

SPRING 2026

# Duquesne

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



## From Academic Walk to the Runway

DUQUESNE ALUMNI HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL AT PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In this issue: Beyond the Cosmos ♦ Dear Dr. Dausey

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# Thoughts from the President



As I reflect on the past decade that I've served as President of Duquesne University, I'm filled with profound gratitude. These years have been the greatest gift imaginable. Every day, I've been inspired by the dedication and passion each member of our University family brings to our shared mission—to serve God by serving our students so that they, in turn, can serve others. Because of this commitment, we continue to welcome talented, purpose-driven students who not only thrive here on the Bluff but carry forward our historic mission into the world as Duquesne alumni.

This issue beautifully illustrates the reach and impact of our distinctive mission. It includes a story about a group of students from our new Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine who traveled to Honduras, where they provided much-needed care, built relationships, deepened their cultural humility and lived out our call to serve vulnerable communities. Their work reflects the very heart of who we are. And our alumni stories remind us just how far a Duquesne education can take you—from graduates who played key roles in the opening of Pittsburgh International Airport's new \$1.7 billion terminal to Grace Heidinger, A'22, whose passion for sports carried her from Duquesne's campus to a career in the National Football League: she currently serves as social media coordinator for the Buffalo Bills. Their achievements speak volumes. So does the remarkable journey of Rob Alberino, A'92, whose box of championship rings—two from Super Bowl victories with the Kansas City Chiefs, alongside honors from the 49ers and Eagles—symbolizes a career shaped by excellence and relentless drive.

As I prepare to step down from my current position on July 1, I'm thrilled that the Board has appointed Provost David Dausey as the University's next President. David will be an exceptional successor, and I'm grateful that the Board has asked me to serve in the role of Chancellor. It's a great honor—only Father McAnulty and John Murray have gone on to serve as Chancellor after their presidencies. I'll focus on maintaining and cultivating relationships with alumni, donors, foundations, government officials—and also work with David on select projects (like the 150th anniversary of the University in 2028). But I also plan to start a new book, and carve out some time for our six grandkids—Laura and I want to make sure that we enjoy this magical time with our family. My goal is to create a seamless transition—and stay directly involved—so that the successes keep on coming!

Thank you for your continued faith in Duquesne's historic mission to serve our students. This University will always remain home in my heart, and I look forward to cheering on its next chapter with pride.

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](http://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

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Note on the cover: The image is a composite of photos courtesy of Gensler + HDR in association with luis vidal architects - Photo credit: Ema Peter



# Like Dynamite

by Gabriel Welsch

ROB ALBERINO'S CAREER HAS TAKEN HIM FROM THE BLUFF TO PHILLY TO THE BAY AREA TO ARROWHEAD STADIUM, AND TO A BRUSH WITH A MEGASTAR ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.

**R**ob Alberino, A'92, knows exactly what one thing he'll grab from his home in an emergency.

It's a box of jewelry.

Not just any jewelry. Inside are five Championship rings, including two Super Bowl rings thanks to the Kansas City Chiefs' wins since he's been their vice president of content and production. They share velvet-padded space with two other gem-encrusted baubles, one for the San Francisco 49ers' 2019 NFC Championship and one for the Philadelphia Eagles' 2004 NFC Championship.

The last ring is one every alumni-reader of this publication knows: his class of '92 Duquesne Red Ring.



(Above, left to right) Rob and Patrick Mahomes, Rob and Lisa Alberino with Coach Andy Reid, 65 Toss Power Productions crew on a shoot, Rob Alberino in the Teams' Hall of Honor with four Lombardi Trophies, Lisa, Stella, Jordan and Angelina Aberino supporting the Chiefs at Super Bowl 58





“When I first went through that tunnel and saw Pittsburgh, I was hooked.”

### ADVENTURES IN MEDIA

Alberino’s ring hasn’t always been so spectacular. More than 30 years ago, fresh off the Bluff with his degree in media production and a bigger goal of working in sports, Alberino interviewed with legendary Duke Len Komoroski, A’82, then business manager for the Philadelphia Eagles. Moving his hand around to flash the ring from various angles, Alberino wanted the garnet D to enter the conversation.

“He never looked up,” Alberino recalls. “All business. But he hired me, even though he never looked at that ring.”

Alberino’s hunger led to an early record of achievement. Among his first media accomplishments was not dumping sheet cakes out of helicopters.

“Pittsburghers remember when WTAE weatherman Joe DeNardo used to fly in to visit high schools on Wednesdays,” Alberino says. “I helped for a while, fighting Gs as the helicopter turned for a landing, trying to keep level some cake with a school’s name on it.”

Other accomplishments included helping to build the first Division 1 football television show, *Unrivaled* (at the time it was called *The Penn State Football Story*), for Penn State in the early 1990s. His trail would lead to other storied programs, from Philadelphia’s beloved “Birds” to the San Francisco 49ers to the Kansas City Chiefs, the last of which had him brush with one of the most massive global brands of the 21st century.

When Taylor Swift began attending Chiefs games as her relationship with Chiefs’ tight end Travis Kelce started, the world paid even more attention to an already powerful NFL brand. “She was absolute rocket fuel,” Alberino recalls.

### ACTING SWIFTLY

“It was a Chicago Bears game. When I heard she was coming into the stadium, I didn’t believe it at first,” Alberino says. “We had 34 cameras in that area and I started scanning everywhere to find her—and there she was. And of course, we shredded the Bears. She was like dynamite.”

The internet famously broke. Everyone had an opinion, as sports fans and pop culture aficionados do. Alberino’s initial impulse was to make the most of what could have been a fleeting moment.

Cooler thinking prevailed. “We wanted to be classy,” he said. The team decided to only show her once or twice a year on the big screens.

As a marketing pro he knew: scarcity begets demand. Suddenly each game was a national event for the elusive

spotting of a fan favorite. The team’s market reach took off, eclipsing franchises with much larger media footprints, thanks to the attention juggernaut of millions of Swifties.

### EXPANDING HORIZONS IN A NEW CITY

Originally from New Haven, Conn., Alberino was looking at colleges at a time when Duquesne was not as well-known as the pop and fashion maven who frequents his workplace. Alberino attended Notre Dame of West Haven High School, a boys’ Catholic school where Duquesne recruited.

“I wanted to be far enough away that I was on my own, but close enough that I could get back,” Alberino says. “It was rough where I grew up and I knew I wanted something more. When I first went through that tunnel and saw Pittsburgh, I was hooked.”

Jumping right in, Alberino expanded his horizons developing media chops at WDUQ when it still had a home in Des Places. He sought any work in the industry he could find, wanting to be on TV and radio. Today as a producer, he paves the way for others to be on air—finding the work endlessly exhilarating.

“A producer is someone who becomes an expert on something they originally knew nothing [about],” he says.

### NEXT GENERATIONS

A self-described sports nut, Alberino avidly follows many teams with his wife, son and two daughters, including Duquesne. When the Dukes’ men’s basketball team had their magical season in 2024 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament to face Illinois, he made the trip to (relatively) nearby Omaha, Neb.

“It was a last-minute thing; I couldn’t get tickets, so I just sort of snuck in,” he laughs. “It didn’t go our way, but I was so proud and really enjoyed being there with my daughter.”

Still in touch with several Duquesne friends, he also recalls fondly some of his favorite places on the Bluff, particularly the chapel. “It sounds obvious, but it’s so beautiful and peaceful there. It just always meant a lot to me. And the Union, where we used to bowl when there were lanes there, play video games, making those friendships.”

Paying forward what so many mentors did for him, Alberino hosts seasonal interns in Kansas City, working to place them in the industry. “So far, 28 for 28 have jobs, with a new crop of six getting their chops now,” he says. “I have a pretty good record.” ♦



(Above, left to right) Alberino in Santa Clara, Calif., at Levi’s Stadium, Rob and Mark Donovan, Chiefs president, at training camp, Alberino on the sidelines at Lumen Field in Seattle, Wash., Alberino addressing soldiers in Fort Knox, Ky.



# More than Technology and Textbooks

DUQUESNE MEDICAL STUDENTS PROVIDE CARE IN HONDURAS

By Logan Platt

In a coastal Honduran clinic where resources are limited and patient needs are great, Duquesne University Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine students discovered what it means to practice medicine beyond technology and textbooks. During the fall 2025 semester, seven students traveled to Roatán, Honduras, for a global health mission that challenged them to adapt, collaborate and apply osteopathic principles in one of the most meaningful settings of their medical education.

“The weeklong mission blended clinical service, cultural exchange and global collaboration, offering students a horizon-expanding look at health care beyond U.S. borders,” said Dr. Jacob Turnbull, the faculty sponsor.

Much of the students’ work was conducted at Clínica Esperanza, a community-based health center providing quality, low-cost medical care, where students witnessed both the challenges and problem-solving ingenuity required to practice medicine in a limited resource setting. The relationship with Clínica Esperanza began a few years prior with faculty and students from Duquesne School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy. Through collaboration between different schools at Duquesne, this interprofessional global partnership has grown to increase student opportunities at the University.

“Patients in Roatán have limited access to specialty care, and referrals often require travel to the mainland,” said Abriana Will, a doctor of osteopathic medicine candidate. “Limited diagnostic tools and financial barriers prevent many from seeking care.”

When examining clinic patients, the Nasuti D.O. candidate-students put into practice the portable, handheld

ultrasound devices they received on their first day as medical students. Easily transported to a patient’s location, these devices are especially valuable for residents visiting the clinic and were made possible through congressional omnibus funding.

“Despite the challenges, the clinic’s health care professionals remained positive and thorough,” Will said. “It reinforced how important it is to understand a patient’s background to provide effective care.”

A key component of the trip was Duquesne’s partnership with Global Links, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that redistributes surplus medical supplies to under-resourced communities worldwide. Through the partnership, the team delivered essential equipment, including nebulizers, to the clinic and a newly built hospital in the region, according to Sierra Bell, director of community and global health for the medical college.

The students also spent time at local hospitals, gaining insight into the country’s health care infrastructure and the diverse needs of its patients.

The director of Global Links joined the group for part of the trip, helping with the delivery and facilitating introductions with local public health leaders. Conversations focused on sustainable partnerships, long-term collaboration and shared learning between Honduras and the United States, reinforcing that global health is built on relationships as much as resources.

Service also extended to education. The Nasuti College of Medicine students led “teach and learn” sessions for Honduran health care staff, presenting on clinical and public health topics relevant to the community’s needs, including diagnosing and

treating asthma, congenital heart disease and carpal tunnel syndrome. Students strengthened their leadership and communication skills while contributing knowledge in a meaningful, collaborative way.

They also participated in community initiatives—two days with Clínica Esperanza’s outreach efforts, one day partnering with the Honduran Ministry of Health and another at a public health outpatient clinic. These experiences highlighted the importance of preventive care education, community engagement and accessible care in improving health outcomes.

Throughout the week, students saw osteopathic principles in action—treating the whole person, witnessing resilience and compassion in every setting and gaining a deeper understanding of health disparities and the realities of practicing medicine with limited resources.

“This trip taught me how to embrace uncertainty,” Will said. “I learned to adapt, communicate across language barriers and understand Honduran culture and health care. It taught me patience, resilience and resourcefulness—skills that will stay with me throughout my career.”

More than a service trip, the experience was formative. Students returned to Pittsburgh with renewed purpose, greater cultural humility and a stronger commitment to health equity. For the Department of Community and Global Health, the Honduras mission reflects Duquesne’s broader call to serve, lead and advocate for vulnerable populations, both locally and globally.

In Honduras, Duquesne students didn’t just provide care, they built relationships, shared knowledge and discovered what it truly means to heal beyond borders. ♦





# Beyond the Cosmos, He Taught Life Lessons

By Ken Walters

When Ben Moreno, S'11, was an undergraduate, he would sometimes share his commute to campus with his physics professor and mentor Dr. Tom Davies, as they both lived on the South Side.

"I remember one time when I mentioned how much money people must make to afford the large houses we would see on our drive," Moreno said. "Tom looked at me and said, 'You don't go into science to make money. You go into science for knowledge, understanding the universe and to have fun.'"

It was just one of many lessons Moreno learned from Davies, the long-time head of Duquesne's physics department (1993-2012). Davies died in June 2024 but left behind a legacy of students who learned much more from him than just black holes, cosmology and relativity.

His impact was so great that Moreno, a senior manager at SpaceX, wanted to provide a special tribute to the man who taught him so much about the universe.

"Occasionally, SpaceX allows its employees to fly personal artifacts into space and back to earth," Moreno said. "So when I was sharing my condolences with his widow, I asked her if it would be OK to take a portion of Tom's ashes aboard one of our flights. It seemed fitting that as Tom lifted up so many of us that we should lift him up as well."

Davies' widow Carol, a former sociology professor at Duquesne, agreed and on Sept. 18, 2025, Davies' ashes soared past the Karman line, into space and back safely to earth.

The special moment honored a professor who loved teaching students how to understand and explore the universe while also ingraining the desire to learn more.

"I wasn't the best student in class," Moreno recalled. "I asked a lot of questions and grappled with the principles and theories he was teaching. He always found a way to explain it so that we could understand. He was very impressive."

Davies' love for physics and teaching made him a great mentor, Moreno said.

"He was very passionate about physics and knew a lot of experts in the field," he said, noting that Davies wrote a book on the subject. "He loved explaining the different concepts and theories and had incredible patience. He could re-direct a conversation and make me look at a problem differently."

Davies' impact has left a legacy with his students, many of whom spent their academic careers learning together with him. Several former students attended his funeral, Moreno said, and one of the student's letters was read during the service.

"The day you invited us into your home, we became family," the former student wrote. "Your brilliant mind reached even the furthest of us, but it is your big heart that brought us all together. You allowed us to enter your world and made us part of it. And you are an integral part of my world. For this, I will never be able to show enough gratitude." ♦



Dr. Tom Davies

**"He always found a way to explain it so that we could understand."**



Dustin McGrew Photography.

The SpaceX rocket carrying Dr. Tom Davies' ashes soars over the Pittsburgh skyline on Sept. 18, 2025.



# Brewed for Success: Arnie Burchianti

CAREGIVER, ENTREPRENEUR AND  
CHAMPION OF DUQUESNE'S MISSION

By Ian P. Hurley

Forged among the rolling hills and valleys of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands, Arnie Burchianti, HS '94, and Helltown Brewing share the same geographic starting point and upward trajectory in the world of business.

For Burchianti, as a Catholic, the Duquesne mission resonated deeply and made his decision to attend that much easier. As a physical therapy student and resident assistant, he worked under the guidance of the Rev. Sean Hogan, C.S.Sp., when Hogan served as executive vice president of Student Life. Hogan married Burchianti and his wife, baptized their children and was his daughter's Confirmation sponsor; their friendship endures today. The Burchianti family still visits with Hogan regularly.

## THE CAREGIVER

After graduating, he began a career in outpatient orthopedics, but it was his evening work in home health care that sparked a clearer professional path with purpose. "I fell in love with it because I'd walk into the homes of what was the best generation ever. In the 1990s, and these people had gone through the Depression and World War II. These were just real hard working, great Pittsburghers," he said, reflecting on the people he cared for.

His collaborative approach with nurses and other clinicians, something he attributes to Duquesne's interdisciplinary training, soon set him apart. "We had classes with nurses... I think that approach to health care did it, because it's what I was trained to do," he explained.

## THE ENTREPRENEUR

That philosophy fueled his first entrepreneurial venture: a contract physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology business that quickly grew to 50 clinicians. Five years later, he founded Celtic Healthcare, which expanded into home care and hospice services across multiple states. In 2012, the Washington Post Company acquired a majority stake, drawn to the company's strong clinical technology and leadership team—several of whom were also Duquesne graduates.

In many travels back to the Laurel Highlands, Burchianti would stop by Helltown Brewing to pick up beer while visiting family in Mount Pleasant or heading to Seven Springs for ski trips. He became close to founder Shawn

For Burchianti, all of his success in business and life has always been rooted in humility, gratitude and mission.

Gentry and respected his approach to brewing beer. "I thought he was a real craftsman. He just has that gift. At this point, I had set up an alternative investment fund and was looking to do small-term investments," he said. That led Burchianti to partner with Gentry to help expand Helltown's operations and distribution and fuel its growth.

## CHAMPION OF THE MISSION

After serving as the School of Health Sciences' first alumni president, on the University's Board of Trustees for nine years and on the School of Nursing's Advisory Board, Burchianti looked for other ways he could give back to his alma mater.

In looking to grow his support of the University and its mission, students and student-athletes seemed like a perfect fit. That support has assisted students and spaces within the School of Health Sciences and for student-athletes at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

## HELLTOWN'S BLUFF 78

An idea was then born to blend Helltown and Duquesne. "Bluff 78 is more than just a brew. It's a tribute to Duquesne University, the people who have shaped it and the pride we carry beyond campus," Burchianti said when this unique, one-of-one beer was released.

The visual elements of the Bluff 78 packaging are unique to Duquesne. It features the iconic Gothic script, the traditional red and blue palette and design elements drawn from the architecture of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and other places on campus.

For Burchianti, all of his success in business and life has always been rooted in humility, gratitude and mission. As he puts it, "Attitude determines your altitude"—a philosophy he continues to share with Duquesne students. ♦



Arnie Burchianti  
(left) with University  
President Ken Gormley

## RAISE A DU STEIN!

Not long after Helltown Brewing launched Bluff 78 last summer, the beer that owner Arnie Burchianti, HS '94, created with his brewers as a tribute to his alma mater, President Ken Gormley received a vessel that could be handy for enjoying the traditional lager.

David Cardone, L'03, found a distinctive beer stein in California at an antique store. Thinking the unusual find would make a great Christmas gift for his former law professor, Cardone wrapped it up and shipped it off to Pittsburgh.

One side of the stein features a barrel-chedged Duquesne Duke, resplendent in striped trousers, cane and the signature top hat that endures to this day, now sitting atop Duke the Lion's electric blue head.

The glazed stoneware piece also has highly detailed depictions of the entrance to Old Main and the University's seal, including the ribbon with *Spiritus est qui vivificat*. Leafy vines tie the creation's three panels together and a pewter cap tops it.

The stein turns out to be relatively rare but part of a series of vessels made for more than 100 different colleges and universities. A New Jersey-based importer and designer, Eric Mihan, approached college and university bookstores around the United States in the early 1950s, offering to help design, secure a manufacturer and then import vessels featuring mascots and other identifiers for the stores to sell. His initial targets were the Ivy League universities—perhaps explaining the abundant presence of greenery in the designs.

Dozens took him up on the offer, including Loyola University, Cal Tech (then Polytech), Penn, Dartmouth and the University of Alabama. He even designed at least one non-collegiate piece—for the 10th anniversary of the Pentagon.

Once a school took him up on the offer, he would commission a stein manufacturer to create it. The manufacturers were overwhelmingly based in Germany, with his most frequent collaborator the Simon Peter Gerz company. For those interested, and if



they can get their hands on it, a DVD exists of specialist Andre Ammelounx giving a full account of what is known at the 2009 Stein Collectors International Convention.

The production runs were small—quite often between 50 and 100 of any given design—making them pretty rare finds. For those curious, they do hold some modest value to collectors, with the more elaborate steins like the one now in Gormley's home sometimes selling for more than \$100 on sites like eBay.

If you have one of the steins, please share your story at [duqmagazine@duq.edu](mailto:duqmagazine@duq.edu) or how you acquired it! ♦



# No Passport Required for Business Alum's European Summer



By Gina O'Malley

For Abby Wendt, B'25, the "European Summer" pop culture moment isn't just a viral social media trend marked by coastal, luxurious vibes and leisurely vacations along the Mediterranean—it's a growing swimwear business by the same name.

It's only appropriate that Wendt laid the groundwork for European Summer, her now-viral swimwear company, as she wrapped up a semester in Rome. The study-abroad experience was pivotal for the business marketing major and entrepreneurship minor, and it's the inspiration for many of her swimwear designs.

## EUROPEAN SUMMER WAS THE MOOD. SHE MADE IT A MOMENT.

From Corsica and Florence to Valencia and Ravello, each of her swimsuits is named for and inspired by special memories and the beauty of Europe. Wendt enjoyed building independence and confidence as she navigated different countries and landscapes, drawing inspiration for her business along the way.

"All of the bikinis are affordable and named after places I traveled or want to revisit," she said.

Wendt's favorite? A new collection called Capri Blues—inspired by a visit to the clear, azure waters of the Amalfi Coast.

"I released this collection in January after making all of the prints with my manufacturer," she said. "I flew to LA for the design process and made matching bags for the first 50 people who ordered."

## A BUSINESS BORN ON THE BLUFF

Starting a business as a college student wasn't easy. Wendt juggled a full class schedule, student involvement activities and entrepreneurial responsibilities. Luckily, Palumbo-Donahue School of Business faculty and staff were always in her corner and trusted in her potential.

"We did a lot of projects that correlated really well with my business," she said. "My favorite part about Duquesne was how the



**"My favorite part about Duquesne was how the coursework aligned with what I was doing and how I could use my business for class projects."**

coursework aligned with what I was doing and how I could use my business for class projects."

Wendt gained professional confidence and launched European Summer by applying her coursework and faculty mentorship, involving her friends and researching any areas where she lacked knowledge.

"The people around me made it so much easier," she said. "Professors understood and helped me focus on the business, and my friends would help me pack orders before a Friday night out."

When it was time to find office space in Pittsburgh, Staci Offutt, director of the Center for Excellence in Entrepreneurship, was by Wendt's side, touring spaces and advising her along the way.

Wendt set up pop-up shops around campus and was proud to donate a

portion of sales to Alpha Sigma Tau's philanthropy, Make-A-Wish. She also spoke at a Duquesne Women in Business meeting. Dozens attended in person, and more than 400 attended via livestream.

"This helped create a local community of people who liked my products and got the name out there even more," she said.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS AND A SUNNY FORECAST

Momentum for her business grew on social media as Wendt held additional pop-ups back home in Buffalo, N.Y., and appeared as the face of the brand on Instagram and TikTok. European Summer has 67,000 TikTok followers and has earned more than 1.3 million video likes.

"I had a series called 'bikini of the day' that people loved," said Wendt. "I'd hold them up and describe the features and why the customer should buy them."

Wendt's suits were well-received, and her success has grown each year.

"My senior year in 2025, I sold 4.5 times what I did the previous year," said Wendt. "I started thinking maybe this could be my job."

Despite those thoughts, Wendt interviewed for corporate roles as her social media following and sales grew. She quickly realized she had the ambition and drive to follow her dreams and made European Summer her full-time job.

"It's a different trajectory than what I expected, but I do really love it, and it gives me a lot of freedom," she said. "I travel a lot doing monthly photo shoots in Florida and I go to trade shows in New York. It's different from what I thought I'd be doing, but it's really fun."

After graduation, Wendt moved her operation to Buffalo and no longer packs and ships her own orders. She now works with a fulfillment center in Texas so she can focus on design, marketing, customer service, customer retention and logistics. Her goal is to make the highly coveted "European Summer" aesthetic at a price point accessible to all.

"I want people to know and love my products so they come back for every drop," she said. ♦



# From Academic Walk to the Runway

DUQUESNE ALUMNI HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL AT PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

By Rose Ravasio, A'90

## A NEW GATEWAY FOR PITTSBURGH

In the early hours of Nov. 18, 2025, as the first passengers began moving through Pittsburgh International Airport's new terminal, hundreds of airport staff helped manage the monumental task of opening the new terminal. Years of planning and preparation had led to this moment—the debut of a dramatically reimagined gateway for the region. Among those helping ensure everything ran smoothly were several Duquesne University alumni whose journeys began years earlier on Academic Walk.

For the \$1.7 billion terminal transformation, Duquesne graduates played key roles across finance, technology, communications, public policy and passenger experience. Their degrees in fields as different as philosophy, journalism, integrated marketing and business helped prepare them to contribute to one of the region's most complex and visible infrastructure projects.

Five Duquesne alumni—Eric Sprys, GB'96; Deepak Nayyar, GB'12; Elise Gomez, A'14, GB'15; Bob Kerlik, A'03; and Meghan (Snyder) Cox, A'07—were among those in airport leadership who helped guide different parts of the project that reshaped Pittsburgh's front door to the world.

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

For Sprys, executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, the new terminal was the culmination of nearly a decade of work.

"It's something I had been working on for close to nine years with all the planning and design, negotiating with the airlines and other stakeholders," Sprys said. "There's the long-term project and then the things you deal with in the moment. It had been a big part of my role here."

When opening day finally arrived, the transition happened overnight. Teams rerouted roadways, shifted airline counters, opened new parking areas and moved

security operations into the new building—all while ensuring smooth airport operations. Sprys recalled, "I was here all night just observing. I kept waiting for something to go wrong because I thought it would, but it never did, thanks to the team's proactive planning and attention to detail at every step."

The moment that stayed with him came just before dawn, as the first travelers entered the terminal. "Watching people come up the escalator and seeing their eyes light up—they'd get their phones out and start taking pictures," he said. "It was very rewarding to know we had done it right."

Sprys credits his time at Duquesne with helping him discover the analytical path that eventually led him into airport leadership. After earning an undergraduate degree in mathematics education elsewhere, he chose the University to open a different set of doors.

"When I went back for my MBA, I took accounting and realized that's what I loved to do," he said. "That was the foundation of everything I've accomplished."

For Sprys, the airport represents more than a transportation hub. It is an economic engine for the region. "A region with a strong airport has a huge advantage over other regions," he said. "It attracts new companies, new industries and new opportunities."

## POWERING THE PASSENGER JOURNEY

If Sprys helped build the project's financial and operational foundation, Nayyar helped build its digital one.

As executive vice president and chief information officer, Nayyar joined the airport authority about three years before the terminal opened, when the technology side of the project was already under pressure. His team ultimately hired about 50 IT professionals and rebuilt the systems that now support everything from passenger navigation to Wi-Fi and parking tools.

"What we feel is the journey starts for people at home, not when they come to the airport," Nayyar said. "Looking



Gensler + HDR in association with luis vidal architects - Photo credit: Ema Peter



Duquesne alumni Deepak Nayyar, Elise Gomez, Eric Sprys, Meghan (Snyder) Cox and Bob Kerlik helped drive the \$1.7B transformation of Pittsburgh International Airport's new terminal.



Events including construction tours, media walkthroughs and public open houses helped showcase progress and build momentum toward the new terminal's launch.

at the website, getting familiar with what is at the airport, where the parking is, that's all part of the journey."

His approach focused on building technology capable of evolving with the industry. "We have the right building blocks to any technology changes that happen," he said.

To avoid surprises, Nayyar's team activated the network months before opening day. "We started running in April," he said. "By the time we hit September, we were fully functional without any issues. It was like business as usual."

That preparation paid off. "To see our passengers walking through the terminal making use of our technology—that was meaningful," Nayyar said. "We delivered on time and delivered it successfully."

Nayyar also credits his Duquesne experience with helping him grow beyond the role of a technical specialist. "It gave me the platform to collaborate with people and learn about what is possible," he said. "I was good at what I was doing, but I did not know where to go next. Duquesne helped me do that."

For him, the technology transformation is far from finished. "We are not done yet," he said.

## DESIGNING THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

For Gomez, manager of customer experience for the airport authority, the terminal project has always been about the people moving through it. She oversees much of the passenger-facing side of airport operations, including information desks, customer care agents and a 120-person volunteer program.

That journey starts with understanding the traveler's perspective. "I love working with people and I love being

able to make an impact for the travelers," she said. "You never know why somebody's traveling."

Some of the clearest confirmation that the new terminal design works comes from watching passengers experience it for the first time. The layout helps simplify the travel process. "When you get dropped off, you see all the ticket counters and the TSA checkpoint right away," she said. "You already know the route you need to take. Everything is much more seamless."

Gomez said her Duquesne education helped prepare her for a role that blends communication, strategy and empathy. "I learned a lot of the soft skills—the communication piece, being adaptable," she said. "Understanding customer perspective, their desires, their needs, their wants—it's all things that I do right now."

Her graduate studies also emphasized collaborative, project-based work—an approach that mirrors how she now works across departments to implement new ideas.

For Gomez, the terminal project has also carried personal meaning. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said. Now, when family and friends travel through the airport, she feels a sense of pride in what the team created.

## EXPLAINING THE TRANSFORMATION

Even the most dramatic public project needs someone to help people understand what they are seeing and why it matters. For Kerlik, director of public affairs for the airport authority, that meant making the terminal modernization program visible long before opening day.

A journalism graduate who once reported on the airport for the *Tribune-Review*, Kerlik brought a reporter's perspective to the communications strategy. "Being a

journalist helps because I know how reporters think and what they want to know," he said.

That insight shaped how the airport shared progress with the public—through construction tours, media walkthroughs and updates throughout the project. "We wanted to build momentum toward opening day," Kerlik said. "We had media days focused on parking, security, baggage systems—different parts of the passenger experience so people could learn about the terminal piece by piece."

The airport even invited the public to test the terminal before it opened, noting two public trials and an open house where about 10,000 people came through the terminal.

Kerlik traces his professional path back to Duquesne, including writing for *The Duke* student newspaper—and later as *Duke* advisor and adjunct instructor—and learning from faculty mentors. "Duquesne gave me the opportunity to get real-world experience while I was still a student," he said.

## CONNECTING THE REGION

For Cox, vice president of corporate and government relations, the terminal transformation represents the impact of long-standing collaboration across the region. Her role centers on building relationships with government leaders, community organizations and industry partners to help bring major projects to life.

The ability to bring diverse partners together is a skill Cox first developed at Duquesne. "As a liberal arts student involved across campus, you learned how to connect with people from every background," she said. "When we approached stakeholders for this project, we found that same shared purpose. Everyone agreed Pittsburgh deserved better."

She saw that unity deepen as conversations focused on making travel easier. "When we talked about improving the experience, that was the one thing everyone could get behind," Cox said.

Cross-functional teamwork has been essential, a dynamic that reminds her of the supportive networks she experienced as a student, where people were always willing to help each other build new skills.

An English and philosophy major, Cox also credits her education with preparing her for a career that evolved in unexpected ways. "My grandparents, who were also Duquesne alumni, always believed that if you studied liberal arts you could learn anything technical on the job," she said. "They were right."

## A LAUNCHPAD FOR THE FUTURE

For these alumni, the airport's new terminal is more than a construction project. It is a reminder of how a Duquesne education can lead to unexpected paths and meaningful work that shapes an entire region.

From finance and technology to communications and customer experience, their roles reflect the collaborative mindset that carried them from Academic Walk to one of Pittsburgh's most visible institutions.

As millions of travelers pass through Pittsburgh International Airport each year, the impact of that work will continue to unfold—shaping how the world arrives in Pittsburgh and how Pittsburgh connects with the world. ♦



# Sports, Social Media and Full- Circle Moments



By Gina O'Malley

**A** love for sports led Grace Heidinger, A'22, to the Bluff. Her continued passion and hard work landed her a career in the National Football League.

Growing up in Buffalo, N.Y., Heidinger favored the Pittsburgh Penguins over the Buffalo Sabres. Once or twice a year, her family drove south to watch the Penguins play the Sabres at PPG Paints Arena.

During one of those visits, Heidinger looked at a map and realized there was a university campus just behind the arena. Her curiosity and a later campus visit sealed the deal, and she enrolled in the sports information and media program in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts.

"I thought it would be so cool to go to school right next to the arena I grew up going to watch my favorite team play, and Pittsburgh was high on my list," said Heidinger. "I loved the city."

## FROM AVID FAN TO PART OF THE TEAM

During her time on the Bluff, Heidinger was thrilled to intern with the Pittsburgh Penguins, and a few months after graduation, she interned with the Buffalo Bills.

Later, she completed a social media fellowship with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Heidinger enjoyed covering events like spring training and the Major League Baseball draft.

"I really fell in love with social media while I was with the Pirates," she said. "I started after the season began so I was thrown into the mix right away."

Throughout Heidinger's career, she's put her coursework to good use.

"All of the writing and other classes I took at Duquesne I use firsthand with practice reports, game recaps, player features—everything under the sun," she said.

The professional sports world is small, and it wasn't long before Heidinger heard of a social media coordinator job available with her hometown team, the Buffalo Bills.

She was nervous to apply but channeled the support and confidence instilled in her by Duquesne faculty.

## PURSUING BIGGER GOALS

Heidinger was at PNC Park when she got the job offer. "I was filled with emotions being at my current place of work, which I did love, and then getting the offer of my dreams," she said. "I was speechless."

Heidinger calls herself the "Buffalo Boomerang," as she once again moved back home.

Her time with the Bills has been marked by special moments—a farewell season at their current stadium, preparations to move to a new stadium across the street and covering a roster she describes as "a dream."

Heidinger spends her days brainstorming, creating social media content, celebrating wins and showcasing the team and city of Buffalo. As a lifelong Bills fan, she has a valuable point of view.

"I know what fans might like to see," she said.

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Heidinger stays connected to Pittsburgh and Duquesne. She recently coordinated a meetup between Bills quarterback Josh Allen and Pirates pitchers (and Allen fans) Paul Skenes and Jared Jones. She was, of course, on hand to document the occasion for social media.

Additionally, Heidinger spent her spring break at Pirates training camp in Bradenton, Fla., and volunteers her time speaking to sports information and media students at Duquesne.

"If you told me this is where I would end up, I don't know if I would've believed you," she said. "Anyone would love to be in this position, and it's my job. Sometimes that's easy to forget because of how much I love what I'm doing." ♦





# Livestreaming Leads Two Music Tech Students to the Best, Best, Best Path

By Elizabeth Shestak

**A**luna Carter, M'28, and Cae Stewart, M'28, had never sung in front of a live, global audience before. But on Dec. 5, in nearby Red Caiman music studio, the music technology majors stood before a live audience with a band behind them with their voices projected across the world via Duquesne's Institute of Entertainment, Music and Media Arts (IEMMA) broadcast network—and they let it rip.

"It was honestly my favorite experience in school," Carter said of the production called Take One – The Studio Sessions LIVE! "It's the first thing that made me feel like I'm actually taking steps towards my career. Obviously the classes are good, but they don't give me that hands-on experience of what it's like to perform or tour or even do live audio. It was just really cool to be able to do all that and have it recorded as well."

This is just one of the many ways Duquesne's music tech students engage with the real world of mixing, lighting, staging and the other countless elements that go into producing a live performance. Now an annual event, Take One is the outcome of Associate Music Professor Thomas Kikta trying to create an experience for his students that gets them as close as possible to the realities of music production.

Aluna Carter performs during Take One - The Studio Sessions LIVE!



both worlds," Kikta said. "We train them to be artists on both sides of the recording studio glass."

The event has evolved along with the science, so this is another way Duquesne students are better prepared for their careers in music production and technology when they graduate. "In technology everything moves so fast, every six months there's new stuff," Kikta said.

## THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

It was important for both students to not only go to a university where they could work on their voice, but also their technical skills. They wanted to be empowered with their knowledge of producing music in modern studios when they started their careers—careers, they say, they want to share when they open a studio together.

"Our strengths mesh well and make for a beautiful mix; we also communicate very well together," Carter said.

For Stewart, the music tech pathway gave her the support she needed to improve musically while honing an entirely new skillset, one that would only broaden her horizons.

"I knew I wanted to go into a music profession. I just wasn't sure which to do because I didn't have a lot of technical music experience because I was a singer. I did choir, but I wasn't good at the hard stuff like music theory. I didn't have a lot of experience," she recalled. "But I am a songwriter and want to make my own music and I felt like this was the best, best, best path."

## IT'S A WRAP

A lot was learned in those few hours on stage. "I've never been able to perform live with a band, so I gained so much knowledge just based on that one experience. I now know that there are certain earplugs

**"Learning all of that, being there in the experience really taught me a lot about producing your own show."**



Professor Tom Kikta's granddaughter, Evie, singing along virtually during her Pop Pop's live-streamed performance.

I need; and the way that you have to communicate with the mixing engineer versus communicating with front of house. It taught me a lot about projection. You really have to project your voice if you want to be heard over these instruments behind you," Carter said. "Learning all of that, being there in the experience really taught me a lot about producing your own show."

This year's performance was particularly meaningful to Kikta. He was able to perform a piece of his own composition and dedicate it to his 4-year-old granddaughter Evie, who is currently battling leukemia from her home in Florida. Thanks to the IEMMA broadcast she was able to sing and dance along with him in real time.

"Evie loves playing her guitar and singing into her microphone along with Taylor Swift and the other artists that she loves. I can't even begin to describe the emotions that came over me when I saw a picture of her doing the same with me...Pop Pop on her television screen," Kikta said. "The song I wrote 10 years ago, *2 Believe*, is about having faith that everything is going to be OK no matter the difficulty—you have to believe. Little did I know when I wrote it that it would become an anthem for me and my family."

Knowing their performance was broadcast all over the world aligned with the realities of their futures—limitless thanks to the skillset they are learning at Duquesne.

"Once I knew I wanted to come here, I knew this was going to be a good thing, but

even moreso now that I've been here; this was the perfect fit for me," Stewart said.

To learn more about future livestream events and other Mary Pappert School of Music updates, visit [duq.edu/MusicEmail](http://duq.edu/MusicEmail) to subscribe to the school's online newsletter, *Tempo*. ♦



# Dear Dr. Dausey...

ALUMNI TELL THEIR STORIES IN THE PAGES OF THIS MAGAZINE BECAUSE OF THEIR GRATITUDE, GOOD MEMORIES AND AFFINITY FOR DUQUESNE. HERE, THEY SHARE OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE UNDER DR. DAVID DAUSEY'S LEADERSHIP AS THE INCOMING 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.



*Best of luck, Dr. Dausey! Following our initial meeting, I was struck by your enthusiasm for the future and your genuine interest in the personal ties we hold to Duquesne. Most importantly, your belief in the untapped potential of every student is exactly the leadership our alma mater deserves. We are inspired by the great ideas you've already shared and look forward to supporting your vision as it becomes reality.*

**Meghan Cox, A'07**

*Congratulations on becoming Duquesne's next president! Duquesne's continued leadership as a regional and national force for truth, knowledge and learning—both for students and for our country—is vital.*

*My time at Duquesne helped shape my career and friendships that I carry to this day. As a journalism major, student media outlets such as The Duke are an invaluable resource and I look forward to continued University support into the future.*

**Bob Kerlik, A'03**

David,

*This is an exciting moment. One of the best decisions I made during my time as President was appointing you as Provost. It's been one of the great gifts of my presidency. I've witnessed firsthand your energy, your passionate belief in the power of education and your commitment to our historic Spiritan mission. You've helped guide me—and this University—through transformative change, from the launch of our Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine to the development of new engineering programs and far beyond. I'm confident that your appointment as Duquesne's 14th president will allow this special University to continue to build on the great momentum we've been blessed to experience.*

*With your leadership, too, I know our students will remain at the heart of the University's work and amazing things will flow from those efforts. Thank you for your dedication to keeping our Spiritan mission alive for a new generation.*

*I'm thrilled for you and Nichole and the whole Dausey family, and I'm thrilled for our entire Duquesne family. I look forward to working together with you—in the years ahead—in my new role as Chancellor. Congratulations, thanks for your enthusiastic willingness to lead this great institution and God bless.*

**Ken Gormley**

Dear Dr. Dausey,

*Wishing you all the best in your new role as the 14th president of Duquesne University. Your passion and love for Duquesne, as well as for all current and former students, doesn't go unnoticed. Everything that I accomplished on the Bluff has helped me get to where I am today, and I know that will be the case for all future Dukes, too. The Dukes are in good hands!*

**Grace Heidinger, A'22**

Dear Dr. Dausey,

*I look back fondly on my years at Duquesne University and appreciate how it instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of purpose in giving back. I wish you great success as President and look forward to your leadership in preserving Duquesne's heritage while advancing continued excellence.*

**Eric Sprys, GB'96**

*Congratulations on your appointment as Duquesne's 14th President. Your distinguished background in health sciences and epidemiology brings exceptional credibility and relevance to the University's future, particularly as health care and population health shape the next generation of leadership. Having served on the Board of Trustees when you were hired, I witnessed firsthand your ability to apply business strategy and execution with the discipline of Fortune 500 organizations. Duquesne is exceptionally well-positioned under your leadership.*

**Arnie Burchianti, GHS'94**



Dr. Dausey,

*Duquesne's Business School gave me the confidence and practical skills to turn an idea into a real company. The hands-on, entrepreneurial environment encouraged me to start my swimwear brand while I was still a student, and I've since grown it into a full-time business. I'm optimistic about Duquesne's future under your leadership and believe the University will continue to give students the tools, experiences and mindset they need to build successful careers and businesses.*

**Abby Wendt, B'25**

Dear Dr. Dausey

*Congratulations on your appointment as the 14th President of Duquesne University.*

*Duquesne's strong sense of mission and community has long empowered students to grow, lead and succeed. I'm grateful for the ways the University has impacted my life, and I'm confident your leadership will build on that legacy with vision and purpose. Wishing you every success as you guide Duquesne into an inspiring new chapter.*

**Elise Farris-Gomez, A'14, GB'15**



# Duquesne in the Land of Clemente

By Luis Fabregas, A'88, GA'96, Duquesne alum, executive editor of Trib Total Media and award-winning journalist

When I left Puerto Rico for Pittsburgh in the mid-1980s, I felt equal parts excitement and uncertainty.

Like so many students arriving on Duquesne's campus for the first time, I carried a suitcase full of clothes—and plenty of questions about where I would fit.

It didn't take long to discover that I wasn't just attending Duquesne; I was joining a community that had long embraced students from the island.

It wasn't rare for me to hear "Hola, ¿cómo estás?" as I made my way from my dorm to College Hall. Some of the Spanish was choppy, but it made me laugh. It was much colder than the Caribbean, but I found a way to tolerate it. Soon enough, the cold felt like a small price to pay.

Much to my surprise, Duquesne became a home away from home. Forty years later, some of my best friends are people I met in Pittsburgh, where I still live.

It's not a stretch to say there's a little piece of Puerto Rico at Duquesne.

So when President Ken Gormley invited me to join him at a Duquesne reception in Puerto Rico, I immediately said yes — not just out of loyalty to my alma mater, but out of gratitude.

I vividly remember hosting Gormley's predecessor, Rev. Donald Nesti, C.C.Sp., when he visited Puerto Rico in May 1986. We hiked trails at El Yunque, the island's famous rain forest, and ate fritters at the kiosks in Luquillo. I still have pictures of Nesti, in sunglasses and shorts, climbing over some very large rocks while attempting to stay dry.

That camaraderie has only gotten stronger, and the bond has only deepened. That much was evident at the January reception hosted by Gormley at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan.

I met young students and their families who will soon arrive in Pittsburgh the same way I did so many years ago: curious, nervous and eager to conquer the world. Just like I was when I first stepped on campus, they're anxious in a good way. They're eager to see where they fit in a world of increasing complexity.

And I met other alumni who share the same feelings of gratitude for an education that shaped who we are in a setting that, thousands of miles away from home, never felt strange or intimidating.

Listening to Gormley as he spoke to the group of more than 100 people, I was reminded that what shaped me most at Duquesne wasn't just what I learned in the classroom, but the values woven into that education. My professors didn't just prepare me for the workforce; they gave me the tools to be an ethical leader.

One of the night's highlights was the presence of Luis Clemente, son of Pirates legend Roberto Clemente. Clemente dedicated his life to the service of people in need and to this day remains one of the most beloved sports figures in Pittsburgh history.

Watching his son greet future Duquesne students reminded me that Clemente paved the way for Puerto Ricans in Pittsburgh. He made our island's name synonymous with excellence and generosity.

"You're from the land of Clemente," I remember someone telling me a long time ago. "Your people are always welcome here."

And for four decades now, Duquesne has proven that to be true. ♦



That camaraderie has only gotten stronger, and the bond has only deepened. That much was evident at the January reception hosted by Gormley at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan.



More than 100 alumni, future students and their families joined Duquesne President Ken Gormley and other University staff for a festive reception in Puerto Rico earlier this spring.



# The Healing Power of HEAL Week:

## What Global Learning Experiences Teach our Physios

By Elizabeth Shestak

Italy's coastal towns along the Mediterranean each spring are usually quiet, anticipating the busy season that revs up in June. But for a week each May, Duquesne might as well operate its own outpost in Pioppi, a small seaside village in the Cilento region south of Salerno. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site for Intangible Culture, it's the perfect place for future physios, pharmacists and doctors of nursing to study not only how to live longer, but live *well* longer.

During this week dozens of Duquesne health science students and faculty start their day with mindfulness practices like sunrise yoga and meditation on the cobblestone boardwalk overlooking the ever-changing blues of the ocean waves, followed perhaps by a bite of fig pastry dropped off by a local who just wanted to share.

This pairs perfectly with a cappuccino; cappuccinos are for breakfast only, of course, and after that it's strictly espressos and macchiatos. This combination

leaves plenty of room for an afternoon at Ristolab, a culinary laboratory recognized by the United Nations for its work in sustainable food practices where students forage for seasonal herbs and shape homemade *pasta rustica*. Next, they lunch on seafood caught just hours earlier by their classmates who spent the morning at sea learning about ancient fishing practices and the health benefits of omega-3s.

A daily manual therapy lab affords the PT students the opportunity to learn cutting-edge techniques from world-class Italian physios—with the sun on their faces and nearby lapping waves serenading the demonstrations.

In the heat of the afternoons, students and faculty gather for symposia. International panelists from renowned health care institutions from Kenya, Israel, Italy and the United States meet to discuss pressing global issues ranging from access and affordability to levels of patient intervention and the ethics of self-care for providers and patients alike.



Top: Physical therapy students practice beach side. Left: Students forage for herbs to create homemade *pasta rustica*.



Dr. Jessica Davis (left of sign) celebrates another Physical Therapy World Summit at Duquesne's Rome program.

It's an incredible form of experiential learning students are afforded during the Maymester in Italy—a month immersed in medical humanities.

Home to the Mediterranean diet, a lifestyle term coined by Dr. Ancel Keys, an influential American physiologist and nutritionist who studied the influence of diet on health (until he died in 2004 at age 100), Pioppi is now happy host to Duquesne's HEAL Initiative (Health, Education, Awareness and Longevity), where students can not only study longevity but also live it.

### HORIZONS—AND PALATES—BROADENED

Duquesne is known for providing study abroad opportunities for every program—no small feat for a university offering so many professional degrees in health care.

Despite the rigor, last year 326 students traveled abroad, with 68 taking a Maymester—ideal for those unable to easily fit international travel into the fall or spring semesters.

For physical therapist Victoria Kirland, GHS'24, a Maymester in Italy spent studying—and eating—the Mediterranean diet is why she had vegetables growing from seed in her North Carolina living room this winter awaiting transfer to her outdoor garden.

"I now make my own pasta and am doing my own garden, and I also share those experiences with my patients," Kirland said. "It was really eye-opening to see firsthand how Italy did things, just to see their lifestyle and how they made their food and how they got around with their transportation. It gave me perspective on how much healthier they are."

Like all physical therapy students who take the Maymester in Italy, Kirland was there during the final months of her program and says she calls upon what she learned frequently in her professional practice.

"We don't walk as much, we don't eat as nutritionally," Kirland said. "The quality here just isn't the same as over there. I've actually brought my experience up with all of my patients and I've given them the comparison of what I saw from there to here. I've tried to open their eyes in that sense."

### GLOBAL EXPERIENCES PREPARING THEM FOR ANYTHING

For physical therapy students, the Maymester includes time spent at Duquesne in Rome, where a Physical Therapy World Summit takes place, bringing experts from around the world to share insights, present findings and foster the kind of dialogue between colleagues and students alike that creates global health care workers—the kind who are prepared for anything, and to treat anyone.

Last year expert panelists for the summit included Amir Takla, world-class musculoskeletal physiotherapist from Australia and personal physio to the No. 1-ranked female tennis player in the world, Aryna Sabalenka. Takla brought Duquesne's PT students to the historic Foro Italico at the Italian Open to show them how elite athletes benefit from their trade.

But it's not just exposure to world-class physical therapists that makes the Maymester impactful.

"The first thing that I see is the maturity, the growth in areas like the soft skills and things that as a professor are

**"I learned an abundance of therapeutic techniques during my time in Rome that I cannot wait to utilize on my future patients."**



Emily Orr visiting the ancient ruins of Pompeii during her Maymester in Italy.

difficult to teach," said Dr. Jessica Davis, GHS'99, physical therapy professor and Maymester veteran. "When our students are in that environment it's different for them. Some of them haven't traveled before, some of them haven't ever had to speak in a different language. When they come back from that experience, they have a better understanding and are more sympathetic to different cultures and health care in general, much more appreciative and interested in disease prevention with diet and exercise."

Just before embarking on her career as a physical therapist, Kayla Grumski, GHS'25, was eager to use her Maymester experience.

"I learned an abundance of therapeutic techniques during my time in Rome that I cannot wait to utilize on my future patients. It was very eye-opening to learn how different treatment approaches can positively impact the same diagnosis," she said.

The Maymester in Italy can be as exhausting as it is invigorating—many early mornings, an abundance of information and the typical challenges that come with international travel.

But this international academic journey is always worth it.

Emily Orr, GHS'25, works at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, as an acute care pediatric physical therapist. She sees a variety of cases and calls upon her time last year in Italy often.

"This job challenges me in a way I never knew was possible, and I'm incredibly excited to continue learning every day," she said. "Other than always telling my coworkers about my semester abroad, I have actually turned my sea glass that I collected in Pioppi into magnets that I use at my desk, so it's a fun little reminder of Italy every day!"

Share your PT study abroad stories at [duq.edu/RangosAbroad!](http://duq.edu/RangosAbroad!) ♦

# GORMLEY STUDENT UNION



## Dukes Gather at the Newly-Named Gormley Student Union



Top: Three generations of Gormleys gather for a photo under the newly named Ken and Laura Gormley Student Union. Middle: Laura and Ken Gormley react with pride and surprise to the unveiling of the naming of the Student Union in their honor. Bottom: Students at the event wearing t-shirts that said Dukes Gather Here.

In a surprise unveiling during Festival on the Bluff, President Ken Gormley and his wife, Laura, were honored when the University revealed the Union's new name: the Ken and Laura Gormley Student Union.

Jack McGinley, L68, former chair emeritus of the University's Board of Directors, announced the new name before a crowd of several hundred students, staff and board members. "Many of us on the Board wanted to do something especially moving to honor Ken and Laura and that would also support all of our students," he said.

McGinley praised the Gormleys for their consistent and visible presence at student events, athletic contests, concerts and campus celebrations, reflecting their deep commitment to students and campus life. Supporters raised more than \$3.8 million in their honor, establishing the Ken and Laura Gormley Endowment for Student Success, which will support scholarships, wellbeing initiatives, study abroad opportunities, leadership development and other student priorities.

"This honor means even more because it includes my wife, Laura. We are going to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in June, and from the very beginning, we have done everything as a team," Gormley shared. "There is no way I could have served as Duquesne University President without her by my side, and I am grateful beyond words for her partnership, support and love throughout this journey."

The Student Union was a natural choice for the naming, reflecting Gormley's hands-on approach to creating many student-focused initiatives now centered there. Students at the event wore T-shirts that said Dukes Gather Here, referencing the building's role as a hub of activity.

"When we learned about this project, it just made sense," said Mwangi Kauba, president of Duquesne's Student Government Association. "On behalf of all of the student body, thank you to those who made this happen, and to Ken and Laura Gormley for all you've done for Duquesne students."

"Our work with President Gormley has helped to create so much opportunity for students," added student Sabrina Paules, executive director of the Duquesne Program Council. "It's been great to have a president who you can stop on A-Walk to talk with or take a picture, and who you see out at our events or supporting our teams and clubs." ♦



# HOMECOMING

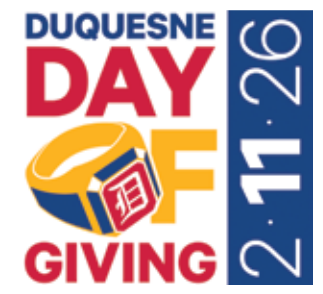
## & FAMILY WEEKEND

**OCTOBER 9-10, 2026**

**Building on a record-breaking turnout in 2025, we're preparing for even bigger festivities this fall.**

Mark your calendar and save the dates for Oct. 9-10 to join fellow alumni, friends, students and their families, faculty and staff for a lively weekend celebrating everything that's great about Duquesne.

Visit [duq.edu/homecoming](https://duq.edu/homecoming) and follow us on social media for updates and registration this summer!



## Day of Giving Shatters Record

Powered by more than \$350,000 in challenges, the 2026 Duquesne Day of Giving raised \$886,129—exceeding the previous record total by nearly \$88,000. Alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and friends made 1,276 gifts supporting schools, scholarships, athletic teams and student organizations.

Visit [duq.edu/dayofgiving](https://duq.edu/dayofgiving) to learn more and see lists of donors and challenges, and save the date for the 12th annual Day of Giving on February 17, 2027.

**1,276**  
total gifts  
made by our alumni and friends

**\$886,129**  
raised  
to support Duquesne students



# 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.



# Seen and Heard

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



↑ Top, from left: Diane Hupp, Duquesne University Board Chair and president of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Duquesne President Ken Gormley; William Conway, Jr., co-founder and co-chair of Carlyle global investment management firm; Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow, professor and dean of the School of Nursing; and the Rev. Raymond French, C.S.Sp., senior vice president for mission and identity, cut the ribbon to the new **Joanne Barkett Conway Simulation Center** as several nursing faculty members look on. Bottom: Conway speaks with School of Nursing faculty about the capabilities of the new simulation center.

“ Each year, we are increasingly impressed by the quality and sophistication of ideas presented. Our entrants are not only developing new ventures—they are advancing solutions with the potential to improve lives and strengthen communities

*Dean McFarlin, dean of the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, talks about the impact the school's **New Venture Challenge** has on the development of cutting-edge ideas.*



↑ **Virginia Dudas, M'49, GM'53**, brought her entire family to enjoy "Mamma Mania!" at the Friday Night Spectacular during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Pictured (left to right) are Bennett Young, Jan Jordan Dudas, Kelly Dudas, Corey Young, Kelsey Young, Cora Young, Virginia Dudas, Michael Henderson, Maureen Dudas, Connor Dudas and Angela Rain Kim. Dudas celebrated her 98th birthday in November 2025. She taught music in the Monessen, Pa., schools for 49 years and has been inducted into the Monessen High School Hall of Fame.



↑ Pittsburgh tradition and one of Duquesne students' favorite off-campus spots, **Page's** brought its food truck to campus this spring.



← **Jon Muehlbauer, A'21, GB'23**, ran the Kleine Zeitung Graz Marathon in Austria on Oct. 12, 2025. He finished his first marathon with a time of 3 hours, 50 minutes and 52 seconds. He works as the marketing communications coordinator for Snavely Forest Products.

“ These efforts represent our shared Spiritan commitment to serve all members of our Duquesne community as we promote human dignity and well-being.

*Liberal Arts Dean Dr. Kristine Blair discusses the consolidation of several **University-led food banks** formed to serve the community.*



← The DU community celebrated the annual **Festival on the Bluff**. This year's event included a mini pirate ship ride and the always popular petting zoo.

“ It's more about being a good person, seeing different perspectives and seeing things in a different light. I was already an empathetic person, but theology really teaches you how to empathize with other people's situations, even if they don't affect you.

***Rosie Franjoine, A'24, GB'25**, speaks about the impact the study of theology has had on her view of the world.*



↑ **Commencement 2026** saw hundreds of graduates across all schools and academic disciplines united in their accomplishments as faculty, staff, friends and family joined in the joyous moment.



## Reaching New Heights

SOPHOMORE ROSE KUCHERA'S RECORD-BREAKING RISE LEADS TO A HISTORIC ALL-AMERICA HONOR

By Jacob Davey

On the biggest stage in collegiate track and field, Rose Kuchera did more than compete. She made history.

The Duquesne sophomore placed 14th in the long jump at the NCAA Division I Indoor Track & Field Championships, earning Second Team All-America honors and becoming the first All-American in program history for women's track and field.

For Kuchera, the moment meant more than the result.

"Representing Duquesne on that stage and earning All-America honors made all of the hard work worth it," she said. "It is a powerful reminder that the size of your school does not define your abilities or limit where you can go."

The rise to the national stage has been rapid. In just two seasons, the Canonsburg, Pa., native has rewritten the Duquesne record book, establishing program records in the indoor long jump as well as the indoor and outdoor triple jump.

A defining performance came earlier this season with a school-record leap of 6.52 meters (21 feet, 4.75 inches) in the long jump. The distance ranked among the top marks in the NCAA and secured a place at the indoor national championships, the first in program history.

That success was built on a standout first-year campaign in 2025. Kuchera earned Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week honors four times, was named to the All-Rookie Team and captured a bronze medal in the long jump at the Atlantic 10 Outdoor Championships.

Kuchera's impact extends beyond competition and into the classroom. A finance major with a minor in professional selling in Duquesne's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, she earned a perfect 4.0 GPA this winter and was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Academic Team.

The decision to attend Duquesne came down to instinct, but the journey to get there was built on something deeper.

"I would be lying if I said it was an easy decision," Kuchera said. "It was more of a gut feeling. When I visited, it felt like a place where you could be more than just a number and truly feel supported."

Neither parent of Kuchera attended college, making her a "first-gen" student, so while the path was new, the support at home never wavered. Instead, it created an environment built on encouragement, work ethic and the freedom to pursue something bigger.

That foundation, combined with the support system at Duquesne, has shaped the experience. Along the way, Kuchera has leaned on mentors within the University and athletics department while continuing to carve out a path of her own.

Growth has extended beyond competition. A sports marketing and media internship with Duquesne Athletics provided experience in event production, fan engagement and content creation, while future plans include pursuing opportunities in financial sales and portfolio management.

"I want to be somewhere where I feel comfortable and have the ability to make decisions on my own," she said. "Long term, I would love to own a business."

Inspired by her mother, a successful small business owner, those ambitions extend well beyond the track.

Now, with a historic accomplishment already secured and more opportunities ahead, it's clear that at Duquesne, it's time for bigger goals. ♦

## Dixon: Loyal, Champion and Leader

By James Duzyk

In the modern age of college basketball, David Dixon, B'26, is an anomaly.

As student-athletes move from school to school via the NCAA Transfer Portal, Dixon was just one of four players in the Atlantic 10 during the 2025-2026 season who spent their entire career with one program. That loyalty and commitment helped Dixon complete a career on the Bluff like few others in the 110-year history of the Duquesne men's basketball program.

Exiting the court after the Dukes were eliminated in the quarterfinals of the 2026 Atlantic 10 Championship at PPG Paints Arena, a mere "block" from where he played his home games at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, Dixon turned around as chants of his name from the fans behind the Duquesne bench rang out. He wanted the opportunity to thank the fans for supporting him the last four years.

"The fans have been there since the beginning, and I needed to show some love to them," Dixon said. "Never in a million years did I imagine them chanting my name like that. That moment was very emotional for me. I loved it. I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, for accepting me. From when I was a freshman barely playing until now. I appreciate all the love. I really do."

Dixon wrapped up his career at Duquesne owning program records for the most games played (129) and wins (79) by a player over a four-year span, but some impacts on a program aren't defined by the numbers left in a record book. For Dixon, that especially holds true. This May, he walks away from his time on the Bluff a champion and a leader but, most importantly, a graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in sports marketing. ♦



Dixon with his family in Senior Day ceremonies prior to a 79-77 win over Richmond at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. From left to right are his father, Richard, his mother, Elizabeth, and his sister, Kimberly, as well as Duquesne head coach Dru Joyce III.



Ranking second all-time at Duquesne in dunks, Dixon throws down one of his thunderous jams in an 88-86 win over George Washington at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Dixon dribbles in his final game at Duquesne against VCU in the 2026 Atlantic 10 Championship at PPG Paints Arena.



Dixon is mobbed by teammates after his tip-in helped give Duquesne a 79-77 win over Richmond March 7, 2026, on Senior Day at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. The Dukes erased a 30-point deficit to earn the victory, becoming the fourth team in NCAA Division I history to climb out of a deficit of 30 points or more.

# 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 UNIVERSITY NAMES SARAH J. EWING AS NEXT PROVOST

Duquesne named Dr. Sarah J. Ewing, PhD, to serve as its next provost and vice president for academic affairs. Currently provost and vice president for student experience at Gannon University, Ewing will succeed David Dausey when he becomes Duquesne's 14<sup>th</sup> president on July 1, 2026. Dausey personally led a national search process that identified Ewing from a highly competitive pool of more than 80 applicants.



“Throughout an extensive national search, Dr. Ewing distinguished herself through a rare combination of academic leadership, commitment to student success and a deep alignment with Duquesne's distinct Catholic and Spiritan identity,” Dausey said. “She understands the central role the provost plays in leading the academic enterprise and supporting our world-class faculty.”

A seasoned leader and scholar, Ewing joined Gannon in 2009 as faculty, in 2017 was promoted to dean of Gannon's Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences and named provost in 2023.

Ewing's research and community engagement bona fides are most evident in her role advancing Project NePTWNE (Nano & Polymer Technology for Water and Neural networks in Erie), a Gannon University water sustainability initiative focused on improving Lake Erie's water quality, combatting climate change, and promoting regional economic development.

“I am honored by this appointment and very excited to join Duquesne and to work with President Dausey at such an exciting time,” Ewing said. “The research activity of Duquesne's faculty is extremely impressive, made more so by the enthusiasm they also show for service and their work with students at every level.”

Full Story: [duq.edu/newprovost](https://duq.edu/newprovost)

## DEAN REAPPOINTMENTS

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley has reappointed April M. Barton as dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University; with a focus on student outcomes, innovation and mission-driven education, she continues her leadership during a period of strong momentum and national recognition for the school.



Full story: [duq.edu/lawdean](https://duq.edu/lawdean)

As Dean, she has overseen the roll out of new engineering programs, an increase in undergraduate enrollment and the positive growth of the school's reputation, in addition to increased research funding support from agencies, foundations and donors. Ellen Gawalt, dean of the School of Science and Engineering received reappointment to a second term.



Full story: [duq.edu/sciencedean](https://duq.edu/sciencedean)

## 92.13% First-Time Bar Pass Rate

surpassing the state average  
by nearly 10 points  
(2025 two-year rate)

**Thomas R. Kline School of  
Law of Duquesne University**

## 15 Goldwater Scholars

since 2012

**School of Science and Engineering**

## JOHN HENDERSON APPOINTED INTERIM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

In March, President Ken Gormley named John Henderson Interim Athletic Director. Henderson assumes the role when current director, Dave Harper, transitions to a new position at Baylor University, in May. Henderson played a key role for the past decade in Harper's athletics administration and successes.



“After consultation with President-elect David Dausey and Board Chair Diane Hupp, we've agreed that John Henderson is well-prepared to take the reins as Interim Athletic Director at Duquesne,” said Gormley, noting that Henderson is ready to move into the top role and leave his own mark.

“I am deeply humbled and honored by the trust placed in me to lead Duquesne athletics, where I have loved serving our student-athletes and helping them drive personal and team success,” Henderson said.

Henderson serves as a high-level administrator overseeing men's basketball, football and women's bowling, where he has played a pivotal role in elevating program performance and organizational excellence. A recognized leader in student-athlete health and performance, Henderson has successfully designed and implemented a fully integrated, student-athlete-centered health care and high-performance model serving more than 550 student-athletes.

Henderson's leadership extends across campus and conference governance, where he actively contributes to numerous key committees pertaining to University work beyond athletics.

Full story: [duq.edu/interim-ad](https://duq.edu/interim-ad)



## PLANS FOR NEW HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

Fundraising is underway for a new Forbes Avenue facility that will consolidate programs, favorably locate clinical services and strengthen Duquesne's role in regional health care.

At the 35th Anniversary Celebration in December for its John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, Duquesne University formally announced plans for a new, purpose-built \$68 million health sciences facility, which is expected to open in fall 2028.

The new 80,000-square-foot building will elevate health sciences education and expand community engagement. It will anchor Duquesne's vision for a vibrant “health corridor” along Forbes Avenue.

“This new building will stand as a physical embodiment of our investment in people, access to care and the future of health care innovation,” said Rangos Dean Dr. Fevzi Akinci. “It truly will be built to impact the lives of others.”

This strategic location will enhance collaboration among health disciplines and strengthen partnerships with local clinics and nonprofits. Street-level clinical spaces will make services more accessible, including Duquesne's Speech-Language Hearing Clinic, with nearly 5,000 visits annually. The Rangos School's degree programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, public health, health administration, physician assistant studies and speech-language pathology are among some of the most well regarded in the nation.

The University invites alumni, friends and partners to join in shaping the future of health sciences education at Duquesne. “An investment in Rangos is an investment in the next generation of compassionate, skilled health care leaders—and we need more,” said alumnus Byron Wade, HS'08, GB'10, a health care executive and consultant, addressing supporters at the School's 35th anniversary celebration.

Full story: [duq.edu/newhealthscibuilding](https://duq.edu/newhealthscibuilding)

# Alumni Updates

## 1960s

**Robert S. Barker, A'63, L'66, GA'74**, spoke on “La Presidencia, el Congreso y la Separación de Poderes en el Constitución de los Estados Unidos” at the University of Costa Rica School of Law seminar on “*Desafíos Constitucionales*” (“Constitutional Challenges”) Nov. 5, 2025.

## 1970s

**Anthony “Tony” Paglia, A'71**, was recently inducted into the Youngstown (Ohio) Press Club Hall of Fame. Paglia is retired after more than 40 years in community journalism, media and government relations. During his career, he served as a reporter and political writer for *The Sharon Herald*, press secretary for U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Vigorito, reporter and bureau chief, Trumbull County editor and senior regional editor at *The Vindicator*, and vice president of government and media relations for the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is president-elect of the Youngstown Press Club and serves on the board of directors of the St. John XXIII Nursing Home in Hermitage, Pa. Paglia resides in Hermitage. He and his wife, Rhonda, have three children and eight grandchildren.

**Tom Gaonoa, B'79**, retired from American Airlines after 44 years, where he developed a maintenance-parts tracking system. He was the varsity baseball coach at Moon Area High School for 15 years and continues to play baseball and softball in several leagues.

## 1980s

**Henry M. Sneath, L'83**, was recently named by Best Lawyers as the 2026 “Lawyer of the Year”

for Litigation–Patent in Pittsburgh. Sneath is an attorney with Houston Harbaugh, P.C.

**David Lamm, A'84, L'87**, joined national litigation firm Hawkins Parnell and opened the firm's Pittsburgh office, where he serves as partner-in-charge. He has coordinated national and regional defense teams for Fortune 500 corporations and has tried cases in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

**Michael Slinger, L'84**, along with his daughter, Sarah Slinger, Associate Director, University of Georgia Law School Library, have been awarded the American Association of Law Libraries Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award for their co-authored book and database publication *The Complete Literature of Law Librarianship*.

**Carmen Martucci, GA'86, L'91**, a Pittsburgh native who worked a professional legal career, completed his new book, *A Day Dead Old*, available online or bookstores everywhere.

## 1990s

**William “Bill” Caye, Esq., A'90, L'93**, was re-appointed Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and Board of Governors.

**John J. Hare, L'93**, chair of Marshall Dennehey's Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice Group and a member of the firm's Board of Directors, has been elected to the firm's Executive Committee. Hare joined the firm in 1999 and has led the group since 2003. He has litigated more than 500 appeals in state and federal appellate courts in some of the highest-profile litigation in recent Pennsylvania history, with verdicts and settlements in excess of \$10 million.

**Jamie Bromley, Ph.D., GA'95**, received the Clifford and Paula Dietz Award for Faculty Excellence at Franklin College. A member of the faculty since 2009, Bromley is a professor of psychology and a counseling psychologist.

**Stephanie Burkhead Thum, Ph.D., GA'99**, is the author of a new book for students, emerging professors, and practitioners, *The Sage Works Guide to Global Leadership*. Thum is an adjunct professor at the Indiana Institute of Technology.

## 2000s

**Nicholas A. Cerimele, L'02**, has been elected a shareholder with the law firm of Marshall Dennehey. He has more than 20 years of experience representing health care providers in medical malpractice cases.

**David D. Cardone, L'03**, was co-lead counsel in a case recovering more than \$125 million via a confidential pre-litigation settlement—believed to be the single largest legal malpractice recovery in California and one of the largest single plaintiff legal malpractice recoveries in the country. Cardone is a founding partner of Dunn DeSantis Walt & Kendrick, LLP in San Diego.

## 2010s

**Dave Rigsby, GA'10**, recently returned to his roots to lead statewide resource development (fundraising) efforts for the Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC), after spending 18 months doing non-profit consulting work in Boise, Idaho.

**Vincent Cocco, B'12, L'15**, was named to 2026 “Best Lawyers: One to Watch in America,” recognizing associates and lawyers who are earlier in their careers. Cocco is an associate with Timoney Knox LLP.

**James K. Hanna, GA'14**, has published a biography of the first woman to graduate from Duquesne (BA, 1911, MA, 1913), *Peace and Mercy: The Life and Works of Sister M. Fides Shepperson, RSM*. Hanna lives in McMurray, Pa., and is vice president of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

## 2020s

**Laney Christy, L'25**, joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, as an Associate Attorney in the Southpointe, Pa., office.

**Alex Giorgetti, L'25**, joined the Public Sector and Real Estate, Land Use and Zoning groups at Babst Calland Law.

**Ryan McCann, L'25**, joined Babst Calland Law with the Litigation Group.

**Kristen Podolak, L'25**, joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, as an Associate Attorney.

**Makenzie Doyle Violette, L'25**, joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, as an Associate Attorney.

**Peter Zittel, GB'25, L'25**, joined Babst Calland Law in the Public Sector and Real Estate, Land Use and Zoning groups.

## Marriages

**Mary Petras, A'13, E'13**, married Spencer Williams on March 22, 2025.

**Kathryn Kratzenberg, M'18**, married Paul Schuster on June 7, 2025. She also began a new job at UMPC Western Psychiatric Bellefield Outpatient Center as its first music therapist.

**Claudia Hardy, A'19**, and **Taylor Dzwonchyk, B'19**, were married on Dec. 6, 2025.

**Amy McLaughlin, L'23**, married Morgan O'Brien on Oct. 25, 2025.

**Josalynn Rightnour, P'23**, and **Eddie Zakreski, A'21**, were married in Duquesne's Chapel of the Holy Spirit on May 31, 2025. University Chaplain and friend the Rev. Bill Christy, C.S.Sp., was the celebrant.

## 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 Jan. 15 and July 22, 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 [alumnionline@duq.edu](mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu).

## Deceased Alumni from July 23, 2025-Feb. 6, 2026

Frances M. Husack, E'42

Madeline C. O'Neill, N'45

John P. Brady, B'49

Kathryn J. Frey, E'50

Albert J. Hale, P'50

Gen. Frank P. Ragano, E'50

Leo A. Clougherty, B'51

Edward L. Cochran, Ph.D., GS'51

Louis Mastro, B'52

Ann L. Zercher, RN, N'52

James E. Parrish, M.D., S'52

Peter Paul Simoni, A'53

Henry J. Baranak, Sr., B'54

Richard G. Hufnagel, B'54

Fred Khorey, A'54

Stanford D. Simon, B'54

Warren W. White, B'54

John R. Williams, Sr., E'54

Dorothy R. Leone, A'55

Ronald J. McKay, Esq., A'56

Elizabeth A. Oberst, E'56

Robert J. Pschirer, B'56

Msgr. Robert P. Senetsky, A'56

Margaret A. Sullivan, E'57

John A. Bonner, S'58

Evelyn A. Dostalick, E'59

Nino M. Esposito, M'59

R. Thomas Figura, D.D.S., S'59

Charles J. Muchnok, A'59

Rosanna M. Slobodian, P'59

Lindley A. Ward, N'59

Charles R. Galbach, M'60

Claire B. Hughes, N'60

Carole G. Ledwith, E'60

Msgr. Alexis E. Mihalik, A'60

Thomas C. Ranieri, B'60

Maureen N. Sieger, E'60

Dominic Ciarimboli, Esq., L'61

Sr. M. Maure Grabowski, CDP, E'61

James J. Kermes, GE'61

Raymond J. Kloock, GE'61

Mary Kay LaFace, B'61

Thelma R. Milcic, E'61

Teresa A. Peduzzi, RN, N'61

Peter R. Sammartino, B'61

## In MEMORIAM

**Edward L. Graf, Jr., L'67**, passed away Sept. 22, 2025, in Pittsburgh at age 86. After completing his undergraduate degree in business at the University of Pittsburgh, he began his career as an accountant at KPMG Peat Marwick before joining the manufacturing company G.E. Smith and attending law school at Duquesne. In 1969, he moved to the advertising and public relations firm Ketchum Communications, rising through the ranks to become general counsel, controller and ultimately chief financial officer and vice chairman. He retired in 1996 after engineering Ketchum's sale to international advertising giant Omnicom Corporation. With his wife Mary Ann, Graf acquired the former St. Mary Church on Pittsburgh's North Side, converting the property into a boutique hotel and event venue, the Priory Hotel and Grand Hall at the Priory, playing a key role in the redevelopment of the Deutschtown neighborhood.

**Carol M. Reimer** passed away Dec. 16, 2025, in Pittsburgh at age 86. When her son Daniel enrolled at Duquesne in 1984, Reimer applied for a job at the University and was hired as a receptionist. Impressed with her personality and skills, then-President The Rev. Donald Nesti, C.S.Sp. moved her to the Office of the President, where she remained and was promoted to executive assistant by Nesti's successor, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. She worked alongside Murray throughout his presidency and into the Chancellor's Office, serving the University until her retirement in 2004. Reimer was active in the Duquesne University Retirees' Association and served on the board of directors of Regency Vincentian Home.

William J. Tiegel, M.D., A'61

Donald W. Weber, B'61

Edward Brandt, A'62

Samuel A. Caruso, M'62

Richard D. Gilardi, Esq., L'62

Dennis H. Houston, A'61

James W. Jeffries, M'62

Thomas A. Lewandowski, B'62

Theodore Anderson, B'63

Domenic G. Celedonia, P'63

Mary C. Dean, P'63

Sr. Ann C. Fuchs, CDP, E'63

William E. Green, Esq., L'63

Sr. Mary Ann Karas, RSM, GA'63

Maria Miragliotta Roberts, E'63, GE'67

Susan L. Schenone, A'63

Judith L. Steff, M'63

Paul R. Stockhausen, B'63

Ellen B. Sucov, M'63, GA'69, GA'75

Louis P. Vitti, Esq., A'63, L'68

General Peter C. Bellisario, B'64

Gladys F. Burkhart, A'64

Charles A. Caranna, M.D., S'64

Valerie A. Delker, A'64

Chester J. Pletzke, A'64

Kenneth E. Rhodes, Jr., E'64, GE'67

Sr. M. Susanne Chenot, OSB, E'65, GE'71

Fr. J. Matthew Elanjileth, GE'65

Elizabeth Tusing, E'65

Margaret A. Dick, A'66

Sr. Yvonne Dursh, OSF, E'66, GE'70

Stuart J. Horner, Jr., Esq., L'66

Martha R. Lumley, GM'66

Ralph B. Turek, M'66, GM'70

Sr. M. Arlene Bennett, RSM, GA'67

Margaret G. Doyle, E'67

Edward L. Graf, Esq., L'67

Nancy A. McNulty, A'67

Regis G. Niederberger, B'67

David K. Pyle, E'67

Sr. Christina Coughlin, N'68

Michael J. Drag, Esq., A'68, L'73

## In MEMORIAM

**Donald W. Weber, B'61**, passed away Oct. 5, 2025, in Sandy Springs, Ga. at age 89. Weber served as a helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army before earning his bachelor's degree at Duquesne. After working as an accountant with Arthur Andersen, he joined Continental Telephone as controller in 1969. Rising rapidly through the executive ranks, he retired in 1991 as president and CEO of Contel, by then a \$3.2 billion telecommunications supplier. After retirement, he founded Viewstar, a distributor of satellite entertainment systems, and became an angel investor, funding numerous startup companies. In 2012, he established the Donald Weber Endowed Scholarship, which benefits students who demonstrate need and merit. Weber was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 1988.

Michael J. Horwat, Jr., A'68

Paul A. Rank, GA'68

Josephine Rocco-Baker, MSN, RN, N'68, GA'94

Philip R. Aley, GM'69

Joseph R. Forys, GB'69

Brian K. Hill, E'69

John M. Kennedy, B'69

Marlene E. Lebowitz, A'69

Leno D. Mescolotto, Esq., L'69

Robert D. Mintz, Esq., L'69

Barbara A. Sandrini, E'69

Dr. Peter Titelman, GA'69, GA'76

Richard R. Valenzi, S'69

Clyde F. Villa, E'69, GE'73

Robert S. Bailey, Esq., L'70

The Hon. David J. Brightbill, L'70

Dr. Francette Didier, GE'70

Mary K. Hetrick, GA'70

Thomas Kees, GE'70

Mrs Lynn L. Manion, A'70

Brigid Nawrocki, E'70

Sr. M. Victor Powers, Sc, GE'70

Eleanor L. Snyder, RN, MN, CS, N'70

Dr. Frank S. Wager III, S'70

Frank J. Kwolek, GE'71

Cynthia C. Jones, N'71

Rev. Ivan D. Dornic, Ph.D., GA'71

Thomas Rihn, Pharm.D., P'71, GP'76

Lawrence W. Kustra, Esq., A'71, GA'74, L'82

Mary L. Laurent, A'71

Betty J. Murray, B'71, GE'73

Joseph E. Burtnett, B'72

Frank L. Decaria, GA'72

James L. Ford, B'72

Patrick J. Kelly, B'72

Henry M. Livingston, GE'72

Alice Marie Mesaros, GE'72

Douglas C. Watson, A'72

F. E. Ciccone, Esq., L'73

Edward T. Czaniecki, B'73

Michael J. Devine, A'73

Richard P. Galinowski, Sr., A'73

Robert J. McMillen, GE'73

Ralph J. Stalter, Jr., A'73

William Woodward, Jr., Esq., L'73

Raymond W. Bitar, Sr., Esq., L'74

Harry J. Cancelmi, Esq., L'74

M. Clarissa Clair, GE'74

Stanley Gorski, II Esq., L'74

Marian Gottschalk, GE'74

Bernadine T. Harrity, Esq., L'74

Anne Marie McCarthy, M'74

George M. Thoma, Jr., CPA, B'74

Dennis W. Trohaugh, Esq., A'74, L'77

Arvids Bisers, Esq., L'75

Daniel M. Darragh, Esq., L'75

Kathleen L. McCorkle, GE'75

Richard A. O'Neil, Esq., B'75, L'83

Robert R. Radecki, E'75

Sr. Edith Roahrig, GE'75

Anthony J. Seneca, Esq., L'75

Kenneth Buchsbaum, GE'76

Richard E. Goldinger, Esq., L'76

Sr. Ann F. Hanley, CSJ, GE'76

Lt. John E. Cmar, E'77

The Hon. Jerry J. Garguilo, L'77

Christine Heasley, N'77

Mary M. Scalercio, GE'77

Debra A. Ziolkowski, A'78, GB'90

Mark J. DeAndrea, A'79

Eric A. Goldberg, GE'79

Edward L. Korwek, Ph.D., Esq., L'79

Timothy J. McDonough, A'79

Thomas N. Gallagher, B'80

Germaine L. Newcamp, M'80, GE'88

Edward V. Burke, A'82

William R. Friedman, Esq., L'83

Christopher J. Luscri, P'83

Cheryl C. McCray, Esq., L'84

James E. Miscavage, Esq., L'84

Marie A. Page, A'84

Conception C. Phoenix, S'84

Jane S. Pillar, GE'84

George K. Spencer, GM'84

Jan F. Dunlap, GE'85

Charles L. Winek, Jr., P'86, GP'90

Robert F. Rogers, Ph.D., S'87

Richard N. Southworth, GA'87

Charles J. Culleiton, GS'88

Jay Miranda, A'88

Harry W. Fenton, Esq., L'89

Sr. Rita M. Fritzen, OSF, GE'89

Michael J. Salemme, B'89

Percy M. Jackson, P'90

Daniel J. Carroll, A'91

Craig M. Lee, Esq., L'91

Melanie D. Naro, Esq., L'93

Keith R. Beasley-Topliffe, GA'94

Caroline M. Cordisco, P'94

Nancy A. Mutch, N'94

Adam H. Bernstein, Esq., GA'95

Anita M. Donovan, N'67, GE'96

Peter T. Nuzback, B'96, GB'97

Anna H. Steinbach, A'97, GA'99

Richard P. Kimmins, A'72, GB'98

Robert P. Stocker, Jr., B'88, GB'98

Rosalie D'Angelo, GA'99

Mary Ayoob Wade, GA'99

Shirley A. Brynda, A'00

Constance K. Hughes, E'01

Alka A. Patel, Esq., GB'01, L'01

Kamilah B. Iman, HS'02

Kyle A. Lackey, HS'97, GHS'02, GB'02

Christopher M. DiNardo, B'03

Bernice Palmiere, GA'03

Ashley P. Flaherty, A'04

Stephanie L. Garbe, B'04, L'10

William G. Emery, GE'05

John V. Sabel, Esq., L'06

Joseph E. Studeny, GB'06

Bryan T. Vogel, A'06

Casey L. Olszewski, E'09

James F. J. Asbell, GA'11

Dustin R. Matthews, Esq., L'12

Alicia C. Hall, GA'13

Ian Antolik, N'16

Nancy N. Fair, Ph.D., GE'17

Timothy W. Nichol, Pharm.D., GP'17

Kathleen C. Carrig, N'19

### Deceased Friends from July 23, 2025- Feb. 6, 2026

Leonard J. Anglin, Jr.

Susan M. Baux

Phyllis Black

Joseph A. Dearden

Wilbur Goddin

Dolores J. Guarini

Gary W. Hopkins

Richard L. Kapusta

Robert M. Kranak

Kathleen Lind

Cornelius F. Murphy

Margaret J. Patterson

Ramona Polovich

JoAnne Pope

Carol M. Reimer

H. Robert Reynolds

Lawrence H. Tyler, Jr.

Rita M. Warfield

## REMEMBERING RAY GOSS

**Ray Goss, A'58**, passed away April 28 in Indiana, Pa. at age 89. Goss was the longest-serving radio play-by-play announcer in NCAA Division I men's basketball with 58 consecutive seasons behind the microphone for the Dukes. Goss called his first game on March 17, 1968 and concluded his career on March 13 this year at PPG Paints Arena as the Dukes played VCU in the Atlantic 10 tournament. He only missed two games during that span: one in 1978 when he auditioned for a play-by-play announcer position with the National Basketball Association and one in 2011 as he mourned the passing of his wife, Dee. Known for his enthusiastic expressions including "Great Ghosts Alive!" Goss was inducted into the Duquesne University Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2023. In 2025, he received the Media Association of Pittsburgh's radio award and the Woody Durham "Voice of College Sports" Award from the National Sports Media Association. In addition to his work with Duquesne, Goss was associated with radio stations in Indiana County for more than 65 years.



## REMEMBERING DANIEL UNICO

**Daniel V. Unico, A'52**, passed away March 24, 2026, in Pittsburgh at age 99. The son of Italian immigrants, Unico became the first in his family to attend college after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Like his Alpha Phi Delta fraternity brothers of the era, he was a faithful fan of Duquesne basketball, following the team each year to Madison Square Garden for the National Invitational Tournament. His passion for the Dukes lasted a lifetime, as he and wife Joan attended nearly every men's and women's basketball home game for more than four decades. Unico owned and operated Paper Packaging Co., a Pittsburgh-based manufacturer of boxes for pizza shops and bakeries. With his family, he supported an endowed scholarship for physical therapy students, the women's basketball locker room complex, and most recently the Unico Family Pavilion and a replica of Michelangelo's Pieta along Academic Walk. In 2025, Unico received Duquesne's Presidential Medal and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame.



➔ **Alumni can visit [duq.edu/alumni](https://duq.edu/alumni) for the latest details on what's happening at Duquesne, events and how to get involved and stay connected.**

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*Alumni Updates are an opportunity for alumni to share personal and professional news and accomplishments. Members of our alumni community are invited to visit [duq.edu/alumniupdates](https://duq.edu/alumniupdates) to tell us and others about a recent job change, promotion, award, publication, marriage, new family member, reunion or anniversary.*

*Submissions are subject to staff review for placement (online and/or in print) and editing for clarity and length.*





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DUQUESNE  UNIVERSITY

# PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF DR. DAVID J. DAUSEY

ENDURING MISSION. EMERGING PATHWAYS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026, AT 1 P.M.  
IN THE UPMC COOPER FIELDHOUSE  
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Go to [duq.edu/14thpresident](https://duq.edu/14thpresident) for updates