Historic Partnership Advances Life's Work of DU Cancer Researcher

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At the heart of Duquesne’s mission is serving God by serving others. Whether we are offering students a transformative educational experience or helping our neighbors with social justice issues in their communities, we are living the mission of service set forth by our Spiritan sponsors.

Our teacher-scholars maintain a strong focus on helping others through their research. Dr. Aleem Gangjee, for example, has been exploring the devastating mysteries of cancer for more than three decades. Through his research, Gangjee has excited the scientific community with his cutting-edge scholarship on cancer drugs.

As our cover story shows, the licensing of more than 50 of his patents—by a company headed by a Duquesne graduate—marks a milestone in our ascent to leadership in biotechnology. More importantly, it offers greater hope to patients who may benefit from Gangjee’s research in the years to come.

Also in this issue, we report on the latest rankings from U.S. News & World Report. For the sixth consecutive year, we are among the top tier of national doctoral universities and the top 12 Catholic institutions. We place highly on U.S. News lists ranking affordability, reputation among guidance counselors, quality of specific academic programs, services provided to veterans, and other key measures.

These are, of course, important benchmarks. We are appropriately proud of the recognition and we understand the impact it has on Duquesne’s reputation. But behind the rankings and ratings are people—thousands of students, faculty, and alumni who do remarkable things every day.

Two blocks from Academic Walk, law students hone their skills while serving clients who cannot otherwise afford representation, aided by a new building. Four thousand miles away, a young alumna pursues her passion for teaching at a school for native children in rural Alaska.

As you read these pages, please take a moment to reflect on how each person and every achievement here contributes to our special Spiritan mission. And you might recall your own days on our Bluff and how that mission has influenced you and those whose lives you have touched.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D.
Duquesne University President
One of the nation’s universities
with the best value, considering cost and academic quality,
Duquesne continues to be ranked by U.S. News & World Report in
its top tier of national universities.

In the 2014 U.S. News Best College ranking, Duquesne
remained among the top schools—and the top Catholic
institutions—in the nation.

Ranked No. 45 as a Great School at a Great Price, Duquesne is
one of six Catholic institutions in the top 50 considered as great
values for students, based upon academic quality and the cost
for a student receiving an average level of need-based aid. Of the
Catholic schools included as a great value, Duquesne’s tuition
cost was one of the lowest.

“We are proud to create a quality academic learning
environment at a rate affordable to so many students,” says
President Charles J. Dougherty. “Students have access to topflight
researchers and facilities—even as undergraduates—and the
personal mentoring that comes with the smaller classroom sizes
typical on our campus. All of these factors can be important to
success in the classroom—and ultimately, in the job market.”

Small classroom sizes and a high freshman retention rate were
noted in Duquesne’s national ranking at No. 121 with Clarkson,
Colorado State, DePaul and Temple universities, Catholic
University of America and the University of Utah.

Of these schools, Duquesne had the highest 2012 graduation
rate (74 percent). Additionally, 43 percent of its classes had
less than 20 students and 87 percent of the freshman students
continued their studies on campus.

The University stood out as one of the top schools on the High
School Counselor Rankings, which were selected by guidance
counselors on U.S. News’ Best High Schools list, at No. 127.

By peer assessment, the undergraduate business school was
ranked as having one of the country’s best business programs
among the credentialed Association to Advance Collegiate
Schools of Business institutions.

Duquesne also is considered an A-Plus School for B Students,
where U.S. News says “non-superstars have a decent shot at being
accepted and thriving.” This category, the rankings note, may be
the sign of schools seeking “a broad, engaged student body.”

“Students have access
to topflight researchers
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classroom sizes typical
on our campus.”
U.S. News Ranks
DU Nursing School No. 6 Among Best Online Programs

The Duquesne University School of Nursing has been ranked No. 6 in the nation among the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, the University overall was ranked No. 93 of 210 schools ranked in the Best Online Bachelor’s Degree programs category.

The 2014 Best Online Education Program Rankings mark a move up for the School of Nursing, which was ranked No. 7 in 2013.

“The latest U.S. News best online program ranking is a credit to the strength of our faculty and students, who make the Duquesne University School of Nursing one of the most innovative nursing schools in the country,” says Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow, dean and professor of nursing.

Student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, peer reputation and student services and technology were the factors considered by U.S. News for the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs rankings.

“I am pleased that the School of Nursing continues to be a leader in online nursing education as we were an early adopter of online education and offered the world’s first online graduate nursing program in 1997,” adds Glasgow. “We constantly strive to offer diverse and meaningful pedagogies to increase student engagement.”

Duquesne’s School of Nursing is launching a new online RN-BSN Program in August.

The newly released rankings mark a jump for Duquesne, which was ranked No. 125 last year among the Best Online Bachelor’s programs. U.S. News considered student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation and student services and technology as factors for this category.

Duquesne University offers numerous convenient and flexible degree and certificate programs for undergraduates and graduates through its Online Campus. ■

“We constantly strive to offer diverse and meaningful pedagogies to increase student engagement.”
Dr. Guillermo Baralt’s life is a joyful balance between teaching and learning.

He spends his days teaching classes at the University of Puerto Rico’s Rio Piedras campus. He spends his time outside of the classroom learning about subjects as diverse as banking history, slave revolts and a coffee plantation through his work as one of Puerto Rico’s most accomplished authors and historians.

One of Baralt’s most noted books, If It’s Goya…It Has To Be Good, 75 Years of History, was published in 2010. Founded in New York in 1936 by a Spanish immigrant, Goya is the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the United States.

“When I was asked to write about Goya’s history, I thought—I’m not a cook, but I know a little about Puerto Ricans’ social and economic history, but what about in the U.S.,” says Baralt, A’70. “So, I asked about that, and they said, ‘You can learn!’”

The passion for education he was exposed to in his classes at Duquesne inspired his 40-year career and lifelong quest to learn from others.

Baralt, a native of Puerto Rico, attended Duquesne with the intention of becoming a lawyer like his father. But, taking classes from history professors Dr. Sam Astorino and Dr. John Opie changed his career path.

“I was enchanted by their work as historians,” says Baralt. “I decided that before I would earn my law degree, I would get a master’s in history because I was so impacted by their passion for history.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in history, Baralt headed to the University of Chicago, where he earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in history.

“After completing my master’s, I had already decided that I didn’t want to be a lawyer,” explains Baralt. “I wanted to be a historian and a professor at the University of Puerto Rico instead.”

And that’s exactly what he did. Today, Baralt teaches Puerto Rican history at the Rio Piedras campus. In addition, he teaches courses in the business and humanities schools and also directs student theses projects.

An award-winning author of more than 15 books, Baralt has written on different topics about his native Puerto Rico. Each of his books, he says, has led to the next, and with it, a new educational experience.

After reading Baralt’s book Buena Vista: Life and Work on a Puerto Rican Hacienda, 1833-1904, the president of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico (the territory’s largest bank) approached him about writing the bank’s history.

“I told him I didn’t know anything about banking,” insists Baralt. “And he said, ‘You can learn.’ And I did.”

Upon the success of Tradition Into the Future: The First Century of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico: 1893-1993, Baralt was asked by noted Puerto Rican industrialist and politician Luis Ferré to write his biography.

“I told him that I had never written political history before, but he told me, ‘You can learn,’” laughs Baralt, who wrote a two-volume biography on Ferré.

Ferré’s son Antonio, owner of Puerto Rico’s newspaper El Nuevo Día, subsequently asked Baralt to write the history of the paper. The book, Al Servicio de Mi Tierra: Historia de El Nuevo Día, led to the request to have Baralt write the history of the United States federal court in Puerto Rico. He says writing History of the Federal Court in Puerto Rico 1899-1999 was one of his most difficult tasks.

“The federal laws in Puerto Rico are written in English—my second language—so not only did I have to learn about the law, I had to learn it in English,” says Baralt.

He’s currently learning about industry in Puerto Rico for his latest book in progress about the history of the Puerto Rico Manufacturing Association.

Baralt and his wife, Natalia, have two sons—Guillermo Antonio, who graduated from Duquesne in 2010, and Francisco, a senior psychology major at Duquesne.

“I am very proud about them carrying on the Duquesne tradition for college, especially since I never put any pressure on them to attend the University,” says Baralt. “Maybe it was my stories of how well I was treated—with respect and understanding, the academic environment, the friendships, the excellent teachers and, of course, Duquesne basketball.”
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named Duquesne University to its Top 30 College and University list of the largest green power users.

School of Law graduates achieved an 82.4 percent pass rate for first-time takers of the July 2013 Pennsylvania Bar Examination, according to the state’s Board of Law Examiners. Duquesne’s overall pass rate exceeded Pennsylvania’s overall pass rate. Duquesne’s pass rate places the University ahead of law schools at Drexel, the University of Pittsburgh and Widener-Delaware in the region.

In September, health care practitioners, researchers and scientists came together to explore the vital issue of ethics in health care for Ethics in the Business of Science & Healthcare. The symposium featured a keynote address by Paul O’Neill, former secretary of the U.S. Treasury, and former chairman and chief executive officer of Alcoa. The symposium was sponsored by the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, Mylan School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing and Rangos School of Health Sciences.

Nearly 700 guests gathered at the 15th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 11. The on-campus breakfast is one of the largest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The National Institute for Newman Studies, in affiliation with the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, hosted the second annual Newman Memorial Lecture in September. Distinguished theologian Dr. Mark McIntosh explored Blessed John Henry Newman’s Oxford University Sermons to help attendees understand the importance of Newman’s teachings within.

The Small Business Development Center presented the eighth annual Pennsylvania Business Technology Conference in November. The aim of the conference is to help businesses increase their profitability and competitiveness by equipping them with the information they need to make smart technology decisions.

The Center for Healthcare Ethics hosted Moral Courage: An Unsung Resource for Optimizing Health Care Practices in November as part of the David F. Kelly Bioethics Lectures. Keynote speaker Dr. Ruth B. Purtilo, who was introduced by President Charles J. Dougherty, discussed five “constituents of courage” that can act as guides promoting purposive action for the common good in health care settings and the role of spiritual formation as an aspect of empowerment for moral courage.

Purtilo is professor emerita at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Institute of Health Professions and a senior research professor at the MGH Nursing Research Center.

At the Pascal Day lecture in October, author and visiting speaker Dr. Jon Levenson explored whether the appearance of patriarch Abraham in Genesis and in certain currents of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism creates a common thread between Judaism and Christianity, both in antiquity and in modern times. An annual lecture series sponsored by the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, Pascal Day is devoted to exploring issues that intersect with science, philosophy and faith.

DID YOU KNOW?
Duquesne and the School of Law hosted a special ceremony in September to dedicate the new Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education, located on Fifth Avenue in the heart of the Uptown neighborhood.

Through the new center, the School of Law provides free legal services to those who need but cannot afford legal representation, including veterans, low-income individuals and families, and non-profit organizations. Clients are helped with civil rights, family law, unemployment compensation and other specific legal matters.

“The School of Law is deeply committed to serving the community while, at the same time, giving our students hands-on skills training so that they can perform at the highest level when they enter the practice of law,” says Law Dean Ken Gormley. “Our new clinic, just blocks from the courthouses Downtown, opens up remarkable opportunities to help underserved clients and families while allowing Duquesne law students to tackle real-life legal problems that will give them unmatched experience.”

Three years ago, as the new dean of the School of Law, Gormley outlined plans for a freestanding clinic and the hiring of a nationally recognized clinician to direct the program. Alumni quickly stepped up to champion the project with community leaders and public funders.

Alumnus Tom Tribone, a 1985 graduate of the School of Law and a 1981 graduate of the Palumbo•Donahue School of Business, played a key role in developing the new center for clinical legal education that now bears his family name. He noted Duquesne’s influence on both his family and the family of his wife, Michele Mrozek-Tribone.

“Duquesne has had a significant impact on three generations of our family on both sides,” says Tribone. “My father, the first person in the family to attend college, developed a strong respect for education at Duquesne, and he imparted that to us.”

Tribone is chief executive officer of Franklin Park Investments, which owns and operates energy and infrastructure businesses globally, and is chairman of the board of directors of a public investment fund, Infrastructure India PLC. Throughout his career, he has owned and managed large energy concerns in the U.S. and 35 other countries.

In making his gift, Tribone says he was impressed with the work of Duquesne’s community-based legal initiatives and the impact on area residents.

“The law school’s clinical program provides important services to citizens who otherwise wouldn’t be able to get legal help,” says Tribone.

Local firms and Duquesne law alumni are stepping up to name individual rooms in the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education. A student work room on the first floor is now named for Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, PC, and moot courtroom and technology lab space on the second floor for August C. Damian, a 1960 law alumnus.

The Tribone Center also features client meeting rooms, conference rooms for consultations with judges and attorneys, and classrooms. The building doubles the size of the previous clinic space in Fisher Hall and makes the programs more accessible for clients from throughout the region. All clinical legal education programs are now based here, including the school’s community-focused clinics, externship programs and site placements, pro bono initiative and summer public interest fellowship program.

During the dedication, Gormley credited Professor Laurie Serafino, hired by the School of Law in 2012 to direct the expanding clinical legal education program, Professor Tracey McCants Lewis, assistant director, and Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick, clinic founder, with bringing “vision, passion and a deep commitment to justice” to all of the work happening inside the Tribone Center.

“We are now delivering, in a big way, on twin obligations: to use the talent and resources of the law school to serve those who are less fortunate, and to prepare our students for employment by providing unmatched experience with real-life legal issues,” Gormley remarked.

Additional funding for the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education was provided in part through a $500,000 grant from the state’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and a $250,000 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.
Duquesne Opens Family Law Clinic

Experiential learning is an essential part of legal education at the School of Law. This semester, students can participate in a new live-client clinic dedicated to family law. Working under the supervision of a family law expert, Duquesne students are now assisting victims of domestic abuse and individuals with family law disputes, including child custody cases, at all stages of representation.

“We are pleased to be able to serve a new population of local residents in need of legal assistance,” says Laurie Serafino, director of clinical legal education. “The supervising attorney brings with her years of experience in private practice and in clinical education. Both our students and our clients will benefit.”

Katherine L. W. Norton, Esq., the supervising attorney, is also co-chair of the Allegheny County Bar Association’s public service committee. At Duquesne, Norton is teaching law students the skills of interviewing, counseling, negotiation, drafting pleadings and advocating before the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.
Many students selecting a college face a dilemma.

They deeply desire to attend a particular institution because of the quality of an academic program, or due to a distinctive atmosphere in which they feel at ease and inspired. Yet they and their families sometimes must settle for a less attractive option, often for financial reasons. Not long ago, Katie Bennett was in that difficult position.

“I wanted to come to Duquesne because it was close enough to my family that I felt comfortable, but it was still in the city; because the curriculum is well known, not only in this region but nationally and internationally; and because it provides a set of good moral values to supplement my education,” explains the native of Munhall, a Pittsburgh suburb.

Her decision, though, came down to Duquesne and a larger public university across town.

“I had been going back and forth,” she says. “Duquesne was my number one, but it was still a little bit beyond our means. And then I received a phone call.”

She learned that she had been selected to receive the William V. Campbell Family Endowed Scholarship. Campbell, chairman of the technology company Intuit, did not attend Duquesne, but his father had earned two degrees on our Bluff and coached basketball for the Dukes in the 1920s. Campbell grew up in Homestead, Pa., and established the scholarship at Duquesne in 2009 to benefit graduates of Steel Valley High School, which serves Homestead and Munhall.

“I committed that day,” recalls Bennett. “The scholarship was the deciding factor. It had always been Duquesne; this is where my heart has always been.”

She entered her senior year with a 4.0 average in public relations and English. She tutors fellow students at the Writing Center, is secretary of the Integrated Honors Society and a team leader for Orientation, is a student ambassador for the English Department, and is promotions chair for the Mortar Board honor society. She was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society at the end of her junior year, a distinction only offered to the top seven percent of her class.

Three years after that phone call, she is sure that she made the right choice. “The scholarship is the best thing that’s ever happened to me,” she says. “Duquesne is the largest influence in my life. It has taught me so many things, not only in my areas of study, but also about who I am.”

Donors like Campbell allow hundreds of Duquesne students, like Katie Bennett, to follow their hearts. To learn more about scholarships and The Legacy Fund, visit www.duq.edu/make-a-gift.
The ongoing renovation of Duquesne’s Chapel of the Holy Spirit continued with the September installation of the new Risen Christ sculpture. The artwork is the culmination of a two-year effort to find a suitable replacement for the chapel’s previous cross and structure.

The Risen Christ’s journey to Duquesne began in the summer of 2012, when President Charles Dougherty traveled to the Spiritan orphanage at Auteuil in Paris, where Blessed Daniel Brottier spent a career building a small orphanage into one of the largest and most progressive in France. Before Brottier’s tomb stands a striking modern version of a Risen Christ, and Dougherty—in consultation with former Vice President for Mission and Identity James McCloskey, C.S.Sp., and current Vice President for Mission and Identity Raymond French, C.S.Sp.—decided that something similar would be ideal for the University’s chapel.

Duquesne contacted the sculpture’s creator, French artist Sebastien Touret, who agreed to create an exact replica for the University. Today, the wooden Risen Christ resides in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, where special lighting creates two shadows that represent the thieves crucified with Christ.

The Risen Christ was formally dedicated in October. The dedication featured artist Sebastien Touret, who traveled from France to join the celebration. His remarks about his work are below:

It is quite an impressive mission to find oneself having to represent Christ.

Is it even possible to show Him? We can evoke Him through an attitude, a gesture, within the challenges of carving and the reality of a material—oak wood in this case.

This oak, not long ago, was a living tree full of sap. It was cut down and became a beam, in a neat square shape, and lifeless.

The sculptor seizes it, and work begins as the precise tools bring out the sawdust and shavings.

The beam loses its rigidity, its inertia.

Thanks to your commissioning of the sculpture and to the sculpting work, a character appears—a man. The wood has become living, the most alive of the Living, the Risen Christ resurrected. He comes out of the tomb, springing from his shroud.

This sculpture has a twinned presence in Paris, which I sculpted with my late father, Jean Touret, for the Chapel of Orphans in d’Auteuil.

With hope this sculpture lives up to the huge ambition of the humble sculptor: creating a life-giving presence in this place of yours and in your midst.
A LIFETIME OF CANCER RESEARCH, A HISTORIC PATENT DEAL

BY KAREN FERRICK-ROMAN

University’s Largest Licensing Agreement—with Alumnus—Puts Anti-Cancer Compounds on Path to Commercialization

The largest licensing agreement in Duquesne University’s history brings the fruits of Dr. Aleem Gangjee’s career-long fight against cancer all the closer to commercialization.

“This is a unique opportunity for one of our researchers to join forces with an alumnus who can further his research efforts and attempt to bring these compounds to market,” says Pharmacy Dean J. Douglas Bricker.

The November agreement with FLAG Therapeutics cements Duquesne’s reputation as a top-tier research institution, strengthens the relationship between Duquesne and the company’s President and CEO Dr. Frank Sorgi, a graduate of the School of Pharmacy and
A Lifetime of Cancer Research, A Historical Pact

the School of Business—and buoys the lifelong dream of researcher Dr. Aleem Gangjee to fight back against the villainous disease that claimed his grandmother’s life and the lives of about 7.6 million people every year.

It’s hard to pick the sweetest part of the deal.

Living the Researcher’s Dream

The licensing agreement extending beyond 2035 encompasses the career portfolio—nearly 50 patents—of pharmacy professor Dr. Aleem Gangjee. Growing up in India, Gangjee planned to be an industrial chemist—until his grandmother’s breast cancer diagnosis. Her struggle shaped Gangjee’s professional life, moving him into medicinal chemistry and a career that would demand every ounce of his creativity and scientific shrewdness.

Arriving at Duquesne in 1979, Gangjee started a lab with borrowed glassware and a $10,000 United Way grant. In 2013, he achieved the near-mythic status of holding five concurrent National Institutes of Health grants; his proposals have attracted more than $18.2 million to Duquesne.

The funding has not only provided the means to buy glassware, equipment and chemicals, but to support and train the next generation of researchers, to subcontract with collaborators, and to design computer-generated molecules that physically and chemically thwart cancer cells. A Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Gangjee has created a think tank in his Mellon Hall office, with photos of his beloved grandchildren always watching. But the space is dominated by carefully choreographed stacks of student work, articles he is writing, articles he is reviewing, data from collaborators and discoveries in the field. One wall holds some patents and other awards, like the 2012 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Research Achievement Award in Drug Discovery and Development Interface.

This award recognizes Gangjee’s latest compounds, linchpins in the licensing deal: two families of water-soluble drugs (potentially allowing them to be administered orally) designed to target and destroy cancer cells in at least two different ways. The first class of compounds ever to combine antiangiogenic and antitubulin activities into one molecule takes advantage of the narrow window of time when the extraordinary blood supply that supports aggressive tumor growth can be suppressed by pharmaceuticals. With the blood supply diminished by the antiangiogenic effect and the cancer cells already weakened, antitubulin compounds further inhibit cancer cell growth.

The second family, formed of folate-targeted anti-cancer compounds, binds selectively to receptor sites found predominately on cancer cells and interrupts cell multiplication. By physically and chemically blocking tumor growth, these compounds kill tumor cells—and target only tumor cells, leaving normal cells unharmed. This selective therapy is less likely to sicken cancer patients with side effects.

Both of these novel approaches trick cancer cells, acting like Trojan horses carrying the compounds inside the tumors to pack their deadly double punch. Preclinical studies suggest that the compounds could be used to treat multiple types of cancer, including some ovarian, breast, lung, brain and pancreatic cancers—and surpass conventional therapies in their safety and efficacy profiles.

The compounds show two other remarkable advantages: the agents are not susceptible to drug resistance and are particularly promising in both late and early stages of the disease.

“Dr. Gangjee is a highly respected researcher and FLAG is honored to have the opportunity to advance his discoveries from the bench into the clinic—and ultimately to individuals in need of new therapeutic cancer treatment options,” says Sorgi. “We already have identified lead clinical candidates, each supported with encouraging comparative in vivo data versus current therapies, and we look forward to advancing these compounds into clinical trials.”

Recognizing the Beauty of the Promise

The pharmacy school asked Sorgi to take a look at Gangjee’s patent portfolio. A member of the Dean’s Advisory Council with an entrepreneurial science career spanning more than 20 years in early development and
commercialization of compounds in the U.S. and abroad, Sorgi had experience in all steps of the drug development process, from drug inception, preclinical and clinical development, to manufacturing and commercialization. He agreed to develop a business plan to license the patent portfolio of his former professor and to help find someone to execute it.

Even though he’d worked for many startups, he wasn’t expecting to start his own company. He’d known Gangjee for years—in fact, Gangjee, then department chair of the pharmacy’s graduate school, presented Sorgi with his master’s hood in 1990. Sorgi certainly was aware of Gangjee’s anti-cancer research. “But the more I learned about the work, the more intrigued I was,” says Sorgi. “The small compounds were very intelligently designed and the strong patent portfolio around the work was incredibly impressive.”

In June 2013, Sorgi became founding president and CEO of FLAG Therapeutics Inc., creating a company around Gangjee’s portfolio and making his relationship with Duquesne stronger than ever.

Duquesne had provided Sorgi’s academic foundation for three of his four degrees: pharmacy (’87, ’90) and an MBA in management (’90) from the School of Business, where son Jacob is a student. The pharmacy and MBA degrees were unusual combinations at the time, and Sorgi discovered a love for the business of science. His Duquesne training, topped by a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Pittsburgh, set the stage for a varied career: as vice president of global science and technology at Patheon Pharmaceuticals, responsible for all early development from inception through safety, dosage and efficacy evaluations; and as vice president of research and development at DPT Laboratories Ltd., growing the company into a leading contractor for liquid and semi-solid pharmaceuticals. He expanded his commercial skills and expertise as program director at BioMarin Pharmaceutical, overseeing a small molecule drug for pediatric asthma and a joint venture for a compound to treat a rare genetic disease; worked at a number of startups; and served as CEO at OPTIME Therapeutics, focusing on liposome drug delivery for an array of disease indications.

FLAG Therapeutics, based in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry hub of Raleigh, N.C., is the first company Sorgi has founded, but is more than a business opportunity. “Given my long-standing relationship with Duquesne, I feel that I have a duty, an obligation to do good by this opportunity,” says Sorgi. “Drug development is a long, bumpy road that requires a tremendous amount of patience, dedication and know-how. It could be up to 2 ½ years before FLAG can advance an investigational compound through the first phases of development. Ultimately, the goal is to get these compounds into the hands of people who can benefit from new treatment options.”

The Bigger Picture Behind the Big Deal

A deal with a company like FLAG, whose sole focus is Gangjee’s compounds, offers the best opportunity for the compounds to enter the marketplace, says Dr. Alan W. Seadler, associate provost for research and technology. Plus, the pervasive Duquesne thread woven between Gangjee and Sorgi provides a special connection.

“This licensing agreement for a major anti-cancer agent portfolio is to a company that we feel can take these compounds and develop them into future therapeutics that could benefit many cancer victims,” says Seadler. “We are particularly pleased to be working with a graduate from our pharmacy school.”

While this licensing agreement is historically significant, it also represents Duquesne’s rising reputation among research institutions.

“I think we have always had a focus on technology transfer, making University-based research accessible and available to the marketplace, but some things this year have really helped to get Duquesne moving,” says Seadler. The University holds 95 active patents, had three spin-offs showcased at a recent AlphaLab Demo Day and signed off on a licensing deal for Dr. Patrick Juola, associate professor of computer science, who drew international attention when his technology identified J.K. Rowling as the actual author of a crime fiction book.

Moving research from the scientist’s bench to bedside aligns perfectly with the University’s mission. “Research is part of our higher education commitment, and having research work for community development, to create jobs and to improve the lives of others is in keeping with the University’s mission of service,” says Seadler.

For Gangjee and Sorgi, who want to offer more hope in their compassionate answers to queries from desperate physicians and parents of sick children, the best may be yet to come.

“We pursue the discovery of novel drugs because of the challenge to stop this dreaded disease in its tracks,” says Gangjee. “To be able to partner with a company that affords the promise that these discoveries will have—the opportunity to be used in patients who need them—is a lifelong dream.”
A documentary honoring the 70th anniversary of a Jewish rebellion at the Nazi extermination camp of Sobibor was screened at the Power Center on November 11.

The free, public event included a screening of the director’s cut of the film, Deadly Deception at Sobibor, and featured Dr. Philip Reeder and Yoram Haimi, who spoke of their research of the camp.

An environmental scientist specializing in paleo-environmental and paleo-climate reconstruction, Reeder—dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences—was a participant in research at Sobibor, The Science of Sobibor, and was responsible for all surveying and map production associated with the project. Haimi, Israel Antiquities Authority regional archaeologist, whose two uncles perished in the death camp, provided an illustrated lecture, Archaeology of the Holocaust: Excavations at Sobibor, showcasing his quest of a lifetime.

The documentary chronicles Haimi’s attempt to understand what happened to his family during the Holocaust. Sobibor, an extermination camp on the remote edges of eastern Poland, was the site of a successful, large-scale rebellion on Oct. 14, 1943. Following the escape of about 500 Jewish prisoners, the Nazis quickly buried the camp under tons of dirt and planted trees to stop word of the rebellion from spreading and inspiring others.

Ironically, the effort to hide the camp inadvertently preserved it. This research effort, which involved the work of scholars from around the world, including Reeder, used ground-penetrating radar to perform high-tech mapping, ensuring that burial sites would not be disturbed.

The excavations uncovered artifacts of victims, including children, in their original locations along the walkways and buildings used to exterminate nearly 250,000 Jews. The documentary shows how technology, conventional archaeology and the testimonies of survivors uncovered this piece of history that was intended to remain hidden.

The event was sponsored by the Nathan J. and Helen Goldrich Foundation, Duquesne and the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.
Recently, Duquesne researchers have been focusing on how bone metabolism may be regulated by daylight, examining a protein that could potentially result in modifying the progression of Parkinson’s disease and electronically “scrubbing” computer files of suspicious programs.

Circadian Rhythms May Be in Our Bones, Not Just Our Heads

As the days get shorter and the nights grow longer, it sometimes becomes harder to stay awake at night or to get moving in the morning. According to a Duquesne professor, this could be caused by changing melatonin levels.

“Melatonin is known as the hormone of darkness, so its release is dependent, in part, upon the light/dark cycle,” says Dr. Paula Witt-Enderby, professor of pharmacology. “This is an important molecule in your body because it tells your body if it is daytime or nighttime, and it tells your body what season it is in—winter versus summer.”

Disruptions in nighttime melatonin levels produce adverse effects, such as a higher risk of breast, endometrial and prostate cancers, as well as increases in the risk of hip and wrist fractures.

Besides reflecting melatonin’s key role in keeping the body aligned with the light/dark cycle, these disruptions and risks indicate that melatonin plays a role in cancer and bone loss protection. Witt-Enderby, in collaboration with Dr. Steven Lockley of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard University, is studying the impact of light—or lack of light—on bone rhythms in blind women to begin to understand if and how bone metabolism may be regulated by the light/dark cycle. The findings from this study may help explain the loss of bone that occurs in shift workers. Other research Witt-Enderby has conducted shows a positive effect of melatonin on bone health.

Yet, the question remains: How do we prevent bone loss due to light exposure at night? Witt-Enderby suggests:

- Wearing an eye mask to combat suppression of nocturnal melatonin levels
- Turning off cell phones and computers
- Removing all light sources from your bedroom
- Taking a melatonin supplement at night.

DU’s Digital Mr. Clean Develops Software to Scour Away Secret Files

Dr. Charles Wood may be the Mr. Clean of the Digital Age. In a world of escalating high-profile cyber security breaches, Wood, assistant professor of information systems management, has patented software that electronically scrubs incoming and outgoing computer files of suspicious programs.

The point is to provide protection on both sides of the firewall, says Wood, a certified information systems security professional (CISSP) who holds degrees in computer science and corporate finance, as well as information systems management.

As technology grows increasingly sophisticated, so does hacking. In addition to intentional attacks, online information is at risk because of human behavior. Employees may do their best to skirt security measures because they consider them cumbersome and time-consuming. According to a recent report by public-private IT partnership MeriTalk, more than 30 percent of the federal workers polled circumvent security measures at least once a week.

How can security professionals fight such subtle, deliberate, ever-changing tampering and such inconsistent, apathetic human behavior? Scrubbers.

“The detection of secret content is so difficult or even impossible that I’ve taken the position that we need a different approach,” explains Wood. “Instead, every file is scrubbed so that any secret messages are removed but the actual file is, for all practical purposes, unaffected, without the need for prior detection of embedded secret messages.”

Wood’s scrubbers can be configured to clean any infiltrating computer files that try to enter a computer or leave a secured area in a network.

“With such a great potential for widespread security breaches and devastating impacts, scrubbing files that exit and enter a system seems to be the safest and most comprehensive way to address the issue,” says Wood.
Fox Foundation Funds Study to Validate Potential Disease-Modifying Target in Parkinson’s

If asked to name a symptom commonly associated with Parkinson’s disease, many will say tremors or slowness of movement. Lesser-known symptoms, however, can include loss of the sense of smell, autonomic dysfunction and depression. At end stages of the disease, some Parkinson’s sufferers experience cognitive decline, which may be caused by shrinkage of the hippocampus in the brain.

Thanks to a $75,000 grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research (MJFF), Dr. Rehana Leak is conducting a one-year study to examine a protein that could potentially result in halting or slowing the spread of pathology through the brain and thereby modify disease progression and delay symptoms such as cognitive decline.

“There is a revolution occurring in the field where we’re beginning to understand that Parkinson’s is a systemic disorder,” says Leak, assistant professor at the Mylan School of Pharmacy. “Researchers are hypothesizing that the disease actually begins in the gut and the olfactory system, and travels up, through the vagus nerve and through the brain to finally hit those regions that cause dementia when they’re damaged.”

Parkinson’s disease is associated with high levels of the protein alpha-synuclein. In the Parkinson’s brain, synuclein misfolds and aggregates into clumps, which causes abnormal function and cell death.

“This can be propagated from cell to cell to cell, and that is perhaps how Parkinson’s disease pathology spreads,” says Leak, whose study is focusing on whether another protein—ceruloplasmin—could protect against alpha-synuclein toxicity. Such a therapy could stop or curb the pathology from spreading through the brain.

In Parkinson’s disease patients, ceruloplasmin levels are low in the cerebrospinal fluid, and low levels are associated with earlier onset of the disease. In addition, previous research shows that one part of the brain where ceruloplasmin levels are higher—the neocortex—is less vulnerable to protein misfolding stress, making ceruloplasmin a potential therapeutic target.

Ceruloplasmin has not been extensively explored as far as its role in the brain, according to Leak. “It’s present in the blood, where it’s a ‘copper chaperone,’ so it guides copper around,” explains Leak. “Some studies suggest that ceruloplasmin can protect against toxicity in the brain. For example, it protects the brain from pesticide toxicity and stroke, and it can also help prevent the toxicity associated with very high iron levels.”

Utilizing a new model of Parkinson’s disease developed by a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, Leak and her research team are introducing synuclein fibrils into the hippocampus region of mice to initiate cell death. Ceruloplasmin will then be introduced, via gene therapy, to see whether it can protect against cell death in the area.

“In the study, we are going to do two things: one is to decrease ceruloplasmin levels to see if toxicity gets worse, and the other is to increase ceruloplasmin levels to see if toxicity is prevented,” says Leak.

Dr. Kuldip Dave, senior associate director of research programs at MJFF, emphasizes the importance of the potential of Leak’s research. “Validation of this target in this synuclein model may open up avenues to use this protein for disease-modifying therapy in the future,” says Dave.

Leak’s research marks the first study at Duquesne to be supported by a MJFF grant.
Duquesne in Dublin

On Sept. 23, students studying abroad as part of the Duquesne in Dublin program attended a special “Pittsburgh Gathering” event at Google Ireland, the headquarters for the company’s European operations. Representatives of the Pittsburgh region’s business community traveled to Dublin for the event, which celebrated existing Pittsburgh-Ireland ties and fostered new ones. The event was presented by the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.

“Duquesne in Dublin has been a wonderful experience. The program is well thought out and encourages a strong connection between the students and all Ireland has to offer. The adults responsible for our well-being are so kind, warm and are always ready to extend a helping hand or offer suggestions to further the experience. There is also good communication between Duquesne University and University College Dublin, making the transition from American university classes to European university classes smooth and easy.”

— Maya Oshimo, senior, psychology/pre-medicine and political science

“My favorite part about the program is how there are only 12 of us here. It’s as if we’ve become our own little family while in Dublin. For me personally, I did not know anyone who was going on the trip and I know others were in the same situation. Everyone was so ecstatic to be here and experience Dublin. I know that the friends from Duquesne that I’ve made on this trip are friends I will have all my life. The Irish people are just as kind, too. They are always willing to help a lost American and give directions with a friendly ‘Cheers!’ as you part ways.”

— Lindsay Haslett, junior, journalism and integrated marketing communications

“The range of classes at University College Dublin is very pertinent to studies of any student, and the faculty are on your side to see you succeed. While they will not hold your hand, they certainly do not push you into the deep end. Tutorials, tutors, group study sessions are available in every field of study.”

— Ellen Gaus, junior, integrated marketing communications and international relations

“The program helps you develop a sense of independence and individuality through traveling around Europe and Ireland, and stepping out of your comfort zone. It also enables you to learn about different cultures and countries by being surrounded with students of different cultures and backgrounds. It further contributed to my understanding and respect of different cultures.”

— Shaylyn Livingston, junior, marketing and international business

“The Duquesne in Dublin program is an amazing experience for all of us students. Traveling, making lots of international friends, taking classes at University College Dublin and simply being submerged in the Irish culture truly enhances our time abroad. Through the living arrangements and staff, Duquesne has created a home away from home.”

— Kylie McCracken, junior, sports marketing and broadcast journalism
1. Jack (B’61) and Lorraine Wargo, Alfred Jurison, E’70, and Kenneth Bombara, B’74, were among the guests that joined Dean McFarlin (center), new dean of the Palumbo•Donahue School of Business, at a reception at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Va., in October.

2. John Tomaszewski, B’85, GB’91, joined his daughter, Robin, at the annual Legacy Breakfast. Robin intends to study nursing and joins the more than 240 incoming students with parents who are DU alumni.

3. Women’s Basketball Coach Dan Burt (second from left) and Men’s Basketball Coach Jim Ferry (center) joined the head basketball coaches from Robert Morris University and University of Pittsburgh at the annual Coaches vs. Cancer Benefit, held in the fall at Heinz Field.

4. Inaugural recipients of the Roberto Clemente Memorial Scholarship, Dianna Delgadillo, Klancie Martinez and Mariana Torres, attended Roberto Clemente Day at the Pittsburgh Pirates game in September with Vera Clemente, widow of Roberto Clemente.

5. Athletic Director Greg Amodio (right) and Associate Athletic Director Phil Racicot (left) joined Mike Phillips at Valley Brook Country Club on Oct. 10 for the Vinnie Vaccarello Memorial Golf Outing to raise money for the Vinnie Vaccarello Football Fund.

6. On Nov. 16, the Duquesne University Women’s Advisory Board celebrated their Diamond Jubilee by honoring current and past board presidents at their annual Power Ball.

To see more of what is happening on campus through photos, follow the Duquesne University Alumni page on Facebook or Instagram, or go to www.myduquesne.duq.edu and click on photo gallery.
DU Named a Best Private College by “Kiplinger’s Personal Finance”

Duquesne has been selected as one of the country’s best values in private colleges by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance. On the annual list of only 100 private universities and 100 liberal arts colleges, Duquesne is ranked No. 84.

According to Kiplinger’s, Duquesne and the other schools included in the 2014 list represent the colleges that provide high-quality academics at a reasonable cost. The colleges exemplify the attributes that parents and students look for in higher education, including small class sizes, a good freshman retention rate and a high four-year graduation rate.

“It is not by chance that our University is included in Kiplinger’s Best Private Colleges List,” says Paul-James Cukanna, associate provost for enrollment management. “Our inclusion reflects a decade-long effort by President Dougherty and his team to manage the University in a highly sophisticated manner. While his efforts have always been mission- and student-focused rather than intended to garner external accolades, it’s great to have yet another independent entity acknowledge and confirm the benefits of sound leadership at a time when other universities are struggling nationally.”

Although private schools generally carry higher sticker prices than in-state prices at public schools, the magazine notes that private schools can actually be cheaper than public schools because of their generous financial aid.

“Combining a high-quality education with an affordable price tag is a challenge, but the colleges on this year’s list offer the best of both worlds,” says Janet Bodnar, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine editor.

Symposium Drills into Marcellus Research Findings

The Marcellus Shale boom has been followed by a litigation boom.

These are trends that Dr. John Stolz, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Education, has observed in the five years of his involvement with studies of fracking and shale gas extraction.

Stolz, a geomicrobiologist, organized Facing the Challenges, a symposium that drew more than 300 participants to campus in November to hear academics present their latest research around Marcellus. Some of Stolz’s findings in five years of Marcellus study, including the use of chemicals in fracking and the safety and integrity of the wells, were represented among the symposium presentations. Other research presented covered topics such as air quality and air migration, impact on animal and human health, effects on water treatment plants and local government response to shale gas development.

Mylan School of Pharmacy Receives PPA Award

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) recently presented the Mylan School of Pharmacy with its Government Relations Award at the PPA’s annual conference in Gettysburg, Pa.

The Government Relations Award recognizes a school that has gone above and beyond in the area of advocacy work. Points were awarded for participation in Legislative Day, meetings with legislators, PharmPAC (Pharmacy Political Action Committee) awareness and other innovative advocacy efforts.

The Mylan School of Pharmacy participated in 33 appointments on Legislative Day to advocate for advancing pharmacy practice and had five students at the PPA’s Annual Government Relations in Advocacy Student Program. In addition, the school’s entire second-year pharmacy class took a legislative trip to Washington, D.C.
**Duquesne Earns Unqualified Re-accreditation**

Duquesne recently earned the strongest endorsement possible from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), the body charged with guaranteeing the quality of higher education throughout Pennsylvania and in the other Middle Atlantic states.

In December, MSCHE notified the University that it has earned unqualified re-accreditation. This means that actions such as submitting follow-up reports to MSCHE or having inspectors make additional campus visits will not be required at Duquesne. Indeed, Duquesne is one of only 54 universities to earn unqualified re-accreditation after undergoing the rigorous scrutiny of a MSCHE review.

“Our unqualified re-accreditation provides external stakeholders with evidence that a Duquesne education makes a difference in students’ lives and assures the public that we are in compliance with all federal regulations, so it’s an important process,” says Provost Dr. Timothy R. Austin.

The University’s academic programs now have the full approval of MSCHE until the 2017–2018 academic year, at which time Duquesne must again apply for continuation of its accreditation.

**Gormley Organizes, Moderates National Press Club Event**

The National Press Club and the School of Law co-hosted *The Saturday Night Massacre—A 40-Year Retrospective* at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., in October.

Law Dean Ken Gormley, a national expert on the infamous Saturday Night Massacre and Watergate events, organized the program and served as moderator for the invitation-only event.

The retrospective evening reviewed the dramatic events of October 1973, when President Richard Nixon fired Archibald Cox as Watergate special prosecutor, seeking to derail the Watergate investigation.

United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who served as a lawyer on the Watergate Special Prosecution team, offered opening remarks.

The 90-minute program is available online at www.cspan.org.

**Public Affairs Wins Four IABC Awards**

The Office of Public Affairs received four awards, including two top honors, from the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators at its 34th annual Golden Triangle Awards dinner on Sept. 27.

The publication of the *School of Business Centennial History Book* and the School of Leadership and Professional Advancement’s electronic annual report both were recognized with Awards of Excellence. In addition, *Duquesne University Magazine* and a digital advertising campaign each won an Award of Honor. These winners were chosen from 99 entries from organizations throughout the Pittsburgh area.

**MBA Sustainability Program Ranked No. 1 in U.S., 8th Worldwide**

*Corporate Knights*, a quarterly international publication focused on social, economic and ecological benefits and costs, has ranked Duquesne’s MBA Sustainability program in the Donahue Graduate School of Business No. 1 in the U.S. and No. 8 worldwide. Among small schools, Duquesne’s program is No. 2 internationally.

This 2013 survey of full-time MBA programs examined “how universities around the world are faring at integrating sustainability into the academic experience.” Duquesne’s rankings were based on coursework, institutional support and student initiatives in its MBA Sustainability program.

The MBA Sustainability, launched in 2007, was among the first MBA programs to align with the Principles for Responsible Management Education, an initiative signed by 510 business schools. The program has ranked consistently among the Aspen Institute’s top 25 in the world for integrating financial, social and environmental responsibility since its inception, and it received the 2008 Page Prize for incorporating environmental resource management into the MBA curriculum.

**DU at Leading Edge with Online Open Houses**

Duquesne’s School of Nursing, which offers Ph.D. and D.N.P. programs online, hosted a virtual open house in December.

Other Duquesne programs, particularly those offering online graduate programs, will soon stage online open houses, keeping Duquesne at the leading edge of this trend, says Dr. Ruth Newberry, online campus director.

“I see this as a new standard we would want to do with most online programs, particularly those at the graduate level,” says Newberry. “We have to have multiple points of entry for prospective students to learn about us. We have to be attuned to multiple ways to get the message out.”
The Last Frontier: Alumna Embraces Life in Rural Alaska

Catching Up With Emily Scott

By Christy Hudson

After graduating from college, many young professionals move away from home to begin their careers. Not many of them, however, are as adventurous as Emily Scott, E’09, who left the comforts and familiarity of her western Pennsylvania home to teach kindergarten in Kipnuk, Alaska.

Though she had never considered living in Alaska, she’s embracing life in a rural village, where the residents value her role in their children’s lives, and offer a sense of community and family that provides a strong support system.

“In Kipnuk, there is just this wide-reaching feeling of acceptance. They really value education—and the teachers—and try to incorporate us all into their daily lives,” says Scott.

Scott has been attracted to the teaching profession since she was barely more than a toddler, stating at her preschool graduation that she wanted to be a teacher.

“In some ways I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher,” says Scott. “I changed my mind a lot before I actually decided. I guess the deciding factor was a personal ‘aha’ moment in high school, when I felt like I finally understood what we were doing because of a teacher.”

A village more than 4,000 miles from home was not on Scott’s initial list of places to begin her career. But, after speaking with Lower Kuskokwim School District representatives at the Pittsburgh Education Recruitment Consortium teacher job fairs she attended, her choice was clear.

Scott is now entering into her third year of teaching at the Chief Paul Memorial School in Kipnuk. For many of her students, the primary language is Yup’ik (spoken by the people of western Alaska and the islands off the coast of Siberia), and many arrive at school speaking no English.

“The language difference can be difficult,” says Scott. “I need to help them to understand what it is that I’m looking for, as well as to understand what it is that they need from me.”

Her classroom aide helps with translation and the students typically begin to understand English within the first month. Aside from any language differences, living in a remote village presents its own set of difficulties—the only way to get in or out of Kipnuk is by plane and the simple things most people take for granted, such as purchasing food staples, can be a hardship when bad weather strikes the area.

“The stores don’t always have everything you need, such as fresh fruits and vegetables or eggs,” says Scott. “There’s a community announcement when they come in and they sell very quickly.”

Although life can be challenging at times, Scott says Duquesne taught her to serve her community—whether that community is her street, her town or someplace new. Scott strives to live this mission daily through her work in Alaska.

“I feel that I am living the Duquesne mission each day because I am fully immersed in a culture that is uniquely different from my own. It relates to the concept of diversity that was so widely taught throughout my time at Duquesne,” says Scott.

Recently, the Duquesne community donated baseball hats to the school. They were customized and then used as a reward for perfect attendance.

“The students who received the hats for perfect attendance in a month were allowed to wear the hats on Friday as a way to encourage the other students to come to school as often as possible,” says Scott.

Scott says she has given herself five years to decide if she will continue to live and work in Kipnuk, or return to the mainland.

“I told my family that I can see myself doing anything for a year. But two years later, I’m still here, and I will be here for at least the next three school years,” says Scott. “I don’t believe that Alaska will be written out of my future any time soon.”
In the 13 years since Duquesne University expanded its global footprint by opening a campus in Rome, more than 1,300 students have enhanced their education through this unique study abroad experience.

Many of those students have also fallen in love. At least 20 Italian Campus alumni have become engaged and married to their fellow alumni.

Drs. Ann and David Wilkins have spent four semesters teaching at the Italian Campus, witnessing many of these relationships firsthand and even attending Italian Campus alumni weddings.

“We have seen how Rome cemented their relationship and how each grew personally and together as they experienced Italy,” says Dr. Ann Wilkins.

Two such couples to emerge from Duquesne’s Italian experience are Mike (E’08) and Candice (LPA’11) Klenk and Jeff Mitch, B’12, and Christie Baker, A’12. Both couples say if they had not studied at the Italian Campus, their paths likely never would have crossed.

Mike and Candice Klenk met on their second day in Rome and cultivated their relationship while exploring the city together.

“Discovering Rome in and of itself is an incredible experience, but discovering it with someone you’re beginning a relationship with really magnified everything,” says Mike Klenk. “We feel that because our relationship began there, Rome always has and always will be an important part of who we are as a couple. We feel at home when we are in Rome.”

Four years after beginning their journey together in Rome, Mike took Candice to the “Room of Tears” in the Sistine Chapel, a private room where the newly elected pope goes before being presented to the world, and asked her to be his wife.

Jeff Mitch surprised Christie Baker with a marriage proposal this past summer in the Vatican Gardens, after coordinating a fake business trip to Italy. Jeff says it was important to him to propose in Rome because he believes he and Christie wouldn’t have begun a relationship or discovered their passion for traveling if they wouldn’t have studied abroad. They are set to be married in June.

Both couples have chosen to express their gratitude to the Italian Campus through gifts to the Duecento Italian Campus Endowed Fund.

“It’s important to me for the Italian Campus to always be there, regardless of future financial situations,” says Jeff Mitch. “If I can make a gift today and help establish this campus for future generations, I know I’m positively impacting lives of students I’ll never meet, and I think that’s a great thing.”

The fund was created in honor of the campus’ 10th birthday in 2011; through generous gifts from alumni and current students, it is used to support the Italian Campus in various ways.

If you would like to donate, please visit www.duq.edu/ducecento or call 412.396.6040. If you would like to share your love story, please e-mail alumnionline@duq.edu.
Getting health care when sick can be as easy as scheduling an office visit and pulling out an insurance card. But for others—particularly women who are or have been in jail—access and availability of health care is not so easy.

Research shows that women who end up in jail have a higher risk of every kind of mental and physical illness, says Dr. Alison Colbert. “Nursing is trying to address these health inequities.”

Colbert, assistant professor and chair of the graduate nursing program in Duquesne’s School of Nursing, is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation scholar whose work focuses on the health and well-being of incarcerated women. She has receiving grants to provide prenatal care to pregnant women at the Allegheny County Jail.

Dr. Alison Colbert discusses the program that provides prenatal care to pregnant women at the Allegheny County Jail with Jack Pischke, inmate program administrator.
of women who have been incarcerated and women preparing to be released from jail. Not only does she research this topic, she also visits the Allegheny County Jail weekly, leading a prenatal support and education group for up to a dozen pregnant inmates.

“It’s a terrible place to be pregnant, as you can imagine,” she says. And these women often battle difficult, dynamic situations: Addiction to alcohol or drugs. Unemployment or underemployment. Guilt about bad choices and impending motherhood.

Concerns about parenting abilities. Sometimes, mental illnesses, as well as physical ones. Stigma.

“The stigma of incarceration is often worse for women than for men,” observes Colbert. “Mental health, physical health and addiction are so intertwined it’s nearly impossible to separate them. And should you? They are inextricably tied together and all have to be treated together. You just can’t understate the complexity of the lives of these women.”

The personal rewards of the work are clear to Colbert: “When people allow you to take care of them, it’s an amazing gift—it’s why I became a nurse.”

Colbert has worked with traditionally underserved populations, finding joy in this effort for more than half her life. In 1986, as a teenager with too much time on her hands, Colbert was encouraged by her mother to volunteer. So, she mentored an 8-year-old girl with AIDS. Then, AIDS was a death sentence; schools hesitated to accept students with this disease and most of America lived in fear of the epidemic. Colbert and the girl “hung out” for seven years.

“It totally changed my life in a lot of ways,” says Colbert. “I saw how she was treated by people who didn’t understand her condition, and I saw the pain it caused her.”

Graduating from the University of Arizona with a journalism degree, Colbert moved to Austin, Texas, where she took an internship to advocate for health care access. Once there, she started working for a nurse who was establishing a 15-bed hospital exclusively for HIV/AIDS patients. This is where Colbert realized her passion and her career path changed.

“I had never even considered becoming a nurse, but there I saw nursing in a totally different light,” she says. “Nurses see problems and fix them on all sorts of different levels.”

In 2001, she completed an accelerated RN/master’s program at the University of Texas-Austin. She spent her clinical semester working in a jail. There, she saw that for many inmates, the health attention received behind bars was their only health care. She learned that health care outside a hospital setting could have a huge impact.

The thought hadn’t left her since. Selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar in 2010, Colbert received a $350,000 grant to design nurse-led case management intervention for recently jailed women. In 2011, she was named the junior investigator of the year by the American Public Health Association’s Public Health Nursing Section.

“The mission of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to improve the health and health care of all Americans,” says Dr. Maryjoan Ladden, RN, FAAN, a senior program officer at the foundation. “To improve health nationwide, we must pay special attention to those who are most likely to ‘slip through the health care cracks.’ Alison’s work to improve the health status of women who are incarcerated is crucial to helping the foundation achieve its mission. We are proud of her work as a Nurse Faculty Scholar and her research in this area.”

The health aspirations of Colbert’s patients are not drastically different from other women’s. Exercise more. Eat healthier. Spend more time with the kids.

“The difference is when you overlay addiction, trauma or other factors,” says Colbert. “They have the motivation, the optimism and the desire to be healthy. But then there are all these other stressors, like looking for work, meeting the demands of the criminal justice system, and dealing with children or family. It’s easy to throw up your hands and say, ‘I’m done. I can’t cope.’”

Colbert is looking for ways to re-engage women in their health and health care, so that they don’t give up.

“From policy and research perspectives, those on the inside have complex needs, and there are good ways to take care of them that save money. If people get treatment, the risk of them committing new crimes often decreases.

“Every day is a new opportunity to have the life they want,” says Colbert. “As a nurse, I want everybody to believe that no matter where they are, they have the chance to get healthy.”
Duquesne University has announced the creation of the Cumberland W. Posey, Jr. Endowed Fund. Established with a principal of $1 million, the fund’s distributions will help the University retain talented minority undergraduate and graduate students who have financial need.

“In a city that reveres its sports figures, we honor a man who could be called Pittsburgh’s forgotten champion,” said Duquesne President Dr. Charles J. Dougherty during a luncheon on Oct. 29. “Cumberland Willis Posey, Jr. was a true legend, and not just in one sport.”

Born in 1890, Posey was a native of Homestead, Pa., who played basketball at Penn State, Pitt and Duquesne in the early 1900s. During his three years at Duquesne, he led the basketball team in scoring and was captain of the varsity golf team. He also played on amateur and semi-pro basketball teams that routinely defeated top national collegiate and professional squads.

Duquesne Endows $1 Million Cumberland Posey Fund to Assist Minority Students

Posey also played baseball and joined the Homestead Grays in 1911. Five years later, he became manager of the team, and in 1919, he purchased a stake in its ownership. Under Posey’s leadership, the Grays became one of the most successful franchises in the Negro Leagues, winning multiple championships with a roster of players that rivaled the all-stars of the then-segregated Major Leagues. He passed away in 1946, a year before the Major Leagues were integrated, and was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 2006.

“This endowment is a living monument to the legacy of Cumberland Posey,” said Dougherty. “The lives of minority students will be touched and changed by the financial aid they receive in his name. They, in turn, will carry his tradition of achievement all around the world.”

Posey’s granddaughter, Dr. Nancy A. Boxill, a Duquesne alumna and social scientist who served 23 years as a commissioner of Fulton County, Ga., was one of several family members who were on hand for the announcement.

“We are grateful and thankful,” said Boxill. “My grandfather was a great sportsman, and of course, he liked to win, but the result on the scoreboard wasn’t his only definition of winning.

“That’s what this scholarship will mean to the young people who receive it,” she continued. “They will reframe winning as not merely success for themselves, but also success for the communities in which they live and serve. That’s the way that a Posey would do it.”

Boxill and Truman Brown, two of Posey’s three grandchildren, presented a check to augment the endowment fund on behalf of the family.

For more information about the Posey Endowment and additional giving opportunities, please contact University Advancement at 412.396.4937.

Truman Brown and Dr. Nancy A. Boxill
One Heart, One Spirit: Living the Mission

BY ROSE RAVASIO

From its humble beginning in 1878 in a rented space above a bakery on Wylie Avenue with just 40 students and six faculty members, Duquesne University has flourished and grown to a bustling, 50-acre campus serving 10,000 students attending its 10 schools.

Today, Duquesne continues to carry out both the Spiritan and the University mission to serve God by serving students. To honor that mission, the Duquesne community hosts Founders Week each year to remember and honor the Spiritan Congregation. This year’s Founders Week celebration was held in early February and focused on how the mission is lived by students at Duquesne.

“The theme this year for Founders Week was One Heart, One Spirit: Living the Mission,” explains the Rev. Ray French, C.S.Sp., vice president for mission and identity. “It centered around expressions of the mission that is lived and embodied every day at Duquesne University.”

Founders Week included a variety of activities for the campus community, including an opening Mass and brunch, lunch-and-learn events and dinners during which students and faculty discussed everything from mission trip experiences to community service to what a Spiritan pedagogy embodying the mission in teaching would look like.

In addition, University alumni had the opportunity to participate in Founders Week at a special wine-tasting event featuring samples from the regions of the Spiritan founders.

For more than 300 years, the Spiritan Congregation has been involved in several diverse ministries including education, parish work and refugee ministry in more than 60 countries.

“How wonderful it is that the first Spiritans came to Pittsburgh in response to the need for a college or university to be developed for poor American families,” says Rev. French. “It’s a tradition of the Congregation, but it is also wonderful for us to be able to say that we at Duquesne University are part of a much wider, worldwide Spiritan organization.”

Leaders Primed for Second Forum About Social Justice, Public Education

Why is the Pittsburgh area struggling with student achievement and success, despite the work of many organizations?

This intersection of social justice and public education drew more than 70 parents, students and leaders from communities, school districts, foundations, non-profits and state government to an inaugural collaborative forum on Oct. 23.

Spearheaded by Duquesne’s School of Education and funded by The Heinz Endowments, the groundbreaking forum, Helping Public Education Fulfill Its Promise for All Children in the 21st Century: A Pittsburgh Regional Perspective, provided the opportunity to engage in the issue of quality education as a social justice right for all the region’s children.

Dialogues highlighted the intersections between educational and employment opportunities, framed by presenters Bill Flanagan of the Allegheny Conference; researchers Dr. Arnetha Ball of Stanford University and Dr. Pedro Noguera of NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development; and Grant Oliphant, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Noguera’s statement that “the children are not the problem” particularly resonated with participants. Indeed, feedback suggested that the community has lacked the vision and willpower to provide students with what they deserve and need to succeed.

A follow-up forum in March will continue dialogue around defining and enacting social justice, addressing Pittsburgh’s moral imperative to engage children in holistic educational opportunities, says Dr. Olga Welch, dean of the School of Education.

“Only by collaborating can we help children and youth experience the successful education and employment they deserve,” says Welch.

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In the fall, seniors in the Rangos School of Health Sciences’ athletic training program participated in a semester-long service-learning project to assist Kiwanis Park in Shaler Township. Applying information learned throughout the course, the class analyzed the park and developed an emergency action plan (EAP) and standard operating procedure (SOP) documents to help eliminate potentially harmful situations, construct a more timely response plan to deal with emergencies and decrease the overall liability of the park. The completed project was presented in front of Timothy Rogers, Shaler Township manager, and the Shaler Township board for approval and implementation.

Continuing a tradition that dates back to 2002, the Duquesne chapter of the Delta Zeta sorority recently presented the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic with a $1,500 donation to support clients receiving therapy. Chapter members presented the check to Dr. Mikael D.Z. Kimelman, associate professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, on Oct. 22. Over the years, funds contributed by the Delta Zeta chapter have helped 28 adults and children receive services. The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic serves clients from the greater Pittsburgh area that have a variety of communication disorders.

Dozens of Duquesne students, each holding the image of the face of a homeless child, stood silently on Forbes Avenue across from the Power Center on Oct. 24. Held in conjunction with the School of Nursing’s annual Rita M. McGinley Symposium, the group of students was participating in Stand Up, a silent art installation organized to call attention to homeless children in Allegheny County. This year’s symposium focused on Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Child.
Submitted by Laurette Smith Cribbins, GE’83

After reading the article “Lasting Memories” in Duquesne Magazine, a vivid memory came to mind. Captured by the beauty of a sunset one evening, I stood overlooking a city slowly accepting the shadows of night. Grateful and humbled by opportunities given to me, a Depression girl from Manchester in the master’s program at Duquesne, I looked back and remembered.

Dr. Mary Frances Grasinger inspired me to enter Duquesne a year earlier than planned. Three young adult children, a veteran husband attending the University of Pittsburgh at night, and a full teaching schedule made it seem impossible. A staunch, loving Catholic husband shared the dream and the sacrifices graciously.

Father Dolan taught us School Law and Comparative Education in a lively spiritual atmosphere. It was who he was, a Holy Ghost priest. Like my parents, he cared. Nuns, priests and teachers influenced my life.

Submitted by Geraldine Jenny, EdD’00

I began Duquesne’s IDPEL’s doctoral program in the summer of 1996. Our cohort became quite unified during three years of coursework on campus. As part of our studies, outstanding speakers came from all over the globe and respect for diversity was stressed.

Not too long after our program began, a visiting scholar from Ireland joined our classes and quickly became beloved. Father Naos McCool, with his sparkling blue eyes, gentle spirit and lively demeanor, was a popular honorary member of our cohort. He moved to the Spiritan Fathers’ home at the University, where he resides today. His love of people and of his faith endears others to him.

Submitted by Joe McDonagh, A’82

One of the most enduring blessings from my four years at Duquesne University was the friendship of Father Leo J. Kettl. He helped me in so many ways: even after his death, he keeps helping me when I ask him.

But there is one time in our friendship when I was especially grateful for him. After having a severe headache one morning, my mom had gone into a coma. My dad and sister and brother and I were stunned and saddened. I was very sad because I had had a dream a few days before in which my mom told me she had to leave me. I went to our church, and through my tears asked our Blessed Mother to give Mom back to us.

I told Fr. Kettl about Mom’s situation. He was so reassuring. Then I remember he went to the hospital to visit her. I was not there. Shortly after his visit, she came out of her coma.

Being the humble person he was, I know he would downplay his role in Mom’s recovery, but I found her restoration to consciousness to be a miracle, and that happened only after he visited and prayed. How to adequately thank someone who guides you through one of life’s severe storms? I know I never did thank Fr. Kettl appropriately, but I hope this fond remembrance will let him know how much I appreciate his friendship.

Submit your stories to:
dumagazine@duq.edu or Duquesne University Magazine, 406 Koren Building, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Please note that submissions may be edited and/or you may be contacted by the editor for further information.
Four New Members Join Century Club

Four new members of the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni were inducted in October.

The Century Club was established in 1978 to recognize graduates with exemplary records of professional achievement and service to the University and their communities. Of the nearly 100,000 alumni since 1878, only 321 have been admitted to its elite ranks. The 2013 class of Century Club inductees includes:


President
Holy Ghost Preparatory School

As a child, Fr. McCloskey walked to elementary school past the gates of Holy Ghost Prep in Philadelphia. Most of his vocation has been spent in service to Holy Ghost Prep and to Duquesne, which he attended as a Spiritan seminarian.

Following his ordination in 1980, Fr. McCloskey spent three years as a missionary in Paraguay. In 1984, he became pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist in Harlem and administered the parish and its elementary school.

He was appointed headmaster of Holy Ghost Prep in 1990. Holy Ghost Prep thrived under his leadership, realizing significant improvements in infrastructure and curriculum, and notable gains in enrollment, endowment and reputation. He was named president of Holy Ghost Prep in 2001.

In 2002, he returned to Duquesne as vice president for University Relations. His year in this post laid the groundwork for the Advancing Our Legacy campaign and set the stage for growth in the University’s development, alumni relations and public affairs offices.

In 2003, he was named provincial superior of the Spiritans in the eastern United States; the next year he was elected to the General Council of the Congregation, specializing in the area of education.

In 2009, he again returned to Duquesne, this time as vice president for Mission and Identity. His tenure was marked by expansion across the division, which now encompasses Spiritan Campus Ministry, the Center for Catholic Social Thought and the Center for Spiritan Studies. He was instrumental in the development of Duquesne’s Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the establishment and recruitment of new endowed chairs in mission studies and African studies, and the implementation of the mission and African aspects of the University’s current strategic plan.
Fr. McCluskey returned to Holy Ghost Prep for a second term as president in July 2013.

Fr. McCluskey holds advanced degrees from the Catholic Theological Union, Weston School of Theology and Fordham University. He has served on the boards of Holy Ghost Prep, Duquesne, the Catholic Theological Union and Holy Family Institute.

Lisette M. “Mimi” McCormick, Esq., Law 1981

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Racial and Gender Fairness

McCormick earned a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 1976, and worked for two years as a special assistant to the president of the National Urban Coalition in Washington, D.C., before beginning legal studies at Duquesne in 1978.

Following graduation, she joined the Neighborhood Legal Services Association, and later served as an Allegheny County assistant public defender and special deputy attorney general and assistant counsel for the state Department of Environmental Protection. She entered private practice with Tabakin, Carroll & Curtis in 1991, representing clients in civil litigation with an emphasis on employment discrimination, civil rights and environmental cases.

In 2000, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court selected McCormick to serve as executive director of its ten-member Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System. She oversaw an extensive three-year study. The committee produced a report containing 173 recommendations for improving fairness and access, not only to the justice system, but also to other state departments and operations. The Supreme Court, along with executive and legislative officials, established the Interbranch Commission for Racial and Gender Fairness in 2004 to carry on the committee’s work, naming McCormick as its leader.

McCormick has served as an adjunct professor in Duquesne’s law school since 2007, and arranges internships for Duquesne law students with the Interbranch Commission.

She serves on the boards of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and the Program for Female Offenders, and volunteers her time to represent victims of domestic violence for the Neighborhood Legal Services Association.

She is the 2012 recipient of the Allegheny County Bar Association’s Carol Los Mansmann Helping Hand Award, and has received additional honors from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Trial Lawyers, the Women and Girls Foundation, and the Homer S. Brown Law Association.

Robert T. Wanovich, Pharm.D., Pharmacy 1989, Graduate Pharmacy 1991

Vice President for Market Strategy and Delivery Highmark, Inc.

After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Mylan School of Pharmacy, Wanovich began his career as a clinical pharmacy specialist in internal medicine with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. In 1993, he joined Intell-Rx, a local entrepreneurial venture that developed software allowing health providers to track the medications prescribed to patients, thus preventing clinical errors and drug interactions.

He joined Highmark in 1995 as manager of clinical services and product development, and was promoted to director of clinical pharmacy services in 2005. During this period, he conducted extensive research. His work combined rigorous pharmaceutical inquiry with keen understanding of evolving business principles in managed care and benefits.

In 2006, he was named Highmark’s vice president for pharmacy affairs, overseeing all clinical, financial, strategic and operational aspects of the company’s prescription drug benefit and specialty pharmacy programs. Nearly five years later, Wanovich became vice president for market strategy and delivery, integrating provider and clinical strategies across all of Highmark’s core markets.

Wanovich has testified before legislative bodies and is active on a national level with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

He has twice led Highmark’s corporate fundraising efforts on behalf of the United Way, and assists the North Hills Community Outreach and Variety, the Children’s Charity.

Wanovich has been an adjunct assistant professor in Duquesne’s pharmacy school since 1995 and previously taught at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Pharmacy.

He currently is a member of Duquesne’s Alumni Board of Governors and the Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Board, and was previously a member of the Pharmacy Alumni Association Board. Wanovich received the pharmacy school’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2007 and the school’s Gerard J. Wolf President’s Award in 2002.

Sister Linda Yankoski, CSFN, Ed.D., Graduate Education 2003

President
Holy Family Institute

Sr. Yankoski received her bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh in 1978, and a master’s in administration from Notre Dame in 1982. She pursued doctoral studies in education at Duquesne while serving in her current position.
Sr. Yankoski joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1972. After completing religious studies, she was assigned to work at the Holy Family Institute as a social work intern in 1975, beginning a 38-year career with the institute.

Sr. Yankoski implemented new programs and services to meet changing community needs. She established one of Allegheny County's first independent living programs for youth and developed a family preservation program in which counselors worked with children and families across Allegheny and Armstrong counties.

She was appointed executive director in 1988, and continued to expand the scope of services provided, introducing special education day schools, an alternative education program, school-based mental health services and family therapy services. In 2001, she was named president.

In this role, she has continued to adapt in turbulent times, implementing a violence prevention initiative and establishing a workforce development program. When refugee children came to Pittsburgh following Haiti’s devastating earthquake in 2010, the institute took in 12 orphans, developing a comprehensive program to help these and other unaccompanied children.

In 2011, the institute launched an international college preparatory program, through which dozens of international students now live on its campus and study in local Catholic high schools.

Recently elected chair of Catholic Charities USA, Sr. Yankoski has also served on the boards of the Council on Accreditation, Families International, the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Community Care Behavioral Health. She sat on Duquesne’s board for 10 years, serving as vice chair, and remains an emeritus member.

Her honors include the Diocese of Pittsburgh’s Manifesting the Kingdom Award, Woman of Spirit Award from Carlow University, Champions for Children Award from the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, Campfire USA Award, and Woman of the Year in Religion from Vectors Pittsburgh.

In 2011, she was recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for her efforts on behalf of Haitian refugee children.

Ivo Josipović, president of the Republic of Croatia, toured the Duquesne University Tamburitzan offices and cultural center in September and was treated to a 20-minute performance by the ensemble.

After the performance, Josipović introduced himself to each member of the Tamburitzans and, at times, talked with students from Croatia in their native tongue.

Josipović, who was elected president in 2010, has collaborated with numerous Croatian and foreign state, scholarly, university and artistic institutions around the world. Prior to his election, Josipović was a university professor, a member of the Croatian Parliament and a composer.

The Tamburitzans, America’s longest-running multicultural song and dance company, is a unique ensemble of student folk artists dedicated to the performance and preservation of the music, songs and dances of Eastern Europe and neighboring folk cultures.
On November 2, the brothers of Duquesne’s Psi Chapter of the national Alpha Phi Delta fraternity gathered to celebrate their brotherhood at their annual alumni dinner dance. This year’s gathering was special because it kicked off Alpha Phi Delta’s yearlong centennial celebration.

Alpha Phi Delta was founded in 1914 at Syracuse University by a group of Italian-American students who banded together to celebrate their heritage in the face of ethnic discrimination. Thirteen years later, in 1927, Delta Lambda Mu was organized on Duquesne’s campus by a similar group of Italian-American students looking to promote good fellowship and further the spirit of goodwill and unselfishness without prejudice. In 1929, Delta Lambda Mu was officially chartered as the Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Delta.

Since 1927, more than 1,100 Duquesne men have been inducted as brothers. To date, eight Duquesne alumni have served as national presidents for Alpha Phi Delta, more than any other chapter in the country. Many Duquesne brothers have served in various other roles, such as Rev. Donald Nesti, the University’s tenth president; William Capone, B’42, former chairman of the Board of Directors; Joe DeNardo, A’52, former member of the Board of Directors; and Tony Carfang, B’73, current vice chair of the Board of Directors.

A Grand Centennial Gala, chaired by Carfang, is planned for April 4-6 in Washington, D.C. The Duquesne chapter plans to have a large alumni presence for the celebration. A Grand Centennial Convention is planned for August near Harrisburg, Pa. To learn more about the centennial activities, please visit www.apdfoundation.org/centennial, e-mail centennial@apdfoundation.org, or contact Vito Palermo at 774.549.9346.

After spending 87 years on Duquesne’s campus, brothers of Alpha Phi Delta are proud to note that their brotherhood remains strong. Brother Joe Bell, A’79, says it’s hard to pinpoint the intangible quality that makes their bond so special, but he believes it ties back to the fraternity’s founding Italian roots: “The notion of family is so important in Italian culture. You always stay close to your family and we regard our brothers as extended family. Even though life leads everyone in different directions, we have made a conscious effort to maintain lifelong relationships with our brothers. We truly feel that brotherhood in Alpha Phi Delta is eternal.”
Lauren R. (Martinak) Kaskie, PharmD’08, was recently in London for the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Minnesota Vikings game with her husband, Evan Kaskie, PharmD’08, and best friends Sarah Rose (Kulik) Wrona, PharmD’10, and Joshua Stanley Wrona, PharmD’10. The alumni currently reside in Charlotte, N.C.

Carol Caruso Caruthers, A’71, recently took her DU Magazine to Our Lady of the Angels statue in Cape May Court House, N.J.

Mary Spezialetti, B’82, recently took her DU Magazine to Italy. Here, she is shown in the Boboli Gardens with the Duomo of Florence in the background.

The Duquesne University Tamburitzan Alumni Group recently met on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Shown are: Daniel Pavlic, M’60, GE’70; Nancy Dziak Pavlic, E’62; Caroline Puskarich Bahr, E’59; Dr. Al Bahr; Georgianne Spolarich Brickner, E’61; James Merriam; Wayne Brozovich, E’62; Celeste Brozovich; Dr. Anthony Dren, P’59, GP’61; Catherine Danjanic Dren, E’58.

More “On the Road” photos are available on Duquesne’s alumni website. To view photos, visit: www.myduquesne.duq.edu/alumniphotos
The mission of Duquesne University is often summarized in six words: “Duquesne serves God by serving students.” The entire mission statement, however, includes five pillars, rooted in the Spiritan charism, that describe how this vision is achieved: academic excellence, moral and spiritual values, ecumenism, service and world concerns.

Since 2007, The Mind, Heart and Spirit Awards, presented by the Duquesne University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations, recognize graduates whose lives and works exemplify the five pillars. The Young Alumni Council has assumed sponsorship of the program and refocused the award to honor alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years.

The sixth class of honorees received awards at a reception held on campus on November 2. Young Alumni Council President Patrick Kerns, B’05, presented the awards to:

Ashlee Mae Beckett, E’05

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in elementary education, Beckett began her career as a sixth grade teacher in Fairfax, Va., and joined the Mt. Lebanon School District in suburban Pittsburgh in 2007.

A sixth grade geography teacher at Jefferson Middle School, she founded an International Club to promote diversity and introduce students to the cultures of other nations. Now the largest student organization at Jefferson with more than 100 members, the club sponsors an annual International Night and other fundraisers, with proceeds benefiting orphanages in Colombia and Haiti. She also serves as seventh grade volleyball coach and assistant director of the musical.

Beckett earned a master’s in educational leadership from Edinboro University in 2009 and holds national board certification for teaching history to early adolescents. She studied in Europe in 2009 on a World Affairs Council fellowship and in Japan last year as a Keizai Koho Fellow. She spent her Christmas break in Haiti developing educational programs for orphanages.

Ryan Phillip Sayers, Esq., L’12

Sayers, of Frenchville, Pa., is an associate with the firm of Naddeo and Lewis. Before attending Duquesne Law School, he earned bachelor’s degrees in history and political science from Washington & Jefferson College in 2009.

An Eagle Scout and lifelong resident of Clearfield County, Sayers promotes the moral, spiritual and civic growth of young men through his continued leadership in Scouting. He serves on the executive board of the Bucktail Council, as advisor to the Order of the Arrow Ah’Tic Lodge, and as assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 9 in Clearfield, Pa.

Sayers is also a member of the Clearfield County Republican Committee and the organization committee of the Clearfield Revitalization Corporation.

An active member and volunteer with St. Mary’s Parish in Frenchville, he also returns frequently to Duquesne and Pittsburgh to serve special Masses on campus and at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

Adam Wasilko, S’08, GHS’10

Wasilko is pursuing his doctorate in education at Duquesne and works as resident director of Des Places Living Learning Center. He previously was a resident assistant and graduate assistant for the Office of Residence Life.

Wasilko coordinates the Freshman Advisement Summer Transition (FAST) Program, which welcomes new students and allows them to take care of many necessary administrative tasks before arriving for Orientation in the fall. He personifies the mission in his interactions with students, parents and colleagues across campus, has developed educational presentations that relate the mission to the roles of a variety of audiences, and has written guest articles for campus publications on integrating the mission into daily life and work.

Wasilko advises the Gamma Phi fraternity and is credited with notable increases in the chapter’s membership and activity. He also serves as a youth mentor with Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh.

To learn more about the Mind, Heart and Spirit Awards and previous recipients, visit www.duq.edu/alumni and click on “Involvement,” then “Alumni Awards.”
President Stresses Academic Excellence at Convocation

President Dr. Charles J. Dougherty focused on the importance of academic excellence in his annual address to faculty, staff and administration at the 2013 University Convocation in September.

Academic excellence is a top priority in the University’s strategic plan. The strategic plan, Dougherty explained, “is organized to draw attention to the fact that the heart of what we are involves students, faculty and a mission that binds them together.”

Dougherty detailed how the University’s academic aspirations for excellence now reach nationally and internationally. “It is no longer sufficient for us to look at regional success,” said Dougherty.

With Duquesne faculty committed to excellence in both teaching and scholarship, Dougherty said, “We seek a balance for achievement in both.”

Dougherty described numerous upgrades that better support academic excellence in all means of delivery. From 2002 to 2012, more than $29 million was spent renovating academic units; another $22 million is planned through 2017.

In closing, Dougherty expressed gratitude for campus-wide efforts to achieve academic excellence, explaining the impact on the University’s growing national and international reputation: “You are a critical part of the trinity at the heart of who we are as you bring our students an education for a lifetime in our Catholic, Spiritan tradition.”

Japanese Professors Focus on Forensic Nursing at DU

Five members of the nursing faculty from The Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing came to campus in September to learn about Duquesne’s forensic nursing program.

Aiming to launch a forensic nursing program in Japan, the visitors came to learn how forensic nursing functions in clinical practice in the U.S., as well as to understand the relationships among forensic nursing and the fields of law and legislation.

At Duquesne, they met with Professor Kathleen Sekula, director of the forensic nursing graduate programs and an internationally recognized pioneer in the field; Assistant Professor Alison Colbert, chair of graduate nursing programs; and Professor Rick Zoucha, whose field of expertise is in transcultural nursing.
University Receives Prestigious Recognition

Duquesne University has recently been the recipient of national recognition, including:

• The College Database, a comprehensive online source for information about U.S. colleges and universities, selected Duquesne a top college in the state for teacher education.

• AffordableCollegesOnline.org recognized Duquesne as one of the top schools in Pennsylvania for the quality and affordability of its online programs.

• In its inaugural rankings of the Best Colleges for Veterans to help veterans pursue a college education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. News & World Report ranked Duquesne No. 24 in the nation.

• Duquesne was named a 2014 Military Friendly School by Victory Media, joining just 15 percent of post-secondary educational institutions nationwide to earn the designation.

• Washington Monthly hailed Duquesne as a school where students get the “best bang for the buck.” The 2013 Best Bang for the Buck rankings, based on the economic value students receive per dollar, lists Duquesne at No. 68 out of 78 schools in the national universities category. Among Catholic schools ranked on this national list, Duquesne is included in the top five.

• Duquesne has been ranked No. 4 among Best Value Private Law Schools according to The National Jurist, which publishes the rankings “to identify and recognize law schools that help students pass the bar exam and land jobs without burdening them with huge debt.”

• The Mylan School of Pharmacy has been ranked No. 55 by Pharmacy Technician Review in its inaugural Top 75 Pharmacy Schools in the U.S. list. In addition, Duquesne ranked No. 10 in the organization’s Top 20 Pharmacy Schools of the East Coast and No. 10 in its Top 25 Private Pharmacy Schools in the U.S. lists.

• The Mary Pappert School of Music has been listed among the Top 58 in the U.S. and is profiled in the new edition of Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers.

Symposium Draws Experts on Children and Health Care

The Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, was among the keynote speakers at the School of Nursing’s fourth annual Rita M. McGinley Symposium. Exploring Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations: The Face of the Child was held in October in the Power Center Ballroom.

Organized by Sister Rosemary Donley, S.C., professor of nursing and the Jacques Laval Chair in Justice for Vulnerable Populations, the McGinley symposium is a national, interdisciplinary forum that explores critical issues in health care practice and policy that makes social justice its unifying theme.

The Face of the Child featured presentations and panel discussions covering a variety of topics, from the trauma of war and human trafficking to caring for youngsters with special needs.

Renovated Chemistry Labs Unveiled

A September ribbon-cutting ceremony showcased chemistry labs on the third floor of Mellon Hall that were upgraded as part of Duquesne’s continuing commitment to provide students with the best possible educational facilities.

The labs offer tables with video monitors to easily see and learn techniques from instructors, along with plenty of storage. Dr. David Seybert, professor and former dean; former Provost Dr. Ralph Pearson; and President Dr. Charles J. Dougherty committed $1.1 million to the renovations. The renovations committee visited other institutions before opting for a plan based on renovations at Cleveland State University.
**NEW GRANTS**

Small Business Development Center (SBDC), $30,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development through the Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credit offered through UPMC. Dr. Mary McKinney, SBDC director, will administer the award.

Dr. Ellen Gawalt, chemistry and biochemistry, Bayer School, $9,365 from a Hunkele Dreaded Disease award for Nanoparticle Delivery of NO for Bacteria Dispersal in Cystic Fibrosis. Dr. Wilson Meng, Mylan School of Pharmacy, will be a co-investigator. The award extends through Nov. 30, 2015.

Dr. John Stolz, biological sciences, Bayer School, $3,000 from a Hunkele Dreaded Disease award for Colonic Microbial Community Restructuring from Environmental Exposure to Arsenic.

Dr. Wilson Meng, School of Pharmacy, Year 2 of a subcontract from the University of Pittsburgh from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for Type 1 Diabetes-Suppressive Microspheres. This brings the total funds to date to $99,134.

Dr. Scott Graves, School of Education, $1,300 from the American Psychological Association for School Psychology Leadership Institute: Monitoring and Assessment of Ethnic Minority Representation and Participation in Psychology.

Dr. Carl Anderson, Mylan School of Pharmacy, $7,554 from Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc. for the Duquesne University Center for Pharmaceutical Technology’s operator training program.

Dr. Gibbs Kanyongo, School of Education, $14,989 from the KEYs Service Corps AmeriCorps Programs for the Braddock Youth Program.

Dr. Olga Welch, dean of the School of Education, $20,000 from the Heinz Endowments for the Heinz Fellow Master’s Program.

DU Cares Office, $40,000 (to be funded in $20,000 increments over two years) from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for programs to reduce and eliminate underage and dangerous drinking. Dan Gittens, coordinator of the DU Cares program, will be the project director.

The School of Pharmacy, $2,590 from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists to support the fifth annual Student Research Symposium. Rahual Roopwani will direct the symposium and Dr. James Drennen is the student advisor.

Dr. Ellen Gawalt, Department of Chemistry, $5,000 from Cabertech Inc. for lab supplies. This brings the total award amount to date to $27,957.

Dr. Jennifer Aitken, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, $3,200 from the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society for the Project Seed Program, which provides opportunities for economically disadvantaged high school students to work in the chemistry labs at Duquesne under the direction of faculty members. This brings the total award amount to date to $152,361.

Dr. Philip Reeder, Bayer School, $2,150 from the Nathan J. and Helen Goldrich Foundation Inc. for the first screening of the documentary Deadly Deception at Sobibor.

Dr. Diane Borello-France, $13,157 from a subcontract from Magee Women’s Research Institute and Foundation on a grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for Pittsburgh Pelvic Floor Research Program.

Dr. John Stolz, Department of Biological Sciences, $16,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Continued Investigations of ‘Alternative’ Anaerobic Biogeochemical Redox Cycles in Volcanic, Hypersaline Environments: Earth, Mars, and Europa. This brings the total award amount received to date to $127,999.

The Learning Skills Center, $5,700 from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, additional funds for the Program for Academic Excellence. This brings the total award amount of the grant to $95,700. Dr. Judith Griggs, director of the Learning Skills Center, will be the award administrator.

Dr. Michael Irwin, associate professor, sociology department, McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, $9,923 from a Faculty Development Fund award for The Impact of the Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction Industry on Individual Health and Community Well-Being in Rural Pennsylvania. Dr. Lenore Resick, School of Nursing, is a co-investigator on this grant.

The School of Nursing, $5,500 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for its Pre-Entry Immersion Program. Drs. Leah Cunningham and Joan Lockhart will administer the award.

Dr. Aleem Gangjee, Mylan School of Pharmacy, $92,996 in additional Year 3 funding from a subcontract from Wayne State University on a grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, for Discovery of Novel PCFT Targeted Agents. This brings the total funding to date to $567,615.
The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Bayer School, $126,000 for Year 3 funding from the National Science Foundation for Metalated Nitriles: Unmasking Fundamental Reactivity. Total funding to date amounts to $402,000. The project is now under the direction of Dr. Bruce Beaver; the previous principal investigator was Dr. Fraser Fleming.

The Mylan School of Pharmacy, $50,000 in a second funding installment from McAuley Ministries Inc. to support the Hill District Center for Pharmacy Services Community Outreach Initiative. This brings the total award to $100,000. The funds will be administered by Dean Dr. Douglas Bricker and Dr. Terri Kroh, pharmacy director.

Office of Research, $100,000 third year of funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, for outreach activities to distressed communities through Duquesne’s Small Business Development Center and the Institute for Energy and the Environment. Dr. James S. Phillips, director of the Office of Sponsored Research, will administer the award.

Dr. Brady Porter, Department of Biological Sciences, $5,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to sample a minimum of 20 previously un-assessed streams in the upper Allegheny River area.

Dr. Kevin Tidgewell, Mylan School of Pharmacy, $5,000 from the American Society of Pharmacognosy for Exploration of Honduran Marine Cyanobacteria for GPCR Ligands.

Dr. Ira Buckner, Mylan School of Pharmacy, $10,000 from Lipella Inc. for a collaborative research project.

Dr. Melissa Boston, Department of Instruction and Leadership in Education, $7,000 from Intermediate Unit 1, Coal Center, to provide travel, rater training and general expenses for Boston, an external evaluator for the Intermediate Unit 1 Center for STEM Education Math-Science Partnership Grant.

Dr. Jeffry Madura and Dr. Jeff Evanseck, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, $6,000 from Gaussian Inc. for the Center for Computational Sciences. This brings the total award amount to date to $72,000.

The Program for Academic Excellence, an anticipated $90,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. Dr. Judith Griggs, director of the Learning Skills Center, will be the award administrator.

Dr. Aleem Gangjee, School of Pharmacy, an additional $153,714 from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, for Water Soluble Antimitotics That Circumvent Tumor Resistance. This brings Year 3 funding to $294,880 and the total amount of funding received to date to $920,909.

The Department of Physics, Bayer School, $20,000 from the Jefferson Laboratory, Newport News, Va., for Implementing the RICH Detector to the CLAS12 Geant4 Simulation Package. The project principal investigator is Dr. Fatiha Benmokhtar.

Dr. Aleem Gangjee, School of Pharmacy, an additional $141,944 for Year 1 from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, for Purine Synthesis Inhibitors with Selective Folate Receptor Tumor Transport. This brings the total funding for Year 1 to $583,778, with total anticipated funding over three years of $1,563,106.

Dr. Peter Wildfong and Dr. Ira Buckner, School of Pharmacy, $283,257 from AbbVie Inc. for a collaborative research project. The period of the award extends to July 17, 2016.

The Mylan School of Pharmacy, $50,000 from an anonymous donor for the Hill District Center for Pharmacy Services Community Outreach Initiative. The funds will be administered by Dean Douglas Bricker and Dr. Terri Kroh.

Dr. Stacey Levine, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, McAnulty College, $185,240 from the National Science Foundation for RUI: New Applications of Curvature in Image Processing. The award extends through June 30, 2016.

Dr. Jeffrey Evanseck, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, $270,000 from the National Science Foundation for the Chemistry Research Experience for Undergraduates Leadership Group. The award extends through June 30, 2016.

Dr. John Stolz, Center for Environmental Research and Education and the Department of Biological Sciences, $40,000 from The Heinz Endowments to help defray the costs of the Shale Gas Extraction Research Conference.

Dr. Jamie McConaha, Mylan School of Pharmacy, $10,000 from Pfizer Inc. for a smoking cessation program titled Courage to Quit.

The School of Law, a $200,000 continuation award for Year 17 from the PA IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts) Board to continue to develop and enhance clinical legal education programs for law students in four law clinics. The funds will be administered by Laurie Serafino and Tracey McCants Lewis of the law school. This brings the funding total to $3,101,546.

Dr. Nancy Trun, Department of Biological Sciences, $6,017 on a subcontract from Juniata College from a National Science Foundation grant for RCN-UBE-GCAT-SEEK: The Genome Consortium for Active Undergraduate Research and Teaching Using Next Generation Sequencing.
Athletics Update

A November To Remember

The Department of Athletics completed its most successful fall in school history with three teams winning or sharing championships.

The women’s cross country team placed three runners among the top 10 and six among the top 18 in winning the team title at the 2013 Atlantic 10 Championship in Mechanicsville, Va., on Nov. 2.

It was the first women’s cross country Atlantic 10 championship in Duquesne history and the first A-10 title for DU since the men’s cross country team won in 2005.

Senior Amber Valimont paced the Red and Blue, finishing fourth in the 111-runner field with a time of 17:11.1. Following closely behind in sixth place was fellow senior Haley Pisarcik, with a time of 17:18.7, while rounding out the top 10 was freshman Valerie Palermo. The trio was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference Team, while Coach Tom Slosky was named the Atlantic 10 Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Two weeks later, the Duquesne football team defeated Central Connecticut State at home to clinch a share of the 2013 Northeast Conference Football Championship. It was the second co-championship in three years for the Dukes, who finished the season 7-4 overall and 4-2 in NEC play. Coach Jerry Schmitt’s Dukes have posted more overall wins—and more conference wins—than any NEC school over the past four seasons.

On Nov. 24, the DU volleyball team captured its first-ever Atlantic 10 title by defeating VCU, 3-1, at the Charles E. Smith Center on the campus of The George Washington University. With the win, the Dukes earned the A-10’s automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Junior Arielle Love tallied 21 kills and 10 blocks in DU wins over Dayton and VCU, including 10 and four respectively in the championship match to earn Championship Most Outstanding Player honors.

She was joined on the All-Championship team by sophomore setter Mary Henry and senior outside hitter Marah Farage.

The Dukes, under A-10 Coach of the Year Steve Opperman, finished 12-2 in regular season league play, winning the title outright one match ahead of VCU.
Duquesne University Establishes Fund For Basketball Excellence

First 10 Benefactors Commit a Total of $1 Million

Duquesne has announced the establishment of a Fund for Basketball Excellence. The first 10 donors have committed a total of $1 million over the next five years.

“There is a difference between success and excellence,” explains Greg Amodio, director of athletics. “Succeeding is to attain a desired result once; excellence requires sustaining and building on success. These funds will help our basketball programs to achieve real excellence.”

The University administration has made significant recent investments in its men’s and women’s basketball programs and facilities. Annual operating budgets have more than doubled, and capital improvements have included renovations to administrative offices, recruiting spaces, strength and conditioning rooms, and the basketball practice facility. The Palumbo Center main arena has received new chair-back seating, a center-hung video scoreboard, and a new floor and goals.

Additional major enhancements have been donor-funded, including new men’s and women’s locker rooms and lounges in the Janice and James Schaming Athletic Center, the Keller Family Athletic Training Room and the James Christopher Rocco Basketball Theater.

“All of these investments put us in a position to succeed, but we need to keep building toward excellence,” says head men’s basketball coach Jim Ferry. “These 10 generous donors will allow us to do exactly that. Our players recognize and appreciate their contributions to the program.”

The Fund for Basketball Excellence will provide immediate annual operating support for the men’s and women’s programs, including such items as travel, academic and administrative assistance, promotions and marketing (including enhanced television exposure), and additional facilities and equipment. Development efforts began in spring 2013 with a goal of securing 10 benefactors by the end of 2013.

“The overwhelming response allowed us to reach our goal sooner than expected, and speaks volumes about the growing support and excitement for Duquesne basketball,” says Amodio. “At the same time, we remain committed to continued growth, and look forward to engaging more individuals who share our vision of taking the fund—and our programs—to the next level.”

The first 10 donors to the fund include four anonymous benefactors and:

Arnold E. Burchianti, II
Thomas B. Grealish
Paul M. Matvey, Jr.
Janice L. Schaming
Daniel V. and Kenneth A. Unico
Michael R. Vozza, Jr.

Grealish, a 1983 Duquesne graduate and president of Henderson Brothers, Inc., is a member of the University’s Board of Directors. “Through my service on the Board’s Athletics Committee, I understand the value of sports in general—and basketball in particular—to building school spirit and Duquesne’s reputation,” he says. “I also recognize the impact the Fund for Excellence will have.

“Our administration, staff, coaches and student-athletes are working harder than ever to compete at the highest level. As a longtime supporter, it was important for me to step it up as well.”

For more information about contributing to Duquesne University’s Fund for Basketball Excellence, contact Bryan Colonna, director of Athletic Development, at 412.396.5927 or colonna770@duq.edu.
**Alumni Spotlight**

**P. Brennan Hart, L’73**, has been elected to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) board of directors.

Hart is a partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, a Pittsburgh-based commercial law firm.

“I’ve been a champion of NKF’s local initiatives for many years. I first became involved with the foundation’s Pittsburgh chapter nearly 30 years ago when my son was diagnosed with a condition that damaged his kidneys,” says Hart. “I am proud to share that I became a living donor 17 years ago when I donated one of my kidneys to him, and I am eager to support the foundation’s efforts on a national scale.”

Hart is committed to increasing public awareness about the kidneys and kidney disease, and preventing others from experiencing kidney failure, which requires dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive.

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**1950s**

Salvatore J. LaGumina, E’55, is the author of *Long Island Italian Americans: History, Heritage & Tradition* (The History Press). He is married to Juliana Heath, E’56, and their daughter is also a Duquesne alumna, Christine LaGumina, A’90.

Gerald W. “Jerry” Miller, S’55, GS’57, Ph.D.’59, was named the Athenaeum’s 2013 distinguished alumnus. He received a master of arts in religion from the Athenaeum. He is the founder and retired president of the former HiTech Polymers Co. and also the author of *Insights to Spirituality*, published by AuthorHouse. He and his wife have six children and 12 grandchildren and reside in Cincinnati.

Joseph T. Senko, B’57, has been appointed treasurer of Mt. Lebanon, Pa.

**1960s**

Ann Curran Wintemantel, A’60, GA’67, is the author of a new book of poetry, *Me First*, available through lumoxpress.com and amazon.com. The poems focus on such subjects as Andy Warhol, Barack Obama and Dan Rooney, many of whom she interviewed for Pittsburgh newspapers and magazines. She and her husband, Ed Wintemantel, A’60, are retired magazine editors and live in Pittsburgh.

Dr. David J. Hebert, GE’64, recently retired after 46 years as a faculty member in the graduate program in counseling at the University of New Hampshire. One of the highlights of his career was receiving the prestigious Brierly Award for college teaching, which is presented to one UNH faculty member each year. He began his career with a graduate assistantship at Duquesne.

Chuck Neidhardt, M’69, was appointed music director of the Montgomery County Concert Band in Lansdale, Pa. The band has been invited to perform at the Convention of the Association of Concert Bands in Allentown and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Conference in Hershey.

**1970s**

Maureen E. Lally-Green, E’71, L’74, was elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. She is currently associate general secretary/director of the Office of Church Relations for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and continues to teach at Duquesne’s School of Law. She previously served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Steve Morus, E’73, was elected president of the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management.

Ralph Stalter, A’73, is working with Nevada’s first and only member of the prestigious League of Resident Theatres. He is now a consultant to Nevada Repertory, the sister company of Las Vegas Shakespeare Company, which has unveiled plans to transform the face of non-profit performing arts in southern Nevada.

David S. Pollock, L’74, founding partner of the family law firm Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz LLC, was selected for inclusion in the 2014 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of family law.

Les Niehl, GE’75, has retired from the Woodland Hills School District after 32 years of teaching. He and his wife operate a home-based business specializing in lettering for emergency vehicles. He recently completed a design for a new Duquesne police vehicle. His daughter, Julia, is a sophomore at Duquesne.

Kimberly Giovannelli, A’79, director of community services at Allegheny Valley Hospital, was selected from among 10 nominees to receive the 2013 Evelyn Burston Award. The annual award is given by the Pennsylvania Society of Directors of Volunteer Services. Her responsibilities at the hospital include recruiting and managing 264 volunteers; acting as a liaison with the hospital auxiliary, volunteer chaplains and community clergy; and coordinating the hospital’s speakers bureau and community outreach events.

Kevin Prykull, B’79, senior vice president & credit executive, PNC Equipment Finance, LLC, received the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from The Equipment Leasing and Finance Association. The award is given to individuals “who have made significant contributions to the association and the equipment finance industry.” He has
been an adjunct professor in finance at Duquesne for more than 25 years.

1980s

Cindy Lee Alden, P’80, was nominated to the Top Ten Female Vocalist ballot for the ICM awards in Nashville. She is currently working on her next Christian country CD, *His Royal Stamp*, as a follow-up to her first effort in the inspirational country genre, *A Heart Light as Air*.

Carol A. Behers, A’85, L’83, a principal of Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C., was elected to a three-year term on the board of governors of the Allegheny County Bar Association and also named to Best Lawyers in America in the practice area of family law.

Janese Hexon, E’83, was recently part of an exhibit to protect the Central Park carriage horses. Two of her sculptures included in the show have won numerous national awards.

Cynthia (Papageorgiou) Kot, B’83, was elected president of the Walsh College Alumni Association for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Yvonne Brown, A’85, was selected to join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Hall of Fame in 2012.

Annette (Kraisinger) Hostoffer, A’85, received an award of excellence and an award of honor for her work producing an annual report and a direct-mail campaign, respectively. The awards were from the International Association of Business Communicators during the 34th Annual Golden Triangle Awards.

Marie Millie Jones, A’85, L’87, was a speaker at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Prison Personnel Workshop at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. She presented the topic of *Getting Ready for Litigation and Addressing Issues Involving Temporary Detainees*. She practices law in the boutique litigation firm of JonesPassodelis, PLLC, where she focuses on employment and civil rights matters. She is the chairman of the Board of Directors of Duquesne and is a member of the Board of Regents of St. Vincent Seminary.

Dave Schanbacher, L’86, partner in the family law division of Hoffmeyer & Semmelman, LLP, spoke at the summer meeting of the PBA Family Law Section in National Harbor, Md., a semiannual meeting attended by family law attorneys across Pennsylvania. He moderated the panel presentation and discussion of all significant case decisions, rules and legislative changes in the area of family law to date in Pennsylvania. He has 26 years of legal experience focusing on family law, divorce, custody, support and DUI.

Wendy Dodd Maletta, ACC, A’88, was awarded the 2013 Avatar Award for New Coach of the Year by the International Coach Federation (ICF) Midwest Regional Advisory Committee. She is an ICF accredited marketing and professional image coach with more than 25 years of professional experience and is owner of Ahh!luminating Marketing and Professional Image Coaching. She co-founded Dress for Success Pittsburgh, a non-profit organization that is part of a global network of affiliates providing professional clothing and services to disadvantaged women entering the workforce. She also donates her time as vice president of the board of directors for Pittsburgh Musical Theater and as a Girl Scout co-leader.

Dana Ann (Thompson) Slizik, A’88, accepted a position as a subcontractor for marketing and communication services for ocreations in Pittsburgh. She also was given The Starfish Award by Cribs for Kids. She has raised more than $20,000 for Cribs for Kids in memory of her daughter, Samantha Ann. The organization started The Breath of Life Stroll in which Dana’s team has been the top fundraiser for the last four years. She is on the Breath of Life Stroll committee, a National Safe Sleep Ambassador, a member of the board of directors and hosts several events throughout the year for Cribs for Kids.

Mary Bockovich, A’89, is now vice president of the board of directors of Sojourner House, which “provides faith-based residential treatment and other services to addicted women and their children to break the intergenerational cycle.” She is director of development at Familylinks, which provides family services focused on behavioral, social and developmental health.

1990s

Dr. Michael Aleprete, A’93, has been tenured and promoted to associate professor at Westminster College. He has published an edited volume with a colleague from Wheaton College, *International Dimensions of Authoritarian Persistence: Lessons from the Post-Soviet States* (Lexington Press).

Phil Vavra, A’95, has joined CBS Radio as morning host on K104.7 (WKQC-FM) in Charlotte, N.C.

Marsha McFalls, P’96, Pharm.D.’00, was awarded a master's degree in education, instructional technology, in August from Duquesne. She is an In Memoriam: Harvey R. Alexander

Harvey R. Alexander, GB’50, passed away in Greensboro, N.C., on Aug. 16 at age 92.

Alexander was one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an elite unit of African-American fighter pilots who served with distinction during World War II. One of the many veterans who flocked to Duquesne after the war, he earned a graduate business degree and later held teaching and administrative positions at Southern University, North Carolina A&T University, Shaw University, Johnson C. Smith University, the Pratt Institute and Tennessee State University.

Alexander’s military service was recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, an honorary doctorate from the Tuskegee Institute, and a presidential medallion from the University of Illinois, his undergraduate alma mater. ■
John J. Fry, GA’97, chair of the history department at Trinity Christian College, recently edited *Almost Pioneers: One Couple’s Homesteading Adventure in the West* (almostpioneers.wordpress.com/). The book is a memoir by a woman from Iowa who homesteaded in Wyoming during the 1910s.

Michael Grandinetti, B’99, master illusionist, has been busy around the country with many projects. Highlights include opening the Miami vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game by magically making the baseball appear and then throwing out the first pitch of the game. He is one of the stars of the new CW series *Masters of Illusion*, where viewers will see his “Walking Through Steel” performance. *Masters of Illusion Live!* will begin touring in February.

Michael A. Rynn, A’99, L’02, was promoted to senior counsel within the legal department at FedEx Ground.

### 2000s

Darcy Monteverde Dayton, A’01, L’04, Jennifer L. Enciso, L’03, and Amy E. Peck, B’07, have opened the law firm of Dayton Enciso, PC in Pittsburgh’s Bloomfield neighborhood. The practice areas include real estate, business and estate planning, and family law.

Samara O’Shea, A’01, will have her third book, *Loves Me…Not: How to Survive (and Thrive!) in the Face of Unrequited Love* (February Books), published early in 2014. The book is described as comforting “the broken hearted with hilarious tales, enlightening advice, and a little tough love to help readers rediscover their self-esteem and move on after a breakup.” Her website is www.SamaraOShea.com.

Heather Lynn (McNeish) Gray, GLPA’02, took third place as a finalist in the 2013 Steeltown Film Factory competition. From more than 250 entrants, she was awarded $2,500 seed money to develop her short screenplay, *Life After Death*. She works in the Pittsburgh area as a certified ASL interpreter, actor, photographer and writer.

Cassandra Pritts, GA’03, and Steve Oberlechner, A’99, recently married, are both professors at Potomac State College of WVU.

Barron Whited, GE’04, was appointed as diocesan director of music for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson, N.J. He is also the organist and director of music at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Montclair, N.J.

Tracy (Stolz) Lyons, A’05, GLPA’07, was promoted to director of alumni services at Gannon University in Erie.

Erin Trageser, HS’05, recently attained board certification as a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (cardiology). She earned her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a rotating medical/surgical internship at Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center (PVSEC). She moved to Prince Edward Island for a residency in cardiology, simultaneously earning a master of science degree for her research in feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. She returned to Pittsburgh and is a veterinary cardiologist at PVSEC.

### In Memoriam: Floyd R. Ganassi, Sr.

Floyd R. Ganassi, Sr., of Fox Chapel, Pa., died Aug. 19 at the age of 87.

Ganassi fought in Europe during World War II, and never attended college. His “rags-to-riches” story began with jobs as a salesman and baggage handler, but he built an empire starting with a paving company in 1950, and bought a prominent sand and gravel business in 1986. He later branched out beyond the construction industry, forming the FRG Group, which included telecommunications, technology and manufacturing holdings.

Ganassi was elected to Duquesne University’s Board of Directors in 1988, and became an emeritus member in 2000. His son, Duquesne graduate Floyd R. “Chip” Ganassi, Jr., B’82, is a former auto racing champion and a leading team owner on the NASCAR and IndyCar circuits.

Erin Trageser, HS’05, recently attained board certification as a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (cardiology). She earned her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a rotating medical/surgical internship at Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center (PVSEC). She moved to Prince Edward Island for a residency in cardiology, simultaneously earning a master of science degree for her research in feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. She returned to Pittsburgh and is a veterinary cardiologist at PVSEC.
Raymond F. Vennare, GLPA’05, author, artist and entrepreneur, has released the memoir, *My Father’s Shoes*. This vibrant anthology celebrates the capacity of one person to make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Excerpts, audio and Facebook links can be found at www.myfathersshoes.net.

John J. Bennett, Jr., LPA’06, GLPA’07, has completed a doctor of philosophy in organizational leadership with a major in entrepreneurial leadership from Regent University. He is a board member, researcher and consultant at the Entrepreneur Leadership Institute. He also completed two advanced doctoral fellowships at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System and Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education. As a U.S. Army officer completing three years of active duty service, he currently serves as a Pennsylvania Army National Guardsman.

Stephanie Weis, GE’06, has released *The Star Catcher*, part of The Star Child series, published through Inkspell Publishing under the pen name, Stephanie Keyes. (www.stephaniekeyes.com).

Christopher Urbanek, HS’07, graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2013. He is currently in his first year of residency at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital, where he will specialize in family medicine.

Victoria Wytcherley, LPA’08, was named director of online strategy at Carnegie Mellon University.

Joseph R. Williams, L’09, associate at Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz, LLC, has been named to the list of 2013 “Lawyers on the Fast Track” by *The Legal Intelligencer*. He is one of 38 Pennsylvania attorneys chosen to receive this distinction, and the only family lawyer included on the list.

David S. Miller, MBA’09, was ordained by Bishop David Zubik a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

**New Arrivals**

**2010s**

Kristin M. Garnett, Pharm.D.’10, recently married Matthew R. Wanek, Pharm.D.’10. She is a pharmacist with CVS Caremark in Cleveland and he is a clinical specialist at the Cleveland Clinic.

Ethan Leatherbarrow, A’13, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, where he will live and work in a community to focus on community development projects in education, youth development, health and HIV/AIDS, environment and business development.

**Marriages**

Rayleen M. Tolejko, B’98, married Christopher Reo.

Cassandra Pritts, GA’03, married Steve Oberlechner, A’99.

Mary Pat Stahler, A’07, married Lee Feigert, Pharm.D.’11.

Martina Sucic, Pharm.D.’08, married Brian J. Lindway.


Jenna Ann Hallock, HS’11, GHS’12, married Matthew Mark Hertweck, B’11.


Jackson Warren, son of Gretchen (Slaughter) Biringer, S’01, A’01, and Jason Biringer.

Xander Grey, son of Holly Dignan Vasses, HS’02, and Jason Vasses.

Kalina Marie, daughter of Kristen (Conley) Kolodychak, B’03, and Joseph R. Kolodychak, HS’00.

Ella Brynn, daughter of Jodi (Polizzano) Weismann, E’03, GE’04, and Jeff Weismann, B’01, MBA’08, GB’08.

Cora Lee and Rose Marie, daughters of Kelly (Gensler) Welsch, A’05, and Daniel Welsch.

Madison Aria, daughter of Melissa Mackey, HS’06, and John Pisarek, M’05.

Clare Ann, daughter of Megan (Trimbur) Gallagher, GE’07, and Patrick Gallagher.

Giavanna Grace, daughter of Amanda Grace McKendree, Ph.D.’09, and Daniel Cassiato, B’94, MBA’97.

It is with deep sadness that we list the following alumni and friends who passed away between June 28 and Nov. 25, 2013.

Harvey R. Alexander, GB’50

Daniel M. Angelier, A’73, P’76

Elizabeth Apel, E’65

Virgil Austin, B’49

Annabelle Bakos, N’51

Robert C. Baldis, GE’68

Robert F. Balint, B’94, GB’01

Janet Barnicle, GA’79

George W. Beres, A’52

Clifford Berschneider, E’38

Leo M. Bickert, E’58

John Bingler

Carol A. Bodamer

Anthony G. Bosco

Joan Brayack, E’73

Peter F. Brown, GB’78

Joseph Browne, B’49

Mary Casper, N’63

Anthony L. Chenevey, GE’66

Edward D. Choby, GS’62

Marriage
alumni updates

In Memoriam: Richard A. Staub

Richard A. Staub, A’52, of Hermitage, Tenn., died on July 18 at the age of 83.

A member of the inaugural Century Club class of 1978, he was an Army veteran and an alumnus of the Beta Pi Sigma and Kappa Sigma Phi fraternities. He spent 40 years with Sears, Roebuck & Co., retiring as a senior executive, and had a successful second career as a master magician and mentalist, presenting shows across the country. A lifetime member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Staub had been recognized by the organization with the Order of Merlin Excelsior.

In Memoriam: Olive Lee Gilliand

Olive Lee Gilliand, age 91, of Oakmont, Pa., passed away on July 15.

She was the widow of Merle Gilliand, B’48, legendary Pittsburgh banking executive considered the father of what is now known as PNC. A longtime booster of Duquesne athletics, Merle had served on the University’s Board of Directors and was a member of the Century Club and Duquesne’s Sports Hall of Fame. Following Merle’s death in 1998, Olive Lee remained an active supporter of the Dukes basketball team and participated in the selection committee for recipients of PNC’s Merle E. Gilliand Scholarship Award, which benefits Duquesne students.

In Memoriam: Olive Lee Gilliand

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In Memoriam: Dr. Thomas Patrick Melady

Dr. Thomas Patrick Melady, A’51, H’70, passed away on Jan. 6 at the age of 86.

Never having considered retirement, he was still working as a professor and senior diplomat-in-residence at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C., at the time of his death.

Melady earned advanced degrees in political science at the Catholic University of America and began his career teaching at St. John’s University. From 1959 to 1967, he headed the Africa Services Institute, promoting dialogue between the U.S. and newly independent African nations.

He was appointed by President Richard Nixon as U.S. Ambassador to Burundi in 1969, served as senior advisor to the American delegation at the United Nations, and was named Ambassador to Uganda in 1972. His tenure there was marked by significant diplomatic challenges dealing with human rights abuses perpetrated by the brutal dictator Idi Amin. Recalled from Kampala in 1973, Melady later co-authored a book with his wife, describing Amin as “Hitler in Africa.”

Melady served from 1976 to 1986 as president of Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, and was a finalist for Duquesne University’s presidency in 1988. Shortly thereafter, he was named U.S. Assistant Secretary for Post-Secondary Education by President Ronald Reagan.

Reagan’s successor, George H.W. Bush, appointed Melady as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See in 1989. There, he was instrumental in secret negotiations leading to the Vatican’s diplomatic recognition of Israel, hailed as a turning point in both interfaith and intergovernmental relations.

While teaching, he remained active in diplomatic and religious initiatives until his death. In 2012, for example, he served on Holy See missions to the United Nations on disarmament.

A prolific scholar, Melady wrote 17 books and more than 180 articles, and was a frequent contributor to National Catholic Reporter. In addition to his work at St. John’s, Sacred Heart and the Institute of World Politics, he held teaching and administrative posts at Fordham University, Seton Hall University, St. Joseph’s University, and George Washington University.

He received honorary doctorates from 30 colleges and universities, and honorary orders and citations from seven African and European nations. He was a member of the 1978 inaugural induction class of the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni.

Melady is survived by Margaret, his wife of 52 years, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center 32nd Annual Symposium African and Africana Worlds
9 a.m.–5 p.m. (both days)
Africa Room, Duquesne Union
Contact: Dr. Jeffrey McCurry at 412.396.6038 or www.duq.edu/phenomenology.

Feb. 16, 2014
Beethoven on the Bluff IV: Violin/Cello II
3 p.m.
PNC Recital Hall – School of Music
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

Feb. 16, 2014
Wind Symphony/Symphony Band
7:30 p.m.
Carnegie Music Hall – Oakland
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

Feb. 20, 2014
Jazz Ensemble Music of the Beatles
7:30 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

Feb. 21, 2014
Men’s Basketball Alumni Reunion
7-9 p.m.
Wales Room, Cambria Suites Pittsburgh Hotel
Complimentary to former players and one guest
Contact: www.myduquesne.duq.edu/MBBreunion14 or Renee Bestic at 412.396.1292.

Feb. 22, 2014
Women’s Basketball Alumni Reunion Pre-Game Reception
4:30 p.m.
Blue Line Grille
Complimentary drinks and appetizers for former players and one guest

Feb. 22, 2014
Dukes vs. Dayton Men’s Basketball Pre-Game Reception
12:30 p.m.
TGI Fridays @ CONSOL Energy Center
Join alumni, parents and friends at this pre-game lunch. Tickets for the reception are $20/person for food and 2 drink tickets. Group tickets to the game are available through the alumni association or through the DU Ticket Office. To RSVP, go to www.myduquesne.duq.edu or call 412.396.6209.

March 5-9, 2014
Women’s Basketball A-10 Tournament
Times TBA
Richmond, Va.
Contact: www.myduquesne.duq.edu or Renee Bestic at 412.396.1292.

March 8, 2014
Men’s Basketball Pre-Game Reception vs. George Mason
5:30 p.m.
Fairfax, Va. - location TBD
Contact: www.myduquesne.duq.edu or Renee Bestic at 412.396.1292.

March 8, 2014
Red & Blue Brew
7–10 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
Join the Young Alumni Council at their 3rd Annual Beer Tasting. Space is limited. RSVP online at www.myduquesne.duq.edu or call 412.396.6209.

March 12-16, 2014
Men’s Basketball A-10 Championship
Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Duquesne Reception Headquarters Mullanales Bar and Grill
71 Lafayette Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Purchase all session tickets through Duquesne Ticket Office. More information will become available at www.myduquesne.duq.edu or contact Renee Bestic at 412.396.1292.

March 27, 2014
Young Law Alumni Event
4–5 p.m. panel discussion, reception following
The Rivers Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Contact: lawalumni@duq.edu.

March 29, 2014
Violence Against Women’s Act 20th Anniversary Program
9 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
School of Law, Room 203
$90 Continuing Legal Education (3 hours substantive); free to the public.
Registration required: www.duq.edu/cle.
March 30, 2014
Wind Symphony/Symphony Band
7:30 p.m.
Carnegie Music Hall – Oakland
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

April 5, 2014
Combined Choirs
7:30 p.m.
East Liberty Presbyterian Church
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

April 11, 2014
62nd Annual Law Alumni Reunion Dinner
5 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
Contact: lawalumni@duq.edu.

April 13, 2014
Easter Egg Hunt
Noon
Duquesne Union, Ballroom and College Hall Lawn
Registration will open March 3, 2014, at www.myduquesne.duq.edu or by calling 412.396.6209. Space is limited.

April 22, 2014
Lecture/Book Signing with Barbara A. Perry
Author of Rose Kennedy: The Life and Times of a Political Matriarch
Noon–2 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom
Contact: lawalumni@duq.edu.

April 23, 2014
Centennial Celebration Dinner, Palumbo•Donahue School of Business
5:30 p.m.
Omni William Penn Hotel
For tickets, contact Joy Hopkins at 412.396.4937 or hopkinsj@duq.edu.

April 25-27, 2014
Opera Workshop: Marriage of Figaro
7:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. Performances
2 p.m., Sunday Performance
Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall
Contact: musicevents@duq.edu or 412.396.6083.

October 3-5, 2014
Homecoming and Reunion Weekend with Varsity D Reunion
More details will be made available soon www.duq.edu/homecoming

On Labor Day 1945, the shrine to Our Lady of Victory was dedicated as a memorial to those who served and died in World War II. Dr. A. Lester “Pop” Pierce planned the shrine, which consisted of a statue of the Blessed Mother holding Jesus surrounded by terraced gardens, including the outline of a letter “V” for victory. The landscaping in this area, situated between Canevin Hall and the library, has changed several times over the years.

On Sept. 22, Dr. Heather Leavy Rusiewicz, assistant professor of speech-language pathology in the Rangos School of Health Sciences, along with 60 members of Duquesne’s National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association chapter, participated in the 2013 Pittsburgh Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech. The Duquesne participants raised over $1,000 to benefit apraxia research and programs.
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• Free wellness screenings

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