Reflections from the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Those who do not labor in the higher education vineyard often criticize those of us who do for our reluctance to prune back the vines—that is, to discontinue programs that no longer serve the needs of our institutions as they once did. Enrollments may have dropped, they point out, key faculty members may have retired or accepted positions elsewhere, employment opportunities for graduates may have declined ... yet we in the academy fail to respond as other institutions would by facing up to these realities squarely and moving on.

In the past two years, Duquesne has made a number of decisions that run counter to this stereotype. The School of Leadership and Professional Advancement held its last commencement ceremony in early August; the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy has admitted its final cohort of students; and several tracks or majors have been suspended or closed altogether. In each case, I know, some disagreed either with the decisions that were made or with the way that they were arrived at. But in the final analysis, the case was compelling that the University’s resources could be put to better use elsewhere.

Now, as we begin a new academic year, our focus needs to shift to the more exciting challenge of developing new academic initiatives—initiatives that will attract today’s students, draw on the talents of our current faculty and staff, and equip students to excel in a world that desperately needs principled leaders. The Strategic Plan for Academic Affairs that I released several weeks ago delineates broad areas in which

The deadline for submission to the spring issue of Academic Affairs in Review is February 20, 2016. All items should be submitted via email to Renee Stockey at stockeyr@duq.edu.
the deans and associate provosts see the greatest potential for growth in alignment with the University’s mission. But we will ultimately rely on the disciplinary expertise of faculty members, channeled through their departments and schools, to advance specific proposals for consideration.

This process has already begun. The Mary Pappert School of Music is launching a B.A. in Music to complement the more specialized B. Mus. and B.Sc. degrees that it has offered for decades. The School of Nursing is in discussions with the Center for Healthcare Ethics about the viability of a Ph.D. in Nursing Ethics. The Palumbo-Donahue School of Business is currently revising proposals for two new master’s degrees. And the Rangos School of Health Sciences anticipates accepting students soon into its new online Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree.

In the coming months, I shall be working with our deans and associate provosts — and of course with their respective staffs — to develop additional promising proposals and move them through a careful review process towards potential implementation. Such new initiatives often require “seed” funding, of course, and we may therefore have to limit how many we take on in a given year. But the academic strength of a university — much like the resilience of one’s retirement savings account — depends heavily on the diversity of its portfolio of programs, and now is the time to consider what to add to our already rich array of offerings.

I took to the job like a duck to water. I was interested in everything. I wanted to learn everything. I was fortunate to work in an institution which took its commitment to being a part of the national conversation in higher education seriously and which invested in the development of its people. I was appointed to every committee imaginable, from reviewing contracts and bids for bookstore and food service vendors to admission, financial aid and retention. I read everything that my friends were reading who were getting doctorates in higher education administration, and I spent hours talking with generous colleagues who were faculty, department chairs, associate deans and deans. Basically every day for more than the first decade of my professional life in higher education administration was a seminar on the opportunities and challenges facing higher education.

As I’m coming up on 30 years of that employment date in 1986, I find that many of the issues that were urgent and relevant for us then in that place and time are still the issues that compel our attention, time and energy here at Duquesne—at least from my limited vantage point in Old Main Room 314. The central issue, bar none, is always how the institution should respond to the needs of students in order to offer a meaningful education. So many other issues follow that and many of them seem to boil down to money. How do we attract the right students with the right academic profile at the right cost so that we can continue to support programs of quality, distinctiveness and lasting value?

I don’t have the answers to all of that, but I offer these observations. My uncle went to college during the Great Depression, as did two of my aunts. I grew up hearing the stories of how my grandmother sold farm eggs and milk to help pay my uncle’s tuition and how he often hitchhiked to get to school. I attended that college as an undergraduate and lived in what would have been palatial digs compared to what the residence halls were like in his day. Despite the stories of adversity, that university has continued to exist, to continuously change and improve to get better, and to love and serve students.

Every generation in higher education has its challenges. Every day at Duquesne, I see people who believe in our mission, who want to help students get a good education, and who want to see the University continue in its great tradition of loving and serving students. I feel blessed to be a part of this good and important work with you.

Reflections from the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

DR. ALEXANDRA GREGORY

In January 1986, I assumed my first administrative position in higher education. I was really glad to have a job in higher education, particularly since I had gotten my doctorate in choral conducting and those kinds of positions in colleges and universities were very scarce that year (actually they seem to be scarce every year).
McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

The College continues to be recognized with a number of new initiatives and successes. A first for the University—two philosophy graduate students, Martin Krahn and Paul Zipfel, have been selected as Fulbright recipients from the same department. These two are joined by four other graduate philosophy students receiving prestigious awards for study abroad. Krahn received a Fulbright supporting the study of the relationship between metaphysics and physics in Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel’s philosophy of nature at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern in Germany from mid-September to mid-July 2016. He will study the fabric of nature vs. nurture in Hegel’s thinking. Zipfel’s Fulbright supports the study of the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl, specifically the phenomenology of intersubjectivity. He will study at the Husserl Archives at the University of Cologne from September through August 2016.

Alessio Rotundo, from the philosophy department, is one of only 15 Chateaubriand Fellows selected by the French government. He will study at the Husserl Archives in Paris, a research hub of the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique. He will critically evaluate Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s reflections on biological nature and the place of human beings within nature.

Erin Rentschler, program manager for the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and a doctoral student in the English department, received the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award for 2015 by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. Rentschler, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in English, was one of ten winners chosen from a nationwide pool of more than 270 nominees.

In response to the closure of the School of Leadership, the College is developing its first completely online Adult Learners program, an M.A. in Corporate Communications, to begin in the fall of 2016. Moreover, it will also take on the supervision and development of the prior M.S. in Leadership program.
In conjunction with the First Year Learning Communities, the College has launched a Liberal Arts in Action program. In its first year as a pilot, it hosted two sections of a one-credit class topped by a meeting with all of the students with 12 Duquesne alumni to talk about job interviews and internships. Next year, the program will expand to five sections of the class.

The Genesius Theater formally was opened on August 25. The 10,500-square-foot, black-box style theater features includes seating for up to 130, portable risers, a rehearsal hall, dressing rooms, building shops, costume storage, mechanical/electrical rooms, offices and a green room. The first theatrical performance, Arthur Miller’s Death of a Salesman, ran for 12 performances. In connection with the opening, Mr. John Lane and several other faculty are drawing up plans for an expansion of the Theater Arts Major and a possible interdisciplinary concentration. The play will be the theme of the common reading that the College sponsors each year for all of the First Year Learning Communities.

The past year included College-sponsored art exhibits. The History department’s Public History program brought to campus an art exhibit in conjunction with the State Correctional Institute of Pittsburgh and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. The exhibit, titled Art Beyond Bars, contained about 20 pieces of artwork made by inmates using different media—poetry, drawings and sculptures. It was exhibited in the Les Idées Gallery. The Christian–Muslim Dialogue Committee sponsored an exhibition of Islamic art in the Les Idées Gallery featuring Pittsburgh-based artists. This exhibit supported the Committee’s mission to provide a platform for multiple perspectives between Christians and Muslims and to promote healthy and peaceful relationships. In conjunction with the College, the Gumberg Library hosted an art exhibition that commemorated the 2014 centenary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon. The exhibition, titled Moving Targets, pieced together the fragmented stories and forced migrations of both pigeons and Jewish people. The exhibition corresponded to the theme of the common text selected for the College learning communities.

The College held its second Intensive Summer Writing Camp for high school students on campus during the summer, run under the leadership of the English Department. This is an initiative that is now part of the College’s commitment to online learning opportunities.

McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts acknowledges some of the service and outreach initiatives. Following a project going back several years, two Journalism and Multi Media Arts students did work as pro–bono media consultants at the September 11 Families Association and at the Tribute Center, a Visitors’ Center and museum at Ground Zero in Manhattan.

The department of Modern Language and Literatures hosted an on campus event, Reading to Play and Playing to Read, in collaboration with their Spanish speaking immersion project with the Beechwood Elementary school program at Casa San José in Beechview. This was funded in part by a Wimmer Family Foundation Grant in support of the faculty who teach in the program. It will be continued this year.

For the first time, the Duquesne Christian–Muslim Dialogue Committee hosted the Pittsburgh area’s Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies undergraduate research symposium. The Consortium is now extended throughout the University and each year sponsors a series of talks and events on the subject of Christian–Muslims relations.

The Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research, the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center, the Center for African Studies, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Sociology department hosted a daylong set of events that included a panel discussion, a keynote address, a Rice on the Road workshop and a moderated panel. The panel moderator was Lenny McAllister, producer of the public affairs show, NightTalk: Get to the Point, on PCNC-TV. Panelists included Wilkinsburg Mayor John Whompson.

The Rev. Henry J. McAnulty, C.S.Sp., the charismatic, longest-serving president in the history of Duquesne University (1959–1980), was commemorated by several events hosted in his name during the academic year that would have marked his 100th birthday (April 2015). An October panel included Rev. Sean M. Hogan, C.S.Sp., executive vice president for student life; Dr. Constance Ramirez, former dean of the College; alumni Rita and Patrick Joyce; and McAnulty’s niece, Jane King.

Rev. Dan Walsh worked with the College to establish a campus minister, the recently hired Giovan Cuchapin, as a direct liaison with the College. He is also accompanied by Rev. Vince Stegman in this role. They now share an office that is housed in College Hall.

Numerous faculty at the College have been recognized
with grants and awards. Dr. Norman Conti, associate professor of Sociology, received $30,000 from Goodwill Industries to test the fidelity of an innovative service delivery model. Dr. Darlene Weaver and Dr. Elizabeth Cochran, both associate professors of Theology, received $20,000 from the Lilly Endowment via the Wabash Center for the research project, Can Virtue Be Learned? An Exploration of Student Learning Experiences Using Select Pedagogies and Their Implications for Fostering Altruism, Compassion and Solidarity as Learning Outcomes in Undergraduate Ethics Courses. Dr. Anna Haensch, assistant professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, received $2,981 through a Faculty Development Fund award for A Study of Sums of Triangular Numbers. Dr. Rachael Miller Neilan, assistant professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, received $9,830 through a Faculty Development Fund award for A Mathematical Model for Feral Cat Colonies in Pittsburgh and Analysis of Optimal Cost–Effective TNR Policies. Dr. Jotham Parsons, associate professor of History, received $2,384 through a Faculty Development Fund award for his project Money, Society and Salvation in the Century of Saints. Dr. Derek Hook has been awarded a 2015 Rev. Alphons Loogman, C.S.Sp., Faculty Research Grant of $5,000. His research will lead to a biographic account of the earliest years of Robert Sobukwe, one of South Africa’s greatest Africanist intellectuals and opponent of the apartheid regime. Rev. Peter I. Osuji, C.S.Sp., assistant professor of Health Care Ethics, has been awarded the 2015 Rev. Alphons Loogman, C.S.Sp., Faculty Research Grant of $5,000. He will study Informed Refusal of Treatment in African (Igbo) Traditional Medicine in Imo State, Nigeria. His previous research found that medical decisions in African cultures are made by the community, including the patient, the family, kindred elder and the African traditional medicine doctor. Dr. Patrick Juola, professor of Computer Science, was granted $49,960 in Bridge Funding, from Duquesne’s Office of the Provost, for his project Authorship Attribution Technology and Its Application. Dr. Juola also received $25,000 from the Innovation Works Technology Commercialization Consortium, for his project Direct Assessment of Authorial Likelihood Using Bayes’ Theorem and Monte Carlo Simulation. Dr. Clifford Bob, Department of Political Science, received $90,000 from the Transatlantic Academy in the form of a fellowship for research. Drs. Darlene Weaver and Maureen O’Brien, from the Department of Theology, received $3,000 from the Lilly Fellows Program, for their project Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability: Explorations at a Spiritan Catholic University. Dr. Lili Shashaani received, for her Diversity in Computational Technology project, a $30,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation to continue her project’s work with high school students from groups that are underrepresented in computational technology fields. Additionally, the College received $50,000, from the Phillip H. and Betty L. Wimmer Family Foundation for a Faculty Enrichment Program in Liberal Arts.

Rangos School of Health Sciences

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the Rangos School of Health Sciences (RSHS). In recognition of this milestone, RSHS held the Anna L. Rangos Rizakus Student Symposium focusing on Professional Behavior and Ethics, Academic Integrity, and Social/Cultural Diversity on October 16, 2015, for students in the professional phase of their programs. That evening, alumni, faculty, staff and friends celebrated this milestone with dinner, recognition of a Distinguished Alumnus from each of the programs, and a keynote speech from Alexander Rangos, son of RSHS’s benefactor, Mr. John G. Rangos, Sr.

The academic programs in RSHS received numerous accolades and recognitions in 2015. The Physician Assistant Studies program was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as number 25 among physician assistant programs for 2016 and is tied with Yale University as 12th in the country, as reported in the Journal of Physician Assistant Education. U.S. News & World Report also ranked Duquesne’s Speech–Language Pathology program 62nd out of 246 accredited programs nationwide, Occupational Therapy 36th out of approximately 200 programs and Physical Therapy 63rd out of 228 programs. The Department of Occupational Therapy received ACOTE accreditation approval to initiate an entry–level OTD program beginning fall 2016. Duquesne University will be the first school in Pittsburgh to offer an entry–level occupational therapy doctorate degree, and Occupational Therapy will be the first program within RSHS to deliver advanced–level doctoral training via an online format.

Several new partnerships were established this past year. Through Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese...
Medicine and Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, students come to Duquesne University to complete a one-year Master of Rehabilitation Science degree. The first cohort of 12 students (four in Occupational Therapy and eight in Physical Therapy) graduated in May, and the next group of 14 students (five in Occupational Therapy and nine in Physical Therapy) arrived in August to begin their studies. A new exchange program with Athlone Institute of Technology in Ireland welcomed two athletic training students to RSHS this year to study and participate in clinical education alongside our fourth year students. Locally, the Occupational Therapy department established a Practice Scholar Site with Blind Vision Rehabilitation Services.

The faculty of RSHS continue to be leaders in their fields. Dr. RobRoy Martin, professor of Physical Therapy, was honored as the 2015 Richard W. Bowling – Richard E. Erhard Orthopaedic Clinical Practice Award recipient by the American Physical Therapy Association’s orthopaedic section. Drs. Regina Harbourne and Gregory Marchetti, both from the Department of Physical Therapy, and Drs. Heather Rusiewicz and Sarah Wallace, both from the Department of Speech–Language Pathology, received grant funding to support research projects. Dr. Harbourne was awarded a $3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Science to support a four-year, multi-site project titled Effectiveness of a Vestibular Ocular Motor Screening (VOMS) Tool for Identifying Mild TBI and Tracking Recovery in Military Personnel. Dr. Rusiewicz received a $30,000 grant from the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America for a research study titled Examining the Impact of Gestures in the Treatment of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Last, Dr. Wallace received an $8,283 Faculty Development Award for a research study titled “Computerized Cognitive Assessment in Traumatic Brain Injury.”

RSHS students are also deserving of recognition for their noteworthy accomplishments. Students in the Athletic Training and Occupational Therapy programs achieved a 100% pass rate on their respective national certification exams this past year while students in Physician Assistant Studies achieved a 95% pass rate and Physical Therapy students had a 93% pass rate. Under the supervision of Speech–Language Pathology faculty, 29 first-year graduate students and 24 second-year graduate students impacted the greater Pittsburgh community by providing 2,500+ and 10,500+ hours, respectively, of evaluation and treatment through community-based work. Three presentations involving five undergraduate Athletic Training students were presented at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium, while an additional three presentations involving six undergraduate students were presented at state and regional athletic training conferences.

The importance of supporting RSHS students through scholarship funds continues to be recognized. Through the ongoing generosity of Mr. John G. Rangos, Sr., three students received the Rangos Scholar Award, an award based on financial need and academic accomplishments, and ten additional students will receive the award this upcoming year. Dr. Stephen Cenedella, a preceptor for the Physician Assistant Studies students, also established a scholarship for fifth year students to be used to offset travel expenses associated with clinical training.

The Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

During the past year, the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences received $1.2 million in new grant funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Allegheny Foundation and the Heinz Endowments. Faculty members published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, including publications in the prestigious journals Nature and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

In 2014, three undergraduate students in the Bayer School received the honor of being named Goldwater Scholars. In spring 2015, three other students received prestigious awards, fellowships and scholarships. The Bayer School students also received awards related to research presented as part of the Duquesne University Graduate and Undergraduate Research Symposia. National winners include an F31 Kirschstein National Research Service Award from The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health that was awarded to a
doctoral student in the Department of Biological Sciences. An undergraduate environmental science major in the Center for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), who is exploring the remediation of arsenic in produced water from shale gas wells, has become Duquesne’s first undergraduate to receive a prestigious $50,000 fellowship from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the form of an EPA Greater Research Opportunities Undergraduate Fellowship. This fellowship program supports only 34 students nationwide in new environmental research initiatives in physical, biological, health, social sciences and engineering. An undergraduate student researching pain and depression has been selected from applicants across the state as Duquesne’s first Clarkston Scholar. The scholarship, in only its fourth year, is presented by Clarkston Consulting to a highly motivated sophomore who excels in the classroom, has a focused interest and passion for life sciences and plans to become a life-science professional. In addition to a $10,000 scholarship, the awardee receives personal mentoring in life sciences by Clarkston Consulting and participates in events sponsored by PA Bio, the statewide trade association for life sciences, over the next two years. The Clarkston Scholar previously was awarded to students at the University of Pennsylvania and Lehigh University. Bayer School graduate students participated in the Graduate Student Research Symposium held on Nov. 7, 2014. In total, 65 Duquesne students participated in the symposium, of which 25 were BSNES students. Bayer School undergraduate students participated in the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium on April 9, 2015. In total, 150 Duquesne undergraduate students participated in the symposium, of which 48 were BSNES students.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry’s American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Members Organization has again received the outstanding student chapter award. The chapter also received the same award in 2012, 2013 and again in 2014.

Duquesne University hosted the 81st annual Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) Regional Competition on Feb. 7, 2015. More than 800 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students in grades 7–12 from Allegheny and Westmoreland counties attended the event. The 81st meeting marks the second time that the regional PJAS competition took place at Duquesne, rather than an area high school. The intent of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences was to establish Duquesne as the long-term partner with PJAS and the regional community. Participating students selected a project topic from one of the following scientific categories: behavioral psychology, biology, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space, ecology, mathematics, microbiology, physics and zoology. Then, they research background information about the topic, formulate a hypothesis, develop an experiment, collect data, analyze data and form a conclusion. This becomes the basis of the oral presentation they presented at the competition.

College students from Duquesne and nearby institutions without top-level research labs have spent their summers on campus, working in the University’s science labs under faculty guidance in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (URP). For the
18th Summer URP, the number of students involved reached a new high of 75, compared to more typical years with 45 to 50 students. These experiences are valued at more than $300,000 and represent a “triple win” for individual students, who receive stipends for working in a research lab, knowledge from completing labor-intensive research projects and preparation to enhance their possibilities for future employment. A key to growing the program has been external funding from a variety of financial sources—the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health and Duquesne—to support this year’s contingent of potential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) workers. New this year is Duquesne’s Pain Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE), an effort tied to the University’s Chronic Pain Research Consortium, a cross-disciplinary collaboration of researchers confronting different aspects related to the treatment of chronic pain. The summer URP culminated with podium and over 100 poster presentations by the students, who are rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. Dr. Charles Kahle II, vice president of research and development, coatings and chief technology officer at PPG Industries, delivered the keynote address at the symposium.

The Bayer School and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry also sent 25 undergraduate students to present their research at the American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition in Denver, Colorado in spring 2015. Two undergraduate students won Speak Simply Awards for their ability to describe their work to a general audience, and another won an award from the Computers in Chemistry Division for his poster presentation. This is the third year in a row that multiple Chemistry and Biochemistry Department undergraduate students have taken home awards from the ACS national meeting.

In the Department of Physics, an undergraduate student was offered admission into the highly competitive REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) program at the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network, and two other undergraduate Physics majors received internships. One at Fermilab, which is described on this facility’s website as “America’s premier particle physics laboratory where scientists from around the world perform pioneering research, operate world-leading particle accelerators and experiments, and develop technologies for science in support of U.S. industry.” The other internship is at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab), which is one of 17 national laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The lab’s primary mission is to conduct basic research of the atom’s nucleus using the lab’s unique particle accelerator, known as the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF). Jefferson Lab also conducts a variety of research using its Free-Electron Laser, which is based on the same electron-accelerating technology used in CEBAF.

The Forensic Science and Law Program participated in the fifth Annual Pennsylvania Forensic Science Student Research Exchange hosted by West Chester University, which is an event for all of the state’s accredited forensic programs. More than 100 faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from Arcadia University, Cedar Crest College and Pennsylvania State University participated in the event and numerous Duquesne students gave oral or poster presentations.

In September 2014 the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of
Forensic Science and Law became part of the Bayer School. The symposium *The Forensics of Fracking: The Science and Law of Hydraulic Gas Extraction* provided a look at environmental, toxicological, legal and public policy issues surrounding fracking. This event was hosted by the Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law, and the Center for Environmental Research and Education (CERE). The Wecht Institute also hosted Forensic Friday events that included, *Social Media and the Courts Privacy, Discovery, Admissibility and the Role of Computer Forensics, Is Forensics Getting Fixed? The State of the Profession Five Years After the NAS Report and Sexual Assault on Campus Investigation, Prosecution and the Role of Forensic Nursing.* Additionally, the Wecht Institute is now streaming these events live, and is also archiving the materials for on demand viewing for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry continued its participation in the American Chemical Society’s Project SEED by providing summer research opportunities to financially disadvantaged high school students. Project SEED was established in 1968 to help economically disadvantaged high school students expand their education and career outlook. This summer research program opens new doors for these students so that they can experience what it’s like to be a chemist. American Chemical Society Project SEED students entering their junior or senior year in high school are given a chance to work alongside scientist-mentors on research projects in academic laboratories, wherein they can discover new career paths as they approach critical turning points in their lives. Students received a fellowship award for their efforts in the summer, and a chance to receive a SEED college scholarship. This year’s Project SEED program was highlighted by a visit from the Pennsylvania State Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera. Rivera attended a session wherein Project SEED students presented their research, which was followed by a session where the students met as a group with Secretary Rivera.

The Forensic Science and Law Program hosted the 12th Annual Forensic Science and Law Workshop, wherein high school students attended the four day workshop on the Duquesne University campus. Workshop topics included evidence collection, fingerprints, arson investigation, thin layer chromatography (TLC), toxicology, hair and fiber analysis, a review of famous cases, body decomposition, firearms and tool marks, eyewitness identification, DNA fingerprinting, mock crime scene, handwriting analysis and blood spatter. The workshop culminates with the students solving a crime using all of the learned techniques.

Biological Sciences continued its fifth year of participation in the SIGMA Science Mentorship Initiative, a student-initiated program that brings African-American high school students to Duquesne to participate in weekend laboratory workshops and scientific career discussions in the biological sciences. SIGMA is another link in a continuum of diversity initiatives in the Bayer School that includes Project SEED, the Bayer Scholars’ Program and the Bayer School Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

The University became the official home to a one-of-a-kind Foucault pendulum after the device was dedicated in the lounge of Libermann Hall on March 11. The creative concept, plans, design and production of the pendulum were part of a Physics major’s Honors College Thesis in the Honors College Endowed Fellows Program. The pendulum is one of only two Foucault pendulums in Pittsburgh.

During a day-long conference on Metals in Biological Systems held in the Bayer School, the environmental effects of metal ions, especially in western Pennsylvania, were discussed by nine experts in the field. This symposium, held in December 2014, provided a forum for researchers and educators with areas of expertise that ranged from synthetic chemistry, to environmental toxicology, to biomedical science. This event fostered new collaborations and friendships between scientists with complementary skills and goals. The formal meeting was preceded by a public lecture presented by Dr. Stephen J. Lippard, the Arthur Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lippard also presented at the symposium.

Darwin Day is an annual international event that celebrates the life and work of Charles Darwin, scientific inquiry and the common good of all humanity. It is a time to emphasize the importance of science education in today’s modern world, and the impact evolutionary biology has on many aspects of our lives, by focusing on the verifiable knowledge that has been acquired solely through human curiosity and ingenuity. This year’s Darwin Day celebration was again sponsored by the Bayer School and the Department of Biological Sciences.
and was highlighted by a lecture titled *Darwin, Wallace, and Domestication* by Dr. John Doebley, a Professor of Genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Department of Biological Sciences also again sponsored the ninth Pittsburgh Bacterial Meeting (PBM) that brings together the bacteriology community in the Pittsburgh and tri-state area. While principal investigators attend the conference, the focus is on student presentations. Post docs and graduate students also presented their research in short talks and posters.

The Forensic Science students in the Bayer School took the Forensic Science Aptitude Test (FSAT) during the 2014–2015 academic year. This exam, developed by representatives of the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC), the Forensic Educators Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC), the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), is utilized by prospective employers to assess a student’s level of forensic science knowledge. The average score for Duquesne Forensic Science and Law students was 306 out of a total of 560 points. This ranks fifth out of the 16 schools taking the examination in spring 2014. The following table shows the percentage of answers that Duquesne students answered correctly in each category. The last number indicates the rank of Duquesne students compared to the students at the 15 other schools that participated in this examination.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
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Professors Jeffry Madura (Chemistry and Biochemistry), and Alan Seadler (Biotechnology program) were inducted into Duquesne’s Office of Research Hall of Fame in recognition of their outstanding research, based on consistency in sponsored research funding, research impact and/or funding amounts. Additionally, a Duquesne University President’s Awards for Faculty Excellence in Teaching was presented to Dr. Jeff Evanseck from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Madura was named the recipient of the 2014 Pittsburgh Award by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Madura, the Lambert F. Minucci Endowed Chair in Engineering and Computational Sciences and a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is among a handful of Duquesne faculty members to win this award since its inception in 1932. The award recognizes “outstanding leadership in chemical affairs in the local and larger professional community” and honors individuals who have provided distinguished service to the chemistry field. Additionally, Dr. Partha Basu, from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was elected a Fellow of the United Kingdom Royal Society of Chemistry. Fellows must be members of the Royal Society with at least five years of professional experience who have made “an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the chemical sciences; or to the advancement of the chemical sciences as a profession; or have been distinguished in the management of a chemical sciences organization.”

**The Mary Pappert School of Music**

The Mary Pappert School of Music celebrated yet another very successful year showcasing its students in concerts on campus, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Student ensemble concerts exceeded expectations with regard to quality of performance and total attendance. Themed jazz concerts once again brought record crowds. Faculty members were active as soloists, collaborators, accompanists and chamber musicians in a variety of high-profile events. In addition to their creative work, the faculty was responsible for a plethora of new scholarly works, including published books and articles, as well as presentations, lectures and recordings. Many have received awards for performances in their various specialties and have served as adjudicators and/or conductors for festival ensembles and competitions across the country.

Recruitment efforts were given priority through the use of improved materials, communication and greater faculty efforts. This resulted in an increase of at least 50% in both undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
Factors leading to this increase included a new funding/scholarship/discounting model for undergraduates, as well as an increased investment from the University for graduate assistantships.

The School of Music is entering its third year of collaboration with St. Benedict the Moor School, located nearby in the Hill District. The ongoing relationship, developed by Dr. Paul Doerksen and the Music Education Department, focuses upon creating music wind (band) ensemble opportunities where there have been none previously. The band program now has over 70 participants, spanning grades four through eight from around the greater Pittsburgh area. St. Benedict students receive focused music instruction with new instruments provided by the Extra Mile Foundation and an increased awareness of post-secondary education through professional experience, engaging a valued demographic while guided by University faculty; and the University sees local application of its mission.

The School of Music worked very closely with Spiritan Campus Ministry to coordinate the building and installation of a brand-new tracker action pipe organ in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Not only does this new organ directly benefit the Chapel and its parishioners, it also provides a performance-capable organ for music students and faculty to utilize for concerts and recitals. Partnerships were formed both on campus and away from campus, including the development of a new Minor in Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. This resulted in more options for students interested to in continuing their musical studies while keeping their focus on other disciplines.

Graduates from the master’s program have earned position in a number of the nation’s top orchestras, and there is an increased demand nationally for Music Education and Music Therapy graduates, relative to respective job markets.

City Music Center has established new collaborations with the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Kauffman Center, Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra and Family Services in order to provide increased opportunities for Pittsburgh’s underserved communities. Musical Creations is a weekly general music class, provided free of charge to students identified by the Pittsburgh Housing Authority. This class doubles as a lab for Duquesne University’s students enrolled in the Music Education program. Additionally, CMC has launched a program called PJOYouth Future All-Stars, which benefits students residing in Pittsburgh’s subsidized housing. Students receive a top-level music education at little to no cost. City Music Center and the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra are working with the Pittsburgh Housing Authority to provide musical education and instruments for these students.

Music alumni, faculty, staff and students worked
diligently with University administration to conclude the successful search for a new choir director. Dr. Caron Daley was appointed Director of Choral Activities of the Mary Pappert School of Music, effective August 10, 2015. Additionally, two new visiting faculty members were hired in the Musicianship Department to help address clear needs in the fields of music theory and ethnomusicology.

**School of Nursing**

2014–2015 has been another year of unprecedented growth and innovation for the School of Nursing. Over the past three years, undergraduate enrollment has increased 59% and graduate enrollment by 26%; for an overall growth of 48%. In 2015, the School was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* with the following rankings: #75 graduate programs (an increase of 52 places from #127 in 2013), #9 graduate online nursing programs, and #9 graduate online nursing programs for veterans. The school has been designated for the third time as a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for 2015–2020.

A new state-of-the-art Nursing and Simulation Lab was built on the fifth floor of Libermann Hall. The Lab includes simulation rooms with advanced patient simulation equipment, standardized patient care rooms, medication room and a high tech debriefing room. The “footprint” of the School of Nursing was expanded to fit the needs of the growing student and faculty populations. This included new administrative space and faculty offices in Fisher Hall.

The School of Nursing significantly increased the number of grant proposals submitted (20) and accepted (11) for 2015. This trend reflects the positive impact of efforts by the school’s administration to stimulate increased research. External Research Grants awarded totaled $454,972; $12,637 in external teaching grants; $354,729 in scholarships; $60,000 in foundation funding; and $12,500 in internal grants. $304,714 was received in Health Resources and Services Administration Nurse Faculty Loan Funding. A National Institute of Health research project was funded by National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the next four years in the amount of $372,667.

In 2014, faculty published 37 peer-reviewed articles. Nine new faculty members were added this fall semester. A revised Junior Faculty Mentoring Program offers a new faculty orientation, monthly faculty development sessions, senior faculty mentors and participation in the Faculty Forum on Research and Scholarship (FORS). Some noteworthy faculty accomplishments include: Joseph A. Lauritis, C.S.Sp. Endowed Chair in Teaching and Technology; Fellow in the National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education; Rice Fellow by the Duquesne University Center for Catholic Intellectual Tradition; 2015 Rita Carty Junior Faculty Award; Duquesne University 2015 President’s Summer Writing Award; and Duquesne University 2015 Creative Teaching Award.

Focused and strategic efforts have realized a significant pass rate increase, well above the national average, for the NCLEX-RN Exam. The School of Nursing was one of the inaugural schools selected to take part in the Arnold P. Gold Foundation White Coat Ceremony for Nurses in collaboration with the American Association of Nursing. One of our undergraduate students was elected Vice President for the National Student Nurses Association.

Innovative, forward-thinking coursework is fundamental for preparing students for leadership and high-demand specialties; therefore, at every level, students have unique educational experiences that take advantage of new technologies that enrich classroom, clinical and online learning. This year several learning technologies were implemented such as eBooks and mini iPads, ExamSoft, and HESI testing throughout the undergraduate program, as well as Remote Proctor in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program.

Ever mindful of the changing healthcare landscape with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, an increased need for advanced practice nurses is anticipated; therefore, a strategic reorganization to include a department devoted to advanced practice was initiated. We are pleased to report a 100% pass rate for the Family Nurse Practitioner 2014 Certification Exam.

Revisions in the PhD curriculum include additional courses in nursing ethics and health policy from a social justice and ethical perspective. A new innovative three-year PhD program plan was designed for those students who wish to accelerate their doctoral program. Building on the successful Doctor of Nursing Practice study abroad program in which students explored health care in Rome, Italy, PhD students will now have the opportunity for a global experience in Dublin, Ireland.

This fall, the School will host the sixth annual *Rita M. McGinley Conference, Exploring Social Justice*
for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Person Experiencing Violence. This interdisciplinary symposium will provide health care professionals and others the opportunity to share insights on how violence affects the mind, body and spirit.

The Veterans to BSN Program secured a full-time veteran nursing recruiter and veteran success coach, and 11 veterans began the undergraduate program in fall 2015. This HRSA Veteran Grant supports veteran-specific faculty and staff development programs, new student transition programming and collaboration with the University’s veteran psychology program.

The School of Nursing also serves the health care needs of the region with contributions in community-engaged research and practice in nurse-managed centers. The Community-Based Health and Wellness Centers reside within ten community sites in Pittsburgh: three senior high rises and seven community senior centers. Through these centers, faculty and students engage in the provision of culturally competent health promotion, preventive care and disease management services for older adults. Reach extends beyond Pittsburgh into the international community. Through the 18-year collaboration with our sister nursing school at Universidad Politécnica in Managua, Nicaragua, students assess clients’ health and environmental conditions, provide patient care and provide new scholarships for residents of the barrio to study nursing at our sister school.

School of Education

The School of Education’s major accomplishments link to its national reputation in scholarship and research, teaching and the preparation of educational professionals committed to transforming the lives of children and youth in school contexts. During the past academic year, the School’s national reputation was illustrated by U.S. News & World Report’s ranking on its list of Best Education Schools. Data from more than 1,200 graduate schools of education were reviewed to determine the rankings.

The School of Education remains committed to maintaining its accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as a means of benchmarking the quality of our teacher preparation programs through voluntary, external review based on national standards of excellence. The School of Education addresses national accreditation standards by gathering evidence to demonstrate that its graduates have a positive impact on the students they teach.

The Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) at Duquesne University were awarded full national recognition as a unit (Education, Pappert School of Music and Rangos School of Health Science) through 2019, having met all six NCATE Standards based on the review for continuing accreditation.

In 2014–2015, School of Education faculty contributed a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. The articles appeared in a variety of nationally recognized peer-reviewed journals. Presentations have been at major national conferences within each of the fields of study within the School of Education, such as the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, American Association of Applied Linguistics, University Council for Educational Administration, Council for Exceptional Children, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision. Books authored by School of Education faculty were published by a number of well-regarded publishing companies including, Routledge, SUNY, Continuum, Springer, Cengage Learning, ASCD, Information Science Reference, Peter Lang and Cambridge University Press.

In fiscal year 2015, the School of Education had eleven active grants totaling $597,912, nine of which were new awards. Two grants were in their second year of funding: a $600,000 grant for the Canevin Center for Educational Transformation and Social Justice through The Heinz Endowments and a $613,862 grant through the Educational Development Center from the National Science Foundation. School of Education faculty were also involved in two research grants totaling $696,000 through other institutions of higher education.

In 2014–2015, the Barbara A. Sizemore Urban Education Initiative entered its sixth year. The Inaugural Barbara A. Sizemore Distinguished Professor in Urban Education, Dr. Arnetha Ball, worked closely with faculty in the School of Education to develop the Urban Education Initiative. The Sizemore Urban Education Initiative continues to implement a program which included attention to the following five components during the academic year 2014–2015, under the leadership of the second Barbara A. Sizemore Distinguished Professor,
Dr. Launcelot Brown:
- Piloting the Duquesne University Leading Teacher Program in Urban Education (in 2010)
- The Sizemore Pipeline Program: Growing The Next Generation of Urban Teachers
- The Barbara A. Sizemore Scholars and Small Grants Program
- The Barbara A. Sizemore Annual Summer Conference
- The Heinz Fellows Program

The year culminated in the sixth annual Sizemore Summer Conference May 27–28 entitled, The Right to an Excellent Education for All Children: Do We Have the Will?, offering 300 teachers and educators from the Pittsburgh region strategies to improve education for all students, particularly the education of students in urban schools. Keynote presentations were made by renowned national scholars in urban education: Dr. Paul Gorski (George Mason University); Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings (University of Wisconsin-Madison); and Dr. John W. Hodge (Urban Learning and Leadership Center).

Established during the fall semester of 2013, the Canevin Center for Educational Transformation and Social Justice was designed to be an epicenter for generative thinking and doing in the education profession. Its mission is to increase the community impact of equity initiatives created within the School of Education at Duquesne University. In 2015, the Center continued to sponsor community forums.

The School of Education Community Forums (October 2013, March 2014, and October 2014) were designed to highlight the work and practices of the region’s stakeholders around education and employment opportunities. Over 50 people attended each Forum, including superintendents and the executive directors of The Pittsburgh Promise, A+ Schools, Homeless Children’s Education Fund, Three Rivers Youth, Entrepreneuring Youth, Communities in Schools, and the YWCA, all of whom have education initiatives. Pittsburgh’s Mayor Bill Peduto also participated, offering support for the forums, and Mr. Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive, keynoted the forum in October 2014.

Through its scholarship, teaching, and professional partnerships, the School of Education’s reputation for preparing educational leaders in the Spiritan tradition of caring increases at the local, state, national and international levels, enhancing its ability to attract leading scholars to the work of transforming the educational landscape for the nation’s children and youth.

**School of Law**

The School of Law’s enrollment management team hit its target of enrolling 124 students in the 2014–2015 academic year, at the same time maintaining the median LSAT and median undergraduate grade point averages from the prior year. The entering class was diverse, with students coming from 67 undergraduate institutions and 16 different states.

Among rankings and commendations of note, the School of Law was third among 10 Pennsylvania-area law schools for first-time takers of the July 2014 Pennsylvania bar examination. The school’s 91.5 percent pass rate exceeded the Pennsylvania state average pass rate (82.43 percent) by nearly 10 points. One student, who graduated cum laude from the evening program, received the highest essay score on the July examination. Her score was higher than 1,980 test takers from 141 other law schools, including Harvard and Yale.

Law students, faculty and deans participated in the Allegheny County Bar Association’s Martin Luther King, Jr. prayer breakfast in January to honor the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, a partner in Duquesne’s Clinical Legal Education programs.

The Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education completed an extensive building renovation and expanded service to the community and experiences for students. During the academic year, Duquesne’s Clinical Legal Education provided more than 16,500 hours of legal service to the public through the clinics, more than 7,600 hours of legal service to the public through externships, and more than 2,800 hours of legal service to the public through pro bono programs.

*PreLaw Magazine* in November 2014 named Duquesne’s Veterans Clinic one of the country’s 15 most innovative clinical programs.

The Federal Litigation Clinic offered students the opportunity to participate in a jury trial in federal court in the spring of 2014. A rare event for most young practicing lawyers, and almost unprecedented for law students, the experience allowed students working under the direction of supervising attorneys to handle every aspect of a prisoner civil rights case, including jury selection, opening arguments, witness examination and cross-examination, and closings.
And in other clinical legal education news, the Urban Development Practicum began working with Allegheny County’s district attorney and McKeesport officials to help track changes in property ownership and prosecute negligent landlords. Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick arranged for the law students’ work following a fire that caused the death of several McKeesport residents.

Of final note in the area of program growth, the School of Law continued to expand continuing legal education opportunities for attorneys across the region by hosting new educational programs on Saturday mornings. Each year the School of Law hosts eight three-hour programs through the Sciullo Saturday series, and additional continuing legal education programs on weekdays.

In the area of student achievements, School of Law students captured six of the 15 scholarships available to attend the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Family Law Section winter meeting. The opportunity gave students the chance to discuss potential careers in family law and meet one-on-one with mentor attorneys.

The School of Law’s Trial Advocacy and Appellate Advocacy Programs both had successful years. In Appellate Moot Court Board news, a team of two School of Law students placed second in the country in the prestigious 30th Annual Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition in Brooklyn, N.Y. At the Thurgood A. Marshall Federal Bar Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C, two School of Law students earned the award for the Best Brief, and one was recognized as the Best Oralist. Two School of Law teams placed high at the National Moot Court Competition in Law and Religion, advancing to the semifinal round, with one student earning recognition among more than 40 competitors.

Both of School of Law’s National Trial Competition teams made it to the semifinal round of the National Trial Competition regional event in Philadelphia in February, and a School of Law student was named Best Advocate.

In the area of operational and infrastructure enhancements, the School of Law completed renovations to the McArdle Moot Courtroom and adjoining classroom...
to accommodate over 135 students and serve as a venue for large symposia and moot court competitions. The school also opened a new student copy center and completed computer lab renovations in the law library, the Duquesne Center for Legal Information.

**Biomedical Engineering**

The Biomedical Engineering Program began its first year of instruction by welcoming its freshman class on August 22, 2014. The incoming class comprised 23 students from Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, and Rwanda. Captain Richard Lewis Coleman, USN, was the keynote speaker to induct the inaugural class, providing motivational and leadership techniques important to their academic success. In honor of Captain Coleman, the BME program instituted the Richard Lewis and Mary Ruth Coleman Challenge, initiated by a gift from the Colemans. The Coleman Challenge is a series of contests open to BME students that test their ability to overcome difficulties and solve problems in an engineering context.

In September 2014, the BME program established its first research laboratory. This lab specializes in biomedical optics with an NIH-funded program in melanoma detection and analysis. BME received additional funding from Acousys Biodevices Inc. to support this melanoma research. The Acousys grant was used to hire Dr. Benjamin Goldschmidt, as Research Assistant Professor in Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Goldschmidt is a graduate of the department of Bioengineering at the University of Missouri and has pioneered the use of photoacoustics in novel cancer technologies. Three graduate students, 11 undergraduate students, and one high school student conduct research in the lab under various projects covering oncology, ophthalmology, dermatology, and critical care. Additionally, the lab has working collaborations with the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Missouri, and Thomas Jefferson University.

The program hired the first tenure-track assistant professor, Dr. Prahlad Menon. Dr. Menon received his Ph.D. from the Biomedical Engineering department of Carnegie Mellon University and has been a faculty member at Sun Yat-Sen University and an adjunct instructor at the University of Pittsburgh. His research specialty is in medical image processing, with particular emphasis in cardiovascular imaging and image processing. He is developing coursework in these areas for our undergraduate program. The BME program is preparing its next tenure track faculty hire for 2016, building its teaching and research personnel.

The BME program appointed six courtesy faculty members who will add to the program in areas of curriculum development, research infrastructure, ABET accreditation, entrepreneurship, and outreach to local technology industries. These appointments also contribute expertise to expand the research program to include whole body biomechanics, with specific studies in elbow and shoulder injury and repair. This research is to be performed in the growing research wing of Libermann Hall, which has completed its second phase that includes Menon’s laboratory. This lab includes a laser particle velocimeter that will be used to investigate biofluid dynamics in the heart, with direct application to understanding and repairing heart defects. Menon has already engaged three undergraduate researchers with this system as well as in his extensive computational imaging and fluid dynamics research. BME facilities now include the research wing, office suite, fabrication facilities and meeting space.

A partnership between the BME program and the School of Nursing has resulted in a five year, dual degree program that offers students a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This dual degree program is the first of its kind in the nation. This program educates nurse engineers to create innovative solutions to clinically relevant problems, combining their clinical expertise with knowledge of engineering and design principles. Three of the 23 freshmen have opted for this program, as have a significant number of new applicants. The first students will graduate from this program in 2019.

The BME program is working on additional synergies with other schools, including partnerships with the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science as well as with the School of Education.

Recruitment for the second class in the BME program has resulted in 232 applications, an increase of about 80% over the previous year. Though the applicant pool has increased, the incoming class remains selective and resulted in 22 students from Pennsylvania and the region, along with a second student from Rwanda. The program continues to grow in prominence and has had increased visits from potential students over the previous two years.
A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration and the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business

The Donahue Graduate School of Business was selected by The Princeton Review among The Best 296 Business Schools on the 2015 list of how students rate their schools. The ranking called the school “unique because of its emphasis on sustainability and business ethics” and requires all students to take an applied business ethics course. Students commented that teamwork is integrated into academic life, allowing them to work with others on rewarding projects that collaborate across all classes.

In the face of global climate change and resource challenges, the School’s MBA with a focus on sustainability has again been ranked as one of the world’s best MBA programs for future leaders. Corporate Knights, a quarterly international publication focused on social, economic and ecological benefits and costs, released its 2015 Better World MBA ranking, listing the Donahue Graduate School of Business as tenth among MBA programs worldwide and fourth among U.S. schools, just behind Harvard Business School. The ranking highlighted 121 institutions around the globe, looking at the best packages of core courses, research and support centers to foster sustainability-oriented learning.

MBA focused on sustainability is also ranked among the top ten graduate programs in the world for environmental sustainability by Net Impact. A nonprofit working for environmental and social change, Net Impact’s 2014 Business as Unusual rankings are designed to be a guide to graduate programs. The MBA sustainability was the only Pennsylvania-based program included in the Top 10.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the Professional MBA as one of the best and most gender diverse in the nation. Duquesne is among the top 10 highest ranked programs in all of Pennsylvania and among the top three in our region. And, more than 65% of the School’s MBA students are women, the second highest percentage in the country.

The International Association for Business and Society (IABS) is sponsoring the development of an annual book series by School of Business faculty on ethics issues. The series comprises a compilation of peer-reviewed chapters that complement the academic journal distributed by the IABS. Co-editors for the series will be Dr. David Wasieleski, associate professor of management and chair of the management/marketing department, and Dr. James Weber, professor of management and executive director of the Institute for Ethics in Business. Drs. Wasieleski and Weber anticipate launching the book series in 2016. This series seeks to fill some of the gaps in the publication of cutting-edge scholarly work that are not already addressed by a number of current academic journals.

The School of Business published the inaugural issue of Duquesne Business Leader, its new biannual e-magazine that focuses on alumni outreach and engagement. The e-magazine provides a forum for building stronger links between alumni and the school. It features a sampling of the school’s accomplishments and addresses strategic plans for its future. The introductory issue of Duquesne Business Leader, which can be viewed online at www.duq.edu/dbl, focuses on innovation; the school’s future direction; and the ways in which some of the school’s most distinguished alumni have changed their companies, their communities and the world.

The MBA sustainability program was among the sponsors of a regional event focused on developing an energy plan for the region: Energy for the Power of 32: 32 Countries, 4 states, 1 Energy Future. The Power of 32 event was a catalyst for local clusters of stakeholders to collaboratively develop a plan for reconceiving our energy future. At the event, MBA faculty and students listened to speakers address energy issues, including representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Energy Technology Laboratory. They also joined a deliberation session to develop recommendations on energy production, distribution and conservation.

The Small Business Development Center’s 17th annual conference saw two prominent local business leaders give keynote addresses focused on shepherding a growing business through change. Rob Daley, chief executive officer of Pittsburgh-based 4moms, and Bill Sarris, president of the well-known and local Sarris Candies, both offered well-received advice and insights. The conference also included 12 different workshops, nearly two-dozen expert speakers and panelists and a business-building tradeshow.

In 2014–2015, business school faculty published over 50 articles, books, chapters and published proceedings.
Several of the faculty also hold editorial positions. A supply chain management major was selected as one of only eight national recipients of a prestigious scholarship based on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership and high ethical standards. Through the R. Gene Richter Scholar program, business student Matthew Christiansen received $5,000 for educational expenses and enrolled in a mentoring program, paired with a supply chain management executive and previous Richter Scholar winner. Christiansen is Duquesne’s fifth Richter Scholar in the 12 years of the program.

Competing against large public schools and other private institutions, a Duquesne University team of students walked away with the top spot in Michigan State University’s sixth annual Donald J. Bowersox Undergraduate Supply Chain Challenge. The team was ranked first in a comprehensive supply chain management global simulation requiring forecasting, planning, supply management, distribution and employment of supply chain management strategies. The Duquesne team, in only its second year of participating in the competition, captured the $2,000 first-place prize after facing a dozen challengers, including Michigan State and Ohio State. The team, advised by Dr. John Mawhinney, assistant professor and director of supply chain management programs, included Julie L. Wetzel, David J. Eich and Joshua Lang.

Over the past year, Dr. Dean McFarlin worked with the faculty, staff and alumni to create a comprehensive, high-level strategic plan. The strategic plan, Palumbo-Donahue 2024: Achieving Distinctive Excellence, was approved by University leadership. It lays out several strategic goals (e.g., offer compelling undergraduate and graduate programs, increase faculty prominence, raise our external visibility and create world-class facilities).

The School of Business has identified opportunities to grow the graduate degree and executive education offerings. To help accomplish this, an associate dean for Graduate Programs & Executive Education was hired. In this new position, Dr. Karen Russo Donovan will play a leading role in improving existing programs, integrating programs taught elsewhere on campus and launching new program initiatives. Additionally, she will serve as an associate professor of marketing.

A MARCOM (Marketing Communications) Group in the School of Business that reports to the dean has been created. All strategic and tactical decisions related to marketing, branding, communications, alumni relations activities, and school-wide and major program events are the responsibility of MARCOM. This strategic initiative is increasing the visibility and external recognition of the School of Business and its programs among alumni, businesses, prospective students, faculty and staff as well as promoting continuous improvement and accountability for financial resources.

The School of Business has adopted a multidisciplinary departmental structure designed to find new ways to build on the school’s existing strengths, honor its Spiritan heritage and seize opportunities to innovate. Previously organized into five academic divisions, the school’s new academic realignment comprises three interdisciplinary departments:

- Accounting, Information Systems Management and Supply Chain Management Department
- Economics and Finance Department
- Marketing and Management Department

Overall, these department-level changes are supporting interdisciplinary work and providing a stronger foundation for pursuing strategic goals. With a multidisciplinary organizational structure, synergies in the faculty are being developed, which are enhancing operational efficiencies and strengthening the relationships built with the local business community as well as with others who support the mission.

Launched in April 2015, the membership of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) and the Investment Center Advisory Council (ICAC) consists of seasoned executives and business leaders. The BAC is advising the dean on school-wide strategic directions, reputation-building, marketing and fundraising. The ICAC is offering advice and support to faculty and the dean’s office about enhancing the Investment Center and associated educational programs in finance in ways that align with the school’s strategic directions.

Important renovations on the third and fifth floors of Rockwell Hall underscore the intention to create world-class learning environments for students:

- A redesigned and expanded Thomas J. Murrin/Duquesne Light Conference Room on the fifth floor supports graduate and executive education activities. The room can be divided into three sections and reconfigured for many uses. It is outfitted with automatic LED lighting and three drop-down screens, digital projectors and overhead sound, all operated from an integrated control station.
Lounge on 5, a new student gathering space, promotes informal interactions with a fabulous view of downtown Pittsburgh. A great space to brainstorm, the lounge boasts multiple flat-screen monitors and comfortable furniture. Students can also share and capture ideas on a writable wall as well as glass tabletops.

Renovation plans are also progressing for floors four, six and nine including faculty offices, tentative footprints for specific Centers of Excellence and a redesigned and expanded Investment Center.