

# Student Life

DEVELOPMENTS

A quarterly newsletter for Duquesne University faculty and staff

Fall 2007

## Civility Starts Within



*Have you ever noticed someone acting in a rude, discourteous manner, and thought, “she doesn’t seem like a happy person,” or “he doesn’t like himself very much?”*

In reflecting on the University Counseling Center’s role in promoting civility on campus, we realize how many students say to us, “I don’t like myself.” Discouraged or stressed individuals often beat up on themselves, focusing more readily on their negative qualities rather than positive ones. Counseling can help students learn to have compassion for their failings while continuing to work towards success and to be civil and kind to themselves as well as others.



True civility, offered naturally and freely, emanates from a courteous heart that is at peace with itself. *To be civil to others, we must first strive to be civil to ourselves.*



### Dear Members of the Duquesne Community:

Please enjoy this latest edition of Student Life Developments. In this issue, Student Life wishes to highlight our accomplishments and successes in promoting the University Civility Campaign during the past few months. We attribute much of our success to the collaboration we share with the entire campus community as well

as the greater Pittsburgh area. We are grateful to those who have participated in our events and look forward to future endeavors.

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

# Commuter Affairs Begins New Initiatives

## Appreciating the Cultural/Religious Diversity of our Students

In an effort to increase our knowledge of different cultures and religions represented at Duquesne, the Commuter Affairs staff developed a new program series entitled the "Meet" program. The first program, entitled "Meet Ajit," was led by sophomore Ajit Singh, who is currently in the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and a Commuter Assistant. Ajit did a presentation and talked with students about the Sikh religion and the culture of the state of Punjab, India. Traditional Indian food was served at the event.

Our second program was entitled "Meet Father Peter," led by Rev. Peter Osuji, C.S.Sp., a member of the Spiritan



Campus Ministry staff. Father Peter did a presentation on the culture and traditions of Nigeria. A light lunch of Nigerian food was served.

Each month a commuter student is invited to take part in our "Meet" program. Our most recent presentation featured commuter student Josh Yoon. Josh spoke about his South Korean heritage.

## Working with Our Neighbors on the South Side



The Office of Commuter Affairs staff has developed a wonderful relationship with the South Side Community Council (SSCC) in an effort to bring Duquesne University into the neighborhood leadership discussions regarding the South Side. This is being done in an effort to encourage our students to become more actively involved in their local community. In conjunction with the SSCC, a newsletter was created to welcome students to the South Side. The newsletter was distributed to those Duquesne students who reside on the South Side during the fall of 2007. The newsletter included articles on the following: History of the South Side, Top 10 Ways to be a Leader in the Neighborhood, Staying Safe in the South Side, Services/Amenities for South Side Residents, and Volunteering in Your Community.

# Civility in Service To Others

The Duquesne University Volunteers (DUV) are committed to the mission of Duquesne University by serving others in their local community, the nation and the world. The DUV Program engages the talents, time and resources of the students, faculty, and staff in an effort to make positive differences in the lives of the disadvantaged and the underserved. These very acts are the cornerstone of civility in action as the Duquesne community explores social responsibility, unity, compassion, and empathy by serving others. Every year, the DUV program recognizes thousands of hours of service provided by members of the Duquesne community who participate in campus programs or with non-profit agencies and organizations.



## Civility in the Living Learning Centers

*The Office of Residence Life is proud to support the efforts of the University Civility Campaign. The Residence Life community serves as "home" for approximately 3,500 Duquesne students.*

This is a significant number of people living in relatively close quarters. The Residence Life staff works with students to encourage them to create a strong sense of community within their floors and Living Learning Centers. Treating one's self and others with respect is a major factor in creating strong and healthy residence hall communities. Staff members work with students both in group settings, as well as individually, to help them understand the importance of respect and their role in promoting civility on a daily basis.

During Fall Resident Assistant training, the coordinator of the University Civility Campaign, Director of Judicial Affairs Susan Monahan, presented a session on civility. She talked with the Resident Assistants about issues of incivility and what they could do to address them, and challenge students to engage in more appropriate behavior. The issue of civility was discussed at various points throughout the RA Training Program. RA's were encouraged to discuss civility

with their residents and to include it whenever possible in their programming efforts.

The Office of Residence Life hosted the first Roommate Appreciation Day. Over 150 students wrote notes to their roommates to thank them for being good roommates.

The Office of Residence Life is in the process of unveiling a new program involving "civility tickets." Tickets will be produced that acknowledge campus community members for an act of kindness or civility. Residence Life Staff, including Resident Assistants, will each be given a number of "civility tickets." They will be charged to issue a civility ticket to members of the campus community when they witness such an act of kindness or civility.

The person who receives the civility ticket will be thanked for this act. They will then be asked to complete the information on the ticket, including their name and contact information. All civility tickets will be gathered throughout the academic year. A few winning tickets will be randomly selected at the end of the year and the recipients will win a fabulous prize, one of which will include an iPod. Residence Life will invite all campus community members who were "ticketed" throughout the year to a celebration of civility and community.



## OMA Turkey Drive 2007

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) at Duquesne University is coordinating the 2nd Annual OMA Turkey Drive. The Turkey Drive is a civic engagement initiative that benefits economically disadvantaged families in the City of Pittsburgh. Last year, the OMA Turkey Drive assisted in making Thanksgiving a festive occasion for 185 families! Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to sponsor a family for \$10 by Friday, November 16, 2007. If you are interested in giving and/or assisting with the OMA Turkey Drive, please contact Rahmon Hart at [oma@duq.edu](mailto:oma@duq.edu) or 412.396.1117.

# Fostering Civility on Campus

The topic of civility has become a major point of discussion on many college campuses, and is addressed here at Duquesne University at the very onset of a freshman's experience-Orientation. "Expectations" of a Duquesne student are addressed not only by the Administration through mandatory sessions on Academic Integrity and behavior, but also by upper class students who serve as resources and positive role models for the new freshmen. These students meet with groups of new freshmen and articulate the values of our institution, emphasizing tolerance, respect, diversity and ethical behavior and conduct. These messages continue to be an important focus throughout many first year meetings, and also in the student organization specifically designed for freshmen, the Freshman Class Advisory Committee. After their freshman year many of this group's members go on to become the student leaders of major campus organizations, and in turn, promote this message of civility among others with whom they come in contact.



## Civility and Greek Life

When Duquesne University was founded in Pittsburgh, it was founded to bring higher education to children of struggling immigrant workers. In reflecting upon Duquesne's inception and mission, it became evident that we should turn some new service projects globally in an effort to bring education to those who are less fortunate.

In collaboration with Spiritan Campus Ministry, the Greek Week 2007 philanthropic project is the Spiritan Mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The mission trip is in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, the poorest diocese in the country. In the summer of 2008, Duquesne students will be working at Our Lady of Hope, running a summer camp with local teens for the children of the barrio.

Money raised will help to purchase craft supplies, musical instruments and sports equipment for the camp, as well as cover costs of food and housing for Duquesne students living with host families. Our hope is that many Greek students will consider becoming part of this Spiritan mission trip.

Duquesne serves God by serving students – what a better way to serve students than to take service projects global in an effort not only to open our students to diversity, but to allow our students to be more sensitive to world concerns. We hope our students' commitment to better the lives of others will help deepen their commitment to humanity.

# Recreation Center Director Arrives

In anticipation of the January opening of the Power Center, the new Director of Recreation has already arrived on campus. William Gavin began in his position at the beginning of November in order to hire staff and plan programs to insure a timely opening of the new facility in January. Gavin came to Duquesne from St. John's University in New York where he was the Director of the Recreation Department. In that position he managed all aspects of the campus recreation program for a student population of

20,000. He also has experience as general manager of the New York Sports Club, a full service fitness facility. Gavin's bachelor's and master's degrees are both from St. John's University. He anticipates a smooth opening of the new center when the students arrive for the beginning of the Spring semester in January.

## Information Desk Collecting Data to Better Serve the Community

If you have been to the Information Desk lately, you may have noticed the student aides furiously writing in a number of binders. Recently, student aides at the Information Center have been collecting data to help better serve the Duquesne community. They are logging all incoming phone calls and all contact at the Information Desk.

After a significant quantity has been collected, the data will be compiled to determine scheduling needs, create lists of frequently asked questions that can be added to the Student Activities web site and determine training needs for student aides. Using the compiled data in such a manner will help prepare student aides to better serve customers at the Information Desk, and will allow the Duquesne community to find useful information on the Student Activities web site.

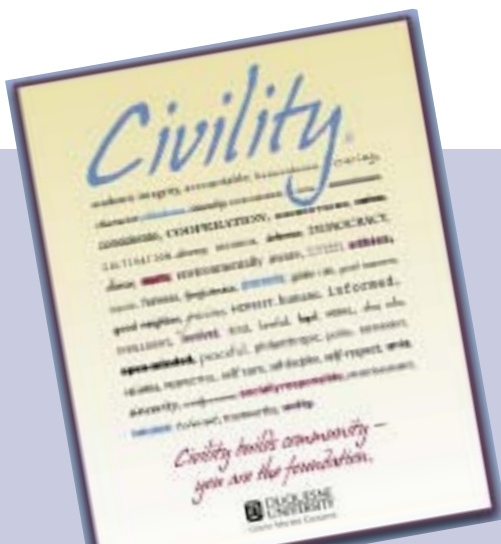


# Teaching Civility to Emerging Leaders

Coordinated each year by the Office of Student Activities, the SPIRIT Emerging Leaders Program is designed to provide students with a foundation for leadership and prepare them to assume active roles in Duquesne University student organizations.

Incorporating many of the fundamental concepts outlined in the University's Civility Campaign, the SPIRIT Emerging Leaders Program consists of various workshops structured to promote the importance of such values as team building, respect, social responsibility and tolerance.

For more information about the SPIRIT Emerging Leaders Program, please contact the Office of Student Activities at 412.396.5853 or visit our web site at [www.studentactivities.duq.edu/leadership.html](http://www.studentactivities.duq.edu/leadership.html).



## A limited number of Civility posters are available.

The beautifully designed posters, produced by the Civility: Community Matters committee, list many words that are associated with civility. If you would like a poster, please contact Susan Monahan at [monahans@duq.edu](mailto:monahans@duq.edu) or call 412.396.6642.