Thoughts from the President

Community engagement has been central to Duquesne’s identity since our founding. The early Spiritan priests were determined to serve those in need—particularly the marginalized in society—providing educational opportunities to recent immigrants and their families, so they could elevate themselves and future generations. On the pages of this magazine, you’ll discover how the spirit of service remains at the heart of everything we do. The cover story highlights alumni and students—many pursuing degrees in one of the area’s longest-running public history graduate programs—who work with Rivers of Steel to preserve and promote our region’s rich industrial legacy. You’ll read of our deep commitment to the health and wellbeing of individuals in our city and region, through the launch of our College of Osteopathic Medicine, which recently received generous Congressional funding, and through our Fritzy Family Integrative Health Summit, which covered crucial issues like health equity, women’s health and healthy aging.

You’ll also see how our graduates continue the Duquesne tradition, using their hard-earned degrees to serve God by serving others, in keeping with our historic mission. Like Dick Letrent, class of 1958, who used his pharmacy degree to build Letrent Pharmacy in Bedford, Pa.—a pillar of that small town for more than 50 years. Our graduates go out into the community and “treat people the way you would treat your mother,” as Dick puts it. That kind of compassion is something we’re intent on instilling, in all of our academic offerings, and through everything we do here at Duquesne.

Our faculty are determined to connect students with the needs of others—like Dr. Rick McCown, Director of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership, whose students partner with Amachi Pittsburgh, a nonprofit that serves Allegheny County youth who experience parental incarceration. Or Dr. James Purdy, director of the Duquesne University Writing Center, who launched the Community Writing Center in the city’s Hill District neighborhood, which, among other things, has secured grant funding for Refuge for Women Pittsburgh, a nonprofit offering safe housing for women who have been victims of sex trafficking.

I hope you’ll be inspired by the stories of men and women who continue to advance our historic Spiritan mission. The members of our tight-knit Duquesne University community continue to lead the way with compassion and a deep commitment to changing lives in our city, our region, and around the world. In that way, our graduates continue to write the history of this special institution of higher education on the Bluff, just as our founders had envisioned.

Sincerely,

Ken Gormley
Duquesne University President
Last September, eminent physician and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Vonda Wright asked, in an editorial in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, “Pittsburgh is a powerful health care city, but are we a healthy city?”

Two days later, scores of people gathered in the Power Center ballroom, where floor-to-ceiling glass let physicians and students, pharmacists and nurses overlook Pittsburgh’s iconic vistas. They discussed how to answer Wright’s question with an emphatic yes.

A local and national figure in medicine, Wright gave the opening talk, setting the tone for a spirited three days of learning together during the first annual Fritzky Family Integrative Health Summit.

Supported by an endowment created by alums Ed and Karen Fritzky, the summit annually will convene thought leaders and healthcare experts across disciplines to discuss integrative health.

The 2022 summit featured sessions covering healthy aging, transforming models of care, health equity, music therapy and more led one attendee to note, “the [summit] challenged me personally, as a new faculty member and new to the community of Pittsburgh, to blossom were we are planted . . . ensuring that we are working towards better health and well-being for all, starting here in Pittsburgh.”

The professionals left energized, understanding that achieving lofty goals will take work. And it will take steady, sustained attention.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Steady, sustained attention describes the essence of a new role that alumnus Matthew Rozyczka, B’01, will play. Rozyczka stepped into the position of chief investment officer at Duquesne in early 2022. His role? Manage the roughly $550 million University endowment.

Duquesne’s endowment is an investment pool comprising hundreds of individual endowment funds earmarked for a variety of purposes. While each fund is distinct, they are commingled for investment purposes and managed similar to how a mutual fund is managed. Alumni, friends, corporations and charitable foundations contribute donations, with numerous gifts to the endowment occurring through the IGNITE campaign.

Duquesne's endowment will help thousands of people breathe easier, live longer, exercise more often, feel less stress and raise healthier families...

Many Healthy Returns

USING DUQUESNE’S ENDOWMENT TO BENEFIT STUDENTS—AND THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY WILL WORK

The endowment supports faculty chairs like the one held by Jennifer Padden Elliott. In her role as the Inaugural Fritzky Family Chair in Integrative Health, Elliott amplifies the University’s holistic health philosophy and advances the idea that the medical practitioner and patient are partners not only in healing but also in prevention and general wellbeing.
MEET MATT
How will the Fritzky Chair and its related health summit last so long?
Endowments have spending policies that dictate how much can be spent in a given year. Designed to balance the need to support operations with the goal of preserving purchasing power over time, the spending policy looks a lot like a retirement account—spend a little each year and keep the bulk of the invested money working for you.

But with the endowment growing rapidly in recent years, Duquesne reached a point where University leaders could make an advantageous move: replace the fee-based consultant with the new investment office Rozyczka leads.

“For a firm, your consultant may be working on a dozen different endowments,” Rozyczka said. “Being in-house, I look only at ours. A focus on long-term investment relationships and decisions matters most—and will accrue to Duquesne’s long-term benefit.”

For Rozyczka, knowing his work helps perpetuate the mission of the University sparks his enthusiasm.

The Fritzky Family Integrated Health Summit gave attendees important insight into the future of integrated health and the opportunities that lie ahead.

By its nature, the endowment operates as a perpetual pool of capital. As such, managing the endowment employs a diversified, global and equity-oriented approach. While Rozyczka’s goal is to support the University’s needs over time, the true potential of his work is perhaps best considered through the impact of the integrative health summit described above.

The Fritzky summit will recur annually, providing students and medical professionals ways to integrate their work and provide comprehensive health care to an array of people. The organizer, Jennifer Padden Elliott, is the Inaugural Fritzky Family Endowed Chair in Integrative Health. Longtime Duquesne supporters Ed and Karen Fritzky created an endowment that funds the chair and the summit. By endowing it, they intend that they last well into the future.

The real impact goes further. With some quick non-investment math, consider this: 165 people attended the first summit, of whom roughly 150 were headed into medicine or health professions. They each may go on to decades-long careers, seeing dozens of patients a week—the variables are many but the long tail suggests, in its way, the endowment will help thousands of people breathe easier, live longer, exercise more often, feel less stress and raise healthier families, among other benefits.
For the Letrents, Duquesne is a Family Affair

By Ken Walters

When Richard “Dick” Letrent, P’58, graduated from Duquesne in 1958, he had no idea how many times he and his wife Connie (Dzmura), P’58, would return to the Bluff. Five children and six grandchildren later, they still find themselves drawn to the University where their career paths started.

“We are all Duquesne proud,” said the 87-year-old Letrent, who retired in 2022 after operating his own pharmacy in Bedford, Pa., for 50 years. “We all received a great education there and met so many wonderful people along the way.”

The five Letrent children—Richard, A’82; Bill, A’83; Connie (Letrent) Lamb, P’87; Steve, P’91; and Mary, E’91; P’98—are all Duquesne alumni, and Michael Lamb, Connie’s son, is majoring in political science at the University.

The Letrent family (front L-R) Mary Letrent; Connie Letrent Lamb; Connie Letrent; (back L-R) Richard Letrent, P’58; Bill Letrent; Dick Letrent and Steve Letrent. All of them are Duquesne alumni.

COMMlITMENT TO FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

If you ask what brought them all to Duquesne, the senior Letrent will tell you it is the University’s commitment to faith, family and community played a major role.

“Duquesne’s tradition as a Catholic university was very important to us,” he said. “Faith has played an essential role in our lives, both personally and professionally. We feel very fortunate that all of our children are still practicing Catholics, and believe Duquesne helped reinforce that faith.”

The University also reinforced the value of hard work and strong character, he said.

“My freshman year, first week, I had a course with Dean (Hugh) Muldoon, who was the founding dean of the pharmacy school,” Letrent said. “He insisted we be professional, right down to the dress code. Ladies wear blouses up to the neck, men wear shirts and ties. He told us we could leave the class if we didn’t like his rules. But when it came time to take our state boards, we scored very well and were well prepared for a lifetime of practicing pharmacy.”

After earning his degree, Letrent began working for Ickes Drugstore in Bedford in 1958 before renting a small place and opening Letrent’s Pharmacy in 1972. His wife Connie, who finished second in her pharmacy class, worked as a pharmacist at the Bedford Memorial Hospital.

Letrent’s Pharmacy soon became a staple in the community—a place not only where people could pick up a prescription and receive professional advice, but also various sundries, pleasant conversations and a sense of community.

“I really miss my customers and employees,” Letrent said. “Even though it was time to retire, closing the store broke my heart. It’s very special when you get to know and serve four generations of a family by name. And we were so fortunate to have such wonderful and dedicated employees—some who worked with us for over 30 years.”

Creating that sort of professional and personal success was rooted early in Dick and Connie Letrent’s lives, in part thanks to lessons learned while students at Duquesne.

DRIVEN BY COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

“One thing I learned was that when you interact with people, you shouldn’t treat them the way you would want to be treated,” he said. “You should treat them the way you would want to treat your mother. I found that always worked.”

As a pharmacist in a small town, Letrent also knew that discretion would be an important part of the job. As a trusted medical professional, he understood the sanctity of the provider-patient relationship.

“Long before HIPAA laws, I would tell my employees that they might hear sensitive conversations in the pharmacy,” he said. “I told them that whatever they heard or saw in the pharmacy, it needed to stay in the pharmacy and never be discussed outside of it. It was important to have and maintain the trust of our patients.”

It was a strategy that worked for five decades and made Letrent’s Pharmacy a destination for Bedford citizens. The Bedford Gazette named Letrent’s the best pharmacy and pharmacist in Bedford County for three straight years (2020, 2021 and 2022). Dedicated to his community, Letrent also served as the mayor of Bedford for two terms and on the borough council for two years. When he retired, state and local legislators recognized him for his success in serving the Bedford community.

OPPORTUNITY BEGINS AT HOME

The strength of the Letrent family also powered the pharmacy’s success. Daughter Connie, who graduated summa cum laude from the School of Pharmacy, first worked with Thrift Drug and Phar-Mor Pharmacies to gain experience before joining the family business in 1993. She worked with her father for nearly 30 years and...
is now employed by Boswell Pharmacy Services in Jennerstown, Pa.
Daughter Mary actually earned two degrees from Duquesne before joining the family business. After receiving her degree in education in 1991, she returned to the Bluff to earn her pharmacy degree in 1998. Mary then became a fixture at Lettent's Pharmacy, working as a pharmacist while also establishing and managing the store's card shop until her passing in July 2020.

The Letrent-Duquesne legacy also goes far beyond Bedford in some interesting and fun ways. Richard, the oldest Letrent sibling, graduated with a journalism degree and went on to a successful career as a graphic designer. He also started the Sigma Nu fraternity chapter at Duquesne. Now living in Hamilton, N.J., he is a certified hot air balloon pilot who flies regularly in the Garden State.

After earning a Duquesne degree in psychology, son Bill moved on to Frostburg State University, where he received his master's degree in education with a focus on school counseling and guidance services. Since then, he’s enjoyed a distinguished 35-year career at West Virginia University Potomac State College in Keyser, W.Va., where he has served in a variety of key positions, including as dean of student life for 19 years. He is currently a grants administrator/writer at the college.

For son Steve, a bachelor of science degree from the School of Pharmacy was the foundation on which he pursued additional training for a career in clinical research and drug development. He completed Pharm.D training at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science in 1993 and a Ph.D. and fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. During his career, Steve led the development of several new therapeutics as a director of clinical research at Bristol-Myers Squibb and vice president of clinical development at Pfizer. At present, Steve heads up research and development for two biotech spinouts from UCLA and CalTech in California, focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for cancer.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES
Today, the Letrent legacy continues on the Bluff through grandson Michael Lamb, a junior majoring in political science with a pre-law certificate. Like his uncle Richard, he is a member of Sigma Nu on campus. Growing up, he remembers his entire family talking about their time at Duquesne—the academics, the friendships created, the community—and his attraction to the University was immediate on his first visit.

“I really liked the campus,” he said. “It’s close to the city but high on the hill, so you get the best of both worlds. It’s one of the only Catholic universities I considered, and I’m so happy to be here.”

“One thing I learned was that when you interact with people, you shouldn’t treat them the way you would want to be treated. You should treat them the way you would treat your mother. I found that always worked.”

Visit duq.edu/magazine to see a time-lapse of construction.

Building Anticipation

The proposed Duquesne College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) has already raised the bar, literally. On Oct. 31, students, staff, administration and construction partners gathered to sign the building’s symbolic roofing I-beam moments before it was lifted high into the Pittsburgh skyline.

It was a celebration of a milestone towards the school’s construction completion, and provided yet another moment of excited anticipation as the future continues to be built on Duquesne’s campus.

Progress on-site was clearly evident, while behind the scenes, momentum was bolstered by a $2.2 million investment, part of the $1.7 trillion omnibus funding package approved by the U.S. Congress. Congressman Mike Doyle (PA-District 18) spearheaded the COM’s inclusion in the funding proposal, which will result in the inaugural student class receiving portable, handheld ultrasound devices, an important tool when examining patients.

Slated for completion in 2024, the COM will combine the expertise of faculty and staff with cutting-edge technology and facilities in order to provide an experience that positions students to excel in their fields and impact their communities in life-changing ways.

Visit duq.edu/COMFunding to learn more about the recent investment.
Learning is the Measure of Teaching

By Gabrielle Payne

There may have been a time when teaching consisted of lecturing to rows of students who dutifully jotted down verbatim sentences of what they had heard. Today, the multifaceted role of a teacher has evolved to embrace the essence of education, understanding that a teacher’s most vital role is to empower students to become active creators of knowledge.

McCown believes that students are active vehicles of knowledge. “Doing the work alongside others is active vehicles of knowledge. ‘Human learning is miraculous,’” McCown says. “When students learn alongside others, they learn from each other, and that creates an environment of active learning.”

For McCown, harnessing educational curiosity and passion is the key to building leadership capacity. “If there’s a way for me to have a multiplying effect and facilitate learning in others, I always seek out those opportunities.”

EXPANDING HORIZONS

McCown says that learning alongside others has changed the way he understands and acts in the world. “For nearly a decade, McCown has devoted considerable effort to the Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, a collective group that aims to bring together victims, offenders and community members to promote understanding and awareness of social justice,” McCown says. “The group, founded by Duquesne Sociology Professor Dr. Norman Cootti, meets weekly via Zoom sessions and offers members the opportunity to hear new perspectives and engage in open discussions.

“The think tank is a marvelously diverse group,” says McCown. “We have members with over 200 years of lived incarcerated experience in that meeting. We have students, lawyers, professors, journalists, and other professionals. Behind each and every person, there is an entire network of activism. It has become a remarkable learning space.”

McCown believes that learning alongside others is the best way to understand the systems of our world that work effectively, and the ones that need to be improved.

“Dr. McCown can be summed up with the word gracious,” says doctorate student of Educational Leadership Casey Weiss. “His introduction of gracious leaders who create meaningful learning becomes generative of more learning. After we leave, we’re not taking the capacity away, we’re working with those we have yet to meet.”

AUTHENTIC COLLABORATION

In the Educational Leadership program, McCown and his cohort of doctoral students partner with nonprofit organizations to help improve the systems that influence their outcomes.

“Our leadership program is an approach to doing research on real systems that serve real people,” says McCown. “We’re not trying to create theory, we’re trying to improve outcomes for people. I teach my students that the best way to learn how to do this type of work, is to actually do this work.”

In Spring 2022, McCown’s class partnered with Amachi Pittsburgh, a nonprofit that serves Allegheny County youth who experience parental incarceration. Throughout the partnership, the leadership program’s cohort conducted research, collected data and, ultimately, used that information to generate deliverables to amplify the work of Amachi Pittsburgh, including its process for grantmaking.

“While completing my Educational Leadership doctorate, Dr. McCown was on my dissertation committee,” says 2019 Ed.D. doctoral student Dr. Marguerite Haldin. “He is the type of professor who listens first and speaks second. Without a doubt, Dr. McCown embodies Duquesne’s mission.”

McCown’s goal is to provide impactful educational experiences that allow students to become active creators and extenders of new knowledge.

“I wrote a book in 1993, and the first sentence was: ‘Learning is the measure of teaching.’ I still think it’s the best sentence I’ve ever written,” says McCown. “As educators, when we learn alongside our students, that learning becomes generative of more learning. After we leave, we’re not taking the capacity away, we’re empowering them to facilitate learning in others.”
Beyond Oompah

It's not every day you get to hear a tuba concerto. Of all the instruments in a contemporary symphony, the tuba is arguably the least well understood—at least for non-musicians. Even the most famous, Ralph Vaughan Williams' Concerto in F Minor for Bar Tuba and Orchestra, is not well known outside music aficionados.

Duquesne alum Todd Goodman, M’05, notes, “The tuba is really a graceful instrument and more than just some oom-pah-pah device.”

Goodman, the chief academic officer and resident composer at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, Pa., composes for tuba. And in February, the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra performed a program at the storied Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, in which they premiered Goodman’s “This Too Shall Pass: Concerto No. 2 for Tuba.”

In that grand space designed and built in 1895 specifically for music performance and appointed with red velvet seats and ornate carving across its pillars and balconies, audiences heard for the piece for first time—and were educated on what a tuba truly could do.

Under the direction of Daniel Meyer, the orchestra and soloist James Gourlay, performed the rolling and atmospheric piece that Goodman feels expresses “the angst, desperation and resilience” felt during the grimmest days when the COVID pandemic effectively stopped society—and music.

The sounds Gourlay drew from the tuba were at points as sonorous as a French horn, then rumbling almost tympanically, and at one point almost squeaking like an oboe. For audience members afterward was the special surprise of the conductor asking Goodman, who was in the audience, to stand.

The concerto had been commissioned by a consortium of 53 tubists, many of whom hailed from universities and ensembles around the world. Its premiere at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, in which they premiered Goodman’s “This Too Shall Pass: Concerto No. 2 for Tuba.”

The sounds Gourlay drew from the tuba were at points as sonorous as a French horn, then rumbling almost tympanically, and at one point almost squeaking like an oboe. For audience members afterward was the special surprise of the conductor asking Goodman, who was in the audience, to stand.

The concert had been commissioned by a consortium of 53 tubists, many of whom hailed from universities and ensembles around the world. Its premiere by the symphony orchestra of his alma mater was an astounding reflection of the moment that inspired the piece: that moment, indeed, had passed into something different, with applause rising to the domed ceiling in celebration of a new music in the world.

More about Goodman’s music and work can be found at WrongNoteMedia.com.

Helping Clinicians Become Nurse Educators

A recent grant from the Conway Innovation Challenge supports development of Duquesne University’s School of Nursing faculty residency program: Transition from Clinician to Faculty: A Residency for Aspiring Nursing Faculty. This project aims to address the serious shortage of nurses by increasing the number of high-quality nursing faculty.

“COVID was a huge driver for the present shortage, and for a lot of different reasons,” said Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow, dean of the School of Nursing and vice provost for research at Duquesne. “Through this grant, we hope to address that shortage by helping nurses make the transition from the clinical setting to teaching in the classroom and labs. By offering a horizon-expanding education, Duquesne can prepare these nurses, many with numerous years in the field, to educate and train the next generation of nursing students.”

Concerns about the dire nursing shortage have dominated the national conversation about health care delivery for years. Numerous causes have been identified, including the stress and resulting burnout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, poor working conditions and safety concerns.

Some specialties and parts of the country may feel shortages more acutely than others. “If current trends hold, 29 states will not be able to fill the demand for nursing talent, coming up almost 100,000 nurses short in the next five years,” states a 2021 report by Mercer, a professional services firm. The report also noted that some of the largest projected nursing shortages will occur in Pennsylvania.

McKinsey & Company predicted that by 2025, the country will be short 450,000 nurses, about 20 percent of the nursing workforce. Western Pennsylvania reported 9,800 vacant nursing positions in 2021, with the top two health systems in the area each reporting 31 percent vacancy rates, double pre-pandemic rates.

In 2021, over 90,000 qualified applicants for undergraduate or graduate nursing programs were turned away due to a lack of resources, and nursing schools reported that faculty shortages were the primary reason.

Nursing faculty vacancies are equally alarming, with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) showing more than 2,100 full-time faculty vacancies in 2022, and the number is expected to rise.

“This is a critical time for the nursing profession and health care in general,” Glasgow said. “For our clinical nursing alumni who may be thinking about pursuing a faculty role, the Conway grant offers a terrific opportunity to reach for bigger goals and use their current skills in a new and challenging way.”

The focus of the Conway challenge is to facilitate development of hybrid nursing faculty residency (INFR) programs to make them more accessible to recent graduates and current clinicians with the goal of increasing adjacent and clinical teachers who may move to full-time faculty roles after obtaining the education credentials.

The NFR initiative will create a mentorship program with nursing school faculty as mentors, provide state-of-the-art simulation training, and deliver instruction on curriculum development, classroom teaching, theory and clinical evaluation, among other skills.
Connections and Community
Beyond Campus Classrooms

By Elizabeth Shestak

When the Hill District’s first-ever community newsletter hit households last year, its six colorful pages included love poems, an archival history of the forming of the Macedonia FACE Active for Life Senior Center and a first-person narrative about a trip to Zimbabwe where the author attended a lunch with Nelson Mandela.

Without the newsletter, these stories would have remained untold, unshared, unknown by many, and this is precisely the kind of impact Dr. James Purdy had in mind when he applied for the John G. Rangos Sr. Prize grant.

“As I’ve worked at writing centers over the years, one thing that I’ve noticed is they’re very centered within the higher education community on helping students and writers at the university level succeed,” said Purdy, director of the Duquesne University Writing Center. “But what seemed to be missing for me was the fact that this is work that could be really useful in the larger community.”

The Community Writing Center was first funded by an NEH Endowment grant provided by the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, but Purdy needed additional funds to keep it going.

In 2019 he first applied for the annual Rangos Prize, which seeks to enhance current student and faculty curriculum. From that grant, the Community Writing Center, the public-facing arm of the University Writing Center, was born. Subsequent Rangos Prize grants have kept it going.

The impact has been incredible.

COMMUNITY IMPACT
To date, the Community Writing Center has worked on projects that involve securing grants for Refuge for Women Pittsburgh, a nonprofit offering safe housing for women who have been sexually trafficked, working with children in afterschool settings on everything from elementary...
homework to college and job applications; and counseling area high schools as they establish their own writing centers, such as the one that exists now at Woodland Hills Senior High School in Churchill, Pa.

“Dr. Purdy is the reason I started a peer staffed writing center at my high school this year,” said Lisa Silverman, M.A.T., chair of the English Department at Woodland Hills and Duquesne graduate. “He has been incredibly generous with his time and expertise while I have gotten this project off the ground. He welcomed me into his Writing Center sessions with his tutors to teach me the ropes last year and I adapted his work to a high school model.”

At a school like Woodland Hills, students often have family obligations or constraints after school hours, be it jobs to support their households or needing to watch younger siblings while parents work. Having writing support available during the school day is a game-changer for the kids who need it, Silverman said, and the Writing Center’s assistance with that has been essential.

While the Rangos Prize does not stipulate a community engagement focus, many of the recipients’ projects ultimately impact the community in many ways.

UNITING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND MISSION

“Community engagement is a high-impact learning experience for our students,” said Dr. Darlene Weaver, who oversees the Rangos Prize as associate provost for Engagement.

For Professor Norm Conti, Duquesne sociology professor whose work with incarcerated populations via the Elsniore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice also won Rangos Prize funding, the Writing Center has been essential. The think tank has partnered with Writing Center staff to edit the manuscripts of formerly incarcerated authors to support their households or needing to watch younger family obligations or constraints after school hours, be it jobs to support their households or needing to watch younger siblings while parents work. Having writing support available during the school day is a game-changer for the kids who need it, Silverman said, and the Writing Center’s assistance with that has been essential.

While the Rangos Prize does not stipulate a community engagement focus, many of the recipients’ projects ultimately impact the community in many ways.

LEARNING TOGETHER

“There’s something about teaching that is scary in the aspect of getting in front of a group of strangers and talking to them,” said Kaylin Black, Duquesne senior and Writing Center staffer. “But there’s something about making a connection one-on-one with a person, even if it’s in a half-hour session. I like to ask at the end of my sessions ‘How are you feeling? Are we feeling good with the assignment? Are you still confused? Did this session help you?’ I’m always like, please, like give me the blunt honest truth—if it didn’t help you, let me know so I can do better next time.”

Black will graduate from Duquesne in May 2023 with a dual degree, earning a B.A. in English and a B.A.Ed. in Secondary English Education while also obtaining an equity certificate.

When Purdy hears that the Writing Center is resulting in change, he isn’t surprised. “I was ready to graduate high school and enter the workforce, but after seeing the economic conditions my community has gone through and continues to go through, I know that my journey had to be different.”

LaPorte first enrolled at Community College of Allegheny County before transferring to Duquesne as a double major in information systems and technology and supply chain management.

U pon graduating high school, Roberto Laporte, B’22, decided that instead of waiting for opportunity to knock, he would build his own door. The recent Palumbo-Doraubue School of Business graduate grew up in a small, rural town in Ohio. A once-booming coal industry hub, his hometown now grappled with economic challenges and finding a sustainable future beyond mining.

Although LaPorte felt an eagerness to experience the world outside of his small town, it was also the place he felt most comfortable and at ease.

“I initially, I had not even considered going to college,” LaPorte said. “I was ready to graduate high school and enter the workforce, but after seeing the economic conditions my community has gone through and continues to go through, I know that my journey had to be different.”

LaPorte said it became clear to him that the knowledge he hoped would give him a new and clearer vantage point would require him to move away from his small town. As the oldest of many siblings and one of the first in his family to go to college, he knew this was a big decision, but one that he wholeheartedly believed was a valuable investment for his future.

“I’m someone who wanted to seek opportunity, and with that, I knew I needed to go on to higher education,” LaPorte said. “I was ready to create a new life for myself.”

LaPorte moved to Pittsburgh to pursue this new path—a path that he hoped would lead him back to his hometown one day to help revitalize the economy.

“My goal is that the skills and knowledge I’ve gained from my business education and my workforce experience will one day lead me back to my hometown to help those in my community.”

Visit duq.edu/magazine to hear Laporte’s thoughts on transferring to DU.
Imagine you’re a student athlete listening to a prominent alum who’s been a global leader in the tech world tell his story—and then suddenly you’re holding a pair of customized Duquesne Beats. That was the scene when Matthew Costello, B’95, visited in the fall to talk about the place he calls home. Costello vividly describes his connection to campus as one that is not easily quantifiable, but is instead full of challenge, support and emotion. “There’s a warmness to Duquesne,” said Costello, “a feeling I don’t even really know how to express but is extremely important to my experience. It’s different than other places, and I don’t even think you realize it until you’re gone—and then you come back, and you really see and feel it.”

Costello, vice president, hardware engineering and operations at Apple and the chief operating officer of Beats by Dr. Dre, elaborated on this feeling of home to an electric UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse filled with current Duquesne student-athletes on Oct. 10. Within the short moments it took for Costello to take center court, he had already captivated the crowd—some students hurriedly getting out notebooks and pens to take down his anticipated advice, and others scrambling to get a seat where they could engage in the Q&A session soon to come. The event held pockets of life-changing impact, paired with a surprise, unbeknownst to the students in the stands. “Mr. Costello was as informative as he was friendly and relatable,” said Connor Barrett, a current student-athlete, a senior studying sociology. “He was able to translate key factors that helped him become so successful to fit the business world we will graduate into today, but what made Mr. Costello so easy to listen to was in the way he paid homage to Duquesne. It was clear his true heart and purpose were on display because of his connection to us as Duquesne student-athletes.”

Costello, a former student-athlete himself, shared anecdotes about how his time at Duquesne expanded his horizons, while his involvement on campus helped shape his professional success. He shared stories of risks, moments in which his core values were shaped, and insight as to why Duquesne holds so much meaning to him. Costello’s passionate desire to give back to the Duquesne community was tangibly understood by the student-athletes in the crowd when he showcased a pair of custom Duquesne Beats that would soon be distributed to everyone present. “The event itself was a surprise and a very nice way to get to know a Duquesne University alum who has not only had success, but also shared with us how he got there, including the good and the bad times in his career and life,” said women’s basketball student-athlete Kaitlyn Ammons, a sophomore studying history. “Matthew was so kind when I talked to him one-on-one after the event. With this being my first year at Duquesne, he helped me understand why alums appreciate their time here so much and how successful the Duquesne alumni community is.”

The energy in the arena was at an extreme high that extended throughout the remainder of the semester. Now, several months later, student-athletes can be seen with their Duquesne Beats on display, whether working in the Gilland Academic Center, traveling to an away game or on Academic Walk—but the impact stems far beyond the physical reminder of Costello’s visit. Costello inspired many to dig within, leaving students with newfound motivation to discover their own potential for bigger goals. “It was a pretty emotional time,” said Costello, who after reflecting on the event, noted the impact the event had on himself as well. “To think, 12 years later of involvement, to see the impact the Beats brand had on these kids, it was just awesome. It is so inspiring for me.”

DIG WITHIN:
ALUM MATTHEW COSTELLO SHARES EXPERIENCE AND DUQUESNE-THEMED INSPIRATION WITH STUDENTS
Preserving Pittsburgh’s Past

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI HELP RIVERS OF STEEL PRESERVE THE REGION’S INDUSTRIAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

By Amanda Dabbs

For her internship with Rivers of Steel, Carrie Hadley, A’15, worked with museum collections at the Bost Building in Homestead and assisted with events at the Carrie Blast Furnaces. One of her jobs was to make sure people didn’t climb up into the furnaces! “It was the beginning of my collections career, which is what I do now at the History Center, so I remember this internship fondly. I had a general knowledge of the steel and labor industries in Pittsburgh, but my Rivers of Steel internship really opened my eyes to the region’s industrial life,” comments Hadley.

For the past 25 years, over 30 Duquesne students—many of them pursuing master’s degrees in public history—have interned at Rivers of Steel, a nonprofit showcasing the artistry and innovation of southwestern Pennsylvania through programs and attractions. Eight of these interns went on to land full-time positions with the organization.

One of those former interns is Ron Baraff, A’99, director of historic resources and facilities and intern supervisor. Baraff oversees Rivers of Steel’s preservation and historic interpretation efforts, including its museum and archives programs, unique preservation projects and national historic landmark sites. These sites include the Carrie Blast Furnaces, the Pump House, the Bost Building and the W.A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop.

“Rivers of Steel’s mission is to preserve, interpret and promote the region’s rich industrial legacy. What happened here on a technological, capital, cultural and social level during the 19th and 20th centuries changed the world. I am proud to help preserve that legacy for current and future generations.” explains Baraff. Rivers of Steel President and CEO Augie Carlino remarks that as a Duquesne graduate, Baraff immediately understood the value of Rivers of Steel’s partnership with the University.

“Rivers of Steel internship really opened my eyes to the region’s industrial life.”

“Rivers of Steel internship really opened my eyes to the region’s industrial life.”

“I am proud to help preserve that legacy for current and future generations.”

Rivers of Steel President and CEO Augie Carlino remarks that as a Duquesne graduate, Baraff immediately understood the value of Rivers of Steel’s partnership with the University. “He worked hard to develop a relationship that benefits both organizations and the students. His continued involvement with Duquesne University has other potential projects in the development stages that I hope will become a reality,” says Carlino.

Carlino adds, “Rivers of Steel’s work relies upon partnerships that can come together to accomplish projects that benefit Pittsburgh and the southwestern Pennsylvania region.”

Ryan Henderson, A’16, interpretive specialist and grant writer for Rivers of Steel, says, “Rivers of Steel was able to secure the resources to complete the Carrie Blast Furnaces project thanks to an initiative with Duquesne University and the Heinz History Center. These relationships continue to be an invaluable part of our mission.”
writer for Rivers of Steel, explains that the organization fills a historic niche that doesn’t exist elsewhere in the region. “We look the closest at Pittsburgh’s industrial history and are at the forefront of trying to collect, preserve and make publicly accessible the legacy that people most closely associate with the region,” notes Henderson.

IMPACTFUL INTERNSHIPS
Duquesne Master of Arts in public history student Keen Owen, A’23, is currently interning in the Museum and Archives division at Rivers of Steel. His work includes historic preservation and interpretive efforts at the organization’s historic sites, maintaining a public archive and developing exhibits for various museums.

“It is an honor to be one of Rivers of Steel’s archival interns this spring. Rivers of Steel has done a tremendous amount of work preserving the industrial and labor history of Pittsburgh and the Monongahela Valley,” says White.

For Baraff, the top benefit of collaborating with Duquesne is that Rivers of Steel staff gets to impart their experiences and knowledge to the next generation of public historians. “It has always been an honor for me to host Duquesne interns,” he remarks.

PREPARED TO PRESERVE
Duquesne has one of the longest-running public history graduate programs in the region. “We offer coursework designed to teach critical thinking, research and writing skills while encouraging students to gain internship experience in museums and museum education, historic preservation, digital humanities, oral history, and collections and archival management,” says Simpson.

“I am gaining valuable first-hand experience and learning about the variety of archival practices...”

“It’s been a pleasure working with Rivers of Steel to tell the story of our region’s history while also helping Duquesne students gain meaningful, practical preparation for a career in history and public history.”

Henderson enjoyed the program’s major focus on useful skills and best practices for working at museums, archives and historic sites. “Background knowledge without the skills isn’t particularly useful in the real world, but Duquesne did a great job at exposing us to both, in the classroom and through internships with established historic institutions all over the city,” explains Henderson.

For Masa, Duquesne’s public history graduate program was the perfect next step toward achieving his goal of pursuing a Ph.D. in history. “My undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Carnegie Mellon, while extremely useful in its own way, did not equip me with the primary research writing necessary in applying to most history Ph.D. programs that Duquesne did. On top of that, Duquesne is the alma mater of both of my parents and several other relatives, so it seemed like a natural fit,” says Masa.

“I wrote about the people who made everything run on a day-to-day basis: the workers! Their unions, ethnic and religious backgrounds and local communities were all aspects of their identities,” Masa explained.

CURATING CAREER CONNECTIONS
As associate professor of history and internship coordinator Drew Simpson, Ph.D., connects his students and their interests with Rivers of Steel’s organizational needs. “It’s been a pleasure working with Rivers of Steel to tell the story of our region’s history while also helping Duquesne students gain meaningful, practical preparation for a career in history and public history,” says Simpson.

Duquesne University archivist and curator of special collections for the Cumbergh Library Thomas-White also frequently encourages students to intern at Rivers of Steel. “Ron Baraff and his associates are always working on interesting preservation and community-based projects. Rivers of Steel has done a tremendous amount of work preserving the industrial and labor history of Pittsburgh and the Monongahela Valley,” says White.

For Baraff, the top benefit of collaborating with Duquesne is that Rivers of Steel staff gets to impart their experiences and knowledge to the next generation of public historians. “It has always been an honor for me to host Duquesne interns,” he remarks.
since March 1, 2022, the Spiritans in Poland have been receiving women and children from Ukraine who have been forced to leave their homes and their country because of the cruelty of war. Some have managed to return to Ukraine while others are finding their place in Poland. Children and young people are attending schools and kindergartens and many have found jobs to earn a little to cover some of their expenses.


The Spiritans have managed to organize two humanitarian convoys carrying food, medicine and other items to Bucha, Irpin, Borysianki and surrounding villages of the Kiev region. The convoys highlight the tragedy of war and the incredible gratitude of the Ukrainian people.

McEachin shared with President Ken Gormley the message of thanks from Myslinki, along with these photos that showed stoves purchased with donated funds from Duquesne and some of the food delivered in the second convoy. The Spiritan mission in action of helping those most in need demonstrates truly that equity and opportunity can begin at home.
Aside from selling her own brand of eyelashes to vendors, Philibert was able to utilize the maker space to expand her brand into merchandising.

Her success and increase in clientele led her to partner up with Brianna Maenz, a former client, to open up a salon Downtown.

“She is literally my low-key inspiration. I wish I had done that at her age,” Maenz said. “I really appreciate her and I just love our dynamic. We really feed off of each other. I have ideas, she has ideas, and we just work together. It’s the best. We’re business partners but we can also be besties.”

Philibert’s work ethic stems from her upbringing.

“I’m originally from New York City; if you’re familiar with that city, it’s a hostile city. I didn’t come from much, you know. I have a great family support system and all that good stuff but nobody’s been to college,” said Philibert. Philibert also credits her mother.

“We came from humble beginnings. My mom was a really hard worker. It was just natural. When I started school I worked at Cold Stone. I worked crazy hours. I would pull 96 hour weeks.”

On Friday during the Black Student Union’s annual Black Expo, Philibert debuted another retail venture. Aside from selling her own brand of eyelashes to vendors, Philibert was able to utilize the maker space to expand her brand into merchandising, offering black tote bags thata said “Lashes that just make sense.” Shoppers could pick from a variety of colors for the lettering.

“I went to the maker space, and every night after class or clients, I made 37 bags. The goal was 48 but I couldn’t get to all of them. I was too tired. I actually made my own money back and some profit. ... It was a really pleasant surprise” Philibert said.

She still finds time to participate in organizations on campus. She is a member of the BSU, and the co-president of the Duquesne entrepreneur council.

“Iasis is an amazing businesswoman who truly is inspirational to everyone including members of the Black Student Union. It truly is not easy running a Black-owned business, but to also be a college student while doing that. Isis has mine and BSU’s respect” said BSU President Lindsay Harris. ♦
Finding the Spirit on a Walk: Leaning in to the Mission of Duquesne

On Sept. 27, Sean Tierney, A’05, E’05, a beloved math instructor in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, shared heartfelt remarks about the Spiritans, Duquesne’s founding order, at the annual Heritage Week Luncheon. At the conclusion of his keynote, he was surprised with the Faculty Collaborator of the Year Award from the Division of Student Life. His words to a packed room reflected what so many on campus and throughout our broader Duquesne community know about the ways the Spiritans’ ideas shape the daily work we do with students.

“Note, this address was edited for length

For over 25 years I have had a personal history and relationship with the Spiritans. How do I convey all those experiences, conversations, lessons learned? Faced with that task, I did what I often do when challenged with such a task—I took a walk.

My original motivation was exercise, but I quickly realized the psychological, emotional and interpersonal benefits. What started as a “hello” or “good morning” have become opportunities to give hugs, to talk of family and friends and more.

My walks start when my wife Audrey and I leave the parking garage for her office in the Administration Building; and end when I walk into my office in College Hall where I often talk with students.

It’s an opportunity to walk with—physically and metaphorically—many members of our community. That lesson of walking with others is so fundamentally Spiritan.

It is a lesson I was first taught as a first-year high school student at Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bensalem, Pa. Students were often given the opportunity to interact with the Spiritans. The Holy Ghost Fathers were our mentors and taught us valuable life lessons.

Father Norm Bevan would come to have an immeasurable impact on my life. When I told him that I wanted to be a teacher, he called it “a noble profession,” and one tied closely to the Spiritan mission. Norm encouraged me to consider the priesthood. He also introduced me to Duquesne and Pittsburgh. Upon my visit, I fell in love with our campus and the people. It motivated me to pursue my undergraduate study here.

Shortly into my first year I met the beautiful, smart and hardworking Audrey Innocenti and started to think that the priesthood wasn’t my calling. That didn’t change my love for the Spiritans and their mission.

Audrey and I quickly became active in Campus Ministry, leading retreats and student groups, serving as readers and ministers at Mass and singing in the chapel choir. Father Raymond French, C.S.Sp., married us in the chapel 15 years ago and he still stops to chat with us as we walk across campus.

When I called Father Norm to tell him about Audrey, he was shocked at her beauty and intelligence. Audrey works as the director of alumni programming in the Office of Alumni Engagement. Both Sean and Audrey embrace the Duquesne mission of serving God by serving others.

My duty as a faculty member is to convey to students that this is not one-sided—it is collaborative. We learn from one another, because teachers and students forge partnerships; and like any partnership, it requires effort. Educating the person means striving to show students that they matter … because they do.

After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I offered “Open Chat” Zoom sessions—a half-hour, once a week, where students could sign on and talk to someone who wasn’t their roommate, friend or family. I was shocked at how many popped on throughout the semester.

It’s been five semesters and I still offer it every Wednesday. This is only effective if students feel comfortable enough to ask questions, to come visit, to send those emails.

To me, the word “Spiritan” is synonymous with “community” and “collaboration.” I’m going to keep walking because it’s part of my journey and a place where I can meet people on theirs.

I never could have imagined that taking that first walk 25 years ago around Holy Ghost Prep would load me to the love of my life, wonderful colleagues and a job that is meaningful and allows me to make a difference, even in small ways.

But perhaps that is the most significant lesson to be learned from the Holy Ghost Fathers and their actions: the importance of being open to the Spirit, whatever that may bring. 

Sean Tierney, A’05, E’05, met his wife, Audrey A’05, GB’20, on campus as they each pursued their undergraduate degrees. Audrey works as the director of alumni programming in the Office of Alumni Engagement. Both Sean and Audrey embrace the Duquesne mission of serving God by serving others.
FROM FESTIVE CAMPUS EVENTS TO NEWSWORTHY HAPPENINGS, THE DUQUESNE SPIRIT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

DU students showed off their cooking skills on Pittsburgh Today Live ahead of the 8th annual “Chopped” competition held on campus.

Female student-athletes celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day by teaching skills to the next generation of athletes.

It’s hard to find enough good things to say and the right words because he’s an outstanding young man.

Duquesne coach Jerry Schmitt speaking about player Ayden Garnes’ donation of bone marrow to a young woman battling blood cancer.

It was a busy day on campus for Pitt’s Amy Bunger, vice president and chief academic officer at St. Clair Health, commenting on a recently established partnership with Duquesne University’s proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Duquesne coach Jerry Schmitt speaking about player Ayden Garnes’ donation of bone marrow to a young woman battling blood cancer.

Two organizations with distinct Pittsburgh identities that contribute to the local community in a similar way are joining forces to take action now, so together we can cooperatively champion our region’s future health care providers.

Amy Banger, vice president and chief academic officer at St. Clair Health, commenting on a recently established partnership with Duquesne University’s proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

To welcome students back and wish them well for the spring semester, President Gormley once again hosted his “Donuts with the President” event at Hogan Dining Center and the Union.

As Duquesne continues lift-off with its Ignite campaign, what better venue to host an alumni gathering than the U.S. Space Force at Cape Canaveral?

In early March, surrounded by aircraft and rockets suited for the upper stratosphere, Duquesne alumni and friends gathered with President Ken Gormley and his wife, Laura, along with Jim Miller, senior vice president of advancement, and the alumni engagement team to talk about exciting initiatives and bigger goals for the University and our students.

As Duquesne continues lift-off with its Ignite campaign, what better venue to host an alumni gathering than the U.S. Space Force at Cape Canaveral?

The Cape Canaveral gathering, hosted by alum Shawn Welbeck, GA’17, who serves as director of operations at the Space Force, capped a four-city swing in Florida that included events in Naples, Sarasota and Clearwater (in conjunction with the Carol Carfang, N’73, Nursing & Health care Ethics Conference)—and came just weeks after an event in St. Louis.

As Duquesne continues lift-off with its Ignite campaign, what better venue to host an alumni gathering than the U.S. Space Force at Cape Canaveral?

The Naples Bay Club event was hosted by Nannette Starepnú, A’87 (center, next to Laura Gormley), who established the Starepnú Family Term Scholarship and Family Endowed Scholarship for Duquesne students.

Among the Naples attendees were Brian, B’82, and Lisa Sullivan (above right), who generously established the Sullivan Co-Investment Fund in Entrepreneurial Finance and the John J. Sullivan Endowed Scholarship at the School of Business. Brian serves on the University Board of Directors, where he chairs the enrollment management committee.

The Naples Bay Club event was hosted by Nannette Starepnú, A’87 (center, next to Laura Gormley), who established the Starepnú Family Term Scholarship and Family Endowed Scholarship for Duquesne students.

Such alumni events happen regularly throughout the year, igniting interest and forging the connections that create Duquesne’s future. Be sure to attend when Duquesne brings an event to your area!

Deep in the heart of Texas this spring break, students on Duquesne University’s Spiritan Campus Ministry Mission Experience worked in the multicultural parish ministry at St. Benedict the Abbott Catholic Community in South Houston.

Deep in the heart of Texas this spring break, students on Duquesne University’s Spiritan Campus Ministry Mission Experience worked in the multicultural parish ministry at St. Benedict the Abbott Catholic Community in South Houston.
Duquesne University’s 8th annual Day of Giving was a success! Members of the campus community—alumni, families, faculty and staff, and friends—came together and generously gave over $638,500. Through these donations, virtually every area of campus was touched. Donors chose to enhance the student experience by giving to schools, scholarships, athletic teams, student organizations and much more.

To learn more and see a list of our donors, visit duq.edu/dayofgiving.

By the Numbers

1,619 total gifts
made by our alumni and friends

$638,500+
raised
to support Duquesne students

Thank You!

Save the date for the 9th annual Duquesne Day of Giving on Feb. 7, 2024.

Regardless of the day, you can make an impact on students on the Bluff. Scan the QR code to make a gift, in any amount, to your favorite area of campus.
A PAIR OF MILESTONES

Women’s basketball coach Dan Burt and men’s head coach Keith Dambrot both reached impressive milestones during the 2022-2023 season. Burt, who just completed his 10th season at Duquesne, became the program’s all-time wins leader when the Dukes defeated Vermont on Dec. 10.

Dambrot, who just completed his sixth season on the Bluff, put a cap on his 25th season overall when he notched win No. 500 on Feb. 8 vs. George Mason. Dambrot became just the 27th active Division I coach to reach the 500-win plateau.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Over 150 former student-athletes and friends of the program gathered to celebrate Duquesne’s 50th anniversary of women’s basketball on Jan. 28 at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. University President Ken Gormley, former player Amy Irvin (Alger), current player Amaya Hamilton and head coach Dan Burt all spoke at the Friday night reception. The weekend concluded with the 50th Anniversary Celebration Game vs. Massachusetts on Sunday afternoon.

Over 150 people attended the 50th anniversary of Duquesne Women’s Basketball celebration on Jan. 28.

WATCH SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:
PEIRCE FAMILY MAKES TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT TO SUPPORT DYSELEXIA EDUCATION

The Peirce Family Foundation has given nearly $9 million to support and extend programs at both Duquesne and Robert Morris University that focus on literacy education, with a special emphasis on dyslexia and related reading disabilities. Announced during National Dyslexia Awareness Month in October, the gift is the largest ever made in Pennsylvania by individuals to prepare teachers to help those with dyslexia, and among the largest gifts of such a focus ever made in the United States.

Of the total gift, Duquesne received $4.47 million to establish the Bob and Joan Peirce Center for Dyslexia Education and Support in the School of Education. The Peirces’ gift extends for a decade their long-running philanthropic support of reading clinics, where hundreds of children have strengthened their ability to read. The Peirce Family Scholarships at Duquesne enable teachers from elementary and secondary schools throughout the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh to pursue master of science degrees in reading and literacy education, incurring no tuition expenses in the process. Three cohorts of the Peirce Scholars already have started or earned degrees under the program.

Read more at duq.edu/PeirceGift

DUQUESNE ANNOUNCES NEW STUDENT APARTMENT BUILDING

A new 11-story, 556-bed student apartment building will be constructed on Forbes Avenue as the result of a public-private partnership between Duquesne University, Harrison Street and Radnor Property group. The 216-unit project will feature amenity spaces, bicycle parking, a fitness area and outdoor courtyards accessible to residents, Duquesne students and the greater community. Construction on the project began with site work in early January 2023.

“We are excited to be able to offer an additional vibrant living and learning environment in which our upper-year and graduate students will continue to build a sense of community,” said Duquesne University President Ken Gormley. This project will also enable us to complete the enhancements and beautification of the Forbes Avenue corridor in 2024.”

The project is anticipating a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating.

Read more at duq.edu/NewStudentApartments

President Gormley’s New Book Adds Objective, Historical View of Trump Presidency

One of the first books to examine the Trump presidency through a neutral historical lens after its conclusion was published by author, constitutional/presidential scholar and Duquesne president Ken Gormley.

Of the original The Presidents and the Constitution book, iconic journalist and award-winning author Bob Woodward wrote: “Ken Gormley has connected the Constitutional dots brilliantly, demonstrating the immense concentration of power in the chief executive and the different, often contradictory, ways it has been used or misused. The book is a class in Constitutional Law all by itself.”

Gormley’s original volume (published in 2016) features contributions by some of the nation’s leading historians and presidential scholars, and includes a chapter on every president from George Washington to Barack Obama. The new paperback, released in 2022, includes a chapter on the colorful yet controversial Trump presidency. Written by Gormley, attorney Joy McNally and political scientist Dr. Joseph DiSarro, the Trump chapter tackles the daunting task of placing the Trump presidency into a broader historical context.

Read more: duq.edu/GormleyBook

duq.edu | 37
in the new senior vice president of ATLAS (Addiction Treatment Locator, Assessment and Standards) platform.


Jeannine Christie, H’99, OH’00, has been named regional director of Therapy Services for Aveanna Health care in the Florida region. Christie is a graduate of the speech-language pathology program and currently resides in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Daniel J. Capuzzi, RP’00, GP’07, is staff pharmacist for Rita Aid in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Frank Kasie, Jr., L’01, of the Pittsburgh firm Meyer, Unkovic and Scott, was recently recognized by the 2022 edition of “Best Lawyers in America.”

Gianni Floro, A’94, GS’95, L’00, was elected to membership of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Alameda County, one of the highest honors for a civil-litigator who demonstrates profound excellence and professionalism in their practice.

Dr. Lila (Oreda) Kopler, M’94, joined Shatterproof, a national nonprofit focused on transforming addiction treatment, ending stigma and supporting communities. She welcomed their first child, a son named Nathan Donnell, on June 15, 2022.


In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following alumni and friends who recently passed away. This list is provided through Duquesne’s Alumni Engagement Services office and includes deaths reported to us between July 18, 2022 and Jan. 23, 2023. If you have information about an alumnus or friend who is not listed, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at (412) 396-6209 or alumnionline@duq.edu.

Robert D. Bildstein, B’53, died on July 26, 2022, in Cleveland, Ohio. Retiring from Dow at age 67, he went back to school in the 2020s and digital content strategies. He is credited with spurring cultural change among Chrysler’s dealer networks, focusing on customer satisfaction. He established the Pappert/Chrysler Minority Dealers’ Scholarship at Duquesne University and the University of Puerto Rico. Mihm was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 1985.

E. Thomas Pappert, B’51, of Bloomingfield Hills, Mich., passed away on Aug. 28, 2022, at age 82. Pappert joined Chrysler Corporation in 1962 as a sales trainee and retired as the company’s vice president for U.S. automotive sales in 1998. His 38-year tenure as vice president spanned Chrysler’s resurgence under CEO Lee Iacocca, including the introduction of the minivan and the acquisition of the iconic Jeep brand. Pappert is credited with spurring cultural change among Chrysler’s dealer networks, focusing on customer satisfaction. He established the Pappert/Chrysler Minority Dealers’ Scholarship at Duquesne and the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Innovation in the Music School. Pappert was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 1997 and the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1999.

Robert L. Wintermyer, Ph.D, GA’08, passed away on Jan. 11, 2023, in Akron, Ohio. After receiving his doctorate in chemistry, Wintermyer served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After leaving the service, he taught high school biology and chemistry before joining Dow Chemical first as a research chemist involved with developing household products including Saran Wrap and Styrofoam; later as a global intellectual assets manager. Retiring from Dow at age 67 he went back to school and began a new career as a practicing physician assistant and a full faculty member at Central Michigan University. Wintermyer made annual financial contributions to Duquesne for nearly 50 years and endowed a scholarship for science students. He was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 2019.

Rhonda J. Donahue passed away Dec. 12, 2022, in Naples, Fla. at age 97. A Pittsburgh native, daughter of Duquesne alumnus William Jacob Jackson, L’1935 and 54th Mount of Mercy College (now Carlow University), Rhonda married West Point graduate and Air Force veteran John F. “Jack” Donahue that same year, forging a bond that endured for 70 years until Jack’s passing in 2021. Jack built one of the world’s preeminent financial companies, Federated Investors, and together they raised 13 children. In 2020, Rhonda was one of the first three benefactors to make seven-figure gift commitments to Duquesne’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM). Her interest in fertility awareness, a personal passion rooted in her Catholic faith, inspired an academic center that will be housed in the COM.

Martin C. Mihm, Jr., M.D., A’55, died July 19, 2022, in Boston, Mass. at age 88. After earning his degree in political science at Duquesne, Mihm completed medical studies at the University of Pittsburgh and later earned a master’s degree in education at Harvard. An internationally recognized expert on malignant melanoma, Mihm was director of the Melanoma Program at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and associate director of the Dana-Farber/Boston Women’s Center for Melanoma Oncology. He also held adjunct faculty positions at Albany Medical College, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Vanderbilt University and the University of Puerto Rico. Mihm was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 1985.

Tara Zurcher, D’22, , and her husband Ryan welcomed daughter Raya Rose on Oct. 3, 2022.

Tara Zurcher, D’22, and her husband Ryan welcomed daughter Raya Rose on Oct. 3, 2022.

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following alumni and friends who recently passed away. This list is provided through Duquesne’s Alumni Engagement Services office and includes deaths reported to us between July 18, 2022 and Jan. 23, 2023. If you have information about an alumnus or friend who is not listed, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at (412) 396-6209 or alumnionline@duq.edu.

Deceased Alumni from July 18, 2022–Jan. 23, 2023:


Robert C. Bildstein, B’53, died on July 26, 2022, in Cleveland, Ohio. Retiring from Dow at age 67, he went back to school and began a new career as a practicing physician assistant and a full faculty member at Central Michigan University. Wintermyer made annual financial contributions to Duquesne for nearly 50 years and endowed a scholarship for science students. He was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 2019.

Robert L. Wintermyer, Ph.D, GA’08, passed away on Jan. 11, 2023, in Akron, Ohio. After receiving his doctorate in chemistry, Wintermyer served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After leaving the service, he taught high school biology and chemistry before joining Dow Chemical first as a research chemist involved with developing household products including Saran Wrap and Styrofoam; later as a global intellectual assets manager. Retiring from Dow at age 67 he went back to school and began a new career as a practicing physician assistant and a full faculty member at Central Michigan University. Wintermyer made annual financial contributions to Duquesne for nearly 50 years and endowed a scholarship for science students. He was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Alumni in 2019.
### Deceased Friends from July 18, 2022 – Jan. 23, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer L. Levine, A'03</td>
<td>Leslie H. Squires, Esq, L'03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis A. DelSignore, A'18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In Memoriam

**Gilbert J. Zinére, B'50** passed away on Sept. 10, 2022, in Indiana, Pa., at age 84. As a teenager, Zinére worked at a local pharmacy in his hometown of Arnold, Pa., and was moved to pursue his bachelor’s degree in the field at Duquesne, where he met his future wife Joan (Raimondo) Zinére, B'50. After working as a manager for the Thrift Drug chain, he and Joan purchased Diamond Drug in Indiana in 1970. They soon acquired other stores in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and pioneered a new specialty, filling prescriptions in bulk for nursing homes and correctional facilities across the country. Under their leadership, Diamond became the nation’s largest family-owned pharmacy. Gilbert and Joan were inducted into the century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni together in 2015.

**John T. Prezioso, B'52**, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., died Oct. 27, 2022, at age 93. Prezioso also served on the board of directors of the Audia Express in 1978. A lifelong fan and supporter of Duquesne, John T. Prezioso, B'52, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., died Oct. 27, 2022, in Indiana, Pa., at age 84. As a teenager, Zilner worked at a local pharmacy in his hometown of Arnold, Pa., and was moved to pursue his bachelor’s degree in the field at Duquesne, where he met his future wife Joan (Raimondo) Zilner, P'60. After working as a manager for the Thrift Drug chain, he and Joan purchased Diamond Drug in Indiana in 1970. They soon acquired other stores in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and pioneered a new specialty, filling prescriptions in bulk for nursing homes and correctional facilities across the country. Under their leadership, Diamond became the nation’s largest family-owned pharmacy. Gilbert and Joan were inducted into the century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni together in 2015.

**Gilbert J. Zinére, B'50** passed away on Sept. 10, 2022, in Indiana, Pa., at age 84. As a teenager, Zinére worked at a local pharmacy in his hometown of Arnold, Pa., and was moved to pursue his bachelor’s degree in the field at Duquesne, where he met his future wife Joan (Raimondo) Zinére, B'50. After working as a manager for the Thrift Drug chain, he and Joan purchased Diamond Drug in Indiana in 1970. They soon acquired other stores in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and pioneered a new specialty, filling prescriptions in bulk for nursing homes and correctional facilities across the country. Under their leadership, Diamond became the nation’s largest family-owned pharmacy. Gilbert and Joan were inducted into the century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni together in 2015.

**John T. Prezioso, B'52**, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., died Oct. 27, 2022, at age 93. Prezioso also served on the board of directors of the Audia Express in 1978. A lifelong fan and supporter of Duquesne, John T. Prezioso, B'52, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., died Oct. 27, 2022, in Indiana, Pa., at age 84. As a teenager, Zilner worked at a local pharmacy in his hometown of Arnold, Pa., and was moved to pursue his bachelor’s degree in the field at Duquesne, where he met his future wife Joan (Raimondo) Zilner, P'60. After working as a manager for the Thrift Drug chain, he and Joan purchased Diamond Drug in Indiana in 1970. They soon acquired other stores in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and pioneered a new specialty, filling prescriptions in bulk for nursing homes and correctional facilities across the country. Under their leadership, Diamond became the nation’s largest family-owned pharmacy. Gilbert and Joan were inducted into the century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni together in 2015.
Do you know a high-school sophomore, junior or senior who is ready for BIGGER GOALS?

At Duquesne it’s our joy to help students dig into what they’re good at and discover why it’s good for the world.

As an alum, are you ready to pay forward the trust, patience and sense of possibility that you gained at Duquesne?

REFER A STUDENT.

We promise our students a horizon-expanding education that’s exactly what they need and more than they could have ever imagined.

Contact us at admissions@duq.edu to get your student started. Be sure to include Student Referral in the subject line. Or, call us at 412-396-6222 to speak to an admissions rep or schedule a visit to campus.