In an effort to increase our knowledge of different cultures and religions represented at Duquesne, the Commuter Affairs Staff developed a new program series for the spring semester.

The first program, entitled “Meet Ajit,” was led by sophomore Ajit Singh, who is currently in the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and a Commuter Assistant. Ajit did a presentation and talked with students about the Sikh religion and the culture of the Province of Punjab, India. Traditional Indian food was served at the event.

Our second program was entitled “Meet Father Peter,” led by Rev. Peter Osuji, C.S.Sp., a member of the Spiritan Campus Ministry staff. Father Peter did a presentation on the culture and traditions of Nigeria. A light lunch of Nigerian food was served.

Dear Members of the Duquesne Community:

Please enjoy this latest edition of Student Life Developments. In this issue, Student Life wishes to highlight our accomplishments and successes over the past year. We attribute much of our success to the collaboration we share with the entire campus community as well as the greater Pittsburgh area. We are grateful to those who have participated in our events and look forward to future endeavors.

Executive Vice President for Student Life
Duquesne University Students Win National Attention!

The Office of Freshman Development & Special Student Services takes great pleasure in announcing to the University community that several of our student leaders have won national acclaim for both their academics and their accomplishments.

The Phi Eta Sigma National Honor society awards undergraduate scholarships each year to students that they feel have not only achieved outstanding academic success (greater than a 3.5 GPA), but who have also demonstrated to them a high level of creative ability. These students compete with their peers from across the country, and must submit excellent recommendations from their faculty and administrators as well.

Sara Shippen, a junior in the Rangos School of Health Sciences, majoring in Physical Therapy and also last year’s president of Duquesne’s chapter, received a $3,000 Distinguished Member Undergraduate Scholarship. Brianne Miller, a junior in the School of Education, majoring in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, was awarded a $1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship. Sara and Brianne join 21 previous scholarship winners who have also achieved this success at Duquesne University since 1994.

The National office also praised the Duquesne chapter of Phi Eta Sigma for its “superior administrative performance” during the previous academic year, and awarded a Commendation of Excellence Certificate in appreciation.

In addition to these honors, the Orientation staff continues a winning streak which has brought national acclaim to the University for four out of the past five years. The National Association of Orientation Directors (NODA) presented the award for Outstanding Welcome Week Publicity to Duquesne’s 2006 Orientation Program. To accept this award at the 2006 National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah were Allison Murtha (2006 Director) and Megan Calvin (2007 Director and 2006 Assistant Director) and Jonathan Ogurchak (2007 Assistant Director). Allison and Megan were also able to set their own benchmark at the University by overseeing a group of 194 student staff members, the largest staff in the history of Duquesne’s Orientation program!

Looking back over the last year, it is wonderful to see our student’s achievements recognized on a national level. Congratulations to all of them!

Career Services Staff Receives Training

During the period from June through August of 2006, four advisors from our Career Services Center were sent to Fairfax, Virginia to be trained to administer and interpret the Myers Briggs Type Indicator survey and to Lake Tahoe, California for training to administer and interpret the Strong Interest Inventory survey. The Career Services Center now has the capability to use these two tools to help students and alumni identify the type of work, work environment, and major or concentration which is most compatible with their personalities, strengths, and interests. The surveys are designed to provide some guidance and focus to individuals who may be confused about career opportunities most suitable for them. During the course of this academic year we have seen several of our students take advantage of this new service.
The Health Service continues to serve Duquesne students in record numbers. The mission of the Health Service reflects the mission of the University, “to serve God by serving students” and we did, at the average rate of a 1,000 visits a month.

Along with general ambulatory care, we continue to be involved in a host of other activities:

- 117 international students were interviewed.
- The Health Service nutritionist, Barbara Benedict, has been doing outreach to student athletes and their coaches.
- The Health Service has been an integral part of the University’s Disaster Plan.
- The Health Service worked with the Office of Risk Management to develop a solid student insurance plan.
- The Health Educator has facilitated a variety of programs, including Love is Patient, an abstinence program focusing on values and moral development, and The Truth about Suicide, a powerful presentation shown to all first-year resident students.

University Counseling Center

Every year the University Counseling Center (UCC) conducts an Evaluation of Services to assess students’ level of satisfaction with our center. This year, 100% of students surveyed reported that they were satisfied with the therapy they received from the UCC. Additionally, 100% reported that they would refer a friend to the UCC for services, and 97% reported gaining a better understanding of self through the process of therapy. The UCC continues to strive to provide quality, confidential services to Duquesne students in need. If you have questions about the services we provide, we welcome your call at 412.396.6204.
The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is pleased to announce that we will be holding the inaugural Unity Banquet and Scholarship Benefit on Friday, April 20, 2007. The banquet will be held in the Duquesne University Ballroom at 6:00 pm.

The keynote speaker is Juan Williams. Mr. Williams is one of America’s leading political writers and thinkers. He is the senior correspondent for NPR, a political analyst for Fox Television, and a regular panelist for Fox News Sunday. In addition to prize-winning columns and editorial writing for The Washington Post, he has also authored six books.

The Unity Banquet will feature a formal sit-down dinner and include representatives from a variety of professions, corporations, and local businesses. Students will be seated at the same table with alumni and professionals who are active in their field of study. The Unity Banquet also provides an opportunity for students to be publicly recognized for their accomplishments.

Faculty, staff and students interested in networking and celebrating diversity are invited. Students are welcome to attend free of charge. Space is limited and advance reservations are required. For more information or to reserve a seat, please email oma@duq.edu as soon as possible.
Residence Life

More Than Just Campus Housing

Residence Life professionals are dedicated to establishing and maintaining a holistic living and learning community that will enhance a student’s personal growth and positive involvement in the world and community. In addition to the daily work that goes into fulfilling that role, we have created and institutionalized several new traditions for the University community.

In early February, we hosted the 17th annual Director’s Circle Program. University administrators, faculty, staff and parents attended a celebration for approximately 400 freshmen students who earned a 3.5 or greater in their first academic semester. To date, 5,500 Duquesne freshmen have been honored through this program.

The second annual Super Sophomore Saturday was held on January 27. On this special day, sophomore students and their families participated in a variety of campus events including Mass, a special dinner and attendance at a DUKES Basketball game. This event is one of many designed to support and encourage our sophomore students.

Another new campus tradition hosted by Residence Life is the Annual Class Ring Blessing Ceremony, scheduled for April 14. All students who purchased a class ring as well as their family members are invited to attend a special Mass during which their ring will be blessed, followed by dinner.

Commuter Affairs Begins New Initiatives

Working with Our Neighbors on the South Side

The Office of Commuter Affairs staff has begun to meet with representatives from the South Side Community Council in an effort to bring Duquesne University into the neighborhood leadership discussions regarding the South Side. This is being done in an effort to encourage our students to become more actively involved in their local community. We are working with the South Side Community Council in developing a Welcome to the Southside! packet that will be distributed to those Duquesne students who reside on the Southside in the Fall of 2007. The packet will include the following: History of the South Side, Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Neighbor, Staying Safe in the South Side, Services/Amenities for South Side Residents, Tenant Rights, and Volunteering in Your Community.
Duquesne recognizes the incredible impact membership in a Greek-lettered collegiate organization can have for students, so the University is committed to helping its Greek community thrive and succeed. One of the main goals of the Fraternity and Sorority community is to promote student development by providing opportunities for community and philanthropic service. The Greek Life program is designed and implemented by students in conjunction with staff with that mission in mind.

Service and philanthropic work in the Greek community has been exceptional this year. Some of the highlights of successful service and philanthropic events are as follows:

- The 5th Annual ZTA Kick-Out-Cancer Soccer Tournament in April raised thousands of dollars for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.
- The 2007 Alpha Phi Delta Valentine’s Day Charity Ball raised $7,000 for the ALS Association.
- The Sigma Nu White Rose Ball raised over $5,000 for the American Gold Star Mothers.
- The Alpha Sigma Tau Ms. Duquesne Pageant raised thousands of dollars for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- Gamma Phi Beta’s 8th Annual Walk Miles for Kids Smiles in September, the campus fun/run walk, raised thousands of dollars for the Pittsburgh Children’s Institute. The eight year total exceeds $20,000 for this worthy local institute.
- Delta Zeta Sorority again sponsored fund-raising events that resulted in a large donation to the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic at Duquesne.
- Greek Life Book Endowment Fund continued to grow on campus with student events, including Greek Week & Carnival, raising thousands of dollars to support students in need of textbook purchasing support.
- Delta Chi Fraternity again organized the Can-The-Van project that collected tons of food for local Pittsburgh Food Shelters.
- Gamma Phi Beta’s 11th Annual Cut-A-Thon raised over $2,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity again sponsored a child through the Honduras Interfaith Ministries, helping to support his education.
- Alpha Gamma Delta’s Annual Grab-A-Greek Charity event resulted in a large donation to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation that benefits Diabetes Research.
- Delta Chi Fraternity endowed last year the Nick Isaac’s Scholarship Fund by completing a long term fundraising effort that now has in excess of $30,000 which will support student scholarships.
- Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity endowed the Justin Henderson Scholarship Fund that now has in excess of $25,000 which will provide for scholarship opportunities.
- Alpha Phi Sorority hosted annual events and activities throughout Cardiac Care Week, the group’s national service project.
- The members and alumni of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity continue to raise thousands of dollars each year for the Rev. Joseph Duchene, C.S.Sp. Scholarship Fund that supports student scholarships.
- The members and alumni of Gamma Phi Fraternity continue to raise thousands of dollars each year for the Garry Carr Memorial Scholarship that supports student scholarships.
- The majority of chapters sponsored a Mass at the University Chapel throughout the 2006-07 academic year.

Our relationship and involvement with the Brashear Association on the South Side continues to grow. The vast majority of chapters participate in Brashear community service projects, which included the following:

- Halloween Dance for the Goodwill
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Christmas Toy Drive
- South Side Soup Contest
- Regular Library Child-Story Hours
- Saturday South Side Clean-ups
Strong Women, Strong Girls

Strong Women, Strong Girls is a girls mentoring program, coordinated by the DUV Office. This program pairs teams of college-aged mentors with at-risk, low-income girls. The mentoring began in January at three City of Pittsburgh schools and community centers. The Duquesne University mentors received two full days of training prior to beginning the project. The mentoring revolves around 10 Count Down to Success Skills, including communication, appreciating diversity, conflict management and others. Each week the girls learn about a current or historical woman and how she confronted specific challenges in her life. The greatest part about Strong Women, Strong Girls is that it creates mutual cycles of empowerment in both the women providing the mentoring and in the girls receiving the mentoring.

New Resource for Faculty

A faculty resource guide entitled Handling Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom is now available. The Office of Judicial Affairs and the University Counseling Center partnered to produce the brochure for faculty. Topics covered include a definition of disruptive behavior, suggestions for prevention and ways to respond to the disruption, judicial action, talking to emotionally disturbed students, and counseling referrals.

Brochures may be obtained by contacting the Office of Judicial Affairs at 412.396.6642 or the University Counseling Center at 412.396.6204.

The Brothers of the Beta Delta Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity organize a children’s book drive each year as a part of their national philanthropy, Books for Kids. Pictured presenting the donated books for the local kids in our community are members of the Chapter with Jackie Kimmel, School Librarian at Phillips Library on the South Side.