The focus of the inaugural issue of Academic Affairs in Review was upon the University’s ten schools. This one features our professional partners who support students, faculty, and administrators in providing the academic programs and research opportunities that make Duquesne a special place to study and learn. Taken as a whole, the faculty and administrators in the schools and the professional support staff must collaborate as a healthy organism or else the education that we want our students to receive at Duquesne falters. We are blessed at this University to have an organization that works well because of the mutual respect each area has for the other, the well prepared professionals we have in each, and their shared commitment to serving God by serving students. I invite you now to learn more about the professional support areas that impact the entire University community.
Reflections from the Associate Provost/AAVP of Academic Affairs

BY DR. ALEXANDRA GREGORY
Associate Provost/AAVP of Academic Affairs

As a first-grader, the world of books opened up to me as I learned to read Dick and Jane. It was at that young and tender age that I decided that I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up because it was clear to me that it was the most wonderful profession in the world. I fell in love then with the wonder and mystery of learning and with the many worlds which opened up to me as I studied.

I consider myself to be extraordinarily blessed because I have the privilege of working in higher education at Duquesne University. Throughout the entire range of programs we offer, from serving traditional undergraduate freshmen to offering doctoral degrees, we touch and are touched by students’ lives at the crucial intersection of the life, mind, heart, and spirit.

Since walking onto Duquesne University campus as a new employee this past summer, I have thought a lot about new beginnings. I have spent a good bit of time walking around campus to meet with people and to get a sense of where my place is in the scheme of things. I have been impressed with the welcome I have received over this past year when people realized that I am new to the Duquesne community. Their dedication to serving students is apparent from our conversations, as is their commitment to working together collaboratively to accomplish our mission.

So for me as an academic administrator, the centrality of the text is that we serve God by serving students. It seems so clear and simple when you say it like that, and yet the complexity, breadth, and depth of our University means that we see that played out in infinite variety. I see a small part of that world here in our office as we work with a wide range of programs and yet everything is grounded in the text: we serve God by serving students. And for me, that text comes alive through a commitment of excellence in all that we do, a willingness to engage with others in addressing the big issues of life and learning, and a sense of joy as we make the journey together.

Admissions

The Admissions staff is busy working to recruit a diverse group of academically talented and motivated students for fall 2009, as the critical closing phase for freshman recruitment approaches. As a part of this effort, the staff is assisting with school-specific open houses for accepted students, personally contacting students who are still undecided, and continuing to review applications. At the same time, current high school juniors and their families are visiting campus every day seeking the advice and guidance of the Admissions counseling staff. In these cases, the staff is helping students to choose high school courses and extracurricular activities that further develop their interests and talents. Several admissions counselors are also attending regional and out-of-state college fairs to reach out to this particular group of students.

Center for Teaching Excellence

Center for Teaching Excellence celebrated its 20th anniversary on Tuesday, March 31. Several members of the 1989 University Teaching Committee who helped establish the center were honorary members of the planning committee: Dorothy Frayer (founding director of CTE, retired), Connie Ramirez (former faculty member and dean of McAnulty College, retired), Susan Munson (Education), Judith Bowman (Music), and Paul Richer (Psychology).

Recent new session topics include service-learning in the liberal arts, understanding learning styles, getting students to read, student learning in the sciences, using racial demographic data in teaching, writing dissertations, teaching writing intensive courses, and videotaped examples of Duquesne faculty teaching large classes.

Also new are the faculty learning groups focusing on incorporating inclusive and multicultural perspectives into teaching.

CTE staff provided teaching, assessment, and academic career consultations to well over 100 individuals. Forty consultations included providing resources relevant to entire academic programs.

An anonymous donor gave $20,000 to establish the Dorothy Frayer Resource Fund Endowment for faculty development. We currently have $5000 more in pledges, and are building this fund so that proceeds can be used for special teaching and learning initiatives.
Duquesne University Press

The Duquesne University Press has published six new titles since July 2008. These include:

- Heidegger’s Jewish Followers: Essays on Hannah Arendt, Leo Strauss, Hans Jonas, and Emmanuel Levinas, edited by Samuel Fleischacker (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- The Inhuman Condition: Looking for Difference after Levinas and Heidegger by Rudi Visker (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
- Renaissance Tropologies: The Cultural Imagination of Early Modern England, edited by Jeanne Shami (University of Regina)
- The Development of Milton’s Thought: Law, Government, and Religion by John T. Shawcross (University of Kentucky)
- Milton and Monotheism by Abraham Stoll (University of San Diego)
- A Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton: Volume 3 — Samson Agonistes, by Stephen B. Dobranski (Georgia State University), edited by Paul J. Klemp (University of Wisconsin)

The Milton Variorum volume, in particular, represents the culmination of many years of work by a team of scholars, led by the project’s general editor, the late Dr. Albert C. Labriola. In the late 1990s, Dr. Labriola brought the project to Duquesne from its original home at Columbia University and obtained external funding to help support its production.

At the Milton Society of America dinner in December, the Press’s 2007 publication “Paradise Lost: A Poem Written in Ten Books”: An Authoritative Text of the 1667 First Edition received the Shawcross Award for the most distinguished chapter or edition published on Milton during 2007.

Another of our books from 2007, Milton the Dramatist by Timothy J. Burbery (Marshall University) was honored by Choice magazine throughout 2008 as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles.

Financial Aid Office

In early March, the Financial Aid Office began the large volume of processing aid and marks the start of the busiest period in the office, which lasts until approximately October 1. The staff assists students that have remaining financial obligations with advice on different loan or payment plan options so that the students are able to register for the upcoming summer or fall semesters. We are also reviewing and processing summer aid requests for the students who have submitted summer financial aid applications.

A critical part of the work is preparing and packaging award letters for the prospective freshman class. With the highest volume of accepted applications in the history of the University, we are processing many financial packages, so prospective students can choose the college or university that best fits their interests. In the month of March, the office has processed approximately 2,500 financial aid packages to prospective students. The Financial Aid Office is also preparing to begin the packaging process for our current student population for the 2009-2010 academic year. Beginning in late May or early June, Financial Aid award packages will be sent to over 10,000 students.

The Gumberg Library

The Gumberg Library experienced numerous renovation improvements including a new $1.1 million entrance plaza with pleasing open space on the surface and an effective retaining wall and drainage system beneath. It was dedicated on October 1, 2008. Construction continued this past summer with new paint on the walls, new carpet tiles throughout the floor, and new compact shelving, and at the end of the fall semester, a comprehensive security system was installed throughout the library. Every study carrel, restroom, and service area now has panic buttons that connect to campus Public Safety. Video cameras record activity at the loading dock and front entrance. Over the holiday break, 100 new electrical outlets were installed in public study areas on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th floors of the library. The Popular
Reading Room on the 4th floor now has new furniture for comfortable study and student gathering in addition to the expanded study space on the 5th floor. President Dougherty provided supplemental funding to purchase the additional study furniture for the library.

In addition to the renovations this past academic year, the library has seen an increase in its usage statistics: foot traffic in the library has grown 30%, total items circulated increased 10%, and student and faculty use of research carrels increased 94%. Laptop usage increased 163% with the addition of 17 new loaner laptops purchased with supplemental funding from President Dougherty.

Honors College

The Duquesne University Honors College entered its twenty-fifth year of service to some of the University’s brightest students. The Honors College provided comprehensive, enhanced, and challenging learning experiences to its members through special honors-only courses and individual learning opportunities. The College also sponsored service and social programs to its students in the Assumption Hall living-learning center. Among significant accomplishments for the past year are:

The College admitted a class of 123 freshmen for fall 2008 (7.6 percent of total class), with a mean SAT score of 1345. New freshmen came from seventeen different states and from all academic units at the University.

Dr. Evan Stoddard and four students (Allison Pogue, Juliane Murphy, Benjamin Shopland, and Jamie White) presented session at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference in San Antonio, Texas on October 24. Their talk centered on the Honors College service learning course, Community and University.

In October, the College office moved into new quarters at 20 Chatham Square, across the street from the new Power Center. Increased space has provided many new opportunities for programming and tangible sense of identity for the Honors College. The College began paper and electronic portfolio projects with the incoming freshman and returning sophomore classes respectively.

In conjunction with the Office of Residence Life the Honors College has provided a full and wide-ranging program of enhancement activities in the Assumption Hall living learning center: Extra Perk, Food with Faculty, Major Support, Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest, greeting card programs for U.S. service personnel and for senior citizens in Pittsburgh nursing homes; and discussion relating to the 2008 presidential campaign and election.

The Spiritan Division

The Spiritan Division and the Learning Skills Center were awarded the Pennsylvania Department of Education grant in the amount of $160, 312 for the administration of the University’s Pennsylvania Acts Program. The new Commonwealth guidelines stipulate that participating institutions identify and serve all students who are eligible according to Commonwealth requirements.

The freshman class of the Spiritan Division, numbering 48, upheld the tradition of those who came before them in their sound academic performance this past fall semester. All freshmen had quality point averages above 2.00, five achieved Dean’s List, and 48% of them earned averages ranging between 3.00 and 3.80.

The twelfth annual Spiritan Division reception took place on February 20, with 165 in attendance. The event began with a Mass in the University chapel concelebrated by Fr. Jocelyn Gregoire, professor of Education, and other Spiritan priests. Students and parents were the centerpiece of the evening’s activities with round acknowledgement of students’ demonstrated academic excellence and tribute to the Spiritan Congregation as the inspirational source, the core underpinning of the Division’s work. The speakers adhered to the mission of
the Division. Father Peter Adu, a member of the Holy Ghost Congregation, provided the Spiritan Congregation Message; and Dr. Dean Rotondo, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and parent of a Spiritan Division student, delivered the Parent Perspective. Fr. John Fogarty, Director, Center for Spiritan Studies, and Chaplain for the Division, presented the Student of the Year Award.

Office of the Associate Provost/ AAVP of Academic Affairs

Academic year 2008-2009 highlights from the Office of the Associate Provost/AAVP of Academic Affairs include:

■ Established the Office of National Fellowships and Scholarships which will be directed by Dr. Lewis Irwin. This office will be a resource available to students to assist them in competing for nationally prestigious scholarship and fellowship opportunities.

■ Created a university-wide assessment process which includes an assessment plan for each academic degree earning program as well as an annual report.

■ Worked with the Office of Research to establish the first Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium which was held in the Power Center Ballroom on April 15.

Office of International Programs

The Office of International Programs advocates the enrichment of our University and our students through attracting and serving international students and scholars and by encouraging our faculty and students to study abroad. Recent recruitment efforts are looking to cultivate a greater presence of students from China, Vietnam, India, Latin America, and the Middle East. ISO Week culminated with ISO Night on March 26, 2009. The Office of International Programs supports the student organizers of this event and coordinates the many international student organizations working to bring this week-long event to fruition as a way to showcase the rich cultural diversity present on campus.

This summer, twelve faculty teams will guide students to Africa, Asia, and Europe to study topics as wide ranging as international management practices, environmental issues, pharmacy education, Spanish language immersion, transcultural health perspectives, social and public policy, and journalism and media.

The 2009 Spring “Break Away” sent students to Geneva, Lyon, Florence, and Rome during the Spring Break. In this program, students study all semester in Pittsburgh but also commit to traveling as a group during their spring break. The Office of International Programs offers annual faculty development grants to sponsor exploratory travel in the preceding summer so faculty can prepare courses in this format for the following spring semester.

Office of the Registrar

Spring 2009 Commencement:
Graduation is a very special time when family, friends, faculty and students gather to celebrate the significant achievements of our graduates. The University will honor graduating students with a University-wide Commencement Ceremony to be held on Friday, May 8, 2009, at 5:00pm. The Baccalaureate Mass will precede this ceremony at 3:00pm. Both events will be held in the A. J. Palumbo Center. A reception on Academic Walk will follow the Commencement Ceremony. In addition, School ceremonies will be held for our graduates in arts, music, business, nursing, education, sciences, and health sciences on Saturday, May 9, 2009. The commencement ceremony for Pharmacy students will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2009, and law students will graduate on Sunday, June 7, 2009.
Office of Service-Learning

The Office of Service-Learning (OSL) established in 2005 to support the needs of faculty members, community partners, and students involved in community-based learning continued to grow, through inclusion in the Core Curriculum, McAnulty Learning Communities, and upper-level courses in most of the degree programs. Some recent highlights include:

- Faculty and administrators presented the Duquesne service-learning program at a number of scholarly conferences and have written about service-learning in the American Journal of Statistical Education.
- The Office of Service-Learning coordinated the University’s successful application for the Community Engagement Classification offered through the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Grant funding was secured to conduct a student learning outcomes assessment project throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania, convene a higher education regional network to support the growth of service-learning, and collaborate with Pittsburgh Cares to build a service-learning project databank.
- The Community Engagement Scholars program was developed to expand leadership through opportunities for student community engagement initiatives. Academic departments host CE Scholars who help to deepen and strengthen community engagement activities (such as service-learning or community-based research). In exchange for their commitment, Community Engagement Scholars receive an educational award through the AmeriCorps program.

Pre-Medical Professions Program

The Pre-Medical Professions Program is a university-wide program which is open to students in any major who have an interest in medicine as well as dentistry, podiatry, optometry, chiropractic or veterinary medicine disciplines. Students of this program get the courses they need to meet their pre-professional requirements, plus a science-based liberal arts education, opportunities for research, and hands-on experience in their chosen field. PMPP currently has 225 undergraduate students who have intentions to apply to a health professional school in the future. Sixteen seniors in the Pre-Medical Professions Program were accepted into at least one health professional school for fall 2008.