**Emily Wolfrum’s Reflection on Her Work as a Peer Leader**

With the peer leader position, I saw a real opportunity to nurture students who might have the same nerves that I had coming into college. I wanted to be a familiar face in a sea of a new and potentially frightening setting. All of these things that I hoped to accomplish were fulfilled, but not entirely by my own accord. The students in our class truly embraced me and all of the hopes that I had for them and made being their peer leader a tremendously enjoyable and rewarding experience. I do not think that I could have been as successful had they not trusted me with their concerns and welcomed me into their lives. Never did I ever consider myself to be "above" them. I consider these students among my peers--many of them I am blessed to call friends.

Nothing made me happier than receiving a text or wave in the hallway or even knock on my door from one of these students just saying hello or asking for my advice. Recently, I sat down with Brandon in Dow Hall and talked him through some of his fears about selecting a major. Having just gone through similar experience, I was able to talk him through his options and reassure him that his uncertainties were okay. I could have never anticipated that the same anxieties that I had been enduring during my college experience could somehow be so helpful and to others--that these students gave me the opportunity to turn my experiences into something beneficial is something that I will be forever grateful for.

I would consider my role with these students to be very hands on and interactive. I never wanted to be an authoritative figure and embraced the friendships that these students forged with me. One of my favorite ways in which the students allowed me to do this was through attending events with them. I can remember times last year when I wanted to go to events on campus, but neglected to do so because I was nervous about going alone. Helping them to get involved was so exciting for me and also led me to learn more about the opportunities at Pace. Reassuring their nerves has undoubtedly eased many of my own. I have seen such tremendous growth in not only these students, but myself as a result of working with them, and I am grateful that they nurtured this experience in a way that allowed me to contribute as much to their first year as they did to my second.