Message from the Provost

BY DR. RALPH PEARSON
Provost/Vice President Academic Affairs

If I had to give this column a title, it would probably be something like “A Reflection on Ten Years.” It may come as a surprise to some of you as it did to me when I realized that I have completed ten years as Provost and Academic Vice President at Duquesne University. The ten years went by very quickly, probably because of the many new, exciting challenges and opportunities of each day as Provost. I thought I would share several of these with you. I am citing only a few so please do not feel slighted if one that is important to you (and me) is not included. They are for a future column.

One of the most gratifying processes in which I participated during the past ten years is the inviting of new faculty to join the Duquesne community. After reading the portfolios of the “new hires” during the third year and tenure and promotion reviews, I was, shall I say, amazed at the outstanding performance in teaching and scholarship of those colleagues. Their student and peer teaching evaluations and their publication records convey their deep commitment to our teacher/scholar model. I recognize that the recommendations that they be invited to join our faculty were made by faculty and deans who share a commitment to continue development of a faculty focused on teaching and research. It has meant that we are implementing the mission of service to students and to our profession.

Another gratifying experience of being your Provost has been the results...
of the program and accreditation reviews that have occurred during the past ten years. I have the opportunity to participate in an “exit” interview with the evaluators in which I receive a summary of their findings and recommendations prior to receiving them in writing. As is expected of accreditation and external reviewers, most include recommendations for increased resources. That being said, they have almost uniformly underscored the strength of our programs in terms of faculty, students and curriculum. In general, they were surprised by the instructional quality and research productivity of our faculty. That kind of external endorsement of our work is what we want and expect, but it is good to have had it confirmed so frequently during the past decade.

Finally, I have welcomed and been heartened by the notable acceptance of and commitment to the Catholic, Spiritan mission of Duquesne within a context that affirms simultaneously the importance of ecumenicity in our community. The dialogue about the values of the Spiritans, with particular focus upon social justice issues and preferential treatment of the poor, has included individuals of all faiths and traditions. It has influenced the direction of some of our academic programs and resulted in greater service to the community, a service learning requirement in the Core, and an invigorated focus upon Africa. The increased awareness of the Catholic, Spiritan mission of Duquesne has enhanced the bonds of departments, schools and service units with one another rather than been a source of division that some had feared. We have come a long way in ten years in making alive the Catholic, Spiritan mission among us. We shall continue living it more fully in the years ahead confident that it is a “ministry” in which we can all participate.

There are other observations I would like to make about the past decade, but I’ll save them for the spring issue.

Reflections from the Associate Provost/AAVP — Academic Affairs

BY ALAN SEADLER
Associate Provost/Academic Vice President For Research

As we move into this millennium, Duquesne can look on the first ten years with a certain pride in its achievements in research: from the status as a first tier university, to our recent reclassification by the Carnegie Foundation to Research University – High Research Activity. We have, indeed, made great progress both in the diversity of our research and in the funding which supports it. With great achievements come great challenges. The challenge we now face is similar to a runner who has moved up in the pack, but now has to worry about maintaining that position when everyone else behind us is also pushing forward. It is critical that we stay the course and continue moving towards our strategic goal of strengthening our role as a leading Catholic University.

President Dougherty summarized our position exquisitely in this year’s Convocation address when he said that; “Our national standing as one of America’s leading Catholic universities depends in large part on our faculty’s truly impressive research productivity.” Those faculty members have contributed to our success, but we must ask them to continue with their extraordinary effort particularly in light of our economy.

The environment is more challenging now than in previous years and the availability of support promises to be even more difficult to obtain. It is at times like this that we look to new approaches to support our research efforts. As we advise faculty to diversify their research directions, so we in the Office of Research must diversify our approach. That is why we were delighted to be part of a new model for collaboration with University Advancement in which Chris Pollock, Office of Research, was appointed as Director for Foundation Relations. This position will continue our direct support of Duquesne faculty who look to foundations for research support and more importantly will permit Chris to closely collaborate with Mary Beth Ford, the new Executive Director of Corporate Relations, and our other colleagues in University Advancement to increase the opportunities for
non-government funding. Importantly for the University community, there are now two organizations working closely together to help support academic programs, social service and research.

It is a culture of scholarship and research that we wish to foster here at Duquesne. The Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium is in its fourth year enabling our undergraduates to not only experience research within their academic programs, but to fulfill our obligation to insure that their scholarship is presented to the broader community of scholars and peers. We are serving our students with opportunities to present their research in the public forum, training them in scholarship and giving them the credit which these young scholars deserve. The Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium also positions Duquesne as an institution where scholarship and its benefits are shared by faculty, graduate Students, and yes, undergraduates as well.

We find ourselves at a plateau in our journey to ever improving rankings among Catholic Research Universities with much to be proud of; still much of the journey is yet to come.

A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration and the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business

For the fifth time, the Donahue Graduate School of Business has been named as one of the top 300 business schools by The Princeton Review. The 2011 edition of The Best 300 Business Schools was released in October 2010. Most students surveyed agreed that Duquesne’s MBA programs offer cutting-edge classes with solid preparation in “doing business in a global economy.” In the two-page profile of Duquesne, the book reports, “With the introduction of a new sustainability-focused MBA program, a growing reputation, and an unwavering emphasis on ethical approaches to business principles, students at the Donahue Graduate School of Business say, ‘it is a truly exciting time at Duquesne University.’” Additionally, School of Business Administration has been named one of the nation’s top undergraduate business schools by Bloomberg Businessweek. The school, which was one of 13 new institutions added to this year’s rankings, entered as No. 78 nationwide and was listed in the top 10 business schools across Pennsylvania. “This ranking is notable for a methodology including student and recruiter surveys in addition to quality metrics regarding students, faculty and student services,” said Dean Alan R. Miciak. “The breadth of the assessment is a reflection of the overall quality, commitment and performance of every member of the faculty, staff and support services from across the University.”

This past fall, the fourth annual Beard Symposium, Sustainability: The Changing Ground Rules, featured former governor and secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, president and CEO of the Ridge Global LLC consulting firm, and a former executive with Lehman Brothers. Against the backdrop of the Gulf oil spill, the 2008 financial crisis and shale gas extraction, Ridge, Lawrence McDonald, former vice president of distressed debt and convertible securities at Lehman Brothers and an executive panel showed why an integrated sustainability strategy that goes beyond compliance leads to greater innovation. An executive forum composed of for-profit and nonprofit players included Maura Clark, president of Direct Energy Business; Leslie Davis, president of Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC; Joe Massaro III, president of Massaro Corporation and Robert Schasel, director of energy and resource conservation for PepsiCo.

Faculty of the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business contributed significantly to knowledge and practice in numerous areas related to business. They published 56 peer-reviewed scholarly articles in academic journals, presented 34 peer-reviewed papers at national and international conferences, published nine chapters in scholarly books and produced one book.

Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

In summer 2011, the Bayer School hosted the inaugural offering of the SIGMA Science Mentorship Initiative, a student-implemented pilot program that brings African-American high school students to Duquesne to participate in weekend laboratory workshops and scientific career discussions in the biological sciences. Project SIGMA is another link in a continuum of diversity initiatives in the Bayer School that include Project SEED, the Bayer Scholars’ Program and the Bayer School Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

The Bayer School co-hosted an all-day conference with an audience of more than 200 physicians, scientists, health care providers and teachers in June 2011, which focused on Environmental Toxicity and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The Bayer School’s doctoral program in Chemistry was ranked by the national Research Council as one of the top 100 doctoral programs in the United States. The program also ranked sixth in the nation in Student Support and Outcomes and among the top 35 in diversity.
Faculty received more than 3.3 million in research grants in 2010 – 2011, with $354,000 in overhead, to support their scientific research programs. Additionally, faculty members published 65 peer-reviewed publications during the 2010 calendar year. Grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health to Bayer School faculty have enabled the expansion of the Bayer School’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program to support 47 undergraduate researchers during the summer of 2011.

Mary Pappert School of Music

The School of Music’s newly dedicated Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation is exceeding expectations as a stimulating learning environment for technologically and musically advanced composing, performing and recording initiatives.

A $100,000 grant from PNC Bank Foundation sponsors *Grow Up Great With Music*. Through this program for pre-school children, music education students learned pedagogical theory in classroom experiences and put theory into practice in underserved local preschools, bringing the joy of music to young children while preparing pre-K teachers to make artistic expression an integral part of each day’s learning experience.

Music students continued to demonstrate their commitment to community outreach through off-campus performances, including *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *In Memoriam*, the *Music on the Mount* chamber music series and service learning engagements at Mercy Hospital, the De Paul School for Hearing and Speech and Providence day care centers.

McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

The College has a particular interest in working with the Allegheny County Jail through service learning initiatives in which undergraduates and graduates participate. Currently, the Judicium Learning Community holds significant
segments of two of its fall courses, a Sociology and a Philosophy course, at the Jail. Inmates participate in the class with all of the members of the learning community. It has proved very successful, due in great part to the efforts of Dr. Norm Conti. Those who teach in the program attend the Inside/Out summer program in Philadelphia in order to prepare for the unique challenges faced when teaching in a jail or prison. In the future, Dr. Conti plans to expand this outreach to the State Prison (SCI Pittsburgh).

Through McAnulty College’s Diversity in Computational Technology Program, the University has introduced more than 400 local high school students from underrepresented groups to technology and the concepts and skills needed to work in computing.

The nine McAnulty College of Liberal Arts’ residential learning communities engaged nearly 340 first-year students in learning through service to the Pittsburgh community. They learned about governmental programs, non-profit programs, and faith-based programs. As examples:

- They studied philosophy alongside inmates in the county jail to learn first-hand about criminal justice.
- They engaged in conversation hours with international students to learn about foreign cultures and peoples.
- They tutored children in the Hill District, in schools, to learn about Pittsburgh’s own cultural diversity and heritage.

The Healthcare Ethics program has undergone substantial growth under the direction of its Endowed Scholar, Dr. Gerard Magill, and new Director, Dr. Henk ten Have. They are poised to make even greater contribution towards the training of bioethicists not just in the United States, but around the world. They now have more than 60 Ph.D. students enrolled.

Students from the Department of Journalism and Multimedia Arts recently produced a nationally recognized and award winning DVD on Pittsburgh’s Josh Gibson. The film was broadcast locally on WTAE. In addition to several honors that it already achieved, this year it was honored at an August gala event. Dr. Woytek received a G.I.B.S.O.N. award for his documentary film.

The Department of Theology has an affiliation with Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya where qualified students can now attain a Duquesne MA or MPM degree in Theology. There are a thousand students at the College.

The Department of Philosophy is exploring two new partnerships with African seminaries in Arusha, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya. They plan to start a faculty exchange by the summer of 2012 and are also exploring the possibility of a joint MA degree with the Spiritan Missionary Seminary in Arusha.

The Silverman Center Symposium: Phenomenology and Music was the 29th Annual symposium produced by the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center. Well over a hundred scholars attended the two-day event. It was the first such event to focus exclusively on phenomenology and music.

Mylan School of Pharmacy

The Mylan School of Pharmacy was awarded the 2010 Pride in Pittsburgh Award from the Allegheny County Medical Society. The Center for Pharmacy Care was awarded the Pennsylvania Pharmacist Association 2011 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award.

In keeping with the Spiritan tradition of service to disadvantaged populations, the School of Pharmacy has expanded its experiential education program to include service to populations that traditionally have had little access to health care resources. During 2010-2011, student pharmacists had the opportunity to participate in pharmacy practice experiences that served the needs of various disadvantaged populations. These included the chance to work with homeless women at Bethlehem Haven, the underinsured at Catholic Charities Free Health Care Clinic and those with drug and alcohol dependencies at the Salvation Army. Students were also afforded the opportunity to provide services to communities in the greater Pittsburgh area that have lacked the presence of readily available health care resources through the Spirit of Health van. The Center for Pharmacy Services, a novel
community pharmacy with its emphasis on medication therapy management and positive patient health care outcomes, in conjunction with the Center for Pharmacy Care, have given residents of the Hill District access to pharmacy services that had previously been absent. Under the supervision of School of Pharmacy faculty and pharmacist preceptors, students were able to identify and resolve adverse medication-related issues, work with other health care practitioners to optimize patient outcomes, serve as patient advocates in acquisition of health care resources and provide patient education and lifestyle counseling.

In an effort to expand its geographical reach, the School of Pharmacy embarked upon an initiative to accommodate student pharmacists participating in the experiential education program. Working with Facilities Management, the School of Pharmacy negotiated an agreement with Franciscan University to provide housing for students serving pharmacy practice experiences in the Steubenville, Ohio area. Nineteen students took advantage of this arrangement in 2010-2011. The success of this pilot housing program sparked the School to seek a similar arrangement with St. Francis of Loretto for the accommodation of students serving pharmacy practice experiences in the greater Altoona-Johnstown area. The School anticipates placement of approximately 60 students at Franciscan University and St. Francis of Loretto for the 2011-2012 academic year. This initiative serves not only to foster relationships with other academic institutions, but also it promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and an appreciation of patient health care from multiple perspectives.

Technology has been incorporated throughout the entire pharmacy curriculum. All students are equipped with a laptop or a portable device (phone, iTouch, iPhone, etc.) that they use to access electronic medical information. Laptops or portable devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom. iPads have been used to design Patient Care Plans in the classroom.

Rangos School of Health Sciences

Students of the Rangos School of Health Sciences partnered with community groups to provide health education for youth and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students also participated as volunteer medical staff for numerous local athletic competitions and races.

A new occupational therapy teaching lab was designed and renovation began in June in the new Libermann Building. The completed lab is in operation and supports teaching in biomechanical and neurological interventions.

Physical Therapy students achieved a 94% first-time pass rate on the national licensure examination, exceeding the national averages by 5 to 11% in all 11 practice areas.

The graduate physician assistant studies program was ranked 12th in the nation by The Journal of Physician Assistant Education, which ranked the top 50 programs as part of a study to develop a more thorough methodology for evaluating physician assistant programs.

Speech-Language Pathology students achieved a 100% pass rate on the national Praxis exam.

Faculty of the School published 18 peer-reviewed articles and nine book chapters. Rangos faculty also served as editors, panel members, peer reviewers, subject-matter experts and consultants for such entities as Journal of Women’s Health, Journal of Athletic Training, the Foundation for Physical Therapy and the BBC’s Inside Nature’s Giants.

School of Education

The School of Education realized continued program advancement with the inauguration of the doctorate of psychology program in school psychology. Also, the first cohort of the undergraduate Leading Teacher Program in Urban Education began in fall 2010. The School of Education seeks to become “Home of the Nation’s Leading Teachers.” The Leading Teacher Program meets the standards of excellence for the practice of teaching in the 21st century. Aspiring teachers are challenged throughout the Leading Teacher Program to develop beginning expertise in the critical aspects of becoming a leading teacher. Additionally, learning experiences that reflect the themes of leadership, diversity, and technology are infused throughout the program. A collaborative effort between the School of Education and the Palumbo Donahue School of Business started the Business, Computing and Instructional Technology program at the undergraduate and graduate level.
With attention to service and outreach, the School of Education hosted an Early Childhood Education conference supported by PNC Grant funding, Creating Success Through Literacy, and included Geoffrey Canada, President and CEO of Harlem Children’s Zone, as keynote speaker. The conference focused on the unique needs and issues of children in urban settings and literacy development in young children. Funding from Grable and Eden Hall Foundations made possible the Dr. Barbara A. Sizemore 2011 Summer Conference and Award Ceremony, Living Up to Our Children’s Expectations: A Look at What Is & What Isn’t. Scholars and students from Duquesne University and the Pittsburgh community were brought together to explore issues related to improving education for all students, particularly the education of students in urban schools. The Heinz Endowment gave a two year grant of $350,000 in support of the Barbara A. Sizemore Urban Education initiative and the School of Education was awarded a three-year FIPSE grant from the United States Department of Education for the improvement of postsecondary education for the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED).

School of Leadership and Professional Advancement

The online graduate program in Global Leadership continues to expand. The program, which graduated its first students in August, now has 66 students studying in nearly 20 states, as well as British Columbia and Germany. The program this past spring was highlighted with contributions from faculty from the University of Technology in Jamaica, and from the United World School of Business, in Mumbai, India.

A second cohort for the Women in Mission program was funded by the Family of Foundations. This graduate program, held during three intensive semester terms at Duquesne’s Rome Campus, is designed to help sisters integrate religious formation and professional development and improve their management and leadership skills. Students represent women religious from a variety of congregations in countries around the world. The new cohort is slated to begin in December 2011.

The Emerging Leaders’ Extraction and Environment Program (ELEEP), offered by the University of Ghana and Duquesne University, completed its second and final phase as 20 United States professionals traveled to Accra, Ghana this past July. The program, funded by a $350,000 grant from the U.S. State Department, trains emerging young leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors in strategies for handling the complex societal, economic and environmental challenges which arise from the extraction of natural resources.

School of Law

The Law School has celebrated its Centennial with high-profile events including a kick-off address by United States Attorney General Eric Holder; a speech by nationally renowned author and lawyer Scott Turow at the annual Law Alumni Banquet; a Commencement address by Governor Tom Corbett; and participation by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr. as Distinguished Lecturer at the Law School’s summer program in Vatican City/Rome. On September 24, 2011, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia delivered the keynote address at the Centennial commemoration in the Palumbo Center, which was followed by a Gala dinner in the Student Union Ballroom.

With continued growth and development, the Law School has instituted a new European Summer Study Abroad Program, centered in Cologne, Germany, with side trips to Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France. Also, a comprehensive curricular reform effort is underway.

The Law School will be the recipient of a newly established $1.2 million endowment fund, thanks to Chancellor and Professor of Law, John E. Murray Jr. The Dr. John and Liz Murray Endowed Fund for Scholarly Development will enhance the scholarly environment and culture at the Law School.

School of Nursing

Continuing its emphasis on social justice, the School of Nursing formally incorporated content relevant to the analysis of social justice across both the undergraduate and graduate curricula. Furthermore, the School produced the first annual McGinley Conference for Social Justice, Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Elderly.

Undergraduate students continue service-learning experiences by providing health interventions in community settings. Additionally, the school’s nine Nurse-Managed Wellness Centers throughout Pittsburgh served more than 2,000 patients, providing health education, diagnosis of recurrent symptoms, referrals and flu shots.

The new Doctor of Nursing Practice program graduated 23 students in the spring of 2011, and each of them received career advancements as a result of their education.