The collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Life has grown greatly over the past few years. These partnerships between faculty and student life professionals outside the classroom is of great importance as it allows us to achieve our collective goal of education for the mind, the heart and the spirit - the development of the whole person. According to a number of research studies, the more academically and socially involved students are, the more likely they are to persist.

As Duquesne continues to grow in educational standards, involvement with students, both in and outside the classroom is a critical component for achieving and maintaining national prominence. Beginning with Freshman Orientation and the presentation of our Mission Statement and Expectations of a Duquesne Student, parents expressed their confidence in Duquesne as they learned more about our values. It is important for us to live up to that commitment and expectations so our students can observe and be inspired by the commitment and values that our faculty and staff exemplify.

Student Life is in vital need of faculty members to collaborate with student life professionals to strengthen our collective efforts to achieve our mutual goals. Throughout this newsletter you will find examples of current faculty involvement and ideas for future involvement. We look forward to collaborating with you.

Executive Vice President for Student Life
My advocacy of collaboration between academic affairs and student life stems from two convictions about institutions of higher education. The first is that universities are learning communities in which students learn not only in the classroom, laboratory and library but also from their interactions with faculty, administrators, staff and especially other students in many different campus settings, with the most important being their learning-living residential and commuter center environments as well as the dining areas.

The second is my commitment to the education of the student’s mind, body and spirit. This means a focus not only upon preparing students for a profession but also upon development of the whole person. While a significant part of this education occurs with the faculty, an equally important part takes place in settings and programs guided by student life professionals. The development of personal values is a great example of the supportive roles of academics and student life. Although faculty certainly emphasize the importance of academic and personal integrity, it is in student organizations, participation in SGA, fraternities and sororities, and especially in the daily interactions of the close quarters of living-learning centers and in the commuter center that students experience the need for and value of respect for the perspectives and individuality of the diverse world beyond the campus green — a world in which they will and must enter upon graduation if they have not already. That understanding is critical for both their professional success and their personal lives.

Another area in which academic affairs and student life collaborate in the education of Duquesne students is in developing a life long commitment of service to others. Academic Affairs conveys the relationship of professional knowledge and service through the service-learning requirement that must be met by all students. Student Life delivers an equally strong message through the programs of Spiritan Campus Ministry, the service projects of fraternities and sororities, and the many service opportunities of DUV.

For me, the undeniable conclusion of this brief reflection on the importance of the collaboration of academic affairs and student life to this learning community is that Duquesne can achieve its commitment to developing the mind, body and spirit of its students only if they support one another in the realization of that commitment.
“An education at Duquesne University goes beyond the classroom – it extends to wherever students and faculty are. In being involved with Student Life programs, one learns from the students and they learn that faculty know arts and crafts, have interests beyond the classes that they teach, and that we genuinely enjoy the Duquesne University students.”

Dr. Joan Kiel
Rangos School of Health Sciences

“My experiences with the Division of Student Life continue to be worthwhile. I’ve been participating for the last few years in the Commuter Affairs PB&J program because I believe the office is an invaluable asset to our school and student community. The Division should be commended for facilitating camaraderie among the students, faculty, and staff across Duquesne University.”

Dr. David Wasieleski
A. J. Palumbo School of Business

Here are specific examples of how faculty members currently collaborate with various Student Life offices:

- Assist with Health Education projects through the Health Service
- Participation in the OMA or Freshman Development mentor program
- Serve as a member of the Campus Judicial Board
- Volunteer for community service with a student group through DUV
- Serve as an advisor to a student organization or fraternity/sorority
- Take part in the Greek Life “Be my guest” program
- Be a faculty passenger for commuter freshmen
- Make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for commuters
- Be a faculty sponsor for student internships or present a career-related presentation through Career Services
- Present an educational or spiritual program in the Living Learning centers

“For something that seems like such a small contribution to the CA students, making sandwiches on PB&J Wednesdays came with such a large reward. The students and staff are polite and gracious and I cannot wait to participate again this semester.”

Dr. Jennifer Paige Nightingale
A. J. Palumbo School of Business
“I am always so refreshed and enlightened after I have a group session with the students at DU. My topic focused on coping with stress and it’s always important to stay connected with our students because it enlightens me to the pressures they are experiencing which allows me to be a better adviser and professor.”

Dr. Paula Witt-Enderby
Mylan School of Pharmacy

“It’s a pleasure to participate in the various programming opportunities offered by Student Life. I advise the Kappa Mu chapter of Sigma Kappa; it’s a pleasure to see these women grow in their leadership skills and orientation to service. I’ve worked with ODK Honors Society, as well, and I’ve hosted floor programs, including sing-alongs and workshops on conflict. One experience that stands out for me is making PB&J sandwiches for students, an event sponsored by Commuter Affairs. It’s great to see some of my own students coming through the line — they always seem surprised and happy to see me there (usually with Dr. Kathleen Glenister Roberts or a couple of our Ph.D. students, who are also constructing sandwiches).”

Dr. Janie Harden Fritz
McAnulty College of Liberal Arts
“I really enjoyed having the opportunity to present hour-long programming to a floor of health science/nursing/ and pharmacy students on both ways to achieve healthy nutrition habits while living in the LLCs, as well as provide them with some suggestions on how to develop appropriate and sound study skills particularly in their science courses. The presentation allowed me to interact with a wider variety of students than I typically do through my regular academic courses, and allowed the students to meet and interact with a faculty member ‘on their own turf.’ All in all, this was a very rewarding experience that I believe was beneficial for both me and the students.”

Dr. Paula Turocy
Rangos School of Health Sciences

“It was a great experience interacting with students in a non-classroom setting. The informal atmosphere lends itself to faculty and students really getting to know one another.”

Dr. Becky L. Morrow
Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

“Over the past two years, I have been privileged to join Fr. McCool and School of Education faculty and staff in service on PB&J Day (Commuter Center).

Serving sandwiches and receiving in turn student smiles, quick thank-you’s, and, in some cases, shy requests for “seconds,” reminds me that students must remain the single most important focus of our work. It is their welfare, spiritual as well as intellectual, that must guide our every action, whether in class or in the simple gift of preparing and serving food. I always receive more from the students than I could possibly give.”

Dean Olga M. Welch
School of Education

Ideas Welcome!

Faculty involvement is so important to us that both resident assistants and commuter assistants are required to include faculty members in their programming efforts. If you have an idea or suggestion for a program/activity that would supplement what you are teaching in the classroom, we would be more than happy to work with you.

For further information regarding ways to collaborate with our division, please contact Tim Lewis in the Office of Commuter Affairs at x6660 or lewis@duq.edu. He will forward your information to the correct office and add you to our faculty database.