Duquesne Receives Stimulus Grants

By Rose Ravasio

Nine researchers at Duquesne University have collectively received more than $2.8 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The recent legislation from this act provided an additional $8.2 billion to the NIH—an unprecedented level of funding—to help stimulate the nation’s economy via support and advancement of scientific research. The NSF received $3 billion in funds.

“As far as we know, this is a one-time opportunity tied to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” said Dr. Alan W. Seadler, associate academic vice president for research at Duquesne. “However, I would hope that Congress would continue with substantial increases in funding for research. University research, as funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through a number of federal agencies, is a vital part of maintaining the leadership role of the United States in science and technology.”

Duquesne professors receiving grants include:
• Dr. Partha Basu, associate professor of chemistry in the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, received $36,580 from the NIH
• Dr. Richard Elinson, professor of biological sciences in the Bayer School, received $5,000 from the NIH

Stimulus funding is helping further research at Duquesne.


• Dr. Aleem Gangjee, professor of medicinal chemistry in the Mylan School of Pharmacy, received $611,564 from the NIH
• Dr. David Lapinsky, assistant professor of medicinal chemistry in the Mylan School, received $332,560 from the NIH
• Dr. Tomislav Pintauer, assistant professor of chemistry in the Bayer School, received $550,000 from the NSF

See NIH Page 3

Broadening and Renewing the University Mission

By Kimberly Saunders

What does it mean to be a Catholic University in the Spiritan tradition?

That is the question that the Rev. James McCloskey, C.S.Sp., vice president for mission and identity, wants to elucidate for all members of the campus community.

McCloskey, who had been serving in the worldwide Spiritan general administration in Rome since 2004, was appointed to lead mission and identity in August 2009. A 1974 alumnus of Duquesne, McCloskey has worked in various capacities at the University as campus minister, teacher and board member since the early 1980s. He also served as a member of the University Cabinet as vice president of university relations from 2003-04.

“It is clear that a strong sense of Spiritan mission and values already exists throughout the University. To deepen and broaden that identity with our Catholic heritage and tradition will be the central goal of the new office,” says McCloskey.

Under his leadership, and in support of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, the Office of Mission and Identity will strengthen this connection between Duquesne’s Spiritan identity and its mission as a Catholic university.

The Office of Mission and Identity is a relatively modern concept, established a decade ago to focus on broad issues of mission throughout the University. Directed by a Spiritan, the office soon took on the responsibility of educating all members of the Duquesne community on Spiritan values and how they inform all operations of the University and shape campus life.

With the appointment of McCloskey as vice president, the office elevated its status and expanded its scope and reach. The department now oversees Spiritan Campus Ministry, the Center for Spiritan Studies and the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought, and develops new models of mission and ministry.

“This reorganization will bring together the programs of the University now related explicitly to Spiritan mission and also advance our Catholic and Spiritan identity among other areas of University life,” said McCloskey.

Will it be a challenge to promote the Spiritan Catholic identity and maintain the University’s commitment to ecumenism and inclusion?

“It will be an enriching challenge,” says McCloskey, “especially given the long history of ecumenical openness at Duquesne. This spirit of openness has never meant abandoning our identity as Catholic, but rather deepening our identity through respectful dialogue with peoples of other faith traditions and all people of good will. Spiritan life and mission is founded upon and embedded in Catholic teaching and values, with particular regard for the promotion of social justice, equality and service to the poor.”

Duquesne is also called upon to be faithful to the identity and mission of Catholic institutions of higher education communicated by Pope John Paul II in his 1990 Apostolic Constitution titled, Ex Corde Ecclesiae (translated From the Heart of the Church).

“In Ex Corde Ecclesiae, the Holy Father says ‘a Catholic University’s privileged task is to unite existentially by intellectual effort two orders of reality that too frequently tend to be placed in opposition as though they were antithetical: the search for truth and the certainty of already knowing the fount of truth.’ Fostering this spirit of renewal will be a central goal of the new office of mission and identity,” explained McCloskey.

Maintaining and promoting the Catholic character of Duquesne provides an opportunity for people of all faiths to better understand the culture of the University and its history. Even if students and employees don’t share the Catholic faith, they can appreciate its values and respect them. And Catholics can learn about and respect other faith traditions in an environment that welcomes diversity, interfaith dialogue and reflection.
Questions & Answers

Dr. Alan W. Seadler, Associate Academic Vice President for Research ... on Duquesne’s Patent Program

Q: What is a patent?
A: A patent is a set of rights to an invention, which are granted by a government to an inventor. These rights give the inventor (or assignee) a period of time in which to commercialize the invention. Typically with university inventions the university is the assignee or owner of the invention. This means that no one else can commercialize the invention disclosed in the patent without the written permission of the inventor or assignee. This also implies that the invention has some commercial value, which can be extracted by a company. The permission to use the invention is typically given by a license, which allows the licensee the right to practice the invention.

Q: How do you know if you have an idea that is worthy of a patent?
A: Several characteristics combine to determine whether an idea is appropriate for patenting. The first is commercial value. Since a patent only grants rights to commercialize an invention, ideas which do not have commercial value are not appropriate for patenting even if they have great scientific value.

Q: Is there a set of criteria that needs to be met before beginning the patent process?
A: Yes, in addition to knowing that an invention has commercial value, an invention must also be novel, it must not have been disclosed previously (you cannot have included the invention in a journal article or presented at a conference), and it must have been reduced to practice (you need data to show the invention works).

Q: What exactly is involved in the process of obtaining a patent?
A: An inventor must describe his or her invention in sufficient detail to allow for someone skilled in the art to understand it. The inventor then works with a patent attorney to prepare the patent filing, which involves describing the invention, providing data and references, and preparing claims. Claims are that part of a patent describing the details of the invention and its uses, which are to be protected by the patent.

Q: What does acquiring a patent at Duquesne entail? How long does it take?
A: The Office of Research provides the support for patenting at Duquesne. The office staff review an invention disclosure, decide whether or not it is in an appropriate form for patenting and select a patent attorney to prepare the filing. The inventor then works with legal counsel to prepare the documents, which must be filed for the patent. It typically takes two to three months to prepare a standard utility patent, though provisional patents can be filed in much less time.

Q: How much does it cost? Who pays for it?
A: Typical U.S. Utility Patents can cost between $10,000 and $15,000. International patents can cost as much as $100,000 to prosecute in the United States, Europe, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Duquesne pays for the patenting costs of all inventions that are developed at the University. The federal Bayh-Dole Act makes the University the assignee for all inventions developed at Duquesne with federal funding and makes the University responsible for marketing and managing that invention. If the University cannot market or maintain the patent associated with an invention, then we typically turn the patent back over to the inventor.

If the technology is licensed, the University covers the legal expenses of the license and negotiates the fees with the licensee. More importantly, the University splits the income from a licensed patent with the inventor(s), giving the inventor 1/3 of the proceeds of the license.

Q: How can Duquesne faculty learn more about obtaining patents?
A: The Office of Research has an online material available to faculty and students, and the office hosts intellectual property seminars during the year. Anyone interested in patents or who has an idea that they think might be patentable should contact the office.

Visit Duquesne’s Office of Research at www.research.duq.edu/intellectual.html. Additional information can also be obtained at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by visiting www.uspto.gov.

Additional Training Available

The Public Affairs Web team will host training sessions this fall for those who will be maintaining Web sites in Site Studio CMS. If you have never attended Site Studio CMS training or need a refresher, come to Site Studio CMS—Basic. We’ll cover content editing, page creation, and adding images and PDFs. It will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Oct. 23, and on Monday, Nov. 9, in Room 401 of the Rangos School of Health Sciences.

If you have questions about working in Site Studio—or just need a place to work away from your office—you can come to the Open Questions Site Studio CMS on Friday, Oct. 23, or on Monday, Nov. 9. Both are being held from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 401 of the Rangos School.

Please register for any session through Training Tracker: www.duq.edu/training. Select provider “Public Affairs” and then “View available training.”

Committee Begins Search For Law School Dean

Duquesne University’s search committee for a new dean of the law school has formed and is beginning its search process.

Committee members elected by the law faculty are Chancellor John E. Murray Jr., Associate Law Dean Nancy Perkins and Law Professor Al Pelaez. Appointed members are Provost Ralph Pearson, chair; Judge Joy Flowers Conti, former judge and justice Cynthia A. Baldwin and Law Professor Mark D. Yochum.

“I am grateful to all the members of the search committee for their willingness to serve and for their commitment to the School of Law,” Duquesne President Charles J. Dougherty said.

The committee’s first meeting is in October.

Pharmacy Care Center Dedication

The Duquesne community is invited to attend the dedication of the Hugh C. Maldoon Building, new home of the Center for Pharmacy Care, at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Under the supervision of Mylan School of Pharmacy faculty, pharmacy students and interns meet with patients at the Center for Pharmacy Care to conduct health risk assessments. Patients can learn about disease prevention for issues such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and smoking cessation as well as receive care plans for medication therapy management. This is just one way that the School of Pharmacy continues to take a more active role in improving the health outcomes and quality of life in Pittsburgh.

To RSVP, email universityevents@duq.edu or call 412.396.5131.

By Alison Conte

Web Conversion Brings Change

Ninety of Duquesne’s 150 Web sites have been converted to the new content management system as of Oct. 5. Our content managers are creating sites that are easier to use, more motivating to prospective students and more attractive.

Though the sites you are used to visiting may look different and have new links, you should be able to find the information you are accustomed to finding, in a more streamlined, Web friendly format.

Some information for internal audiences only—students, faculty and staff—has been moved to DORI Intranet pages. These can be found in the “Connections” channels, in the upper left corner of each DORI tab. The Intranet will have its own index later this year.

There are some new sites too. At www.duq.edu/community-engagement, community organizations can connect with the many Duquesne programs that coordinate service activities. At www.duq.edu/union, you will find a description and directory of the offices in the Duquesne Union.

And don’t miss the online issues of the Duquesne Magazine and other reports at www.duq.edu/public-affairs/publications.

By Alison Conte
Spiritans Participate in African Synod

By Kimberly Saunders

Seven Spiritans (five bishops and two priests) from various African Provinces of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit are among the international contingent of clergy and laity from various faiths that are gathered in Rome this month for the Second Synod for Africa. The Spiritans pioneered missionary outreach to Africa in the 19th century and continue to integrate their spiritual ministry with evangelization of the poor through education, peace and justice initiatives.

The Spiritan bishops represent the countries of Angola, Tanzania, Mauritius, Seychelles and the Gambia. Experts for the Synod, such as the two additional Spiritan priests/priest-participants, are invited to make contributions in areas of interest relevant to the synod. The Rev. Paulinus Odozor, C.S.Sp., for example, a Nigerian Spiritan and professor of moral theology at Notre Dame University, holds particular expertise in the area of contextualized theology and African Studies.

Hosted by Pope Benedict XVI, this special assembly, which runs from Oct. 5-29, was convened to address ways “to deepen the mission of the church in Africa at the service of reconciliation, justice and peace.”

This theme is a clear reflection of the commitments of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit not just in Africa, but throughout the world, said the Rev. James McCloskey, C.S.Sp., vice president for mission and identity at Duquesne. As such, the synod should be of interest to the Spiritan family, including those at the University. The Spiritan presence in Africa has been growing steadily since the arrival of the first Spiritan missionaries there during the era of the Congregation’s founder.

Members of the Congregation are spread throughout the continent, with more than 800 seminarians in training for Spiritan life and priesthood there. According to McCloskey, “a critical component of the new Strategic Plan for Duquesne University is a focus upon Africa and the African diaspora. The potential contributions in scholarship and service, for the University community and for the peoples of Africa, are enormous.”

Because the growth of Catholicism in Africa has skyrocketed over the last century—from less than 2 million Catholics in 1900 to nearly 160 million today—the Church is engaged with virtually all facets of African society.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Grant Recipients

- Dr. Partha Basu, $36,580 for Models for Nitrate Reductases and Related Enzymes
- Dr. Richard Elison, $5,000 for Suppression of Tadpole Limbs: A Model for Organ Size Regulation
- Dr. Aleem Gangjee, $611,564 for Single Agents with Designed Combination Chemotherapy Potential
- Dr. David Lapinsky, $332,560 for Non-Tropicore Irreversible Dopamine Transporter Ligands
- Dr. Tomislav Pintaue, $550,000 for Atom Transfer Radical Addition and Cyclization Reactions in the Presence of Catalytic Amounts of Copper
- Dr. John Pollock, $230,738 for Regenerative Medicine Partnership in Education
- Dr. Michael Jensen-Seaman, $293,918 for Molecular Evolution of Homomolgous Proteins
- Dr. Monica Sorensu, $361,291 for Synthesis and Properties of Magnetic Ceramic Nanoparticles
- Dr. Christopher Suratt, $312,637 for Dopamine Transporter Structure and Function

Duquesne is growing in prominence as a research university, and it is important to both faculty research activities and to Duquesne’s reputation that we compete with other U.S. research universities for these funds as well as other research awards,” said Seadler. “It is a confirmation of our place as a Tier 1 research university. The funding also serves to help our graduate students with their work and to support all of the faculty and staff who are part of our research efforts.”

NiH continued from Page 1

- Dr. John Pollock, associate professor of biological sciences in the Bayer School, received $230,738 from the NIH
- Dr. Michael Jensen-Seaman, assistant professor of biological sciences in the Bayer School, received $293,918 from the NSF
- Dr. Monica Sorencu, associate professor of physics in the Bayer School, received $361,291 from the NSF
- Dr. Christopher Suratt, associate professor of pharmacology and division head of pharmaceutical sciences in the Mylan School, received $312,637 from the NIH.

“This generous grant from the NSF, made possible by the ARRA stimulus money, is extremely important in the very early stages of a scientific career in academia,” said Pintaue. “It provides financial support for five years, which gives one enough time to generate preliminary data that will be used as the basis for obtaining future funding.”

The NIH will focus on providing grants from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding to “the nation’s best and brightest researchers at the forefront of promising discoveries... and to developing advanced scientific tools and infrastructure that will be broadly available the research community.”

The NIH is awarding this funding to projects that have the potential to make scientific progress within two years, stimulate the economy and create or retain jobs.

The NIH notes, “In addition to the new grants that have been awarded to University faculty, Seadler said that many other awards have been received under the ARRA Act legislation that are considered supplements to already existing grants at Duquesne. “We have applied for 14 stimulant awards so far,” said Seadler, who holds the Edward V. Fritzky Chair in Biotechnology Leadership and directs the Center for Biotechnology at Duquesne. “There are still opportunities for additional applications coming up, and we anticipate submitting more applications. I expect an additional number to go out this fall.”

Seadler added that receiving these grants is a win-win situation for both the faculty members conducting the research and for the University.

“Duquesne is growing in prominence as a research university, and it is important to both faculty research activities and to Duquesne’s reputation that we compete with other U.S. research universities for these funds as well as other research awards,” said Seadler. “It is a confirmation of our place as a Tier 1 research university. The funding also serves to help our graduate students with their work and to support all of the faculty and staff who are part of our research efforts.”

Several University Offices Relocate

By Carolina Pais-Barreto Beyer

Duquesne’s Office of Human Resources has been relocated to the first and second floors of the Koren Building at 718 Fifth Ave., while the Office of Public Affairs will occupy the third and fourth floors of the building. Phone extensions and email addresses for staff will remain the same.

The Koren Building’s first floor is open to the public during the University’s regular business hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and includes the Human Resources Office reception area. The Office of Public Affairs reception area is on the fourth floor and is accessible only by elevator. The second and third floors have restricted entrance, and employees are encouraged to make appointments before walking to this new location to meet with personnel from either office. The Copy Center will remain in the ground floor of Fisher Hall, and printing operations will stay in Rockwell Hall.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety and Risk Management has moved to the first floor of 18 Chatham Square, while Guy Zupo and Steve Cherep, manager and supervisor of energy and HVAC, respectively, have relocated to the second floor of the same building. Visitors are encouraged to make appointments as entrance to the building is restricted.

Public Affairs Operating Procedure Changes

- Copy requests for exams should be sealed, marked confidential and hand delivered to Stephen Scott at the Copy Center or dropped into a mail slot, which will deposit into a lockbox on the Copy Center’s wall directly across from the elevators in the ground floor of Fisher Hall.
- Multipart copy requests should be hand delivered, deposited in the mail slot or interoffice mailed to the Copy Center.
- All single-page public affairs requisitions should be returned to the appropriate communication marketing manager on the third floor of the Koren Building after approval signatures are attained.
Tech Conference Showcases Practical Strategies for Area’s Small Businesses

By Randy Cole

Cyber security and sustainability will be just two of the topics discussed at this year’s Pennsylvania Business Technology Conference, on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Duquesne Union.

Bringing area small business owners and entrepreneurs together is important “to help entrepreneurs realize the full potential of technology for their businesses,” said Dr. Mary McKinney, director of Duquesne’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which is hosting the conference.

This year’s fourth annual event will focus on looking forward to tech trends in 2010 and implementing money-saving business practices such as sustainable energy. Among other topics will be social media, increasing sales, search engine optimization and advertising.

The day’s events will kick off with a breakfast panel discussion on future tech trends for small businesses, followed by a morning technology showcase. Morning and afternoon workshops will be followed by an afternoon technology showcase. Attendees can register to win an HDTV, free software and other prizes.

The luncheon keynote address will be delivered by Adam Kmiec, director of interactive marketing innovation at MARC USA. Kmiec will discuss business solutions that deliver not only a true return on investment, but also a return on marketing objectives.

With more than 12 years of marketing experience, Kmiec has worked with a variety of national and international brands, including Nestle, Adidas, United Airlines, Nikon and Purina. Kmiec is a dynamic speaker and has a lot of insight to offer small businesses in relation to implementing integrated and tech-focused marketing plans to increase their business,” said Christine Hughes, training manager at the SBDC.

Registration before Wednesday, Nov. 4, is discounted to $119. The cost for registrations received after Nov. 4 is $139. Prices include continental breakfast, admission to the full schedule of events, luncheon and keynote address, plus a networking reception.

For more information, visit www.duq.edu/tech-conference or call the SBDC at 412.396.6233.

FDA, International Drug Compliance Regulators Receive Training at DU

By Karen Ferrick-Roman

Thirty-eight delegates received hands-on training at Duquesne University’s Mylan School of Pharmacy in September. The participants included U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) compliance officers, international regulators and control systems engineers serving the pharmaceutical industry.

Duquesne is the only university in Pennsylvania and one of only a handful of institutions nationwide to provide this type of training to FDA staff, who set policy and evaluate the quality of manufacturing facilities and operations.

While the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Center for Pharmaceutical Technology are known for their expertise in developing and implementing ways to improve safety, quality and efficacy throughout the industry and have provided their faculty and laboratories for training in the past, this is the first time the federal representatives have invited regulators from other countries—Spain, Australia and Germany—to join the sessions.

“It’s part of the FDA’s effort to have harmony among regulatory bodies,” explained Dr. John K. Drennen III, associate dean and the coordinator of the training.

“Duquesne’s Center for Pharmaceutical Technology has had a sustained effort to educate FDA staff regarding the adoption and implementation of modern technologies and philosophies used during drug development and manufacturing.”

The training sessions, which ran from Sept. 16-Sept. 18, included lectures on Quality-By-Design, a philosophy for product and process development, and the analytical technologies and control systems needed to implement efficient manufacturing methods that will ultimately guarantee the quality of our nation’s pharmaceuticals.

FDA compliance officers learn traditional ways to analyze the pharmaceutical-making process, under the guidance of the pharmacy school’s Bob Biondi.

“With more than 12 years of market experience, Kmiec has worked with a variety of national and international brands, including Nestle, Adidas, United Airlines, Nikon and Purina.”

Andrew Savitz, the former head of PricewaterhouseCooper’s sustainability consulting practice, will deliver the morning keynote address. Savitz is a frequent speaker on corporate sustainability issues and the author of The Triple Bottom Line—How Today’s Best-Run Companies are Achieving Economic, Social and Environmental Success. The luncheon keynote speaker, Andrew S. Winston, the author of Green Recovery and co-author of Green to Gold, is an internationally known expert on green business.

All symposium attendees will receive signed copies of Green Recovery and The Triple Bottom Line.

Top-level executives of major corporations will take part in the symposium’s discussion panels. Alcoa President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Klaus Kleinfeld, Duquesne Light Holdings President and CEO Morgan O’Brien, Lennox International Chairman of the Environmental Funders Network John W. Norris and Sr. Patricia A. Daly, the executive director of Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment, are the scheduled discussants in a CEO Forum.

A second panel will include Dow Jones and Co. Editor and Executive Director John A. Prestbo, Toyota General Manager and Chief Environmental Safety Office Kevin Bunt, Direct Energy Senior Director of Climate Change Strategy Chris Pau ert and Citigroup Vice President of Corporate Sustainability Bruce Schlein.

To register and for more information, call 412.396.5831, email sustainability@duq.edu or visit www.duq.edu/beardssymposium.

Beard Sustainability Symposium Inaugurates Green to Gold Award

By Richard Tourtellott

A new award for companies that use sustainable practices to turn a profit will be unveiled at an upcoming symposium on sustainability sponsored by the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business.

The Beard Institute Green to Gold award will be presented at the third annual Beard Symposium on Sustainability: The Bridge to the Future, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the downtown Westin Hotel.

Dr. Alan R. Miciak, dean of the business school, stressed that the Green to Gold award provides well-deserved recognition to those American firms that lead the way in institutionalizing business practices that are profitable as well as sustainable.

“This day-long Beard Symposium, which features two keynote speakers and two panel discussions and the Green to Gold award, is designed to expose executives, entrepreneurs, business professionals and community leaders to the latest thinking about sustainability so they can help their organizations thrive in a rapidly changing business climate.

Andrew Savitz, the former head of PricewaterhouseCooper’s sustainability consulting practice, will deliver the morning keynote address. Savitz is a frequent speaker on corporate sustainability issues and the author of The Triple Bottom Line—How Today’s Best-Run Companies are Achieving Economic, Social and Environmental Success. The luncheon keynote speaker, Andrew S. Winston, the author of Green Recovery and co-author of Green to Gold, is an internationally known expert on green business.

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Race, Class and Gender in the U.S. Justice System

By Randy Cole

Addressing inequalities in the U.S. justice system will be the focus of a Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought conference on Thursday, Nov. 19. Race, Class and Gender in the U.S. Justice System, will feature two keynote speakers followed by a panel discussion.

The Rev. Bryan Massingale, associate professor of theology at Marquette University and president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, will discuss overcoming cultural indifference and the challenge of criminal justice for the poor from a Catholic social thought perspective.

Nicholas Cafardi, dean emeritus and professor of the Duquesne University School of Law, will discuss legal aspects of racial, class and gender minorities in the American justice system.

“Race, class, and gender each contribute to the criminal justice system,” Cafardi said. “By addressing their effect, we can work toward a system that is just for Everyone.”

Both the legal and Catholic social thought perspectives on the topic will be further addressed in a panel discussion following the keynote presentations. Panelists will include Massingale, Cafardi and Duquesne faculty members Vanessa Browne-Barbour, associate professor of law, and Dr. Ann M. Popp, assistant professor of sociology.

Lisette M. McCormick, executive director of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness, will also be a panelist.

“All citizens should be treated with equality, fairness and respect in light of the foundational human rights and values at the core of the justice system,” said Dr. Ma. Christina Astorga, director of the Center for Study of Catholic Social Thought at Duquesne. “This conference addresses the racial, class and gender issues at work in our justice system in both overt and subtle ways.”

The free conference will take place in the Power Center Ballroom from 2:30 to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.duq.edu/cst or call 412.396.4504.

Duquesne University’s Best Buddies Win Recognition as Chapter of the Year

By Rose Ravasio

The Duquesne University Best Buddies chapter has been recognized with the prestigious 2008-2009 Outstanding Chapter of the Year award.

“Every single individual in our program is realizing that you aren't just making a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, but it truly impacts human beings, are things that I have learned from them.”

“Every single individual in our program is unique and has their own gifts that should be celebrated,” Karas said. “Best Buddies not only enhances the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but it truly impacts the lives of all individuals involved.”

“My buddy, Matt, and the other buddies in our chapter have made such a huge impact on my life. They have taught me so much more than I could ever teach them. Their appreciation for life, even the smallest things, and wanting to live every day to the fullest, along with showing compassion for all human beings, are things that I have learned from them.”

In her letter to Duquesne announcing the award Mia Noller Mulholland, director of programs for Best Buddies International, had high praise for both the chapter and the University.

“The strong student leadership, faculty support and community connections driving these chapters are helping to pave the way toward total inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities,” said Mulholland.

“The members of Duquesne University Best Buddies have given gifts that will not end after a semester or a school year. To the people whose lives have been touched by a Best Buddies friendship, these gifts will last a lifetime.”

For more information, visit www.bestbuddies.org or call 724.510.1222.

Grants Help to Initiate, Continue Research at DU

Recent Duquesne University grants received from outside agencies, totaling nearly $349,000, have included:

- Drs. Launcelot Brown and Rodney Hopson in the School of Education, $48,500 from the Heinz Endowments for a one-year project, An African American Male Task Force Evaluation
- Dr. Antony Davies in the Department of Economics, A.J. Palumbo School of Business, $20,000 in additional funding from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, bringing the total award amount to $38,000. The funds are for an educational seminar, an economics reading course and research awards for economic students.
- Dr. Shahed Khan, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, $33,000 from InnoSense LLC for research on Direct Conversion of Carbon Dioxide to Methanol. The overall project is funded by the Department of Energy.
- Dr. James Henderson, School of Education, $5,000 from the University Council for Educational Administration to support the third annual Duquesne Educational Leadership Symposium
- Dr. Finaz Celikdog Geylani, A.J. Palumbo School of Business, has received a $2,400 grant on a subcontract from TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Turkey for a project titled Environmental Innovations in the Manufacturing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises: A Case of Turkey.
Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought Welcomes First Fellow

By Randy Cole

Just two years after the founding of the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought at Duquesne, and on the heels of a formalized mission-centered University focus on the African diaspora, the center welcomes its first Spiritan fellow.

The Rev. John Kilcrann, C.S.Sp., assumed the year-long role in August with the charge to develop an online distance-learning course to prepare both ordained and lay members of the clergy for the difficulties of ministering in situations of deprivation, disease and war. "This kind of course doesn't exist anywhere in the world today," Kilcrann said.

Kilcrann, who spent nine years as the coordinator for justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) services in Rome, served as a resource contact for missionaries around the world during his tenure there, providing crucial support to those working in some of the most dire situations in the world.

"Essentially, the idea behind developing this course is to take Catholic social thought another step—to put it into action where the rubber meets the road in the form of pastoral toolkit and ongoing training," Kilcrann said. "Basically, what we're asking is 'what are the methodological tools you can bring to ministry to impact lives and change society for the positive?'"

His tasks for this year include framing the course, which will begin as a non-credit class. Eventually, the center's goal is to develop the course into a Duquesne University master's level class in JPIC methodology.

According to Kilcrann, there are about 900 Spiritans seminarians and more than 3,000 lay Spiritan missionaries working throughout the world. This course of study will prepare them to effectively minister in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, where cultural norms often lead to the passing of AIDS from mothers to their babies through breast milk. Additionally, the course will teach ways in which missionaries and clergy can facilitate reconciliation and collaboration in places like post-war Sudan.

"His work here basically is to make the link between the great richness of Catholic social thought and grassroots pastoral experience," said Dr. Ma. Christina Astorga, director of the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought. "The distance learning course that he is developing will make an effective pastoral methodology accessible to people who are ministering in situations of great poverty, deprivation, suffering and marginalization. Since such a course does not exist anywhere to date, its development here will enable Duquesne University to bring positive and effective change to the world of the poor."

In addition to his previous work at JPIC services in Rome, Kilcrann spent 20 years in Brazil, where he served in a variety of roles at several dioceses there. He earned his undergraduate degree from University College Dublin, a master's degree from Fordham University in New York and a doctoral degree in ministry from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.
The Center for Microwave and Analytical Chemistry

In the Spotlight focuses on centers and clinics operating from campus and shares information about their accomplishments.

What: The Center for Microwave, Mass Spectrometry and Analytical Chemistry (CMMAC) is a chemical research center founded by Dr. H.M. “Skip” Kingston and the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. The Center is dedicated to collaborative research, technology transfer and professional education in microwave-enhanced chemistry, environmental human health, mass spectrometry and analytical chemistry. The center does fundamental, practical, and innovative research to meet analytical uses and transfers these technologies to national and international laboratories and industry.

Located: Room 332A, Mellon Hall

Director: Dr. H. M. “Skip” Kingston

Services: The center is dedicated to environmental human health research and development in automated isotope dilution automation (IDEA[TM]) measuring methods and devices. The center aims to develop analytical methods that will cut costs, complete environmental analyses at a faster rate and improve the accuracy of results. Many of these new developments are moving forward because of innovations of Kingston and the Bayer School and are based on patents, one that Duquesne University won the coveted Research and Development 100 award given for the top 100 ideas in the world in a given year.

Notable/Quotable: “It is gratifying to have our speciated isotope dilution mass spectrometry technology accepted as the gold standard and now required by the U.S. Federal Government and made part of laws such as EPA Resource Conservation and Recover Act methods, as it was in 2008, and now our methods are being adopted worldwide in countries such as Japan, China and the European Union,” Kingston said.

Contact Information: kingston@duq.edu, 412.396.5564, www.sampleprep.duq.edu/index.html

Spiritan, Duquesne Remember Congregation’s Young Founder

On Oct. 2, Duquesne University marked the 300th feast of the anniversary of the death of Claude Poullart des Places.

Des Places was the founder of the Spiritans, a congregation that has cared for the marginalized since 1703.

Born in 1679, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman and lawyer in Brittany, des Places was both rich and intelligent. He studied at the Sorbonne and earned a law degree in three years. With one foot in upper-class French life and on the path to Parliament, like his father, he began assisting the homeless and poor chimney sweeps of Paris. From that experience, he chose the priesthood and was moved by the poverty of many fellow students, according to the Spiritan Web site, www.spiritans.org

When only 24 years old, des Places began to offer fellow students financial support along with spiritual guidance. He was so esteemed that he was asked to form a community and seminary, with the goal of serving students who, in turn, would aid the poor in rural France and overseas. The Congregation of the Holy Spirit took shape on Pentecost Sunday in 1703.

Des Places died in 1709, less than two years after his ordination, but left an indelible mark with his vision of evangelization, obedience to the Holy Spirit and service to the poor. Through the thousands of Spiritan priests, brothers and lay members around the world, his goals have lived on for three centuries.

While the Spiritans use their healthcare centers, schools and other institutions to serve the poor around the globe, Duquesne University remains unique as the world’s only Spiritan university.

The Birthplace and Graveyard for Many

Between Duquesne, China Universities

On Sept. 4, the Pittsburgh Business Times reported on Duquesne with Ghana

On Sept. 8, the Tribune-Review featured an article on a conference in which criminal justice experts convened at Duquesne to address problems in forensic science.

Questions Answered On State Budget Stalemate

On Sept. 13, the Scranton Times quoted Bruce Ledewitz, a professor of constitutional law, in an article about the state budget stalemate.

Real Estate Notes

On Sept. 14, the Tribune-Review announced that Duquesne University’s 130,000-square-foot Power Center has earned the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver rating from the Green Building Council.

*More DU In The News will be continued in the November issue of the Times.
Drago Named Vice President

Linda S. Drago has been named Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel by the Board of Directors at Duquesne University.

“Linda Drago has played a vital role at the University for more than a decade. In today’s litigious environment, Duquesne is blessed to have someone who knows how to prevent legal problems. We appreciate Ms. Drago’s professional service and we continue to rely on her expertise,” said President Charles J. Dougherty.

In addition to holding the vice president’s post, she will continue as Secretary to the Board of Directors, a post that she has filled since 1999.

Previously, Drago was associate general counsel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, a litigation attorney with the law firm of Cauley & Conflenti, and associate director of the University of Pittsburgh Law School Library.

Admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1983, Drago earned a psychology degree from Duquesne and holds master’s and J.D. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

Magazine, Publication Receive Awards

The Office of Public Affairs received four awards from the Pittsburgh IABC (International Association of Business Communicators) at the Golden Triangle Awards dinner on Oct. 7 at the University Club in Oakland, Pittsburgh.

The communications package for Freshman Orientation 2008 received an award of excellence in the Employee/Member Communications category. Three awards of honor were given to Duquesne University Magazine in the categories of Publication/Magazines, Publication Design/Magazines and Feature Writing, for The Autism Puzzle.

The judges admired Duquesne University Magazine for its creative design and quality writing, saying: “nice, big photos, good use of call-outs, compelling, relevant and interesting articles that show a real connection with alumni. As good as it gets for a magazine.”

Of 136 total entries this year, there were 19 excellence awards and 50 honor awards. This was the 30th annual Golden Triangle Awards contest, which honors excellence in communications management, skills and creative work in Western Pennsylvania. Duquesne alumnus Ray Werner ’64 was this year’s master of ceremonies. Werner is a lifelong writer, and a leader in the public relations and advertising industries in Pittsburgh.

DU Community Calendar

October & November 2009

Monday, Oct. 19
Back to Basics Series: RefWorks for Thesis and Dissertation Writers
Learn how to add in-text citations and footnotes and how to format a paper and bibliography from within RefWorks.
RSVPs to sciullie@duq.edu
4 to 5 p.m., Room 408, Gumberg Library

Wednesday, Oct. 21
Art of the Fugue
Jon Gillock and Dean Kauffman, piano
6 p.m., PNC Recital Hall
$10 Suggested donation

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 23-24
Wecht Institute Annual Conference
Evidence in the Information Age
Call 412.396.1130 or visit www.duq.edu/digitalevidence for details.

Sunday, Oct. 25
Kaleidoscope by Israel Kremen
With special guest pianist
Irene Portenko
3 p.m., PNC Recital Hall
$10 Suggested donation

Tuesday, Oct. 27
Duquesne University Jazz Ensemble
Sheryl Bailey CD Release Event
7:30 p.m., Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild
$10 admission

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Tip-Off Lunch
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Power Center
For information, call 412.396.5927.

Thursday, Oct. 29
University Reception
Hosted by John Plante
4 to 6 p.m., Power Center Ballroom

Friday, Oct. 30
Hall of Fame Banquet
6 to 8:30 p.m., Power Center
For information, call 412.396.5927.

Sunday, Nov. 1
Music on the Mount:
Music Down in My Soul
Voices of Spirit, Pappert Men’s Chorale and Pappert Women’s Chorale
3 p.m., Bellefield Auditorium
Free admission

Correction

In the September Times, Dr. Kent Moors’ title was erroneously listed in a Faculty Spotlight. Moors is a political science professor and also teaches in the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy.

In addition, Dr. Rodney K. Hopson was erroneously listed as being presented with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. He received the award for Excellence in Scholarship.

Homecoming/Carnival 2009

Carnival was held in conjunction with Homecoming this year.

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Wednesday, Nov. 4
Duquesne University Symphonia Concert
9 p.m., Union Ballroom
Free admission

Thursday, Nov. 5
Fall Fitness Fair
Sponsored by Health Service
11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Union Ballroom

Sunday, Nov. 8
Duquesne University Wind Symphony and Symphony Band
With director Robert Cameron
6 p.m., Carnegie Music Hall
$10 Suggested donation

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Liebermann Lunch
Noon, Duquesne Room

Sunday, Nov. 15
Women’s Choral Festival
Pappert Women’s Chorale
3 p.m., Bellefield Auditorium
Free admission

Sunday, Nov. 15
Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra
With Music Director Laureate Sidney Harth
8 p.m., Carnegie Music Hall
$10 Suggested donation

Monday, Nov. 16
Duquesne University Jazz Ensemble
With Directors Mark Koch and Kenneth Karsh
8 p.m., PNC Recital Hall
$10 Suggested donation

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Duquesne University Electronic Ensemble
With Directors Lynn Purse and Kenneth Karsh
8 p.m., PNC Recital Hall
Free admission

Friday, November 20
University Reception
Hosted by the Spiritans
4 to 6 p.m., Power Center Ballroom

Sunday, Nov. 15
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Calendar Notice: Please submit information for the November/December DU Community Calendar by 3 p.m. Fri., November 6. Please include event title, name and title of speaker(s), date, time(s) and location(s). Send information to mcues@duq.edu.