

Student Life

DEVELOPMENTS

A quarterly newsletter for Duquesne University faculty and staff

Spring 2008

Commuter Friendly Faculty

“The relationships that faculty and students develop outside the classroom may well be the part of teaching which has the greatest impact on students”

– R.C. WILSON, ET AL. (1975)

A primary focus of the Office of Commuter Affairs is to facilitate interaction between commuting students and Duquesne’s faculty and staff. We are fortunate to have members of the faculty and staff participate in our events and spend time with commuter students outside of the classroom. Whether it is providing tutoring sessions in the Commuter Center, serving as a “Faculty Passenger” through the Commuter Assistant program, enjoying a Potluck dinner with students, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or competing in an exciting chess tournament, our faculty and staff continually go above and beyond for Duquesne Commuters! Your participation is much appreciated and we THANK YOU! You not only spend time with students, but take advantage of opportunities to assist students in developing academically, as well as spiritually and socially. We look forward to the continued involvement and support of Duquesne’s wonderful faculty and staff!



Dr. Edward Kocher, Dean; Vera Metz, Academic Advisor; and Kathy Ingold, Administrative Assistant – School of Music



Dear Members of the Duquesne Community:

Please enjoy this latest edition of Student Life Developments. In this issue many of the articles focus on faculty and staff involvement in the programs and activities we offer to our students. We are grateful to those who have participated in our events and look forward to future collaborations.

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

Working with Faculty Outside the Classroom

The Office of Student Activities is continually seeking new opportunities to work with faculty members at Duquesne University. By sharing their knowledge and experiences, faculty members serve as an extremely valuable asset to students and student organizations.

For the past several years, the Duquesne Program Council (DPC) has coordinated the Student Film Festival. Each year, faculty members from various departments have supported the event by judging student films. This year, James Vota and Dennis Woytek from the Media Arts Department and John Fried from the English Department are assisting.

During the spring semester, the Office of Student Activities coordinates The SPIRIT Emerging Leaders Program, which



consists of various workshops that are structured to promote student development and provide participants with a foundation for future leadership roles. Each year, an important component of the program is for students to attend a workshop dealing with multiculturalism. Dr. Jaime Muñoz from the Occupational Therapy Department has generously donated his time to the program by presenting a workshop entitled Culture and Cultural Competency. Often, many students are not comfortable interacting with those of another race, religion or culture, and Dr. Muñoz provides students with the opportunity to reflect upon the concepts of respect, culture and our society.

Working Together for a Healthy Community

Faculty and staff of the Health Service work collaboratively to offer educational and preventive health care initiatives.

The Fall Fitness Fair allows the Health Service to collaborate with the faculty from the Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy. The Nursing School offers the flu vaccine and faculty supervise the nursing students who administer the vaccine. Pharmacy Students assist with screening questions.

The need to increase the students' understanding of the appropriate use of antibiotics was identified by the number of students who came to the Health Service and requested antibiotics for viral infections. An antibiotic survey was developed by the School of Pharmacy in conjunction with the Health Service and has been administered by the Health Educator. This survey includes a brief educational intervention and a post test. The results are being tabulated and future educational programs will be developed.

THE UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD:

Serving God by Serving Students

One of the most important reasons for the utilization of a University Judicial Board is the group's ability to handle infractions educationally and to promote integrity and concern for moral and spiritual values. The essential advantage of the judicial system occurs when students, faculty and staff attempt to influence the attitudes and subsequent behavior of students who violate the conduct standards.

The University Judicial Board is a panel comprised of faculty, staff, and students and chaired by the Director of Judicial Affairs. The Board hears the most unusual or severe cases. Involvement in a hearing is based on whether or not there is a conflict of interest (is the student in one of your classes or one of your majors), whether your schedule allows you to be involved, and/or whether you have participated in a hearing in the recent past.

Since there are currently many faculty and staff in the pool, your commitment would be minimal and determined by you. If you are interested, please contact Susan Monahan at X6642 or monahans@duq.edu.

Faculty Involvement...

Helping to Foster Students' Academic Success

The Office of Freshman Development & Special Student Services has found that working closely with faculty, whether it be through Freshman Orientation and related Freshman programs or through the Special Student Services part of its department, helps to create an environment in which students feel that they will have the necessary support to succeed....both in and outside of the classroom.

Our Orientation staff involves faculty not only in the traditional academic school presentations, but also asks them to step outside of the classroom and attend some of the more socially-oriented events in the week's program. This not only provides an opportunity for new students to connect with future faculty in a different venue, but also begins to allow the student to feel more relaxed and connected to the campus community. These positive interactions between student and faculty play an important role in the student's first year transition, both academically and emotionally.

This cooperative effort extends beyond Orientation into faculty involvement with Special Student Services. Students needing accommodations often feel reluctant to approach faculty, and positive interactions here have often led to successful and rewarding relationships. It is from some of these interactions that a new idea for the Fall semester has emerged...a series of monthly Fall Faculty workshops that we hope will enhance our interaction with faculty in meeting the needs of our students with disabilities.



Dr. Robert Kollar, Director, Master of Accountancy Program, School of Business Administration with Orientation Student Leaders and incoming freshmen

Dr. Ronald Dick, Assistant Professor, School of Business Administration with Orientation Student Leaders



Dr. Matthew Marlin, Professor, School of Business Administration with incoming freshmen



Dr. Ronald Dick, Assistant Professor and Dr. Alan Miciak, Dean, School of Business Administration with Orientation Student Leaders

Living the Spirit of Duquesne University

The DUV Office has the unique opportunity to observe faculty and staff living the mission through active volunteerism both on and off campus. Living in the spirit of Duquesne, these individuals work closely with the DUV office to find projects that enable them to connect with their community, build relationships with students, or apply personal talents to help others. This year alone, faculty and staff have demonstrated outstanding

commitment to their community through DUV facilitated programs such as the Holiday Helpings, the Giving Tree, Winter Weather Clothing Drive, Daffodil Days, Casino Night, as well as countless student efforts. In April, the campus will participate in the Scouting for Food Drive to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.



The University Counseling Center Helps Everyone!

The University Counseling Center (UCC) is pleased to offer consultation services to faculty who may have questions or concerns about responding to troubled or disruptive students. Often, faculty members call to consult with a counselor regarding the best ways to respond to such students and how to effectively refer them to the UCC. Helpful information for faculty is available through our website at www.counselingcenter.duq.edu/staff.html.

The UCC staff is also available for faculty workshops on "Recognizing and Assisting Troubled Students." Such workshops have been offered through the Center for Teaching Excellence and for specific departments upon request. To request services, contact our office at X6204.

Faculty Advisors to Student Organizations

More than 150 faculty serve as advisors to student organizations. This involves keeping in touch regularly with the executive board providing guidance and advice, attending as many meetings as possible, and attending as many events as possible. Since there is a University requirement that a student organization must have a full time faculty or staff member in order to be recognized, each group must enlist interested faculty to serve as their organization advisor in order to maintain recognition. Those faculty/staff members who serve as advisors uniformly report that it is a rewarding experience, even though it is time consuming.

Faculty in the Residence Halls

The Duquesne University Mission Statement calls us to strive towards “excellence in liberal and professional education.” The Office of Residence Life works to meet this goal through a variety of programmatic initiatives. One of the hallmarks of Residence Life programming is the inclusion of faculty members in the residence halls. Research tells us that interaction with faculty outside the classroom increases the student’s involvement in his or her own academic success, as well as overall retention rates. Interacting with students outside the classroom allows faculty members to help students and share knowledge in ways their “traditional” responsibilities may not permit.

Each Resident Assistant is required to bring one faculty member to interact with his or her floor each semester. These interactions range from joining a floor to watch a football game to discussions about how lack of sleep impacts the body; from gender differences in communication to decorating the floor for Christmas. The type of interaction is important. The focus is on connecting classroom and extra-curricular learning opportunities.

Some examples of faculty interactions that have taken place in the Living Learning Centers this year include:

- **Politics and Emotions:** The Struggle of Reason with Emotion. Dr. Anthony Davies from the A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration led a discussion about how common misconceptions about people and money apply to religion and economics.
- **Think Pink Party.** Dr. Vicki Davis from the Mylan School of Pharmacy shared information regarding her breast cancer research and shared ways for students to monitor their own breast health.
- **Guitar Hero with the Docs.** Dr. Becky Morrow and Dr. Lisa Ludvico from the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences played the popular Guitar Hero game with residents as a means of relieving stress before exams.

Faculty members from the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts are actively involved with first year students through the Learning Communities in which the students participate. Resident Assistants in these areas partner with the faculty members to implement programs and activities with direct ties to the classroom curriculum.

Opportunities also exist for faculty and staff members to become involved in campus-wide programs offered by the Office of Residence Life. Examples include the Director’s Circle, Extra Perk, and Study Break. Any faculty member who is interested in becoming more active in the Living Learning Centers should contact Shannon Owens, Assistant Director of Residence Life, at x6655 or by email at peters@duq.edu.

Faculty program participants have included:

- Dr. Kathleen Roberts, Department of Studies
- Amy Taylor, Psychology Department
- Dr. David Seybert, Dean, Bayer School of Natural & Environmental Sciences
- Diana Cuello, Psychology Department
- Professor Alex Lipecky, Math Department
- Rebecca Cepek, English Department
- Dr. Janie Fritz, Communication and Rhetorical Studies
- Dr. Albert Labriola, Interim Dean, McAnulty College of Liberal Arts
- Rev. John Sawicki, C.S.Sp., Political Science
- Dr. Moji Adeyeye, School of Pharmacy
- Dr. Norman Conti, School of Liberal Arts
- Rev. Naos McCool, C.S.Sp., Assistant Dean for Student Formation, School of Education
- Dr. Gregorio Martin, Modern Language Department
- Dr. Kathleen Gosnell, School of Education
- Dr. Calvin Troup, Communication and Rhetorical Studies
- Professor Paul Klein, School of Business
- Dr. Becky Morrow, Biology Department
- Dr. Lisa Ludvico, Biology Department
- Dr. Laura Engles, English Department
- Dr. Susan Moore, Biology Department
- Dr. James L. Vota, Department of Journalism and Multimedia Arts
- Professor Gina Bessetti, English Department
- Professor Cherith Simmer, School of Nursing
- Dr. Luann Richardson, School of Nursing
- Dr. David Sommers, Physical Therapy Department
- Professor Sean Martin, English Department
- Sr. Donna Marie Beck, School of Music
- Dr. Holly Mayer, History Department
- Dr. Vicki Davis, School of Pharmacy
- Dr. Voshista Bhaskar, School of Business
- Dr. Paul Johnson, Chemistry Department
- Professor Denise Mahane, Studio Arts Department
- Dr. Joseph McCormick, Biology Department
- Dr. Peter Wildfong, School of Pharmacy
- Assistant Professor Sean Jones, School of Music
- Dr. Tsekani Browne, History Department
- Tom Nist, School of Business
- Professor John Fried, English Department
- Dr. Matthew Marlin, School of Business
- Professor Darryl Ozimek, Physics Department
- Dr. John Kern, Mathematics Department
- Professor Kelley Crowley, Department of Journalism and Multimedia Arts



Dr. David Seybert, Dean, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences with students in the Living Learning Centers.