuska College of Professional Studies is offering a new major in the Department of Health Administration and Human Resources in Community Health Education (CHE). This undergraduate major will be administered by Health Administration and Human Resources faculty along with faculty from the departments of Nursing, Exercise Science, Counseling and Human Services, and Education to prepare students with a broadly based curriculum in the concepts of community health education.

As the health-services industry continues to expand and diversify, employment is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2012. CHE graduates will be prepared for a wide variety of entry-

level positions that include Wellness Coordinators, Health and Fitness Specialists, Community Health Educators, Migrant Outreach Workers, and Public Health Services Workers. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the median annual earnings in the largest industries employing CHE professionals in 2002 were \$57,768. The degree also prepares students to sit for the national certification of health education specialist examination and to apply for further graduate studies.

Enrollment in the CHE program for the 2006-07 academic year is expected to be 14 students and is anticipated to grow steadily over the next few years, reaching nearly 50 students by the 2008-09 academic year.

Project Guadalajara

In 2004 a team of University of Scranton faculty and professional staff spent 16 days traveling through Mexico investigating health-care and educational facilities, services and issues. The trip was sponsored by a grant from the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Foundation and was authored by Deborah E. Lo, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Education. Lisa A. Burns, Clinical Education Coordinator for the Occupational Therapy Department, Barbara R. Wagner, D.P.T., Director of Clinical Education for the Physical Therapy Department, and John P. Sanko, PT, Ed.D., Chair of the Physical Therapy Department, were part of the team. Their objective was to determine the feasibility of returning to Mexico with students to learn about rehabilitation and health care in a new and different cultural setting. After traveling throughout Mexico and visiting dozens of health-care facilities, the team decided that Guadalajara would offer the best experience for the students.

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Departments worked collaboratively with Raúl Rodríguez Ramírez, Director of International Programs at Universidad Del Valle de Aternajae (UNIVA), a Catholic University in Guadalajara, to arrange the initial student-faculty trip and plan optimal experiences for the six students and three faculty members who made the first annual Project Guadalajara trip in January 2005. A second group of ten students made the trip in January 2006.

The following reflection was written by Dr. John Sanko.

Health care in Mexico relies heavily on family involvement, as can be seen by the parents working with their children in a therapy session at the Desarrollo Integral de Familia.



University of Scranton PT and OT students and faculty lend a helping hand to the therapists at the Centro Integral de Rehabilitacion Infantil, A.C.

Our students were able to partner with therapists at Centro Integral de Rehabilitacion Infantil, A.C. CIRIAC possesses a powerful passion for its mission, which is to provide education, rehabilitation and vocational services for individuals with cerebral palsy. It is a study in resourcefulness, using every square inch of its modest building. For such a small, non-profit organization to provide such a broad range of high quality services is nothing short of miraculous! We were so impressed with CIRIAC and the director, Lucina Bravo de González, that we focused our trip around the CIRIAC experience.

Another agency we visited was the Desarrollo Integral de Familia (DIF), a government agency that treats children and adults with a variety of disabilities. As was true with the CIRIAC, on our first visit we were observers, but as relationships with these facilities became stronger, on subsequent trips our students have been able to gain hands-on experience with their Mexican colleagues.

UNIVA students, like their Panuska College counterparts, are required to engage actively in service learning. Psychology students from UNIVA provide counseling services to the residents of Lomas de la Primavera, a marginalized community on the outskirts of Guadalajara. There are no sewers, running water or other basic services that we often take for granted. Crime and drug use are high, and health care is minimal. We were privileged to participate in heart-to-heart discussions with several families and their student counselors about their concerns, fears and aspirations. We also had the opportunity



to visit the school at Lomas de la Primavera, which is a testament to the power of the human spirit. In spite of the fact that they are surrounded by extreme poverty, none of the children, teachers or parents had lost the hope that life will get better for them and their children. The personal reflections written by our students indicated how powerfully these experiences impacted upon them.

Future plans for Project Guadalajara include working with UNIVA to expand and strengthen our partnerships with CIRIAC, DIF and Lomas de la Primavera. Our students will continue to help develop treatment plans in collaboration with the therapists at the DIF and CIRIAC. Project Guadalajara has made two annual contributions to the CIRIAC from funds raised by students. We were told last year that our donation was used to buy a specialized computer to help children with communication disorders. We hope to

continue to make an annual donation each time we visit.

In addition, Project Guadalajara donated Spanish-language children's books and crayons to the school at Lomas de la Primavera. The principal of the school told us that there was no physical education, sports or other recreation program at the school. We hope in 2007 to donate a variety of balls and other recreation equipment to the school. We plan to ask the principal for permission for our PT and OT students to conduct several recreational activity classes for the children of Lomas de la Primavera. Based on the level of interest shown by OT and PT students to be part of the 2007 trip, the future of Project Guadalajara appears to be bright and promising.



Several thousand people live in the marginalized community of Lomas de la Primavera, located on the outskirts of Guadalajara.

Nonprofit Promotes Cultural Competence, *cont. from page 2*

and several other Hispanic/Latino professionals began planning strategies to help Northeastern Pennsylvania in its transition to a more ethnically and linguistically diverse region. The HRN Center for Community Initiatives (HRN-CCI) was formed with the following mission: to enhance the effectiveness and cultural competence of existing and emerging non-profit organizations serving Hispanic/Latino people and communities. Northeastern Pennsylvania will serve as the initial geographic focus of HRN-CCI's work.

The ultimate goal of HRN-CCI is to advance employment and economic opportunities, promote health and educational achievement, and encourage civic participation among Hispanic/Latino people and communities. Rather than providing direct services to people, HRN-CCI's approach is to strengthen

the organizational capacity, strategic thinking, and program development skills of a broad range of community- and faith-based organizations to achieve the above goals.

Based on a mutuality of interests and goals, the Panuska College of Professional Studies will house and incubate HRN-CCI during its start-up period. The Leahy Center will provide office space and technical assistance with program planning and grant seeking. In exchange, HRN-CCI will collaborate with the staff of the Leahy Center in undertaking outreach activities to the Hispanic community in Scranton and other Northeastern Pennsylvania communities. The objective of such outreach activities is to identify new teaching, service learning and research opportunities for faculty and students of the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

The Hispanic Resources Network Center for Community Initiatives was formed to enhance the effectiveness and cultural competence of non-profit organizations serving Hispanic/Latino people and communities.

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Town Hall Meeting on Autism

Northeastern Pennsylvania is a region of strong advocacy and activism among parents and families whose children have been diagnosed with autism and other spectrum disorders. In conjunction with this year's conference on disAbility, The University of Scranton hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Autism on October 19 in Brennan Hall.

Lee Grossman, President and CEO of Autism Society of America, spoke to an audience of parents, practitioners, advocates and students about federal efforts in autism research and services, and a commitment to design a "road map" for autism spectrum disorders across the lifespan.

A panel moderated by Dr. Lori Bruch featured Nina Wall-Cote, who directs Autism Affairs for Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare; John Coletti, parent of a child diagnosed with autism; and Dr. Vanessa Silla-Zaleski, Board-certified Behavior Analyst and member of the Education Department.

Parents of children with autism have formed several advocacy organizations in the region. These include Luzerne County-based Supporting Autistic Families Everywhere (SAFE); Lackawanna County Autism Coalition; Parent to Parent; Pocono Autism Society; Pike Autism Support Services (PASS) and Advocacy Alliance in Scranton.

Dean Pallante Retires, *continued from page 1*

applied teaching, learning and service in the fields of health, education and human services.

Jim joins his wife, Joan, in retirement with plans for travel, golf and spending time with his four children and ten grandchildren.

At a farewell reception in McGurrin Hall in August, President Emeritus Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J., thanked Jim for his forward-looking leadership and contribution to education in the Jesuit spirit and tradition, rooted in antiquity but responsive to contemporary needs.

"We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. James Pallante and his staff for their dedication and commitment to enhancing the personal and economic independence of children and adults with disabilities through excellence in education and training," said Patricia Leahy, who, along with her husband, Edward Leahy, established the Leahy Endowment at the University.

To: PCPS Faculty and Staff

From: James J. Pallante, Dean

Date: August 18, 2006

Subject: Thank You

As I look to my retirement with happy anticipation, I also feel regret that my time working with you has come to an end. I will carry with me memories of our work, through which we sought to actualize our collaborative plans, hopes and dreams.

I tried always to support your efforts to the best of my ability, and I acknowledge with gratitude that you made the maturation of our young college possible. Your talent, dedication, and trust helped bring the Panuska College of Professional Studies to its current level of excellence.

I leave what I know will be a bright future in your able hands. Thank you for the years.

"When our son, Edward, looks homeward, he, like his parents, will remember how one man and his staff made a mission of promoting policies that have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of all persons with disabilities," said Mrs. Leahy.

Contribution to The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment

Contributions from friends and benefactors support the work of The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment and 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. Endowment is enclosed.



*Rhonda Waskiewicz,
Ed.D.*

Rhonda Waskiewicz Named Interim Dean

In August, Rhonda Waskiewicz, Ed.D., was appointed to serve as the Interim Dean for the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

In announcing her appointment, Provost Harold Baillie, Ph.D., cited Rhonda's energetic and dedicated service to the College and to the University.

Dr. Waskiewicz came to The University of Scranton in 1996 as an experienced occupational therapist and rehabilitation administrator. Hired initially as the clinical educational coordinator in the Department of Occupational Therapy, she advanced to full-time

faculty in 1999 and subsequently served as the department's chairperson for the 2001-02 academic year.

In August 2002, Dr. Waskiewicz was appointed to the administrative post of Associate Dean of PCPS. She has advanced service learning as an integral component of the curriculum and collaborated with community agencies to develop programs for the Leahy Community Health and Family Center.

Rhonda is the author of numerous articles and presentations on service learning and civic engagement.

www.scranton.edu/leahyendowment

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