The Year in Review

This has been a year like no other. We have missed being with you in person. Thank you for supporting our program to advance the care of people with disabilities through nursing education. Your consultant work has been momentous and life changing for all involved.

Your consulting efforts directly affected students and faculty in the Health Assessment and Population Health courses. You influenced the knowledge, skills and attitudes of hundreds of students. Since September, 244 students answered our post-encounter survey where they rated four areas on a 100-point scale. See graphic above. Students reported that their knowledge level about disability and health care increased by 30 points!

We hope to continue to grow the program; it will be a lot easier post-COVID. Please share our flyer, which is in this newsletter, with family, friends and colleagues. The more the merrier!
New Equipment

Because you have shared ideas and personal experiences, we have been able to purchase new equipment for our simulation lab with funds from the Hearst grant, which supports our consultant program. The equipment helps our students know what technology is available to enhance all abilities.

For sight impairment, we purchased a ScripTalk Audio user. A pharmacist programs a small electronic label with all prescription information, including drug name, dosage, instructions, warnings, pharmacy information, doctor name, prescription number, date and more. ScripTalk Station allows the user to simply place the pill bottle on the machine and press the “Read” button. Information is transferred using text-to-speech technology.

We also purchased an EKO Adaptive stethoscope that is available to providers and patients with hearing loss. It has up to 40x sound amplification and active noise cancelation for reducing unwanted background sounds while also providing a visual heart sound waveform. What a joy it would be for a parent with hearing loss to listen and see their baby’s heartbeat for the first time!

Improvements around Campus

Thanks to you, we were able to get our sidewalks, entrance ways and parking area around Libermann Hall repaired to ensure the safety of all consultants, faculty and students using the facility.

All About Connecting with You

Thank you for your contributions to this newsletter. It helps us to feel closer to you and one another. We love our community of consultants! On the next few pages, you will find responses from fellow consultants to the following questions:

1. If you could have dinner with someone famous, who would it be and why?
2. What would your best day be like?
3. If you could give everyone in the world one gift, what would it be?
4. What would the title be for a movie about your life?
5. What is something new you would like to try this year?
Nick Sinagra

1. I would love to have dinner with Mark Cuban, for two reasons. First, he just seems like a cool guy. Second, I would love to pick his brain as an entrepreneur.
2. My best day would be spent with my wife and three kids on the beach.
3. I would love to give everyone in the world the gift of grace, both for themselves and for others. If we could all be a little more gracious in accepting our own faults and the faults of others, the world would be a much better place.
4. My first autobiography was called Still Walking and the second was called Still Falling, but I think the movie would be called Still Rob because my disability can never change who I essentially am.
5. Actually, I got to try my “big new thing” last year. When the pandemic hit, it provided some extra time, and I started a podcast. It’s been a full year and more than 100 episodes of Learning from Smart People. This year, I would like to build on that and become a YouTuber.

Rob Oliver

1. Will Smith. That would just be fun!
2. I love traveling. So, I think my best day would be traveling somewhere I never thought I could go. Maybe Italy!
3. I would want people to be able to dream big! People forget to do this sometimes.
4. Dream Until Your Dream Comes True.
5. I am going to try and work at my new startup company on a full-time basis.
Joe Schantz

1. An Italian pasta dinner with Pope Francis to celebrate life!
2. My favorite day would be spent at the ocean... being able to ride along side in my wheelchair, fishing from a boat and having a great shrimp dinner at sunset.
3. I would give the people of the world the gift of love and a hand to hold.
4. My movie title would be An Inspirational Story.
5. This year, I would like to spend more time with my family enjoying outdoor activities and to go for a scenic train ride.

Matt Kocsis

1. Selena Gomez – because she is cute and she seems nice.
2. My best day so far was when I graduated from high school, and I walked across the stage to get my diploma after being in a wheelchair for five years. I got a standing ovation and had a really fun party after that.
3. The confidence to be themselves – everyone has something good to offer.
4. Find Your Limitations and Break through Them!
5. I am doing the Boston marathon with friends and family in October this year. I’m in training now, and I’m really excited about it!
Catherine Dopp

1. I would like to meet Jesus Christ. I would be so nervous.
2. If I was totally healthy, it would be sunny and I could be walking. It doesn’t matter where (on the beach, in the city or in the woods) as long as the sun was on me.
3. Peace.
5. One day that I am a little healthier.

Larry Masucci

2. Working hard at my volunteer activity, jobs and being in the sun.
3. A nice sunny/warm tropical family Hawaii vacation.
5. Shred papers, make student name cards, count quiz answer sheets into piles of 10 and use the copying machine.
Share Our Programs

Equity Access encompasses all of our initiatives at the School of Nursing that seek to educate nurses and other healthcare providers about some of the specialized knowledge and skills we need to provide high quality care for individuals with disabilities. Please learn more at https://duq.edu/academics/schools/nursing/faculty/grants/equity-access-program.

Think Summer!

Please share this awesome opportunity for youth in 7th-12th grade with a documented disability. Participation is at no cost due to the generous support from the Edith Trees Foundation.

Participants will have fun developing skills to act, communicate, and improve self-esteem and confidence. Special sessions include learning self-advocacy as a patient and playing the part of a health care provider.

More information is available at duq.edu/STAGES2.
WORK DIRECTLY WITH NURSING STUDENTS TO HELP IMPROVE CARE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Duquesne University School of Nursing is seeking people with disabilities to participate in our Standardized Patient with Disability Program. Through this program, nursing students learn to provide competent and comprehensive care to people with disabilities through simulated health care scenarios.
What is the Standardized Patient with Disability Program?

This program provides a safe environment to teach, enhance, and assess the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of future nurses. Most programs use trained actors to serve as “disabled patients” during simulated educational exercises. At Duquesne, we aim to give persons living with a disability a stronger voice. Instead of actors, individuals living with a disability serve as Standardized Patient Consultants (SPC). This provides students with a more authentic experience and provides the SPC with an active role in shaping the care future nurses will provide.

What does a Standardized Patient Consultant (SPC) do?

As a SPC, you will portray yourself or role-play an additional condition to provide students an accurate recreation of what you encounter in a health care setting.

- All SPC encounters are respectful, noninvasive and may help students practice physical exam skills, communication skills and history taking.
- No acting experience is required – mostly you just need to be yourself!
- After training and instruction, SPCs may be contacted several times a year. You can participate based on your availability.
- All SPCs are paid for their time.

Who Should Participate?

Any person with a disability interested in helping nursing students develop the skills to properly care for persons with disabilities.

Contact Information

If you are interested or have questions, contact

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