

ROBERT AND PATRICIA GUSSIN SPIRITAN
 DIVISION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
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ROBERT & PATRICIA GUSSIN SPIRITAN DIVISION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

NEWSLETTER

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Nicole Serafini and Michael Salopek: 2009-2010 Spiritan Division Students of the Year

By Jessie Mulholland and Uhuru Hotep



2009-2010 STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
 MICHAEL SALOPEK AND NICOLE SERAFINI

Nicole Serafini, a sophomore education major, and Michael Salopek, a sophomore accounting major, were selected as the 2009-2010 Spiritan Division Students of the Year. Serafini, originally from the South Park area of Pittsburgh, knew that she wanted to attend Duquesne University after her mother was hired by the University's Law School. "I would often meet my mom for lunch and I was able to see a lot of Duquesne's campus that way. Each time I joined my mom for lunch, I liked the campus more." Serafini immediately recognized that Duquesne was the school for her. "Its size, its scenery, and the people all appealed to me. I am so glad that I chose Duquesne; it is a place where I truly feel that I belong."

"THE SPIRITAN DIVISION HAS HELPED TO SHAPE ME AS A PERSON AND HAS ALSO ALLOWED ME TO GROW BOTH SCHOLASTICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY."

-NICOLE SERAFINI

Regarding the Spiritan Division, Serafini believes it has helped her smoothly and successfully transition into the University. The Spiritan Division has not only helped with her college adaptation, but also has been a tremendous resource by preparing her for the PRAXIS test. Serafini believes that "the Spiritan Division has helped to shape me as a person and has also allowed me to grow both scholastically and spiritually."

As a Student of the Year, Serafini plans to partner with Michael Salopek to complete a project that will benefit her fellow students, the surrounding community as well as the University. Serafini feels that her contribution as Student of the Year will have a long lasting effect. After graduation, Serafini plans to teach in the Pittsburgh area and attend graduate school.

"I HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS MUCH ACADEMIC SUCCESS."

-MICHAEL SALOPEK

Michael Salopek is also from Pittsburgh and always knew he wanted to attend Duquesne University "because of its location as well as the fact that it is known for such solid academic programs". Due to the attention that the Spiritan Division gives its students through their tutoring, counseling and academic advisement, Salopek feels that his life has been "completely turned around". Regarding the Spiritan Division Salopek states, "I have never experienced this much academic success. I also have grown more as a person in the past two years than I had in my previous eighteen and the Spiritan Division has everything to do with that." Salopek also values the Spiritan Division because "the staff has always been so supportive of everything I've done in my academic career."

Along with Serafini, as Student of the Year, Salopek will be taking on a project of importance to the University and the surrounding community. Salopek believes that together Serafini and he can positively impact their fellow Spiritan students. After graduation, Salopek hopes to remain in Pittsburgh and make a contribution to the life of the city. ■

2008 - 2009 Spiritan Division Students



Jessica Allen Gabrielle Archangelo John Blassingame Greg Bolar Chris Boyle Colleen Breslin Valone Brown Wiley D. Brown Ashton Burno Vj DeFreitas



Eric Evans Ernesto Hernandez Nensha Kemara Zachary Kuntz Dorian Lane Josh Lott Lawrence McCoy Pasquale Merante Brendan Monteiro Akeem Moore



Christopher Oliver Kevin O'Neill Sarah Parsley Jim Sabia Rafael Santiago Damian Saunders Isaac Spragg Chad Stubenbort Alycia Washington Samantha Yinger

Introduction to the Spiritan Division of Academic Programs

Standing as a hallmark of Duquesne's dedication to education for the mind, the heart, and the spirit, named for the Spiritan congregation, and endowed by alumnus, Dr. Robert Gussin and his wife, Dr. Patricia Gussin, the Spiritan Division of Academic Programs specializes in helping students of varying backgrounds develop their full potential as students and citizens of the world. The Division's performance-tested system of personal guidance and learning assistance supports the student's transition from high school diploma to college degree.

The Spiritan Division helps freshmen and other students new to Duquesne maximize their chances of college success. While there are many factors that will impact that success, chief among them is a solid transition to college life. Successful college transitions are made when the student:

- Adapts to new learning environments and new learning situations.
- Understands the role of personal responsibility in college, career, and life success.
- Refines the academic skills necessary for college success--reading, writing, editing and critical thinking.
- Relies on high-quality academic support such as tutoring, counseling and other interventions should problems arise.

The Spiritan Division of Academic Programs operates on a cohort model. While the Division freshman is immersed in the same Core curriculum as other Duquesne first-year students, Spiritan Core courses are taught by University faculty hand picked by the Division because of their commitment to the Division's approach to student development.

The Spiritan Division student's transition from high school to college begins with a summer semester during which the student is registered for Core English 101, University 101, Research and Information Skills, and Academic Strategies. The student returns to campus for the fall semester with a University transcript showing six earned credits and with an armful of friendships developed during the summer semester.

The academic year continues this development through coursework, academic advisement, tutoring when needed, and counseling. It culminates with an end-of-year review during which assessment of academic and affective growth is discussed with the student. Assuming all Division requirements are completed and all prerequisites for the intended major are satisfied, the student transfers to the college or one of the schools to pursue that major. Otherwise, the student is retained in the Division until all requirements and/or prerequisites are met.

That many Division students have gone on to complete their degrees at Duquesne or elsewhere--and some have pursued or are pursuing graduate degrees--attests to the soundness of our approach to academic and affective development. Obviously, the transitions Spiritan Division students make during this first-year lays the foundation for their progress toward their degree.

Our work is intended to help the student selected for admission to the Division accept personal responsibility for academic success or failure. Their success is our success. ■



A History of the Spiritans at Duquesne University: The Early Years

By spiritans.org and campusministry.duq.edu

The history of the Spiritans over three centuries is the story of thousands of Fathers, Brothers and lay persons who have forgone society's aspirations to power, prestige, and wealth. Rather, they made -- and continue to make -- profound sacrifices to minister to the poor and disadvantaged.

The Congregation began in France in 1703 and eventually expanded throughout the world, with special focus on the African continent. Their North American presence spans the entire country, with special focus on African-American and Hispanic parishes. Duquesne University, a nationally recognized Catholic university located in Pittsburgh, was founded by Spiritans for children of the immigrant poor, and today attracts students from around the world.

In 1876, the Spiritan Missionaries came to the United States from Germany, to escape the oppressive regime of Bismarck's Kulturkampf. Here in Pittsburgh, as in other missions, they focused on service to the poor and those most in need.

Duquesne University was founded October 1, 1878, Fr. Joseph Strub and his fellow Spiritan Missionaries, as a school for the children of poor immigrants and for orphans.

The Bishop of Pittsburgh had been looking for a Religious Order to start a prep school and college but with no success. His prayers were answered by the Spiritans exiled from Germany. In 1878 the Spiritans rented quarters three blocks from where the Civic Arena now stands. They held classes on the second and third floor over a bakery, which proved an endless distraction to the hungry youths in their care.

In 1884, work began on what is now the Administration Building, or "Old Main." The Holy Spirit Brothers used the clay from the site to actually make the bricks used to build the building. In 1890, the chapel was added, but not completed until 1894.

In need of help, the German Spiritans called on Irish members of the Order to assist them in staffing the College. A charter was granted in 1911 and Pittsburgh Catholic College became Duquesne University of the Holy Ghost.

In 1909 Duquesne became the first Catholic university in America to admit a woman, Sr. Mary Shepperson of the Sisters of Mercy. She received a BA in 1911 and an MA in 1913.

Fr. Hehir organized a Law School downtown on 4th Avenue for night students, in 1911, and open a business school in the same building in 1913. Both schools would remain there until Fr. Gallagher built Rockwell Hall in the 1950's.

For more information visit www.spiritans.org or www.campusministry.duq.edu ■

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- Office of Multicultural Affairs
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The mission of the Spiritan Division is teaching, caring and building futures through a community of excellence.