“I’m living my dream,” says Professor Jennifer Gasparino, a 2007 alumna who holds an MSW degree and is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice as well as a full-time instructor on the PCCC faculty. “PCCC gave me the foundation for my success, and now I have the opportunity to help other students build that foundation,” she said.

A mediocre student at her New Jersey high school, Professor Gasparino did not do well in her first college experience at the University of North Carolina. “I had the potential to do better,” she said, “but I just wasn’t ready for college yet, so I left after only two semesters.”

A single mom, she worked for several years in the banquet catering industry, first in North Carolina and later when she moved back to New Jersey. “It was hard work and not much satisfaction,” said Professor Gasparino.

“I wanted to have a purpose in life,” she explained, “and I wanted to teach my daughter the importance of having a purpose.” Hoping more education would lead to a meaningful career, the young woman applied to Rutgers, but was rejected, due to her weak performance at UNC.

On a friend’s suggestion, she tried PCCC. Still uncertain about her direction in life, young Jennifer told her advisor, “I want to work with people,” and was counseled to try an introductory course in Human Services.

“That did it for me,” said Professor Gasparino. Inspired by the field and by her teacher and future mentor, Professor Michael D’Arcangelo, she found her calling in social work. The professor describes her entire educational experience at PCCC as “amazing,” and said, “The professors, administrators, and staff were so helpful and supportive that I felt as though I walked into somebody’s home.” The support helped her to succeed in school while holding down a full-time job and raising her young daughter. “I took advantage of what PCCC had to offer me,” said Professor Gasparino. “I push my students to do that, too, and to realize what great resources they have available to them here.”

One of her most significant opportunities came through the fieldwork requirement for her Human Services major. “I did my fieldwork at a clinic in Passaic, and afterwards was offered a job there,” she said. “I was very fortunate that I was able to work in my field while attending school.” After graduating with her Associate in Science degree in Human Services, Professor Gasparino earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and social work at Fairleigh Dickinson University and her master’s in social work degree at New York University.

On weekends, she sees private clients in her Jersey City office where she works with adolescents and families, specializing in trauma and substance abuse counseling. During the week, Professor Gasparino can be found in a PCCC classroom, providing her students with the same support and guidance she once received here. Not only has the professor found her purpose in life, she also succeeded in imparting that sense of purpose to her daughter who is now pursuing studies in advocacy for the Deaf...at the University of North Carolina. “It’s come full circle,” said Professor Gasparino, laughing.

With the goal of integrating her two careers, Professor Gasparino plans to eventually earn a doctorate, though she hasn’t decided yet whether it will be in social work or higher education. For now, she is focused on planting the seeds for future success in her students. “When they come back later and tell you about the next degree they’re working on or the jobs they have, it’s an amazing feeling.”

A PCCC Success Story
From Both Sides of the Desk
Posted 10-15-14

Jennifer Gasparino
PCCC Instructor, Human Services
PCCC Class of 2007

*Associate in Science
Human Services
*B.A. Psychology and Social Work
Fairleigh Dickinson University
*M.S.W. Social Work
New York University

The Human Services Club
“Lending a Helping Hand”
Human Services Office: A321A Email: jgasparino@pccc.edu

Events:

Mar. 4th – General Meeting
Human Services Club
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Mar. 11th – “On Managing Anxiety”
Speaker: Professor Gasparino
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Mar. 25th – “Drinking, Drugs & Driving don’t Mix”
Speaker: The Human Services Club
Paterson Campus
Center for Student Success Lounge
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Mar. 31st – “APA Workshop”
The Human Services Program
The Writing Center
The Library
Paterson Campus
Paterson Room
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Vocabulary
Affect: expression of mood.
Euthymic: normal
Congruent: matching, corresponding to
Incongruent: opposite, contrasting
Ambivalont: feeling equally strong about both sides, positive and negative.

Lending a Helping Hand! The Human Services Club Paterson Campus meetings are held every Wednesday 4:00pm-5:30pm Center for Student Success Lounge All students and majors are welcome!

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The Human Services Department

Our Activities: Come and Enjoy with us!

“Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives”
Opening ceremony: Professor Gasparino

Domestic violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or income. 85% of domestic abuse victims being WOMEN, and 15% MEN.

A S Human Services Gerontology Option
Students will be prepared to work with the geriatric population in nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and home healthcare.

A S Human Services Generalist Option
*For students who intend to pursue baccalaureate education in Human Services, Psychology, or Social Work.
*For students who seek entry-level employment in public and in private community agencies and institutions involved with “helping professions.”

A S Human Services Mental Health Option
Provides students with a broad view of mental health issues. Behavior modification will be covered in both technique and theory.
*Students will also be introduced to how mental health agencies operate and learn the skills necessary to function as a part of a multidisciplinary treatment team.
*Students will developed fundamental skills in assessment, psychosocial reporting and diagnosing using the criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).
*Students will learn APA format and clinical writing styles.

A S Human Services Addiction Option
*For students who want to gain the skills necessary to work in the field of addictions.
*The option focus on assessment, diagnoses, and treatment of addictions and the impact on addicts, their families, their friends, and the society.

“Domestic Violence”
Speaker: Professor Gasparino
“The conversation is important, don’t assume, don’t judge, learn to listen, and be aware!”

Every 9 seconds in the US woman is assaulted or beaten (Domestic Violence Sadistic).
Traditionally, Domestic Violence has been defined as the systematic pattern of behaviors in a relationship that are used to gain and/or maintain power and control over another.
Today, we look at Domestic Violence through a different lens... Intimate Partner & Household violence.

Spring 2015 Hours
Writing Center–Human Services
Tuesday: 2:45pm-3:45pm
Thursdays: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Annotated Bibliography / APA Style

Newsletter
March, 2015

“The Human Services department is meant for student who want to save the world One Step at a Time”
Michael F. D’Arcangelo
MSW, LCSW, LCADC, ICADC,
SAP, SSW, SAC, C-CATODSW, CJC, CCDP
Coordinator, Human Services Program
Passaic County Community College