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# ROBERT & PATRICIA GUSSIN SPIRITAN DIVISION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

NEWSLETTER

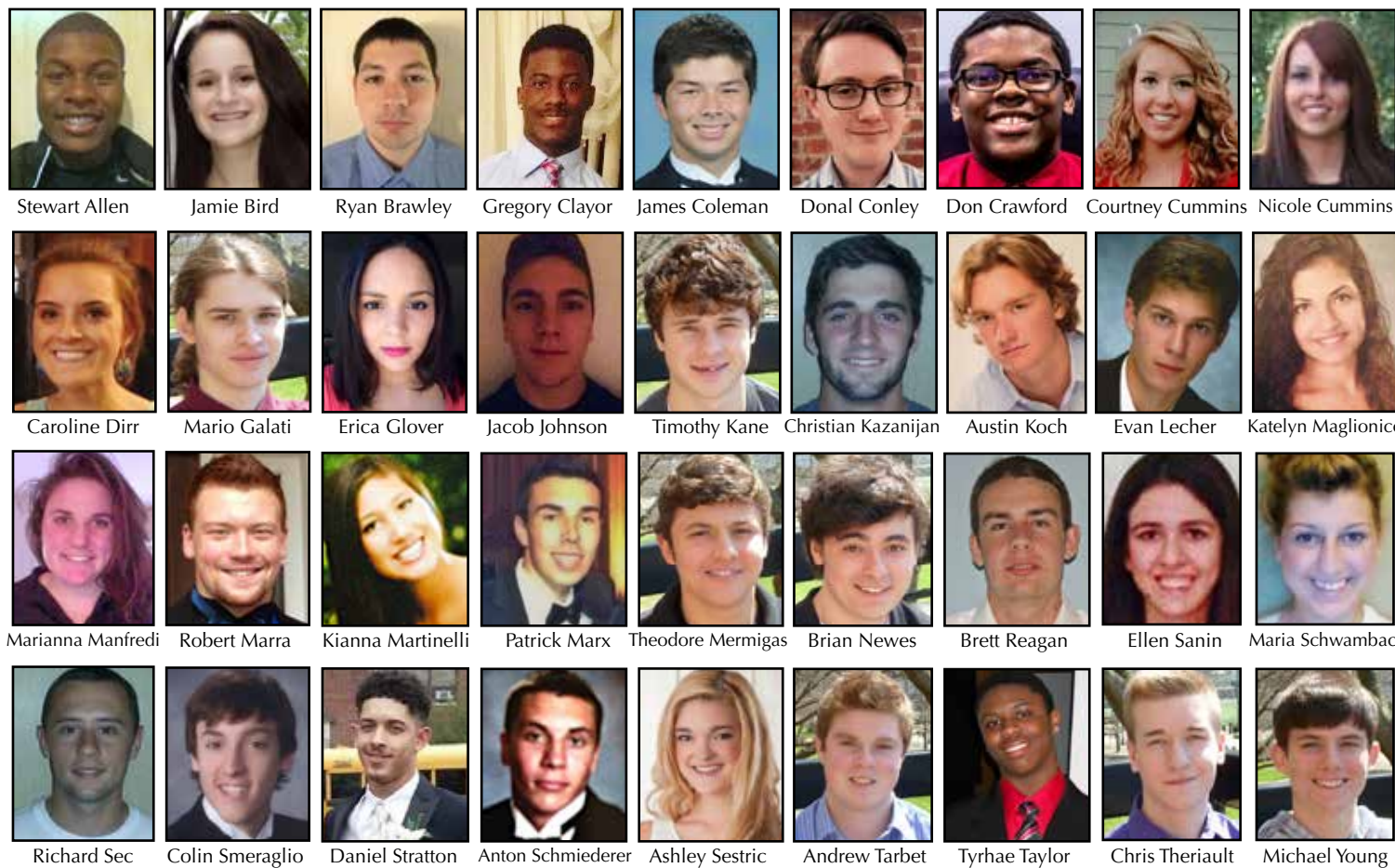
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## 2014 - 2015 GUSSIN SPIRITAN DIVISION STUDENTS (PARTIAL ROSTER)



### Maximillian Heinauer 2015 Gussin Spiritan Division Student of the Year

By Margaret Zangara and Uhuru Hotep



Maximillian Heinauer  
 Supply Chain Management

Maximillian Heinauer, an alumnus of Fox Chapel Area High School, was selected to serve as the 2015 Gussin Spiritan Division Student of the Year. At Fox Chapel, Max played on the golf team all four years. Today, as a sophomore supply chain management major, he maintains a busy schedule working as the Duquesne men's basketball team manager while carrying an 18-credit hour load. He began managing the team his freshman year, and enjoys the responsibility even though it demands 30 hours a week. As manager, he films all the games and at halftime shares his edited videos with the coaches so they can adjust their game strategy as needed.

**"BEING NAMED GSD STUDENT OF THE YEAR IS A HUGE HONOR FOR ME."**

Max credits the Gussin Spiritan Division for his academic success and for helping him to develop a strong work ethic. He feels very close to the Division staff and spends time in the office on a daily basis. Last summer, he served the GSD as a resident assistant in St. Martins Living Center. As Student of the Year, he plans to meet with in-coming GSD students, and again serve as a GSD summer resident assistant. After graduation, Max plans to pursue an MBA or a master's degree in leadership. ■

### Three Weber Scholarships Awarded

By Margaret Zangara, Rosalie Granato  
 and Uhuru Hotep



Ellen Sanin (left) and Jamie Bird.  
 (Don Crawford not pictured)

Three Michael P. Weber Memorial Scholarships were awarded at the 18th Annual Gussin Spiritan Division (GSD) reception held Feb. 20 at Duquesne University's Power Center ballroom.

**Jamie Bird**, an education major and alumna of Cleveland's Laurel School, chose Duquesne for its small size and urban location. Though surprised, she is grateful for the scholarship. Bird said the GSD provided the extra support she could not get anywhere else. Active across campus, Bird recently pledged Gamma Phi Beta. She plans to earn a master's in special education.

**Don Crawford**, a Barack Obama High School graduate, chose Duquesne for its unique business law 3/3 major. Crawford is the Freshman Class Council President, Sophomore Class Council President-Elect, St. Ann's Resident Hall Association President, Student Government Association Senator, Office of Multicultural Affairs Ambassador, and a Collegiate 100 member.

Crawford appreciates the fact that every GSD faculty member gets to know every GSD student. After graduation, Crawford plans to attend law school.

**Ellen Sanin**, a Washington, DC native and alumna of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, is a special education major. Thankful for the GSD, Sanin said, "They provide an excellent transition from high school to college. It was great walking into Freshman Orientation and my fall classes already knowing people and the campus." Her goal is to earn a master's in special education.

The Michael P. Weber Memorial Scholarship was established in 2003. A loyal friend and supporter of the Learning Skills Center that now bears his name, Weber served as Duquesne's Vice President of Academic Affairs from 1987-2001. ■



## Introduction to the Gussin 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 Gussin 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 Gussin 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 Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs operates on a cohort model. While the Division freshmen are 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 Gussin 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 transition Gussin 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. ■



## GSD Sponsors First Annual UCOR 102 Colloquium



(Jamie Bird, Richard Sec, Gaston Cooper, Mariana Manfredi and Michael Young)

On Jan. 22, 2015, the Gussin Spiritan Division (GSD) UCOR 102 faculty, led by Sean Martin, Amanda Matson and Tim Dawson with the active participation of the GSD staff, convened an educational forum at which seven first-year GSD students shared selections from their UCOR 102 research papers with an audience of faculty, staff and students. Student contributors were Jamie Bird, Mario Galati, Gaston Cooper, Richard Sec, Marianna Manfredi, Michael Young and Ellen Sanin. All seven students received an "Excellence in Academic Writing" certificate signed by their UCOR 102 instructor.

Conceived at a fall 2014 GSD faculty meeting, and billed as "A Celebration of Excellent Student Writing," the colloquium was an opportunity for the Division to both promote academic research and showcase students who develop superior writing skills. The 2nd Annual UCOR 102 Colloquium will be held in December. ■

## GSD Alumni Creates Internships for GSD Alumnus

*By Rosalie Granato and Uhuru Hotep*

Gussin Spiritan Division (GSD) and Duquesne University alumni Garrett Jockel, operates two successful national businesses: Safety Maintenance Inspection (SMI), created while he was studying entrepreneurship at Duquesne, and PocketExpert, a service that provides customers with electronic business cards.

To fulfill his desire to give back to his alma mater, Jockel, with assistance from GSD staff, created an internship program for business majors who are also GSD alumnus. The internship program will help business majors who began their college education in the GSD gain valuable experience, paid employment and the possibilities of joining a growing national company. GSD alumna Allison Gulnac is serving as the first intern. ■



Garrett Jockel

### Friends of the Division

- Office of Admissions
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Center for Accelerated Learning

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The mission of the Gussin Spiritan Division is teaching, caring and building futures through a community of excellence.

