On March 13, 2020, DePaul University made the announcement that spring quarter classes would be held online and that all faculty and staff would be telecommuting for the foreseeable future. The months that have followed have not been easy but our faculty and staff have responded with resiliency, strength, and creativity. We would be remiss if we didn’t start this final issue of Good News for the 2019-2020 academic year by sharing some of the amazing ways that the College of Education has stepped up in light of the COVID-19 crisis to serve our students, colleagues and community...

**Dean’s Suite**
Sarah Magnuson, Stephanie Parrillo McCullough and Dr. Sally Julian worked at adjusting the amount of money we typically award to spring student teachers and in the discretionary fund pool so that we can have the greatest impact on the most students. In particular, they targeted juniors who were, as indicated by the Office of Financial Aid, most at-risk for enrollment restrictions due to tuition balances for fall. We would not have adjusted our methods if not for COVID.

To encourage prospective students to enroll, the Dean’s Suite is sharing scholarship information for 20-21 sooner than usual.

**The Office of Innovative Professional Learning**
Provided webinars to Catholic teachers and leaders to help them with the launch into remote teaching and the unusual stress that has been the result for teachers, leaders, and parents. OIPL webinars have included:
- How to Engage Students when Teaching Remotely
- How to Keep Students Engaged when Teaching Remotely
- How to Navigate Student and Teacher Stress when Teaching Remotely
- How to have Meaningful Staying social while distanced.
The COE Staff Council has hosted a series of “Winedown” Zoom happy hours for the faculty and staff. The most recent (pictured above) was held on 6/5/2020.
Assessment when Teaching Remotely
- How to Thrive Through this Time of Uncertainty

They also worked with the Office of Catholic Schools to provide a district-wide webinar focused on Parent Engagement entitled, “The Heart Work of Engaging Families” which specifically focused on strategies for teachers to engage families during the Covid19 situation.

With partner, the Barat Education Foundation, OIPL designed and facilitated a series of four webinars focused on helping teachers to engage students with meaningful learning that integrates civic engagement and action. The series of four webinars engaged teachers from all across the Chicago metropolitan area. The webinars included:
- Navigating Teacher and Student Stress
- Getting Students Engaged with Civic Action During Covid19
- Empowering Students During Challenging Times

The webinars were attended by over 300 teachers and educators.

Provided CPS schools with webinars to support teachers in the shift to remote teaching and to navigate the unique challenges of engaging students who may not have access to technology.

Donna and her team provided resources to educators in China who have been engaged in remote teaching since January of 2020. In addition to providing webinars to K-12 teachers in China on how to teach remotely, OIPL has coordinated 10-day teacher training programs in STEM teaching practices and in the integration of Brain Science teaching strategies.

**The Education and Counseling Center**

Education students are providing tutoring/homework help for children who are struggling with their virtual classes. The ECC is listed on many schools’ websites for parent resources.

Counseling interns are providing virtual counseling services for children and adults.

Counseling students and counseling interns are facilitating an 8-week strengths program (flexible start dates) to help children K-12 identify personal strengths, resources, and coping skills to help them cope during this challenging time.

In collaboration with school counseling interns, we are providing social-emotional support services to children of healthcare workers, DePaul Cares for Kids.

This includes working on coping skills and engaging in therapeutic activities to help keep them feeling safe and connected with their front-line heroes.

A Go-Fund-Me initiative to raise money for Chicago-area healthcare workers launched in collaboration with school counseling interns. The money raised will go toward creating snack bags to fuel our healthcare workers, with an added self-care-based activity to fuel them mentally and emotionally, as they face daily challenges combating COVID-19.

Beginning in late June, this camp will provide support services to families affected by ongoing violence in Chicago. Children will engage in a variety of support activities to raise their feelings of community, safety, grief coping; and activities to begin sculpting what they want their personal narrative to be. Several children from Chicago Survivors are also engaged in tutoring services currently.

The ECC created a resource page on mental health and wellness and updates it regularly.

Dealing with coworkers who shed
Dr Kiel poses with her new colleagues. She reports that they are not interested in Zoom meetings and much prefer treats.
**Counseling Program**

Through the leadership of Becky Michel, DePaul WORKS (Workplace Opportunities [through] Reflection, Knowledge, and Skills), was developed providing FREE career and wellness coaching for individuals whose jobs have been impacted or eliminated due to COVID. A hotline is staffed M-F for people to schedule an appointment with a career and wellness coach. Ten DePaul Internship Students are providing phone coaching for people who are unemployed as well as front-line essential workers (in both English and Spanish).

A strengths-based program serving children and adolescents in the community, serving 27 families.

Counseling DePaul students who are on the University Counseling Services waitlist or have used their allotted minutes

Created a new, innovative program, DePaul WORKS (Workplace Opportunities [through] Reflection, Knowledge, and Skills). Through this program, we are working with a diverse team of counseling interns to provide career and wellness coaching in English and Spanish for individuals who have been impacted by the current Pandemic (many of whom have experienced job loss or heightened job stress from serving as an essential employee). Our referrals will be coming from 16 workforce development non-profits associated with the Community Based Organization (CBO) Collective, which has the potential to reach 18,000 people statewide.

Created a mental health and wellness landing page for the College of Education where resources and internship students’ webcasts related to wellness topics which are shared with the Chicago community.

Created and distributed a needs assessment to our counseling students to better determine issues around access and equity-related to the digital divide. As such, we have created a one-page document with multiple links to resources within the university regarding student’s holistic wellness (e.g., mental, financial, physical, spiritual, etc.).

The Counseling Faculty worked with the Chair, Dean and the Provost to craft a letter that was sent to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. They subsequently learned they were the only counseling program in the state to have done so, and as such, DePaul students were granted variance for their internship requirement.

**Penedo Program**

Since converting the Penedo services online, the number of direct service hours has almost doubled and the quality of programming the Penedo girls receive has substantially increased. Before COVID 19, the PCO girls came to DePaul between 12 to 15 hours a week for general group activities and support. Since COVID 19 each girl receives between 1 to 6 hours of targeted tutoring instruction every week. Many Goudy Middle School teachers provide their curriculum and it is shared with the tutors. The Goudy Middle School Girls report they have had a difficult time adjusting to eLearning and the only way they are getting by is through tutoring from DePaul. Just days after COVID 19, Dr. Jen Cohen and Dr. Mindy Kalchman referred a few highly qualified, outstanding tutors who began working with the girls the very week we went online. Shortly after spring break, Dr. Mason’s math tutor and two counseling interns began services as well. All of the middle school...

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**Family Ties**

Sr. M. Paul corrects papers while her 98 year old mom reading her Kindle) at her sister’s home in Indiana.
girls, a few high school and post-high school young women receive social-emotional support with the Women’s Empowerment and Leadership Program facilitated by Dr. Donna Kiel. Truly the remarkable support from the faculty at DePaul has substantially increased the depth and effectiveness of support for the Penedo Program.

COE Faculty and Staff
Melissa Ockerman, Donna Kiel, and Emily Kraus and others from DePaul and ten other institutions in Australia, Brazil, India, Mexico, the Netherlands & the United Kingdom are facilitating 13 different virtual “Global Conversations” via Zoom to provide students an opportunity to connect and reflect on the impact of COVID-19 with students from across the globe. The global conversations center on how the pandemic has affected various academic disciplines and industries, such as education, politics, psychology, public health, business, and more.

Kristen Neisler has been helping a hospital by serving as a family call coordinator. She calls families that have a loved one in the hospital to give them a status update on how they are doing since no families are able to visit these patients. Some of the patients are diagnosed with COVID-19 and some are not.

Rachel Harper is working with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, advising on instructional design and pandemic-specific audience engagement strategies for their transition to virtual education and remote outreach programming.

Gloria E. Barrera is a public health nurse leader, President-Elect of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses Board-Illinois Chapter, full-time school Nurse, and adjunct faculty for the COE and School of Nursing. Among the many efforts she was involved with her school district and close to 4,000 Face Shields using a 3D printer. We’ve partnered with yoga instructors, mindfulness practitioners in the community, local comedians to boost morale on weekly virtual happy hours with many of our nurses working the frontlines. We are making PTSD and the mental health trauma endured by our heroes a priority.

Erik Parsons has been working toward developing a ‘Digital Action Research’ project intended to bring attention to positive experiences in how teachers, parents, and students have adapted to the circumstances of COVID-19 related distance learning. It is a work in progress that he hopes, with collaboration with a faculty co-P.I., can be brought to fruition.

Meredith Gioia added a “COE RESPONDS TO COVID-19” site on the College of Education website. This site provides resources for all of our shareholders (students, K-12 teachers, counselors, general public) to cope with the pandemic. Included in this was creating a simple way for our faculty to submit resources that they have found on the internet that they deemed helpful. As the COE RESPONDS website grew, Meredith worked with the counseling program to create a section that allowed for their students who complete video projects in response to the COVID-19 crisis to share those projects with the public. Instructors who believe a presentation is worthy of the website share a link to a form with their students. The students

Panopto Pro
Dr Melissa Bradford records a Panopto lecture at home during COVID-19.
then fill out the form and attach their project. These files are then prepped and uploaded to the COE YouTube channel, linked on the COE COVID website, and shared on our social media.

**FACULTY/STAFF NEWS**

**Gloria E. Barrera**  
**Adjunct Professor**
Gloria Barrera launched a podcast. The mission is to elevate and empower the nursing profession by highlighting “Nurses that Wow!” Devoted to sharing stories and resources for every nurse. Nurses that Wow! are individuals in nursing doing extraordinary things at all levels, in various specialties, from all backgrounds, and are making an impact. These nurses are making valuable contributions to the nursing profession, and field of health care. “Nurses that Wow!” exemplify the true value of being inspirational leaders, and champions of nursing—specific degree not required. By hearing their collective stories, struggles, and relevant topics important to nursing, it is her mission to inspire, and promote others to create their own wow moments in the future, and create a community of learning, growth, and support.

**Rebecca Michel**  
**Associate Professor**
Rebecca Michel’s 2020 URC Summer Research Grant proposal entitled “The Career Success Program (CSP): Responding to Unprecedented Job Insecurity and Loss” has been selected for funding at a level of $4,000.

**Jennifer Cohen**  
**Associate Professor**
Jennifer Cohen published an opinion piece on The Hill titled “It’s more important than ever that teachers influence support for public education”

**STUDENT NEWS**

Current student, Pamela Nehrke, was awarded the 2020 IL School Counselor Association’s Graduate Student of the Year by IL School Counseling Association.

Former alumni, Elizabeth Rosenfeld, was named Elementary School Counselor of the Year. She is currently at Chase Elementary in CPS.

Adjunct professor and former alumni, Kim Kopec, was named ISCA School Counselor Educator of the Year.

Recent graduate and VCE student Michael Cornell received the Graduate Student Paper Award at the Bergamo Conference on curriculum studies. His paper was published in the society’s juried journal, Journal of Curriculum Theorizing.

Alumni Mr. Brian Coleman, LCPC, 2020 NACAC GWI Diversity Conference Faculty, 2019 National School Counselor of the Year, 2019 HRC Upstander Award Recipient, and 2019 Fr. McDevitt Alumni of the Year - DePaul University was featured in an NPR piece called Closed Schools Are Creating More Trauma For Students. He was also the featured speaker at CNBC’s “Invest in You” town hall in April.

Pangea, a non-profit founded by DePaul students recently released The Unwelcome Stranger, a multicultural children’s book designed to help families navigate COVID-19. The Office of Mayor Lori Lightfoot expressed their excitement about the book on Facebook.

A College of Education’s EE UG student, Nicole Axe, has been awarded a Fulbright teaching scholarship.

Candace Kapakos who is enrolled in our VCE Program has been featured in her previous university’s website about the great work she does in education (she is a special education teacher). In the piece, they mention that she is currently enrolled in the VCE Program. You can view the full article here: https://schoolofeducation.buffalostate.edu/candace-kapakos

Good News is published on a monthly basis. If you are an alumni, faculty or staff member of the COE and have Good News that you would like to share, please email COE_Deansuite@depaul.edu.