Also in this issue:
Inaugural Leadership Academy Established
Duquesne Announces College of Osteopathic Medicine

Crafting Solutions
Biomedical Engineering Program Develops Zero Waste Process
Duquesne University Leadership Academy

John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes

BME Recycling Program

Duquesne to Launch New College of Osteopathic Medicine

The new college is targeted to open and admit its first class in fall 2023.

Positioning Students to Succeed

The Gussin Spiritan Division focuses on creating a better college experience for students.
President’s Message

In the spirit of our founders, our University continues its long history of service to others.
President's Corner

BELOW IS A SAMPLING OF EXCITING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES PRESIDENT KEN GORMLEY HAS PARTICIPATED IN DURING RECENT MONTHS.

In July, President Gormley hosted the 4th Annual Ice Cream Social on Academic Walk.

The Duquesne community gathered to celebrate the successes and achievements of students at the annual Senior Celebration.

During finals week, the Office of Residence Life sponsored a late night breakfast at Duquesne Dining’s Hogan Dining Center. President Gormley and his wife, Laura, stopped by.

A team from Duquesne’s Office of Community Engagement, President Gormley and Provost David Dausey met with Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald in July to discuss the University’s initiatives and continued commitments to the EcoInnovation District and Uptown community.

In April, Greek Life at Duquesne hosted another memorable Greek Week and Greek Sing. Here, President Gormley visits with the brothers of SAE.

Hungry students gathered on A-walk in April for Pancakes with the President. The annual springtime celebration featured pancakes prepared by President Gormley and his wife, Laura, giveaways, a photo booth and prizes.

In April, Duquesne’s Office of Diversity & Inclusion hosted its 5th Annual Spirit of Diversity Dinner & Scholarship Benefit presented by UPMC. Five talented Duquesne students were recognized with the 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Awards.

President Gormley is shown with The Duquesne University Red Masquers’ cast members and Director John Lane, left, after a packed performance of A Little Night Music at the Genesius Theater in April.

In April, President Gormley hosted the 4th Annual Ice Cream Social on Academic Walk.

President Gormley, a graduate of St. Anselm School in Pittsburgh’s Swissvale neighborhood, was honored at the East Catholic School’s 2019 Gala with one of its Distinguished Graduate Awards. Shown with him are Sr. Melanie DiPietro, Sr. Mary Lou Palas and Sr. Patrice Hughes, three Sisters of Charity who taught him and his siblings at St. Anselm.
STUDENTS SHARE HOW THEY FEEL CONNECTED TO DU

By Megan Tressler

Look around Duquesne University’s campus and you’ll spot plenty of places to stop and take a minute to connect with your spirit: the Duquesne Chapel, the Lourdes Grotto, installations of sculptures, paintings and murals.

For some Duquesne students, no one place speaks to their spirit. For some students, especially those not from a Catholic faith tradition or those who are not practicing Catholics, it’s not the individual places that make a special connection—it’s the entire place.

As Duquesne’s director of mission animation, Luci-Jo DiMaggio looks for ways to bring the Spiritan mission alive across the University.

“The mission of the University is a living thing. If it was stagnant, like a stone, I think it would only be relevant to a certain group of people. It’s more like water, constantly moving and alive. Because of that, it can reach many people in many different contexts. That aspect is incredibly reflective of how the Spiritans work around the world,” says DiMaggio.

Three students on different faith paths recently shared how Duquesne’s mission, spirit and principles resonate with them.

STUDENT BECOMES AMBASSADOR FOR DU

Dan Smolsky was kind of freaking out. In the middle of his cross-country drive to Duquesne, when he started perusing the syllabus for his theology course, he realized he might be at a disadvantage when classes started because he’s not Catholic.

“I was a little intimidated about it. I knew other kids would have a leg up because of their religion,” says Smolsky, who comes from a Mormon background. “I thought, ‘I’m going to fail out of college before I know it.’”

As soon as he stepped into the “dreaded” class, all his worries were put to rest.

“The professor was so engaging and said it’s great if you’re religious, it’s ok if you’re not,” recalls Smolsky.

The class ended up being one of his favorites. In the three years since, he keeps finding more to like about Duquesne.

“Everyone around me in the offices on campus feels like they’ve been here for 20 or 30 years—and for a lot of people, that is actually the case—but there is no semblance of separation or ‘we know what’s best because we’ve been here longer.’ Everyone is just so supportive; it’s very familial and, quite frankly, fun to be a part of,” says Smolsky, a senior majoring in economics and marketing.

His Duquesne journey started in a roundabout way. He had never heard of Duquesne and never visited Pittsburgh from his home in Santa Clarita, Calif. He’s a triplet, and when it came to applying to colleges, he knew what he wanted and didn’t want: He wanted to go to a city, he didn’t want to stay close to home and he didn’t want to go to the same college as one of his siblings.

One day, a brochure from Duquesne arrived in the mail and he applied because it mentioned scholarships were available. Soon, he and his dad were planning a road trip to Pittsburgh. Arriving late, he didn’t even see campus until the orientation program the next morning. Duquesne made a good first impression.

“I met incredible leaders at orientation. I felt like I was a part of something special,” he says. “I never felt alienated.”

He is now leading the orientation program this fall, helping to develop the theme “Begin. Build. Become.”

“Duquesne is the beginning of your journey—we serve you. Build knowledge and social skills. Become something you never thought imaginable,” says Smolsky, explaining the theme.

In May, his Duquesne journey led him to Africa as part of a University delegation meeting with Spiritans there. The visit centered on several Duquesne initiatives, including exploring how the Office of Disability Services can continue supporting a Spiritan school for deaf boys in Tanzania and the creation of a student ambassador program that will focus on sending students to Africa to continue or enhance partnerships there and perhaps develop new ones. The student who had no knowledge about the University—“I didn’t even know how to pronounce Duquesne”—was on another continent, learning about how the African programs embody Spiritan ideals by serving individuals in need.

“Duquesne has a very welcoming atmosphere. I attribute a lot of that to the Spiritans’ background and because of the Spiritan core values,” says Smolsky. “Duquesne is my home.”

STUDENT APPRECIATES SUPPORT ON CAMPUS

“God’s got a plan for you”—people are saying that a lot to me lately. ‘The big man’s watching up there.’ Things like
that that insinuate that there’s a higher power dictating my life,” says Alexis Jimenez. “Before I would have said, ‘No, everything in my life is because what I’ve done and what I’ve struggled for.’”

She thinks differently now about such big subjects since she came to Duquesne three years ago.

“When people talk to me about religion, before I would say, ‘I don’t really believe that,’ and not think about it again. Now I give it more thought and think in-depth about certain things,” she says.

She’s not sure why. Jimenez, who is from Albany, N.Y., says it may be because she feels like she’s living her best life since moving to Pittsburgh and starting at Duquesne.

Jimenez chose Duquesne because she planned to enter the military and was looking for schools offering scholarships to students like her. Her plans have changed; she’s now a senior majoring in corporate communications and minoring in political science with plans to go to law school.

When she decided to attend Duquesne, she didn’t think too much of the Catholic foundation of the school—until she read the student handbook.

“I vividly remember going through the handbook and looking at the rules. I noticed some rules were probably because it was a Catholic university, but that wasn’t a big deterrent,” she says, specifically referring to visitation policies regarding the University’s living learning centers.

Though she grew up a practicing Catholic, she and her family gradually moved away from their Catholic identity and when asked about faith, she says, “I like to live religion like a lifestyle. I’m living what I’m being taught. I’m going through my day-to-day life just being the best person I can be.”

She finds a lot in common with Duquesne’s mission. “Coming to Duquesne, it’s been interesting because things I lost faith in, for lack of better words, are the same type of values that are showing up at Duquesne, which is something I didn’t expect,” she says. “A lot of the school’s values are rooted in religious things. A lot of people don’t think about the origin of Duquesne, but it’s more about Spiritan traditions over Catholic traditions and that’s a key part of building Duquesne students and putting them in the community. Those values the founding fathers had can still be seen today—in service, in caring for the community.”

Ultimately, even though she is not a practicing Catholic, the spirit of Duquesne resonates with her and she feels accepted and supported.

“I basically live here 3-6-5. Duquesne has become my second home, but honestly it’s my first home,” says Jimenez. “It’s been really important and really appreciated.”

**DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS SPEAKS TO JEWISH STUDENT**

Even before Shai Maaravi speaks, one look at the stickers covering the laptop he carries communicates what he’s interested in: Israel, hockey, Pittsburgh and Duquesne.

After growing up in Israel and learning how to play hockey, he’s traveled around the world, eventually landing in Pittsburgh and enrolling in Duquesne’s School of Business.

All of his life experiences have converged at Duquesne, where he says he feels at home, even though he doesn’t know much about the Catholic faith.

“When I toured campus, I asked if it would make a difference that I’m Jewish. They said no,” Maaravi remembers. “Duquesne accepts anyone. It’s very inclusive. It
doesn’t matter where you come from.”

Maaravi still has strong ties to where he comes from. He is a veteran of the Israeli military. His family still lives there. He plays for the Israeli national hockey team.

His heart, though, is in Pittsburgh.

He always dreamed of living in North America. Ironically, hockey—not a sport well known in Israel, which, according to Maaravi, has only one regulation-sized ice rink—provided opportunities that have taken him around the globe.

Hockey found him at age 7 when his mother’s colleague was recruiting for a hockey school in Israel. When he tried it, it was love at first skate and he dedicated himself to the game. Each year, he and his teammates would travel to North America to train; in 2015, they arrived in Pittsburgh.

While here, he forged a strong connection with a local family and grew to love the city. His “adopted” Pittsburgh parents encouraged him to attend college locally, which led him to Duquesne.

He says Duquesne has been a good fit for him.

“My professors were welcoming and accepting,” he says, noting professors encourage him to keep Jewish holidays even though that means he may miss class. In fact, Associate Professor of Marketing Audrey Guskey once recorded a lecture for him so he could keep up in class while he observed a Jewish holiday.

Perhaps the biggest way Duquesne resonates with him is the University’s focus on service.

“The biggest emphasis of the mission statement is serving society. That’s how I was raised—treat others as you want to be treated,” he says. “Acceptance of diversity is where I find my spirit at Duquesne.”

He embodies Duquesne’s mission of tolerance for those who are different, especially on the ice. Hockey exposed him to people with different religious traditions. His teammates have been Muslim, Christian and Druze. He quickly realized that everyone is the same on the ice.

“You start from the same point—you’re all basically equal on the field or on the ice. You work together or you’re all going to fail. You learn to overcome differences and learn to work together,” says Maaravi, a sophomore majoring in business management and finance.

This fall, he becomes president of the Duquesne Hillel Jewish Students Organization, but he’s quick to point out membership is open to anyone, regardless of religion. He’s also taking his message even further than campus with the formation of the Israel Ice Hockey Foundation of North America. He is working with several close friends to get the foundation off the ground to support hockey in Israel. He firmly believes that tolerance and understanding can be promoted through sports.

Look for more Israeli hockey players to follow in his footsteps.

“I tell my teammates to look into Duquesne,” he says. “I really recommend Pittsburgh and Duquesne.”

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Dialogue with Dukes Update

In 2018, the Communications Committee of the Alumni Board of Governors worked with University Advancement staff to implement the “Dialogue with Dukes” electronic survey program. Feedback gathered from the first two surveys led to changes that were implemented in the new design of the monthly alumni newsletter, Bulletin from the Bluff, as well as modified communications strategies used for the Duquesne Day of Giving.

Responses collected last fall in regards to alumni events and programs also will be implemented as the Office of Alumni Engagement plans its activities for 2019-2020. Following are a few statistics from this survey.

Top reasons for choosing Duquesne:

- 96% said academics were good or excellent
- 94% had a good or excellent experience as a student
- 82% recognized skills/training for career as good or excellent
- 75% indicated traditions/values learned on campus as good or excellent

Alumni Programming and Communications:

- 74% agree or strongly agree with the need for better and/or more frequent alumna/student interactions
- 53% said that seeing accomplishments of alumni is either significant or critical in influencing their opinion of DU

Representing DU:

The majority of respondents agreed that it was either critically or very critically important for members of the Duquesne Alumni community to...

- Serve as ambassadors promoting Duquesne to others
- Mentor students

View the complete results from these surveys or sign up to participate at duq.edu/dialogue.
Imagine a contemporary riff on a library bookmobile that focuses on making things to help communities. Such a van would provide power, wi-fi, storage and work surfaces for students to make their ideas come to life. Imagine further such an idea in action.

John G. Rangos, Sr.’s latest gift to Duquesne aims to move ideas from the imagination to helping people learn and solve problems. The new John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes for Faculty and Students recognize undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members who develop learning experiences to help address problems facing current and future generations.

The inaugural prizes went to the best ideas submitted last spring, and were celebrated on the occasion of Rangos’ 90th birthday in July.
The interesting van was one of the winning ideas. To a packed dining room, Regina Harbourne, assistant professor of physical therapy in the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, described the work of a Duquesne student club, “START-Play Hackers.” In the club, students in physical therapy, occupational therapy, biomedical engineering and physics adapt toys for children with disabilities to use.

That club’s impulse for making, combined with what two of Harbourne’s colleagues—Richard Simpson, associate professor of physical therapy, and Patrick Cooper, assistant professor of physics—knew from their experience in volunteering with local communities, led to their imagining the Mobile Maker Space.

The Mobile Maker Space can visit communities and students can work directly with people to test concepts they had seen previously only on a board or in a book.

Harbourne and her colleagues were one of 16 winning teams—8 of faculty and 8 of students—who won inaugural John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes for Faculty and Students. Her parting words echoed throughout the evening in the sentiments of all who spoke: “Thank you for this opportunity to help our students grow, while also helping the community.”

A key phrase in the original call for submissions was “creative pathways.” The interest was to support something new, something novel, and to do so by looking everywhere. The first class of awardees forged a variety of paths, with the common aim of shaping new ways to learn.

“The Rangos Prizes are driven by a simple but transformative idea: that students and faculty together can help shape learning for a new generation,” Duquesne University President Ken Gormley says.

Students and faculty received the same prize funding: $1,000 per team. They earned the same medals. Their contributions were valued the same.

“It shows that we expect to reward good ideas from any direction,” says Provost David Dausey. “No one has a monopoly on useful perspectives.”

The call for entries in the spring asked for ideas to “enhance the learning experience” to help students “reimagine their world.” The winning entries went beyond reimagining the world and to reimagining the work of learning in the first place.

A sample of some prize winners shows the thinking.

- A good education prepares people to learn how to learn—so what if a course existed focused solely on techniques and skills to handle advanced learning? Brandon Hoenig, a doctoral student in biology, proposed the course “Learning How To Learn,” with a key feature its ongoing learning portfolio. He envisions students maintaining an online resource of their learning—and that the next year’s or semester’s students in the class could learn from and add to it.

- Michelle Blohm, a doctoral candidate in systematic theology, proposed the addition of a new course to the University’s required curriculum, an “introduction to the Spiritan ethos.” Duquesne professionals could serve as mentors. A doctoral nursing student might discuss how the Spiritan charism enriches her nursing practice. A marketing instructor might discuss how work with a non-profit community partner enables him to walk with those on the margins. Blohm said such a course would help people be more receptive to “insight from unexpected sources.”

- Junior Meredith Bennet described her team’s proposal to provide a social media site for environmental responsibility—a key value for Duquesne.

- English faculty member James Purdy described a course about the issues around intellectual property in an age of easy digital production. “The course will explore questions like: Can robots be authors? Can monkeys make money from their selfies?” Purdy said, and then got more serious. “Who owns the writing posted to and data created from engagement with social media? Is it a crime to publish an online video remixing copyrighted publications? And, most important, in what ways can writers make ethical decisions in the context of these changing technologies and publication spaces?”

As faculty and students spoke of their ideas, the man who spurred them to action looked on while seated with his family. Rangos could pass for a seasoned diplomat—a vital build, a clean pate, appearing younger than his nine decades might suggest.

Now chair of the John G. Rangos, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Rangos was an innovator in the environmental
As a philanthropist, Rangos has a long history of supporting vital institutions, including Pittsburgh’s major universities, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, hospitals, cultural institutions, and Greek heritage organizations.

industry who set the standard for waste receptacles and recycling in America during his time as chairman of the Chambers Development Co. and vice chairman of USA Waste Services. Rangos launched and operated 23 successful companies during his career.

As a philanthropist, Rangos has a long history of supporting vital institutions, including Pittsburgh’s major universities, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, hospitals, cultural institutions, and Greek heritage organizations.

At Duquesne specifically, his contributions have supported scholarships for students, the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, and now the Rangos Prizes.

Gormley presented Rangos with one of the medals that will be given to all future Rangos Prize winners. Weighty and bronze, the medal bears the man’s face in relief on its front.

When Rangos took the podium, attendees learned that President Harry Truman once kissed his forehead and he knew all 13 of the political Kennedys. They also learned that former Duquesne President John Murray changed Rangos’ life.

“John Murray put philanthropy in my mind,” Rangos recalled. “Now, if you look at the societal benefit Duquesne has created over the years, it is very fulfilling for my family. You have done great things for the world.”

THE FOUNDING CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE JOHN G. RANGOS, SR. PRIZES

Students look at the world through a different lens. One that’s global. And digital. Our students want a chance to voice their opinions. To engage in civil conversation about important issues. To find solutions to challenging problems. And to make a meaningful difference in their world.

That’s why we’re looking for passionate Duquesne students and faculty who will help us enhance the learning experience—so our graduates can go out and reimagine their world.

Duquesne University is pleased to offer John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes, designed to inspire students and faculty to work to enhance our curriculum, ensuring that it remains relevant and prepares students for productive futures.

For a complete list of the award-winning projects, visit www.duq.edu/RangosPrizes.

As a philanthropist, Rangos has a long history of supporting vital institutions, including Pittsburgh’s major universities, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, hospitals, cultural institutions, and Greek heritage organizations.
Duquesne University to Launch College of Osteopathic Medicine

Duquesne University recently announced plans to establish a College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) that is targeted to open and admit its first class in fall semester 2023. It will be the second medical school in Pittsburgh and the first Catholic osteopathic medical school in Pennsylvania.

The COM will recruit an initial class of 75, with the intention of growing enrollment during its initial years to a total of 600 students enrolled at full maturity. Doctors of osteopathic medicine primarily serve as family doctors or general practitioners, for which there is a significant national need. In April, The Association of American Medical Colleges published a study illustrating a coming shortage of as many as 122,000 physicians.

The University has begun a national search for a founding COM dean. It seeks a scholar and practitioner who appreciates the changing demands of health care around the world and the importance of integrative approaches to the field.

Discussions of creating an osteopathic medical school arose during the University’s development of the 2018-2023 strategic plan, Re-Imagining Duquesne’s Spiritan Legacy for a New Era. Encouraging results from a feasibility study with globally recognized consulting firm Tripp Umbach led to the administration’s decision to pursue accreditation.

“This major leap forward for Duquesne, Pittsburgh and our region is a bold move that recognizes how health care requires new kinds of practitioners,” Duquesne President Ken Gormley says.

Gormley candidly admits he’s somewhat surprised that a major metropolitan area like Pittsburgh, with its renowned health care systems and options, doesn’t already have an osteopathic medical school.

“Given Duquesne’s broad strengths in elements connected to integrative health—in pharmacy, nursing, the natural sciences, health sciences and even in business and music—we are exceptionally well-suited to serve this need in our region,” Gormley says. “Training highly qualified family doctors also directly aligns with our mission as a Catholic Spiritan University.”

LAUNCH AND ACCREDITATION

The accreditation process for osteopathic medical schools (which can take up to three years) requires placing a founding dean in charge to recruit faculty, design curriculum, identify and construct space for instruction and recruit students. Accreditation is reserved until a school can demonstrate its ability to provide instruction, and recruit and graduate students with viable degrees.

“We’ve planned well for this move and will succeed in creating this resource at Duquesne,” Provost Dr. David Dausey notes. “We envision a school of medicine that ties together interprofessional opportunities across all of our health programs.”

Dausey explains that the vision for the COM is tied to integrative health and medicine. “Integrative medicine considers the medical practitioner and the patient as partners not only in healing but also in prevention and general wellness,” he says. “Integrative health values what often is termed ‘western’ scientific approaches to medicine just as much as conceptions of health, wellness and other cultural approaches to healing.”

In addition to practitioner training, Duquesne’s COM will include work in the ethics of integrative medicine and a focus on serving marginalized populations, aligning integrative health practice with Spiritan values of service that have been a hallmark of Duquesne for more than 140 years.

“At the core, we seek a leader to educate medical students to look at the mind, body and spirit of their patients, to be with them and to listen to their concerns,” Dausey adds. “While such practice certainly is about curing, it is equally about caring.”

THE RIGHT PLACE, THE RIGHT TIME

With its many highly ranked programs and national draw for students, Duquesne is well-positioned. The University’s nine schools span business, education, health sciences, law, liberal arts, music, natural sciences, nursing and pharmacy. The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be Duquesne’s 10th school.

“It will be more than just a tenth school. The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be a hub, synthesizing in some ways all that we do well,” Dausey says. “Because integrative health demands cultural competencies, liberal arts also is involved. We have a music therapy program here. The connections between law and medicine are numerous. Education is as much about wellness as it is about knowledge, and business concerns can both aggravate and ameliorate health challenges. Our strengths in the allied and practical health fields are obvious. We have an abundance of talent and expertise here to work with.”

“The University of Pittsburgh has an internationally recognized medical school, focused on M.D. and Ph.D. offerings,” Dausey added. “Trends show medical students trained at major academic medical centers tend to practice primarily in medical sub-specialties, while osteopaths are more likely to become general practitioners, where the need for more physicians is even greater.”

Duquesne officials and Tripp Umbach consultants conferred with representatives from regional universities, medical professionals and a variety of individuals in city and state government while exploring the potential for the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Duquesne officials confirm the plans were met with enthusiasm, with regional hospitals noting that even with existing medical schools in the area, their needs for residents and interns remained high, particularly for osteopathic practitioners.
A New
GENERATION of SERVANT
LEADERS

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, FAITH FORMATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By Gina O’Malley

Eager hands guide markers across poster boards, taking care to write welcome messages correctly in nearly a dozen languages.

The artists behind the colorful posters? Fourteen students from six Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Catholic high schools. They haven’t been on campus for very long, but with open hearts and creative minds, they’re already inspired by what they’ve learned at the inaugural Duquesne University Leadership Academy (DULA).

The welcome posters will greet immigrant children in their native languages as they arrive to campus for the Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education’s (ARYSE) summer programming just a few weeks later.

“When they come here, they feel the comfort of their own identity and narrative. It’s cool for me to see new languages that I have not learned and see new cultural perspectives,” said Blake Neiderlander, 17, a student at Central Catholic High School.

New Program, Deep Roots

From June 11 to 15, DULA students lived on campus and participated in workshops and community engagement activities to awaken and refine their leadership skills.

When Duquesne’s new strategic plan was created two years ago, a centerpiece was creating a high school leadership program reminiscent of and inspired by Duquesne’s earliest days as a University and preparatory school (“Duquesne Prep”).

Educating youth, creating partnerships and serving the community have been longstanding priorities and were central to Duquesne’s founding.

“This fits with who we are, and who we have been. Many people don’t realize there was a prep school component to the University for many years. It’s exciting to bring back one of our past traditions and reimagine it for today’s high school students,” said Adam Wasilko, director of freshman development and
ABOVE LEFT: Terri Baltimore leads an interactive tour of Pittsburgh’s Hill District neighborhood.
ABOVE RIGHT: Blake Neiderlander creates a welcome poster for ARYSE summer program participants.
BOTTOM RIGHT: DULA participants learn about the life and legacy of American playwright August Wilson during a stop at his birthplace.
DULA participants share a laugh as they walk to their next activity.
disability services, who helped plan DULA. DULA helps the University serve local communities through a new channel, teaches students to think in innovative ways and encourages responsible servant leadership grounded in faith—skills that will remain with participants throughout their lives.

“A servant leader is primarily concerned with the well-being and growth of the community. It’s different than traditional leadership where the primary focus is unilateral, top-down power,” said Luci-Jo DiMaggio, director of mission animation and one of DULA’s planners.

The program draws from the best academic resources at the University while immersing students in serious community engagement activity and faith formation opportunities.

“DULA is rooted in growing an understanding of servant leadership and community engagement as ways we can express our Catholic faith. We are doing that from a uniquely Spiritan perspective which allows us to talk with the teens at length about the importance of relationships and meeting people where they are,” said DiMaggio.

Student Leaders

Interested students completed an application and submitted essays in which they discussed their interest in the program and described how faith has impacted their lives. Students were selected based on their leadership potential, or by demonstrating aspirational signs of leadership.

Admission wasn’t just limited to student council presidents or athletic team captains. The group also included “quiet leaders,” according to Rev. James McCloskey, C.S.Sp., senior advisor to the president for strategic initiatives.

“They’re the ones who influence their peers. They’re students who try out for the basketball team and don’t make it, but who then volunteer to manage the team,” explained McCloskey, who was instrumental in promoting DULA and bringing the program to fruition.

And everyone brought something different to the table. The group included students from all backgrounds—from athletes to forensics champions to budding scientists. This diversity meant participants not only learned from their experiences, but from each other.

“I feel like there’s nothing better than to learn who people are. When I travel or when I do these types of service projects, it’s to know the people; to know the area,” said Juliana Gahr, 17, a student at Seton LaSalle Catholic High School.

Students adorn water bottles and posters with welcome messages during the ARYSE service project.
Current Duquesne students functioned as program leaders and facilitated these conversations. “Duquesne students and staff are not just great counselors, but also great role models for the type of person that I hope to be,” said Tyler Schmidt, 16, a student at Holy Ghost Prep, a Catholic school founded by the Spiritans and located near Philadelphia.

Morning and evening prayers and reflections let students look back on their days, listen to the perspectives of their peers and link the ideas of servant leadership and service with the scriptural themes of the day.

“What’s nice is to see other people’s opinions, and see how maybe their perspectives changed, and understand what it means to each of us to be a servant leader,” said Neiderlander.

There was no shortage of fun, either. Students enjoyed off-campus activities, including a trip to Kennywood Park, bowling at Arsenal Lanes in Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood and dinner on Mount Washington with Duquesne President Ken Gormley.

Distinctly Spiritan

While other Catholic colleges and universities offer summer programs to high school students, including Boston College and the University of Notre Dame, Duquesne’s program offers a distinct difference.

“The community engagement aspect makes us unique and specifically Spiritan,” explained McCloskey. “DULA is very much aligned with the Spiritan commitment to the poor and disadvantaged, and the spirit of reciprocity. We’re not just helping. We’re listening and learning.”

Through community engagement, students experienced the power of immersion in activities that benefited neighbors and local communities. Under the supervision of mentors and dedicated community leaders, students discovered the impact of cooperation and team-building while examining issues of empathy and effective service.

The DULA schedule was constructed using Duquesne’s abundant community connections to maximize impact for participants and partner organizations. In addition to the ARYSE poster project, the teens sorted supplies for St. Vincent de Paul and toured the Hill District with community leaders to learn more about the neighborhood’s rich history and areas of opportunity.

Schmidt was particularly inspired by the Hill District tour. “We’re able to see the story and the history behind all the people of Pittsburgh, as well as learn about justice and charity,” he said.

Wasilko agreed. “We wanted the program to be memorable and distinctly Duquesne and Pittsburgh. We looked at scriptural themes and related them to the Spiritan founding mission and then decided which community sites would give the best examples of those themes,” he said.

Moving Forward as Servant Leaders

Program leaders are confident DULA will leave a lasting mark.

“Many people don’t realize there was a prep school component to the University for many years. It’s exciting to bring back one of our past traditions and reimagine it for today’s high school students.”
“We hope the teens leave with a sense of what it means to lead by supporting and serving others, and with a better grasp of what it means to walk with those on the margins,” said DiMaggio.

DULA participants embraced the program—realizing the value of each experience—and promised to continue these important conversations.

“Whether it’s a service activity, whether it’s a talk, or just going and having fun at night, it’s all part of one collective experience that is incredible,” said Gahr.

Neiderlander pledged to bring an open heart and mind back to his high school. “Oftentimes people’s stories aren’t heard, and I think that’s the most important thing…just to get an open space for people to create dialogue,” he said. “We all have our own identity. So why not share it with others?”

About Duquesne Prep
Duquesne University was founded as the Pittsburgh Catholic College of the Holy Ghost in 1878, serving as a prep school and a college. The prep school included a grammar school and a high school and accepted students as young as 8 years old. For 33 years, the prep school operated as such, until 1911 when the college was granted University status and changed its name to Duquesne University.

While the University no longer accepted grammar school students, the high school continued to thrive, and at one time it was the largest Catholic school in the diocese. Although the prep program ended in 1941, its legacy remains and serves as inspiration for DULA.

Visit duq.edu/magazine and learn about the DULA experience from the perspective of the students involved.
Sparking an Interest in STEM

NEW WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATION ON CAMPUS PROVIDES STEM-FOCUSED OUTREACH TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN

By Tracy Jackson

Even in a digital age, many elementary school students still love simple things. What child would turn down candy? And try walking through a clothing store without noticing rainbows on children’s shirts, jackets, shoes and jewelry.

Local elementary students recently dug deep into these eternal pleasures by creating a strand of candy DNA using colored gummy bears and licorice, and testing the density of a rainbow using easily accessible items such as honey, dish soap and vegetable oil. These fun activities were developed by members of Duquesne University’s new Women in STEM Committee, which has dispatched its members across Pittsburgh to help supplement STEM education at local schools.

“All of our projects include the use of household items so that they may be easily reproduced,” notes Bayer School Ph.D. candidate Michelle Valkanas, who led the biology team for two school outreach events. “To observe students having those ‘aha’ moments when a topic becomes clear, or have them floored at the ideas of density when we do the ‘density rainbow’ activity is truly rewarding. The desire to learn and explore is an innate feeling, especially in children.”

Since its introduction into the mainstream in 2001 by the U.S. National Science Foundation, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) outreach initiatives have become increasingly important and necessary.

In 2016, several female STEM faculty created the Women in Science at Duquesne University organization to promote and support women in the STEM career paths. The leadership team, now comprising 10 Duquesne faculty members from different STEM-related disciplines, received a $13,800 grant from the EQT Foundation and a $9,000 Charles Henry Leach II Fund award to support professional development workshops, STEM outreach visits to local K-12 schools, and mentorship of female students and junior faculty in STEM disciplines. This past April, the group transitioned to an official University committee operating out of the Office of the Provost under the new name Women in STEM Committee.

“The Women in STEM Committee will advise me,” says Provost Dr. David J. Dausey. “They will provide information on the challenges facing female faculty and students in the STEM disciplines, and the development of University programs that enable the success of all faculty and students.”

ENABLING CAREER SUCCESS

Over the past year, the Women in STEM Committee has held several professional development workshops, which are open to all Duquesne faculty and students and provide useful career-related skills.

“Many women in science feel extremely competent and successful in their area of expertise,” says Rachael Miller Neilan, associate professor of mathematics. “However, when entering into a meeting or negotiation, some may feel as if they are playing in a game where they don’t know the rules. This workshop provided participants the tactics needed to strategically and effectively implement their voice when participating in group discussions, meetings or one-on-one communications.”

Additionally, Women in STEM host seminars to showcase the career paths of successful female scientists. The seminars expose students to different career paths in academia, industry and government that are available after graduating with a STEM degree.
ADDITIONAL DU STEM INITIATIVES

In addition to the work being done by the Women in STEM Committee, other outreach activities and initiatives can be found across the University:

- The Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences offers various STEM initiatives, including community-engaged learning programs in the areas of civic engagement, educational outreach and scientific research—these provide students with opportunities to learn while giving back to their communities.
- The professional forensic science and law fraternity, Phi Sigma Lambda, hosts an annual forensic science and law workshop at Duquesne. The four-day workshop, facilitated by Duquesne students and faculty, is offered to high school students from Pittsburgh and the surrounding area.
- The Citizen Science Lab, Pittsburgh’s first community life sciences laboratory, offers programs for underrepresented populations in the sciences and is operated by Duquesne faculty, students and alumni.

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

In spring 2019, Women in STEM launched a new mentoring program to support undergraduate females in the STEM disciplines.

The aim of the mentor program is to cultivate a comfortable environment in which young female scientists can discuss educational goals and strategies for navigating a successful science career. Faculty mentors facilitate these discussions by providing resources and sharing personal stories and advice.

Women in STEM piloted the mentor program last year and received positive feedback from participating mentees and mentors. They plan to launch the 2019-2020 mentor program in September and increase the number of student participants.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Another cornerstone of the programming efforts spearheaded by the Women in STEM Committee is educational outreach. Each semester, the committee sends teams of female faculty and students to area K-12 schools to lead hands-on STEM activities with young students. The teams share activities from their specific areas of study, including biology, math, physics, chemistry, pharmacy, forensic science, physical therapy, information technology and biomedical engineering.

“The goal of the outreach program is to excite younger students with science activities and to provide them with female role models,” says Dr. Regina Harbourne, assistant professor of physical therapy. This past year, the group sent six teams from Duquesne to Ringgold Elementary School North and South. “The candy DNA and rainbow density experiments allow students to collaborate and take part in experiential learning experiences.”

The hands-on STEM activities introduced at both Ringgold Elementary schools had a significant impact on the students, according to Ringgold fourth grade science teacher Katheryn Selestow.

“My students were having such a good time investigating, designing, solving, escaping and programming,” says Selestow. “I’m not even sure they were aware they were learning at all!”

Local high school students also had a positive experience when the Women in STEM Committee led an environmental field trip to Maiden Mine, an abandoned coal mine in West Virginia. Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Dr. Nancy Trun conducted a classroom presentation and discussion on abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and the negative effects the polluted water has on the environment. The committee participants then facilitated two in-class experiments using items like lemon juice, red cabbage, baking soda and vinegar to learn about and visualize the differences in pH, before heading out to visit the mine. Maiden Mine is equipped with a passive remediation system that uses organic matter to absorb contaminants found in the water—the system was designed to treat AMD.

“We got a tour of Maiden Mine from an environmental scientist who does research there,” says Valkanas. “The students really enjoyed it and one even asked our guide for a summer internship.”

Valkanas says the activities shared with students by the Women in STEM Committee reinforce her belief that an early introduction to STEM is vital to sparking a lifelong interest in the sciences.

“The Women in STEM Committee provides a unique opportunity to not only help supplement our community school STEM programs, but to also serve as successful female scientists as well as role models for the community,” she says.
Against All Odds, Freshman Arrives on Campus

When Audriana Michrina fell off an ATV in May of 2018, doctors gave her a 10 percent chance of walking again. She had a broken back and was paralyzed from the waist down. With her prognosis came broken dreams. However, after grueling physical therapy, she did walk again—across the stage to receive her high school diploma in June. She recently arrived on campus to start her journey toward a degree in the medical field.

Why did you choose Duquesne?
I chose Duquesne for one reason being how stunning the surroundings are on and around the campus. As well as for the quality of education offered.

What are you most looking forward to as you start your freshman year?
I’m looking forward to meeting a bunch of new people and to gain back my independence that started to fade after the accident.

Why do you want to pursue a degree in the medical field?
As of right now, I’m not 100 percent sure on what I exactly want to do—I do know it will be something in the medical field. I want to pursue a degree with something dealing with the medical field because the feeling of helping people brings me so much joy.

Can you share advice for anyone going through a tough time?
The best advice I have for someone going through a tough time is to remind them that they aren’t alone. I’ve had a lot of hardships throughout my life—I lost my dad at age 15, my aunt a year later and then my accident. Through all that, I always had people by my side supporting me and uplifting me. The worst thing to do when you’re going through a tough time is to be alone. When you’re alone, you have so many thoughts running through your head that just start to overwhelm you. Any pain, whether it be emotional or physical, will take time to heal, but you just have to remind yourself that it’ll pass with time. When my accident first happened, I hated everything. I didn’t want to believe what they were telling me, but with time, I’ve come to embrace my injury and have started to share my outlook on life. Nothing is impossible. ♦

Honorary Degrees

During Commencement on May 10, President Ken Gormley presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to both Maxwell King, former president and chief executive officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation, and Joanne Byrd Rogers, wife of the late Fred Rogers. King—who is author of *The New York Times* best-seller *The Good Neighbor*, a biography about the life and work of Fred Rogers—delivered the Commencement address and Rogers also gave remarks. ♦
Alumna Attends Royal Ascot

One item on Christina Wilson’s bucket list has been checked off. In June, she attended the Royal Ascot in England, a world-class horse racing event that draws a fashionable crowd. Sandy Boyd, of Heirloom Designs Costumes, created her dresses and hats. Wilson, B’11, is active in Duquesne’s Philadelphia Alumni Chapter.

Why did you decide to attend Royal Ascot?
I decided to attend Royal Ascot as my cousin’s wife, Sandy Boyd, is a costume designer. Sandy and I both share a love of fashion and enjoy equestrian events, so she asked if I could be her model for two beautiful custom-made dresses and hats she wanted to create—one from the Victorian era and one from the Edwardian era. Additionally, Royal Ascot fell the week prior to my 30th birthday, so I figured what better way to celebrate my special day!

Did you see any member of the British royal family, as they often attend the event?
Yes, during the royal procession, I saw the queen and other members of the British royal family.

What was the best part of attending?
The best part of attending was being invited down to the finish line to watch Frankie Dettori and Stradivarius win the Gold Cup!

What’s next on your bucket list?
I am hoping to make a trip to New Zealand next year to attend my friend’s wedding. ♦

Nominations are now open for the Dukes from the Last Decade awards. This new annual program will recognize graduates from the last 10 years who have demonstrated one or more of the following: outstanding professional excellence, commitment and service to their community, and dedication to Duquesne University. Selected honorees will exemplify the mission of the University in their daily lives. Ten award recipients will be recognized at a reception to be held June 20, 2020. For more information and nomination materials, please visit www.MyDuquesne.duq.edu/lastdecade. ♦

New Award Recognizes Young Alumni Achievements

MFA and MHA Degrees Launch at Duquesne

Applications are now being accepted for the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Media Arts and Technology and the Master of Health Administration (MHA).

The MFA in Media Arts and Technology, offered by the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, has three program tracks: creative and strategic media, interactive design and photography and film.

The Master of Health Administration (MHA), offered by the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, is offered online and students can select a concentration in health informatics and data analytics, healthcare compliance and risk management, or population health.

Visit duq.edu/newprograms for more details on these and other new programs. ♦

Chapel Piano Installed

Dr. John Murray’s passion for music lives on through his piano, which—thanks to the generosity of the Pappert family—now resides in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. The piano that belonged to the University’s 11th president is regularly used for Mass and is available for use during special recitals. Here, some members of the University Chapel Choir are shown by the piano during a Mass in July. ♦
New Deans at the Helm of School of Law & McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

By Megan Tressler

April Barton is the new dean of the School of Law, coming to Duquesne University from Villanova University, where she served as associate dean for academic affairs at Villanova’s Charles Widger School of Law. She is the author of *Best Practices for Building a High-Tech Law School: The Process of Designing Educational Spaces*, published by the ABA’s Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. Barton served as an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Division of Marketing Practices, where she worked on policy and law enforcement issues related to internet fraud and deception.

I knew I wanted to go into academia when:

I never had an exact moment that I knew I wanted to go into the academy, but I have been deeply fortunate to have found my career here. Immediately after law school, I was awarded a teaching fellowship and started teaching law school classes very early in my career. I began teaching courses in the area of computer and internet law, which was just beginning to develop as a field. I also served as the director of Villanova Law School’s Center for Information Law and Policy, which simultaneously spurred my interest in the administrative side of academia. The rest is history!

What gets you excited about the School of Law’s future?

First and foremost, our Catholic and Spiritan mission sets us apart. I believe our focus on values, ethics, sustainability, globalism education as a path to empowerment, service to the poor and vulnerable, a commitment to justice, and embracing individuals of all faiths and backgrounds speaks to this generation of law students and places us in an extraordinarily favorable position for the future.

When the opportunity was presented to me to interview for the dean’s position at Duquesne, I thought about my core values: compassion, integrity, treating others with dignity and respect, and creating unity. I recognized immediately that these values are in complete alignment with Duquesne’s Catholic and Spiritan mission; together I know that we can educate lawyers who, at the core, are ethical, compassionate, seek justice, and treat others with dignity and respect. Because our profession shapes societies, forms governments, and is the bedrock of justice and rule of law, educating lawyers with these values is exciting and gratifying.

What is your favorite part about your job?

Hands down, the students! Students are the best part of my job because they inspire me, challenge me, motivate me and excite me. This generation of law students is compassionate and driven to fight for justice. Many are entering the field of law because of a higher calling. Being surrounded by these minds every day is truly a privilege.
Who do you admire most? Why?
I admire those who act with courage to make the world a better place. Roz Savage, the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean solo, teaches us that courage exists when your passion is greater than your fear—that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather an acknowledgement of the fear while being sufficiently motivated to move past it toward success. Those who are passionate about their beliefs and who fight their own fears to make positive change are the people I most admire.

Favorite book:
I could never choose just one book. I am always listening to several books at a time, usually during my commute. Currently, two books that I am reading and highly recommend are: Multipliers, by Liz Wiseman. This is an excellent book about how the best leaders amplify the smarts and capabilities of the people around them. Give and Take: Why Helping Others Drives Our Success, by Adam Grant. A great, data-driven read about creating a “giving” culture. Adam Grant also has a TED Talk summarizing this book called “Are you a Giver or a Taker?”

Favorite vacation spot:
Anywhere I can spend time with my family. My husband, two boys (ages 10 and 12), and I enjoy active vacations involving sailing, swimming, hiking, zip-lining and skiing. We also enjoy vacations where we are able to bring along our two French bulldogs, which is always an added bonus.

Hobbies:
Every time I am asked about my hobbies, I think to myself that I really need to get some new and exciting hobbies! I wish I could say something sophisticated, like fencing, or exhilarating, like mountain climbing, but, alas, I enjoy gardening, fixing up old homes, health and fitness, playing the piano, and making jam. My boys discovered black raspberry bushes in our backyard recently, so we have been on a jam-making binge lately. They have learned how to properly can the jars, test for a seal and have even made their own fancy labels. I am trained as a classical ballerina, so anything involving performing arts is also a favorite.

I feel inspired when:
I feel inspired when I am around law students who are courageous and want to make the world around us a better place, and who have the tenacity to follow their path and calling.

People might be surprised to know:
I grew up on a 14-acre farm and learned the dignity and pride of hard work from an early age. My parents emphasized the importance of creating habits of responsibility, resilience and perseverance. I am a first-generation college student and I worked as a waitress throughout college, where I was the first woman to graduate with a degree in physics. I have witnessed firsthand how education truly is a path to empowerment and I believe deeply in that mission.

Dr. Kristine L. Blair is the new dean of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. She most recently was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and professor of English at Youngstown State University. She also was chair of the Bowling Green State University English Department and taught at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi, Purdue University, Indiana Vocational Technical College, Sacramento City College and California State University at Sacramento. Her new book, Technofeminist Storiographies: Women, Information Technology, and Cultural Representation, was released this year by Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield.
I knew I wanted to go into academia when:
I knew I wanted to become an academic during my undergraduate senior year. I was a journalism major, with an English minor, and in my last year I worked in the university writing center. Consulting individually with students about their writing proved to be my passion, and I knew then that I wanted to continue on with my studies to be an English professor, specializing in composition studies. I have never regretted that choice!

What gets you excited about the McAnulty College's future?
I’m delighted to join the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. It has a distinguished history at Duquesne and I’m honored to be leading it toward its future. Part of that future involves continuing to help our students develop a sense of both world citizenship and career readiness through our diverse degree programs. It’s important to understand that the tools and technologies required to be a literate citizen have evolved over time. Now more than ever, students need to develop a range of critical, cultural, ethical, quantitative and rhetorical literacies. These literacies help them navigate and respond to a complex world of information and value systems, as well as contribute to society professionally and personally in ways that emphasize civil discourse and social justice.

What is your favorite part about your job?
The best part about being a dean is advocating for students, faculty and staff, and through their accomplishments inside and outside the classroom, highlight the vital role of the liberal arts in society and culture, locally, nationally and globally, and in ways that connect the campus to the community. So I’m excited about promoting initiatives that align with that mission.

Who do you admire most? Why?
What a difficult question! Because of my research interests in gender and computing, I’ve had the opportunity to learn about the contributions of women to the past, present and future of technological innovation, when we often connect that innovation to larger-than-life male figures, such as Steve Jobs. For that reason, I admire women such as Mary Golda Ross (1908-2008), the first Native American woman engineer and great-granddaughter of a Cherokee chief, whose contributions to aerospace technology are only just being more publicly recognized in the larger culture, along with many other women of her generation and diverse background whose labor has too often been overlooked. Ross was committed throughout her long life to promoting STEM education for women and girls, and given the continuing data about the limited numbers of women entering and being retained in some of these fields, that’s a cause to champion. Ross’ depiction on the 2019 $1 Native American coin is a positive step in honoring her story and celebrating women’s contributions to STEM.

Favorite Book:
Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*. Structured as a romance, the book is more importantly a powerful social commentary on the pressures and influences on the life choices we make as individuals—especially for women—that is just as important today as it was two centuries ago when the book was published. I reread it frequently.

Favorite Vacation Spot:
Anyplace near an ocean! In January, I was in Hawaii, and in June, I was in Iceland, so I made it to both the Pacific and Atlantic this year.

Hobbies:
My husband and I are boaters and spend a lot of time on the water fishing, swimming and cruising in the summer months. I also help him with his beekeeping hobby, harvesting and extracting honey, making mead and even using beeswax to make lip balm. Beyond that, I love watching classic films and finding good trails for day hikes, especially on vacations.

I feel inspired when:
I feel inspired when I see hardworking people from all walks of life recognized and rewarded for their successes and talents, especially considering the sacrifices that may have been necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals. I’m especially gratified if I can somehow help people achieve those goals and remind myself that in my role as dean, I function as a servant leader, supporting initiatives and opportunities for people to move forward on their academic, professional and personal journeys.

People might be surprised to know:
I’ve had a wide range of teaching experiences throughout my career. When I first began my teaching career in California, I taught in the famous Folsom Prison, along with police academy cadets and other nontraditional student populations. Because of my interest in technological literacies, I’ve run computer camps for adolescent girls and taught computer literacy courses for older adults. So I’m very committed to community-based teaching and providing educational opportunities for those who would not otherwise have access.
Listening, Finding Common Ground Highlighted During Civil Discourse Event

More than 300 faculty, staff and students packed the Power Center Ballroom on Feb. 12 to hear leaders of various faiths speak at Civil Discourse, Faith and Community in a Changing Society. The event was part of the Civil Discourse series created by University President Ken Gormley that explores the importance of respectful debate on challenging topics.

In his opening remarks, Gormley noted the importance of faith and community in creating a culture of civility. The event panelists, who represented a variety of religions, shared their experiences in promoting healthy dialogue among their congregations and in the community at-large.

Pittsburgh bishop and Duquesne alumnus, the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, D.D., talked about Nine Rules to Make Us More Civil, an article he wrote that was published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and America magazine. The article addresses the importance of actively listening and respecting people with differing opinions.

In addition to Zubik, panelists included Rabbi Jessica E. Locketz, rabbi and director of education at Temple Emanuel; the Rev. Paul Abernathy, director of FOCUS Pittsburgh; and Imam Abdul Aziz Suraqah, imam and religious director of the Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh.

The discussion was moderated by WTAE-TV news anchor Mike Clark, who also serves as an adjunct professor of journalism at Duquesne.

Civil Discourse, Faith and Community in a Changing Society was sponsored by the Office of the President and presented in partnership with the Division of Mission & Identity and the Division of Student Life. ♦

$1.4 Million Federal Grant Helps DU Place More Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in Rural, Underserved Areas

By Rose Ravasio, A’90

A Health Resources and Services Administration grant for more than $1.4 million is helping Duquesne University’s School of Nursing increase the number of trained and certified sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) that are much needed in rural and medically underserved areas.

The three-year grant has enabled the nursing school to offer the Advanced Nursing Education-Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (ANE-SANE) Program approximately six or more times a year. The four-phase program helps prepare participants to become proficient in caring for victims of sexual assault and ultimately prepares them for the SANE certification exam in accordance with guidelines set by their states and by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

“When they finish our program, nurses conduct exams with the support of 24/7 telehealth mentoring from expert SANEs,” says Dr. Kathleen Sekula, who leads the program. “The ongoing telehealth mentoring solves the problem of lack of preceptors.”

In addition, the school hosts program participants for a two-day live course during which they work with program faculty/expert mentors and practice conducting the exams on standardized patients in real-life scenarios at the UPMC Wiser Center in Pittsburgh.

“They then return to their work setting with more knowledge than other nurses there about doing the exam,” explains Sekula. “We continuously serve as their mentors—they can call on us any time with questions or if they want to discuss a specific case. The ongoing mentoring is important—they always have expert nurses who can provide them with feedback.”

All aspects of the program are paid for through the grant with the understanding that the nurses will stay connected to experts and then become preceptors themselves for other nurses seeking to become SANEs.

For more information on the School of Nursing’s ANE-SANE program, contact 412.396.1434 or wisinskim@duq.edu. ♦
“If you can't engage a student in the classroom, how can you expect them to be engaged as a citizen?”
‘History Has Its Eyes’ on Alumnus Named National History Teacher of the Year

JOE WELCH’S INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM APPROACH ATTRACTS NATIONAL ATTENTION

By Emily E. Stock, A’17

Years before King George III told the colonists “You’ll Be Back” in the Broadway megahit Hamilton, Pittsburgh middle school students were writing and producing their own songs about the United States breaking away from England.

The project was the brainchild of Joe Welch, E’07, an eighth grade American history teacher at North Hills Middle School. “It’s exciting being involved in projects where my students lose track of time because they enjoy it so much,” Welch says.

Last year, his novel approach in the classroom was recognized nationally, when he became the youngest educator to win the National History Teacher of the Year Award, presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. “I was literally shaking when I got the call from Gilder Lehrman,” Welch recalls.

The annual award, which includes a $10,000 prize and the opportunity to meet esteemed historians and explore Gilder Lehrman’s extensive archives, is presented to a history educator who effectively utilizes innovation and creativity in the classroom.

“I thought about all of my teachers who have inspired me over the years,” he says. One of his first teachers was his grandmother, a World War II Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps veteran. When she moved in with his family, his interest in history sparked. “It was impactful for me because I could connect personal stories from my grandma with a major historical event,” Welch says. “I use this approach with my students to go beyond a list of facts and help make personal connections with historical figures and events.”

Welch credits his teaching approach to the comprehensive education he received at Duquesne. Due to completing several college credits in high school, Welch had more room in his undergraduate schedule to experiment with different classes. He recalls the support of Dr. David Carbonara, associate professor in the School of Education’s Department of Instructional Technology, who allowed Welch to take graduate classes as an undergraduate student.

“My professors at Duquesne gave me the flexibility to explore other subjects and become better-rounded as an educator and a person,” Welch says. “Dr. Carbonara really encouraged me to take risks and do something different with technology in the classroom.”

Instead of trying to compete with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for funding and recognition, Welch integrates technology in his teaching to make history education more engaging and relevant to his students.

Welch engages his students with a myriad of creative multimedia projects, including creating virtual reality museums about the first five United States presidents and producing stop-motion videos with 3-D printed Jamestown artifacts. To him, any personal connection students can make with the people, places and objects of history is valuable. He wants his students to realize that social studies holds value in modern society.

“Learning calculus is important, but many students will likely not use it in a future career,” Welch says. “However, everyone will be able to vote at age 18 and will need social studies to be an informed citizen. If you can’t engage a student in the classroom, how can you expect them to be engaged as a citizen?”

While Hamilton may not be completely historically accurate, Welch says it serves a greater purpose in getting the general public interested in history through creativity and first-person storytelling. “It’s important for students to realize these are actual people. Human emotion is a constant, no matter if it’s the 18th century or 21st century,” Welch says. “Because yes, this person lived 200-something years ago, but they are people just like you and me who lived, had successes and failures, and had feelings and emotions.”

And when it comes to creativity in the classroom, Welch says Alexander Hamilton has taught him a great deal about hard work, perseverance and collaboration. “My colleagues and I are always bouncing ideas off of each other and thinking of new ways to incorporate new technology,” Welch says. “My students never know what I’m going to do next.”

Visit duq.edu/magazine to see how Joe Welch implements creativity and technology in the classroom.
Illuminated Bible Focus of University Exhibition

Beginning in November, a full-size, fine art edition of the first handwritten illuminated bible to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in over 500 years will be displayed at Gumberg Library. The Saint John’s Bible exhibition includes seven complete volumes and 10 additional framed prints. During the exhibition, corresponding programs, such as public lectures, alumni events, workshops and worship opportunities will be held on campus. The works also will be integrated into several courses this fall.

Tim Ternes, director of The Saint John’s Bible project, will be onsite to talk about the bible, from its inspired beginnings to the celebrated final product, in a series of lectures, visio divina (prayer with images) and other public events.

Within the pages of The Saint John’s Bible, renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson and his team of calligraphers imbued the holy texts with contemporary illustrations, such as Hubble Telescope images in representations of creation and magnified DNA and virus strands woven throughout. These contemporary flourishes help connect present-day viewers of the texts with the centuries-old Benedictine tradition of illuminated works.

Father James McCloskey, senior advisor to President Ken Gormley, says of The Saint John’s Bible, “Since the early centuries of the Church, Benedictine monks have illuminated manuscripts of the Bible in extraordinarily beautiful and meaningful ways. This latest project is a contemporary attempt to be faithful to that legacy. The singular beauty of The Saint John’s Bible is a testimony to the success of that endeavor.”

The Saint John’s Bible Heritage Edition is a fine art reproduction of the original texts, giving viewers the opportunity to closely examine and interact with the 1,130 illuminated pages.

The Saint John’s Bible exhibition will be on display Nov. 11-Dec. 20 in the Popular Reading Room on the fourth floor of Gumberg Library. For details on the exhibit and programs, visit www.duq.edu/tsjb.

The Division of Mission and Identity and Gumberg Library will host The Saint John’s Bible Heritage Edition this fall. Commissioned by Saint John’s University in 1998 and completed over 11 years by renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson, this seven-volume work is the first handwritten illuminated bible of its size in over 500 years.

Working on Psalms, Copyright Derek Evan, HUW Evans Agency, Cardiff, Wales

© Joshua Anthology, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2010, The Saint John’s Bible, Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA.
Recent Rankings and Honors for DU Programs and Schools

SCHOOL OF NURSING JUMPS EIGHT SPOTS IN ‘U.S. NEWS’ GRAD SCHOOL RANKINGS

The School of Nursing experienced an eight-spot jump in U.S. News & World Report’s 2020 Best Graduate School rankings. The school is now ranked No. 64 nationally out of 189 schools.

In addition, the Doctor of Nursing Practice program climbed 29 spots to No. 57 this year, while the Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner specialty program debuted at No. 22.

Other Duquesne graduate programs ranked this year include:

SCHOOL OF LAW
- Ranked No. 14, legal writing programs (up eight spots from 2019)
- Ranked No. 40, part-time law programs (up six spots from 2019)
- Ranked for the first time in the following specialty programs: clinical training, environmental law, health care law, intellectual property law, international law and trial advocacy

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
- Ranked No. 163

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
- Ranked No. 188

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
- Ranked No. 93

The U.S. News & World Report’s 2020 Best Graduate School rankings are based on two types of data: expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school’s faculty, research and students. Data for the rankings in all disciplines come from statistical surveys of more than 2,054 programs and from reputation surveys sent to more than 22,018 academics and professionals.

PETA2 AWARDS THIRD CONSECUTIVE A+ TO DUQUESNE’S VEGAN DINING PROGRAM

Duquesne Dining has again received an A+ grade on peta2’s (the youth program of PETA) vegan report card, marking the third consecutive year the University has received PETA’s (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) highest level of certification.

For its methodology, PETA assesses completed questionnaires and dining hall menus from thousands of colleges and universities across the nation. The organization states that “vegan food is popular with all students, including meat eaters who are just looking for a healthier and more eco-friendly choice on campus.”

Duquesne’s Dining Services has consistently focused on expanding vegan and vegetarian dining, helping students with special food allergies and purchasing local/seasonal ingredients. ◆
We hear it so often that it’s almost a cliché, but Pittsburgh really is a city of neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods matter to our work.

Even as we attract global investment in our city and the story of Pittsburgh’s ongoing “renaissance” is a strong narrative nationally, working in our neighborhoods is the core of what matters.

It is good work. Our faculty and students join in community efforts that consider people’s stories, wishes, challenges and constraints.

We work to improve the quality of life of residents in our immediate neighborhood in the Uptown and Hill District neighborhoods. We lobby for our students and community priorities at the state capitol. We work with neighbors marginalized in our region for various reasons. And we do all of this in a manner that helps our students learn and understand the work it takes to build and improve communities—a neighborhood at a time.

The pictures here tell a story of engagement with many people important to Pittsburgh and Duquesne—our neighbors, legislators, community leaders, policy makers on issues relevant to our region, local residents, and those seeking to make their home in the United States and in our city. Each interaction illuminates the importance of listening, of walking with people and serving them and our students in ways that build a better world.

I am always open to ideas from our alumni and friends on ways we can continue to build upon Duquesne’s 141 years of service to the community. I look forward to seeing some of you out in our neighborhoods.

– William Generett Jr.
Vice President for Community Engagement
Duquesne University Office of Community Engagement

1. The Pittsburgh region’s most intractable problems can only be solved by committed organizations working collaboratively toward the same goal. A big thanks to Reverend Paul Abernathy, CEO of the Neighborhood Resilience Project, for leading and assembling a diverse group of stakeholders to address the systemic and multifaceted issues associated with all forms of trauma. We are so proud of Duquesne University professors Dr. Matt Walsh and Dr. Lisa Lopez-Levers, and Dr. Lina Dostilio at the University of Pittsburgh Community and Governmental Relations, for their tireless work with Rev. Abernathy and his team around trauma. Thanks also to UPMC’s Center for Engagement and Inclusion for all of the amazing work that they do within the community.

2. V.P. Bill Generett had the honor of representing Duquesne University and the Northeastern region of the U.S. at an invite-only convening of leaders by the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt in San Diego, CA. The BMW Foundation Global Table dialogue process invites leaders from all over the world to discuss and help develop solutions to the complex challenges of our time. The issue that Bill and his group focused on was borders and the complex challenges associated with them. Bill stated that he thoroughly enjoyed this amazing opportunity of listening and learning from some of the smartest people in the world.

3. Duquesne University students and staff attended the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) Advocacy Day in Harrisburg this past spring to advocate for the importance of PHEAA Grants for middle-income students to attend private institutions. They met with several elected officials including Duquesne alums Senator Jay Costa (pictured) and Senator Lindsey Williams.

4. V.P. Bill Generett was honored to give remarks on behalf of President Ken Gormley at Leadership Pittsburgh’s XXXV Class Commencement at Duquesne University on June 13th.

Mary Ellen Glasgow, Dean of The School of Nursing, was one of the graduates.

Chief of Staff Mary Ellen Solomon, V.P. Bill Generett, Director of CETR Dr. Jessica Mann, and Director of Mission Animation Luci-Jo DiMaggio attended a dinner with Uptown residents on June 10th to discuss how Duquesne University can continue to make a difference in its surrounding communities.

6-7. The Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research (CETR) is hosted ARYSE’s PRYSE Academy 2019 with a variety of interactive activities for over 80 immigrant and refugee youth in middle and high school living in Pittsburgh. As part of the four-week academy, faculty and graduate students with Women in Science at Duquesne University led lab activities that involved biology, biomedical engineering, chemistry and pharmacy.
Right Brain or Left Brain? Both Sides May Hold Key to Treating Chronic Pain

PROFESSOR’S NIH-FUNDED STUDY WILL EXAMINE THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS IN CHRONIC PAIN

By Ken Walters

Determining how emotions influence pain has created the ultimate right brain/left brain conundrum for Duquesne University professor Dr. Benedict Kolber. Now thanks to a $1.5 million grant, he and his research team will delve into both sides of the brain to explore a certain type of pain.

The team is studying chronic bladder pain, a condition that has no known cause and is difficult to treat. Chronic bladder pain affects anywhere from 4 to 12 million people in the United States, with women making up the majority of sufferers, according to the Interstitial Cystitis Association.
Kolber notes that chronic bladder pain is difficult to diagnose, often leaving doctors and patients without answers. One patient described to Kolber how she was often told nothing was wrong with her, even though she was dealing with pain, altered sleep, anxiety and social stress caused by the disorder. It took five years before she was diagnosed with chronic bladder pain, he says.

One of the study’s key components will try to determine the role emotions might play in creating symptoms and transmitting pain to the brain.

“There is an important emotional component to chronic bladder pain,” says Kolber, who has been studying the condition for 10 years. “People with chronic bladder pain are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, and experience pain in other parts of the body.”

The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), will use physiological techniques and behavior to determine which parts of the brain are activated during bladder pain.

“The first step will use physiology to determine the changes that the brain goes through from acute to chronic bladder pain and to see where chronic pain is coming from,” says Kolber, associate professor of biological sciences, and the research and education director for Duquesne’s Chronic Pain Research Consortium. “By identifying the role of the brain, we can determine how pain information is transmitted to and maintained in the brain and how that might impact other symptoms.”

Working with a team of eight post-doctoral scholars, graduate researchers and undergraduate students, Kolber will conduct experiments to test a new hypothesis to treat bladder pain. He says that research conducted by scientists with the Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain (MAPP) research network has shown that patients often have one side of the brain activated more so than the other side.

“These data suggest that activating the right side of the brain leads to an increase in pain, while activating the left side decreases pain,” Kolber says. “Our initial experiments will explore how changing levels in both sides of the brain might reduce the pain response.”

By understanding which side of the brain works best to reduce pain, scientists may be able to better develop treatments to help those suffering from chronic bladder issues, he notes.

The experiments will explore animal behavior, drug treatments and optogenetics, a neuroscience technique that uses light to activate cells, to help measure pain responses.

“Optogenetics allows us to use low-powered lasers and LED lights to activate or inhibit brain cells,” Kolber says. “It’s similar to using a dimmer switch, where you can turn the light all the way up or down. Through this technique and other experiments, we will collect data that may help us determine the best ways to treat bladder pain.”

Throughout the study, the research team will meet with people who suffer from this illness. Kolber hopes the interactions will eventually lead to crafting better models to help understand and prevent bladder pain.

The research effort received another boost when Heather Allen, a third-year biology doctoral student and member of Kolber’s team, received the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the NIH and NIDDK. It marks only the second time a Duquesne student has received a NIH Predoctoral Fellowship.

The highly competitive award—worth more than $125,000 over three years—is presented to only a small fraction of applicants and will offer financial support to Allen while she conducts her dissertation research in Kolber’s lab. The goal of Allen’s project is to discover specific brain cells that control bladder pain and may contribute to the development of new treatment options for patients.

“My research is focused on a very specific cell type and how it reacts differently to bladder pain depending on what side of the brain it is on. Called CGRP, the cell type was recently approved by the FDA as a target to treat migraines,” says Allen, a South Carolina native who was attracted to Duquesne by the University’s pain research expertise.

“After I met with Dr. Kolber, I knew I wanted to focus my research on pain issues,” she says. “So many people suffer from pain yet we know so little about it.”

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Studying Beyond the Classroom: Maymester in Belize and Finland

By Mike Minnock

Emma Frey describes it as going into the unknown. She was part of one of two new “Maymester” programs offered this year that took students to Belize and Finland. Frey studied in Finland, where she focused on the country’s education system, but also had some time to soak in the local culture.

Whether exploring ancient ruins, hiking through rainforests or volunteering in distressed areas, Duquesne offers a wide range of Maymester experiences, which run 3-4 weeks and allow students to earn up to six credits per program. Duquesne’s Maymester experiences include Belize, Finland, Italy, Tanzania and Trinidad, and students can study abroad in more than 20 additional countries.

The newest Maymester programs were designed in collaboration with local academic partners, Learning Scoops in Finland and the Lower Dover Field Station in Belize.

“We hope that this is the beginning of a long and productive relationship with both organizations to provide high-impact experiences for our students,” says Dr. Joe DeCrosta, executive director of the Center for Global Engagement.

The Finland Maymester began in the city of Tampere, with Duquesne students spending time with Finnish students and acclimating to the new culture with hikes, games and even meals together. Duquesne students continued their Maymester by visiting and shadowing staff from local high schools, elementary schools, daycare centers and residential facilities for the intellectually disabled.

Not only did students get to study a world-renowned education system, they got to experience it firsthand.

“Being bilingual in Spanish and English usually means that I almost always understand the people around me, but studying in Finland brought me out of my comfort zone,” says Valerie Umana-Anderson, School of Education student. “Getting to know another culture can open the world to one’s own mind. Finland did that for
me. My perspective of the world has grown, as has my appreciation for cultural differences.”

Some Maymester students elected for more tropical weather: Belize, better known for its coastlines, beaches, caves and jungles. The four-week Belize Maymester offers a cultural experience for students of all majors with emphasis on “learning by doing.”

Students spent most of their time at the Lower Dover Field Station, an operating environmental field research station that sits on 100 acres in the Belize River Valley. It contains a large Mayan archaeological site, and abundant plants and animals for students to study. Onsite facilities include a research laboratory, classroom and dormitories.

With new places came new challenges, as Sara Bennett, natural & environmental sciences student, describes.

“Living with so little amenities gave me an appreciation of what we have at home, but I was also able to appreciate nature and the wonderful food from the area. It was better than I dreamed it would be,” says Bennett.

A new culture opened the door for students to learn new things.

“I did things I never believed I would do, including entering deep into caves and mountain climbing and seeing sights that I had only seen in my history books,” says Alana Madera, natural & environmental sciences student.

Students explored Mayan villages and archaeological sites, botanical gardens, beaches in Ambergris Caye and a baboon sanctuary, in addition to snorkeling the Belize Reef.

“Maymesters may seem too short for some, but these Maymester groups form tight bonds and immerse themselves in the unfamiliar which often springboard them into other international programs,” says Danielle Genemore, assistant director of international programs. “From a semester abroad to a few weeks abroad, the opportunities are limitless.”
United Pittsburgh Explores Challenges and Solutions to Region’s Social Justice Issues

Growing a region isn’t about growing just to expand your university’s scope—it’s about how you can help the people develop and provide opportunities to help them to be successful.”

Suzanne Mellon, Carlow University President
What Role Can Universities Play in a United Pittsburgh?

“The job that makes the most money sometimes isn’t necessarily the one that is going to do the most good. If we understand the history and understand what it actually means to do good, in the context of the history, I think some of our decision making will be different.”

Lakeisha Wolf of UJAMAA Collective
What Is My Worth?

“There is an economic cost to the lack of racial equity felt in real dollars.”

Majestic Lane of the City of Pittsburgh
How Do We Heal Our Community?

“External forces such as racial discrimination, class demographics and location impact in one way or another how we live and make a living.”

Samuel W. Black of the Heinz History Center
How Did We Get Here?

“You can do the wrong thing in the right way—quickly, decisively, but completely wrong.”

Mindy Fullilove, MD, of The New School
How Not to Fix Things

“Pittsburgh’s strength is in its neighborhoods, but the opposite is true as well.”

Rabbi James Gibson of Temple Sinai
Who Is My Neighbor?

“Relationships are key assets, a key source of power.”

Presley L. Gillespie of Neighborhood Allies
How To Work Together

“Collaboration requires a common agenda, language and playbook, but also working with ‘uncommon actors,’ partners who aren’t one’s typical partners, who think differently, etc.”

Presley L. Gillespie of Neighborhood Allies
How to Work Together

United Pittsburgh Explores Challenges and Solutions to Region’s Social Justice Issues

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How To Work Together
Pittsburgh is famously a city of neighborhoods—the distance between Downtown and Uptown akin to the galactic gulf between the North Hills and the South Side. So how does a university committed to service, one cut into the rock of its famous Bluff, help bring people together? It starts with listening—and urging students and community residents to learn and absorb conversations about how to make a United Pittsburgh.

The initiative launched this spring, combining credit-bearing courses with a public speaker series, was developed and led by the Center for Catholic Faith and Culture, in partnership with the Department of Theology, and funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Leaders in government, healthcare, education, community activism, nonprofits, and more shared ideas and words and generous visions. We collect here but a sample.

To watch the full presentations, visit: duq.edu/UnitedPittsburgh.
TrashTalk

NEW “ZERO WASTE” RECYCLING INNOVATION HAS IMPACT FROM PITTSBURGH TO TANZANIA
The first thing you notice walking down the fourth floor of Libermann Hall is the garbage cans. Filled to the brim with plastic cups, utensils and other products, the six cans sit outside of the University’s biomedical engineering (BME) lab and serve as the starting point for a project that may have important implications for plastics reduction worldwide and improving water quality for drought-stricken regions.

While current plastic recycling processes require using some new plastic, Duquesne’s process only uses recyclable plastic. The University’s new “zero waste” plastic recycling program could eliminate the need to use new plastic altogether for recycling purposes.

And fitting with Duquesne’s community-engaged mission, novel uses for that recycled plastic will help people from the Bluff to Africa, with BME students creating arm casts for patients in Pittsburgh and filters to improve water quality and health outcomes for people in Tanzania.

But back to those garbage cans...

Duquesne BME junior Karli Sutton first became interested in recycling plastic while participating in the University’s Summer Undergraduate Research
Program. She knew that China had placed restrictions on taking U.S. recyclable trash, including most plastics, in 2018, making plastic reduction a more urgent need.

Working with fellow Duquesne junior Alex Evans, Sutton developed a way to recycle plastic without needing new plastic, turning it into filament that can be used for 3-D printing. In fall 2018, they arranged to receive used plastic cups and utensils from Duquesne’s food service provider, Parkhurst Dining, which soon led to the need for a garbage can outside the lab. Then two cans, then four cans, then six cans… you get the picture.

“Eliminating the need for new plastic is good for the environment and allows us to use plastic more economically,” says Sutton, noting that the six garbage cans provide six months’ worth of plastic filament that can be used to create moldable casts and other items.

While some details of the new zero waste process are proprietary, Sutton notes that beginning the process was part elbow grease, especially when the students needed to hand crank the machine that grinds the plastic into small shards, a time-consuming process.

That’s when Evans stepped in to explore a way to automate the grinding machine. He worked to hook up a small motor to the grinder to help speed the process, and believes some additional tweaks will further enhance the system.

“One of the benefits of working in the BME lab is that it provides me with a lot of hands-on experiences as an undergrad,” Evans says. “It’s exciting and challenging...”
Recycled plastic filament can be used to create innovative new products such as this moldable plastic wrist brace, which could be used to provide more ergonomic support for patients' injuries when first treated by emergency responders.

“"It’s exciting and challenging to work on these projects and find the best way to reach our goals.""
MORE THAN 7,000 MILES AWAY

The health impact of this project goes well beyond the ambulances and hospitals of Pittsburgh. In fact, more than 7,000 miles away, Duquesne students in the University’s Pure Thirst program are introducing this new technology to a community in Tanzania.

Through Pure Thirst, students work with Spiritans, Duquesne faculty and community leaders in the Olkokola community in northern Tanzania to explore ways to increase water access and improve water quality. One of the issues in the community is that current water supplies have high levels of fluoride which reduce calcium, leading to health issues ranging from debilitating bone problems, such as misshapen legs, to dental issues.

“Because the water comes downstream from a mountain, it tends to have more minerals in it which leads to the high fluoride levels,” says Duquesne BME senior Sophia Bakar, a member of the Pure Thirst team. “Our goal was to create a low-cost and easy way to implement a process that reduces fluoride in the water.”

Working with fellow students in the BME lab, Bakar created a water filter made of 70 percent recycled plastic and 30 percent calcium. The filter is designed so that calcium binds to the fluoride, reducing the amount of fluoride and leading to cleaner water.

Bakar and the Pure Thirst team visited Tanzania in May to test the filters, which reduced the fluoride level. But then the team, led by Assistant Professor Dr. David Kahler, discovered another material that worked more effectively.

“We found that using clay reduced fluoride at higher levels than calcium,” says Bakar who, along with sophomore Matthew Nestler, is spending the fall back in the lab to determine the best proportion of clay and plastic to create the most efficient filter. Working with the University’s Environmental Sciences department, they are hoping to test the filter to see if other contaminants can be reduced.

“The goal would be to work on filters made of material that binds to arsenic, metal or other water contaminants,” says Bakar. “It could have far-reaching effects on providing clean water.”

While in Tanzania, Bakar and the Pure Thirst team met with the region’s governing water board to discuss the filters. She and her fellow students educated the region’s students on clean water initiatives.

The team also embarked on some longer-term projects. Bakar and Kahler mapped many of the community’s public water taps to help determine the location of the region’s pipes and water sources. They also met with administrators of the community health center, which hopes to redesign its plumbing system to improve water quality.

READY FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Back in Pittsburgh, the next challenge for the zero waste team is to explore recycling plastic bottles, one of the major reasons for the growth of landfills. Sutton and her fellow BME students are making arrangements to collect bottles from around campus.

That means more garbage cans. They should start clearing some room on the fourth floor of Libermann right now. ♦

Left, Duquesne BME senior Sophia Bakar takes a water sample and records the coordinates of the tap’s location to map Olkokola’s water taps. Right, Bakar and other Pure Thirst members pose with their host family after setting up a weather station that will allow the team to monitor weather patterns year-round.
Duquesne Honors Newest Century Club Recipients

PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“I am most proud of the cases in which I have represented clients that have resulted in change that has broadly affected the community and society, and that has resulted in corporate, institutional and governmental change. Most recently, I am proud of the work I have done with my clients, Jim and Evelyn Piazza, parents of Penn State University hazing victim Tim Piazza, to eradicate fraternity and sorority hazing on campuses throughout the country.”

PROUDEST PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“My son Zac is an accomplished playwright, who also is a lawyer, and my daughter, Hilary, has taught preschool children at a Jewish day school for the past 13 years. Her spouse, Jordan Merson, is my law partner. For the past nine years, I have been together with Brittney Schoenbeck, who graduated from the Kline School of Law at Drexel University and works alongside me at Kline & Specter, which I co-founded 25 years ago. Along with my three grandchildren, Parker, Cole and Dylan, they are all the future and represent my greatest joy.”

ADVICE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:
“Study, not party. Alcohol can be dangerous. Hazing is a crime.”

CATHARINE M. RYAN
DUQUESNE DEGREE: MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY (PASTORAL MINISTRY), 1993
TITLE: CO-FOUNDER AND FORMER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NEWMAN STUDIES (NINS); SERVED ON EDITORIAL BOARD OF NEWMAN STUDIES JOURNAL

PROFESSIONAL:
Also holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Newton College of the Sacred Heart. Worked as a chaplain at Magee-Women’s Hospital and Forbes Regional Hospital. Her work with NINS has contributed to the compilation of North America’s most extensive Newman library and the digitization of all of Newman’s published works and handwritten manuscripts.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Board service with The Pittsburgh Oratory, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation and Catholic University of America. Co-chaired fundraising effort to
build new Newman Center for Catholic campus ministry serving the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and Chatham University. Recipient of Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal for leadership from Seton Hill University and Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

SERVICE TO DUQUESNE:
Member of the University’s Board of Directors and benefactor (with her husband, John) of the Ryan Endowed Chair in Newman Studies and graduate theology scholarships; spearheaded formal affiliation between NINS and Duquesne.

FAVORITE DUQUESNE MEMORY:
“Seeing my family and a dear friend in the audience waving Irish flags when I received my master’s.”

PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“Helping to guide the National Institute for Newman Studies in its founding and growth to become the outstanding organization it is today.”

PROUDEST PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“Celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary with my husband, John, and raising my three wonderful children.”

ADVICE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:
“Continue to learn all your life long and serve others with kindness wherever your life’s path takes you.”

ROBERT L. WINTERMYER, PH.D.
DUQUESNE DEGREES: MASTER OF ARTS IN CHEMISTRY; PH.D. IN CHEMISTRY, 1969
TITLE: ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES, CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

PROFESSIONAL:
Also holds bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and a master’s in physician assistant studies from Central Michigan University. Began his career as a high school biology and chemistry teacher and serving in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. Joined Dow

“Believe in yourself and your ability to succeed and achieve your goals in life and careers. They will happen if you do.”

Chemical as a research associate in 1973 and retired from the company in 2001 as an intellectual asset manager. Pursued a second career as a physician assistant, practicing for eight years and teaching full time at Central Michigan University.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
More than 30 years of active service as a board member, instructor and disaster action volunteer with local Red Cross chapter in Michigan; Clara Barton Society leadership donor; volunteer with Midland Community Cancer Services and the Partners As Life Survivors’ Program; benefactor of scholarships at three universities in Michigan.

SERVICE TO DUQUESNE:
Member of the deans’ advisory councils for the McAnulty College, Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences; currently advising the physician assistant studies program in the Rangos School of Health Sciences; member of Celebration of Excellence Campaign leadership committee; benefactor of multiple scholarships and resource funds.

FAVORITE DUQUESNE MEMORY:
“Carnival days.”

PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“Being awarded the Bronze Medal from the Department of the Army for scientific excellence.”

PROUDEST PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT:
“Having the opportunity to establish several endowed scholarship funds: Art Education in honor of my wife Ruth at Western Michigan University; Nursing in honor of my wife Ann at Saginaw Valley State University; Chemistry at Duquesne University; Physician Assistant Studies at Central Michigan University.”

ADVICE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:
“Believe in yourself and your ability to succeed and achieve your goals in life and careers. They will happen if you do.”
What is the Duquesne University/August Wilson House Fellowship?

The fellowship, launched in 2018, provides opportunities to scholars and artists of color in varied media to engage in literary, cultural and artistic expression that advances their own work and serves the joint interests of the University and the community. Supported by a $100,000 grant from the Nancy Jones Beard Foundation, the fellowship is designed to bring national and regional artists and scholars into a collaboration between the renowned author August Wilson’s Hill District neighborhood and educational and artistic institutions.

Pulitzer Prize–winner and U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey Visits Pittsburgh

Pulitzer Prize-winner and 19th U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey was the inaugural Duquesne University/August Wilson House Fellow, and as part of the program, visited Pittsburgh in March for several special events. On campus, she presented You Are Not Safe in Science; You Are Not Safe in History: On Abiding Metaphors and Finding a Calling. Trethewey signed copies of her books and talked with students and other guests at the reception following the event. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Hill District branch hosted An Evening of Poetry with Natasha Trethewey. There, Trethewey read from her book Monument: Poems New and Selected.

Trethewey has graciously allowed Duquesne University Magazine to reprint one of her poems:

Theories of Time and Space

By Natasha Trethewey

You can get there from here, though there’s no going home.

Everywhere you go will be somewhere you’ve never been. Try this:

head south on Mississippi 49, one-by-one mile markers ticking off

another minute of your life. Follow this to its natural conclusion—dead end

at the coast, the pier at Gulfport where riggings of shrimp boats are loose stitches

in a sky threatening rain. Cross over the man-made beach, 26 miles of sand dumped on the mangrove swamp—buried terrain of the past. Bring only what you must carry—tome of memory, its random blank pages. On the dock where you board the boat for Ship Island, someone will take your picture:

the photograph—who you were—will be waiting when you return.
DU in Pictures

1. Alumni and students enjoyed dinner together at a DINING WITH DUKES event. Shown are: Anna Blake, GE’14, GE’16; Barron Whited, GE’04; Beverly Jones, E’94, GE’00; Robert Schneider, E’72, GE’74; and Dr. Franny Jo Serenka, A’80, GE’98, GE’10. Students Adelina DiTuillio, Carolyn Whitney and Katlyn Dickerson also attended.

2. Leah (Samuleson) Stull, S’13, HS’13, GHS’15; Clayton Stull, A’11; and Ashley Phillips, E’10, GE’13, recently took the DU Magazine to Mariposa Grove in YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

3. John (A’74, GB’83) and Mary LaBarre Russo, E’76, took the Duquesne University Magazine to SICILY IN APRIL. They were on a tour with 43 people and found two other Duquesne alumni in the group. Shown with the Russos are Bill Gulassa, A’77, and Annaliese Masser, L’79.

4. Sue Showalter, L’09, and guest Hari Chengal took a break from the fun at the MIXOLOGY EVENT in June. Alumni worked with some longtime Duquesne University food service employees to learn about mixing their favorite beverages.

5. A course in Greek history at Duquesne was the motivation for a group of six SIGMA LAMBDA PHI SORORITY SISTERS to take a cruise from Athens, Greece to Venice, Italy. Shown are: Kaaren Kelly Walker, E’63; Maggi Kane Luca, E’63; Sheila Manning Sullivan, E’63; Rose Kelly Sutherland, A’64; Kathy Kelly Roberts, A’62; and Jane McAnulty King, A’63.
6. Seniors, now graduates, David Maher, HS’19, and Joseph Gabster, N’19, are shown celebrating at **BECOMING THE TRADITION**, a special program held by the Office of Alumni Engagement for graduating students.

7. John Limbacher, B’83, Harry Reinhart, B’83, and Mark Pender, B’83, posed with the mascot for the Bradenton Marauders. The trio and 60 other guests attended the annual alumni and friends tailgate party and ball game outing held during **PIRATES SPRING TRAINING** in Bradenton, Fla.

8. Vince Tocci, E’49, GE’54, and his wife, Maggie, traveled to the recent **ALPHA PHI DELTA NATIONAL CONVENTION** in Lancaster, Pa. They are shown with Maj. Gen. Timothy Hilty, assistant adjutant general, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Tocci completed Air Force ROTC at Duquesne and retired from the Air Force at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was recognized at the convention as a veteran of three armed conflicts: World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War.

9. In April, Theresa Newcamp Goeller, A’79, and Richard Goeller, A’74, honored fallen veterans at **NORMANDY BEACH, FRANCE**.

10. Four alumni reside near **FERRUM COLLEGE IN VIRGINIA**. In April, three of those alumni met on the campus of Ferrum College. Shown are: Dr. David Johns, GA’99, president of Ferrum College; Dr. Aime Sposato, GM’89, provost of Ferrum College; and Dr. Kevin Bezy, A’76, associate principal of Franklin County High School. Edward Ziringer, B’66, is not pictured.

Want to be more involved? Join us at our next event or follow us on social media! Share your Duquesne alumni photos with #duqalumni.

| /DuqAlumni | /DuqAlumni | @DuqAlumni |

The Alumni Association and Chapters host family-friendly events, social activities and networking receptions throughout the year. Join us next time! Learn what is coming up by checking out the Alumni Calendar on pages 76 and 77 or by visiting www.myduquesne.duq.edu.
The Gift of Reading

By Gabriel Welsch

By the time Michael finished speaking, people dabbed at their eyes, the tears sudden and unexpected. While it is common for people to read from prepared remarks at a campus event, Michael’s remarks were different.

For a year prior, Michael attended weekly a session where he worked with Dr. Carla Meyer as she helped him learn to read and write. Michael is diagnosed with dyslexia, a blanket term for conditions that make it difficult to interpret and recognize letters, words and symbols. Often simplified as a condition in which people see things in reverse order, dyslexia manifests in a variety of ways.

But it always makes reading a challenge. For many who came of age before much was known about dyslexia, or for those who know someone dealing with its challenges, there is enthusiasm for advances being made to help people learn to read and write.

Among those with such enthusiasm are Bob and Joan Peirce, who watched Michael speak, glimpsing the future of what their new gift to Duquesne will make possible.

That afternoon in Canevin Hall, in front of a group of professors, teachers and others whose success arguably was built on reading, Michael read aloud a note of thanks to his teacher. He had written the note himself. Such a task would have been unthinkable a year earlier. Beside him, her hands on her face, Meyer wept with pride.

Bob and Joan Peirce’s record of support for Duquesne and the people of Pittsburgh spans decades. Their gifts have helped diocesan schools, history and arts organizations, libraries and more. For roughly 20 years, the couple supported a grant-loan program for Duquesne students, focused on those whose financial situation made them ineligible for need-based grants but still necessitated that they take significant loans.

Every awardee—10 to 15 students each year—received assistance, of which half was a grant and half an interest-free loan from the Peirce Foundation that the students would repay after graduation. In total, the Peirces provided $2 million to support the program.

“When we started, people said, ‘You’re crazy, you’ll never get your money back,’” Bob recalls. “With one exception, everyone repaid their loans.”

As the Peirces became more focused in their philanthropic goals, they ended the grant-loan program. They had enjoyed helping students in that manner but saw a chance to affect a wider swath of students and, indeed, the greater Pittsburgh region. And they saw a part Duquesne could play.

The Peirces’ philanthropic interests began to focus strongly on dyslexia several years ago. The couple learned about its prevalence and how it so often passes undiagnosed. Two years before the event in Canevin Hall, Bob Peirce visited a local parochial school, offering to fund a professional to test for dyslexia in students there.

“The principal told me, ‘We don’t have any dyslexic kids,’” Peirce says. “I started to laugh. I said, ‘You must be the only school in America that doesn’t have any dyslexic kids.’”

The couple learned most parochial schools have no one on staff to help students with dyslexia. Furthermore, the training necessary involves a master’s degree.

Duquesne does offer partial scholarships to diocesan teachers. Peirce says, “For teachers, an extra $6,000 or $7,000, well, they just can’t handle that. So now they’re getting it free.”

Of the Peirces’ new $450,000 gift to Duquesne, $380,000 of it is adding to the University’s scholarships to create the Peirce Scholars, 20 teachers from Pittsburgh Catholic schools who will start this year to earn a master’s degree in structured reading. At no cost to them. In return, they commit to remaining in their school for three years after earning the degree.

The other $70,000 will expand the reach and impact of the Duquesne University Reading Clinic, which has provided support to children and their parents for 55 years. More tutors will be trained in structured literacy approaches consistent with standards of the International Dyslexia Association. In turn, these tutors will work with more children with dyslexia.

The long-term vision for the program? A reading specialist who can help dyslexic readers in every parochial school in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bob Peirce himself received help when he attended Duquesne University School of Law.

“I presented myself to the dean and told him I didn’t have
any money,” he recalls. “I had an average law school aptitude test score. I had decent grades but nothing outstanding. Still, Duquesne gave me an interest-free loan to be repaid after graduation.”

As well, Bob worked. Over the Christmas break during his first year, he worked as a waiter in Atlantic City. He showed up two weeks into the new semester. “I wanted to work the Jewish holidays and make some extra money.”

When Peirce explained his absence, the dean responded by giving him a job. “My job was to see that no one stole any books. It was really a makeshift job. Duquesne was very good to me and I have always looked for ways to repay them.”

The repayment now comes with dividends for area children through the Peirce Scholars program. As soon as the teachers start in the program, they acquire sufficient training to identify, test and intervene to help students with reading disabilities.

Peirce says, “Too often, if a kid doesn’t do well, the answer is, ‘Well, they’re dumb. They’re not working hard.’ The truth is that many of them probably have a learning disability.”

In fact, Peirce notes, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics has found that a third of the U.S. prison population has learning disabilities. “I’d bet a lot of them weren’t diagnosed. What if they’d been caught? What if they didn’t think they were stupid, if kids and teachers didn’t tell them they were dumb and not working hard? The low self-esteem led to other problems.”

Dr. Michael Latusick, the superintendent of schools in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, noted that more than 100 people expressed an interest in the program.

“We will be glad to have these resources in our schools,” Latusick said, “and not itinerant people who have maybe 20 or 30 minutes with the kids. It will make a huge difference.”

Meyer, who directs reading and literacy education at the reading clinic, spoke about work already underway. She is helping students to make an anthology of their writing.

“My goal is to get kids with dyslexia to see themselves not just as readers but as writers,” she said.

Peirce himself closed the emotional evening with a challenge for Duquesne. He spoke about a letter he received regarding efforts in a Philadelphia-area school district. He remarked that while Philadelphia was ahead, Pittsburgh could catch up.

His final challenge? “I’d hate to see Philadelphia outdo Pittsburgh.”

Bob and Joan Peirce are making it possible for the teachers posing with them to earn their master’s degrees, so they can help students with dyslexia and other reading challenges.
Positioning Students to Succeed

GUSSIN SPIRITAN DIVISION BOLSTERS CONFIDENCE AND ACADEMICS FOR A BETTER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

By Holly McCalmon

Five days after Joshua Rodes graduated high school, he got on a plane to Pittsburgh.

Why the swift departure? Rodes had a commitment to be part of the Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs (GSD), founded more than two decades ago to help with the transition of a select group of students during their first year of college.

Over the last 20 years, the GSD has become more than a transition program for first-year students. It positions students to succeed personally and professionally by improving confidence and building skills that will help them in college and after they graduate.

“Human beings must work to keep the human spirit lifted,” says Dr. Judith Griggs, GSD director. “The division’s work with its students seeks to provide experiences that enlighten, inspire, and bring about self-knowledge and growing self-worth and belief.”

Many students come from widely different backgrounds from across the country and abroad. Acceptance into Duquesne as a GSD student is based on many factors, including grades, standardized test scores, commitment to excellence and potential for success in a college environment.

In many ways, the GSD is a “satellite campus” within the main Duquesne campus. With its own dedicated team of faculty, tutoring programs, support services and credited core curriculum, the sought-after program helps students develop at their own pace. The program has continued to grow over the last several years, peaking at 105 students in the 2017-2018 academic year. This year, 73 students are enrolled in the GSD—the program’s third largest cohort. The required GSD Summer Passage Program begins shortly after students receive their high school diplomas. A readiness phase, the five-week, residential campus summer program helps students develop “the attitudes, behaviors, skills and work ethic that will bring them academic success and self-fulfillment.”

“Research shows that students are more likely to leave college if they do not have a sense of belonging; community gives students a feeling of security and of fitting in that anchors them,” notes Griggs.

The GSD binds students together as a community to help them stay and thrive while at Duquesne. For Rodes, as well as Gabrielle Lapointe and Brandon Stewart, their summer trek to Pittsburgh would take them further than they realized, as they soon would learn.

GSD STUDENTS THRIVE

JOSHUA RODES

Joshua Rodes has always been a hard worker. A recent Pittsburgh transplant from Madison, Conn., he got his first job at the age of 12 and continued working throughout high school. His work schedule often pushed homework and studying late into the night.

Although his grades fell below Duquesne’s standard admissions requirements, he was accepted into the GSD.

“It was definitely an adjustment at first going from high school to college. The summer semester prepped me and got me ready,” says Rodes, a 2019 Gussin Spiritan Division Student of the Year and a junior majoring in accounting. The program was so beneficial for Rodes that Zachary, his twin brother and Duquesne marketing major, noticed the differences between their first-year experiences.

“The GSD provides the right balance of encouragement and structure that gives each student the confidence to succeed, and a purpose and direction that they may not have otherwise found—or found later.

“The GSD transformed my life both academically and personally. The GSD has done so much for me, I want to give back to this program. I believe the GSD cultivated my desire to succeed and for that I am forever thankful,” says Rodes, who works as a GSD resident assistant for this year’s cohort.

He sees his time at Duquesne as an “opportunity.” In addition to focusing on his studies, Rodes is very active in several campus groups including Duquesne’s Student Government Association, where he serves as the executive vice president of finance and the campus representative to the Pittsburgh Student Government Council.

Rodes’ future plans are also ambitious, as he aims to attend graduate school to obtain an MBA and pursue a career in financial planning.

GABRIELLE LAPOINTE

While in high school in eastern Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley, Gabrielle Lapointe’s primary focus was playing volleyball, which helped her develop discipline and a respect for teamwork. But it also impacted her grades.
Many students find their attention split between academics and activities, especially those who participate in sports. Lapointe, a junior with a double major in accounting and information systems management, now puts her competitive spirit to work as a participant in the GSD.

“Coming into college, I wasn’t the strongest student. I focused on volleyball year-round and my grades fell to the wayside. And now I’m maintaining a high GPA because of the program,” explains Lapointe.

Lapointe says the GSD is “one of the best experiences I have ever done. It’s given me so many more friends and so much more opportunity. I’ve noticed so much growth within myself. And it gave me more motivation to go after my career and my ambitions.”

Along with her determination and focus on her studies and speaking at GSD orientation about her experiences, Lapointe participates in the Student Accounting Association, Best Buddies chapter and Alpha Gamma Delta. She is also vice president of the Student Accounting Association and the president of Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society that encourages and rewards academic excellence among freshmen in institutions of higher learning.

Lapointe is looking toward future opportunities with a focus on finding internships and networking during her last two years at Duquesne.

“I’m excited to grow as a person,” says Lapointe. “I’m also excited to continue to build relationships and focus on my studies—I want to finish out strong with an end goal of becoming a CPA.”

BRANDON STEWART

Brandon Stewart’s long involvement and leadership roles with the Boys & Girls Clubs in his hometown of Sarasota, Fla., brought him to Duquesne as a recipient of the Robert and Patricia Gussin Endowed Scholarship.

The Gussins, the same couple whose hands-on approach to philanthropy has strengthened the GSD program for decades, are also the generous benefactors of the scholarship Stewart received that is unique to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County (see sidebar). Under the umbrella and support of the GSD, this full four-year scholarship to Duquesne is awarded annually to at least one Club member who has done well academically in high school to eliminate the financial burden of obtaining a top-rated college education.

Stewart, a sophomore pursuing a double major in economics and marketing, graduated magna cum laude from Sarasota Military Academy, which helped to shape his confidence and focus with its rigorous academic program and values. Through the scholarship, Stewart was enrolled in the GSD and credits the summer program with providing him a head start to college.

“I could explore my personal and academic interests while being supported by a staff that were truly invested in my success and my future,” says Stewart. “It really kick-started my academic and social life at Duquesne. And because of that, I felt more equipped and confident going into the fall semester.”

Stewart also values the GSD resources and faculty, saying, “the Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center is where they house all of the amazing staff from the Spiritan Division. It is really that one-stop shop for anything and everything that we all need.”

While at Duquesne, like many of his GSD counterparts, Stewart is taking full advantage of everything the University has to offer and participates in many activities, including the International Relations Club, where he is the social media and events coordinator. Starting this fall, he also holds positions as the career development ad-hoc committee chair for the Student Government Association, as well as the president of Lambda Sigma, an honor society with a mission that is “dedicated to the purpose of fostering leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and the spirit of service among college students.”

He also is looking toward the future.

“I’m excited to apply my knowledge and skills I developed at Duquesne in the real world,” says Stewart, who worked over the summer as a first-year program management intern within the human capital division at UnitedHealth Group, a global health and well-being company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn. •

The Couple Behind the GSD

Dr. Robert Gussin, P’59, GP’61, an emeriti member of the University’s Board of Directors and retired vice president of Johnson & Johnson, struggled like many students to transition from high school to higher education, but found his path and excelled. Gussin’s personal academic challenges moved him and his wife, Dr. Patricia Gussin, a physician and New York Times best-selling author of mystery novels, to endow the Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs and to establish the Robert and Patricia Gussin Endowed Scholarship to benefit participants of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

Every year, the Gussins travel to Duquesne to join the endowed scholarship recipients at an on-campus event to celebrate their academic successes. Since the scholarship’s inception in 2004, eight students have benefited from it. Three students have received the scholarship for the 2019 school year.

Visit duq.edu/magazine and listen to Josh, Gabrielle and Brandon talk about how the GSD program has made a difference in their lives.
Alumnus Carl Grefenstette has been inducted into the Century Club and the Sports Hall of Fame, served as vice chair of the Duquesne board of directors and helped to hire Duquesne’s 11th president, John Murray, was a recipient of the Old Main Award and served as a respected voice in business and philanthropy throughout Pittsburgh.

In fact, his record of business and service resulted in the recent honor of the Hillman Foundation making a $1.5 million gift to establish the new Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law at Duquesne. The center will focus on topics of lifelong interest to Grefenstette.

His first area of interest, however—and where he also excelled—was pitching a baseball.

At age 17, the Carrick, Pa. native signed a contract with the Boston Braves. As the best young baseball pitcher in the Pittsburgh region, his future looked bright. He was playing on a team that featured Paul Waner, who had retired from the Yankees, and Honus Wagner acted as the bench coach.

However, the world also was at war. For the duty-conscious young man, service called. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported later that “It Took a Major Leaguer to Sub for Grefenstette.” A pitcher who was retired from the Pirates stepped in for the remaining games of league play.

Part way through Carl’s time in boot camp, World War II ended. As a result, Carl was sent to the Pacific to help repatriate Japanese POWs from China and Korea.

He saw things that shaped his life and appreciation for a larger world view. For one, he noticed that military officers had college educations, a critical component to their success,
and so he decided he would pursue one himself. More importantly, he saw how people were treated during extremely difficult times and the unending need for kindness and consideration.

“I worked in a harbor and would fill our landing craft with Japanese soldiers, sail for about 20 minutes across the harbor, and drop them off,” he recalled.

After six months, he was transferred ashore in Japan. Like many soldiers and sailors, he had heard terrifying propaganda about the Japanese people. But one day his duties led him to a grand cathedral, the Church of the Sacred Heart in Sasebo, Japan.

“It was filled with Japanese people praying the Rosary,” he said. “It really opened my eyes to the universality of our Church and the need to never prejudice.”

While deployed, Carl returned to pitching—for the Navy’s baseball team. Once back from the war, nursing a shoulder injury that had changed his throw, Carl played baseball a bit more in Canada, but by the late 1940s, he knew his career was headed in a different direction. That path led to Duquesne—in the classroom and on the mound.

In the 1949 season, when he threw for the Dukes, the team went 14-4. While the next year the team had a losing season, Grefenstette’s personal prowess made him a fixture in local newspapers until he graduated in 1950.

At the time, when questioned about his future in baseball, the young pitcher said, “I’m interested in playing professional baseball, but one thing’s for sure. I can always count on accounting.”

Count on accounting he did. His chosen profession led to a lifelong and close working relationship with Henry Hillman, the unassuming business titan whose company’s reputation in Pittsburgh was built on success acquiring and developing businesses ranging from Marion Power Shovel Company to Duracell to Bubba Gump Shrimp.

Hillman was a visionary and a leader in the Pittsburgh business and charitable community. Carl met him in the 1950s, when he started working for a subsidiary of the Hillman Company, Pittsburgh Coke and Chemical. A pivotal trip to Atlanta more than a decade later set the tone for their work together. In 1970, Hillman promoted Carl as the vice president of accounting. In that role, he was asked to go with a more senior person on a trip to Atlanta to buy a company. He would not have a negotiating role. However, at a crucial moment, Carl saw negotiations were at risk, and so interjected.

“All I did from that day on was negotiate,” Carl said.

Carl spent the next few decades buying companies and rose to become the first non-Hillman family member to serve as president and chairman of the board of the Hillman company. He traveled constantly and enjoyed the work and the friendship he developed with Hillman. The two men shared a value system of deeply held ethics, where the right thing was never optional.

“One of Henry’s children once said to me, ‘You think just like my father,’” Carl said. “I considered that high praise.”

That connection, forged over years of association and mutual respect and integrity, is reflected in the genesis of the Grefenstette Center. An interdisciplinary project to explore the intersection between ethics and science, technology and law from a Catholic faith-based perspective, the center opened officially this fall semester, housed in the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.

The new center builds on Duquesne’s longtime academic focus in ethics and its historic commitment to human interaction and community. Given the Hillman Company’s early investments in tech companies, the focus of the center is a meaningful nod to Grefenstette’s professional legacy.

“Pittsburgh serves as a global leader in technological development. While robotics, artificial intelligence and data analytics make news daily, the understanding of how they may affect society is not being pursued at the same rapid pace,” said Duquesne President Ken Gormley. “The Grefenstette Center will serve as an interdisciplinary hub for exploring these vital issues within a distinctive Catholic context.”

The center draws on the expertise and resources of Duquesne’s schools to conduct sponsored research and organize conferences, symposia and other scholarly endeavors. Microcredentials, certificates and graduate degree programs are also envisioned for future development.

The center will help Duquesne strengthen partnerships with leading research institutions such as the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University; professional organizations like the Pittsburgh Region Bioethics Partnership; other Catholic colleges and universities in western Pennsylvania; and scholars and communities of different faith traditions across the globe.

“Both Pope Francis and our Catholic Spiritan tradition call us to consider the ethical and societal implications of advances in science and technology on each individual, including the effects on vulnerable populations,” said Gormley. “The Henry L. Hillman Foundation’s support will allow us to drive these important conversations forward locally and globally.”

“Henry [Hillman] had, for many years, wanted to recognize the special relationship that he and Carl forged in business together,” said David K. Roger, president of the Henry L. Hillman Foundation. “Unfortunately, Henry passed away before the right opportunity came along. I know Henry would be pleased that the Grefenstette Center is being created and that it will ensure that Carl’s legacy of sound, moral leadership will educate and inspire new generations.”

Joseph C. Manzinger, president of The Hillman Company, added, “Carl has been a mentor and indispensable counselor to so many of us—always providing thoughtful, ethical and practical advice to guide our decisions. Indeed, it is his trademark.”

“The Grefenstette Center will serve as an interdisciplinary hub for exploring these vital issues within a distinctive Catholic context.”

www.duq.edu • 53
The elderly patient is having a hard time breathing and her ankles are swollen. She resides in a long-term care facility and also has dementia. Moving her to a doctor’s office or hospital would be difficult for her caregivers and detrimental to her overall health. Because the facility offers telehealth, a nurse wheels a cart into the patient’s room and connects via wi-fi to a health care provider, before engaging the cart’s built-in stethoscope and camera. Sounds from the patient’s lungs and views of her swollen ankles help the provider make a diagnosis: congestive heart failure. Medication is prescribed to treat the condition and the patient starts to improve quickly because she was able to be treated in place.

Laura A. Crimm, MSN, FNP-BC, director of Duquesne’s family nurse practitioner (FNP) program, envisions telehealth being used for this exact scenario and knows colleagues who use the technology to treat their patients. Telehealth can be especially helpful in providing greater access to care in rural and underserved communities.

“Rural emergency room patients can receive a neurology

School of Nursing on the Cutting Edge of the Future of Medicine

By Michelle M. Boehm, GA’12, and Megan Tressler

“Telehealth is the future of health care. Nurses need to learn how to assess patients via telehealth equipment. They will need to know how to diagnose and treat their patients remotely to be successful advanced practice providers.”
consultation from a tertiary health care center (a health care facility with specialist providers and equipment for special investigations and treatments) and institutions can use telehealth visits for acute illnesses, such as bronchitis, routine follow-up visits with specialists, and psychiatry consultations,” explains Crimm. “The benefits of telehealth are numerous. It not only improves access to care, it helps us improve patient outcomes and promote good health.”

**SCHOOL OF NURSING ON CUTTING EDGE OF TELEHEALTH EDUCATION**

Through telehealth—which replaces what patients once knew as over-the-phone counseling—a health care provider can now examine a patient from just about anywhere with a wi-fi connection. Telehealth equipment is being used in hospitals and long-term care facilities across the country.

Duquesne’s School of Nursing is among the first nursing schools in the country to introduce telehealth education to both its undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Because telehealth is emerging as a crucial component of health care, the school recently partnered with Curavi Health to utilize its CuraviCart, a machine that includes a pan/tilt/zoom camera, a wound/derm camera, a Bluetooth stethoscope, an otoscope, a document scanner and a 12-lead EKG system.

The cart allows a nurse to contact a provider via the internet to “schedule” an exam. Once the provider has entered the room via the cart, he or she can examine the patient by working with the nurse on which cart equipment to use; the provider can hear the patient’s heart and lungs through the stethoscope and see parts of the patient’s body with the otoscope and cameras. A more advanced cardio exam can be conducted with the built-in EKG system.

“Telehealth is the future of health care. Nurses need to learn how to assess patients via telehealth equipment. They will need to know how to diagnose and treat their patients remotely to be successful advanced practice providers,” says Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow, School of Nursing dean and professor. “Also, with the nursing shortage, there are increasingly experienced nurses remotely assessing patients in shortage areas and giving direction and advice to novice nurses and practitioners who are actually caring for patients. We have an obligation to prepare nurses for this new technologically rich environment.”

**INTRODUCING STUDENTS TO TELEHEALTH**

Duquesne nursing faculty members believe that as the practice of telehealth continues to expand, faculty need to prepare students so they can be successful when working with the technology.

“We understand the challenges associated with performing assessments, making decisions and providing nursing care without being in a patient’s physical presence,” says Glasgow.

Through various simulations using the telehealth cart, graduate and undergraduate students are challenged to integrate their nursing knowledge with their communication and technology skills.

During her long career in home health care and hospice care, Debbie Murdick, GN’19, recalls working with rudimentary telehealth about 10 to 15 years ago.

“It was a shell of what it’s turned into today,” says Murdick, who was excited when she found out learning about current telehealth technology would be part of the nurse practitioner program she recently completed.

“To actually be able to place a stethoscope and hear the heartbeat and do an EKG—the capabilities floors me,” she says. “It’s assisting you since you can’t be there. It helps you to make a correct diagnosis.”

A small group of faculty members is working on a grant that incorporates telehealth technology in the development of a standardized patient simulation that will teach undergraduate students to communicate assessment information to an advanced practice provider remotely.

Though the technology is new, it’s a crucial part of the future of medicine, and the school plans to continue looking for ways to incorporate it into the curriculum.

“It is important that students have an understanding of this new technology as they will be the nurses at the bedside communicating to the practitioner who will be assessing and treating the patient,” Crimm explains.

**CURAVICART**

The CuraviCart™ is a state-of-the-art telemedicine cart with all of the tools needed for utilization in the nursing home, including:

- pan/tilt/zoom camera
- wound/derm camera
- Bluetooth stethoscope
- otoscope
- document scanner
- 12-lead EKG system

All CuraviCart™ accessories are uniquely tested for the skilled nursing environment. The cart itself is optimized for easy maneuvering in carpeted hallways using on-demand steer-assist technology, and includes built in cart lights, powered cart height adjustment, and 270˚ wrap-around cart handle. It meets all ergonomic workplace requirements.
Class Reunions & Affinity Group Celebrations
Homecoming will be packed with exciting events for ALL alumni with special celebrations for the following groups:

- All classes ending in 4s and 9s
- 50th Reunion of the Class of 1969
- Golden Dukes
- Veterans
- Delta Zeta
- Phi Kappa Theta
- Sigma Delta
- Alpha Phi Omicron
- Alpha Phi Delta

Visit duq.edu/reunions for more details about events for these groups.

Indicates cost associated with event. Visit duq.edu/homecoming for pricing details.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

- Campus Tour for the Class of 1969 & Golden Dukes
  10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Welcome Mass
  Noon
- Golden Dukes Luncheon $1 - 3 p.m.
- School of Pharmacy Happy Hour
  4 - 5 p.m.
- Former Student Leader Happy Hour $6 - 8 p.m.
- Office of Diversity & Inclusion Mix and Mingle $6 - 9 p.m.
- Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences 25th Anniversary Celebration Happy Hour $6 - 8 p.m.
- Sigma Phi Delta and Friends Reunion $6 - 8 p.m.
- President’s Dinner & Reception $6 - 9 p.m.
- Phi Kappa Theta 20th Anniversary Celebration Happy Hour $7 - 9 p.m.
- Former Football Players & Friends Reception $7 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

- Campus Tours
  8 - 10 a.m.
- School of Nursing Champagne Brunch
  9 - 11 a.m.
- School of Law Continuing Legal Education $9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- Rangos School of Health Sciences Brunch
  9:30 - 11 a.m.
- Veterans Breakfast
  9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
- Liberal Arts Meet and Greet with New Dean, Dr. Kristine Blair
  10 a.m.
- Palumbo Donahue School of Business Tour & Reunion Tailgate Lunch
  11 - 11:30 a.m.
- Veterans Memorial
  11 a.m.
- KidsZone
  11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Autumnfest
  11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Reunion Tailgate Lunch $11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Delta Zeta 50th Anniversary Luncheon $11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Omicron Alumni Luncheon $Noon - 2 p.m.
- Rally to Rooney Parade
  12:30 - 1 p.m.
- Football Game: Duquesne vs. Wagner $1 p.m.
- Legends of the Hidden Bluff $4 p.m.
- Mary Pappert School of Music Happy Hour & Meet and Greet with Interim Dean David Allen Wehr
  4 - 6 p.m.
- School of Education Happy Hour
  4 - 5 p.m.
- Greek Celebration Happy Hour
  4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Mass
  Sponsored by Alpha Phi Delta
  5:30 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Delta Group Photo
  6:30 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Delta 90th Reunion Celebration $7 - 9 p.m.
- Dueling Pianos & Comfort Food from the 412 $7 - 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 27

- Lourdes Grotto Dedication & Blessing
  10 - 11 a.m.
  Continental Breakfast Offered
- Memorial Mass
  Sponsored by Greek Alumni
  11 a.m.
- Duquesne Ring Blessing
  Noon
- Farewell Brunch
  12:30 - 2 p.m.

Pre-register online at duq.edu/homecoming or by phone at 412.396.6209.

Follow the Homecoming excitement on social media:
#DuqHC19
#DuqHomecoming
@DuqAlumni
Professor Evokes the Eighties in Debut Novel

By Megan Tressler

John Fried spends his days teaching creative writing at Duquesne University. His nights and weekends have been spent in 1980s New York.

How was this time travel possible? Through the magic of fiction.


Whether you grew up in the 1980s or a different decade or if your hometown is New York City or “Smalltown, America,” everyone can relate to Martin’s tween-to-teen struggles.

Fried’s novel has received praise from New York Times-bestselling authors such as Stephen Chbosky and award-winning writers such as Colson Whitehead.

Earlier this year, Fried embarked on a cross-country book tour to promote his book. The paperback edition is scheduled to be released in January. Embrace the ’80s with The Martin Chronicles and groove to the customized song list Fried developed to accompany the book:

Every Breath You Take (The Police)
Tainted Love (Soft Cell)
Beat It – Single Version (Michael Jackson)
Everybody Wants to Rule the World (Tears for Fears)
Hold Me Now (Thompson Twins)
Like a Virgin (Madonna)

“They were both thoroughly recognizable as the friends I’d know most of my life, but new, young adult versions of themselves, still rough at the edges. I wondered if that’s how I appeared to them. I often still felt like the little kid who built fortresses out of furniture cushions and collected baseball cards.”

– The Martin Chronicles by John Fried

Upcoming Mary Pappert School of Music Events

Duquesne Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Wind Symphony/Symphony Band
Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, 2020 – Carnegie Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Ensembles
Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019 – Pappert Center, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 – Power Center, 7:30 p.m.
(Featuring David Budway)
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 – Pappert Center, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 – Pappert Center, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 26, 2020 – Power Center, 7:30 p.m.
(Music of Elton John)
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – Pappert Center, 7:30 p.m.
(Celebration of International Jazz Day)

Choirs
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 – Trinity Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019 – Heinz Chapel, 3 p.m.
(Pappert Chorale Only)
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020 – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 4 p.m.
(Voices of Spirit Only)
Sunday, March 22, 2020 – Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Duquesne Chapel, 3 p.m.

Best of the Bluff (duq.edu/BluffSeries)
Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 – PNC Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019 – PNC Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020 – PNC Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Uptown Jazz Series (duq.edu/UptownJazz)
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 18, 2019 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
(Featuring David Budway)
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – PNC Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit duq.edu/MusicEvents.
Duquesne Student Helps Snotty Salamander Snag State Title

By Tara Bradley-Steck

For the past four years, Abby Hebenton has been on a mission to save an elusive creature that, on a good day when it decides to emerge from its watery home under large rocks, looks like a “large, brown, soggy tube sock” with beady eyes and slimy skin.

Even its name sounds off-putting, if not a bit scary: hellbender. Nor do its nicknames help to enhance its image: snot-otter, Allegheny alligator, lasagna lizard and devil dog, to name a few.

Yet Hebenton, a biomedical engineering major from Fairfield, Pa., along with a determined group of high school students from southcentral Pennsylvania, embraced this harmless aquatic salamander in a big way. And, finally, in April they did what no one has been able to do before—convince the Pennsylvania General Assembly to name the Eastern hellbender the state’s official amphibian.

“I never thought a state amphibian could be so political or partisan,” Hebenton says of the group’s on-again, off-again struggles that resulted in heaps of media attention highlighted by a front-page story in The Wall Street Journal. “You’d think everybody could get together on environmental issues, but it doesn’t work like that.”

It’s not that Hebenton likes the hellbender in the same way she likes a dog or cat; although, she admits, “it’s kind of grown on me.” It’s just that she and her conservation-minded buddies in the Pennsylvania Student Leadership Council of the nonprofit Chesapeake Bay Foundation worry that the state’s streams and rivers are becoming increasingly filthy.

As it turns out, this huge but vulnerable salamander—the largest in North America—is the canary in the coal mine when it comes to polluted waterways. Because adult hellbenders do not have gills like fish and breathe through their wrinkled skin, they need cold, fast flowing streams to thrive. They literally suffocate in sediment-choked water. So, the Student Leadership Council decided to make the truly ugly hellbender the poster child for its campaign.

“Hellbender populations are plummeting,” says Hebenton, who admits that she’s never seen one in the wild. “That’s a big indicator that something’s wrong. That’s why we chose hellbenders. Plus, they’re really cool.”

Classified as amphibians, hellbenders are part of a group of animals that includes toads and frogs. Except for a small subspecies called the Ozark hellbender, the hellbenders in North America are the Eastern hellbender, which ranges from southern New York to northern Georgia and west to Missouri. They range in length from 11 to more than 20 inches, with the record of 29 inches. They have a wide, flat head with tiny eyes and a broad, vertically compressed tail. Their body and
legs are covered with prominent folds of skin. Little is known about the life of young hellbenders, but it is assumed they spend most of their time in stream gravel where they find food and niches to hide. They are seldom observed—even by dedicated anglers—because they spend most of their time under large, flat rocks on the river bottom and only occasionally come out at night to search for crayfish and aquatic insects. Studies have shown that under natural river conditions, hellbenders typically live 30 to 35 years.

Duquesne University environmental sciences Professor Sarah Woodley says the hellbender is a perfect choice to win the title. “Having a charismatic animal like a hellbender as a state amphibian will attract attention to the variety of amphibians, and a variety of amphibians indicates healthy biodiversity,” she says.

Before Hebenton and her comrades in the Student Leadership Council presented their proposal, they spent months researching hellbenders. They installed hellbender nesting boxes—although it’s not certain the boxes were enough to encourage hellbenders to repopulate those areas; and they met with biologists from Pennsylvania and New York. They tested creeks and streams in southcentral Pennsylvania for hellbender environmental DNA and found nary a trace, confirming their suspicions the salamanders were long gone from the region. They met periodically at a Panera Bread in Carlisle so they could use the store’s Wi-Fi to write the draft of their initial bill. Then they went to work lobbying and meeting with legislators.

Everything seemed on track until the end of 2017, when the initial bill was held up by a legislator who wanted a different, less environmentally sensitive salamander—one named after a naturalist from his district—to wear the “crown.” The bill died at the end of the legislative session last year. Undeterred, the students went back to their legislative champion, Sen.

Gene Yaw from Lycoming County, who reintroduced the bill at the beginning of the legislative session in 2019.

“At that point, the hellbender was already pretty well known in the halls in Harrisburg when this session began,” says B.J. Small, spokesperson for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “This time, there was no major roadblock.”

When Gov. Tom Wolf signed the bill in April, he proudly wore a “Hellbender Defender” T-shirt.

“It was phenomenal,” says Small. “You have a salamander here that is not exactly photogenic. The campaign wouldn’t have been the same if it had been a cute little frog.”

In addition to advancing the cause of clean streams, the council showed that a small group of determined youth could make a difference. The 20 or so students who eventually became active in the campaign were from districts within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which spans more than 64,000 square miles and encompasses parts of six states—Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia—and the entire District of Columbia.

“They really put their hearts and souls into it,” says Small. “They didn’t cut corners. They did their homework. And they were passionate. The fact that young people can get something like this done is a very big part of the story.”

Hebenton says the ordeal has taught her numerous lessons—about the significance of a shy salamander, the importance of clean water, the value of perseverance, and the need to stand up and be heard.

“Why not hear my voice? I’m going to be voting for you in a few years,” she says of the many legislators she met. “If people don’t reach out, they won’t know the issues. Just learning that opened my eyes for the rest of my life so that I now speak up if there is a problem.”

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**Why do we care?**

Duquesne University environmental sciences Professor Sarah Woodley says amphibians in general and salamanders in particular are “an important part of the ecosystem.”

“In some areas of the forest, there’s more biomass of salamanders than all the other mammals put together. They’re all around us, and we don’t know it,” says Woodley.

Woodley, who has studied salamanders all her life, says hellbenders also play a role in her research to combat virulent bacterial infections, especially those found in hospitals. The skin of a hellbender is full of glands that produce mucus and peptides, which have antimicrobial properties. Woodley is studying the peptides to see if they can kill bacteria that are harmful to humans.

“Amphibian skin secretions are amazing. And touching a hellbender is the strangest feeling,” says Woodley. “I’ve handled a lot of salamanders in my career, but there’s something about the hellbender that is extra slimy and mushy.”

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Photo by B.J. Small/ICBF
It’s a surprisingly warm evening in April, and I’m driving across town to Millvale, a small borough that sits just outside the city and houses a thriving, community-driven arts scene. Work is done for the day and my 11-year-old son, who I’ve just picked up at after-school care, is trying to explain Fortnite to me from the back seat. On any other weekday, we’d be heading home for the night, but this Monday is a different story.

Tonight our destination is Tupelo Honey Teas, a cozy shop adjacent to Millvale’s Community Library. On Monday evenings, it’s closed to the public, but a small group of people know to tug open the front door—it sticks a little—and enter anyway.

In a piece of fiction, here is where I’d start to unwind our complex mystery and tea-bandit backstories.

Writing to Grow—and Amplify—Their Voices

ALUMNI TEAM UP TO INSPIRE GIRLS TO GROW THEIR VOICES THROUGH WRITING

By Chrissy Gipko, A’03, GA’06

It’s a surprisingly warm evening in April, and I’m driving across town to Millvale, a small borough that sits just outside the city and houses a thriving, community-driven arts scene. Work is done for the day and my 11-year-old son, who I’ve just picked up at after-school care, is trying to explain Fortnite to me from the back seat. On any other weekday, we’d be heading home for the night, but this Monday is a different story.

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In a piece of fiction, here is where I’d start to unwind our complex mystery and tea-bandit backstories.
But this isn’t a piece of fiction. Fortunately, the real story is compelling on its own: We are all part of Girls Write Pittsburgh, the only program of its kind in the city, and the tea shop is home to our weekly writing workshop.

Girls Write Pittsburgh (GWP), founded in 2016 by Duquesne alumna Vivian Lee Croft, provides free writing workshops to girl-identified teens across the Pittsburgh area. GWP is focused on creating safe spaces for young writers to find and grow their voices through writing.

Since the inaugural workshop launched in Pittsburgh’s Brookline neighborhood, GWP has established five other neighborhood locations: Garfield, Allentown, Millvale, the North Side and East Liberty. Although each workshop maintains the core GWP principles and goals, no two are exactly the same.

“In each location, the young writers we serve are different and have unique needs. We started with one weekly workshop in Brookline, and in 2018, we expanded that to four weekly workshops for girl-identified writers. Then last fall, because we had been doing a lot of team discussions surrounding how to serve the LGBTQ community specifically, we launched Rainbow Writers,” Croft explains.

“When we started the North Side workshop, the conversations and expressions there were completely different from what I was used to having in Brookline. Age difference plays into that, as does the education and experience they bring to the room, so we made space for bringing different readings and prompts to the table to encourage them to broaden their thinking without feeling forced or too structured.”

“GWP’s weekly workshops are led by volunteer facilitators—all active writers, including published authors, professional writers, and many with backgrounds in mental health and teaching—and the teen writers who attend regularly can also opt to work one-on-one with a volunteer mentor. Mental health support is a core component of the program, too. Facilitators and mentors are trained in how to respond when young writers are coping with traumatic events at home or school—including the ones that dominate each news cycle—which can surface during the writing process.

At the Millvale workshop, where I volunteered as a mentor before taking over as location facilitator in the fall of 2019, the mental health support feels like a subtle undercurrent—a genuine interest in and support for each other’s work—that sets the foundation for a safe, productive and fun writing environment.

“Anyone passing by the tea shop tonight might see our little group inside—two teen writers, two co-facilitators, me—and assume we’re old friends. We laugh a lot, the kind of big laughs that come with feeling comfortable with the people and space around you. Tonight, many of our laughs are directed at an unexpected guest: Efrita, the leopard gecko who belongs to and is currently perched on Hope, one of our teen writers.

We also write a lot—sometimes structured, short exercises and sometimes looser, longer projects that stretch over multiple sessions. Hope and Julia, two teens who regularly come to the Millvale workshop, are gifted writers (they’re especially crafty with word play, point of view and plot twists), but what I find most impressive, week after week, is how they actively work at improving their skills, enthusiastically jump into new ideas and genres, and unabashedly support each other.

I don’t think we could encapsulate all of that growth and success into a single hour, once a week, if we didn’t also have the laughter. Croft saw this, too—the value in giving young writers the space to be themselves—early on in the planning stages of GWP.

“Depending on who I’m talking to, whatever comes out of my mouth first is either ‘this is a writing workshop’ or ‘this is a supportive space for creative thought.’ It’s all the same thing,” Croft says. “Some of our writers don’t share anything about their personal lives—they’re wholly focused on writing, and that’s awesome. But some of them are here because they need that space to be able to be themselves around their peers and feel connected. Here we’re allowed to talk about things we can’t always talk about elsewhere. All of those things mean a lot to me and they’re equally important.”

Acclaimed local writer and editor Sheena Carroll, who Croft describes as instrumental in shaping the GWP programs and the Millvale location’s original workshop facilitator, also sees these peer connections as a natural, positive byproduct of writers sharing their work: “It’s a way to express yourself and, in a way, introduce yourself to people. Hope and Julia’s writing styles and interests happen to mesh really well together and they both offer something different to the other, which is really wonderful.”

And, perhaps most importantly, the teen writers sense it. “The fact that we’re all writers helped me open up a lot, to

“It’s a way to express yourself and, in a way, introduce yourself to people.”
When Duquesne alumna Vivian Lee Croft started Girls Write Pittsburgh in 2016, one of her priorities was creating and finding opportunities for girl-identified teen writers to share their writing and voices with the community. In the fall of 2019, one of those opportunities put Marci, an especially driven teen writer and activist who attends GWP workshops in the Allentown neighborhood, on the global stage.

After being nominated by Croft, Marci was chosen as one of 130 delegates to the International Congress of Youth Voices, co-founded by author Dave Eggers. As a delegate, Marci traveled to Puerto Rico in August for three days of leadership training with notable authors, elected officials and activists from around the world. In conjunction with this experience, Marci’s essay Protester by Day, Baker by Night was one of eight delegate pieces published in Mark Bittman’s online magazine, Heated.

“As part of IAYWC puts us in conversation with what writing centers around the world are doing,” Croft says. “It’s giving us ideas about how we can continue to grow and serve the community here in different ways.”

Still, she is wary of growing too quickly or losing focus on GWP’s original mission.

“Because everything is volunteer-driven, [GWP] is kind of like a slow, steady steam-powered engine. And that’s fine. We could fast-track it, but that’s not my end goal,” Croft explains. “Growing deeply is important, expanding outwardly is important, but I also want us to stay flexible to what’s happening around here, what the needs are here. We are always in conversation with other organizations about partnering and coming into their spaces to provide support that complements whatever they already offer.”

As we are wrapping up the final Millvale workshop of the semester, I ask Julia and Hope what keeps them coming back each week. Do they ever have a Monday, I wonder, when they’re tired after school and don’t really feel like doing one more thing?

“Oh, I always want to come,” Hope responds without hesitation. “It’s one of the highlights of my week.”

“Yeah,” Julia adds, “It gives me energy somehow. It’s not unstructured, but the workshop definitely adapts to whatever mood we’re in. Like I asked about bios, and today we’re writing bios... including one for a gecko. It’s just a lot of fun.”

I couldn’t agree more.

Chrissy Gipko earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Duquesne’s English department, where she also taught part time for many years. In her current role as the University’s web communications manager, she creates and oversees website content and architecture.
After its first 30 years at Duquesne, the former Palumbo Center is getting a make-over that looks a lot like a reinvention. Set to open in 2020, the arena will sport a new look and bear a new name—the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, to honor alumnus Chuck Cooper, the first black basketball player to sign to an NBA team. Construction started just before Duquesne’s 2019 grads flipped their tassels. As the fall academic year began, the construction crew had already posted impressive stats.

- **230 connections**
  to be made between new steel beams and existing steel beams and columns

- **4,079 feet**
  total length drilled to install deep foundations

- **Over 3,500 tons**
  of demolition debris removed

- **51 toilets**
  to be installed

- **west bleachers**
  before & after
Creating Knowledge

DUQUESNE RESEARCHERS ARE MAKING STRIDES. RECENT WORK HAS INCLUDED STUDIES ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE, DOG EVOLUTION, COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING AND MORE.

BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDED FULBRIGHT; WILL STUDY SNOW LEOPARDS IN CHINA

Ever since she was a child growing up near the water, biological sciences graduate student Charlotte Hacker has been fascinated by how people coexist with the fragile natural environments around them.

Thanks in part to that fascination, Hacker recently was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study an at-risk population of snow leopards in their natural habitat of Qinghai province, a mountainous and sparsely populated region in China.

A third-year doctoral student, Hacker will study the eating habits of snow leopards in the region. One particular issue is that when they can’t find food, snow leopards have been known to eat herders’ livestock, which causes large financial burdens for herders, promotes negative attitudes toward carnivores and prompts retaliatory killings.

She became interested in snow leopards while working with Duquesne Biological Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Jan Janecka, who has studied the animals for more than a decade.

Hacker will work with the local community to collect scat, or feces droppings, and then use DNA to determine the animals’ diet. She says involving the local community in her work is essential to conservation efforts.

“It’s important to have local conservation stewards who understand the environment and culture of the region,” Hacker says, noting she will conduct some conservation training while in the province. “For example, the predominant religion in Qinghai province is Tibetan Buddhism, which reveres snow leopards. Understanding how religion influences the culture also impacts conservation strategies.”

PROFESSOR RECEIVES $1 MILLION GRANT TO STUDY WATER RESOURCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

An international research team led by Dr. David Kahler will work to make one of the world’s most biodiverse areas more climate resilient.

Supported by a $1 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Kahler, an assistant professor in Duquesne’s Center for Environmental Research and Education, and his team will study water resources of the Limpopo River basin in southern Africa, considered one of the most biodiverse natural areas on the planet.

The basin has had less rain in the past few years, leading to increasingly shorter growing seasons for farmers. Given scientific projections that the region will continue to experience less rain in the future, the region’s decision-makers will need to closely monitor water resources, Kahler says.

At more than 160,000 square miles, the Limpopo River basin is home to more than 18 million people. In addition to agriculture, mining takes place in the basin and industrial water use is growing rapidly.

Kahler and his team will use satellites to measure river flow and water quality, specialized geophysical instruments to measure groundwater flow, and satellites and weather stations to monitor rainfall. Kahler’s team will provide hydrology training to local, regional and national stakeholders.

Dr. Joshua Edokpayi, faculty at the University of Venda in South Africa, and Dr. Kevin Rose, faculty at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), will serve as co-investigators for the project. The team also will include several graduate students from Duquesne, Venda and RPI.
STUDY: “PUPPY DOG EYES” EVOLVED SO DOGS CAN BETTER COMMUNICATE WITH US

If eyes are truly windows to the soul, then maybe your dog is trying to tell you something.

An international research team has found that “puppy dog eyes” evolved over thousands of years to help dogs better communicate with humans.

Their study, published June 17 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is the first detailed analysis comparing the facial anatomy and movement behavior of dogs and wolves. The researchers discovered that the facial muscles of both species were similar, except above the eyes. Dogs have a small muscle that allows them to raise their inner eyebrow.

The team, which includes Duquesne University professor Dr. Anne Burrows, suggests that raising the inner eyebrow triggers a nurturing response in humans because it makes the dogs’ eyes appear larger, more infant-like and resembles a movement humans produce when they are sad.

The study found that when exposed to a human for two minutes, dogs raised their inner eyebrows more and at higher intensities than wolves.

“The raised inner eyebrow movement in dogs is driven by a muscle which doesn’t consistently exist in their closest living relative, the wolf,” says Burrows, a biological anthropologist in the Department of Physical Therapy at Duquesne and an expert in the evolution of primate facial expressions. “This is a striking difference for species separated only 33,000 years ago and we think that the remarkably fast facial muscular changes can be directly linked to dogs’ enhanced social interaction with humans.”

The only dog species in the study that did not have the muscle was the Siberian husky, which is among more ancient dog breeds.

The study notes an alternative reason for the human-dog bond could be that humans have a preference for other individuals which have whites in the eye and that raising the eyebrow exposes the white part of a dog’s eyes.

It is not known why or precisely when humans first brought wolves in from the cold and the evolution from wolf to dog began, but this research helps us understand some of the likely mechanisms underlying dog domestication, the study says.

In addition to Burrows, the team included behavioral and anatomical experts from Howard University, North Carolina State University and the University of Portsmouth in the U.K. The research team was led by comparative psychologist Dr. Juliane Kaminski at the University of Portsmouth.

CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER HONORS PROFESSOR’S EFFORTS IN HAZELWOOD COMMUNITY OF PITTSBURGH

Duquesne Associate Biology Professor Dr. Sarah Woodley has been selected to receive the 2019 Carnegie Science Award in the Postsecondary Educator category from the Carnegie Science Center. Established in 1997, Carnegie Science Awards honor the accomplishments of innovators in the fields of science, technology and education whose contributions lead to significant economic or societal benefits for the western Pennsylvania region. The center noted Woodley’s community engagement, extending her role as a science educator beyond the classroom to the Hazelwood community.

Woodley combines community-engaged learning, novel research and science communication in the University’s undergraduate research activities. Under her direction, Duquesne students translate science themes, such as water quality, into hands-on activities for students in Pittsburgh’s underserved communities. In particular, she has partnered with the Center of Life in Hazelwood, working with kindergarten to eighth grade students in both after-school and summer programs. The University’s undergraduates also mentor high school students in the laboratory.

“Our students gain an increased academic understanding of the subject, while improving their communication skills and raising awareness about the role of science throughout the community,” says Woodley.

TWO PROFESSORS RECEIVE HUNKELE RESEARCH AWARDS

Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Dr. Michael Cascio and Biological Sciences Professor Dr. David Lampe recently were awarded more than $6,800 each from the University’s Hunkele Dreaded Disease Review Committee.

Cascio’s work will examine the molecular structure of the brain’s serotonin transporter, which is a drug target for anti-depressants and many drugs of abuse. Lampe’s research focuses on understanding bacterial strains that may help treat malaria.

The Hunkele Dreaded Disease Award, a competitive grants program, is available to full-time, tenure-track or tenured faculty at Duquesne. The grant provides money for researchers conducting biomedical research that could ultimately lead to a direct cure for major, life-threatening diseases, such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.
A free weeklong summer camp in July at Duquesne gave youth with disabilities a fun opportunity to develop their acting and communication skills while improving their self-esteem and confidence.

STAGES II—A Summer Theater Camp Program for Youth with Disabilities was held in the Genesius Theater and in the School of Nursing’s Learning and Simulation Center. The camp was open to 7th-12th graders with a documented disability.

Associate Nursing Professor Dr. Becky Kronk’s $25,000 grant from the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust funded the camp. She teamed up with John Lane, director of Duquesne’s Theater Arts program, so campers could work on developing a short production, which they then performed.

Campers also spent an afternoon in the Learning and Simulation Center, where they learned how to role-play some scenarios and portray a health care provider or a patient.

“This session of the camp is designed to help the participants learn about a clinical environment, alleviate some of their fears they may have and help with their confidence,” says Kronk.

David Allen Wehr has been named interim dean of the Mary Pappert School of Music. He succeeds Dr. Seth Beckman, who served as dean since 2014.

An internationally recognized pianist, Wehr, who holds the Jack W. Geltz Distinguished Piano Chair, joined the music school in 2001. His global career was launched after winning the gold medal at the 1987 Santander International Piano Competition in Spain. The resulting tours have taken Wehr to more than 30 countries. His more than 1,300 concerts include 13 seasons of touring the United States and Canada for community concerts as a soloist and pianist with the Sartory Trio, along with Duquesne colleague Violin Professor Charles Stegeman.

Wehr is artistic director of the Mary Pappert School of Music’s popular Bluff Music Series, which features Duquesne music faculty, members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and other guest artists. The series has paid tribute to composers including Franz Schubert, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin, Pittsburgh native David Stock and Aaron Copland.

The School of Nursing is now one of just 14 schools nationwide to be endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation.

As a national leader in holistic nursing, the school’s undergraduate and graduate programs are grounded in caring for the whole patient—physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Holistic nurses provide integrative therapy practices, such as aromatherapy, meditation, energy work and therapeutic touch—practices that can improve overall patient well-being and satisfaction. While integrative therapies are part of holistic nursing, Dr. Cindy Walters, an assistant clinical professor of nursing who spearheaded the effort to obtain this endorsement, says holistic nursing is much broader and requires nurses to approach patient care with a strong grounding in ethics, culture and the ability to assess all aspects of the patient’s health, not just their physical symptoms.

“While Western medicine is lauded for its quality in research, surgical procedures and biomedical model, it has become clear that many patients desire a more holistic approach to health care—focusing on maintaining wellness and well-being, rather than simply receiving treatment reactively,” says Walters.

Upon graduation, nursing school graduates are eligible to apply to be certified as holistic nurses. To find out more about this designation, visit www.duq.edu/holistic-nursing.
DU, U.S. AIR FORCE EXPLORE THERAPIES TO HELP MILITARY IN THE FIELD AND HOSPITALS

Duquesne researchers and U.S. Air Force (USAF) scientists discussed advanced biomedical therapies and technologies to help U.S. servicemen and servicewomen at the University’s State of the Art Symposium in March.

During the event, USAF senior military leaders from the 59th Medical Wing (MDW) highlighted the importance of identifying and developing transformative therapies and products for use in the field and hospital settings.

Dr. Alan Seadler, associate academic vice president for research, provided an overview of the University’s biomedical research capabilities. Several Duquesne professors, including those from the School of Pharmacy, the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and the Biomedical Engineering Program shared research findings.

The symposium was designed and organized by Duquesne Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics Dr. Jelena Janjic, who also is an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education faculty fellow/principal scientist with the AIRMED Program 59th MDW.

In addition to sharing research findings, the symposium offered an opportunity to establish and nurture collaborative efforts with USAF to develop new biological and pharmacological therapies and technologies. Janjic is the first Duquesne faculty fellow with the 59th MDW and has initiated multiple collaborative projects with the USAF.

The event was sponsored by Duquesne’s Office of Research and the Office of the Provost.

STORIES OF WAR, HEALING SHARED AT 2019 VIETNAM SYMPOSIUM

In March, more than a dozen Vietnam War veterans from a variety of military branches and roles participated in a candid discussion about their experiences and their re-entry to civilian life at a campus symposium.

The vets shared stories of war, hope and more during Healing and Homecoming: The Vietnam Symposium. The second annual Vietnam symposium was made possible by the University and board members of the Robert M. Rodrigues Fund, which was established to honor Duquesne alumnus and longtime Chartiers Valley High School history teacher Rodrigues. Each year, the fund awards a $1,000 scholarship to a Chartiers Valley senior. Donations made at the event support the scholarship fund. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Office for Military and Veteran Students.

DU COLLABORATION PROVIDES FREE HEALTH CARE SCREENINGS AT AUGUST WILSON BLOCK PARTY

The Center for Pharmacy Care, in conjunction with Giant Eagle Pharmacy and Paramount Rx, provided free health care screenings during the fourth annual August Wilson Block Party in April.

The August Wilson Block Party celebrates the Pulitzer Prize-winner’s birthday and the legendary Pittsburgh neighborhood where he grew up. Duquesne student pharmacists, faculty and pharmacy residents were joined by Giant Eagle pharmacists at the event to conduct blood pressure assessments, body composition analysis, glucose testing and cholesterol screenings.

The Duquesne University School of Pharmacy and Giant Eagle Pharmacy have a long-standing relationship in their commitment to educate future pharmacists and promote positive health outcomes of patients and their communities. Funding support for the complimentary screenings was provided by Paramount Rx.

A Dublin Honor

Duquesne students studying in Dublin were recently invited to visit the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Nial Ring, for tea and a tour of the Mansion House, his City Centre residence. ♣
Men's Basketball

Duquesne men’s basketball, with a roster consisting primarily of freshmen and first-year sophomores, continued its ascent under head coach Keith Dambrot with 19 wins, including a school record-tying 10 victories in Atlantic 10 Conference play in 2018-19. With four starters—including seven of the Dukes’ top eight point producers back—DU is poised to continue its climb in 2019-20.

“I’m excited about our team,” says Dambrot, who is entering his third season at Duquesne. “We’ve focused on improving our talent level and now we’ve moved toward working on creating a winning culture and a winning mentality. I feel we’re in a good place to do that.”

Dambrot, who inherited a 10-win team in 2017, led the Dukes to 16 victories in his first season and followed that by taking a team with 11 newcomers and producing 19 wins in 2018-19. DU’s 19-13 record and 10-8 conference finish (tied for 6th) were the school’s best since 2011. It was just the sixth time in 42 seasons that Duquesne finished with a winning conference record.

2019-20 Quick Hits

- Duquesne returns four starters: 2019 Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team member 6-1 So. G Sincere Carry (12.1, 3.6, 161 assists, 68 steals), 6-4 Jr. G Frankie Hughes (8.9, 2.2, 71 3-pointers), 6-8 Jr. C Michael Hughes (11.2, 6.5, 66 blocks) and 6-5 Jr. F Marcus Weathers (10.0, 6.4).

- Additional key returnees include 2019 Atlantic 10 Sixth Man of the Year 5-8 Jr. G Tavian Dunn-Martin (7.8, 1.4, 81 assists, 47 3-pointers), 6-3 So. G Lamar Norman Jr. (4.8, 1.6), 6-10 So. F Austin Rotroff (4.2, 2.4) and 6-9 So. F Amari Kelly (2.1, 2.1). Rotroff and Kelly are both coming off season-ending ACL injuries suffered in separate games vs. Saint Louis last season. Caleb Davis (seven career games played), DU’s lone senior, is also back.

- The Dukes welcome six newcomers including 6-5 Fr. G Maceo Austin (Sharon, Pa.), 6-1 Fr. G Evan Buckley (Ashburn, Va.), 6-11 Fr. C James Ellis (Pittsburgh, Pa.), 6-3 Fr. G Jake Harper (Dayton, Ohio), 6-5 Fr. G Ashton Miller (Scotch Plains, N.J.) and 6-11 Gr. C Baylee Steele (Norwalk, Iowa/Utah Valley University).

- Duquesne returns over 75 percent of its scoring from a team that led the Atlantic 10 with a 73.5 points per game average. All but two of DU’s 1,295 points scored in conference play last season (99.8%) came from freshmen and sophomores.
Swimming and Diving

The Duquesne swimming and diving team secured its second consecutive Atlantic 10 Championship earlier this year at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. The Dukes recorded a school-record 580.5 points across the four-day event in earning the second conference crown in program history.

The Dukes held the lead at the end of each day of competition, taking home 11 medals and recording points on the diving side at the A-10 Championship for the first time since the 1997-98 season.

Head coach Dave Sheets was named the A-10 Women’s Coach of the Year for the second straight season and third time overall, while freshman Audrey Steen earned Most Outstanding Rookie Performer honors. Steen is the second Duke in as many seasons to win that award, as Emma Brinton collected Most Outstanding Rookie accolades in 2018.

The Duquesne football team celebrated its fifth Northeast Conference (NEC) title (co-2011, co-2013, 2015, co-2016, co-2018) and first-ever Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoff victory with a ring ceremony and banquet at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center in April.

Players and staff were presented with their championship rings and were recognized for the many outstanding accomplishments of the historic 2018 season.

50-Year Anniversary of the Return of Football

The 2019 season marks the 50th anniversary of the return of Duquesne football. Duquesne competed at the major college level from its inception in 1891 through 1950 before disbanding. The program returned at the club level prior to the 1969 season.

DU has enjoyed a great deal of success over the last 50 years, including a Club Football National Championship (1973), a I-AA Mid-Major National title (2003), 11 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) crowns and most recently five Northeast Conference (NEC) Championships as well as a pair of Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoff appearances.

Duquesne will celebrate 50 years of the return of football during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 25-26. We have a great weekend planned, including the defending NEC Champions taking on Wagner at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Arthur J. Rooney Field.

All football alumni and friends are welcome to join in the celebration. Visit https://myduquesne.duq.edu/football50 for information and how to register.
On Tour
BRINGING THE BLUFF TO YOU

Over the spring and summer, President Ken Gormley, Vice President for University Advancement John Plante, and Associate Vice President, Senior Advisor to the President Jim Miller traveled around the country to meet with alumni, parents of Duquesne students and friends of the University. Here are just a few photos from some of the many locations they visited. To find out about upcoming events, please visit www.myduquesne.duq.edu/events.
Alumni Updates

1960s

Rosemarie Scotti Hughes, E'64, is the author of Forever Parenting: Voices of Parents of Adult Children with Special Needs. The book includes stories of families who have adults with disabilities, her own story and solutions.

John Morack, GE'64, has served as vice president, dean and vice chancellor in Pennsylvania, Florida and Texas. He assisted in designing and developing Beaver County Community College in the 1960s.

Dorothy Garrity Ranaghan, A'64, is the author of Blind Spot: War and Christian Identity, which was updated and republished in a second edition (New City Press).

Mary Ann LaMantia, A'66, GE'68, is the author of Mary’s Story, a mother’s journey from an Appalachian coal mining town to New York City and back again in the 1900s.

Raymond Velez, A'68, completed his dissertation, titled Doctoral Dissertation: The use of writing techniques to develop higher order thinking skills.

1970s

Jonathan Klemens, A'70, P'76, GLPA'07, presented Eager to Serve: Young Major Washington, Venango, Fort LeBoeuf, and Logstown on the Ohio at the Depreciation Lands Museum in Allison Park, Pa., and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

Edward Anthony Rock Jr., B'71, has retired after 27 years as a U.S. Army officer and financial advisor.

Philip R. Costantini, B'72, has retired from Castriota Metals and Recycling.

Jerry Hutton, A'72, L'76, partner at the law firm of Edgar Snyder & Associates, has been selected to the 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list and Top 50 Attorneys in Pittsburgh.

Ralph Stalter, A'73, was invited to join the 2019 Jameson Fellowship, a group formed in 2013 to create a culture of greater cohesion across Las Vegas.

David S. Pollock, L'74, founding partner of Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz LLC, was again selected as a recipient of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Special Achievement Award for dedication and commitment as editor-in-chief of the Pennsylvania Family Lawyer, and was bestowed with a Special Recognition Award from the PBA Family Law Section for his longtime service as editor-in-chief. He was also included in the 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and the Top 50: 2019 Pittsburgh Super Lawyers list.

William Conboy, A'75, retired after 45 years in the auto and construction materials industries. Bill and his wife, Vallie, have moved to St. Augustine, Fla.

Gerald Prevost, M'77, received the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal in recognition of his 32-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency.

LaVerne VanDeWall, P'77, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Samaritan Medical Center (SMC) in Watertown, N.Y. He has been involved in several committees at SMC, such as medical management, antibiotic stewardship and graduate medical education, and received a doctorate of osteopathic medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dennis Liotta, A'78, L'83, partner at the law firm of Edgar Snyder & Associates, was selected to the 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list.

Carolyn Rowinski, P'78, works in clinical research/drug development at Pfizer in Collegeville, Pa.

Donna Hazel, P'79, was recently elected to a three-year term as a member of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Educational Foundation Board. She is currently a regional pharmacy recruiter with Rite Aid and is also director of the pharmacy technician programs.

1980s

Lawrence J. Casey, L'83, of Davis, Malm & D’Agostine, P.C. (Boston), was recognized for labor & employment: mainly plaintiffs representation by the 2019 Chambers USA guide of recommended law firms and lawyers.

David Finoli, A'83, is the author of The 50 Greatest Collegiate Games in Pittsburgh Sports History (Kent State University Press). He is the author of 26 books and winner of the 2018 Pittsburgh Magazine’s “Best of the ‘Burgh” local author award.

Henry M. Sneath, L'83, trial attorney with Houston Harbaugh, was elected to its four-member executive committee. The committee is responsible for the overall management of the firm. He is chair of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice and co-chair of the firm’s Litigation Practice.

Sheila Hawkins-Bucklew, B'84, founder and CEO of Hawkins Bucklew Jewelry Designs, announced the grand opening of Showroom 808, a collaborative marketplace for creative women entrepreneurs in Austin, Texas. She has also received the Mandela Washington Reciprocal Exchange Fellowship Award.

Rosemarie Piccioni, M'89, GM'91, has been named the first associate provost of online education at ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena.

1990s

John M. Hartzell, Jr, L'94, of Houston Harbaugh, was elected to its executive committee and will serve as treasurer. The committee is responsible for the overall management of the firm and officers are elected annually. He concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning and estate and trust administration.

Jennifer Papale Rignani, A'94, returned to Duquesne to lead the communications office of the School of Law.

Heidi Rai Stewart, L'94, of Houston Harbaugh, was elected as secretary of the firm’s executive committee. She concentrates her practice in the area of estate planning and estate and trust administration, and regularly represents clients in Orphans’ Court matters.

Melanie (Beish) Lenz, A'95, is the chief development officer for the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.

Brendan Monaghan, B'96, is the chief executive officer of Megaphone.

Kate Mathews, A'97, real estate attorney, has joined Stoel Rives LLP in its Seattle office. She focuses her practice on the development of multifamily, mixed-use and industrial real estate projects.

Matthew Ernest, M'98, recently published the article The Development of the Vigil for the Deceased in the Order of Christian Funerals in the liturgical journal of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome.

Dana Thompson Slizik, A'98, is currently an elected Allegheny County Democratic Committee member and has held the position of secretary for several years. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania Democratic States Committee and has worked on several political campaigns across Allegheny County.

In MEMORIAM

Jerry Clack, Ph.D., died April 15 at the age of 92. Clack, who held a bachelor’s degree in classics from Princeton and a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, was a faculty member in Duquesne’s classics department from 1968-2011, serving as its chair from 1973-75 and 1980-83. Clack authored four textbooks on Hellenistic poetry and epigrams. A lifelong opera lover, Clack served on the board of the Pittsburgh Festival Opera after retiring from Duquesne.

In her own words, “I was able to travel in the US and Europe for various symposia on art, music and literature, and I was able to enjoy the many cultural events in and around Pittsburgh.”

Sheila Hawkins-Bucklew, B’84, founder and CEO of Hawkins Bucklew Jewelry Designs, announced the grand opening of Showroom 808, a collaborative marketplace for creative women entrepreneurs in Austin, Texas. She has also received the Mandela Washington Reciprocal Exchange Fellowship Award.

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In MEMORIAM

Donato DeFelice passed away on Feb. 12 at age 88. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Pittsburgh and joined Duquesne’s mathematics faculty in 1954. DeFelice served multiple terms as department chair, won the Faculty Senate’s award for outstanding teaching in 1974 and received the President’s Faculty Award for Excellence in 1991. He retired in 2000 after 46 years, but remained a loyal fan of all of the Dukes’ athletic teams.

Michael Grandinetti, B’39, illusionist, performed sold-out shows with the Augusta (Ga.) Symphony Orchestra and the halftime show for the Big Ten Conference championship game in Chicago. His live touring show, Magic on the Cutting Edge, was named The Best Live Magic game in Chicago. His live touring Ten Conference championship Augustea (Ga.) Symphony Orchestra performed sold-out shows with the

David Long, GA’99, has accepted an offer to become the assistant head of school for academics at the Galloway School in Atlanta, Ga.

2000s

Abigail Linn, A’00, earned her National Board Certification in Teaching with an Emphasis in Literacy; Early and Middle Childhood Reading/Language Arts. She now joins the ranks of 3 percent of the nation’s teachers to hold a national board certification.

Laurel Kellow Williams, L’00, has moved to Albuquerque to work as an attorney advisor with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals. She is a retired major, U.S. Army Reserve, as well as a retired senior attorney with the state of Florida.

Susannah Hoang, B’01, GB’03, MS ISM’03, was promoted to director of Cross Border eCommerce and Trade at the Walmart corporate offices in Bentonville, Ark.

Justine Stefanelli, A’02, has settled in the Washington, D.C. area after living and working in the United Kingdom for 13 years. She continues to work as a senior research fellow on immigration and the rule of law, but shifting the focus to the situation in the U.S.

Amie Taggart Blaszczuk, P’03, recently won the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Armon Neel Senior Care Pharmacist Award.

The award recognizes “an innovator who applies their knowledge of geriatric pharmacotherapy on a daily basis to improve the lives of older adults.”

John P. Miller, L’03, has been promoted to partner at Dingess, Foster, Luciana, Davidson and Chleboski, LLP (DFL Legal). His practice focuses on complex trial and litigation matters involving construction, energy, product liability, insurance and commercial disputes.

Derek Wischmeyer, B’05, was named vice president, general counsel, of Everstream, a super-regional network service provider bringing fiber-based ethernet, internet and data center solutions to businesses throughout the Midwest. He will be responsible for assessing all legal matters for the company.

Michael Astorita, M’06, opened his own coffee roastery, Waypost Coffee Roasters.

Carrie Collins, GA’07, earned her Ph.D. in Leadership from University of the Cumberlands. She is currently the chief advancement officer at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Brittini Wright-Burley, A’07, was recently honored by The New Pittsburgh Courier at the Fab 40 Awards Reception for making “significant contributions to the community and business world.” She is the owner and executive director of Wright Childcare Solutions.

Eva H. Ahern, L’08, has been promoted to partner at Peacock Keller in Washington, Pa. She concentrates her practice in estate planning, estate administration and elder law.

Michele Orner, GE’08, was appointed superintendent of the Octorara Area School District in July 2018. She was also elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools.

Nicolas Sasso, M’09, has joined Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gelfsky as an associate in its Pittsburgh and Greensburg, Pa., offices. His practice will concentrate on estate planning and elder law.

Joseph R. Williams, L’09, partner at Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz LLC, was included in the 2019 Pennsylvania Rising Star list for the eighth year.

2010s

Imani Stutely, B’10, has started a new job in the director’s office at the Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, D.C.

Adriana Pasquini, B’11, is celebrating her 7th year as an entrepreneur. She opened Pasquini Insurance and Financial Services, Inc., located in Pittsburgh’s Shadyside neighborhood, in 2012.

David Watkins, GLPA’12, was recently selected by USA Track & Field to serve as a manager for Team USA at the 2019 IAAF World Track & Field Championships in Qatar. He is currently a major in the U.S. Army working at the Pentagon.

Catherine Calabrese, B’13, is a vocalist for Rule of Young. The band’s single, Surrender, was released on Spotify on Jan. 4.

Victor Essel, A’13, has been married to his wife since 2016. Since then, he has had two children and bought a second property.

Karen Rubican, GE’15, was awarded the Pennsylvania Secondary School Counselor of the Year by the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association. In 2018, she was recognized as a finalist in the Women in School Leader award category through the AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

Judy Ogans, GN’17, published Motivating Reading Compliance: Adaption of Monte Carlo Quizzes for Online Delivery in the Nurse Educator Journal in 2018.

George Pappas, L’17, was hired as the newest associate attorney at Rikard & Protopapas, LLC, in Columbia, S.C., after passing the South Carolina Bar Exam.

Serena Benages, A’18, started her career as a special education teacher.

Jane Langat, GE’18, is a student counselor at Kabarak University and is working towards the establishment of the Directorate of Counseling at the university.

Nathaniel Yost, A’18, has portrayed Carlson in Of Mice and Men through the production at the New Hazlett Theater. He was later picked up by the Pittsburgh CLO, and recently picked as an ensemble member and Beast understudy for St. Vincent Summer Theatre.

Weddings

Carolyn Rowinski, P’78, and Louis Di Paolo, P’72.

Frank R. Koziuchar, Jr., B’99, MBA’11, and Megan Kellogg.

Jessica Ebert Ellis, L’13, and Brendan Ellis.

Michelle Graf Bianco, HS’15, GHS’16, and John Bianco, B’15.

Michele Burns Grillone, M’15, and Rich Grillone, M’15.

Maeve Kallenbach Burton, GP’16, and Scott Burton, GP’16.

In MEMORIAM

Sister Donna Marie Beck, M’62, GM’66, GA’90, GA’95, passed away June 12 at the age of 87. A member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, she was one of the first students to receive certification in music therapy from Duquesne in 1976. A pioneering scholar in the field, she went on to direct Duquesne’s music therapy department and established programs at Marywood University, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and numerous senior care facilities. She retired from full-time service at Duquesne in 2008, but remained active in teaching and therapy practice. Sister Beck was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 2007.

www.duq.edu • 73
New Arrivals

Otto Norman Luca, son of Natalie Dipasquale Yates, A’02, and James Williams Yates.

Gia Marie, daughter of Dana (Trumpetta) Pavlekovsky, P’09, and Keith Pavlekovsky, P’09.

Ava Grace, daughter of Shereen (Graham) Fish, E’09, and Tim Fish, A’06.

Tyler Ryan Miller, son of Jessica Miller, B’09, and Ryan Miller, B’09.


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 Nov. 9, 2018 and June 9, 2019. If you have information about an alumnus or friend who is not listed, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 612.396.6209 or alumnioffice@duq.edu.

Santo F. Pontiere, B’39
Sal J. Greco, Ph.D., P’42
Dr. Vincent F. Lackner, A’44
Ray Daschbach, A’45
John W. Hughes, M.S.W., M’46
Helyne A. McMullen, E’47
Judie Gabriel O’Keefe, A’48
Jeremiah B. Sullivan, E’48, GE’55
Beatrice E. Maruca, M’49
Mary Ann Ray, A’49, GA’51
Howard E. Teresi, B’49
Rev. James P. Colligan, MM, A’50
Daniel R. Cronin, E’50
Sr. Beridine Cupen, A’50
John A. Kocur, A’50
Dr. Joseph S. Nemeth, E’50
Huberta D. O’Neill, A’50
Anthony D. Onorato, E’50
Joseph J. Pacelli, E’50
Raymond F. Scannell, Esq., A’50
James V. Baney, B’51
David P. Busch, P’51
James Cintani, B’51
Sr. M. Christoph Clair, OSF, E’51
Donald A. Dunbar, E’51, GE’60
Joseph L. Kocon, E’51, GE’55
Maureen S. Leekenby, E’51
Joanna R. Mulqueen, A’51
John R. Panchak, S’51
Andrew J. Parlanteri, Jr., B’51
Ruth S. Reiss, M’51
Diodato F. Villani, M’51
Irene M. Zemba, E’51
Col. Emma M. Doboy, Ret., N’52
Edward F. Dougherty, B’52
Eugene C. Planick, B’52
Patricia J. French, A’52
Rita A. Hohman, M’52
Genevieve T. Hornak, R.N., N’52
Richard J. Hornak, B’52
John Klacik, Jr., B’52
Joseph Richard Lewis, B’52
Eugene C. Pupilli, M’52, GM’56
Louise Vandenberg, E’52
Joan L. Ward, B’52
The Hon. John P. Flaherty, Jr., A’53
Sherwood Grey Lucke, E’53
John W. McEwen, Jr., B’53
Edward R. Palo, B’53
Gilbert A. Testa, A’53
Louis T. Tovay, B’53
Rose M. Celecki, P’54
Frank N. Happ, Jr., B’54
Elizabeth A. Janosko, E’54
Robert A. Linder, B’54
Stanley K. Rideout, A’54
Arthur J. Scoring, B’54
Frank J. Storch, B’54
Geraldine M. Turchan, E’54
The Hon. Anthony L. Colaiazzo, B’55
Robert M. Curtis, E’55
Paul A. Hecamczuk, A’55
Sr. Mary P. Hickey, RSM, GE’55
Zora Kurtz, E’55
Philip E. Leone, B’55
Lt. Col. Sara J. Williams, Ret., N’55
M. Patricia Barth, E’56
Mary A. Cipriani, S’56
Nancy Minogue Dean, E’56
Dorothy Ellen Kuhns, N’56
F. James Murphy, A’56
Philip J. Myers, B’56
Robert J. Schmalzried, A’56
Ralph A. Ciancio, Ph.D., A’57
Sr. Wilma Eibeck, OSF, E’57
Raymond G. Kerston, Sr., B’57
Richard S. Costkas, B’57
Joseph R. Softes, B’57
Sr. M. Georgine Bires, VSC, E’58, GE’71
Richard M. Fitzgerald, P’58
Sr. M. Berenice Petrasaukas, E’58, GE’66
Mary L. Straw, A’58
Edward J. Zivic, M.D., S’58
Sr. M. Kenneth Hrbal, VSC, E’59
Robert Melinyk, P’59
Patricia A. Pleskonko, N’59
Stanley J. Reisman, Esq., L’59
M. Michael Stroyer, E’59, GE’68
Robert J. Aiello, A’60
Donald J. Foley, B’60
Sr. M. Regina Joscak, VSC, E’60
Mary Ann Moeller, GM’60
William A. O’Neill, B’60
Sr. Antonia Brendan Cvetan, E’61
Peggy Ann Gwynn, A’61
Richard W. Kelly, Esq., L’61
Hugo Martin, GE’61
John G. Musial, A’61
John R. Reilly, B’61
John C. Soffa, B’61, GM’73
William A. Thomas, B’61
James J. Casey, B’62
Michael G. Christoff, GE’62
Frank J. Ligons, M’62
G. Murray Mintz, A’62
Paul J. Richard, A’62
Susana R. Wilczek, E’62
Dr. Clifford A. Baylis, Jr., E’63, GE’65
Eugene L. Centorcelli, E’63
Eleanor M. Cunningham, GE’63
Joseph J. Spisak, S’63
Thomas A. Squiller, M’63, GM’65
Margaret A. Stehney, E’63, GE’65
William F. Woods, GE’63
Andrew S. Babychak, A’64
Jay M. Cohen, E’64
Judit L. Fichter, GE’64
Sr. Kathleen Marie Mortell, GE’64
John R. Sabo, B’64
Sr. Mairead M. Scanlon, E’64
Robert M. Sowa, E’64, GE’66
William L. Trux, GE’64
Victor W. Zuraw, GE’64
Sr. Marie R. Brown, RSM, N’65
Sr. M. John Goles, E’65
Sr. Francis Jacko, OSF, GE’65
Daniel J. McBride, A’65, GE’73
Rosemary A. Sabat, A’65, GA’68, GE’89
Stephan D. Stugan, B’65
George T. Dobrinick, B’66
Robert J. Doody, A’66, GE’69
Mary L. Held, N’66
Joseph Linkowski, B’66, GB’71
John J. Olek, B’66
Michael R. Wasilko, M’66, GM’69
Margaret Z. Davis, E’67, GE’84
William J. Janawitz, B’67
Catherine M. Kimmel, S’67
Sr. Doris Kresslein, SSND, GE’67
Thomas C. Schneider, Jr., GA’67
Allan V. Guy, B’68
John P. Kolcun, S’68
Sr. Marie D. Shields, GM’68
Harvey R. Bower, B’69
Dr. Larry J. Coyne, GE’69
James R. Farley, Esq., L’69
Elaine M. Natowich, E’69, GE’76
Joseph M. Shaffer, Sr., B’69
Sr. Rosemarie Barrett, RSM, GE’70
Sr. Clara Bauman, OP, GE’70
Linda K. Dick, N’70
Daniel J. Hagan, E’70
Catherine Ann Korobey, E’70
Lorraine McCabe, Esq., L’70
Eric Vajentic, Sr., B’70
Eleanor C. Buzkij, A’71
Carole H. Hill, E’71
Dr. Allan W. Larsen, GA’71
John S. Sherry, Esq., L’71
Thomas W. Brown, Esq., L’72
Richard J. Cozza, GE’72
George J. Gall, GB’72
Jeff Page, B’72
Nellie Politis, GE’72

In Memoriam

Aristides (Aris) Sideropoulos, Ph.D., died March 24 at the age of 83. A native of Greece, Sideropoulos came to the United States at 19 years old and earned three degrees. He taught microbiology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania before joining the Duquesne faculty in 1977. Sideropoulos earned the rank of full professor and retired from Duquesne in 1998.

Omar Steward, Ph.D., passed away on Dec. 17, 2018 at age 86. After working as a research chemist for Dow Corning, he joined Duquesne’s chemistry faculty in 1964. He retired as a professor emeritus in 2005, but continued to mentor students and conduct research in crystallography. The holder of four patents, Steward was a National Science Foundation Fellow at the University of Leicester and held degrees from the University of Delaware and Penn State.
Duquesne University Magazine includes a selection of personal and professional updates submitted by alumni. Magazine staff members reserve the right to edit submissions for content, accuracy and length. Inclusion of submissions in the magazine does not indicate Duquesne University endorsement of alumni activities and/or achievements.

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Sierra Intrieri, N’16

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Omar W. Steward, Ph.D.
Michael J. Tobin
Christina Uber
Amadeo Viselli
Patrick Zorich, Jr.

Duquesne University researchers are moving closer to producing pain nanomedicine.

The Class of 2023 is OFFICIALLY on campus! #Duq2023

A picture perfect Bluff. #WorldPhotographyDay
Sept. 24, 2019
Westmoreland County Law Alumni Reception
5-7 p.m.
J.Corks, 25 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg
Details: duq.edu/law/Westmoreland

Oct. 2019
Hat/Scarf Collection for the Red Door Program
Duquesne University alumni and friends are invited to be part of this service project by bringing handmade scarves, hats and gloves to be included in a donation from all members of the University community. Donations can be dropped off during Homecoming in the rear of the Chapel or at the Saturday evening Dueling Pianos event. Contact the alumni office at alumnionline@duq.edu to drop off items at another time.

Oct. 4, 2019
67th Annual Law Alumni Reunion Dinner
Cocktails: 5 p.m.; Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Power Center-Dougherty Ballroom
Details: www.duq.edu/law/reuniondinner2019

Oct. 5, 2019
Cleveland Chapter Fall Service Event
Malachi House
Join Cleveland-area alumni, families and friends for a day of service at Malachi House. Lunch will be provided following the service opportunity.
Contact: alumnionline@duq.edu or 412.396.6209
Details: www.myduquesne.duq.edu

Oct. 8, 2019
Pittsburgh Alumni Happy Hour
5-7 p.m.
Industry Public House, Robinson
Join fellow Duquesne alumni for a fun night! We’ll bring the great company and conversations—drinks and food are on you!
Contact: alumnionline@duq.edu or 412.396.6209
Details: www.myduquesne.duq.edu

Oct. 18, 2019
Guns in America: A Primer on the Science and Law of Firearms
1 p.m.
Africa Room, Duquesne Union
As part of the Wecht Institute’s Forensic Fridays CLE and professional education series, this afternoon seminar offers a comprehensive understanding of how firearms work and the laws governing their sale and use.
Contact: Trudi Mariani at wechtinstitute@duq.edu or duq.edu/forensics

Oct. 31, 2019
Society for Phenomenology & Existential Philosophy Conference
Pittsburgh Marriott City Center
Hosted by the Duquesne University Department of Philosophy.
Contact: Jeff McCurry at mccurryj@duq.edu

Nov. 6, 2019
Networking Happy Hour
5-7 p.m.
Red Ring Bar & Grille
Meet, mingle and network with fellow alumni and junior, senior and graduate students. This is a great opportunity for students to create connections for their future careers and for alumni to share their field-specific knowledge and experiences.
Contact: alumnionline@duq.edu or 412.396.6209
Details: www.myduquesne.duq.edu

Nov. 11, 2019
5th Annual Kristallnacht Commemorative Ceremony
4 p.m.
Location: TBD
Contact: Dr. Marie Baird at 412.396.5149 or bairdm@duq.edu

Dec. 5, 2019
1911 Society Holiday Reception
5-7 p.m.
Shepperson Suite
Open to Duquesne Law Alumni Association members and 1911 Society Fellows.
Details: www.duq.edu/law/1911SocietyReception

Dec. 6, 2019
Ethics and Eats
8:30 a.m.
Africa Room, Duquesne Union
This seminar series helps attorneys meet their annual ethics CLE requirements in one convenient breakfast session.
Contact: Trudi Mariani at wechtinstitute@duq.edu
Details: duq.edu/forensics

Book of Life
Each year, the Church dedicates the month of November to the remembrance of our beloved who have passed on. Deceased members of the Duquesne University community including alumni, students, faculty, staff, and their family and friends, will be remembered at the annual University Thanksgiving liturgy held on Thursday, Nov. 21, at noon in the University Chapel. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones included in our Book of Life, please provide their names online at www.myduquesne.duq.edu/bookoflife19 by Oct. 30. The full list also will be available online Nov. 1 by visiting www.myduquesne.duq.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14, 2019</td>
<td>Wreaths Across America</td>
<td>Noon National Cemetery of the Alleghenies Join fellow members of the Duquesne community in honoring veterans by placing wreaths—provided by community donors—on the graves of all veterans. Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<td>Dec. 14, 2019</td>
<td>Breakfast with Santa</td>
<td>Union Ballroom This morning of fun includes breakfast, crafts, games and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Alumnus will be able to enter the lottery from Sept. 18-26. Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<td>Jan. 2020</td>
<td>23rd Alumni &amp; Student Appreciation Night at the Men's Basketball Game</td>
<td>A pre-game reception with food and drinks will be offered. Contact: Deborah Durica (<a href="mailto:durica@duq.edu">durica@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.5551) or Maria Fischer (<a href="mailto:fischer@duq.edu">fischer@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.5637)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24, 2020</td>
<td>Cleveland Chapter Dinner and a Show</td>
<td>Playhouse Square Join Cleveland-area alumni, families and friends for dinner and a showing of Jersey Boys in Playhouse Square. Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 25, 2020</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Alumni Fat Tuesday Happy Hour</td>
<td>5-7 p.m. Church Brew Works Join fellow Duquesne alumni for a fun night! We’ll bring the great company and conversations—drinks and food are on you! Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25, 2020</td>
<td>Law Alumni Spring Reception/ PILA Live Auction</td>
<td>5-8 p.m. Union Ballroom</td>
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<td>April 1, 2020</td>
<td>Networking Happy Hour</td>
<td>5-7 p.m. Red Ring Bar &amp; Grille Meet, mingle and network with fellow alumni and junior, senior and graduate students. This is a great opportunity for students to create connections for their future careers and for alumni to share their field-specific knowledge and experiences. Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2020</td>
<td>Alumni Wine School with Fr. Sawicki</td>
<td>Duquesne Union Ballroom Tickets are limited to 6 per purchaser. Registration will open March 18 at noon. Cost: TBD Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 2020</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Alumni Happy Hour</td>
<td>5-7 p.m. The Bier Garten at Hotel Monaco Join fellow Duquesne alumni for a fun night! We’ll bring the great company and conversations—drinks and food are on you! Contact: <a href="mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu">alumnionline@duq.edu</a> or 412.396.6209 Details: <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu">www.myduquesne.duq.edu</a></td>
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<td>June 20, 2020</td>
<td>Dukes From the Last Decade</td>
<td>8-10 p.m. Energy Innovation Center, Pittsburgh The Young Alumni Council will annually seek and accept nominations for the newly established Dukes from the Last Decade Awards. The selection is made from nominees who are DU graduates from the last 10 years who exemplify the mission of the University in their daily lives. The selected award recipients will be formally recognized at a reception on June 20, 2020 as the inaugural class of Dukes from the Last Decade. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu/lastdecade">www.myduquesne.duq.edu/lastdecade</a>.</td>
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<td>June 20, 2020</td>
<td>ACS Symposium</td>
<td>Laura Falk Foyer &amp; Lecture Hall Chemistry and biochemistry students from surrounding universities will present their research and three speakers will present a wide variety of topics from environmentally friendly chemistry to atypical career paths available to science majors. Contact: Brynn Roman at <a href="mailto:romanb@duq.edu">romanb@duq.edu</a> Details: duq.edu/ACS-Symposium</td>
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**Alumni Book Club**

We've created a virtual book club for Duquesne alumni covering professional development and personal growth topics related to careers and leadership. The book club connects through a private forum where alumni can discuss the current book and network. Joining the book club is free for alumni—you just have to get a copy of the book. The group reads a book every two months, so you'll have plenty of time for each book. To join, visit www.pbc.guru/duquesne/.
Stay connected with your alma mater!

If you aren’t receiving news and event invites from the Alumni Association in your inbox, we may not have a valid email address on file for you.

By updating your address, you’ll receive:

• The monthly alumni e-newsletter, Bulletin from the Bluff
• Invitations to participate in events in your area
• Access to online programming available to all alumni regardless of location

Stay connected with the University and your classmates by updating your email address at duq.edu/alumniupdate or by emailing the Office of Alumni Engagement at alumnioline@duq.edu.

You can also add a Class Note or updated employment information. We look forward to connecting with you!