

Duquesne

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

Continuing to Champion Duquesne

KEN GORMLEY TO STEP
DOWN IN 2026 AND ASSUME
ROLE OF CHANCELLOR



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Each morning, as I drive onto campus, I'm struck by the sight of Duquesne University's stately red-brick Old Main—once the tallest point on Pittsburgh's skyline. It serves as a daily reminder of the profound, transformational impact Duquesne has had on the lives of countless individuals and families for nearly 150 years. I'm both humbled and proud to continue advancing that mission today.

While our Spiritan founders focused primarily on creating opportunities for people in Pittsburgh and this region alongside our three rivers, Duquesne now reaches globally, with students who represent all 50 states and more than 85 countries—and alumni who reside in 113 different nations.

As this magazine's cover announces, I will transition from my role as president in 2026 and take on the role of university chancellor. It's astonishing to reflect on my 30-year-plus journey at Duquesne—as a professor, dean and now as president. I'm filled with gratitude and enthusiasm as I look forward to supporting the university's ongoing growth and positive momentum, contributing in new and exciting ways in my role as chancellor.

Within these pages, you'll find stories that capture the energy and momentum shaping Duquesne today. From students pursuing their passions to alumni excelling in their professions, this community's spirit is truly inspiring. Among these features is a spotlight on our new Board Chair, Diane S. Hupp. Diane answered her personal calling to nursing, earning both undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees here at Duquesne. Today, she leads with compassion and dedication as president of UPMC Children's Hospital, while also guiding her alma mater toward new heights.

This issue also celebrates three milestone anniversaries: 100 years of our School of Pharmacy, the *Duquesne Duke* student newspaper and our iconic red ring. These milestones reflect the rich history and legacy that Duquesne continues to build upon.

I am immensely proud of this university, which provides unparalleled opportunities for students to become leaders in every field imaginable. I've been privileged to witness the life-changing impact of a Duquesne education—and I look forward to seeing new generations of students and graduates write the next chapter of that amazing history. ♦

Sincerely,

Ken Gormley
Duquesne University President



AS YOU READ...

...you will see the icons below on many stories. They reflect the imperatives of the University, in anticipation of its 150th Anniversary in 2028, in the newly re-imagined *Strategic Plan: Vision 150*. The stories told here show how the plan is alive and vital, often reflecting more than one imperative. To learn more about our progress, visit duq.edu/strategicplan.

Five Strategic Imperatives

- Re-Imagine the Student Experience for 21st Century Success
- Become a Flagship for Community Engagement
- Be a Leader in Interdisciplinary Programs
- Create a Vibrant Campus Community
- Encourage Entrepreneurial Spirit



Duquesne President Ken Gormley to Step Down in 2026

and assume role of chancellor

In March, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley informed the University's Board of Directors that he intends to step down as President on July 1, 2026, at which time he will have served 10 years at the helm of the University. The Board asked Gormley to remain as Chancellor of the University, and he agreed to serve in that role.

"President Gormley has amassed a remarkable record of accomplishments during his decade as President and his 30 years at the University," said Board Chair Diane S. Hupp, N '87, GN '95. "Ken's leadership and vision have allowed Duquesne's reputation as a national Catholic university to soar during his time in office. We're grateful that he's agreed to serve in the chancellor role after he steps down as president next year, allowing a seamless transition while utilizing his talents to continue Duquesne's positive momentum."

Gormley, who turned 70 in March, stated that he has no plans to slow down.

"I still feel like I'm 30 years old, but the number of candles on my birthday cake keeps growing," he said. "It's important to create a smooth transition plan for new leadership to excel, if

**"His legacy is
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we're going to make sure the successes of the past decade continue. It's not enough to look one year ahead at a time—I believe in creating 10- and 30-year plans. My wife, Laura, and I

felt this was perfect timing to begin a thoughtful transition."

Gormley added that he was extremely pleased that the Board has asked him to stay on as Chancellor, a role that has been bestowed on several prominent past presidents, including John E. Murray, Jr. (in 2001) and Fr. Henry J. McNulty (in 1980). Hupp said Gormley "will work in close association with the new President in maintaining and cultivating relationships with key alumni, foundation leaders, community leaders, government officials and others, while also working on special projects."

Gormley also plans to continue his scholarly interest in constitutional law and presidential history, with a goal of working on a new book project.

John "Jack" McGinley, Jr., L '68, Board Chair Emeritus, worked closely with Gormley from 2017 until McGinley rotated off the Board. "This is a win-win for the University, Ken is a rare academic leader who has boundless energy but also takes a





long view,” said McGinley. “His legacy is already cemented in Duquesne’s history. Some alums call it a ‘Golden Age of Duquesne.’ Ken is a natural fit for the role of Chancellor, so that he can continue to assist in the upward trajectory of the University.”

“Ken Gormley has provided strong and steady leadership guiding Duquesne securely into the future as its 13th President,” said the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, E ’71, GE ’82, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. “As a proud alumnus, I offer him both my congratulations for this significant recognition and gratitude for his outstanding forward leadership.”

“The Spiritan congregation is heartened that Ken and the Board are paving the way for a leadership transition in such a thoughtful and strategic way,” said Fr. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp., U.S. Spiritan Provincial. “Ken has consistently uplifted the Spiritan mission and tradition of Duquesne. It’s reassuring that his deep commitment

“Ken has consistently uplifted the Spiritan mission and tradition of Duquesne.”

to serving God by serving our students will continue, in new ways, for years to come.”

As President, Gormley has made his mark in dramatic ways. In an ambitious move that reflected the bigger goals of his administration, Gormley launched the largest capital campaign in University history—titled “IGNITE”—with a goal of raising \$333 million. Fundraising during Gormley’s tenure shattered all records and in February, the University announced IGNITE had

exceeded its goal nearly a half-year before the campaign’s July 1 endpoint—hitting an unprecedented \$335 million mark. Gormley then announced that the IGNITE campaign would continue in full force until July 1.

High on the list of Gormley’s successes was launching the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which welcomed its first cohort of students in July 2024. Even during the COVID pandemic, Gormley led the drive among foundation leaders, the Board and alumni to raise funds to get the project off the ground. With a focus on producing primary care doctors to fill an urgent need in society, including in underserved urban and rural areas, the opening of the medical school fulfilled a dream of the Spiritan founders, who had tried unsuccessfully to open a medical school as early as 1910. Gormley stated at the ribbon-cutting of the new school in January 2024: “It may have taken us 114 years, but we got the job done.”

Gormley also secured the largest



WHAT IS A CHANCELLOR?

Duquesne has had several Chancellors in its history. Most recently, two past presidents—Fr. Henry J. McAnulty (in 1980) and John E. Murray, Jr. (in 2001)—have been asked by the Board to stay on in this role. The Chancellor works in close association with the University’s President and helps to maintain and develop relationships with key alumni, foundation leaders, government officials and the like—while also working on special projects and programs determined by the President in consultation with the Board Chair. Given President Gormley’s vast array of connections throughout the region, as well as on campus, the position will be a significant resource for the new President to utilize as that individual builds upon the great legacy of the University.



gift commitment in University history—\$50 million from alumnus and prominent attorney Tom Kline, L ’77, of Philadelphia. The commitment led to the renaming of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, an infusion of funds for student scholarships and faculty grants and a major renovation of the law school building—as well as a steady rise in that school’s rankings.

In athletics, Gormley worked alongside Athletic Director Dave Harper and the Board to undertake a major renovation of the now-named UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, a tribute to Chuck Cooper, who starred for the Dukes in the late 1940s and became the first Black player drafted by the NBA (the Boston Celtics) in 1950. Gormley also backed the hiring of new men’s basketball coach Keith Dambrot in 2017. This paid off, with the Dukes’ men’s basketball team winning the A-10 Championship in 2024 for the first time in 47 years and then winning the first round of the NCAA

tournament against Brigham Young University.

Gormley’s trademark has been prioritizing the best interests of students. His ever-present appearance at student activities and his fun-loving engagement with them—hosting annual events like “Pancakes with the President” on Academic Walk before final exams, “Tea & Honey Jam” in the fall and “Donuts with the President” in the spring—have made enthusiastic student interaction a hallmark of his presidency. Gormley also built a new Center for Career Development for students at the top of the Union; elevated the international and study abroad programs in Rome, Dublin and other locations; and stayed connected with students by teaching his popular course Presidents and the Constitution to undergrads each spring in the law school, in conjunction with Kristen Coopie, teaching professor of political science.

On the academic front, Gormley has brought to life a steady stream of

innovative programs and initiatives. These have included creating the Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law in conjunction with the Hillman Foundation; the Doherty Yoder Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism and Media; the Center for Emerging and Innovative Media; the August Wilson House Fellowships, courtesy of the Nancy Jones Beard Foundation; popular Rangos Prizes for faculty and student innovation; the Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success in the School of Business; the Bob and Lou Mallet Centers for innovation in the Business School; Eugene P. Beard Presidential Prizes for innovation and distinction; the Ed and Karen Fritzky Chair in Integrative Health; the Shear Family Foundation project supporting the Center for Integrative Health and research dealing with childhood asthma; the Peirce Family Foundation program for training teachers of children with dyslexia; the Thomas R.

“It’s not enough to look one year ahead at a time—I believe in creating 10- and 30-year plans.”

Kline Center for Judicial Education; and a successful pre-law program and certificate; the construction of McGinley Hall on Forbes Avenue; renaming the School of Science and Engineering in 2023, adding a suite of new engineering programs and the inaugural Costello Family Endowed Chair in Engineering.

Gormley began his career at Duquesne as a law professor in 1994 and quickly established himself as a highly respected Constitutional scholar, in Pennsylvania and nationally. He authored the leading treatise on the Pennsylvania Constitution and in 1997 published *Archibald Cox: Conscience of a Nation*, (Perseus Books), the authorized biography of one of the leading lawyers and public servants of the 20th century.

In 2010, Gormley became a best-selling author, bursting into national prominence when he published *The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr*, (Crown), a *New York Times* bestseller chronicling the scandals that nearly destroyed the Clinton presidency. Gormley received a 2011 Silver Gavel Award (Honorable Mention) from the American Bar Association as well as critical acclaim in publications including the *New York Times Book Review* (Editor’s Choice), *The Washington Post Book World* (a top 20 non-fiction book of the year), *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlantic* and dozens of others.

His emergence nationally coincided with his time serving as Dean of what is now the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. Although Gormley took the reins of the School at a time when law school enrollments nationally were in rapid decline, during his eight years as Dean, Gormley led a transformation that elevated the School to national prominence. He dramatically enhanced faculty scholarship; placed renewed emphasis on teaching excellence; built the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education on

Fifth Avenue to give students hands-on experience while directly serving the community; developed a highly successful bar preparation program; and caused the School’s national ranking to soar.

Gormley’s most recent non-fiction book, *The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History*, was published by NYU Press in 2016, and likewise received national acclaim. He continues to teach Presidents and the Constitution to undergraduates.

Gormley has appeared on NBC’s *Today Show*, *Morning Joe*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, NPR’s *Fresh Air*, and hundreds of television and radio shows in the United States and worldwide.

In 2021, Gormley published his first novel, *The Heiress of Pittsburgh* (Sunbury Press)—part legal thriller and part love letter to his hometown—which earned praise from renowned authors including Scott Turow and John Edgar Wideman, and Pittsburgh notables including Franco Harris and Art Rooney, II. Royalties from the book have been donated by Gormley and his wife, Laura, to a fund at Duquesne for students interested in pursuing creative writing.

Gormley has also written opinion pieces for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Politico*, *Yahoo News* and numerous other publications.

He and Laura have been married for 38 years, and still live in the same house in Forest Hills they purchased shortly after they were married. Three of their four children now hold degrees from Duquesne, and two of them met their spouses there and were married in the Duquesne Chapel—making Gormley the first President in Duquesne’s history to have children attend the University or wed there. ♦

THE SEARCH IS ON!

To ensure a seamless transition and keep momentum going, the University’s Board of Directors has started a national search for Duquesne’s next President. The successes under President Gormley’s leadership position Duquesne extremely well to attract a person who will build on the many outstanding accomplishments he and the campus community have achieved together.

University bylaws place the responsibility to evaluate and select the new President with the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Board, Diane S. Hupp, is leading the search committee and is being aided by the search firm of DSG/Storbeck. They have an excellent track record in bringing senior talent to Duquesne over the years.

A committee composed of Board members, faculty and University leadership will conduct the search process, with the Board itself making the final decision after considering input from the committee.

Mirroring the process the University followed during its last presidential search 10 years ago, work by the search firm started this spring, gathering input from a variety of constituents within the University community, including students, faculty and staff. The timing puts the committee in a good position to interview candidates at the start of the fall semester (in a confidential process pursuant to past practice) and hopefully announce a selection by early November.



Everyday Miracles

Some early mornings, behind Old Main toward the edge of the Bluff, you might see a person walking out of the Lourdes Grotto, hands in pockets if the breeze is up—often still thinking.

In the mid-1980s, one of those figures might have been Diane S. Hupp, N’87, GN’95. Now the Chair of Duquesne’s Board of Directors, when she’s back on campus Hupp still visits the grotto for its serenity high above the tumult of downtown.

“It was one of my favorite places,” Hupp recalls. “I’d go there to pray—it was popular for that. Sometimes you’d see somebody, so you’d wait to take your turn when they were done.”

Hupp is President of UPMC Children’s Hospital. Its multicolored building is a landmark in Lawrenceville, with its exterior of whimsical textures and saturated hues a nod to the imagination of the children it serves. Her desk view extends to the Allegheny, over Bloomfield and down to the city’s iconic skyline, the ridge of Mount Washington a distant stage curtain.

Ironically, the one thing she *can’t* see from her desk, no matter how she’s craned her neck, is her alma mater. The shoulder of Polish Hill obscures Duquesne from view.

But it’s never far from her mind.

DISCOVERING HER WAY

Hupp started in business. “I wasn’t sure—I liked computers and data, and I thought I might do that.” Then, in her second year, she got a calling—a moment she describes in almost mystical terms.

“I know how it sounds,” she says. “*Really, Diane?* But I remember vividly, sitting in my room on the 14th floor of Towers. My roommate had left for the weekend. And it just felt like something from above, just this realization: I was called to be a nurse.”

She was always impressed when she saw the nursing students wearing their crisp white uniforms on campus. And when the call came, she heard it.

“I decided to volunteer and one day I took the bus up Fifth Avenue to volunteer here,”—she says, gesturing at the room—“I started in the playrooms, working with kids as a volunteer and then, a year later, hired as a child care assistant.”

She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing and nursing administration, respectively, at Duquesne, and never stopped working with kids. Over more than 30 years, Hupp built a career first as a nurse, then as a leader of nurses, before taking charge of the entire hospital. During that time, she also got to know every facet of the operation.



BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

“Thousands of people work here in hundreds of departments,” she says. “I keep aware of what’s happening throughout the large organization.”

She takes pride in knowing people and the operation, something earned over many years.

“Growing up here, people know me, they know they can reach out,” she says. “I’m rounding a lot, talking with folks.”

Her professional knowledge also leads her to advocate for the field.

“My role is a nurse at heart,” she says. “I love being a nurse. Great nurses need a great mind. And they need a heart—compassion. And they need spirit. You see a lot of tragedy here, but you also see a lot of extraordinary recoveries.”

Commitment to her profession and to Duquesne led her to serve on the committee that hired Dean Mary Ellen Glasgow in 2012. Hupp was then chief nurse at UPMC Children’s, hiring regularly to meet growing demand.

“I remember looking at her and saying, ‘Mary Ellen, we have got to get those NCLEX pass rates up,’” Hupp says, of the nursing licensure examination numbers. “Everybody hiring nurses looks at those. I knew Duquesne nurses were great but, at the time, those numbers had to improve.” Hupp pauses and nods. “And she did it. ‘Duquesne’s NCLEX numbers make it one of the best university nursing programs in the city now.’”

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Hupp is the second of four kids born to her parents within six years. Her parents were local fixtures in their South Hills community and the kids grew up close. Hupp remains close with her mom, siblings and with two adoring nieces and a nephew.

“My dad, a Duquesne alum, always said to us, ‘You can apply to ANY university—but you are all going to Duquesne!’” Sure enough, she and her three siblings are all Dukes. The family all know Fr. Sean Hogan, C.S.Sp., who Hupp says is “a gem.”

Whatever challenges or issues she confronts in the challenging work of leading a hospital, it’s work that matters.

“Everyday miracles happen here,” she says with a huge grin. “It is a privilege to care for these children and families.” ♦



Spanning the Globe

By Amanda Dabbs

“While the stories I heard and historic sites I visited were incredibly impactful and enlightening to me as a history buff, my absolute favorite memories were the fun excursions I had with my friends.”

As Tommy DeMauro, A’23, GA’25, flew across the Atlantic Ocean for the first time last summer to study abroad in Poland, he set the tone for his trip by listening to The Divine Comedy, a chamber pop group from Northern Ireland fronted by Neil Hannon.

“I found their *Liberation*, *Casanova*, *Absent Friends* and *Victory for the Common Muse* albums to be the perfect companions for my trip. It’s hard to put into words, but the songs on these albums felt European, perhaps a result of their orchestral and baroque-inspired instrumental sound,” said the English and public history two-time alumnus.

During his trip, DeMauro toured concentration and extermination camps, as well as former Jewish ghettos and synagogues, while learning from world-class historians about Jewish life in Poland prior to and during World War II.

“I’m an aspiring historian, so this was a trip I will never forget and an experience that has broadened my understanding of global history. The stories I heard and the historic sites I visited were incredibly impactful and enlightening to me as a history buff, but my absolute favorite memories were the fun excursions I had with my friends,” said DeMauro.

DISCOVERING WHAT THEY’RE GOOD AT—AND WHY THAT’S GOOD FOR THE WORLD

Just like DeMauro, many Duquesne students will study abroad and engage in field experience this summer, collectively covering various parts of the world. Some students will be situated along the beaches of Australia, Belize and Costa Rica, while others will be staying in the heart of historic towns across Cuba, Italy, Spain, Germany and more—all of them gaining horizon-expanding experiences to reach their bigger goals.

Cuba is the destination for speech-language pathology major Gwendolyn Sobkowiak, HS’27, who will be spending the summer shadowing health care professionals at local clinics and hospitals in the island country.

“This trip is helping me pursue my dream of becoming a bilingual speech pathologist. I will have the opportunity to practice speaking Spanish in clinical and casual settings while experiencing Cuban culture,” Sobkowiak remarked.

Abroad in Italy, pharmacy major Andrew Pallus, P’28, will be researching healthy lifestyle modifications, specifically the Mediterranean diet, and gaining an understanding of



“We know from numerous conversations with alumni over the years that studying abroad has transformed the lives of countless Duquesne students and prepared them for meaningful careers.”

the Italian health care system and pharmacy services, participating in a symposium with SIFaCT (an Italian clinical pharmacy association) and touring different hospital and community pharmacies.

“As a future pharmacist, I think this study abroad trip will help me gain a deeper knowledge on the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Italian health care systems. I’ll also be prepared to educate my future patients on making healthy lifestyle modifications,” said Pallus.

Last summer, Duquesne students studied abroad in a wide variety of countries, including South Africa, Japan, Dominica, Ireland, Peru, Italy, United Kingdom and more.

“We know from numerous conversations with alumni over the years that studying abroad has transformed the lives of countless Duquesne students and prepared them for meaningful careers,” explained Joe DeCrosta, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for Global Engagement.

LEARNING TOGETHER: A MAYMESTER TO REMEMBER

Cologne, Germany, is the Maymester location for Stephanie Cairns, A’25, L’27, a 3+3 liberal arts and law student. Cairns is participating in the Summer Study of Law in Europe program, in which she will spend three weeks taking courses in public law, data protection, social aspects and civil procedure.

She also plans to visit the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Cologne Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower.

“I am most excited to travel, experience the world and learn about the law all while doing so. I am grateful that the law school has this opportunity for students to gain as much experience as possible,” said Cairns.

Nursing major Jazmines Sarvey Vasquez, N’27, first heard about the opportunity to do a Maymester in Costa Rica when she met with her student success coach. For Sarvey Vasquez, it seemed like the perfect complement to the micro-credential

in Spanish for health care she is pursuing.

“I’ll be able to practice my Spanish in hospitals, clinical settings and the community, which will enhance my nursing abilities,” she noted. “I’m also excited about the new environment, culture, food and people I will meet.”

DRIVEN BY COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

Hoping to grow deeper in her faith and career knowledge, physical therapy major Amelia Valentino, HS ’27, will be traveling to Spain as part of a pilgrimage. She will study the health benefits of mindful walking as she strolls the Camino de Santiago for two weeks.

“We will learn how mindful meditation and exercise can lessen pain and anxiety. I am focused on studying the body and how to reduce and prevent pain in my future patients,” Valentino explained.

Abigail Hayward, HS’27, will be working toward her bigger goals in two different countries. In May, she will take a trip with the Speech-Language Pathology department to Belize, where she will work alongside her Duquesne classmates and faculty to help local children in need of speech therapy care. Following that, Hayward will spend the summer in Australia learning about its various health care systems and professions.

“I’m so excited to experience two new countries, including a new continent, while enhancing my career skills,” she remarked.

According to DeCrosta, engaging with different parts of the world not only encourages students to get out of their comfort zone and be vulnerable, but also helps them understand that there is so much more to experience beyond their own national borders, cultural milieu, worldviews and ways of knowing.

DeCrosta added, “We are here in the Center for Global Engagement to ensure that Duquesne students have access to these truly unforgettable, horizon-expanding educational opportunities.” ♦



Duquesne Surpasses Fundraising Goal—and Keeps Going

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley announced that total gifts and pledges to the University’s IGNITE comprehensive campaign have met and surpassed its history-making goal of \$333 million—one third of a billion dollars. As of Feb. 13, contributions and commitments from individual alumni, corporate donors, foundations and friends of the University have already exceeded \$335 million.

Gormley first shared the success with the University’s Board of Directors at their February meeting. He followed up with an email to the campus community the next day, celebrating the news that total giving exceeded the third-of-a-billion-dollar goal and announcing that the campaign was still moving forward with full force.

The IGNITE campaign, which launched in its quiet phase when Gormley took office in 2016 and kept

aflame through the pandemic, has broken every fundraising record in the history of Duquesne. Gormley attributes that fact to the inspirational success and momentum the University has experienced over the past several years.

“The vision of our alumni, the success of our students, the commitment and innovation of our faculty—all working toward bigger goals—have inspired people like no other campaign has done since our founding,” Gormley said. “So many of our alumni gave to the IGNITE

campaign, and their gifts helped move Duquesne forward in numerous path-breaking initiatives. It’s proof—once again—that bold ideas and dedicated partners produce amazing results.”

“And we aren’t done yet,” said Gormley. “We still have big initiatives to benefit our students and the University that are in need of crucial support. We plan to push forward until the final day on July 1 and prove that there is no stopping our incredible momentum. And then, we will celebrate at Homecoming this fall!” ♦

As of Feb. 13, contributions and commitments from individual alumni, corporate donors, foundations and friends of the University have already exceeded

\$335 million



Alum and Spring Career Fair employer-participant, Taylor Goodman, A'19, met with current student Caroline Denholm, A'25, for the first time, an example of the deep connections and powerful networks created at Duquesne.

Meeting ^{of the} Minds

ALUMNI AND STUDENTS CONNECT IN MEANINGFUL, PRODUCTIVE WAYS

By Gina O'Malley

A lot can happen on a university campus in six years. Recent graduates become seasoned professionals. New buildings and infrastructure rise from the ground. Social media barrels forward, and artificial intelligence takes center stage.

While many things change, others stay comfortably the same: the familiar, inspiring environment of academic buildings, opportunities to lead and learn, and friends who are content doing nothing in particular—as long as they're together.

Year after year, career-ready graduates enter the workforce thanks to faculty, staff and alumni who prepare them for success. Whatever draws alumni to work with students—nostalgia, gratitude or something else entirely—these relationships inspire, motivate and never stop giving.

PAST MEETS PRESENT

On a frigid Wednesday in February, Taylor Goodman, A'19, packed everything she needed to represent her employer at Duquesne's Spring Career Fair. As a development coordinator with Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, she helps grant life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses.

Before the fair, Goodman headed toward Berger Gallery in College Hall, her old stomping grounds, to meet with a current student and offer career advice and wisdom about making the most of the college experience. In turn, she'd be rewarded with updates about beloved faculty and reminders that the University's mission remains at the forefront.

Though Goodman spent countless hours in College Hall as a student, on this day she approached from the parking garage as a visitor, passing the new Union Broadcast Center for the first time and noting how it must be appreciated by current communication students. Caroline Denholm, A'25, took a short walk down the hall from class that ended a few minutes prior.

While the two had never met, they greeted each other with a warm handshake and quickly discovered similarities in their ambitions, career-readiness and affinity for Duquesne.

PREPARATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS

Denholm is wrapping up a multimedia and marketing internship at KTA-Tator, Inc., and will enter the workforce after graduating in May. She believes her double-major in

communication studies and strategic public relations and advertising has prepared her for anything.

"I have the opportunity to do so much at Duquesne," she told Goodman. "I've had leadership positions in my sorority and in Public Relations Student Society of America. This helped with public speaking and advocating for myself and others."

When Denholm asked how she can define success post-graduation, Goodman was armed with advice and encouragement, noting this can look different for everyone.

"Find fulfillment in your personal and professional growth, not just in landing your dream job or getting a specific salary," she said. "It's continuously learning, building relationships and making a positive impact. Adapt to challenges while embracing opportunities and staying true to your values."

Meaningful relationships are a cornerstone in both of their campus experiences. In addition to studying abroad in Rome, Goodman shared that her favorite Duquesne memory was taking photos on the Bluff with friends and celebrating each other's achievements, large and small. Denholm's was similar.

"I love the community aspect of just being together," she said. "Going to Hogan Dining Hall on a weekday with friends and being silly or sitting on the couch in our sorority wing—those are my favorite memories."

While both value in-person human connection, they also chatted about the growth and challenges of technology, social media and artificial intelligence (AI)—Denholm said it's "integrated in college culture"—and how this affects current students and the workforce. Goodman notes this is different from her college experience just a few years ago.

"This rapid growth of AI was just starting," explained Goodman imparting words of wisdom. "What's important now is how you use it."

THE VALUE OF CONNECTION

Kate Sheridan, associate director of alumni and employer networks in the Center for Career Development, leads a variety of initiatives and programs that connect students



with experienced alumni for career insight and guidance.

Through events like the Career Fair, Virtual Speed Networking, mentorship programs, the DukesConnect online community and more, alumni can access talent, expand networks and give back.

"Alumni shape the next generation of professionals while gaining new insights and perspectives from students," said Sheridan. "Staying engaged with Duquesne strengthens personal and professional ties to the University, which may evolve or deepen over time."

These relationships open doors for students to internships and employment opportunities while helping them build confidence and professional skills.

"Students develop realistic worldviews and insight into professional life while refining their career goals," said Sheridan.

These powerful networks can lead to running starts on careers for students and evoke positive memories for alumni.

"It's surreal coming back as a professional for the Career Fair," said Goodman. "A lot has changed, but Duquesne still feels like a second home." ♦

SPRING CAREER FAIR BY THE NUMBERS

91 employers; 28 employers sent alumni representatives

168 employer representatives on-site, including 40 Duquesne alumni

334 students attended

To learn more about the Career Fair and other alumni volunteer opportunities, email Kate Sheridan, associate director of alumni and employer networks, at sheridank3@duq.edu.





Beyond the Badge:

Public Safety's Commitment to Campus Connections

by Tracy Jackson

If you've spent any time on the Bluff in the past few years, you may have noticed Duquesne University's public safety officers passing out candy to students or interacting with the campus community during the annual Cops and Chefs event on A-Walk. These moments go beyond sweet treats and tours—they are part of Chief Eric Holmes' mission to connect public safety with the campus community on a human level.

Since joining Duquesne three years ago, Holmes has worked to reshape campus safety into something more than just patrols and protocols. His vision? A public safety team that is visible, approachable and deeply engaged—ensuring students, faculty and staff feel protected and supported while also incorporating a bit of fun.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS THAT ENHANCE CAMPUS SAFETY

"We recognize that we are all community outreach officers," Holmes said. "It's part of our DNA to engage with students where they are and to make meaningful connections while keeping them safe."

Holmes and his team of nearly 45, including 25 sworn officers, have made it a priority to be approachable, visible and involved in campus activities. The department doesn't just patrol the University; they actively participate in student life.

One recent initiative, sparked by third-year physical therapy student Sarena Walker, involved the campus-wide



A national campaign, Stop the Bleed encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help bleeding victims in an emergency before professionals arrive on scene.

installation of Stop the Bleed kits. "I learned about the importance of tourniquets in my sports medicine class, and realized how critical it was for campuses to have these kits," said Walker. After contacting Public Safety through a written essay about adding the kits near AEDs, Walker was impressed by the quick response—and action.

In just a short time, kits appeared across campus, and Public Safety hosted pop-ups to teach faculty, staff and students how to use the materials inside. "The process was easy, and I feel confident knowing that Duquesne Public Safety prioritizes the concerns of students to make us feel as safe as possible."

From riding the campus shuttle to promote their Shuttle and Shield safety program, to handing out teddy bears at the St. Anthony School Christmas Party through their Badges and Bears initiative, Public Safety officers show up where students are. They even serve chocolate fondue during the Cops and Cupid Valentine's Day event in the Hogan Dining Hall. These initiatives not only foster trust and familiarity but also ensure that students know officers by name before an emergency ever arises.

"When I ride the shuttle and hand out candy, I always ask students, 'What's our emergency phone number?'" Holmes said. He encourages them to save the number in their phones, reinforcing that every student can be their own "emergency phone" in a time of need.

One particularly touching moment occurred during Duquesne's annual Pink Party, an event supporting breast cancer awareness. Holmes had shared that his mother passed away from breast cancer, and in response, students dedicated the event in her honor, donating all proceeds in her name.

"That moment really touched my heart," Holmes said. "It showed that the work we do resonates with the students—we're making a real connection."

NEW LEADERSHIP THAT EXPANDS CAMPUS SAFETY CAPABILITIES

Since taking the helm, Holmes has expanded the public safety team, welcoming Deputy Chief Jen Ford, the highest-ranking female officer in the department's history. Ford played a crucial role in securing Duquesne's Premier Law Enforcement Accreditation status, a prestigious designation

that highlights the University's commitment to excellence in campus public safety.

Additionally, Duquesne has created the role of director of emergency management and threat assessment, appointing Bob Gerlach, an expert in crisis preparedness. Gerlach's experience brings a new level of emergency response coordination to campus, ensuring that students, faculty and staff are well-equipped to handle potential risks, from severe weather to large-scale security incidents.

LOOKING AHEAD: INNOVATION IN CAMPUS SAFETY

Holmes' vision for public safety also includes leveraging technology and interactive training to strengthen campus security. The department recently purchased new Taser 10 technology, integrating virtual reality training that allows the campus community and officers to experience real-world decision-making scenarios in a safe and controlled environment.

The Pop-Up Police Station initiative has also been a success, allowing officers to set up small satellite stations around campus—whether in the residence halls, the law school or outside key student gathering spots.

"It's another way for students to engage with us without feeling like they have to come to the station," Holmes said.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF TRUST AND SERVICE

For Holmes, the most rewarding part of his job includes building relationships with the campus community.

"We are here to serve and protect, but also to be part of the educational experience. The students know we care about them beyond just law enforcement."

Through every campus engagement they host, Duquesne's public safety team is redefining what it means to be the guardians of campus safety. By blending professionalism with care, Holmes and his team create a welcoming environment where every member of the University feels protected and at home. ♦



Visit duq.edu/magazine for a video about Public Safety.





Research Opportunities

Part of Duquesne's DNA

By Ken Walters

For many students at Duquesne, opportunity first begins when they knock on the laboratory door. And thanks to the University's growing scientific reputation, that door is opening earlier and earlier.

Duquesne's School of Science and Engineering is known for providing lab opportunities to undergraduate students in their first or second years—opportunities that would be difficult, if not impossible, to find at larger institutions.

The result is graduates who are prepared for anything, whether it's working in industry or furthering their research expertise with an advanced degree.

The University's success is well recognized off the Bluff, with support from various donors increasing substantially in recent years, from \$9.8 million in 2023 to \$12.7 million in 2024.

"Research is at the heart of what we do, both from a scientific and educational standpoint," said Dean Dr. Ellen Gawalt, who credits the

school's excellent faculty for increasing research momentum.

"The pause we had due to COVID gave our faculty time to switch gears and find new topics," she said. "We've had some younger professors making good progress in their work, and all faculty across the school have been active in exploring relevant scientific topics."

The benefit of such exploration transfers directly to Duquesne students, who work and learn together with faculty to solve real-world problems, including preventing and treating diseases, managing environmental issues and developing new compounds with structural and electronic properties that can be used for a variety of purposes.

"Students and faculty benefit from such projects because they can engage more deeply in these topics," Gawalt said. "Students learn in the lab or out in the field and have opportunities to present on their research and network with fellow scientists, which often helps

"Research is at the heart of what we do, both from a scientific and educational standpoint."





them with the next step in their careers.”

For Madison Uhrin, S’22, the hours spent in Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Sarah Woodley’s lab helped her launch a career focused on public health. Last year, she earned her master’s degree in global health epidemiology at the University of Michigan. She said her Duquesne experience served as the starting point for her success.

“My time at Duquesne was more focused on basic science research of animal models,” Uhrin said. “A lot of the functional skills developed from this experience carried over to my time at Michigan.”

Now pursuing her doctorate degree in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina’s Gillings School of Global Public Health, Uhrin said her Duquesne lab experience helped sharpen her career focus.

“I found that I didn’t want to pursue medicine from a clinical perspective, but instead from a methodology perspective to learn how diseases impact different populations on a larger scale and how we can create interventions to improve treatment outcomes,” she said.

These types of opportunities stretch across the University. At the Rangos School of Health Sciences, fifth-year physical therapy student Melanie Tommer recently presented her research on infant development at the prestigious American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. She worked with several students in Professor Emeritus Dr. Regina Harbourne’s lab.

“I’ve really fallen in love with working on research-related projects,” Tommer said. “It was great hearing from others about what’s new in the

field. I want to work with children who have life-long developmental issues to improve their care, and this conference helped me do that.”

It is these intangible skills—collaborating, presenting, networking—that expand students’ horizons and prepare them for bigger goals.

“Whether they are working in industry or academia, students need to know how to work together to achieve success,” said Dr. Thomas Montgomery, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the School of Science and Engineering and recipient of Duquesne’s 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award. “Science, especially today, requires working with others who have expertise and experience in a variety of fields. It’s essential to becoming a professional scientist.”

“Students have the opportunity to

collaborate on research papers and engage deeply in relevant topics,” Gawalt said. “They come away with not only lab skills, but those intangible skills as well.” This year, for example, more than 55 Duquesne students participated in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), held in Pittsburgh and for which Duquesne University was a host partner.

The research being done at Duquesne is also drawing students to the University. The Nanomedicine Manufacturing Laboratory, led by Duquesne Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics Dr. Jelena Janjic, offers students work in a relatively new field with state-of-the-art lab equipment.

“Our lab uses the same equipment as major drug companies do to manufacture medicine,” Janjic said. “We focus on process development

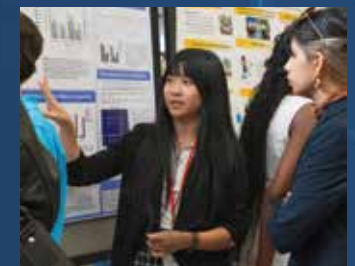
and manufacturing so our platforms can create multiple treatments using nanotechnology. It’s a very exciting field.”

“Dr. Janjic’s lab offers a unique combination of research and curriculum with a focus on addressing pain issues,” said Sanjida Ahmed Srishti, a second-year graduate student who works in the lab. “The high-tech research and coursework made it the perfect match for me.”

With its new College of Osteopathic Medicine open and new engineering programs underway, Duquesne is well positioned to enhance its research reputation in the future.

“We have excellent faculty who are curating research experiences for students where they participate in relevant cutting-edge projects,” Gawalt said. “That’s not just good for Duquesne—that’s good for the world.” ♦

In April, more than 55 Duquesne students participated in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), which was held in Pittsburgh with Duquesne as a host partner.





Community and Opportunity, the Impact of Student Organizations

By Ian P. Hurley

DUQUESNE HAS 280+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

At the heart of many students' Duquesne experience is being part of a student organization. A shared interest helps introduce students to life-changing people and opportunities they might not get in a classroom.

With over 300 student organizations, from the Black Student Union, Best Buddies, student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy to the Red Masquers, there's a place for all students at Duquesne.

"Student organizations provide a platform for students to think critically, collaborate as a team, network with peers and engage in meaningful activities that support their academic journey," said Ashley Kane, director of Student Programming and First-Year Experience in the Division of Student Life.

Lisa Harris, E'89, was involved in the Black Student Union during her time on the Bluff. She now serves as the secondary advisor for the Theta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "I enjoyed attending sporting events with other Black students and having our own section in the cafeteria to bond, connect and support each other. It made me feel more at home on campus. I am still connected to the friends I made during my years at Duquesne," she said. "Many of our children have and are attending Duquesne so it's great to share our experiences with them."

As a member and later chapter president of Best Buddies, Jason Bertocchi, A'11, a 2021 Dukes From the Last Decade recipient, volunteered to serve others and create lasting friendships with people with intellectual and developmental challenges. He

told the Alumni Association that being engaged with Best Buddies has been "the cornerstone of my adult life and work. It's all about committing yourself to kindness and the personal dignity of others."

For graduates like Ann Johnson, P'12, getting involved outside the classroom ultimately led to a job. "I often think back to my third year of pharmacy school when I think about how I got to where I am today. I knew that I had an interest in pursuing a non-traditional pharmacy career."

"Speaking with some of my fellow students, I learned about the Duquesne student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), which seemed to align with my own career goals. Those students encouraged me to attend a meeting and check out the organization. I did, and shortly thereafter attended an AMCP event hosting local Pittsburgh managed care companies. At the time, I didn't know that this simple act of attending a roundtable at Duquesne would land me an internship at Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions, where I would go on to become a pharmacist consultant, then partner and now president," she said.

Known as the Red Masquers since 1914, the student-led theater company traces its roots back to the late 1800s and is considered to be the oldest amateur theater company in Pittsburgh.

"After academically deciding on Duquesne, one of the first things I investigated was a club for theater and to my excitement I found the Red Masquers," said current Masquers' director of communications and English major Morgan Sandzimier. "I have been performing in theater

since I was 9 years old, so there was absolutely no question whether I would continue that or not in college."

Sandzimier added, "With this shared experience, we are all able to support one another and grow as performers, stage managers, technicians and more. The encouragement that I have seen and received from this organization puts into perspective how meaningful it is to each of us, and how much love and care goes into putting on shows."

Students are not the only ones who benefit from these experiences; their advisors benefit as well. "Being a student organization advisor is a really fulfilling part of my work on campus because you get to witness community building and emerging leaders all in one space," said Dr. Luci-Jo DiMaggio, S'98, GE'99, GA'05, GE'20, director of Mission Animation. DiMaggio advises the Evergreen Club.

"It's a privilege to act as a guide as the students learn practical skills, work through differences and to watch them grow into their own style of leadership," said DiMaggio. Part of that role is to empower students to be prepared for anything and to help them go beyond what they thought possible. ♦





Celebrating Duquesne's 100^{ths}

By Elizabeth Shestak, Ian Hurley
and Ken Walters

Dick Van Dyke celebrates his 100th birthday this year, along with *The New Yorker*, Scripps National Spelling Bee and three prized legacies at Duquesne University. Who says getting old isn't fun?

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Distinctive. Bold. The Duquesne class ring conjures up many superlatives, but at the heart of it is fellowship. It's what the ring has represented for generations of graduates and how it unites all Dukes.

"The lifelong friendships created at Duquesne are powerful," said alumna Lisa Harris, E'89. She encourages current and future Dukes to get a class ring so that they can better seek out other alumni. "Be sure to get the Duquesne ring. It is power, when you wear it, and great connections begin all over the world."

This year we celebrate 100-years of our iconic class ring. Considered one of the five most recognizable rings in the world, there are now more than 40,000 in circulation—and counting.

A century ago, members of the Class of 1925 formed a committee to design a class ring that would capture their school spirit and affection for Duquesne. The design consisted of a deep blue octagonal stone embossed with an Old English-style "D." Some students preferred a red stone, but were outvoted. But in 1927, the red stone prevailed, and some slight additional design tweaks in 1936 created the ring we know today.

Since 2015, many first-time visitors to campus have been introduced to the class ring as they pass by the Red Ring statue on Duchene Way, in the shadow of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and Old Main. While giving tours, admissions ambassadors share stories of the ring's history, the folklore of standing too close to the statue, the proper way to wear it before and after graduating and the importance to the next generation of Dukes and their families.



THE DUQUESNE DUKE—PREPARING STUDENTS FOR MEANINGFUL CAREERS IN JOURNALISM

Before Jennifer Lin, A'80, spent more than 30 years at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* or became a professional documentary filmmaker, before she was a foreign correspondent in China or readying for film festivals, she worked at *The Duquesne Duke* (or *The Duke*).

"I can say definitively I learned to be a journalist at *The Duke*," she said recently. "I spent more time at *The Duke* than I did anywhere during my four years at Duquesne. Every Wednesday we would literally be there all night."

Lin is among the hundreds of Duquesne alumni who credit their professional success with the singular experience they had as students running an independent student newspaper.

For a century, *The Duke* has been there to cover everything from World War II to Vietnam, desegregation to 9/11, and everything in between and thereafter. It is a paper of record for the Duquesne University community, and continues its legacy every Thursday, faithful to its readership.

Chet Czarniak, A'72, worked as everything from a photographer to editor, writer to reporter, during his years at *The Duke*, and it's absolutely why he went on to a successful journalistic career, primarily with *USA Today*.

"Working at *The Duke* did launch my career," he said. "There's no getting around it."

But it was more than a professional stepping stone. "It became that home for you," he said.

The Duke formally celebrates its 100th anniversary at this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend, Oct. 10–12. Among the planned festivities are a curated retrospective of *The Duke's* storytelling, a nod to previous staffers and editors, and a reunion dinner.



Be sure to check duq.edu/homecoming for details closer to the event. Read more from alumni who served as previous editors of *The Duke* at duq.edu/thedukecelebrates100.

"I spent more time
at *The Duke* than
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Every Wednesday
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Inspired to Help Others Pursue a Pharm.D

By Ken Walters



School of Pharmacy dean, Dr. James Drennen, spoke to a gathering of more than 350 people at the School's 100th Anniversary Celebration.



(Left to right) Past School of Pharmacy deans Bruce Martin, Peter Vanderveen, Doug Bricker and current dean James Drennen

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF INNOVATION

With a focus on providing quality care to patients and conducting cutting-edge research, Duquesne's School of Pharmacy celebrated its Centennial with special events on April 4-5.

Founded in 1925, the renowned school has been an innovative leader in pharmacy education and leadership, preparing students for the many changes in the field over the decades.

Beginning with founding dean Hugh Muldoon, the school has consistently expanded student horizons. In its early years, the educational focus was on independent community pharmacies and hospital settings as the school implemented Duquesne's first four-year bachelor's degree program in pharmacy.

"We are excited to be celebrating our 100th anniversary," said School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. James Drennen. "As the pharmaceutical industry and the practice of pharmacy have grown, the School of Pharmacy has grown with them, advancing programs and improving classroom, faculty and research facilities to help students reach their bigger goals."

Among its innovations, it was one of the first schools in the nation to offer the Weekend Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Faculty research has delved into a variety of health issues searching for innovative and novel treatments, including childhood cancer, chronic pain, neurological conditions such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, and integrative health.

To help address the looming pharmacist shortage, the school recently developed a partnership with CVS to educate the next generation of pharmacists (see page 25).

Today, more than 7,400 School of Pharmacy alumni are improving their communities as pharmacists, researchers and trusted health care advisors.

At Duquesne, we like to say "It's time for Bigger Goals!" Certainly, marking this historic 100th anniversary of the School of Pharmacy and its rich legacy is worth celebrating. ♦



As a Duquesne pharmacy student, Stephanie Rouse, GP'02, fell in love with the idea of becoming a community-based pharmacist. Now she's helping others pursue that same dream.

As the retail resident/intern development director for CVS Pharmacy, Rouse is teaming up with her alma mater on a new program to help train and educate the next generation of pharmacists.

The innovative education support program will allow CVS Pharmacy colleagues, such as pharmacy technicians, the opportunity to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree through Duquesne's renowned online pharmacy curriculum by providing a scholarship offering a 50 percent reduction to tuition. The collaboration, which launched in January, will help colleagues earn their Pharm.D. through a flexible program that allows them to balance career, education and life commitments. The inaugural recipients will begin in fall 2025.

"It really is a groundbreaking program," Rouse said. "Duquesne's online pharmacy program has been so successful that the power of this partnership is being noticed by other universities. It's something that other schools want to emulate."

The effort comes at an opportune time, as the U.S. faces a national pharmacist shortage, especially in underrepresented areas. The Health Resources and Services Administration projects that there will be a shortage of nearly 5,000 pharmacists over the next 15 years according to *Total Pharmacy Journal*, as reported by the site DrugTopics.com.

Looking to help make pharmacy education accessible to more students, Duquesne School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. James Drennen said CVS was very receptive to working with the University.

"This partnership exemplifies Duquesne's commitment to providing a horizon-expanding education while addressing health care disparities," he said. "By equipping CVS Pharmacy technicians with advanced education and training, we not only better their careers but also help to ensure that communities with the greatest need have access to skilled, compassionate pharmacists. We are thankful to be working with Stephanie to make this happen."

The response to the program has been exceptional, Rouse said, noting initial feedback from CVS colleagues has been very positive.

"We have a strong talent pipeline, with more than 1,000 of our 60,000 retail pharmacy technicians entering Pharm.D. programs annually," she said. "This is going to help open up the profession to many qualified people. And over the next several years, we anticipate that the number of employees joining the program will continue to grow."

It was Rouse's time at Duquesne that further developed her desire to help others, both as a community pharmacist and as a leader in helping people pursue the pharmacy profession.



"This partnership exemplifies Duquesne's commitment to providing horizon-expanding education while addressing health care disparities."

"Duquesne is such a unique and supportive place," she said. "The campus is a bubble of safety, and you have such a strong network of people around you. Once I visited campus, I knew it was where I wanted to go. I didn't even apply to any other schools."

"I always knew that I wanted to be a community-based pharmacist because I loved the interaction with patients," said Rouse, who initially thought she'd study chemical engineering. "Growing up, I loved science but couldn't see myself working in a lab every day. I wanted to be helping someone."

Since starting her career at CVS, she has held several positions, ranging from in-store pharmacy manager to district leader to her current position in the corporate office. But with every job, she's had the opportunity to help train future pharmacists.

"My experience at Duquesne inspired me to want to help the next generation of pharmacists," she said. "Now I'm in a position that allows me to do just that. I'm where I feel I should be and where I have the most impact. It's the perfect spot for me."

For details on the Duquesne + CVS education assistance program, visit duq.edu/cvs-scholarship.

100ths



By Gina O'Malley

Pez rojo. Pez azul. Pez amarillo.” One-by-one, Rachel Williams, A’18, held up fish-shaped crackers, identifying them by color as preschoolers followed along.

Red fish. Blue fish. Yellow fish. Children smiled as they snatched the crackers, an afternoon snack to enjoy alongside their Spanish lesson.

“Kids are naturally curious,” said Williams, a Spanish and communications studies double major. “They’d start to ask questions, like how do you say, ‘two fish?’ Now how do you say, ‘I am a fish?’”

Since 2013, students in Dr. Lucía Osa-Melero’s classes have engaged in service-learning to enrich their educational experience while serving others. Trips to the YMCA Child Development Center at Duquesne through the University’s Niños y Niñas Bilingües program have been invaluable for everyone involved—with impacts lasting far beyond the classroom.

“There is so much research showing that bilingualism has many benefits to the brain, personality and decision-making,” said Osa-Melero. “It also raises a level of acceptance for unfamiliar things.”

Osa-Melero walks alongside students as they prepare creative lesson plans. They introduce basic Spanish and discuss ways that holidays like Día de los Muertos and Día de San Valentín may be similar to or different from celebrations like Halloween and Valentine’s Day.

“We make skulls for Día de los Muertos and play games with hearts for Día de San Valentín,” said Osa-Melero. “We talk about the history and tradition—it’s eye-opening for kids.”

“There is so much research showing that bilingualism has many benefits to the brain, personality and decision-making...”



El saber es poder

TRANSLATION: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.



A PROFESSIONAL PATH WITH PURPOSE

These “lightbulb” moments were exciting for Williams as she led the preschool classroom for the first time. “The kids’ ability to learn language was so rewarding. It’s what every teacher lives for, and it really put the joy in learning,” she said. “Duquesne really does a such a great job of elevating these opportunities.”

Williams was so inspired by her service-learning experience that she committed to a career where cultural awareness and language-learning remained at the forefront.

Post-graduation, she accepted a position teaching Spanish in North Carolina. Williams often reflected on her experience at the YMCA. “Even though I was teaching high-schoolers, I tried to make it fun and engaging—just like Dr. Osa-Melero taught us.”

Williams now works for Generation, an organization that trains and places adults in careers that would otherwise be inaccessible. She works closely with affiliates in 17 countries, using her Spanish skills regularly and relying on the professional confidence and cultural awareness she gained at Duquesne.

“Working for a global nonprofit, you sometimes have to get comfortable being uncomfortable,” she said. “One of the greatest things about learning more than one language is having more than one perspective on how things are messaged. It helps you become a more critical thinker.”

CREATING A FUTURE EVERYONE CAN SHARE

In addition to working with Niños y Niñas Bilingües, Duquesne students collaborate as language assistants in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for Casa San Jose, a nonprofit that supports and advocates for the Latino community. As Casa San Jose clients meet milestones with their language-learning, they receive a certificate.

Computer science major and Spanish minor Sara Skiba, A’22, would beam with pride as she distributed certificates.

(Above right) Rachel Williams before starting her day as a Spanish teacher. (Above left) Duquesne students visit the YMCA Child Development Center to celebrate Día de los Muertos and Día de San Valentín.

“It represented work and a lot of hope. They’re making the effort to learn a language and integrate into a community,” she said. “You never know how much of a difference you’re going to make when you’re doing it, but it’s going to be something they remember that will affect their lives in a positive way.”

This left a lasting impression on Skiba. In addition to working full-time as a business analytics consultant, she continues to invest time and energy in this trusted partnership, working with Duquesne and Casa San Jose on a contract basis to coordinate ESL classes.

“It’s more than learning a language. This work gives people a sense of belonging,” said Skiba. “For some, it’s helped with career progression or enabled them to communicate with their child’s teacher or a boss. It’s exciting to help give these opportunities.”

Skiba believes the compassion and skill set she built through service-learning have benefited her career. She’s honed communication, organizational and scheduling skills, and she strives to remain open to the lives and journeys of others in the workplace and beyond.

“Any time you deal with large, diverse groups of people, it’s nice to recognize where everyone is coming from and have that sense of community,” she said.

Several years after leading Spanish lessons at the YMCA, life came full circle for Skiba when her child enrolled in the preschool. It wasn’t long before her daughter benefited from the same program her mother led several years prior, kicking off a new generation of cultural awareness.

“She came home and said there were people speaking Spanish in her classroom,” said Skiba. “Her excitement about learning something that’s not typically taught at that age was amazing.” ♦



Join us for an extraordinary Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct. 10-11

as we turn the spotlight on Dukes past and present and celebrate the **historic success** of our **IGNITE** campaign! Celebrate with events that shine a bright light on the spirit of our community!

Enjoy new traditions like the thunderous **Rally to Rooney** and **wine and craft beer flights** in **Homecoming Village**. And don’t miss this year’s **special attraction**, a **dinner** and **dance party** in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse featuring **MAMMA MANIA!** New York City’s ultimate ABBA tribute band!

Mamma Mania! brings the classic hits of one of pop music’s most iconic groups to life. With dazzling costumes, flawless harmonies, and captivating stage presence, this tribute captures the essence of ABBA’s unforgettable sound. From “Dancing Queen” to “Mamma Mia,” alums, students and families will enjoy a night filled with nostalgia from a stellar cast of musicians, followed by the Friday night **fireworks display!**

Other attractions will include:

- **Autumn Fest:** play games for young and old, meet student groups, enter raffles and enjoy the community on A-Walk.
- **Homecoming Village:** Reconnect with fellow alumni over a festive meal at the **Tailgate Luncheon**, or sample the **wine and craft beer flights**.
- **Spotlight Events:** learn more about the student experience today, the new and updated facilities and the incredible ways Duquesne researchers are helping our communities. Look for tours of the new **medical school**.
- **Cheer on the Dukes** to a gridiron victory at Rooney Field!

duq.edu/homecoming



Making the Bluff a Home



By Jamie Hornstein

As a second-year Duquesne student ambassador and third-year physician assistant major, Christine Hoa Nguyen takes pride in personalizing each campus recruiting tour to meet the needs of prospective students and their families.

"It's not just about giving tours," she explained. "It's about connecting with families, understanding what they're looking for and sharing why I believe Duquesne is the right place for them." She finds it especially rewarding to see students on campus the following year after giving them a tour, knowing she may have played a part in their decision to attend Duquesne.

Beyond her ambassador role, Nguyen is heavily involved in Duquesne's student organizations. She played a key role in founding Alpha Phi Gamma, Duquesne's first Asian sorority, with the support of her biology professor.

"Alpha Phi Gamma celebrates its one-year anniversary soon, and it's been amazing to experience the sisterhood we've built," Nguyen shared.

Another way Nguyen enjoys developing connections is through pre-orientation. Meeting students who may be the first in their family to come to campus or who may be looking for ways to make connections with other students like them, Nguyen helps make them feel like the Bluff can be a new home. "I want to make sure students feel welcomed and connected to the community at Duquesne," she explained.

The importance of Duquesne ambassadors cannot be overstated. "Ambassadors often share that the campus tour experience was one of the key factors in their decisions to attend Duquesne. I remind them that we could not accomplish our work without them and how much we value what they contribute," said Carrie Schubert, associate director of guest services for Enrollment Management. "Christine, in particular, stands out. She is deeply committed

to ensuring all students feel supported and connected to the University—before and after they enroll."

Nguyen has formed invaluable connections with faculty, staff and alumni, which have helped her grow both personally and professionally. "I've received so much support from the faculty and alumni who helped guide me to Duquesne and showed me what it means to be part of this community," she said.

Nguyen's connection to Duquesne runs deep, with family ties to the University. Her aunt and cousin both graduated from Duquesne's pharmacy program. "In our family, each generation is expected to surpass the last, and Christine has done so admirably. Our education at Duquesne has allowed us to rise to that challenge, which is why our family continues to choose Duquesne for higher education," said Elizabeth Nguyen, P'19, alumna and Christine's cousin.

Drawn by the University's strong academic reputation and personalized experience, she explained, "Duquesne's size was perfect for me. It's big enough to offer opportunities but small enough to not feel lost in the crowd." Nguyen was proud to be one of the first two students named McGinley Scholars at the fall ribbon cutting of the new McGinley Hall residence for third- and fourth-year and graduate students.

Looking ahead, Nguyen plans to return to her hometown of Olney, Md., to pursue her career as a physician assistant. However, she remains grounded in the Duquesne legacy. "The Duquesne name is more than just a school—it's a family," she said. "I've seen alumni stay connected, and that sense of belonging lasts long after graduation."

For Nguyen, being a Duquesne ambassador is an opportunity to give back to the community that has shaped her, she said. "Duquesne has given me so many opportunities to grow, and I want to help others have a great experience and reach their goals." ♦

"She is deeply committed to ensuring all students feel supported and connected to the University—before and after they enroll."





How an English Internship Can Make All the Difference

By Elizabeth Shestak



Jayda Benson works with undergraduate English students while earning her master's degree.

“There’s a lot of public opportunities to get them out of the classroom, get them away from literary studies.”

Jayda Benson, A’23, GA’25, had a tough decision to make this spring. Benson graduated in May with her second degree from Duquesne, a master's of English, and the Double Duker had the option to become a Triple Duker by either attending the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, earning an MBA at the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business or pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts.

“The only downside is that I’ve had too many opportunities and too many options, so I have to make a lot of hard choices,” Benson lamented mid-semester, only half-jokingly.

The seeming overabundance of opportunities is informed by a class she took not once, not twice but three times during her time as a Duquesne student: English Internship. Her experiences ranged from interviewing faculty and posting articles about the English Department, to tutoring ESL students with Literacy Pittsburgh, to interning at Pittsburgh’s International Poetry Forum, where she has created annual reports for the board of directors and worked on grants, among other tasks.

During a time when the value of a liberal arts degree is often debated against more technical or professional educational pathways, Duquesne’s Department of English & Theater Arts has created a way to bring real-world experience into the curriculum, said associate professor Dr. Emad Mirmotahari, effectively showing students the power of an English degree.

“There’s a lot of public opportunities to get them out of the classroom, get them away from literary studies and get them writing for a more general audience,” Mirmotahari said. “We’re also thinking about how we prepare these students to get jobs.”

“I think these internships definitely gave me a leg up in terms of navigating an industry.”



Soon-to-be Triple Duker Jayda Benson walks out from Rockwell Hall, where she will be enrolled in her second graduate degree this fall.

THE GIFT OF TIME

Another striking benefit of taking the English Internship course is that it makes space for interests that might otherwise have to take a backseat in the life of a full-time college student working to meet credit requirements. The internship hours students schedule each week are the bulk of their class hours, creating space for learning what their professional interests will actually be like and therefore empowering them to know what they like and don’t like.

This also gives students a head start on their resumes.

Emily Ambery, A’24, admits she has always had an interest in science and technical subjects, yet graduated with degrees in both English and public relations. Her love for the humanities won out academically, but her career path has allowed her to merge all of those interests professionally, in part thanks to her experiences in the English Internship course—she took it twice.

Ambery now works as assistant editor at *Work Design Magazine*, a publication focused on architecture and design in the workplace. She points to her internship with the *D.U. Quark*, the University’s student-run science journal, as a stepping stone to a career that honors all of her interests.

“I think my internship at the *Quark* provided me a lot of mobility in the text that I could read, learning how to read science-specific articles,” she said. “Engaging with that science community allowed me this agility to navigate almost like code switching, the ability to talk in a way that is tangible for a reader who doesn’t have a background in it and also communicate with those actually doing the job.”

Her other internship was with the department’s blog, *Building Bridges*, which gave her multimedia experience, an essential resume component for someone hoping to work in publishing.

To be an assistant editor at a publication right out of school speaks for itself.

“I think these internships definitely gave me a leg up in terms of navigating an industry that I didn’t know anything about,” she said. “Who to talk to, where to look for these resources and how to ask professional questions maybe would be scarier if I didn’t have that experience.”

THE TOUGH CHOICE

Back to Benson and her major life decision.

“I’m honestly really grateful for the experiences I’ve had, and a lot of that is shaped by the department. They really want us to try new things and push the boundaries of what an English major is or how an English major is perceived. I really appreciate that because I’ve never been a ‘standard English major,’” Benson said, air quoting herself. “I’ve always had a wide array of interests, and Duquesne has always supported me.”

For Benson, she’s decided to pursue her bigger goals in the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business next year.

“I think that my analytical, writing, research and communication skills will lend themselves really well to this program while giving me a new skill set that will offer flexibility and broaden my horizons!” Benson said. ♦



Expanding Horizons: Making the Right Transfer Decision

By Rose Ravasio, A'90

The path to success often begins with a bold choice—like recognizing when it's time to move in a new direction with greater purpose. These alumni and students made the pivotal decision to transfer to Duquesne, where they discovered new possibilities in their majors and how their passions could connect to other fields in meaningful, productive ways. In classrooms, mentorships and direct work experiences, they found more than just academic success—they found the professional confidence that prepared them for a fulfilling career path.

"I transferred from Harrisburg Area Community College to Duquesne my junior year, and it didn't take long to know I had made the right choice," said Elaine Cibort Shedd, B'89, GB'96. "The smaller class sizes and individual student focus were the most important to me when choosing to transfer to the University for my undergraduate and graduate degrees."

Shedd credits the University for her success today as director of imaging project management for the Chesapeake, Lake Erie and Ohio Valley Markets for GE HealthCare Medical Systems and Solutions. "The business school is fantastic—the faculty are not only superior academically; they also have real-world experience that they share with students. That insight is invaluable," she said. "I was able to find a job quite easily after graduation, and I even went back to the University to pursue my MBA. Duquesne has truly helped me to continue to grow in my career."



Elaine Cibort Shedd

"I transferred from Harrisburg Area Community College to Duquesne my junior year, and it didn't take long to know I had made the right choice."

All Duquesne students are challenged to set high aspirations, embrace new opportunities and prepare for meaningful careers—no matter where their academic journey begins. The University walks alongside transfer students, providing the essential support they need and connecting them with life-changing people and opportunities.

A CLEARER VANTAGE POINT

Joel Bauman, senior vice president for enrollment management, emphasizes Duquesne's mission to provide a transformative education.

"We know that a Duquesne education is about those moments that move our students to a clearer vantage point—both in terms of what they're studying and the larger world," said Bauman. "Our Pennsylvania State Grant-Transfer Matching Program offers our students who qualify a practical financial resource to help them pursue that education at Duquesne."

The University offers a variety of financial planning resources, with some designed specifically for transfer students like Phi Theta Kappa scholarships and micro-scholarships through RaiseMe.

With these resources, Duquesne ensures that students from all backgrounds have access to an affordable, high-quality education.

Charles Harris, HS'24, cites the admissions team's prompt, personable responses and financial resources as key factors in his decision to transfer to the University in June 2021.

"Duquesne took action and actively engaged with me," said Harris, a sterile processing tech for AMN Healthcare. "The admissions staff was great, making what can be a tedious process feel seamless. I was fortunate to be awarded academic scholarships and donor support when needed, and the availability of payment plans helped ease financial stress."

Harris' advice to individuals considering transferring to the University? "As long as you're focused and determined to meet your bigger goals, Duquesne will help in myriad ways to help you get there."



Charles Harris

A TRANSFER-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

Duquesne is nationally recognized as a Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll institution, underscoring its dedication to creating clear pathways for transfer students. Through the Bridges curriculum, students with an associate degree can seamlessly transition into their major, having already satisfied the majority of their general education requirements.

Nate Keogh, 21, transferred to Duquesne in the fall of 2024 from Monterey Peninsula College. He was initially concerned about whether his credits in fire science would transfer to Duquesne.

"They accepted my associate's degree at face value and waived courses for me to enroll as a junior," said Keogh, a communications major in the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts. "This took a huge weight off my shoulders. The overall transfer experience was great—from applying through registering for classes. It was a very smooth process."

While only in his second semester, Keogh is already reaping the benefits of the Duquesne University student experience. "One of the biggest things I've learned is networking and utilizing the resources available to you—it's something I've been exposed to through my courses here, especially in my communications classes," he said.

Teaching Assistant Professor Robert Healy trusts in his students' potential and understands the importance of mentorship. He hosted former Pittsburgh Pirates sideline reporter Robby Incmikoski as a guest speaker in his Media and Sports class. "He gave us fantastic insight into the world of sports media," Keogh said. "At the end of class, I was able to meet with Mr. Incmikoski, connect on LinkedIn and exchange phone numbers. I now have a great connection into the sports media world I would've never had without Duquesne."

For these accomplished Duquesne alumni and students, true growth emerged in a new environment, where their bigger goals and ambitions truly thrived. ♦



Nate Keogh

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING TO DUQUESNE?

Help them make the most of their decision by finding out about valuable resources only available to transfer students.

DOUBLING SUPPORT FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Duquesne University is committed to making higher education more accessible and affordable for Pennsylvania students, especially those transferring from other institutions. Through the Pennsylvania State Grant-Transfer Matching Program, Duquesne doubles the amount of the state grant, providing significant financial assistance to eligible students.

Transfer students can receive up to \$20,400 in aid—\$5,000 per year for up to four years or through graduation. First-year students also benefit, with up to \$10,000 in matching grants (up to \$2,500 per year). This initiative helps ease the financial burden for students and their families, allowing them to focus on their education and career goals.

To qualify, students must be Pennsylvania residents, complete the FAFSA and meet the state grant requirements. Depending on financial need and state funding levels, additional assistance ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 per year may be available.

This program is just one of the many ways Duquesne invests in its students, ensuring that no matter where their academic journey begins, they have the support to reach their full potential.

Students considering transferring should work with an admissions counselor.



More information can be found at duq.edu/transfer.





Full Spectrum:

MUSIC SUPPORTING THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

By Elizabeth Shestak

On a Saturday last April, music therapy major Ash Voight, M'24, played the drums, mallets and even a boomwhacker for a little boy who had no words.

Voight, along with a number of other Mary Pappert School of Music students, volunteered at the inaugural Full Spectrum, a free series seeking to connect families in the autism community through a common love of music.

They watched as this nonverbal child spent most of the morning in that one room, the “instrument petting zoo,” initially running from one instrument to another before settling into the center of the circle of musicians that had formed around him. Without any discussion, the group tuned into the boy’s movements, and he effectively became the conductor—a remarkable level of power to communicate.

While he could not say what it meant to him, the universal cues of smiles, a joy in his eyes and the awe and gratitude with which his mother watched the moment unfold spoke volumes.

“That was just one of several moments that reminded me why I do what I do,” said Voight, who now works as a music therapist at a private clinic in New York. “Music’s boundless nature allows everyone to connect without the need of typical conversation, as it is a language all on its own.”

Moments like this took place throughout the month every Saturday, whether they were during a live performance by autistic musicians, a recording session in the studio or simply out in the hallways where children on the spectrum and their families could simply be with one another.

The same happened again this year much to the joy of Dr. Thomas Carsecka, M'04, GM'16, GE'23, a Triple Duker and assistant dean of music admissions and community engagement at the School of Music.

Full Spectrum is Carsecka’s love letter to the autism community he and his family joined soon after the birth of their son, Quinton.

A LIFE-CHANGING DIAGNOSIS

When Claire and Quinton, Carsecka’s twins were born in 2016, they were brought home to a house full of musical instruments, an older sister and two parents buckling up to care for triple the children.

“Scary and joyous all wrapped up in a ball of sleepless anxiety,” Carsecka recalled recently.

The divergence in the twins’ development wasn’t apparent until they were around 2 years old.

“It was really tough to spot,” Carsecka recalled. “Differences were so subtle at first. And we were aware that twins develop their own language, ‘twinish,’ and we didn’t want to jump to any conclusions. But then there came a day where Claire was engaging in conversation but Quinton wasn’t.”

It was right around the start of COVID-19 in 2020 that the Carseckas were beginning to orient their lives to Quinton’s

autism diagnosis, and all of their burgeoning resources were essentially stripped away in shut-down. This period of time left a particularly indelible mark on them—the loss of community, the loss of access to those who could help them navigate something so vital—illuminating how essential support truly is.

Which is why, during that summer when COVID began to lift and Carsecka was able to take his family to an outdoor concert, the epiphany that happened could not be ignored.

MUSIC TO THE RESCUE

An outdoor concert in downtown Greensburg is where the Carseckas learned about Band Together Pittsburgh, a nonprofit that brings music to the autism community.

“We’re outside in the sunshine, you know, relieved that we are experiencing some kind of normal life for the first time in the better part of two years, and he’s dancing. He’s moving at the music. And I’m like, this is the kind of thing that I could transplant, you know? I could bring Band Together Pittsburgh to Duquesne for an event,” Carsecka said.

That idea about a single event led to Full Spectrum for the month of April, which is Autism Awareness Month. The series is hosted by the Mary Pappert School of Music and City Music Center of Duquesne University in partnership with Band Together Pittsburgh and Achieving True Self, another nonprofit that works within the community to foster independence for those with autism. The series is underwritten by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

A WAY TO BE KNOWN

For Voight, growing up with a brother on the spectrum made Full Spectrum particularly meaningful.

“It is extremely important that anyone with a voice advocate for the individuals who might not have the resources to advocate for themselves, and that starts by acknowledging that no person’s walk of life is the same, regardless of any expectations,” Voight said.

Full Spectrum is as much about bringing music to those with autism as it is about bringing autism to those considered neurotypical.

“I can’t express enough how important it is for us to recognize how isolating autism and any type of neurodivergence can be,” Carsecka said. “It’s like an imprisonment.”

Events like this can help families break out, even if for a moment.

When he sees Quinton put his ear to the piano to *feel* the lingering vibration, or bang on the drums that bring him such joy, he’s certain that music is an essential part of experiencing and expressing life. It’s simply a matter of making those moments happen.

Learn more at duq.edu/FullSpectrum. ♦



Warren Goss (left) and Jack Eckenrode (right)

In Recognition of Extraordinary Service

By Gabriel Welsch

Jack Eckenrode, B'50, almost didn't get his wings. The 1950 Duquesne alum and Air Force veteran was sidelined by the Army for a medical issue during his first time looking to serve.

But with the Korean War underway, the U.S. needed pilots. Since Eckenrode had already passed his flight exams, he was soon headed to the wild blue yonder—and so much more, meeting his wife, Margaret, starting a family that eventually numbered 12 children, taking numerous volunteer roles in his community and, at the age of 95, becoming the oldest person to complete the National Senior Games 20K Cycling Road Race.

So not only did Eckenrode earn his wings, as the kind of person emblematic of the best of Duquesne, he received a rare Presidential Medal, awarded by Duquesne President Ken Gormley in recognition of extraordinary service to the nation and for reflecting the highest standards of Duquesne University.

In the last few years, only a few such medals have been awarded.

Eckenrode was presented his at the winter 2024 Commencement, where Gormley also bestowed the Presidential Medal on Warren Goss, a then-99-year-old U.S. Army veteran who was among the first Americans to arrive on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Both men had sound advice for the students about to be presented their degrees. Goss said, "From my experience in the war I learned valuable life lessons: to never give up in the face of difficulty and not to be afraid of life."

Eckenrode noted his Duquesne experience provided lessons on living in a way that would ultimately be

recognized by his alma mater.

"One of the greatest lessons I learned at Duquesne," Eckenrode said, "is to join clubs, volunteer and get involved with others, like the Elks, school organizations, Knights of Columbus, Meals on Wheels and alumni organizations. It's good to surround yourself with others who want to help their community. Studying at Duquesne I was immersed with kind, giving people all around me."

Both men made the new graduates laugh—and earned spontaneous standing ovations from the students after their remarks, a sentiment that spread quickly to faculty and families in the audience.

Gormley has also presented the Presidential Medal to the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, E '71, GE '82, Bishop of Pittsburgh, recognizing his service to Duquesne and to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, at the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit last August, on what happened to be the Bishop's 75th birthday.

At the winter 2023 Commencement ceremony, Gormley presented a Presidential Medal to World War II veteran Joseph Dressel, B '49. Dressel joined the Army right after high school, in 1943, and served for nearly three years until the end of the war before earning his bachelor's degree in business management at Duquesne.

"It's important for our students and our community to see that those who embrace Duquesne's commitment to serving others can make a powerful difference over a lifetime," said Gormley. "It's a privilege to award these Presidential Medals and to call attention to people whose lifelong dedication is worth emulating." ♦



Student Input Shapes Vickroy Hall Renovations

By Rose Ravasio, A'90

Duquesne University is embarking on an exciting new chapter in campus life with planned renovations of Vickroy Hall during the 2025-2026 academic year, more than 25 years after its opening.

"Living on campus is an experience of a lifetime," said Dr. Leanna Fenneberg, senior vice president for student life. "Research shows that students who live on campus are more likely to engage with campus life and access resources that help them succeed."

Building on the success of recent renovations to Brottier and St. Martin Halls, as well as the debut of McGinley Hall, the Vickroy Hall project will offer students enhanced suite-style living through a collaboration with Lumina Communities.

Renovations will include updated student rooms, lounges and the lobby, as well as modernized flooring, lighting, paint and laundry facilities. But what truly sets this project apart is its focus on student input.

Anne Lahoda, assistant vice president of student housing and residence life, is excited about the input that's been tapped from Vickroy Hall residents. "We have surveyed students and are meeting with them in focus groups to understand how living spaces can better foster comfort, community and academic success," she said. "Listening to our students is essential to building living environments where they can thrive."

Senior Braden Niles, who has lived in Vickroy since his junior year, said sharing his thoughts on the renovations has been very exciting.

"It's great to see the administration working so closely with students to incorporate our feedback," he explained.

"Multiple forums were hosted to encourage feedback from Vickroy residents about what we would like to see, which is really awesome. I feel I've been able to directly impact the experience of living at Duquesne!"

ALUMNA REFLECTS

Alumna Michele Wisnesck, B'09, GA'17, lived in Vickroy Hall for three years as an undergrad.

"Vickroy Hall or 'The Vick' was truly my home away from home. For me and my friends, it was our spot—convenient to everything: campus activities, dining options, our favorite off-campus pizza place, our classes, you name it," she said. "The suite-style living and spacious rooms felt like such a luxury, and I had the perfect view of campus from my window."

As director of marketing at another Pennsylvania university, Wisnesck appreciates that students are having an impact on future campus housing.

"Vickroy Hall was such an integral part of my college experience—it was where I found confidence, independence and friendships that still mean the world to me."

Beyond upgrading Vickroy Hall, Duquesne is already exploring future residence hall improvements as part of its long-term vision for student housing.

"While we are committed to renovating Vickroy Hall, our facilities partners are already exploring future improvements for other residence halls," Fenneberg added.

As Duquesne University continues to invest in its residential communities, these renovations reaffirm the school's bigger goals of providing transformative educational environments. ♦



Seen and Heard

FROM FESTIVE CAMPUS EVENTS TO NEWSWORTHY HAPPENINGS, THE DUQUESNE SPIRIT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.



⬆️ **Leanna Fenneberg** has been recognized as a prestigious Pillar of the Profession by the NASPA Foundation. Each year at the NASPA Annual Conference, the NASPA Foundation recognizes a series of distinguished individuals who have served as leaders, teachers and scholars in student affairs and higher education.

“ Our goal is for genomics to become a standard consideration in patient care—something that’s approachable and fully integrated.

Nursing Professor Dr. Becky Kronk discussing her appointment to co-chair a national consortium focused on improving genomic literacy in health care.



⬆️ **The University's Winter Commencement** celebrated the achievements of more than 300 new graduates who are prepared for anything as they embark on meaningful careers.

“ As the pharmaceutical industry and the practice of pharmacy have grown, the School of Pharmacy has grown with them, advancing programs and improving classroom, faculty and research facilities to help students reach their bigger goals.

School of Pharmacy Dean **Dr. James Drennen** reflecting on the **School of Pharmacy's 100th Anniversary**



➡️ The University recently recognized **Maestro Manfred Honeck**, esteemed music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO), with an honorary Doctor of Music degree.



⬆️ Duquesne was named a **Voter Friendly Campus** by NASPA and Campus Vote Project for the 2025-2026 year—one of only 272 institutions to receive this designation.



⬆️ The Interprofessional Education Collaborative Committee (IPEC) kicked off the spring 2025 semester with a workshop aimed at **expanding interprofessional education opportunities** across its health-related programs.

“ The lab will provide our students with opportunities to learn critical lab skills, teamwork and creative problem solving, which are essential to developing sustainable solutions to the natural and built environment.

Steven Wei, professor and associate dean, talking about the benefits of the **School of Science and Engineering's new lab**

“ Dr. Al Labriola believed passionately that literature was at the core of a liberal arts education. I’m proud to create this important new tradition in his memory, carrying forward the University’s historic commitment to excellence in the humanities.

President **Ken Gormley** speaking on the establishment of the **Inaugural Labriola Symposium**



⬆️ **Duquesne's Center for International Relations** visited Washington, D.C., with a group of students for their third annual networking trip. This year students toured the United States Secret Service, the Institute of World Politics and were able to develop relationships with Duquesne alumni in the D.C. area.

BY THE NUMBERS: MEGAN McCONNELL

Few in the rich history of Duquesne basketball have brought more to the court during their career than graduating senior, Megan McConnell. Whether in need of a slashing drive to the basket, the ability to knock down a three-pointer, finding an open teammate with a pass or coming up big on the defensive end with a rebound or steal, McConnell has solidified her role as one of the top all-around players in program history. Her name shines among the top five in school history in multiple categories, helping pave the way for the continued momentum of the Duquesne women's basketball program.



4 Triple-Doubles
(Duquesne school record)



209 Three-Point Field Goals
(ranks sixth all-time)



370 Steals
(Duquesne school record)



630 Field Goals
(ranks third all-time)



660 Assists
(Duquesne school record)



1,079 Rebounds
(ranks second all-time)



1,795 Points
(ranks second all-time)



One of five **finalists for the Becky Hammon Award**, presented by Her Hoop Stats and awarded annually to the top mid-major player in NCAA Division I

Named the **2025 Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year**

Two-time member of the Atlantic 10 All-Conference First Team (2024, 2025) and Atlantic 10 All-Defensive Team (2024, 2025)

Three-time member of Atlantic 10 All-Academic Team (2023, 2024, 2025)

Participated in the 2025 Lilly Women's College All-Star Game in Tampa, Fla., one of 20 student-athletes across the country to appear in the contest



Dukes Defy Expectations in Debut Season

DUQUESNE'S NEW ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING TEAM RANKED IN TOP 15 RIGHT AWAY

By Jacob Davey

After over two years of dedicated preparation, Duquesne acrobatics and tumbling is already making history.

"Building a first-year program takes a lot of vision and faith," said head coach Michaela Soper. "Seeing the pieces of the puzzle come together, along with the growth of the individual student-athletes, is just incredible. One could say it exceeds our 'bigger goals!'"

The foundation for Duquesne's newest varsity sport was laid on April 19, 2022, when the University announced the addition of acrobatics and tumbling along with triathlon and women's golf. Just over a year later, on May 11, 2023, Soper was named the program's first-ever head coach. She wasted no time building her roster, signing a 33-member recruiting class on Nov. 28, 2023. By Aug. 28, 2023, the team held its first official meeting, setting the stage for a historic season.

Entering the season ranked No. 15 in the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association (NCATA) preseason poll, Duquesne stands as the only first-year program ranked in the top 15.

The Dukes wasted no time proving their mettle, racing to a 3-0 start. The team made an immediate statement in their first-ever meet at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, defeating last year's national runner-up, Gannon University. The victory set the tone for a program determined to compete at the highest level from day one.

Following the historic debut, the Dukes continued their winning streak, showcasing depth, precision and teamwork. Duquesne's roster is as diverse as it is deep, featuring student-athletes from 15 different states, with a 31-member first-year class. A pair of graduate and transfer athletes bring collegiate experience, providing leadership and depth.

"We knew we had potential, but to see it come together like this has been truly special."

"Blending all of these disciplines together is going to create a dynamic mix and a strong foundation for our program," said Soper.

The early success has validated the hard work put in by the student-athletes and coaching staff and caught the attention of the acrobatics and tumbling community. The team has already been featured nationally in an Associated Press article and garnered multiple local features in print, online and TV media.

"Getting off to this kind of start is a testament to the dedication of this team," said Soper. "We knew we had potential, but to see it come together like this has been truly special."

Acrobatics and tumbling combines elements of gymnastics, power tumbling and competitive cheerleading, emphasizing athleticism, synchronization and technical precision. Meets consist of six events—Compulsory, Acro, Pyramid, Toss, Tumbling and Team Event—where teams perform structured routines and are judged on execution.

The foundation is set, and Duquesne's legacy in acrobatics and tumbling is just beginning. "This team is paving the way for many young women to follow," said Soper. "I'm really excited to see what they accomplish." ♦

Bluff in Brief

DUQUESNE
PEOPLE AND
PLACES ARE
ABOUT THOSE
MOMENTS
THAT MOVE
YOU TO A NEW
AND CLEARER
VANTAGE POINT;
THESE BRIEFS
EMBRACE
“BIGGER GOALS”
IN ACTION.

DUQUESNE, AHN PARTNER TO EDUCATE NEXT GENERATION OF PHYSICIAN LEADERS

In January, Duquesne University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) and Allegheny Health Network (AHN) announced a new partnership to help educate the next generation of physician leaders in our region. AHN is the newest partner to serve as a clinical campus for the new medical school, with many of COM's inaugural class of third- and fourth-year students beginning their clinical training at the network's Pittsburgh-area hospitals and outpatient clinics in summer 2026.

“The partnership is a great example of two Pittsburgh organizations working together to help meet the health care needs of the region, and especially of people living in underserved areas,” said Dr. John Kauffman, founding dean of the COM.

AHN will welcome approximately 20 of COM's medical students initially, growing to a cohort of approximately 40 third- and 40 fourth-year students over the next three years. Students will complete clinical rotations in emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry and surgery. They will also have the opportunity to work alongside the nearly 600 physician trainees within AHN's Graduate Medical Education (GME) program.

Duquesne welcomed its first class of medical students last July. In addition to its partnership with AHN, the COM partners with 22 urban and rural integrated health delivery systems including several Federally Qualified Health Centers in western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. As part of its mission to provide horizon-expanding excellence in medical education, the school's curriculum is specially designed to train health care leaders to address health care disparities and primary care gaps in communities where the need is greatest.

To read more about the partnership visit: duq.edu/ahn-com.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCES FLEXMBA AND FINANCIAL PLANNING TRACK

The Palumbo-Donahue School of Business announced two program updates this spring: the redesign of its Professional MBA program, now the Flex MBA for students seeking a graduate degree, and the CFP Board approval of its undergraduate financial planning track for students interested in becoming Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) professionals.

The two programs are enrolling students for fall 2025, delivering an education that emphasizes value and future-focused learning.

The Flex MBA's focus on technology ensures that graduates are prepared for an evolving workforce that requires employees to be tech-fluent across business functions. Through a customizable curriculum, support services and experiential learning, graduates will emerge with confidence and expertise needed to lead high-performing teams and drive innovation, even as technology continues to evolve.

The financial planning track is designed to provide undergraduate students, with essential knowledge and competency to be difference-makers through their work.

An important enabler of the financial planning track is the school's recently announced partnership with Schwab Advisor Services and the Charles Schwab Foundation. This multi-year partnership will provide students with unique resources and professional development opportunities, giving them a running start on building meaningful careers that enhance the financial well-being of their clients.

The program provides the educational requirements needed to sit for the CFP® exam—the gold standard in wealth management. The School of Business is also developing a post-graduation CFP® exam preparation program to further support students who complete the Financial Planning Track.

Read the full release for each program update at: duq.edu/cfp-track and duq.edu/flexmba-launch.

DUQUESNE WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED WRITERS IN RESIDENCE

Noted writers Lee Gutkind and Jill Moyer Sunday will join Duquesne as Distinguished Writers in Residence, with an emphasis on creative nonfiction writing, for the 2025-2026 academic year.

These exciting appointments underscore Duquesne's commitment to providing students opportunities to combine interests in journalism and interviewing with creative writing skills that can be useful in a variety of careers.

Gutkind's and Sunday's residencies are supported by the Eugene P. Beard Presidential Prizes for Innovation and

Distinction. The annual Beard Presidential Prizes focus on advancing special initiatives proposed by the University president for rare strategic opportunities. The Distinguished Writers in Residence will work with students in activity spanning majors in English, creative writing, media, journalism, and communications/rhetoric, with a focus on nonfiction narrative.

Gutkind and Sunday will teach classes and help build additional programs for students interested in writing that help build competencies applicable to many different professional endeavors.

Often hailed as the "Godfather of Creative Nonfiction," Lee Gutkind founded the literary journal Creative Nonfiction. His latest book, *The Fine Art of Literary Fist-Fighting* (Yale), documents the evolution of creative nonfiction and highlights notable practitioners such as Tom Wolfe, Joan Didion, and James Baldwin.

Jill Moyer Sunday previously taught writing and literature at Waynesburg University, where she was the founding director of the Writing Center, and her work has appeared widely, including in the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* and *Connotation Press*. She earned her master's degree in English literature at Duquesne.

These distinguished writers will participate in the academic life of Duquesne's English department and some of its centers and institutes, including the Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism; the University Writing Center; and other Schools and departments.

Read more at: duq.edu/writers



Recent Rankings

12% of the nation's colleges are included in the *Wall Street Journal/College Pulse Best Colleges in the U.S.*, with Duquesne ranked 144.

10% of four-year institutions are in *Princeton Review's 2025 Best 390*. Duquesne included again!

3rd consecutive year the Duquesne Kline School of Law has maintained the prestigious top 100 *U.S. News* ranking.

U.S. News & World Report highlights several nationally-ranked Rangos School of Health Sciences programs, including:

Occupational Therapy #30
Physician Assistant #58
Speech-Language Pathology #74
Physical Therapy #79

Best Graduate Schools Ranking

The Palumbo-Donahue School of Business has earned a spot in the Best Graduate Schools rankings this year—an exciting milestone that reflects its growing reputation for innovation and transformational academic programs.

Alumni Updates

1970s

Paul James Fest, B’70, retired Senior Vice President from PNC Capital Markets, has been recognized with a Distinguished Service Award from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) for his 10-year commitment and volunteerism as a Certified Mentor on behalf of the small business community in Pittsburgh.

Richard M. Serbin, Esq., L’74, achieved recertification as a senior specialist in Civil Practice Advocacy from the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Approximately 3 percent of American lawyers are board certified. Serbin is of counsel with the firm of Janet, Janet & Suggs, LLC.

Terrence Smith, A’77, GA’78, retired in March 2024 after 45 years in software quality assurance. Smith’s career highlights include key government programs for the Environmental Protection Agency and NATO.

1980s

David Brown, A’84, is Assistant Dean of Community and Communication at the Klein College of Media and

Communication at Temple University. He is a member of Philadelphia Public Relations Association Hall of Fame.

Michael Victor, J.D., LL.D., L’86, was named President of the Board of Trustees of the Erie County (Pa.) Community College. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

1990s

Christina Crews, A’92, was installed as president of the Philadelphia Public Relations Association. Crews is the Director of Communication for the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services.

Dr. Karen Guty, DNP, GN’94, GN’15, is Regional Dean of Nursing and Associate Vice President at Rasmussen University School of Nursing. Based in Ocala, Fla., she supervises five campuses in Florida and two in Kansas.

John McDonald, GM’99, and **Charles “Chip” Bell, L’79**, recently collaborated on a book signing and album release party celebrating the legacy of Jimmy Buffett. Bell is a Pittsburgh-based attorney and author of the Jake

Sullivan series of 24 novels, which have earned rave reviews for their captivating storylines and vivid descriptions of island life. McDonald’s album, “Everything’s Jake,” inspired by Bell’s novels, has been nominated for eight Trop Rock Music Association awards, including Album of the Year.

2000s

Peter St. Tienne Wolff, B’06, L’08, partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, was ranked by Chambers and Partners USA in the area of general commercial litigation. Chambers ranks leading law firms and attorneys across the U.S. based on the opinion of their clients and peers, and by the quality of their work.

James Dvorsky, GP’08, was promoted to the rank of Captain (O-6) in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service.

2010s

Alyssa M. Dedola, A’13, L’17, has joined Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, as an associate in the Product Liability Practice Group in Pittsburgh. Prior to joining Pietragallo, she practiced at a national law firm where she concentrated her practice in civil litigation, with an emphasis on medical malpractice and general liability claims.

James D. Mazzocco, L’14, has been named a shareholder in the law firm Babst Calland. Mazzocco is a member of the firm’s Litigation and Environmental groups, with a practice focusing on environmental and complex commercial litigation. He has received *Best Lawyers* “Ones to Watch” recognition for Environmental Litigation since 2021, Transportation Law since 2022 and Construction Law since

2024. He has also been selected to the Pennsylvania Rising Stars list (Thomson Reuters) since 2018.

Anthony Priore, A’16, GA’18, has been promoted to Digital Marketing Manager at TPGi, a leading accessibility software and solutions company.

Sr. Amanda Matkovic, N’17, completed her seminary studies with the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louis and has begun her first ministry serving the refugee community in Utica, N.Y. She serves as an Outreach Nurse/Family Health Liaison at Thea Bowman House, a pre-K and childcare program that offers a safe and nurturing environment for local low income/at-risk families.

2020s

Alexandra N. Graf, L’24, has joined Babst Calland’s Environmental Group as an associate. She assists clients with matters encompassing a broad range of environmental issues, including those related to federal and state permitting, regulatory compliance, transactional due diligence, resolving liabilities under federal and state remediation programs, and environmental litigation.

Marriages

Samantha Barclay, L’15, and **David Rocchini, L’15**, wed on Aug. 10, 2024 at the Duquesne University Chapel. Samantha and David met at their first day of Law School.

Olivia Goodwin, S’16, GS’17, married Daniel Ricker on Aug. 10, 2024 in Kansas City, Mo.

Alyssa Lanzi, HS’15, GHS’16, and **Conor Burke, HS’17**, married in Philadelphia, Pa., on Aug. 17, 2024.

Carly Ann Sommer, HS’15, GHS’16, and John Patrick Summers married on Aug. 3, 2024.

Grant Christopher Barber, S’16, and **Kathleen Breanna McRoy, S’16, GS’17**, married on July 6, 2024.

Colby Bigler Simpson, A’17, and Caterina Luisa Macri married on June 15, 2024.

Kayla Renee Kerila, E’18, and Samuel Thomas Wotus married on June 29, 2024.

Anna Elizabeth Forrest, HS’19, GHS’20, and Andrew Dell Patrick Dougher married on Sept. 7, 2024.

Lauren Christine Colaizzi, E’20, and Mark Bingham Mezzina married on Aug. 24, 2024.

Kylie Ann Fitzgerald, E’21, and Corey Anthony Lang married on July 6, 2024.

Jacob Scott Kingerski, A’21, and **Frances Cefalu Mastriano, E’21**, married on June, 8, 2024.

Trent Andrew Weigand, A’21, and Megan Elizabeth McCallister married on Aug. 17, 2024.

Lauren Elizabeth Ferguson, GB’23, and Matthew James Gregory married on June 8, 2024.

Andrew John Weiss, HS’23, and Anne Hilary Dalton married on Aug. 17, 2024.

Births

Alex Will, B’15, and **Renae (Fichter) Will, HS’16, GHS’17**, welcomed son Benjamin Will on July 26, 2024.

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 Advancement Services office and includes deaths reported to us between Aug. 1, 2024 and Jan. 14, 2025. 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 alumnonline@duq.edu.

Deceased Alumni from Aug. 1, 2024-Jan. 14, 2025

Joseph M. Trant, B’24
John J. White, B’29
Rita L. Napoli, E’46
Hermine P. Butch, A’48, GE’72
Joseph Anthony Dressel, B’49
Francis J. Nowalk, B’50
William R. Andrews, B’51
Dolores J. Boniface, M.D., P’52
Gene W. Lindauere, M’52, GM’58
Joan C. Pacacha, S’52
Angela M. Scurci, E’52
Virginia C. Thomas, E’52
Joseph W. Cashell, P’53
Rose Pitassi Peckman, M’54, GE’61
Constance C. Winschel, A’55
Ralph Casciato, E’56, GE’60
Mimi J. Ciancio, A’56
Bernard J. Kennelly, B’56
Frank G. Kenski, B’56
Lucille Massaro, E’56
Arthur V. Stopper, S’56
Dr. Allen C. Brown, P’57
Gerald F. Ford, A’57
Matthew A. Radinovic, Sr., A’57
Michael A. Welsh, Jr., P’57
John S. Yadamec, A’57
Gerald F. Carr, E’58
Nicholas Cheberenckich, M’58, GM’63
John E. Crawford, B’58
John G. Ebner, B’58
Norman G. Haywood, Esq., B’58, L’64
Richard L. Letrent, P’58
Constance Marano, E’58
James E. McLaughlin, B’58
Lawrence J. Newport, R.Ph., P’58
James J. Dean, B’59
Louis L. Farkos, R.Ph., P’59
Ruth Anne Graham, E’59
Wilma Pitell, E’59, GE’63

In MEMORIAM	
Richard L. “Dick” White, H’99 , died Oct. 9 in Greenville, S.C., at age 85. A senior executive with Bayer Corporation, White served as chair of Duquesne’s Board of Directors from 1989-2000. While pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in international affairs, White learned of the political and economic struggles facing the people of Nicaragua, sparking a passion through which he marshaled Pittsburgh’s corporate, educational and philanthropic communities to help the Central American nation. With his wife, Joanne, a faculty member in Duquesne’s School of Nursing, they spearheaded academic, research and service partnerships linking Duquesne and Latin America. White was granted honorary membership in the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 1982 and received an honorary degree in 1999.	
George A. D’Angelo, A’65 , passed away Aug. 4, 2024, in Pittsburgh at age 81. D’Angelo participated in ROTC while earning his political science degree at Duquesne. After graduation he was commissioned and served 12 years as a fighter pilot with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam and Liberia. He later served with the Strategic Air Command and as Deputy Director of the Defense Department’s Humanitarian Assistance Office before retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1990. He spent eight years as a special advisor to the United Nations for conflict prevention, humanitarian affairs and peacekeeping operations. D’Angelo later founded the International Day of Peace Vigil and, with fellow Duquesne alumnus and veteran Anthony Accamando, A’66, co-founded Friends of Danang and Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans.	
Ronald T. Talenti, A’59	Robert E. Soltis, E’62
James R. Corey, A’60	Charles J. Hays, Jr., B’63
Nijole B. Dedinas, M’60	Maureen B. Jeffries, M’63
William L. Gall, B’60	Carolyn M. Jindracek, E’63
Frank L. Grebowski, B’60	James W. Lyle, B’63
James W. McCarthy, Esq., CPA, B’60, L’73	Roy J. Perry, P’63
Robert William Osborn, P’60	Barbara A. Arbogast, A’64
Vivian F. Ryan, E’60	Thomas J. Conway, B’64
Ruth C. Wise, E’60	Robert E. Geier, B’64
Luanne Fabry, E’61	Barry J. Mitchell, A’64
Edward V. Grant, B’61	Robert W. Morrissey, S’64
John J. Kuhn, B’61	Stephen C. Pholar, A’64
Richard J. Patellos, Sr., P’61	Msgr. Raymond A. Balta, A’65
Robert F. Reitmeyer, A’61	Charlotte A. Brooks, M’65
Charles T. Augustine, P’62	Dr. George A. D’Angelo, A’65
Keith D. Bertoluzzi, M’62	Eileen S. Meyer, N’65
Joseph K. Conwell, B’62	Jean A. Streiff, A’65
Ronald J. Herisko, B’62	Albert J. Vogel, B’65
Ralph P. Lipke, B’62	Loretta M. Briscoe, E’66
William D. Phillips, Esq., L’62	Marianne G. Dunn, N’66
D. Judith Salvatore, E’62	Raymond A. Eder, Pharm.D., P’66, P’81

DUKESCONNECT

The Office of Career Development, in partnership with the Office of Alumni Engagement, is excited to offer our DukesConnect platform. This online community provides the platform for alumni who wish to serve as mentors for alumni and students, or wish to find a mentor themselves. You can register for the platform using your personal email or LinkedIn account.



SCAN TO CONNECT

Paulette M. Esposito, R.N., N'66
Dr. Winifred F. Keaney, GA'66
Jerry Lomicka, B'66, GE'71
Carole M. Toth, N'66
James R. Wishchuk, Esq., A'66
Diane H. Wright, A'66
John P. Wunderly, Sr., B'66
Michael W. Albosta, B'67
William J. Beighey, GE'67
Mary Pat Curran, A'67
Sr. Nancy Hupert, CSJ, E'67, GE'72
Felicenne H. Ramey, GS'67
Judith K. Wilt, A'67
Stanley Winikoff, Esq., L'67
Kenneth R. Gianella, E'68
Stephen P. Hennessey, GA'68
Theodore Huckestein, B'68
Sr. M. Leah Krauth, OSF, E'68, GE'72
Louis B. Loughren, Esq., L'68
Lois A. McGovern, R.N., N'68
Michael Mullaugh, Esq., A'68, L'73
Sr. Carole Anne Riley, CDP, Ph.D., M'68, GM'70, GA'79
Raymond C. Schafer, A'68
Charles M. Shane, E'68
Frank S. Ferris, GE'69
Sheryle M. Guy, GE'69
Joan Hrynda, E'69, GE'76
Robert W. Madden, P'69
James E. McGroarty, E'69
Raymond D. Neusch, Esq., A'69

David L. Ream, Esq., GB'69, L'75
Anne S. Agee, Ph.D., A'70
David T. Arth, A'70
Burton S. Aronoff, A'70
Jan C. Doetsch, A'70
Theresa Pockl, E'70
Edward L. Rittenhouse, B'70
Lillian Schreiber, GE'70
Karen A. Webb, A'70, GE'73
Jeffrey M. Alias, E'71
William G. Bluemle, E'71
Alan L. Cherin, M'71
Judith K. Daugherty, Ph.D., N'71
Jane A. Fiore, GE'71
Anthony S. Hruska, A'71
Lloyd C. Neal, B'71
Richard T. Taylor, GE'71
Shirley A. Tincani, N'71
Jeanne E. Boyd, GE'72
Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock, E'72
Sr. Dorothy Dolak, VSC, GE'72
Daniel J. Evans, A'72
Dominic L. Falcetti, GA'72
Mary S. Jackson, GE'72
Joseph M. Karcher, A'72
The Hon. Jeffrey A. Manning, L'72
Mary Jo McMahon, GE'72
Claire R. Sachnoff, GE'72
Joseph M. Scarlato, GE'72
Sr. Bernadine M. Stemnock, OSF, E'72
Victor Vrabel, A'72

Mary E. Wilson, A'72, GE'76
Robert W. Acee, Esq., L'73
Darla Jo Fontana, GE'73
Victor E. Gorney, B'73
Donald F. Hindes, B'73
Sr. Laverne M. Sihelnik, GE'73
Kenneth J. Wiltz, E'73
Rev. Frank D. Almada, Ph.D., A'74, GA'90
Donald R. Burke, M'74
Steven J. Daley, E'74
Sallie J. Ewing, GE'74
Joseph A. Grau, Sr., A'74
Marianne Hoag, N'74
Robert M. Barrett, Esq., L'75
David R. French, A'75
James P. Wheeler, B'75
Karen S. Duncan, A'76, GE'77
Lewis E. Linn, Esq., A'76, L'82
Gladys H. Mason, A'76
Ann Marie DeVizia, GE'77
Sr. Kathleen Kelly, SSND, GA'77
Richard A. Litz, GE'77
Joyce C. McKeever, Esq., L'77
Sr. Ada McMahon, CSJ, GA'77
Philip J. Nerti, P'77
Leone P. Paradise, Esq., L'77
Penny L. Sidora, P'77
Thomas M. Karolcik, Jr., B'78
James T. West, B'78
Lori L. Garlits, A'79
Peter M. Vasilaros, B'79

Donna Ann Germinaro, GE'81
Karen Hierbaum, GA'81
Timothy J. Regan, B'81
Marlene N. O'Leary, A'82
Robert G. Bordas, A'83
Ted E. Socha, B'83, GB'87
Gary Robert Guyon, GM'84
Amy Krywancz-Thomas, N'84
Kathleen A. Samila, P'84
Sr. Beth Carrender, GA'85
The Hon. Frank J. Conti, Jr., A'85
Msgr. Bernard A. Powers, GA'85
David L. Santini, M'85

Deceased Friends from Aug 1, 2024-Jan. 14, 2025
Philip E. Auron, Ph.D.
Joseph A. Beck
Dr. Loisanne P. Bilka
Irmengard Carr
Stanley E. Ciesielski
Sr. Anne M. Clifford, CSJ, Ph.D.
Joe Danscak
Noel Harvard
John W. Lyttle
Norma J. Marfisi
David K. Martin
John Millburn
Harriet J. Mitchell
Paul J. Pugliese, Ph.D.
Dr. Carmen Stonge
Lois J. Vehec



Day of Giving Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Powered by more than \$320,000 in challenges, the 2025 Duquesne Day of Giving raised \$749,939—the second-highest total in the event’s 10-year history. Alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and friends made 1,297 gifts supporting schools, scholarships, athletic teams and student organizations.

Visit duq.edu/dayofgiving to learn more and see lists of donors and challenges.

1,297
total gifts
made by our alumni and friends

\$749,939
raised
to support Duquesne students



Alumni can visit duq.edu/alumni for the latest details on what’s happening at Duquesne, events and how to get involved and stay connected.

Submit Alumni Updates or a Photo

Alumni Updates, online and in print, are an opportunity for alumni to share personal and professional news and accomplishments. Members of our alumni community are invited to log into www.myduquesne.duq.edu/alumninews to tell us and others about a recent job change, promotion, award, publication, marriage, new family member, reunion or anniversary.

Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All submissions will be available online; however, space limitations prohibit us from including all alumni updates in our magazine.

THANK YOU!

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.





Know a student thinking about potential majors? Do they have a career path, but need to learn how to make it possible?



IF SO, REFER A STUDENT.

Duquesne encourages students to **discover and shape their path to success** using our integrated program of academic exploration, career planning and professional development that is designed to help them:

- **Discover their** interests, strengths, values and passions
- **Shape their future** career paths, consider social and community impact and think about their goals and purpose

A dedicated network of student success coaches, faculty advisors, career planning and development counselors, wellbeing and health advocates, financial aid counselors, alumni mentors and others will walk alongside them on their path to success at Duquesne and beyond.



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.