Message from the Provost

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This issue of Academic Affairs in Review focuses on the ten schools of our University. It is an update on the first edition of this publication where each school was featured. I continue to be impressed by the academic strength of our schools, attributable to the quality of deans, faculty and staff. Each has a unique mission that provides prospective and current students with a breadth of opportunities to prepare for a profession, while experiencing the personal enrichment that results from engaging the liberal arts through the requirements of the core curriculum. Each school has adopted the teacher/scholar model that enables students to interact with faculty committed to teaching which is integrated with a scholarly agenda. In fact, many students are invited to extend the classroom experience by participation in faculty research.

My assessment of the academic quality of our schools is confirmed continually by external accrediting agencies that recommend continued accreditation in glowing terms. Further testimony of that strength comes from students and alumni who share with me how well they are or were prepared for graduate study and/or their profession. Finally, if we factor in the accelerated rate of success in receiving external funding and of scholarly publications in each school with student satisfaction and success and the affirmation of quality provided by external agencies, the notable achievements of our schools give us all good reasons to be proud of each one of them. I suspect when I write to you again my enthusiasm for and excitement about our schools will convey increased admiration for the deans, faculty and staff who are the reasons for this success.

The deadline for submission to the spring issue of Academic Affairs in Review is February 26, 2010. All items should be submitted via email to Renee Stockey at stockeyr@duq.edu.
I came to Duquesne four years ago to help with the development of a position in biotechnology and have now moved into the Office of Research. The Office has one goal: to help this institution maintain its research growth through funding support, compliance and translation.

Duquesne, by several measures, has entered the “First Tier” of Higher Education. We are no longer knocking, but now have our foot in the door, challenging the expectations of our students, neighbors and region. Our “teacher-scholar” model for faculty must continue in order to support the programs and activities expected of an institution with a growing reputation among “First Tier” Catholic institutions.

We have become a new junior member of a collection of outstanding universities; however, this status presents us with new and exciting challenges. I view our situation filtered through a background of over 25 years of executive positions in the biomedical industry and in particular with start-up companies. We are very much academic entrepreneurs pushing our institution into the mezzanine level of higher education. As an institution, we now face the new challenges that this level embodies.

Our faculty, Duquesne’s “academic entrepreneurs,” are immersed in these challenges, teaching, pursuing knowledge, developing research programs, while also charged with the responsibility of acquiring much of the funding necessary to complete the research. Never an easy task, this effort will continue to challenge faculty and our office as the reputation of the University as a first-class research center grows. But, the task is one of mission “serving God by serving students” ensuring that our students have the opportunity to learn from scholars and benefit from the environment and infrastructure that the research provides.

Like it or not, research costs money. Even if a particular field does not require extensive infrastructure, it is still important to fund those activities which allow scholars to exchange ideas. Graduate students will need support to complete their studies and our emphasis on Ph.D. programs in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan will only increase that need. Importantly, our Spiritan heritage encourages us to reach out to underserved individuals using education as a tool for social change. Our Mission charters us to provide support for those who need our help.

This brings us full circle to the Office of Research. Our staff recognizes that securing funding is not an easy task when coupled with all of the other demands on faculty time; however, we also realize that external support allows worthy projects to be conducted and students to be trained. Our task is to make it as easy as possible for our academic entrepreneurs and to help this outstanding institution continue to move upward within our new landscape.

The John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business Administration and the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business has been included in the 2009 edition of The Princeton Review’s Best 296 Business Schools. According to Robert Franek, Princeton Review vice president for publishing, “We select schools for this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and offerings, institutional data we collect from the schools, and the candid opinions of students attending them who rate and report on their campus experiences at the schools. We are pleased to recommend Duquesne's Donahue Graduate School of Business to readers of our book and users of our Web site as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA.”

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) has reaffirmed the accreditation of the A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration and the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business through 2012-2013. Less than 5 percent of business schools worldwide have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education. To maintain accreditation, a business program must undergo a rigorous internal review every five years, at which the program must demonstrate its continued commitment to the 21 quality standards relating to faculty qualification, strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students, as well as a commitment to continuous improvement and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

The MBA Sustainability Program has been awarded the inaugural Page Prize for the best United States submission of an Environmental Sustainability Curriculum. Launched in the fall of 2008, the Alfred N. and Lynn Manos Page Prize for Sustainability Issues in Business Curricula was established through the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. The Page Prize is designed to encourage efforts to expose business students to state-of-the-art environmental sustainability knowledge and to demonstrate the Moore School’s commitment to promoting sustainability in business education. As part of the award, the Moore School of Business included Duquesne’s winning submission in an international database of high-quality teaching and curricular materials related to environmental sustainability and organizations. The Moore School praised Duquesne’s MBA Sustainability Program for integrating sustainability across all business disciplines, accounting, finance, marketing, operations, information technology and economics.
Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

Staff and graduate students from the Center for Environmental Research and Education (CERE) completed the second annual campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Duquesne University, demonstrating a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions between 2006 and 2008.

The graduate program in Forensic Science and Law Program received conditional accreditation by the Forensic Sciences Educational Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) with full accreditation anticipated in 2010, making Duquesne's graduate program the second program in the state of Pennsylvania to achieve this accreditation.

Faculty from the Bayer School received more than $3.9 million in grants in 2008-2009, with $659,000 in overhead, to support their scientific research programs. Additionally, with support from the National Science Foundation, a $1.2 million mass spectrometry facility was installed and commissioned in Mellon Hall and will be used by BSNES researchers in a wide array of cutting edge research at the interfaces among chemistry, biology and environmental science.


With funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, faculty and student researchers from the Bayer School continued baseline biological inventories of the Murphy’s Bottom site along the Allegheny River and completed a master plan to assess short-term and long-term environmental impacts of an environmental enhancement project at the site.

Mary Pappert School of Music

The music students and faculty presented over 200 public performances including Musique on the Bluff, Celebration Messaïen, David Stock’s Grand Finale, and In Memoriam, a Lenten collaboration with Campus Ministry. The Music School and the Gumberg Library created the Mary Jane Schultz Music Center housed in the Gumberg Library.

Mary Pappert School of Music

In addition to the dedication of the Music Center, dedication ceremonies also honored the Anthony F. Triano Woodwind Suite, the Mary K. Stellute Opera Collection and the William Schrecengost Audio Control Room.

Jazz Professor Sean Jones presented an educational workshop in the first of a series of cultural events at the White House for 150 middle and high school students. At the invitation of the first lady Michelle Obama, Jones joined other jazz legends to kick off the White House Music Series.

McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

The Caulfield Digital Media Center opened in College Hall and produced new programming for channel 19 in Uniontown, PA. WDSR, the student radio station, now broadcasts from the new studio.

Students from Duquesne Journalism and Multimedia Arts Department were the only students granted press passes to cover Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to Washington, D.C., and to New York City. The resulting DVD won a national Telly award.

Dr. Marco Gemiġani’s Psychology of Social Engagement course assisted refugees from Burma, Nepal, Iraq and Burundi with cultural adjustment to the U.S. society. Students developed and delivered ESL classes to adults, tutored children in school-related activities and provided material support. The fall class organized a clothes and toy drive that provided winter clothes to more than 30 families. The spring class organized a series of fundraising events to start an emergency fund for refugee families that have suffered from the current economic depression and raised $630.

The Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy’s Energy Policy Research Group, under the direction of Dr. Kent Moors, is providing assistance to local governments in Pennsylvania in meeting the challenges of Marcellus Shale natural gas development. The Marcellus Shale is a black shale formation that extends deep underground from Ohio and West Virginia northwest into Pennsylvania and southern New York. Geologists estimate that the entire Marcellus Shale formation contains between 168 trillion to 516 trillion cubic feet of natural gas throughout its entire extent.

This past year, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures sponsored the 21st annual Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference and the 36th Western Pennsylvania Symposium on World Literatures, “The Legacy of Federico Fellini”.

Duquesne sponsored a national conference on women’s poetry since 1900.

The Theology Department hosted the 5th annual Holy Spirit Lecture and Colloquium and inaugurated an annual conference on Biblical reception history. Additionally, McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts faculty has been recognized for award-winning teaching, scholarship and publications.
Consistent with Duquesne’s 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, cultural diversity continues to be addressed in many ways. The commitment to participating in global pharmacy education allows opportunities for increased collaboration among faculty and students from pharmacy schools around the globe. The latest addition to these affiliations is the University of Perugia’s Faculty, identified as the number one school of pharmacy in Italy. Advancing the education of pharmacy in these countries also has a profound impact on healthcare.

The Academic Research Center for Pharmacy Care-Wellness and Chronic Disease Management Programs serves eight underserved communities in Pittsburgh. It also serves Catholic Charities and reaches out to the medically underinsured and uninsured in five counties in Pennsylvania. To date, nearly 9,000 patient encounters/screenings were provided to these communities. Thirty-five percent of the cholesterol screenings and 21 percent of the blood pressure screenings resulted in patients being referred to other healthcare providers for follow-up care. The Muldoon Building (1000 Fifth Avenue) will serve as the focal point for wellness and chronic disease management for the Duquesne University community as well as and the surrounding neighborhoods and corporate contracts.

The School submitted 16 grants to federal funding agencies, foundations, and private sources to secure $3.6 million in new grants awarded and $1,886,588 in this year’s research funding, representing a 68 percent increase over last year’s funding. Faculty have published 42 peer-reviewed articles and 13 book chapters. Faculty achievements also include 65 podium presentations, 76 poster presentations and a record number of patents (16).

Over the past year, the Occupational Therapy Program received 10 Year ACOTE Reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Students in the Athletic Training Program in the Rangos School had clinical education experiences with the World Champion Steelers and the Penguins. Extramural funding for physical therapy reached $750,000 last year and the physical therapy faculty accomplishments included 18 research reports published and 28 national and international presentations. The program also received final accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education. Speech language pathology faculty and staff provided over 2,100 pro bono therapeutic sessions for Pittsburgh clients. The Physician Assistant Education Program had 100 percent passage rate on the initial certification exam. In addition, the program offered the first health sciences course in social justice and took 11 students to Geneva, Switzerland to the International Red Cross and the European Headquarters of the United Nations and the High Commission for Refugees.

Duquesne University School of Education was unanimously selected by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) to establish the UCEA Center for Leadership and Social Justice. The primary focus of the Center is to critically investigate the relationship between educational leadership and social justice, specifically the assumptions that underlie the practice of educational leadership and the formation of educational leaders who take action in their own lives and in cooperation with others to effect positive social change. Also, the Counselor Education Program received recognition as the Outstanding Counselor Education Program from the Pennsylvania Counseling Association.

The Center for Teaching Excellence, one of only four centers in Pennsylvania that has been established to assist K-12 teachers to become National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT), was funded for the third consecutive year and received the highest funding of any center. Recently, the national average first-time achievement rate for teachers applying for National Board Certification has been 39 percent. For the past two assessment periods, the first time pass rate for participants in the Duquesne program has been 55-60 percent.
The School of Education continues to use its resources to develop collaborative relationships within the community to serve the needs of children. These relationships include a partnership with A+ Schools, an independent community advocate for improvement in public education, entitled A Partnership Between A+ Schools: Pittsburgh’s Community Alliance for Public Education and Duquesne University, Department of Foundations and Leadership, School of Education and an affiliation with Pittsburgh Promise, a visionary scholarship program created by The Pittsburgh Foundation that vows to help all students in Pittsburgh Public Schools plan, prepare and pay for education beyond high school at an accredited post-secondary institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Department of Counseling, Psychology and Special Education continues its partnership with Community Specialists Corporation to help in the transformation of delinquent children, providing consultation to an alternative school. Several faculty and administrators in the School have been recognized for their scholarly work on behalf of children in Africa. Faculty in the School published four books, 37 articles and book chapters and made 94 scholarly presentations.

School of Law

This past year, the Law School added two new tenure-track faculty members and three full-time, non-tenure track faculty members. The Legal Research and Writing Program, under the leadership of Professor Jan Levine, was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as 17th in the nation, ahead of 170 other ABA-accredited law schools. Thanks to the generosity of the University and the William B. Billock family, a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) was established for recent graduates engaged in public interest work and public service. One of the largest of its kind in the nation, the LRAP was established with a $1.4 million gift. Once again, the school achieved an outstanding Bar pass rate for first time takers – 97 percent under the direction of Richard Gaffney, Esq., Director of Bar Services.

The Trial Advocacy teams won the Tournament of Champions, sponsored by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, earning the title of Best Trial Advocacy Team in the Nation. The trial teams also won the Buffalo-Niagara Invitational Trial Competition and the ABA Regional (Chicago) Trial Moot Court Competition and the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Regional (Pittsburgh) Competition. Additionally, the ABA Mock Arbitration team was a semi-finalist in the regional competition. The Mock Client Counseling Team was a semi-finalist in the regional competition.

The Law School Day Program recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Additionally, Duquesne University School of Law was named a Best Value law school according to National Jurist magazine. Using data collected from the Law School Admissions Councils Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools 2009, National Jurist indicates that Duquesne has affordable tuition, an outstanding academic program, a strong alumni base and excellent job placement. Faculty published 19 books, book chapters, law review and other articles and participated in numerous presentations, panels and conferences.
School of Leadership and Professional Advancement

The School of Leadership and Professional Advancement recently launched the Professional Coaching Certification Program. The program, delivered via a hybrid off-campus, online and teleconference coursework, is designed for those who act as professional coaches within corporations, as well as those who want to operate a private practice. SLPA has partnered with the International Coach Federation (ICF), the largest association of professional coaches, and is the only one in Pennsylvania affiliated with the ICF.

An institutional partnership has been established with the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) in Accra, Ghana. This is the University's first partnership with Ghana, and a significant step toward the attainment of the University's new strategic goal to strengthen its relationship with Africa and the African diaspora.

A masters concentration has been created in Global Leadership, a program designed to help leaders from public, private and non-profit/non-governmental organizations understand global issues from an integrated systems perspective, and to provide them with the tools and the knowledge to make critical decisions with the global good in mind.

SLPA was declared one of the top 10 military-friendly schools in the country by allmilitary.com. GI Jobs Magazine ranked SLPA as a military-friendly school for 2010. This honor ranks the school among the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide. SLPA's military education program now has roughly 300 students from nearly 40 states serving stateside and in deployment.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing has been selected as a Designated Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing. This honor has only been bestowed on 13 schools nationally and recognizes the commitment of the school as a whole to pursue and sustain excellence in student learning and professional development.

In addition, the school was named among the first group to be awarded Robert Wood Johnson scholarships in the New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. This grant enabled $10,000 in scholarship funds to be given to 10 students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Joan Lockhart and Ms. Leah Cunningham were authors of the grant.

Following a national search, Dr. Rosemary Donley, S.C. Ph.D, was recruited to be the first occupant of the Lavel Chair for Justice for Vulnerable Population. Sister Rosemary brings impressive experience as a nursing leader in education, research and public service. Having formerly served as faculty, Dean of Nursing and Vice President for Academic Affairs, in recent years, Sister has devoted herself as a nurse practitioner to the care of vulnerable populations, including inner city residents and refugees.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was inaugurated with 15 full-time students. This program of study is two years in length post masters; and focuses on developing advanced nursing ability in education and practice. The culminating scholarly work is a capstone project focused on quality improvement in some aspect of patient care, institutional processes or education. Twenty five new students have been admitted and started the program this past summer.