



ANNUAL REPORT **35TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION**

Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence in the Health Sciences.



**DUQUESNE
UNIVERSITY**

John G. Rangos, Sr.
School of Health Sciences

Health sciences school to open on Bluff

Tuesday, January 30, 1990
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(Front Page)

Duquesne starts new school

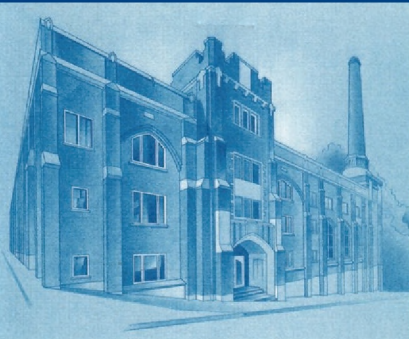
By Tom Barnes
Pittsburgh Courier Staff Writer

Duquesne University will establish a school of health sciences, its first new school in 33 years, and has hired an administrator from the University of Pittsburgh to head it. The new school, which will open in the fall of 1991, will train physical

students will study at Allegheny General Hospital, which is now the Western Pennsylvania campus for Medical College.

The School of Health Sciences is the ninth school to be created at Duquesne, and the first to be formed

"This school will graduate professionals who will provide



Renovated building to house new school

Health Sciences opens on schedule, classes Aug. 26

The first phase of the renovation of the new building to be used by the School of Health Sciences has been completed and classes will begin in the building on schedule, Dr. Jerome Martin, dean of the School of Health Sciences, said.

According to Martin, the building renovation began this past January and will be completed by October.

"The building has been totally refurbished. There is now 35,000 square feet of academic space. We have literally added a floor within the building," Martin said.

Martin said the building now contains eight teaching and research laboratories, two classrooms and faculty offices for all programs offered.

Martin said the school will be offering programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy, professional technology, athletic training, health records and physician assistance.



The old gym has been converted to the new Health Sciences Building.

DEDICATION OF
THE JOHN G. RANGOS, SR.
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
October * 18 * 1991





MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It is with great pride, deep gratitude, and a profound sense of purpose that I welcome you to this special 35th Anniversary Edition of the Annual Report for the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences.

This milestone year offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our journey, celebrate our accomplishments, and look ahead with confidence toward an even more impactful future. Over the past 35 years, the Rangos School has remained steadfast in its mission to educate an ethical, evidence-based healthcare workforce prepared to serve diverse communities and advance whole-person care.

It has been a true honor to serve as Dean for the past eight and a half years. I am deeply grateful for the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners who continue to shape the strength and reputation of our School. Together, we have built a vibrant, mission-driven academic community grounded in excellence, compassion, and service.

Founded through the visionary generosity of Mr. John G. Rangos, Sr., our School was established as an investment in people and purpose. That vision endures today through our graduates — purpose-driven professionals who bring healing, hope, and leadership to communities across Pittsburgh and around the world.

Today, the Rangos School stands as a nationally and globally recognized leader in health sciences education. Our six accredited programs and the Duquesne-China Health Institute continue to achieve outstanding outcomes, including exceptional licensure pass rates, strong employment success, and national recognition. These accomplishments reflect the quality of our students and the unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. They distinguish themselves through academic excellence, national awards, research presentations, and meaningful service. Through innovative curricula, immersive clinical experiences, and global engagement opportunities, we prepare graduates who are not only highly skilled, but also compassionate, culturally responsive, and ready to lead in a rapidly evolving healthcare environment.

Innovation continues to drive our momentum. We have expanded interdisciplinary programs, strengthened inclusive initiatives such as the COMPASS program, and advanced simulation-based and interprofessional education. Our research enterprise is growing, with faculty and students contributing to impactful scholarship that addresses pressing health challenges and promotes health equity.

Our commitment to service extends beyond campus through strong community partnerships and expanding global initiatives. From local underserved communities to international programs in Rome, Belize, Peru, and Tanzania, our students and faculty are making a meaningful difference while gaining invaluable real-world experience.

We are equally committed to expanding access and opportunity. Through initiatives such as the Rangos No-Loan Freshman Tuition Scholarships, we are reducing financial barriers and empowering talented students to pursue careers in the health professions.

As we look to the future, our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan and the development of a new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences Building—anticipated to open in Fall 2028—will further elevate our capacity for innovation, interprofessional collaboration, and community engagement.

None of our progress would be possible without the continued support of our alumni, partners, and donors. Their investment in our mission strengthens our ability to educate future healthcare leaders and extend our impact across communities worldwide.

As we celebrate this 35-year milestone, we do so with gratitude for our past, pride in our present, and great optimism for the future. Together, we will continue to advance our mission and prepare the next generation of health professionals to serve with excellence, compassion, and purpose.

Thank you for being part of the Rangos story.

With gratitude and pride,

Fevzi Akinci

Ph.D., MHA, FSAHP

Dean, John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences

ATHLETIC TRAINING

A Legacy of Clinical Excellence

Since its official launch in July 1992, the Athletic Training program has built a distinguished reputation for clinical rigor, professional preparation, and elite partnerships.

In February 1994, the program established a relationship with Pennsylvania Special Olympics — a partnership that continues to this day and reflects Duquesne's commitment to service and community engagement. Just one month later, in March 1994, the program developed a clinical affiliation with the Pittsburgh Steelers. That partnership remains active more than three decades later and stands as a testament to the program's credibility and quality.

Across its history, Athletic Training students have gained hands-on experience in diverse settings ranging from professional sports organizations to community-based clinical environments. The program's graduates have gone on to serve at the highest levels of professional athletics, including leadership roles such as:

- Head Athletic Trainer, Pittsburgh Steelers
- Vice President of Sports Medicine, Philadelphia Eagles
- Director of Sports Medicine, Tennessee Titans
- Director of Sports Medicine, Pittsburgh Pirates
- Performance Therapist/Athletic Trainer, Pittsburgh Penguins

These alumni accomplishments reflect the program's consistent emphasis on evidence-based practice, clinical excellence, and professional leadership.

Academic outcomes further demonstrate this strength. From 1994–2024, 352 of 357 graduates passed the Board of Certification examination — an extraordinary 98.5% pass rate that significantly exceeds national benchmarks and underscores the program's unwavering commitment to preparation and accountability.

In June 2024, the program marked another major milestone as the first cohort of the Master of Science in Athletic Training began classes, aligning with evolving professional standards and positioning graduates for continued advancement in sports medicine and performance care.

Over 35 years, Duquesne Athletic Training has grown from a promising new program to a nationally respected leader — defined by excellence, partnerships, and impact.



HEALTH, EXERCISE & APPLIED SCIENCE

Evolution, Innovation, and Workforce Leadership



The Department of Health, Exercise & Applied Science represents one of the most dynamic and forward-evolving units within the Rangos School.

In Fall 2020, the School launched two significant new programs: Health Sciences and Public Health. These additions responded to growing workforce demands and expanded pathways for students pursuing careers in healthcare, community health, and professional graduate education.

In 2023, 25 years after the original creation of the Department of Health Management, the undergraduate and graduate Health Management Systems programs transitioned into Health Administration programs. That same year, the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program secured initial accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) — a prestigious distinction that affirms academic quality, leadership preparation, and alignment with national standards.

The department has also prioritized global engagement. Beginning in 2022, faculty expanded study abroad opportunities within the Rangos School, leading immersive learning experiences in Peru, Guatemala, and Cuba. These programs provide students with exposure to global health systems, cultural competence development, and community-based service learning.

In 2022, the MHA program further strengthened its interdisciplinary reach through a partnership with the School of Business to offer a dual-degree MHA-MBA program, preparing graduates for executive leadership roles in healthcare systems.

International partnerships have continued to expand. In 2023, the Department of Health Administration & Public Health entered into an agreement with Kazakhstan to host international scholars through the Bolashak Program, reinforcing Duquesne's global presence.

In July 2024, the programs in Health Sciences, Health Administration, and Public Health formally merged to form the Department of Health, Exercise & Applied Science — a strategic alignment designed to strengthen collaboration, streamline operations, and create innovative educational pathways.

This department exemplifies adaptability, responsiveness to workforce needs, and a commitment to preparing graduates for leadership across healthcare, public health, and applied sciences.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

A National Leader in Dual Accreditation and Innovation

Duquesne Occupational Therapy has long been recognized as a pioneer in professional preparation.

The program was a trailblazer in establishing an entry-level master's program and later became one of the longest-running dually accredited entry-level Master's and Doctoral (OTD) programs in the nation. Today, Duquesne OT ranks in the top 10% of occupational therapy programs nationwide — a reflection of sustained excellence in curriculum, scholarship, and outcomes.

Faculty distinction further strengthens the program's national reputation. In the past five years alone, three faculty members have been named to the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows — one of the profession's highest honors recognizing excellence in research, education, and leadership.

The program continues to innovate in curricular offerings, expanding opportunities such as the Assistive Technology minor to enhance workforce readiness and equip students with advanced competencies in adaptive equipment, accessibility design, and emerging rehabilitation technologies.

Community engagement remains central to Duquesne OT's mission. Faculty member Meghan Blaskowitz served as a founding leader in establishing the COMPASS program, which supports students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This initiative reflects the program's deep commitment to inclusion, empowerment, and service.

Across 35 years, Occupational Therapy at Duquesne has remained at the forefront of educational innovation while maintaining its unwavering focus on client-centered care.

10%

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

Global Reach and Academic Innovation



The Physical Therapy program has distinguished itself through curricular innovation, global engagement, and facility advancement.

Beginning in 2022, the program launched and hosted the annual World Summit of Physical Therapy at the Duquesne University Rome Campus — an extraordinary international gathering that brings together practitioners, scholars, and students to explore advancements in rehabilitation science and clinical practice.

Academically, the program introduced a newly accelerated Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) curriculum, reducing total credit hours and program length while maintaining academic rigor and clinical depth. This redesign reflects responsiveness to evolving educational standards and student needs while preserving the program's commitment to excellence.

Facility advancement has also marked this period of growth. The program redesigned and developed a state-of-the-art anatomy laboratory in collaboration with the College of Medicine, enhancing shared learning opportunities and strengthening interdisciplinary education.

Through these advancements — global programming, curriculum innovation, and modernized facilities — Physical Therapy continues to elevate its reputation as a leader in rehabilitation education and practice.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Innovation and National Recognition



Duquesne was among the first Physician Assistant programs in the United States to offer a five-year, entry-level Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree integrating undergraduate and graduate education. This innovative model helped shape PA education nationally and reflects Duquesne's longstanding leadership in the field.

The program celebrated the graduation of its 1,000th graduate in August 2021 — a milestone representing decades of impact across hospitals, clinics, and community health systems.

Academic performance remains exceptional. The program consistently maintains first-time pass rates on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) that exceed national averages, demonstrating rigorous preparation and student readiness.

Faculty leadership further elevates the program's national presence. Duquesne PA faculty contribute to research, clinical guidelines, and national leadership roles within organizations such as the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and the American Academy of PAs (AAPA).

In 2023–2024, the program was ranked #46 nationally by U.S. News & World Report — climbing 47 spots in a single year, a powerful testament to its rising reputation and sustained excellence.

Over 35 years, Duquesne Physician Assistant Studies has remained defined by innovation, strong outcomes, and national recognition.

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SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Clinical Service and Global Engagement

Established in 1998, the Duquesne University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic integrates clinical, academic, and research excellence. Over its history, the clinic has provided more than 75,000 sessions to individuals throughout Western Pennsylvania experiencing communication, swallowing, and hearing disorders.

Philanthropic support has played a critical role in advancing the program's technology and reach. Early funding from the PNC Growing Up Great grant supported the launch of the clinic's video and audio system. More recently, donor support enabled the creation of the Duquesne Communicare Virtual Reality Center, enhancing both student education and client engagement through immersive, technology-driven therapeutic tools.

Global engagement has also expanded. Since 2023, students have participated in an annual study abroad experience in Punta Gorda, Belize. Initially designed for Speech-Language Pathology students

and expanded in 2025 to include Occupational Therapy students, the experience provides immersive clinical and community-based education in international settings.

Through service, technology, and global outreach, Speech-Language Pathology continues to expand its impact locally and internationally.



DUQUESNE-CHINA HEALTH INSTITUTE

A Global Bridge in Health Education

Since its inception in 2013, the Duquesne-China Health Institute (DCHI) has graduated 392 master's students. Of those graduates, 45 have advanced to Ph.D. programs worldwide — including 17 who pursued doctoral study in the United States. Notably, 11 of those students chose Duquesne's own Ph.D. in Health Sciences program, demonstrating the strength of academic integration.

The Institute has also hosted 196 undergraduate students from multiple Chinese universities through its highly successful Summer Program, offering academic coursework and cultural immersion experiences on Duquesne's campus.

In collaboration with the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Departments, DCHI has created pathways for continued study within the Rangos School. Two master's graduates have earned their OTD at Duquesne, and four have advanced into the DPT program.

Research productivity is another hallmark. Since 2020, DCHI alumni and students have produced and published 22 peer-reviewed manuscripts worldwide, reinforcing the program's commitment to scholarship and global knowledge exchange.

Over 12 years, the Duquesne-China Health Institute has become a powerful bridge between cultures, disciplines, and healthcare systems — embodying the Rangos School's mission on an international scale.



392

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A TRANSFORMATIONAL FUTURE

The New Health Sciences Building Opening Fall 2028

As the Rangos School of Health Sciences celebrates 35 years of preparing compassionate, practice-ready health professionals, it also prepares for its most transformative chapter yet: the opening of a new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences Building in Fall 2028.

This 80,000-square-foot facility will bring together the School's nationally recognized programs under one roof for the first time. Purposefully designed to support interprofessional education, innovation, and experiential learning, the building will feature advanced simulation environments, clinical laboratories, collaborative classrooms, research space, and expanded community-facing clinical services.

The new facility reflects both growth and vision. Over the past three decades, enrollment has expanded, new programs have launched, and partnerships have deepened across the region and around the world. The new building ensures that the Rangos School remains positioned to meet workforce demands in critical healthcare professions while elevating the student learning experience.

Strategically located along Forbes Avenue, the building will strengthen Duquesne's healthcare corridor and enhance opportunities for community engagement. Clinical spaces will allow programs such as Speech-Language Pathology and other disciplines to expand services to the public while offering students meaningful hands-on learning experiences.



The new Health Sciences Building is more than a physical structure — it represents a bold investment in the next 35 years of innovation, collaboration, and leadership in health sciences education.





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