It is a pleasure to share with you the fall 2010 edition of Challenges in Theory & Practice.

The Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS) is in the midst of developing its strategic plan by connecting the University’s themes of Cura Personalis, Magis and Rei Solicitudo and by actualizing our own PCPS mission to our faculty, staff and students. You will find in this edition the wonderful professional outputs from the Dean’s Leadership & Planning Conference, which took place at the Retreat Center at Chapman Lake on Tuesday, August 10, 2010. The conference was attended by 53 members of the PCPS faculty and staff all of whom collaborated on our progress and goals: “Where were we?” “Where are we?” and “Where are we going to be in five years?” as skilled and professional members of PCPS. Many accomplishments were presented by faculty and staff from our 2009-2010 academic year. In looking to our future, the conference members focused on “Magis.” It is through “Magis” that we focus on being grounded in “gratitude.” As we do, we commit ourselves to excellence, especially in academics and student formation, for the greater glory of God and the well-being of humankind.

In this fall newsletter, it is my hope that you see the ways the faculty, staff and students have committed themselves to excellence in so many areas of their professional lives. In a way, this newsletter is our “harvest” publication. It is here you will find the fruits of our labors. It is our time to be thankful and to gratefully present all that the PCPS team has accomplished in the latter part of 2010.

In closing, I am so grateful for the commitment of many, the abundant academic bounties which have grown out of hard work, our commitment to excellence, and our determination to achieve more, the “Magis” of PCPS. In the words of a very inspirational woman of the 20th century, Eleanor Roosevelt: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Sincerely,
Dr. Debra Pellegrino
Dean of PCPS

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment

Founder’s Society • $5,000 and more
Benefactor’s Circle • $2,500-$4,999
Patrons • $1,000-$2,499
Friends • up to $999
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 faculty 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.
Teresa Conte joins the Department of Nursing as an instructor. Teresa is completing her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Villanova University in Nursing Education, and is very near completion. Teresa's area of research is loss and grief in health care professionals. She is nationally certified as a licensed pediatric primary care nurse practitioner. For the last 10 years, she provided primary nursing care to oncology patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and she worked on the oncology and bone marrow transplant units. In addition, Teresa was an adjunct faculty member at Villanova. Teresa graduated in Nursing with a B.S. degree from The University of Scranton. We are happy to have her back home.

Jennifer Cutsforth joins the Education Department as an assistant professor. She recently defended her doctoral dissertation: Understanding preservice teachers’ conceptions about curriculum and instruction: The role of the secondary social studies methods course from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has a Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her thesis was titled “Failure of diplomacy: An analysis of the West German-American relationship during the Berlin Wall crisis.” From 2000-2004 she was an instructor in Social Studies Education at Teachers College. Prior to pursuing her doctoral work, she was a Social Studies and German teacher at secondary high schools in Wisconsin. Her research involves changing conceptions about teaching social studies.

Linda Lewis Goffredo joins the Department of Nursing as a one-year lecturer. Linda's nursing background includes 25-plus years in medical surgical nursing, critical care, cardiovascular and electrophysiology care, research, nursing administration and teaching. Linda completed her MSN in Clinical Nursing Specialist-Adult Health and Illness from the University of Pennsylvania.

Verna Eschenfelder joins the Department of Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy as a lecturer. She completed her Ph.D. at Texas Woman’s University in Houston, Texas, in Occupational Therapy in 2005. Her dissertation was titled “Individual meaning and its role in occupational therapy.” Previously, she was an assistant professor at Misericordia University and served as the co-advisor for the Student Occupational Therapy Association. She is certified by the national board as a registered occupational therapist and holds licensure in Pennsylvania and Texas. Her clinical expertise is in neonatal feeding and occupational therapy intervention for acute and rehabilitation patients ages 0-17 (includes 1 year overlap with NICU).

Joan Grossman joins the Department of Exercise Science and Sport as an assistant professor. Prior to coming to Scranton, she was the manager of STAR Fitness and Cardiac Rehabilitation Department for Wyoming Valley Health Care System. Joan is a registered dietitian and she is directly involved in nutrition education at STAR Fitness and Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. She defended her dissertation in August 2010 at Marywood University. Her dissertation focuses on the Update of Phase II Cardiac Rehabilitation with Systematic Interventions for Patients with an Acute Myocardial Infarction upon Hospital Discharge. Joan received her Master of Science degree from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. Her thesis was titled “Excess post-exercise oxygen consumption following a sub-maximal run and a sub-maximal swim in females.” As a graduate exchange student she worked in Prague, Czech Republic, and focused her research areas of biomechanics and nutrition with the Czech and Slovak Olympic track and field athletes.

Sehba Mahmood joins the Education Department as an assistant professor. She received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, in 2006. Her Master of Education degree in Higher Adult Education is also from the University of Auckland. Her B.A. degree was received from Karachi University.

Sandy Pesavento was named lecturer in the Education Department. Pesavento previously served as an administrator in the Dallas School District integrating technology throughout the district as the Educational Technologist. Prior to her administrative position, Pesavento taught in the Scranton School District. Additionally she has served as an adjunct lecturer for Wilkes University since 2003. Pesavento earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary and business education from Marywood University and a master's degree in education from Wilkes University. She also holds an education and instructional technologist specialist certificate and is currently pursuing her doctorate of education in instructional technology & distance learning/early childhood education from Nova Southeastern University.
FACULTY PRESENTATIONS
Mr. Michael Costello, Dr. Bernardo Ramirez from the University of Central Florida, and Dr. Daniel J. West, Jr. presented at the European Academy of Management Annual Meeting, May 19-22, 2010, in Rome, Italy. The presentation for the 10th EURAM Annual Conference was “The Implications of Medical Futility and End of Life Decisions for National Health Policy: A Comparison of United States and European Perspectives.”

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Dr. Margarete Lieb Zalon, RN, ACNS-BC, Department of Nursing, was selected for induction into the American Academy of Nursing in the fall.

Dr. Daniel J. West, Jr., Department of Health Administration and Human Resources, has been elected president-elect of the Graduate School Alumni Society for The Pennsylvania State University. He also serves as chair of the Global Outreach Committee for the Graduate School Alumni Society.

Dr. Daniel J. West, Jr. has been elected chair-elect of the Global Healthcare Management Faculty Network of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

PUBLICATIONS


Paul Datti featured in the August 2010 Chronicle of Higher Education Campus Viewpoint. Article titled “Serving the Underserved.”


PCPS Students Shine
Budding researchers received Course Achievement Awards. From Research Applications-Health Administration: Colleen Knight, Elyse C. Benoit and Lauren Weaver. From Research Applications-Human Resources: Hannah Asmar, Kerry Cullen, Jamie Hardy, and Emily Jaworski. All were recognized for their superior research writing and innovative approach to basic and applied research projects.
Department of Counseling and Human Services

Dr. Amy Banner joined the Department of Counseling and Human Services in the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester after completing her doctoral studies in Counseling and Counselor Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Banner taught Counseling Theories, Practicum and Internship during her first semester and is now teaching Professional Issues: Community Counseling, Counseling Theories and Internship. In addition, Dr. Banner became the director of the Community Counseling program this semester.

Department of Education

Master’s in School Administration Program Achieves Pennsylvania Department of Education Approval

The Master of Science in School Administration (Principal K-12) has successfully received initial approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality.

This significant accomplishment was not an easy task, as the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s (PDE) new standards and competency requirements demanded a thorough review and renewal of all aspects of the program. Led by Dr. Ivan Shibley, director of Clinical Practice for Scranton Education Online, and Professor Art Chambers, faculty specialist, Department of Education, the review process resulted in noteworthy changes and improvements designed to add focus, rigor and depth to a program that services graduate students.

The initial program approval through PDE came as a result over two independent reviews, which confirmed the Master’s in School Administration program meets the new state standards in all areas. Dr. Shibley is also leading the effort for review and renew the Superintendent Letter of Eligibility program which has grown significantly over the past year.

Department of Nursing

Kim Subasic, assistant professor, Department of Nursing has participated in a yearlong Faculty Champion in Genetics and Genomics Initiative sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. Professor Subasic was asked to provide a presentation to the Faculty Champion group regarding a monthly newsletter, Diving into the Gene Pool, that she created to update nursing faculty of genetic related websites, articles and conferences.

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Center Clinic Grants & Awards

Andrea Mantione MSN, CRNP director of the LCHFC and Family Nurse Practitioner for the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured was awarded $40,000 from the Pennsylvania Independent Free Clinics Grant Program by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. The funds will be utilized for clinic supplies, a patient medication access program, volunteer staff training and development and furniture to accommodate the increase in medical and counseling patient volume.

Congratulations to Maria Lucia Vital in successfully achieving citizenship of the United States of America on June 30, 2010. Maria came to The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured in September of 2007 as a bilingual office assistant. Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she came to the United States in September of 2004 to study International Relations at New York University and then Marywood University. While living in Scranton, she met and married her husband, Belmiro, a U.S. citizen from Cape Verde, Africa. Vital is a highly motivated individual with an undergraduate degree in International Relations as well as a Master’s degree in International Trade from the Catholic University of Brazilia, Brazil.

She is currently pursuing an MHA from The University of Scranton and is expected to complete her work by May 2011. Since 2004, Vital has been volunteering at SCOLA Volunteers for Literacy serving multiple functions within the organization. Vital reads, writes and speaks English, Portuguese, Spanish, French and Creole fluently and assists Leahy Center personnel (staff, faculty, students and volunteers) in communication with non-English speakers who participate in the LCHFC programs, serves as the Leahy Clinic receptionist and assists Andrea Mantione, LCHFC director in operations. Vital is an integral bridge between the Leahy Center and the Hispanic/Latino community.
Freshman Seminar

Dean Debra Pellegrino believes, “The Panuska College of Professional Studies has a clear and compelling mission to prepare men and women for ‘service to others’ through a comprehensive liberal education.” On September 22, 2010, Dean Pellegrino welcomed the incoming freshmen to PCPS and reiterated her belief that, “It is only in service to others, according to the teachings of St. Ignatius, that one becomes more fully human and hence, more fully divine.”

Dean Pellegrino introduced Fr. Timothy Cadigan, S.J., associate professor of Biology, to present a robust lecture on “Jesuit Education and the Helping Profession.” From Fr. Cadigan’s lecture, which was held in the McIlhenny Ballroom, DeNaples Center, it was clear how committed he is to students and the Jesuit mission.

All PCPS freshman students were required to attend Fr. Cadigan’s lecture. On November 5, 2010, they submitted a 500-word reflection paper on his topic, the meaning of service learning and the impact on the PCPS “helping professions.” After completion, this project was submitted to Dean Pellegrino and students received five service hours toward their freshman seminar course requirement.

With the aid of Dr. LeeAnn Eschbach, chair, Department of Counseling and Human Services, our freshmen reflected on the discernment of Jesuit education.

The Department of Counseling & Human Services

Fourteen graduate counseling program practicum students from the Counseling and Human Services Department spent August and September providing training for the Royal PACT (Promoting Awareness of the College Transition) Program. Services are coordinated by Professor Geri Barber, Counselor Training Center coordinator, and she is assisted by several undergraduate students as well as five former graduates of the graduate counseling program. The PACT program is being offered to the entire freshman class at The University of Scranton, making it a truly intergenerational collaborative program.

The Royal PACT Program is a collaborative effort of the Counselor Training Center in the Counseling and Human Services Department and the Jane Kopas Women’s Center. PACT serves as an opportunity for current University of Scranton students to speak with first-year students about gender-based violence.

The PACT Program was developed to assist students in the transition from high school to college. This transition can be both exciting and overwhelming as students meet new people, immerse themselves in a new environment, and begin a new phase of their academic career. The presentations focus on definitions, information and resources identified as important to share with new college students. The training educates first-year students about relationship violence, sexual assault and stalking. This intergenerational and interdepartmental collaborative program targets the “Red Zone,” which refers to the first three months of freshmen students’ lives. Programs are delivered in Residence Halls. This year 825 freshmen participated in the training.
International Study in Healthcare Management Education

The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) selected The University of Scranton to lead its international Healthcare Management Education initiative to study how and where health care management education is being taught globally. Scranton has partnered with Atlas Research, a Washington, D.C., management and consulting firm, to conduct the study of more than 16 countries on four continents that seeks to provide a basis for considering international accreditation. Funding for the study is provided by ARAMARK Charitable Fund.

The three leaders in international health services administration education who will conduct the study are Daniel J. West, Jr., Ph.D., professor and chair of the Health Administration and Human Resources Department at The University of Scranton; Gary Filerman, Ph.D., senior vice president of Atlas Research; and Bernardo Ramirez, M.D., assistant professor and director of Global Health Initiatives of the Department of Health Management and Informatics at the University of Central Florida.

“The University of Scranton Health Administration and Human Resources Department, under the direction of Dr. West, has a strong reputation of excellence,” said John Lloyd, CAHME president and CEO. “We look forward to working with The University of Scranton and Atlas Research team as we gain a better understanding of health care management education in selected countries in Europe, Asia and Central and South America. The combined team selected over nine other proposals because of their extensive existing knowledge of the international higher education environment.”

Lloyd also noted CAHME, “regularly receives inquiries from international institutions of higher education about accreditation.”

Dr. West has led international health projects in Central Europe, Haiti, Slovak Republic, Eurasia, Mexico and the Caribbean. He has received numerous grants to study, develop and deliver training to health care administrators in several former Soviet Union countries. A University of Scranton International Fellow, Dr. West holds professional appointments at several universities in the Czech Republic, Georgia and Slovakia, and serves on the Scientific Council of Health and Social Sciences at St. Elizabeth College of Health and Social Work in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Work on the project began in Summer 2010 with an expected completion date in early 2011.

Atlas Research is a management consulting and research firm that provides solutions and services in health care, business planning, policy, research and technology to help government agencies and private sector organizations operate more effectively. The company leverages broad experience, deep knowledge and expansive professional networks to deliver sustainable, value-enhancing results. For more information, visit www.atlasresearch.us.

The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) is the only accreditor of graduate education in health care leadership and management in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. CAHME’s role is to advance the quality of the education of future healthcare leaders.

The ARAMARK Charitable Fund is a donor advised fund at the Vanguard Charitable Endowment program.

Daniel J. West, Ph.D., chair and associate professor, Department of Health Administration & Human Resources.
On Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, the Panuska College of Professional Studies and the University hosted several noteworthy speakers at the 9th annual Northeastern United States Conference on DisAbility. Keynote speakers included the Honorable Lynnae M. Ruttledge, who serves as the commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, a subsection of the Department of Education. Ruttledge, who was appointed by President Obama, serves more than a million Americans with disabilities and leads an organization that employs more than 200,000.

The conference was held in the Bernard McIlhenny, S.J., Ballroom in the DeNaples Center and drew a “Sold Out” audience of more than 400 guests, students, faculty and community members. This year, the event celebrated the 20 years of success since the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The daylong event focused on a broad spectrum of issues affecting Americans with disabilities, including psychological, emotional, educational and health concerns.

In addition to Commissioner Ruttledge, Andrew J. Imparato, John Hockenberry and Kathleen West-Evans presented on a broad range of topics in this field. Imparato, CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), discussed advancements in the field along with his personal disability, bipolar disorder, which he defined as a “hidden” disability. Imparato joined AAPD in 1999 and has quadrupled its membership since that time.

Hockenberry, a renowned journalist, spoke about the many issues facing persons with disabilities, including his own. For two hours, Hockenberry, who during his career has worked in all areas of the media industry, including NBC News/MSNBC — where his work garnered three Emmys — provided an exhilarating and heartfelt presentation of the challenges that persons with disabilities face, along with the many advances in the field since the enactment of ADA.

West-Evans, director of Business Relations for the National Council of State Administrators of Vocation Rehabilitation (CSAVR), provided an insightful discussion on
The Rehabilitation Act and the ADA: Landmark Legislation Supporting the Employment of Americans With Disabilities.

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr., United States Senator from Pennsylvania, modified his active schedule to join the conference attendees at lunch. Senator Casey spoke on the issues critical to health care and the specific areas where he is involved in capital improvements for those with disabilities, along with developing and advancing specialized programs for children and seniors with disabilities. He sees his role as being a “helping public servant” and encouraged those in attendance to contact him with concerns or questions. After his presentation, Senator Casey remained to speak to conference attendees and faculty wishing to understand more about his programs.

The conference was presented by the Panuska College of Professional Studies and the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment. Edward R. Leahy is an alumnus from the Class of 1968. His wife, Patricia Leahy, is the director of governmental affairs for the National Rehabilitation Association. In their roles as honorary chairpersons for the event, the Leahys provided impassioned presentations on the critical components of the ADA and our future responsibilities to serve those with disabilities.

Dean Debra A. Pellegrino and Edward and Patricia Leahy presented awards to distinguished contributors in the field of disabilities and for promoting the ADA. The first award was presented posthumously to Betty Bellatoni for “Excellence in Advocacy and Community Involvement.” Imparato was awarded the “Excellence in Rehabilitation Leadership and Public Policy.” Gaetano Valvano received a posthumous award for “Excellence in Philanthropy” and “Towards Creating a More Equitable World.” Finally, Dean Pellegrino presented special gifts for the tireless work of the acting co-chairs, Jennifer Pennington and Dr. Rebecca Spirito-Dalgin, who made this conference a great success and the first one to ever be “Sold Out!”

Special thanks were extended for the musical performance by Scott Key along with artists Vervee Vertu and Matthew Mroz for their art exhibits.
Commencing on June 16, 2010 and running through January 12, 2011, the Panuska College of Professional Studies launched a dynamic and interactive three-part series of workshops on “Mastering the Art & Science of Grant Writing.” Over a seven-month period, 15 faculty members and administrators of PCPS are participating in these highly effective workshops to allow attendees to probe and practice the steps of writing a successful grant proposal.

The workshops are facilitated by Marybeth McDonough, MPH, interim assistant dean. She is a certified grants writer and an esteemed member of the American Association of Grant Professionals who has been writing successfully funded grants from the federal government and foundations for the past three decades.

Participating faculty members and administrators are expected to fully develop a submission-worthy proposal in the range of $50,000 by the conclusion of the series in January 2011. All materials along with the workshop series have been funded by a grant from the Department of Education (HPTEG), which was awarded to Dr. Daniel J. West, Jr., chair and professor of Health Administration and Human Resources, who has been highly successful in securing grant funding.

At this point, the grant writing workshop has been an excellent opportunity for participants to utilize an interdisciplinary support system with the Panuska College and Professional Studies, and beyond, with external collaborators from health care organizations and universities. The series has also been a collaborative venue for PCPS to partner with Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle and Eloise Libassi from the Department of Sponsored Programs and Marise Garofalo and Meg Hambrose from Development.

The series will be sponsored by Dean Debra Pellegrino again in June 2011. For more information please call Meg Hambrose 570-941-5850 (Foundation Grants), Eloise Libassi (Federal and State Grants) at 570-941-6301, or Patricia Connolly (Grants Management for the Dean’s Office) at 570-941-6305.

Beginning in August 2011, The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) and The University of Scranton will jointly offer a dual degree program in Medicine and Health Administration [Doctor of Medicine – Master in Health Administration degree (MD-MHA)] that combines two existing professional degrees. The MD degree will be conferred by TCMC and the MHA degree by The University of Scranton. The program is designed to meet the demand for physician administrators and will be only one of five in the United States (along with the Medical University of South Carolina and Virginia Commonwealth University) that recognizes leadership and management tools needed for clinicians in the existing health care economy. Integration of administrative functions with clinical domains is necessary to deliver the most efficient and highest quality care. As health care organizations emerge and reshape themselves in response to environmental pressures, physicians will be sought to lead these organizations. This innovative new program satisfies the demand for budding physicians who know early in their careers that they wish to pursue administration in tandem with a medical career. In five years, students complete both the MD and MHA degrees and are trained for roles as health care executives and medical care leaders who are knowledgeable about the organization, financing and delivery of health services.

The combined MD-MHA program will be a five-year, 52-credit (44 coursework, eight fieldwork) course of study. The first two years are devoted to medical school coursework. Year 3 involves MHA coursework and will be completed entirely in The University of Scranton’s Department of Health Administration and Human Resources, and Years 4 and 5 will be back to medical school. In addition, a directed research course is designed to increase student research leading to conference presentations and publication of investigative work. A 1,000-hour health administration residency is required after the completion of all MHA coursework. The first 500 hours of MHA fieldwork will be completed during elective time in the student’s final medical school year, while the remaining 500 hours will be substituted by graduate medical education training. Students interested in this program will be advised to apply at the time of medical school acceptance or by the end of the first semester of study.
PAST

PCPS Annual Review: Highlights

**MAGIS**
- Students totaled 14,713 academic hours in service and social engagement
- PCPS offers 37 service learning courses \((20 = \text{fall}, 17 = \text{spring})\). Added to this, 15 freshman seminar courses. Grand Total: 52 courses with service learning
- Leahy Community Health & Family Center continues to grow: learning laboratory \((\text{from 1 program to 17 programs})\). The Center offers “FREE” clinics in sub-acute medicine, PT, nutrition, and counseling. All PCPS departments utilize the Leahy Center.
- Graduate students (Counseling) lead discussions with PCPS freshmen.

**CURRICULUM:**
1. Revised Education curriculums
2. Added Capstones in Occupational Therapy
3. Added levels/progression of learning in Nurse Anesthesia programs
4. Developed rigorous programs in Community Health Education – moved from HADM to EXSC
5. Dual Program in HADM/MD with TCMC

**COLLABORATIONS:**
1. Education Department & CAS
2. Collaboration to partnership
3. Survey distribution & completion

CURRENT

PCPS: Spiritual Exercises
(per the UofS Drafted Strategic Plan 2010–2015)
- Faculty & Staff
- Freshman Seminar
- HPTEG-Grant Workshop $1 million ROI
- Service to Others
- Mentoring
- Faculty Development Plan
- Meet Students Needs
- Service Learning
- PCPS / The University of Scranton / TCMC
- Circle of Scholars

FUTURE

PCPS: Strategic Planning 2011-2016
- Exploring new viable undergraduate and graduate majors
- International service & study programs
- Achieving the PCPS Mission

PCPS: Future Planning
- Capital planning project to replace Leahy Hall
- Redesign of OT & PT spaces to meet state-of-the-art requirements
- Accommodate student volume in Exercise Science & Sport
- Define strategies to enhance all technologies in every department of PCPS
Enthusiastically, Interim Associate Dean Dr. William Wallick says, “The future of online graduate education is here today!” His full article, “The Online Masters of Science in Human Resources Program Continues to Experience Steady Growth” highlights how this program is growing, evolving and exceeding the needs of students.

The popularity of online learning, particularly at the graduate school level, continues to grow. There was a time not so long ago when online graduate degree programs were viewed with a great deal of suspicion. Now, top universities across the country, including The University of Scranton, deliver academically rigorous distance learning programs to working professionals who otherwise might not be able to find similar graduate degree programs in their local areas. Online degree programs offer students the opportunity to earn a highly respected degree during times that are convenient to their busy professional schedules.

Our online master’s degree in human resources was built using the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) body of knowledge as a guide. SHRM is recognized as the premier global professional organization for people management. Aligning our program with SHRM allows us to regularly review the latest updates to the human resources body of knowledge and incorporate those updates into our courses. This alignment with the SHRM body of knowledge is one important feature that has attracted students to the program.

The other noted attraction that students regularly mention is our Jesuit tradition of learning excellence as inspired by St. Ignatius of Loyola. Our Jesuit traditions are well-known, valued and appreciated by many who explore our master’s degree in HR as their first choice among competitor programs.

The online Masters of Science in Human Resources program was launched in the fall semester of 2009 with 14 accepted students. Now, in the fall semester of 2010, there are 97 accepted students. The students are geographically dispersed across the United States and are located in 17 states: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

A great deal of gratitude goes to the full- and part-time faculty members who have developed the programs’ courses, who regularly facilitate student learning within the courses, and who remain committed to the program’s success. For more information about the online master’s degree in human resources, please visit www.scrantonuniversityonline.com/programs/masters-human-resources.asp or contact Dr. Bill Wallick, Graduate HR Online Program Director, at 570-941-4128 or wgw1@scranton.edu.

Assistant Dean Dianne Posegate promotes her philosophy that “The collaboration between graduates and undergraduates at PCPS is a defining point in character building.” Her full article on the PASS (Professional and Academic Support for Success) program, one that reinforces this collaboration, follows.

The PASS program is a collaborative effort between the Academic Advising Office of the Panuska College of Professional Studies and the Department of Counseling and Human Services’ Counselor Training Center to provide support and enhanced opportunities for success throughout college.

Originally designed to assist education majors who were not meeting their academic requirements, the PASS program has evolved into a support service that meets a wide range of needs for PCPS students while providing valuable experience for graduate students completing their counseling degree. The goal of PASS for students is to facilitate appropriate development and success in academics, social adjustment and professional growth. Graduate counselors gain valuable experience in a supervised and critiqued setting.

Over the past nine years students identified as needing academic, professional or social support and development have been referred to the PASS program. The referred students then meet throughout the semester with a graduate counseling student who is close to completing their degree requirements. Individual goals are established for the undergraduate student. This fall, for the first time, incoming first-year students were invited to join the PASS program, utilizing the graduate student as a counselor/mentor/coach for support in navigating the first semester experience. This semester 41 undergraduate and 28 graduate students will participate in PASS.

If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact Dianne Posegate at 570-941-6390 or via e-mail at posegated2@scranton.edu.
Dean Pellegrino’s Team in ACTION

Marybeth H. McDonough, MPH
Interim Assistant Dean

One of Interim Assistant Dean Marybeth McDonough’s roles is to foster communication within PCPS, the University and throughout the community. Throughout her career, she follows the simple but critical theme: “Communicate, communicate, communicate.”

The Panuska College of Professional Studies is striving to build a stronger sense of community for all students, staff and faculty. No doubt “building community” can be greatly enhanced by establishing effective channels of communication to share information, knowledge and campus activities. These channels must now include all formats especially electronic, RSS, Flash and podcasts for visual and auditory impacts prominent on big screens, laptops, smartphones, PDAs and MP3 players.

In the spirit of “building community,” PCPS transformed its moderately utilized “Reading Room” (McGurrin Hall – First Floor) to a comfortable quiet study environment for students. The hope is that all students — most especially — PCPS commuting students will frequent this nicely appointed space.

A new Communication Plan has been developed to meet faculty, staff and students’ needs. The plan includes an emphasis on information sharing and knowledge-transfer promoted through balanced scorecard methodologies. Throughout 2010, PCPS will strive to upgrade and use an interactive website, tele-media and social networking. To this end, PCPS has benchmarked itself against award-winning college and university sites throughout the United States. Currently, we are in the midst of developing navigation tools and interactive indexes to foster communication. Important links to assist student learning, team participation and special events will be a mainstay on the dean’s administrative page.

Recently, PCPS purchased and installed a flat panel television that allows students, faculty and staff to see college and university events, departmental information and updates, a rolling directory of McGurrin Hall, info-casts and streaming television for CNN.

The Communication Plan includes a work plan and evaluation plan that will ensure that communication is real-time, continuous and pertinent to viewers. Several short online surveys will be utilized to seek feedback on our website and new communication technologies. Problems that are detected will be evaluated and resolved.

If you have information that you would like to appear on the McGurrin Hall, first-floor, electronic communication board, please contact Patricia Connolly at 570-941-6305 or via e-mail at connollyp1@scranton.edu.

Raymond Schwenk, MS
Assessment & Accreditation Specialist

Ray Schwenk keeps it simple—he strives to follow a formidable quote by Aristotle: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” One of the best ways to actualize this philosophy is to focus on “Fulfilling the Mission: Maximizing the Power of Assessment,” a critique recently put forward by Schwenk.

As evidenced in The University of Scranton’s mission statement, one of the defining characteristics of this institution is its commitment to educating men and women for others. The Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS) plays an integral role in realizing this goal. As graduates of the college housing the academic programs associated with “the helping professions,” alumni of PCPS are some of the most visible professionals in their respective communities. Expectations of these individuals are high, and consequently, their academic and professional preparation must be rigorous and comprehensive. In order to foster this commitment to excellence in our students, PCPS departments hold themselves to the highest standards of their professions. Five of the six departments in the college are nationally accredited by the appropriate organizations charged with evaluating such programs. These departments engage in continuous assessment and reflection to ensure that the programs they offer provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the ever-changing environment of the 21st century.

In addition to the noteworthy efforts of faculty in the academic departments, professional and administrative staff members within the college are also committed to providing students with the support and guidance required to achieve these goals. Much like the proverbial village required to raise a child, it takes a host of individuals to shepherd students through the potentially tumultuous journey from incoming freshman to college graduate. A recent analysis of data for graduates during the 2008-2009 academic year indicated that 94 percent of undergraduate PCPS students completed their degree requirements in eight full-time semesters or less. Without the commitment to excellence by countless individuals throughout the University, such an impressive number would not be possible. As this new academic year begins, the Panuska College of Professional Studies welcomes the Class of 2014 to The University of Scranton, looking forward to the opportunity and challenge of educating yet another group of future alumni to be men and women for others.
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LEFT TO RIGHT: Abby Rohm, Krista Sadowsk, Dr. Haboubi and Kelly McGovern. Abby and Kelly are DPT III and will be graduating in 2011. Krista is a DPT II and she will graduate in 2012.
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