My dear PCPS friends,

David Denotaris, who has been a speaker at our University’s Conference on disABILITY is one of my favorite motivational speakers. He often speaks about faith, family and friends. He’s also been known to reference the beloved Mister Rogers who encourages young people to “Look for the helpers” in life.

That got me thinking. Yes, we need to look for the helpers. But maybe there are times when we need to do even more. A few years ago, I read Ian Bogost’s article in The Atlantic (October 29, 2018) where he discussed that looking for helpers is insufficient at least for adults. As adults, he says, we might take away the wrong lesson from this quote.

For adults, there’s a slightly different twist on Mister Rogers’ famous words. We must BE the helpers. In a world that has been turned upside down by the effects of COVID-19, we, as adults, need to BE the helpers that young people turn to when they are looking for the helpers.

In this issue of our e-newsletter, Call to Care, you will see even more examples of how PCPS undergrad and grad students, faculty and staff, are heeding the call to BE helpers in the spirit of St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits.

Very truly yours,

Debra Pellegrino
Dr. Debra Pellegrino, Dean of PCPS
Thank You 
NURSES

CelebRATing nuRseS week

Left to right >>
Megan Garlasco
Maggie Beyer
Keely McClatchy
Nicole Lamoureux
Eilish Huvane
Christina Hiltunen
Lauren DellDonne
Mary Beth Lee
Katherine Torto
Lauren Olmstead
Lisa Girolametti
Brianna McCullough

The University of Scranton 2013 Royal RNs are spiritually lifting up one another for those working on the front lines in the fight against COVID. During this tough time, we could not be more grateful for old friends that can (virtually) get us through the rough days—far apart but never forgetting where we came from.

Happy Nurses Week to some of the most compassionate and strong nurses out there, from the nurses in COVID ICUs, to those delivering babies during a pandemic and so many more areas of nursing care.

Our Scranton professors would be proud!

LEFT TO RIGHT >>
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Nicole Lamoureux
Eilish Huvane
Christina Hiltunen
Lauren DellDonne
Mary Beth Lee
Katherine Torto
Lauren Olmstead
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Brianna McCullough

Thank You Nurses

From baking cookies, to building a play list, to talking to friends via zoom, COVID-19 helps us realize that we can make a difference in the helping professions.

Daniella Gomes, nursing student from the class of 2023, made Dean Pellegrino’s mother’s favorite cookie for her nonna on Mother’s Day.

Here is Eva Pellegrino’s Ricotta Cookie Recipe

2 sticks margarine
1 c. Ricotta (heaping)
2 eggs
4 c. flour
2 c. sugar
1 tsp. soda
2 lemon rinds
1 tsp. salt

Mix margarine, sugar, eggs, rinds and Ricotta until creamy. Add flour mixture. Drop on greased cookie sheet by teaspoonful. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Daniella’s cookies for her Nonna.

CELEBRATING OUR REHABILITATION COUNSELING STUDENTS

Many PCPS graduation programs are hosting remote special events for their students. Dr. Rebecca Spirito Dalgin, program director of the M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling, writes to her students:

“Although the pandemic has made everything complicated, we certainly don’t want to miss the opportunity to CONGRATULATE each of you as you complete your Master’s Degrees!”

The students had a Virtual Celebration of their accomplishments on May 12 at 7 p.m. EST.

The short ceremony had a few words from special guests, faculty, and students. Family and friends were invited via zoom.

FAiTH, FAMilY & FRiendS
MuSic To GET uS ThROuGh FiNaLs

Emma Reed, a Secondary Education major with an English concentration from the Class of 2022, sent an email last week to reach out to PCPS students who are preparing for finals. She writes:

“I hope you are doing well! I just wanted to send a quick email to you and thank you for your emails. They really do brighten my day and give me hope. I am so proud and happy to be a part of PCPS. It is people like you that remind me why I want to be an educator and woman for others. If there were any education I would want to have it’s a Jesuit education, especially from The University of Scranton.

There are two songs that I wanted to share with you that I believe would benefit our Scranton community. I always listen to these songs when I am down and need a little push. They truly give me hope and remind me that eventually, things will be ok. One of these songs, “Almost Everything” has a lyric that always pushes me forward: ‘It feels bad now but it’s gonna get better.’

**Artist:** Wakey!Wakey!

Light Outside>  youtu.be/riHlYxzATF
Almost Everything>  youtu.be/FiQo6DoXknY

I hope that these songs inspire you as much as they inspire me, and that you share them with my fellow PCPS students. Stay well and inspired!”

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**OUR FAVORITE SONGS**

**MUSIC TO GET US THROUGH FINALS**

Emma Reed, a Secondary Education major with an English concentration from the Class of 2022, sent an email last week to reach out to PCPS students who are preparing for finals. She writes:

The Virtual Town Hall meetings have been well received within the community and the 13 counties in Northeastern and North Central Pennsylvania. Recently, Dr. Temple Grandin, a leading expert in Autism, decided that she wanted to be a guest at one of the virtual town hall meetings. Dr. Rebecca Dalgin, co-chair of the 19th annual Conference on disABILITY confirmed Temple’s guest appearance.

The registration link for the Town Hall meeting is:
https://scranton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sko1txc7STy-JkiZaKzg6w

Kudos to Dr. Michael Kelley, Dr. Dana Gadaire, Dr. Vanessa Jensen, Dr. Lori Bruch, Dr. Rebecca Dalgin and Dr. Erin Dunleavy for working on these virtual town hall meetings for the community. Registration for this particular town hall meeting is well over a thousand at this moment.

Remember to save the date for the 19th Annual U.S. Conference on disABILITY for October 6, 2020 as the conference will also be totally virtual and guests will come from across the globe.

Visit https://www.scranton.edu/academics/pcps/leahy/conference.shtml

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**PLENTY OF REST, &THEN DANCE, DANCE, DANCE**

Ann Keeler, Counseling and Human Services Department Administrative Assistant, is a firm believer that music can lift your spirits and allow you the opportunity to help others. According to Ann: “As far as one of my favorite songs to lift my spirits... it’s Bruce Springsteen’s This Little Light of Mine. Even if you don’t put it on your playlist or share with others, it’s great dancing music!”

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If you have a positive story about The Call To Care, please send your story in an email to: debra.pellegrino@scranton.edu
FLEXIBILITY AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS

Tori Reinard is in the master’s-level Health Administration program. A student in Dr. Hengameh Hosseini’s online Finance class, Tori has been grateful for the flexibility of the program and classes while trying to juggle her studies and work in the midst of a pandemic.

Tori wrote the following to Dr. Hosseini:

**“**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUT THE CLASS AND MOVING ASSIGNMENTS AROUND; I GENUINELY APPRECIATE IT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYERS DURING THIS TIME. GOING TO WORK IS SCARY; THANKFULLY I HAVE MY MOM BY MY SIDE AS AN ICU NURSE IN MY UNIT!

**“**

When professors demonstrate flexibility, compassion and understanding of students’ environments the students will succeed.

HUMBLED BY PCPS GRADUATE STUDENTS

After Professor Szydlowski read the comments from Tori Reinard, a health administration graduate student, he explains that he was humbled by her email and her kind words. Most importantly, he appreciated her participation in-class and during their weekly Zoom sessions. The contributions add great value to discussions.

Tori was very grateful for his understanding of this semester’s issues including her work responsibilities. Tori really struggled with the combined pressures of work and school, but his class was a breath of fresh air during these trying times. She expressed her sense of gratitude for his teaching of such important material, and she thanked him for being lenient on some assignments.

Tori commented, “This semester has been rough; along with the pandemic and working in the ICU, I have been a caretaker to my grandma who just came out of remission for lung cancer. I have also been the financial crutch for my father who is out of work right now after a major surgery. I feel like I’ve aged 10 years in the past two months; I’ve seen some pretty bad things and lost a lot of hope along the way.”

**THE COMPASSION YOU HAVE FOR YOUR STUDENTS REALLY HAS GIVEN ME HOPE DURING THIS TIME; YOUR POSITIVITY AND HELPFULNESS IS SOMETHING I WILL NEVER FORGET. I’M LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE FROM YOU AND FINISHING OUT THIS SEMESTER STRONG!”**

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM, SMARTER THAN YOU THINK, AND TWICE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU’D EVER IMAGINE.

- A. A. MILNE

PROFESSOR WIERCINSKI INSPIRES

John Wiercinski, professor in the Department of Health Administration and Human Resources, utilizes inspirational quotes in his online classroom. John tries to send his classes, at least weekly, an inspirational quote to help them navigate these interesting times.

The quote above was the inspiration he sent this week to his students.

THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATON FACULTY STORIES