

Student Life

DEVELOPMENTS

A semi-annual newsletter for Duquesne University faculty and staff

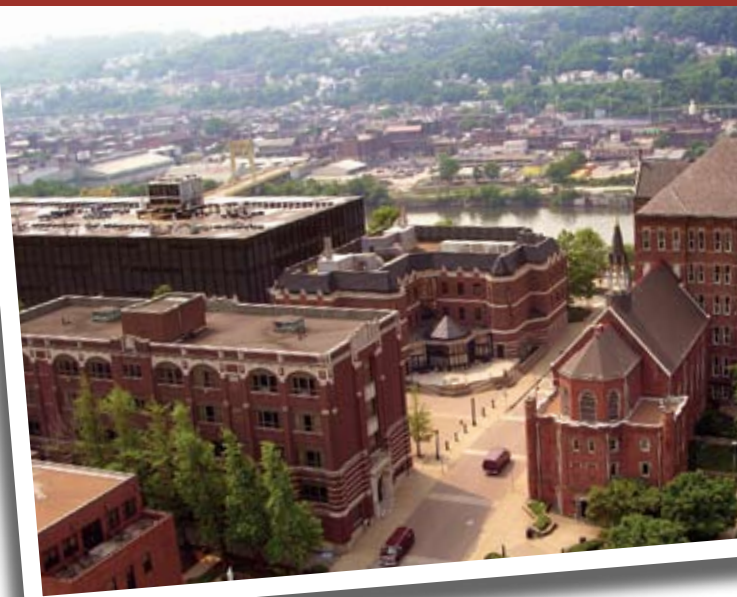
Spring 2009

Connecting Across Campus

Faculty in the Residence Halls

A hallmark of the Duquesne community is our commitment to helping students grow as citizens of the world. The Office of Residence Life strives to meet this goal by providing activities in the Living Learning Centers to expand students' horizons. Providing opportunities for students to interact with faculty members outside the classroom is a key facet of this programming. Relevant literature tells us that these interactions increase student achievement and persistence. Additionally, faculty members gain the opportunity to meet students "where they are," and to be seen as more approachable.

Over 100 faculty members are invited and participate in Living Learning Center programming each year. Some choose to present information that is tied to their academic interests; others introduce students to their interests beyond Duquesne. Many find the experience so pleasant that they return again and again!



There are also opportunities for faculty members to participate in larger, campus-wide programs sponsored by ORL.

If you are interested in becoming active in the Living Learning Center communities, please contact Shannon Owens, Assistant Director of Residence Life, at X6655 or peters@duq.edu.



Dear Members of the Duquesne Community:

This semester's issue of Student Life Developments is an effort to view the Division of Student Life from the perspective of several faculty who work with us in the many aspects of the Division. We are extremely grateful for the faculty and staff who give of their time to be advisors and counselors to the various departments in Student Life, to individual students and to the 155 organizations and clubs that are registered on campus.

The time given to students in this way, while demanding, is of great benefit to them and to their academic, moral and spiritual development. The opportunity for our students to learn from you outside the classroom continues to enhance the student's perception of the University and bonds them as a lifelong Duquesne person who will continue to live the values that flow from the Mission Statement and the Expectations of a Duquesne student.

Thanking you on behalf of the entire student body.



Rev. Sean Hogan, C.S.Sp. Executive Vice President for Student Life

Office of Multicultural Affairs:

Diversity, Campus Community and Education Inside and Outside of the Classroom



Duquesne's Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) fulfills a tremendous need by helping the University fulfill its mission in a number of subtle ways. As a faculty member in the History Department here at Duquesne for the past four years, I have been fortunate to work alongside the OMA on multiple

occasions. Each opportunity has enriched my overall experience allowing me to interact with a wide variety of students, staff and faculty in contexts that would not otherwise have been available to me. Though classroom learning first comes to mind when one thinks of education, what enhances education here and what sets Duquesne apart are the learning opportunities available outside of the classroom.

Dr. Tsekani Browne, History Department



To be Greek or not to be Greek, That is my Question...

January 12, 2002, was a transformational day for me. That day, Fr. Sean Hogan asked me what I knew about Greek Life. My answer: "nothing." Never one to take "no" for an answer, Fr. Sean told me he wanted me to learn.

That evening began a very special relationship with an 18-strong colony of young men calling themselves ATΩ. It has been a very special journey. That journey, with help from the offices of Greek Life, Residence Life and Judicial Affairs, has brought me beyond the confines of ATΩ to the wider Greek community and the various "interest groups" helping them grow and develop into fine young men and women, future leaders of our nation. This experience has taught me about the involvement of the hidden but ever present guiding hand at Duquesne – the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who gives Life. May Greek Life prosper on our campus.



Fr. Naos McCool, C.S.Sp., School of Education



Support Council *View from a Faculty Member*

I've been one of the two faculty representatives on the University Support Council for some years now, and of all the service I do for my department, my college or the university, this is the one most beloved to me. The Support Council is a committee that works on helping troubled students find the resources they need for health and academic success, so we're a collection of people who work in the university in various positions, all of them dealing directly with students. Most of the people who serve on the committee are members of the Student Life staff. Those of us who are faculty members are there to support them, by listening, helping when we have ideas, explaining how faculty members see things and helping to make decisions. I love it that we're not the focus. I've learned more about how the University works, and how life is structured for the students, than I could ever learn from standing in the front of a classroom or reading their papers. The staff members of Student Life that I have worked with have been caring, dedicated, talented, intelligent and loving individuals. I'm honored to be at a University that takes the welfare of its students so seriously. And I'm honored to work with people who serve the students so very well. At this University, we serve God by serving students. I have learned much about how best to do that by being allowed to serve with Student Life.

Dr. Anne Brannen, English Department

Teaching the Mission **Through Service**



"To serve God, by serving students" is the abridged mission statement of Duquesne University. There are many ways to bear witness to this mission statement, but one of the most enjoyable is through service to the students. Whether it is speaking to student groups, having dinner with a fraternity, sorority or student organization, conducting a floor program in the Living Learning Centers, or making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with the commuter students, all of these activities emulate the mission. In participating in these activities, one gets to know the students and recognize their needs, the students get to know the profes-

sor and their department which has served as a recruiting tool for those contemplating a major or changing a major, and they are a mechanism to give the students a complete education. Many times after an activity, students will contact me or stop in my office to chat further on career advice, college issues, etc. I firmly believe that the role of faculty involves teaching, scholarship and service, with service to the mission and a total education for the students a key component.

"To serve God, by serving students" is the mission statement of Duquesne University.

Dr. Joan Kiel, Rangos School of Health Sciences

Busy Faculty Find Time to Advise Student Organizations

There are over 150 student organizations at Duquesne and all of them are required to have a full time Duquesne University faculty or staff member as an advisor. Although the Student Activities Office serves as a resource for these faculty advisors, this responsibility does consume time in their busy schedules.

Why do busy faculty find the time to take on additional voluntary service to advise a student organization? Four very involved faculty members have provided some insight into their experiences advising a student organization.

Dr. Alyssa Groom, Communication and Rhetorical Studies faculty, explains her commitment to advising the American Advertising Federation student chapter as follows:

“As an advisor to Duquesne’s American Advertising Federation student chapter, I am privileged to work closely with a volunteer student organization that exists to connect classroom learning with real client problems. In my role, I witness firsthand how the Spirit gives life through enhanced learning for everyone involved. Students gain a deeper understanding of their field, test and develop ideas, and refine their understanding of what it means to be a professional. It is exciting to be a part of an experience that reflects Duquesne’s commitment to liberal and professional education while nurturing the growth and maturation of its students.”



Dr. Audrey Guskey, School of Business Marketing faculty, explains her years of advising:

“As the sponsor of the American Marketing Association for the past 20 years, I have found that student engagement plays a significant role in the quality of a student’s education. The beauty of the Duquesne experience is that we excel in providing students with learning opportunities outside the classroom. It takes tremendous effort on the part of the faculty to teach “outside the box”, but the benefits for students are ‘priceless’. From ‘dress for success’ fashion shows to networking opportunities and professional guest speakers, the AMA provides Duquesne students with the tools necessary to succeed in this competitive business world. It is an invaluable gift we give to our students, and one that truly fits our mission – serving God by serving students. Unfortunately, service to students is not always recognized in the university’s evaluation of faculty and many dedicated faculty are not rewarded for their hard work.”



Dr. Dave Sommers, Health Sciences Physical Therapy faculty, who advises Crossroads Christian Fellowship, explains his personal enrichment in advising a student group as follows:

“The value of working with a student group is striking. In the classroom, I am the authority, but in a student group my role changes. There, I experience the personal lives of the students and what matters most to them is revealed. Although I am often asked to be a teacher and impart something to the students in these groups, more often than not it is they who give something to me. They challenge my thinking, enrich my understanding and bring a depth of perspective that is refreshing.”



Dr. Paula Witt-Enderby, Pharmacy School faculty and Faculty Senate Chair, also finds time to serve as faculty adviser to Kappa Epsilon for the following reasons:

“Meaningful, purposeful, inspirational.... this is how I feel being the advisor to this lovely group of young professionals. Kappa Epsilon reminds me of a star that became part of our constellation back in 1999 at its chartering. Ever since then, the KE “star” has become ever so brilliant providing light to many including me, their advisor. When I am tired and feel all used up, the energy that I get from these ladies is overpowering. It is so important that I touch the lives of others and I feel that I have. When I read a statement from our former KE president, Dr. Elizabeth Kort, who is now the president-elect of KE nationals when asked in an interview printed in the Kappa Epsilon National Magazine (The Bond) “Who inspired you the most while in KE?” She responded by saying “My advisor, Dr. Paula Witt-Enderby.....”. This was 7 years ago. Wow, need I say more?”

There normally are at least ten new student organizations which form each academic year. The Student Activities Office provides guidelines for faculty who are student organization advisors and serves as a resource when questions arise. Hopefully, more faculty will find time in their very busy schedules to say “yes” when a group of students approach them to be a student organization advisor.

Developing Connections between *Classroom* and *Career*

At Career Services, we know students often turn to faculty for help and encouragement as they explore majors and interests, discover their passions, and define their career goals. We look for ways to collaborate with faculty to assist students as they apply their academic experience to their career planning and job search process. Over the past several years Career Services has developed one such collaboration with the School of Business Internship and Job Placement Faculty Committee. We have several Career Services staff members currently serving side-by-side with faculty as members of this committee.

Dr. Jay Liebowitz, professor of Management and chairperson of the committee, shares his perspective on his working relationship with Career Services.

I have been the chair of the Internship and Job Placement Faculty Committee in the School of Business for a number of years. A group of very student-oriented faculty colleagues and I meet with the Career Services staff about six times a year, to discuss what services we can provide to our students and alumni. In addition, we collaborate to plan specific events, such as the Sustainability Networking Forum we are planning for this spring semester. In part, because of the feedback and collaboration that they have received from our Business School faculty, the services and programs they provide have progressed over the years to better meet the needs of our students. To be honest, if a student can not obtain an internship or a good job upon graduation, it's unlikely to be caused by a lack of assistance on the part of the Career Services staff. So, if students really want to obtain a good internship, and ultimately a good job, then they must visit the Career Services Center frequently throughout the years they are enrolled at Duquesne.

Career Services continues to look for new ways to develop partnerships with faculty whether it be presenting a career-related workshop to a class or co-sponsoring a career event for your majors. Our staff of career counselors can provide resources directly to you that can engage and motivate your students to prepare for—and achieve—their professional pursuits.



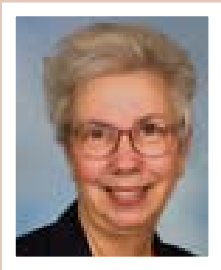
Honors College and Orientation Work Together to Welcome New Students

A new student's satisfaction with campus life depends not only on their classroom environment, but also on the experiences that impact them outside of the classroom. Faculty can play a positive role in the successful transition of new students by providing a way for students to share concerns, explore their creativity and discuss what they are learning in their classes. In turn, these same opportunities impact the faculty member's ability to provide a more comprehensive experience for the student.

A perfect example of this is found in the Honors College, through the guidance and support of Director Michael Cahall. Dr. Cahall feels that as a result of working closely with the Orientation Office to provide additional opportunities during Orientation for his students, he has been able to expand and improve his program for new freshmen. As he has mentioned, they have been able to welcome their students over the years "because of the willingness of the Office ... to work with the Honors College in orienting a select group of students to their total Duquesne experience." When a favorable and positive climate is provided for the students, both in and outside of the classroom, the impact can be seen to affect not only the students' transition but also the faculty member's life as well, both for the better!



Working Together for the Mission



"It is a pleasure to tell you how much a number of our students have been helped through your counseling service. We have also used the Myers Briggs test in our Practicum Class which your office has tabulated. Thank you for all of your help over the years."

Dr. Ann Labounsky, Chair, Sacred Music and Organ



"The support of University Counseling Center staff for our work at the Center for Teaching Excellence is crucial. They provide programming and resources to support faculty and TAs in addressing students who are facing difficult issues, and they guide us in consulting with faculty."

Dr. Laurel Willingham-McLain, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

A partnership for a better university community: Judicial Affairs and faculty

Dr. Laura Crothers from the School of Education believes, "It is important to have a judicial board at Duquesne University, since it serves as a model for upholding the standards of good University citizenship, exonerating or meeting discipline fairly, while embodying the Spiritan ideals upon which the university was established." Dr. Joe McCormick from the School of Natural and Environmental Science states, "Civility and common courtesy are important for society to function. Certain individuals within the population feel the need to push the boundaries of acceptable behavior. I view these as teachable moments when we, as representatives of society, can help to instill values and correct misconceptions of what is appropriate or inappropriate behavior." Share in these same experiences and make a difference by becoming a Judicial Board member. Contact Susan Monahan, Director at monahans@duq.edu or call X6642.

