

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



John G. Rangos, Sr.
School of Health Sciences

Friday, August 7, 2020

PROGRAM

毕业典礼流程

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE
典礼

WELCOME Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA
致欢迎辞
Dean

INVOCATION Reverend William Christy, C.S.Sp.
祷告
Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain

COMMENCEMENT REMARKS Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA
毕业典礼致辞

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES
提交学位候选人名单

- Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Engineering)
- Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Physical Therapy
- Master of Speech-Language Pathology
- Master of Science (Biomedical Engineering)
- Master of Science (Speech-Language Pathology)
- Doctor of Physical Therapy

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES David J. Dausey, Ph.D.
授予学位
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ALUMNI WELCOME Alex J. Brennsteiner, MHA, BSHMS '12
校友会欢迎致辞
Member, Rangos School of Health Sciences Advisory Council
Member, Duquesne University Alumni Board of Governors

CLOSING REMARKS Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA
结束语

BENEDICTION Reverend William Christy, C.S.Sp.
祝福辞

ALMA MATER
唱母校之歌

STUDENT AWARDEES:

学生颁奖

John A. Short Award in Anatomy Molly C. McHugh
奖

Marci Sobczak Spirit Award Rhett Dillon Wahler
精神奖

Outstanding Students by Department

表彰各系科优秀学生

Athletic Training Sara Marie Brenner

Engineering Madelyn Ann Hoying

Health Management Systems Spencer C. Barber

Occupational Therapy Rachael M. Takarski

Physical Therapy Laura Hackman

Physician Assistant Studies Kristen Ann Kotsopoulos

Speech-Language Pathology Anna K. Saylor

Duquesne-China Health Institute Awards for Academic Excellence

国际项目优秀学术奖

Occupational Therapy Tong Qiao

Physical Therapy Dengzhong Chen
Jinchao Yang

Speech-Language Pathology Yuqian Hu

Dean’s Award for Excellence

院长优秀奖

Rangos School of Health Sciences Madelyn Ann Hoying

FACULTY AWARDEES:

教工奖获得者

Dean’s Awards for Faculty Excellence

院长教工优秀奖

Teaching Elena Donoso Brown, Ph.D.

Scholarship. Sarah E. Wallace, Ph.D.

Service to the Mission. Amy Mattila, Ph.D.

STAFF AWARDEE:

员工奖获得者

Dean’s Award for Staff Excellence Maria A. Fischer

院长员工优秀奖

FACULTY

Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D.
Dean

Erica Beidler, Ph.D.

Jeryl D. Benson, Ed.D.

Meghan Blaskowitz, Dr.P.H.

Diane Borello-France, Ph.D.

Anne M. Burrows, Ph.D.

Bridget C. Calhoun, Dr.P.H.

Christopher R. Carcia, Ph.D.

Yang Chen, Ph.D.

Kayla Cogley, M.P.A.S.

Ann B. Cook, OTD

Kristin D'Acunto, M.P.A.

Jessica Davis, DPT

Abigail D. Delehanty, Ph.D.

Elizabeth D. Deluliis, OTD

Christy Dom, M.P.A.

Elena Donoso Brown, Ph.D.

Regina Harbourne, Ph.D.

Courtney Hartman, M.P.A.S.

Kenneth J. Havrilla, DPT

Ahmad Khanijahani, Ph.D.

Joan M. Kiel, Ph.D.

Mikael D.Z. Kimelman, Ph.D.

Benjamin R. Kivlan, Ph.D.

David J. Kleba, DPT

Matthew Kostek, Ph.D.

Faina Linkov, Ph.D.

Sarah Manspeaker, Ph.D.

Gregory F. Marchetti, Ph.D.

Mary T. Marchetti, Ph.D.

Lori J. Marra, M.A.

Retta Marie Martin, M.S.

RobRoy L. Martin, Ph.D.

Amy Mattila, Ph.D.

Jan McCaleb, M.P.A.

Katie Micco, M.S.

Allison A. Morgan, M.P.A.

Jaime Phillip Muñoz, Ph.D.

Annette A. Neff, M.S.

Anna Nicka, M.P.A.

Afokoghene Okpozo, Ph.D.

Megan Overby, Ph.D.

Salvatore Riggio, Ph.D.

Heather Leavy Rusiewicz, Ph.D.

Jason S. Scibek, Ph.D.

Richard Simpson, Ph.D.

Susan E. Snyder, Au.D.

Martha F. Somers, DPT

Caterina F. Staltari, M.A.

Ann E. Stuart, OTD

Brenda Swanson-Biearman, DNP

Kimberly A. Szucs, Ph.D.

Melikhan Tanyeri, Ph.D.

John A. Viator, Ph.D.

Sarah E. Wallace, Ph.D.

Kimberly Williams, Ph.D.

Alison Wix, M.P.A.S.

Bin Yang, Ph.D.

Rana Zakerzadeh, Ph.D.

**DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
JOHN G. RANGOS, SR.
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Rangos Ceremony – August 7, 2020
August 8, 2020 Candidates for Graduation**

Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Engineering)

Amanda M. Shilk

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Gabrielle Nicole Schwartzmiller

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Autumn Jade Askins	Sierra Lynn Mathos
Mark Leo Bedell	Patrick Joseph McAuliffe
Emily Anne Blendermann	Eileen Theresa McCole
Hope Taylor Brakefield	Lorcan H. McKillop
Ana Leigh Brandt	Tiffany Kathleen Mitchell
James Anthony Cody Jr.	Nicholas R. Moore
Madelyn Claire Czupich	Lauren Elizabeth Murray
Lauren Mercedes Doak	Katherine Maya Narasimhan
Julianna Marie Donald	Kaitlin P. O'Connor
Abigayle Barbara Dranko	Rachel Marie Pardo
Amanda Christine Driscoll	Courtney Elizabeth Parks
Tara Rosemary Ferguson	Devin Leigh Petit
Anna Elizabeth Forrest	Rachel Joanne Phillis
Emily J. Giel	Emily Rhonda Plugis
Grace Parker Greenlee	Stephanie R. Polce
Taylor Lee Grybowski	Kristen Elizabeth Polk
Nicholas J. Gust	Rachel L. Ralph
Ellena Emma Hasley	Natalie Jacqueline Raymond
Lauren M. Hensler	Sara J. Rulapaugh
Kirsten E. Hillsley	Lauren Alexa Schutz
Gina Lucia Iacoboni	Hannah Lynne Socash
Maura Kelley Jacob	Erin Kelly Sullivan
Marissa A. Kemerer	Catherine S. Tan
Kristen Ann Kotsopoulos	Lauren R. Wrzesniewski
Mary Grace Lenehan	Grace M. Yanosich
Caitlin N. Lordo	Kirsten G. Young
Abby Nicole Losco	Lia Zappala
Daniel James Mahoney	

Master of Occupational Therapy

Kaili Bi	Shanlin He	Huimin Jin	Jiaren Wang
Ying Cui	Wenhao Huang	Tong Qiao	Peiyu Zhang

Master of Physical Therapy

Zouji Bian	Yiming Huang	Qingyu Meng	Zilong Ye
Qingqing Cao	Mengnan Li	Hao Wu	Hecheng Yu
Dengzhong Chen	Xidian Li	Qikai Wu	Yingjie Zhao
Tianli Fu	Yingqi Li	Zhuocheng Xu	Jie Zhou
Yinyue Gu	Zhiqin Li	Jinchao Yang	
Siyue Guo	Fenghao Ma	Yuhua Yao	

Master of Speech-Language Pathology

Shiyu Gu	Jialing Ni	Lexin Wei	Wanzhen Yang
Yuqian Hu	Muyao Shen	Kaiqing Yang	Shiyao Yin
Shuwen Huang	Guangxian Song		

Master of Science (Biomedical Engineering) – Thesis

Yulder Daniel Angarita Marmolejo

Thesis: Bacteria Analysis by Using a Supervised Machine Learning Algorithm Based on Droplet Microfluidics

Tanja Cupac

Thesis: Multiphysics Computational Model of Fluid Flow and Mass Transport in Aneurysm

Master of Science (Speech-Language Pathology)

Lauren Jeanne Adler	Kate Elyse Huskey	Erica L. Risi
Christina Josephine Aurilia	Laura Anne Hyre	Maegan Anabel Rodriguez
Megan R. Becka	Megan Nicole Kaminski	Anna K. Saylor
Angelina Marie Buechler	Breanne Francine Koelliker	Alanna Faith Schiafone
Rebecca Ann Bulgarelli	Erica Faith Lapp	Alyssa V. Short
Shawn Morgan Busche	Elizabeth Ann Mannion	Ryann K. Sutera
Kathryn Hannah Corso	Margaret Young Nicholas	Stephanie Diane Wells
Kasey Nicole Exacustides	Allie Petracci	Gabrielle Nicole Werner
Dana Marie Gensel	Mathi Rengasamy	

Speech-Language Pathology – Thesis

Anna K. Saylor

Thesis: Aphasia-Friendly Medication Instructions: Effects on Comprehension in Persons with and without Aphasia

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Robert William Apgar
Gabriella Marie Benninger
Nicole Elizabeth Bruning
Nicholas Edward Elliott
Courtney E. Fedor
Desiree Mae Flaherty
Molly Elizabeth Flannery
Jeanetta Elizabeth Fricke
Neil Thomas Gallagher
Brenna Garrick
Andrew J. Glass
Laura Hackman
Cassandra Lynn Holder
Samuel Joseph Kibler
Kurtis J. Kordenbrock

Mary Kathryn Maley
Margaret Theresa McCaffrey
Matthew Buchanan McKim
Rachel Anne Mowatt
Kayla M. Off
Lauren Elizabeth Owsowitz
James V. Picard
Alison Clare Pophal
Matthew Ruane
Morgan Aubrey Sartschev
Abigail M. Smich
Emily Elizabeth Titler
Ashley Nicole Watkins
Rosa A. Nicole Winslow
Kyle Martin Zimmerman

RSHS Departmental Outstanding Student and Dean's Award for Excellence Recipients

SARA MARIE BRENNER – Sara is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Athletic Training. Sara has an overall GPA of a 3.595 and a 3.488 science GPA. In addition to her academic success, Sara has demonstrated significant commitment to her professional development and has provided service on varying levels to the University and the community.

Sara has achieved success throughout her college career, but particularly during the professional phase of her curriculum. Her focus and drive for academic excellence have served her very well in each of her courses, easily placing her amongst an elite group of athletic training students that have come through the program.

Sara's written work and clinical skills have consistently met or exceeded our expectations. She demonstrates the ability to gather and integrate information effectively, draw appropriate conclusions, and be able to look ahead and identify the next level of questions. Sara's clinical skills and her approach to patient care are exceptional. Her exceptional academic and clinical performance resulted in her selection by the Pittsburgh Pirates to serve as part of their sports medicine staff while fulfilling her clinical education requirements during her junior and senior year.

Ultimately, Sara's academic abilities and skills will enable her to continue growing as she is presented with new challenges both academically and clinically during her pursuit of a post-professional Master's degree.

Sara has been extremely active professionally and committed to serving others while attending Duquesne. Her professional involvement started immediately when she arrived on campus when she became an active member in Duquesne University Students in Athletic Training (DUSAT). In addition to being an active member, Sara has been involved with the Executive Board, most recently holding the position of President. She is a student member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association and the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society.

Sara's professional commitment and service to others has been exemplified in her involvement with a variety professionally-oriented events. Sara has also volunteered to provide medical services for the 2020 Pennsylvania Winter Special Olympics and an active participant in the department's student peer mentoring program.

Sara has also embraced opportunities to engage in scholarly activities during her time in the program. As a junior, she developed a critically appraised topic project that evaluated concussion history and its impact on health related quality of life in adolescent athletes. Sara presented her work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April 2019. Under the guidance of Dr. Erica Beidler, she

submitted her work to the Journal of Sport Rehabilitation for publication, which is currently in review. Sara has also been an active participant in the student research group, Brain Busters, which studies various aspects of sport related concussions, under the guidance of Dr. Beidler.

Sara's proactive approach to her development as a healthcare provider has been exemplified in her academic, clinical, service and scholarly pursuits. Sara's commitment to her education and the athletic training profession will serve her well as he continues to grow professionally.

MADelyn ANN HOYING – Madelyn is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Engineering and Dean's Award for Excellence. She has shown unusual commitment to research, spanning biomedical engineering and physics, with particular emphasis on space science and engineering.

Madelyn achieved this high level of performance while being a swimmer on Duquesne University's swim team and performing research in biomedical optics lab as well as leading other interdisciplinary research efforts on campus.

Due to Madelyn's diverse academic interests, she pioneered a dual degree in biomedical engineering and physics. She worked with administrators in the Departments of Physics and Engineering to design this program in which she will complete the full biomedical engineering curriculum and the graduate school preparatory program in physics.

Madelyn has been sharply focused on graduate studies so that she can have a career in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Because of this commitment, Madelyn has led two teams of undergraduate students tackling NASA challenges. Two years ago, she led the NASA Micro-g NEXT team from Duquesne University in designing an instrument for use in micro-gravity. Due to her leadership and the team's design, they were one of thirty teams selected from the entire nation to go to NASA in Houston to present their design and prototype. Last year, Madelyn led another student team for the Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts – Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) competition on a challenge related to the human space exploration. The "SOLFARM: Solar Orbital Logistics Forecasting and Radiation Module" project was awarded "Best in Theme" for the "best concept and associated systems analysis."

Madelyn is an outstanding example of a student-athlete with diverse interests and solid leadership. Her impact as a student and future graduate of Duquesne University will be felt for years to come.

SPENCER C. BARBER – Spencer is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Health Management Systems. As a Health Management Systems student, he has immersed himself in the student experience both in the classroom and beyond.

Spencer is a six-time Dean's List Scholar and is pursuing a career in dental medicine at The Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University. In preparation

for this, he has completed a research project at the University of Pittsburgh's Oral and Maxillofacial Research Lab, which is the home for one of the largest dental research databases in the country. For his research project, Spencer compared the incidences of dental caries in white males taking cholesterol medications from the ages of 45-65. He found that there was a significant increase in the amount of caries, and this will hopefully help dentists better educate their patients who take statins on the importance of dental hygiene.

Spencer is a member of the American Student Dental Association and a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

RACHEL M. TAKARSKI – Rachel is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Occupational Therapy and is a dedicated professional and a leader who has demonstrated her commitment to becoming a practice scholar in the field of occupational therapy.

Her academic record is excellent as she is a member of the Honors College, has been on the Dean's List every semester, and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 4.0 in both her undergraduate and graduate studies. In addition to the rigorous occupational therapy curriculum, she also earned a minor in Latin.

Rachel's strength as a student is evident not only in her grades, but also in her ability to articulate her knowledge to her peers and her leadership and participation in classroom discussion. She excels in her academic contributions.

Rachel has also demonstrated the characteristics of a practice scholar through her participation in the Occupational Therapy program's research apprenticeship track.

Through her involvement in a phenomenological research project, she demonstrated the ability to manage her time, learn new skills, and problem solve issues as they arose. She worked in a team to complete data collection and was instrumental in the completion of data processing and analysis. She has taken this experience and presented the project in multiple venues, including the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium where she earned the Rangos School of Health Sciences Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research and her short paper was published in the Duquesne University Scholarship Collection. She has also presented at the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association State Conference and the American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference.

In addition, Rachel has been recognized as a 2019 Duquesne University Women in STEM award recipient.

Rachel is a dedicated student who took responsibility for her learning and demonstrated a record of accomplishment and leadership in clinical, community, and research experiences. Her future colleagues and the occupational therapy profession will benefit greatly from her commitment to excellence and practice scholarship.

LAURA HACKMAN – Laura is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Physical Therapy. She completed the professional phase of the doctorate of physical therapy program with a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

In addition to her own academic success, Laura served as a tutor to physical therapy students in the subjects of Foundational Skills and Prosthetics and Orthotics. She was also involved with service opportunities throughout her time on campus.

Laura takes most pride in her role as a founding committee member and vice president of the Four Diamonds chapter at Duquesne. The Four Diamonds mission is to conquer childhood cancer by assisting children and their families through superior care, comprehensive support and innovative research.

Outside of her involvement on campus, Laura volunteered with a variety of nonprofits. One organization she volunteered with was UPMC Mercy in their Spinal Cord Injury Unit. While there, she assisted in diverse roles on an as needed basis, all of which were instrumental in delivering quality care to patients and their families. Further, Laura donated her time to the Good Samaritan Homeless Shelter in Phoenixville, Pa. At the shelter, Laura coordinated an annual 5k race to assist the residents to overcome homelessness.

In the latter portion of her education, Laura completed her clinical rotations at NovaCare-Gilbertsville, UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore, Jamie's Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, and Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital. During these affiliations, she experienced a wide range of settings and patient populations including outpatient management of post-operative conditions, trauma and surgical intensive care units, outpatient sports and orthopedics, and inpatient neurologic rehabilitation.

Laura aspires to provide empathetic, comprehensive and innovative rehabilitation services to her patients in whichever setting she chooses to work in following graduation.

KRISTEN ANN KOTSOPOULOS – Kristen is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. She graduated with her undergraduate degree in Health Sciences in May 2019 with a 3.99 GPA.

Kristen joined the Duquesne University Physician Assistant Student Organization and in 2016 she received an invitation into Duquesne's Director's Circle. She was consistently on the Dean's List throughout her undergraduate years and inducted into Phi Kappa Phi. She was also a member in the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, RSHS Advisor Board, Student Government Organization Curriculum Board Review and the Constituencies Advisory Committee.

As a graduate student, Kristen continued to thrive with stellar academic performance.

Kristen not only excelled in academic studies, but she was also a stellar athlete as one of the captains of the Duquesne University Women's Soccer team. Atlantic

10 named her "Rookie of the Week" in 2015 and one of her most notable accomplishments was scoring the game-winning goal, which won Duquesne the 2015 Steel City Classic championship.

Kristen was generous in sharing her athletic talent and was involved with Top Soccer, an organization that helps children and young adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities enjoy the game of soccer. She also volunteered with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and The Boys and Girls Club of America, despite her incredibly busy academic and athletic schedule.

Kristen is kind, respectful and patient with everyone she encounters. She wears a smile every day and brings a quick wit and great sense of humor to conversations with faculty, staff, friends and patients. Kristen serves as an excellent representative of Department of Physician Assistant Studies in an admirable and professional fashion as well as Duquesne University's spirit of action, while maintaining standards of integrity for all to emulate.

ANNA K. SAYLOR – Anna is the Outstanding Student in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and is an embodiment of Duquesne's mission. She is the rare blend of student that excels in all areas—academics, clinic and research—while still being very active with her class.

Academically, Anna's performance throughout the program has been exemplary. She is a second year graduate student in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology with a 3.92 QPA in the graduate level and an undergraduate QPA of 3.96.

I had the privilege of instructing Anna in the classroom. She is highly motivated, engaged and a very active participant in the program.

As an undergraduate student in our program, Anna began working as an office assistant for our Speech-Language-Hearing-Clinic, and then became the Assistant to our Director of Clinical Education while working as a Lab Assistant for the Communication and Cognition Research Lab. Even though she was busy with all of her work demands, she still maintained a high GPA of 3.96 and graduated Summa Cum Laude. In the graduate phase of the program, she continues to excel while working on a thesis and maintains a 3.92 QPA.

To put it succinctly, Anna excels in the research. She has presented three posters at the national level, three posters at the state level and three posters at the university level. Her poster, "Aphasia-friendly occupations therapy home program: Analysis of participant perceptions" was presented at the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) National convention, the Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association and the DU Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2018. The same year, Anna presented "Examining silent vs. oral reading in persons with aphasia" at the Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association and the Duquesne University Undergraduate Research Symposium. In 2019, she presented the poster "Effects of computer-generated voice rates

during combined modality comprehension tasks for people with aphasia" at ASHA National convention as well at Duquesne University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Anna was awarded the 2019 Rangos School of Health Sciences Award for Undergraduate Research for this poster.

More impressively, Anna has been a co-author on three publications. "Participants' perception of an aphasia-friendly occupational therapy home program" was published in Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation. "Effect on text-to-speech rate on reading comprehension by adults with aphasia" is in press for the American Journal of Speech-Language-Pathology. Finally, she coauthored "Designing occupational therapy home programs for people with aphasia: Aphasia-friendly modifications" in the Perspectives for the ASHA Special Interest Groups which is also in press.

Nationally, Anna was recognized in 2019 for her research efforts and promising research future with an Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences Student Fellow.

Anna has committed an abundance of her time to service as well. She has been a member of the student organization, NSSLHA, since she was a freshman, and was the NSSLHA Student Research Chair in 2018-2019. She was also involved with Best Buddies at the university since she was a freshman.

Clinically, Anna has been described to me by other faculty members as "a self-starter, empathic to her client's needs and an excellent clinician." She has excellent clinical demeanor and has been evaluated well by her clinical instructors in the various populations she has worked.

RSHS Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching

ELENA DONOSO BROWN, PH.D., OT – Dr. Donoso Brown has worked diligently to perfect her teaching craft. She teaches a rigorous course load, many of which students perceive to be more rigorous than other courses, and yet she has consistently achieved student evaluation survey (SES) scores at or above school and university averages.

Dr. Donoso Brown regularly utilizes a variety of innovative pedagogical approaches that incorporate technology (e.g., student response systems, the FlexTech classroom), online learning, contemporary clinical approaches, small/large group discussion, and reflective teaching practices to enhance student learning. Her peer teaching evaluation feedback corroborates her SES data and further demonstrates her commitment to being an outstanding teacher.

Dr. Donoso Brown's mentorship of Rangos research students is most impressive and speaks to her dedication and commitment to teaching. During her time at Duquesne, she has mentored 11 research students through the OT department's research sequence, which has resulted in: five students having co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles; four students receiving Undergraduate Research Scholarship Symposium awards for their interdisciplinary research with the Department of Speech Language Pathology; and three doctoral students presenting at the national American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference.

We feel that because of these accomplishments, Dr. Elena Donoso Brown is deserving of recognition for her excellence in teaching. She is clearly the worthy recipient of the RSHS Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching.

RSHS Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship

SARAH E. WALLACE, PH.D., CCC-SLP – Dr. Wallace has an extremely strong record of publication, with 27 peer-reviewed articles published in the last five years and a majority in quartile 1 and 2 journals. Furthermore, she has demonstrated a consistent commitment to Rangos students through her scholarship, having co-authored six publications with student research mentees. She also inspires students to pursue their own scholarly agenda with three of her prior mentees pursuing doctoral education.

Dr. Wallace has secured external NIH funding in the amount of \$300,000, in addition to multiple internal grants that she has been awarded over the years.

In addition, Dr. Wallace's scholarly contributions have been recognized by outside organizations as she recently became a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and received the inaugural Tavistock Trust for Aphasia Distinguished Scholar Award. Her many accomplishments in scholarship have resulted in invitations to serve as editor, co-editor, and special issue editor for three highly ranked peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Wallace's collection of accomplishments demonstrates an excellent scholarly portfolio that is deserving of recognition as the recipient of the Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship.

RSHS Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Service to the Mission

AMY MATTILA, PH.D., MBA, MS, OTR/L – Dr. Mattila has demonstrated a consistent pattern of extraordinary dedication to the University and goes above and beyond the expectations of her faculty role while maintaining a full load of undergraduate, master's and doctoral level teaching and a level of scholarship that is positioning her to successfully pass her 3rd year review.

Dr. Mattila's pattern of service is as broad as it is deep. Dr. Mattila is a Duquesne University alumni. While a student she modeled the way for her peers and she animated the Spiritan charism with a high level of campus, community and professional service leadership that she has continued to this day.

Since joining the Department of Occupational Therapy, Dr. Mattila has worked diligently to build effective synergies between her service, teaching and scholarship and her self-statement and service overview materials reflect this connection while her curriculum vitae lists the significant products that have emerged from these focused efforts.

Dr. Mattila has played pivotal roles in multiple committees and task forces at University, School and Departmental level and is a perennial contributor to her profession in multiple ways. She has made taking leadership roles and serving on interdisciplinary committees a routine component of her service leadership.

In her self-statement, Dr. Mattila describes the intentional way that she seeks to connect her service to her teaching and research. One specific aspect of this synergy is in the area of community engaged learning (CEL), which is a critical way that we in OT and indeed the entire University community animate the Spiritan charism. Dr. Mattila has been the driving force reenergizing the CEL components of several OT courses and engaging her peers in not only strengthening the use of evidence-based pedagogies in CEL, but also generating products such as leading her peers to achieve FCEL and ACEL designation for courses, contributing to a Pathways Grant, and generating publications with her OT and interdisciplinary peers that are grounded in her service to various marginalized communities.

Each year her entire class of students prepares submissions to the Undergraduate Research Symposium and in 2019 her students swept all 3 awards for their video presentations based on their CEL efforts with marginalized populations.

Dr. Mattila is a CETR Gaultier Fellow and her efforts in this role only continue to enhance her service to the University community. Recently, she and Dr. Sarah Wright, herself a Gaultier Fellow, led a well-attended workshop that engaged an interprofessional audience in learning to apply human-centered design to their community-engaged work at Duquesne. This effort comes on the heels of her work with interdisciplinary colleagues in Pharmacy to create an

opportunity for over 50 students and faculty to be trained and earn certification in Substance Abuse intervention. This is a notable effort not only because of the interdisciplinary nature of the collaboration, but also because it reflects her leadership in creating opportunities for her students and peers that go above and beyond the call of duty.

Dr. Mattila is deserving of recognition for her service leadership as the recipient of the Dean's Award for Excellence in Service to the Mission.

RSHS Dean's Award for Staff Excellence

MARIA FISCHER – Maria is the Administrative Assistant in Student and Alumni Services Area in the Office of the Dean at the Rangos School of Health Science (RSHS) and provides exceptional support to the entire office.

Maria goes above and beyond and successfully organizes most of the events held by the Office of the Dean which included the 2019 RSHS August Commencement Ceremony at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center which incorporated multiple contracts and approvals.

Maria maintains excellent relationships with other departments in the University who contribute to the RSHS functions. She steps in when advisors are on maternity leave to ensure a smooth transition for the students, helping with block registrations, student standing letters, and student evaluation sheets. She also covers the front desk in the absence of the Office Assistant and creates comradery among the staff in the Office of the Dean by ensuring no birthday or holiday goes unnoticed.

Maria demonstrates sincerity and possesses a reputation for truth and honesty with students, faculty, staff, the University community and the public at large. She embodies the Mission of the University, School and Office of the Dean and exemplifies the qualities that the Dean's Award for Staff Excellence represents.



Some students whose names appear in this program booklet have not yet satisfied all requirements for the degrees they are pursuing. Because they are close to completing their studies, the University's policy is to welcome their participation in today's ceremony.

Only after they have met all the relevant requirements, however, will they receive their Duquesne degrees.