

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



John G. Rangos, Sr.
School of Health Sciences

Friday, August 6th, 2021
UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse

PROGRAM

毕业典礼流程

PROCESSIONAL The Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.
入场

NATIONAL ANTHEM Debra Zugates
唱国歌 Vocalist

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

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Darlene Weaver, Ph.D.
毕业典礼致辞 Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D., MHA
提交学位候选人名单 Dean

- Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Engineering)
- Master of Health Administration
- 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 Darlene Weaver, Ph.D.
授予学位 Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

STUDENT AWARDEES:
学生颁奖

John A. Short Award in Anatomy Catherine E. Becker

John A. Short 奖

Marci Sobczak Spirit Award Brittany Dawn Baker

Marci Sobczak 精神奖

Outstanding Students by Department

表彰各系科优秀学生

Athletic Training Ashley Evans

Engineering Justin Lawrence Cook

Health Administration & Public Health Abigail Cady Delmonte

Occupational Therapy Kate Nicole de Castro

Physical Therapy Tyra Jude Abdalla

Physician Assistant Studies Victoria Beatrice Tepe
Speech-Language Pathology Lauren Alexandra Moyer

Duquesne-China Health Institute Awards for Academic Excellence
杜肯-中国健康研究所优秀学业奖

Occupational Therapy Xiaoyu Lou

Physical Therapy Taiyang Liu
Yuxuan Luo
Lujia Zhang

Speech-Language Pathology Yuting Wang

Dean's Award for Excellence
院长优秀奖

Rangos School of Health Sciences Justin Lawrence Cook

FACULTY AWARDEES:
教工奖获得者

Dean's Awards for Faculty Excellence
院长教工优秀奖

Teaching Amy Mattila, Ph.D.
Scholarship Abigail Delehanty, Ph.D.
Ahmad Khanijahani, Ph.D.

STAFF AWARDEE:
员工奖获得者

Dean's Award for Staff Excellence Michelle E. Leech
院长员工优秀奖

ALUMNI WELCOME Byron C. Wade, MBA '10, BSHS '08
校友会欢迎致辞 Member, Rangos School of Health Sciences Advisory Council

ALMA MATER Debra Zugates
唱母校之歌 Vocalist

BENEDICTION Reverend William Christy, C.S.Sp.
祝福辞 Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain

RECESSIONAL The Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, Inc.
退场

FACULTY MARSHALS

Erica Beidler, Ph.D.

Matthew Kostek, Ph.D.

FACULTY

Fevzi Akinci, Ph.D.
Dean

Bridget C. Calhoun, Dr.P.H.
Associate Dean

Brooke Baumann, M.S.
Erica Beidler, Ph.D.
Jeryl D. Benson, Ed.D.
Meghan Blaskowitz, Dr.P.H.
Anne M. Burrows, Ph.D.
Mark Cantrell, DNP
Yang Chen, Ph.D.
Theresa Crytzer, DPT
Kristin D'Acunto, M.P.S.
Jessica Davis, DPT
Abigail 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.
Ashley Iams, M.P.A.S.
Ahmad Khanijahani, Ph.D.
Joan M. Kiel, Ph.D.
Benjamin R. Kivlan, Ph.D.
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.
Afokoghene Okpozo, Ph.D.
Megan Overby, Ph.D.
Heather L. Rusiewicz, Ph.D.
Jason S. Scibek, Ph.D.
Joseph Shaffer, Ph.D.
Richard Simpson, Ph.D.
Susan E. Snyder, Au.D.
Martha F. Somers, DPT
Caterina F. Staltari, M.A.
Ann Stuart, OTD
Kimberly A. Szucs, Ph.D.
Melikhan Tanyeri, Ph.D.
Seth Tichenor, Ph.D.
Paula Sammarone Turocy, Ed.D.
John A. Viator, Ph.D.
Sarah E. Wallace, Ph.D.
Kimberly Forsten Williams, Ph.D.
Alison Wix, M.P.A.S.
Adrian Wright-Fitzgerald, DAT
Bin Yang, Ph.D.
Rana Zakerzadeh, Ph.D.

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

**August 7, 2021 Candidates for Graduation
*Rangos Ceremony – August 6, 2021***

Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Engineering)

Garett Conrad Craig
Brennon D. LeCave

Timothy Francis Pecoraro
Amanda Rose Pellegrino

Master of Health Administration

Dana J. Achille
Zachary John DeJames

Justin Wayne Wehring

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Amanda Hope Accorsi
Jennifer Leigh Bagnell
Kayla Stenson Bassett
Jenna M. Berezansky
Rex R. Berry
Katlyn Rose Biondo
Kaylea Ann Chrisman
Theodora Constantine
Christina Marie Conti
Evan Michael Cottrill
Alexis Daly Coughlan
Elisabeth Lindsay Curtis
Caroline Elizabeth DeLong
Elena Charlotte Dysert
Meredith L. Easterling
Madison Fermo
Magdalen M. Flynn
Angela Lynn Friedrich
Gayathri Ganesh
Sydney Yvonne Helwig
Hannah Elizabeth Hoppe
Andi J. Hrusovsky
Elizabeth Wan-shing Hung

Erin Olivia Jack
Sarah Elizabeth Kelly
Caroline E. Kilbane
John Russell Klens
Anna Sophia Kresse
Richard Joseph Kushay
Jeremiah M. Landau
Alexandria Jane Latulipe
Annamarie Lovre
Erica Rose Martin
Gabrielle E. Massimo
Shaun McGowan
Gabrielle Maria Monaco
Jacob David Nowark
Emma Taylor Pallone
Jenna Helen Palumbo
Alexis Sarah Papay
Ameya B. Patel
Luke William Pecora
Cassidy Marie Powers
Jessica Marie Pratt
John D. Puchalski
Victoria K. Richel

Eric William Rousell
Liana Teresa Rulli
Rebecca Ann Schaefer
Emily Marie Schneider
Alexandria Gayle Severino
Laurel Michelle Shymansky
Emily Anne Sippey
Lindsey Maureen Soles
Lydia J. Sterling
Charlotte Pauline Strite

Amy Ting Su
Thomas V. Sylvester
Victoria Beatrice Tepe
Rhett Dillon Wahler
Amanda Marie Walters
Mary Ellen Wasco
Kaylyn Elizabeth Wirth
Allison Julianna Wright
Ellie Marie Yahner

Master of Occupational Therapy

Xiaoqing Feng
Jingying Gao
Wanqi Jiang

Xiaoyu Lou
Muhamaiti Laina
Xiangshan Wei

Master of Physical Therapy

Runze Fu
Lingfei Gu
Liyang He
Jingtao Huang
Wenqian Huang
Xiaolu Huang
Yiming Jin
Benhao Li
Jiarui Li
Zongyue Li
Zengjing Liang
Peiquan Liu
Taiyang Liu
Yuxuan Luo
Junling Pan
Qi Song

Yin Tang
Baolu Wang
Chengdong Wang
Liuqian Wang
Qing Wang
Wei Xiong
Dongyan Xu
Wenzhu Xu
Hao Xue
Tao Ye
Beichen Zhang
Lujia Zhang
Yuxin Zheng
Ruiqian Zhou
Xiangyu Zhu

Master of Speech-Language Pathology

Yiqi Hu
Congzhou Jia
Xinyi Li
Feiao Lu

Chen Qian
Yuting Wang
Yongbing Xu

Master of Science (Biomedical Engineering)

Ryan Joseph McIlhinney

Master of Science with Thesis (Biomedical Engineering)

Shay Marie Kent

*Development of a Microfluidic Viscoelastic Hemostatic Assay
for Real-Time Viscosity Measurements of Blood*

Master of Science (Speech-Language Pathology)

Justine Elaine Ballou

Morgan Paige Benham

Brooke Berger

Rebecca Villermaux Cain

Katherine Marie Carlos

Alyssa N. Chiarello

Lauren Marie Devorace

Gina Maria DiCarlo

Kacie Margaret Flannigan

Paige Larissa Gillespie

Gianna Marie Grasso

Marianna E. Hoehl

Taylor Alexis Hopkins

Julianna Marie Ioli

Jenna S. Kofsky

Shannon Tiara Langton

Rachael Elizabeth Maselli

Fiona Marie McClean

Lauren Alexandra Moyer

Meredith Elise O'Neil

Elizabeth Marie Parisi

Nicole Sara Purwin

Brenae Katherine Schubin

Callie Grace Schweizer

Katharine Amelia Seiger

Meagan Elizabeth Shanahan

Alexis Lauren Speck

Jenna M. Wollerman

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Tyra Jude Abdalla

Alexandra Noel Barker

Jessica Sarah Burke

Anna Maria Careghini

Hannah Nicole Curry

Molly A. Davet

Christina Sara Didiano

David Michael Fadden

Jennifer Kathleen Gerland

Abigail Marie Gonzales

Joshua D. Gramm

Madison Lee Gregord

Hannah Renee Harder

Colin Rory Ketchel

Sabrina Joanne Kirsch

Julia Corinne Landerkin

Nicole A. Lucente

Kaitlin Patricia Masters

Kristen H. McKnight

Thomas Matthew Olexovich

Lauren Elizabeth Patterson

Jolene Marie Renwick

Kaylee Jordan Roles

Katherina Allegra Schrock

Brenna Shea Scott

Maegan Elisabeth Sharkey

Nicole Marie Shirilla

Sydney Renee Sokol

Matthew Tyler Starkman

Brandon Lee Walbert

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

ASHLEY EVANS – Outstanding Student in the Department of Athletic Training.

Ashley came to Duquesne University from Canada and we immediately recognized her as a student with true passion for Athletic Training. Her experiences as a soccer player and a career cut short due to injury has fueled her passion. Ashley has achieved success throughout her college career and her drive for academic excellence easily placed her amongst an elite group of Athletic Training students that have come through the program. Ashley's written work and clinical skills have consistently exceeded expectations, even with the challenges she faced regarding COVID-19. Having been an athlete and experiencing injuries of her own, Ashley has always had the ability to empathize with her patients, which undoubtedly has led to her providing high quality care. Her academic and clinical pursuits have already resulted in offers to attend postprofessional Master's degree programs across the country.

Ashley has been extremely active professionally and has committed to serving others while attending Duquesne. Her professional involvement started immediately as she arrived on campus when she became an active member in Duquesne University Students in Athletic Training (DUSAT) as a freshman. She has since served as the fund-raising chair, assisted developing a sports medicine symposium for high school students, and, most recently, served as Vice President. She is also a student member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the Athletic Training representative in Pi Kappa Epsilon, and is a member of the national leadership honors society Omicron Delta Kappa.

Ashley has also embraced opportunities to engage in other academic and scholarly activities during her time in the program. She has been an active participant in the Department's peer mentoring program as well as serving as a research assistant with the Brain Busters Concussion Lab during her freshman year. Ashley has presented twice at the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium and has coauthored a paper which was accepted for publication in the International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training in the summer of 2020. Ashley's passion for healthcare was ever more apparent when she took advantage of the Global Perspectives in Healthcare study abroad opportunity in Australia. Ultimately, Ashley's academic abilities and skills will enable her to continue to grow as she is presented with new challenges, both academically and clinically, during her pursuit of graduate training.

JUSTIN LAWRENCE COOK – Outstanding Student in the Department of Engineering and Dean's Award for Excellence.

Justin is highly regarded for his research aptitude and academic success by his professors. One of his professors, Dr. John Viator even stated, "Comparing him to about one hundred and fifty undergraduate researchers I have mentored and several hundred students in traditional classroom settings...I would rank him as one of the top three students in this highly able group."

Justin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the demanding curriculum of engineering, physics, chemistry, and calculus, where he has even taken extra mathematics courses due to his extraordinary interest in the foundation aspects of mathematical methods. He belongs to a number of honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Mu Epsilon, and Phi Eta Sigma. Justin has also earned a number of certificates for specific research methodology, such as Nonhuman Primate Training, Purpose Bred Mice and Rats, and Ruminant Training. Justin has been working in Dr. Viator's biomedical optics lab and has quickly mastered lab techniques where he has the ability to run the complex apparatus on his own. His outstanding research, scholarly abilities, and endearing manner will serve him well as a physician scientist, which is Justin's ultimate professional goal.

Justin has also recently developed his own aspect of the work he has done with Dr. Viator, investigating the ability to detect circulating adrenal cancer cells using photoacoustics. This application is particularly important as the early stages of adrenal cancer are difficult to detect. Justin is already operating at the level of a graduate student and is preparing his work for publication in the Journal of Biomedical Optics. He has already co-authored a paper published in the same journal in the fall of 2019. In addition to his research at Duquesne, Justin has also participated in research at LeanMed Innovation, LLC, John Hopkins University, and Magee-Womens Research Institute. Justin has shown his dedication to the university's mission by volunteering as a judge for Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Presentations and Future City Competition, and as an instructor for Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science High School Workshop Series. Justin has clearly demonstrated his commitment to science and to Duquesne's mission and there is no doubt he will be an exceptional physician scientist.

ABBIGAIL CADY DELMONTE – Outstanding Student in the Department of Health Administration and Public Health. Abbigail has shown a strong level of academic performance and has demonstrated significant commitment to her professional development while enrolled at Duquesne University. Abbigail's focus and drive for academic excellence have served her extremely well in each of her courses, placing her in the top 5% of students coming through the program. Abbigail has achieved success at all levels of her college career, but her research, volunteer experiences, and leadership activities are where she truly stands out. She has served as a member of the Duquesne University Health Professions Society, where she has participated in medical-themed events and given presentations on medical topics.

Abbigail has also served on discussion panels for the Society since 2017. She was a team leader for Spring Clean Up in April 2018 and has served on the Rangos School of Health Sciences (RSHS) Dean's Advisory Committee, where she actively participated in the discussion of RSHS strategic plans. She is also a member of Phi Kappa Epsilon Health Professionals Fraternity.

Abigail has shown her dedication to furthering her knowledge and experience by actively shadowing many professionals in a variety of medical fields. She has enhanced her abilities by seeking out work and volunteer opportunities as a medical assistant, organic chemistry tutor, and volunteer at a child development center and a dementia care center. Abigail has also assisted with multiple research projects, both at Duquesne and her shadowing and internship experiences. These achievements have provided her with consistent praise from her clinical supervisors. Her experiences have solidified her passion for medicine and interest in pursuing medical school following graduation. Abigail's academic abilities and professional skills will enable her to continue to grow as a clinician as she enters medical school and becomes an outstanding clinician in her chosen field.

KATE NICOLE DE CASTRO – Outstanding Student in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Kate is a hardworking, dedicated leader who has demonstrated her commitment to becoming a scholar and leader in the field of occupational therapy. Kate is graduating from the Honors College and has made the Dean's List every semester during her time at Duquesne. She is also a member of Pi Theta Epsilon honor society, Phi Eta Sigma fraternity, and has earned multiple awards for her academic excellence and leadership.

In addition to performance at a high level in a very rigorous program, Kate has consistently taken steps to be a leader in practice scholarship. She was accepted into the program's research apprenticeship track where she has demonstrated her ability to take both initiative and direction. In this track, she has also shown to be flexible and easily adaptive as her ability to do research changed due to the pandemic. Kate has excellent written and oral communication skills which allows her to effectively communicate her knowledge to various audiences. She has presented her findings with Dr. Donoso Brown and has led the effort to submit a manuscript for publication to *Frontiers in Virtual Reality*, currently under review. Her ability to take initiative and lead this effort, at this point in the curriculum, is unparalleled and demonstrated her potential to be a valued scholar in occupation therapy.

Kate has dedicated herself to leadership and service congruent with the university's mission. She was co-president of the Student Occupational Therapy Association which has gained recognition for their significant accomplishments, including monthly guest speakers, partnering monthly with occupational therapy (OT) Journal Club, partnering with the Coalition of OT Advocates for Diversity, and participating in 15 separate service projects. Kate has also dedicated her time in service to others as a member of organizations like BestBuddies, Students for Autism Awareness, and as a student ambassador for the Occupational Therapy Department. In summary, Kate is a dedicated learner who takes initiative and has demonstrated active involvement in contributing to science during her time as a student at Duquesne. With these achievements, Kate is sure to continue scholarship and service at Duquesne and beyond.

TYRA JUDE ABDALLA – Outstanding Student in the Department of Physical Therapy. Tyra is a perfect example of the high standards of academic, clinical, and professional excellence that the Department of Physical Therapy strives for all graduates. Tyra has embodied the mission of her department, school, and university by using her knowledge and skills to help others. She has demonstrated outstanding skill and understanding of the various concepts of physical therapy as they pertain to the challenging curriculum that the Physical Therapy Program demands. She has excelled both in her academic pursuits at Duquesne and service to the community at large.

Tyra has used her knowledge and skills as a prospering healthcare provider to service on the Student Health Advisory Council. She has also devoted a great deal of her time at Duquesne to educating high school students about human anatomy through an interactive experience in the cadaver lab. Tyra also dedicated her time to serving as an instructor for Acing Autism, a program that offered opportunity for children on the Autism spectrum to participate in athletic activities to enhance fitness, coordination, and social skills. Tyra is also an accomplished athlete representing Duquesne University's Women's Tennis Team.

Tyra has prospered in working with patients with challenging disabilities associated with chronic pain, neurological deficits and pathologies, acute trauma, surgical intensive care, sports, and orthopedic injuries at her many clinical internships at Allegheny Health Network Wellness Pavilion, NovaCare Outpatient Physical Therapy, Washington Hospital, and Sports Medicine of Atlanta. Her clinical supervisors have commended her on her technical knowledge and interpersonal skills. Tyra's success in the classroom, clinic, and the greater community embody the mission of Duquesne University, the Rangos School of Health Sciences, and the Department of Physical Therapy. She is sure to make everyone proud with her excellence in physical therapy as she becomes a leading clinician in the field.

VICTORIA BEATRICE TEPE – Outstanding Student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Victoria has excelled academically throughout her time at Duquesne. She has had the ability to focus on her studies while also conducting and presenting research as an undergraduate at the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium. She was consistently on the Dean's List throughout her undergraduate years and is also a member of multiple honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Fraternity, and Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

Victoria has been involved in groups both on and off of Duquesne's campus. She has been a member of the Duquesne Physician Assistant Student Association (PASA) since 2016 when she organized fundraising activities supporting various organizations, such as the annual blood drive held at Duquesne University. She served as President of the PASA during her 4th year where she demonstrated admirable leadership qualities while still exceeding expectations in her classes.

Victoria has also dedicated her time volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and Jubilee's Soup Kitchen, as well as educating high school students during the Cadaver Lab Experience here at Duquesne.

Victoria showed her dedication to learning by shadowing multiple surgery departments before beginning her clinical internships. She has thrived in the professional phase of her education, receiving great praise from her clinical supervisors. Her first supervisor noted, "I have great confidence in Victoria's knowledge, skills, and professionalism even this early in her clinical training. Multiple patients and staff members could not believe this was her first in person rotation as she showed maturity above expectations." Victoria is the full package of intellect, service, and dedication. She is kind, respectful, and engaged with every person she encounters and she always brings positivity to any conversation, be it with fellow students, faculty, staff, or patients. Victoria embodies all qualities that the Rangos School of Health Sciences strives for and will continue to exemplify excellence after graduation.

LAUREN ALEXANDRA MOYER – Outstanding Student in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. Lauren is an embodiment of Duquesne's mission – she has been involved in research, community engagement, and service while maintaining a very high undergraduate and graduate GPA. She excels in all areas; academic, clinic, and research. Academically, Lauren's performance throughout the program has been exemplary. She is highly motivated, engaged, and a very active participant in the program.

As an undergraduate student in the program, Lauren helped pilot a program to support communication enrichment through movement, music, and literacy-based activities at Child's Way (part of Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Mario Lemieux Family Center). This developed into a project with faculty mentors which was then presented at the 2018 American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA) national convention. It was rated within the top 10% of student first authored posters, for which Lauren was awarded The PROGENY Award. Lauren has more recently participated in the "Let's Talk" Laryngectomy Support Group in February of 2021. Service to the Duquesne Community and the community at large has always been a priority for Lauren.

Lauren has served as President of the Duquesne Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association. She was also the SLP representative for Pi Kappa Epsilon National Service Sorority for three years. Lauren acted as a recording secretary for the Pi Kappa Epsilon Professional Health Science Fraternity for three years. She rounds out her leadership abilities and service to the community by participating in the BestBuddies Organization and serving on the SPIRIT program, which worked to establish a foundation for leadership roles on campus. Clinic supervisors have described Lauren as a self-starter, empathetic to her clients' needs, and an excellent clinician. One clinic supervisor commented, "Throughout all clinical interactions, Lauren has presented as a poised, confident, and engaged student clinician. She has demonstrated strong

professional verbal communication skills and behaviors.” Lauren has been an outstanding addition to the Speech-Language Pathology Program and will be an outstanding addition to the greater clinical field.

RSHS Dean’s Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching

DR. AMY MATTILA, PH.D., MBA, MS, OTR/L – Dr. Amy Mattila is categorized by her fellow faculty in the OT Department as an educator with a continued drive to expand her pedagogical craft. Dr. Mattila is a regular attendee at Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) events and retreats, Center for Community Engaged Teaching and Research (CETR) workshops and professional development related to teaching at national conferences.

Dr. Mattila’s SES scores are among the highest in the OT Department and above the RSHS and University averages. Dr. Mattila is described as an excellent communicator who can make complex material understandable for the students. Recently Dr. Mattila creatively re-designed the Clinical Reasoning Course sequence to integrate the use of simulation education via the Simucase platform. This provided a modern way to connect the clinic to the classroom and better develop clinical reasoning skills in the students. Dr. Mattila’s knowledge with simulation as a pedagogy allowed the OT Department to quickly pivot a planned face-to-face introductory fieldwork experience to be delivered in a simulated environment during the pandemic.

One of Dr. Mattila’s former students described her the perfect embodiment of Duquesne’s mission of serving students through a “liberal and professional education” and a “profound concern for moral and spiritual values”. This student also said Dr. Mattila’s “combination of personal and professional morals and ethics make her a true asset to the Duquesne community”. Dr. Mattila’s willingness to consult and share her knowledge freely with so many teaching colleagues across the nation and to create materials to post for others to access is extraordinary. These efforts are not new and reflect a pattern of excellence for Dr. Mattila.

RSHS Dean's Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarship

DR. ABIGAIL DELEHANTY, PH.D., CCC-SLP – Dr. Delehanty joined Duquesne in 2019 and has demonstrated a consistent pattern of scholarly excellence. Dr. Delehanty has published 7 peer-reviewed articles and has 3 articles currently under review. Dr. Delehanty has also published a book chapter and collaborated on an online translational non-peer-reviewed article highlighting the value of online training to detect autism early. This was especially timely given the shift to the increased use of telehealth and telemedicine during COVID-19.

Dr. Delehanty has also demonstrated a strong record of grant funding and is co-investigator on an NIH R21 grant. Dr. Delehanty's research has been published in top journals in Speech-Language Pathology as well as top interdisciplinary journals. The SLP Department has benefitted from Dr. Delehanty's dedicated mentorship of students in her scholarship activities and she has included students in presentations and in many aspects of her current research. Dr. Delehanty is helping to build a strong scholarship presence along with preparing students to be well equipped with clinical research skills at graduation.

DR. AHMAD KHANIJAHANI, PH.D., CPH, CHDA – Dr. Khanijahani joined the Rangos School of Health Sciences in the Department of Health Administration and Public Health in 2019. Dr. Khanijahani is a Certified Health Data Analyst and has been able to use his knowledge and experience with different statistical approaches, analytical methods and computer programs to conceptualize and design innovative and effective data-driven research studies. Dr. Khanijahani is focused on studying racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in COVID-19 infections and deaths. Dr. Khanijahani was the lead author on two peer reviewed articles related to measuring racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in COVID-19 cases and death.

Dr. Khanijahani also published an article that examined unmet health care needs among children of mothers exposed to violence. Dr. Khanijahani has applied for several internal and external funding opportunities including two external grants in child health through Health Resources and Services Administration as the Principal Investigator (PI) and a COVID-19 disparities grant for American Occupational Therapy Foundation as the Co-PI. Dr. Khanijahani aims for continuous research productivity and seeking external funding to conduct research and collaborate with other researchers at Duquesne and other institutions.

RSHS Dean's Award for Staff Excellence

MRS. SHELLEY LEECH, B.A. – Mrs. Shelley Leech serves as Clinical Contract Manager and provides an integral service to the Department Clinical Coordinators and students in Rangos. The Clinical Coordinators, described Mrs. Leech as being “the first person we call when in need of information about a new or existing affiliated site, and we are always greeted with friendly words and thoughtful, accurate information.” During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clinical Coordinators relied on Mrs. Leech to get quick turnaround on new contracts while researching what states were taking students and determining if there were additional health requirements for those students.

Mrs. Leech is described as being able to manage and multitask all of these many new time-sensitive responsibilities seamlessly. Mrs. Leech also manages the Kronos time keeping system and played a significant role in transitioning the RSHS from paper time sheets to this electronic record. Kronos was met with some hesitation in Rangos since it was a new platform for some of the staff, and Mrs. Leech has worked with any associate who had an issue with their time sheet while maintaining a positive and calming approach. Mrs. Leech is a team player, an asset to the School, and exemplifies Duquesne's mission of serving God by serving students.

In Memoriam

Anthony Bove was a student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies when he tragically passed away in February, 2020. Last spring, after a memorial service at the Chapel, Duquesne University awarded Anthony's parents his Bachelor of Health Sciences degree. Today, Anthony would have graduated with his friends and peers and been awarded his Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree. Anthony loved life, and he loved his life at Duquesne. Please join us in a moment of silence during today's ceremony to honor the memory of Anthony Bove.

John G. Rangos Sr. was the founding benefactor of the School of Health Sciences at Duquesne University. He passed away on July 21st at the age of 91 surrounded by his loving children. Mr. Rangos was an incredibly successful entrepreneur and a passionate philanthropist. His generosity was focused on advancing the medical sciences, supporting education, and improving quality of life for children and families throughout Western Pennsylvania and beyond. The impact of his humanitarianism is apparent throughout the city of Pittsburgh as evidenced by our Rangos School of Health Sciences, The Rangos Research Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Rangos Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, and The Rangos Giant Cinema at the Carnegie Science Center. His presence and his support touched hearts, saved lives, and truly made the world a better place. Please join us in a moment of silence during today's ceremony to honor the memory of Mr. John G. Rangos Sr.

Alma Mater

Alma Mater, old Duquesne, guide and friend of our youthful days.

We, thy sons and daughters all, our loyal voices raise.

*The hours we spent at thy Mother knee and drank of wisdom's store
shall e'er in mem'ry treasured be, tho' we roam the whole world o'er.*

Then forward ever, dear Alma Mater, o'er our hearts unrivaled reign.

Onward ever, old Alma Mater! All hail to thee, Duquesne!



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.