



FALL 2024

# Duquesne

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

## Duquesne Students Reflect

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ON THE EVERYDAY MEMORIES  
THAT LEFT A LASTING IMPACT

**In this issue:** Duquesne Connections ♦ Paths with Purpose

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Check out new *Duquesne University Magazine* videos at [duq.edu/magazine](http://duq.edu/magazine) highlighting: Unknown Lasts

# Thoughts from the President



Earlier this semester, I had the privilege of naming our beautiful new residence hall on Forbes Avenue after Duquesne’s distinguished, long-serving Board Chair John “Jack” McGinley. Jack has been a cornerstone of our university’s growth and success. Now, the gleaming McGinley Hall serves as a reminder of the indelible mark he’s made on our Duquesne University family – and on our broader community. You’ll find the story of the dedication and the surprise naming of this new dorm on the pages of this magazine.

Thanks to the commitment, vision and generosity of alumni and friends like Jack, Duquesne continues to offer transformative educational experiences that not only change our students’ lives, but also prepare them as leaders who will guide and serve others. In this magazine, you’ll read about the launch of our new College of Osteopathic Medicine this past July, which will prepare students to work as primary care doctors and front-line physicians, providing high-quality health care to patients, including those in underserved urban and rural communities. You’ll witness our historic Spiritan mission alive in the work of alumnae like Nicole Molinaro, class of 1992, president and CEO of the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. You’ll also see it through the work of 2013 Honors College alum, Dr. Sara Katranca Sarnoski, who’s seeking to reduce health inequities in her role as Deputy Director of Strategy, Planning and Management at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Sara says her worldview was transformed on the Bluff. “I didn’t know what opportunities were available to me in the world,” she says, adding that “Duquesne changed that.”

We’ve been expanding horizons for alums like Sara for nearly 150 years. That’s why we’re incredibly grateful for a generous gift from Dr. Jean Anne Hattler, which will provide scholarships to help more Duquesne students transform their lives by studying abroad. As you’ll read in this magazine, Jean Anne knows that students not only broaden their worldview as they learn about new cultures; they also form relationships that inspire them throughout their lives.

It’s a privilege to create transformative opportunities for a new generation of Duquesne students, furthering the rich legacy of our Spiritan mission. And it’s a joy to see where our students’ paths lead them. I’m deeply grateful to our alumni, friends and community partners for their unwavering support as we change lives here on campus, in our region, and throughout the world. There is much more great work – and there are many more great achievements – ahead! ♦

Sincerely,

Ken Gormley  
*Duquesne University President*

## AS YOU READ...

...you will see the icons below on many stories. They reflect the imperatives of the University, in anticipation of its 150th Anniversary in 2028, in the newly re-imagined *Strategic Plan: Vision 150*. The stories told here show how the plan is alive and vital, often reflecting more than one imperative. To learn more about our progress, visit [duq.edu/strategicplan](http://duq.edu/strategicplan).

## Five Strategic Imperatives

- Re-Imagine the Student Experience for 21st Century Success
- Become a Flagship for Community Engagement
- Be a Leader in Interdisciplinary Programs
- Create a Vibrant Campus Community
- Encourage Entrepreneurial Spirit

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### *A Forbes Avenue Surprise Party*

Duquesne’s newest student living option enlivens Forbes corridor and honors board chair





Dr. Josef Di Pietrantonio and Liza Torrence, in Italy during his Honors College Fellowship grand tour trip.

# Exuberant Minds:

## Honors College Celebrates Students' Bigger Goals

By Rosemary Ravasio, A'90

**T**he Honors College is full of people with exuberant minds—students, faculty and staff,” says Director Dr. Kathleen Roberts. “This vibrant intellectual atmosphere has been a cornerstone of the College’s success, offering students the opportunity to engage deeply with their studies in a supportive and stimulating environment,” she notes, as the College celebrates its 40th anniversary and a legacy of academic excellence and personal growth.

Founded in 1984, the Honors College is a dynamic community of more than 700 students from across the University who are dedicated to fostering their intellectual curiosity, leadership potential and commitment to service.

In 2012, the Honors College was enhanced by the addition of the Honors Fellows program, which offers monetary support to students for additional honors coursework, research, creative works, internships or service opportunities.

A stellar example of the transformative impact of the Honors College, Dr. Sara Katrancha Sarnoski, S'13, has stayed true to one central purpose: to reduce inequities in health and opportunity. This passion was shaped by experiences from her youth.

“It all started while watching my younger brother fight to access quality, affordable health care in rural Pennsylvania for a health condition,” says Sarnoski, deputy director of

strategy, planning and management at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “Coming from a small town, I didn’t know what opportunities were available to me in the world. Duquesne changed that.”

Sarnoski said she enjoyed opportunities at Duquesne through “lived experiences,” and not just classroom lectures. While earning her B.S. in biochemistry with a minor in mathematics, she says the Honors College cultivated her entrepreneurial spirit.

“It taught me to forge my own path by encouraging me to pursue a unique Honors Fellow project on marine conservation at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium,” says Sarnoski, whose



Dr. Sara Sarnoski, far right, and others return a rehabilitated manatee into Hunters Cove, Fla. Photo courtesy of Matthew Beck.



Honors College Director Dr. Kathleen Roberts (on left) with student.

fellowship supported her getting certified in scuba diving. “That allowed me to explore things that weren’t directly on my career path but were sort of ‘adjacent’ and have honestly helped me create really robust and still impactful hobbies in my life.”

In her “spare” time, Sarnoski regularly supports manatee rescue, rehabilitation, release and conservation efforts. She emphasizes the holistic impact the Honors College had on her life, noting that it helped her see the world, develop critical skills for her career and achieve a fulfilling work-life balance. “These have been crucial foundations for my life and career. Anyone who joins the Honors College will get the chance to build these building blocks, no matter their background.”

Honors College graduate Dr. Josef Di Pietrantonio, S'16, GS'18, offers a different but equally compelling story.

“The idea for my fellowship came from my art class when I learned about the ‘grand tour’—philosophers, poets, writers and others in the creative arts often went on a tour of Europe after they finished their formal schooling to complement it with first-hand lived experience,” says Di Pietrantonio.

His Honors Fellowship was a unique collaboration with Liza Torrence, a friend and Honors College student at Miami University of Ohio, who was also doing a Summer Scholars Program. Together, they embarked on a 40-day journey through Europe to

research the creative process by method of adventure and exploration. The excursion was not only academically rewarding, but also personally significant—today, the two friends are married.

Visiting Rome, Florence, Venice, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Salzburg by train, the two spent the majority of their days skateboarding through the historic cities and sites. Di Pietrantonio, who competed in cross country and track at Duquesne, also spent time running as part of his city exploration and “creative process.”

The trip culminated with *An Adventure for Inspiration: Rediscovering the Creative Process Through the Grand Tour*, a well-received multimedia exhibit and documentary. Di Pietrantonio was even able to present the exhibit at Duquesne’s annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, and Torrence shared it at Miami University’s annual Undergraduate Student Research Forum.

Di Pietrantonio’s experience underscores how the Honors College fosters deep personal connections alongside intellectual growth. “The Honors College allowed us to explore creativity in ways we never imagined, and it led to a project that changed both our lives,” he reflects.

His memories from the Honors College community are also positive. “It’s hard for me to think of a person who was not kind or thoughtful,” says Di Pietrantonio. “The community

was inviting, and its members had an outlook that exemplified Dr. Roberts’ caring nature. She’s sincerely the best—she would mentor anybody at any time, and I was also fortunate enough to be in one of her legendary Honors classes.”

Under Roberts’ leadership, the Honors College also offers a variety of traditions, including small weekly breakfasts with University faculty and staff, cultural dinners with international students and staff, and the Honors College Society for Engagement Excellence. Another tradition, the August Wilson House Partnership, allows for collaboration with Honors College students on projects and events. The Duquesne University / August Wilson House Fellowship provides opportunities for scholars and artists of color in varied media to engage in literary, cultural and artistic expression that advances their own work and serves the joint interests of the University and community.

The Duquesne University Honors College remains focused on the future, steadfast in its mission to nurture a community where students can grow intellectually, make meaningful contributions to society and find success in all facets of life. The College’s legacy of excellence is not just in its past achievements but in the enduring impact it will have on generations to come. ♦





# Landing Brewers Gig a Dream Come True

By Ken Walters

After more than 40 years in the radio business, Mark Richards, A'80, is prepared for anything—even calling sausage races.

That's just part of the fun for the Milwaukee Brewers public address announcer, whose duties include everything from pre-game announcements and starting lineup introductions to the running of the sausages, including a chorizo and a bratwurst.

And make no mistake—he puts a lot of energy into his work. His trademark is announcing the Brewers starting lineup, which begins with:

“ANNNNNNNNND NOW, THE STARTING LINEUP FOR YOUURR MILWAUKEE BREWERS,” he exclaimed, holding the “And” as long as he could.

“Some of the people on our crew like to bet on how long I can hold the ‘And,’” he said jokingly. “You’ve got to put some juice on it. Our fans expect it now and it’s really fun.”

Richards, who has worked as a radio personality and commercial voice-over announcer for more than 40 years in Milwaukee, Wis., became the voice of American Family Field in 2019. After some interviews and auditions, he remembers when he received his call to the big leagues.

“The Brewers called and said we’d like to offer you the job,” he said. “I paused for a minute, and they asked if there was something wrong. I said ‘No, I’m just trying to figure out a better word to say than just yes.’”

As part of the Brewers scoreboard team, Richards attends a production meeting two hours before each game. There he reviews pre- and in-game announcements, first pitch ceremonies and preps for the starting lineups, including checking on the pronunciation of players’ names.

“That’s important. The devil is in the details. And don’t



think players don’t notice,” he said. “A few years ago, we had a player named Rowdy Tellez. When the team was on the road, the PA announcer in another city called him Randy Tellez. For the rest of the season, one of his teammates kept calling him ‘Big Randy.’”

Then there are the sausage races, a nod to Milwaukee’s love for cased meats. Five runners dressed as different sausages (hot dog, bratwurst, etc.) race just past the visitor’s dugout, turn around home plate and finish just past the Brewers dugout during an inning break.

“Fans love the sausage races here, like the pierogi races in Pittsburgh,” Richards said. “I like to call them much like a horse race announcer, noting who’s in the lead and building up the excitement as they arrive at the finish line.”

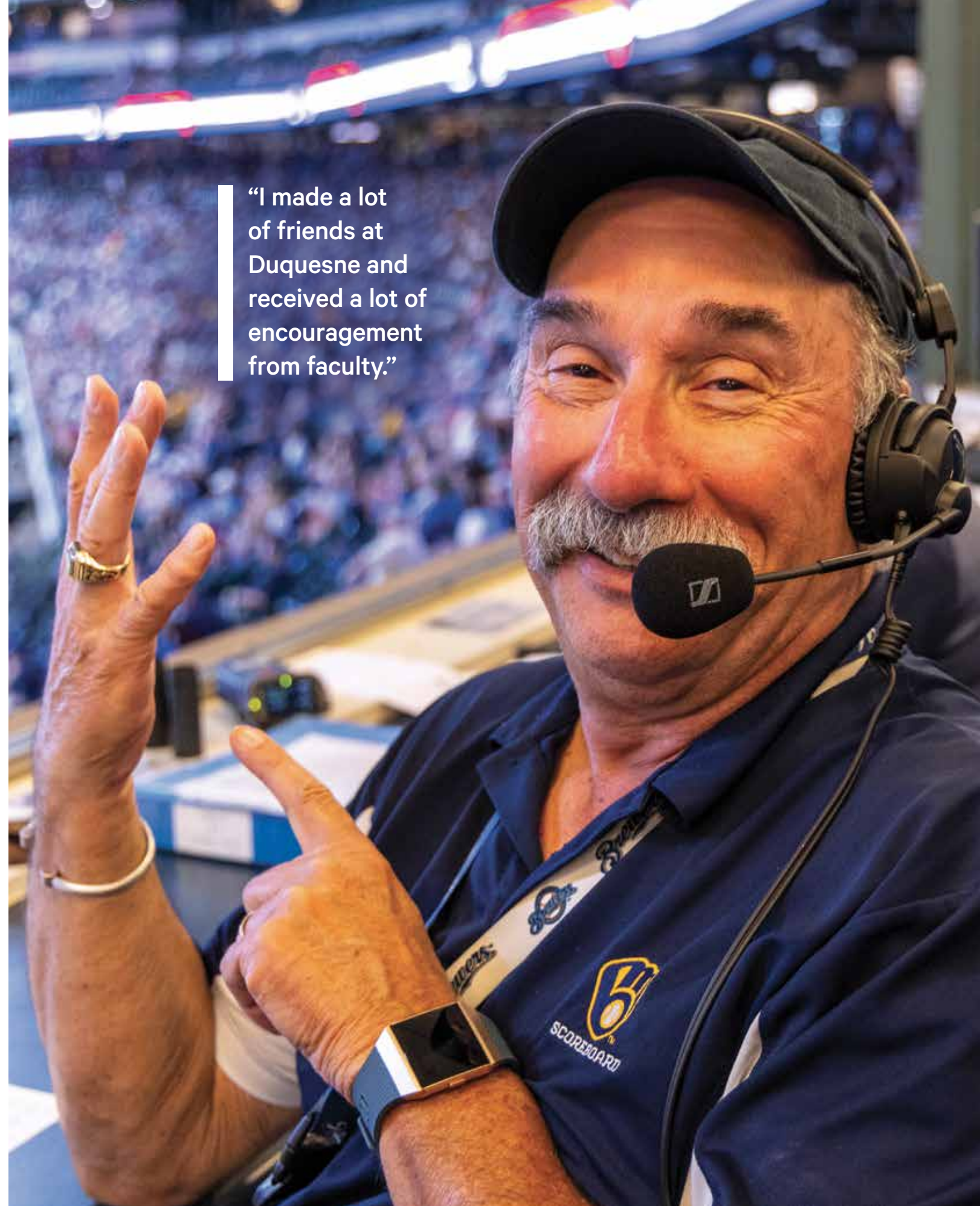
A Milwaukee native, Richards found his way to Duquesne through his interest in the Tamburitzans. While he never made the musical dance troupe, he expanded his horizons by earning a degree in speech, communication and theater. An entertainer was born.

He remembers spending many hours at WDUQ, the student radio station, where he worked the morning shift, served as a fill-in announcer and called play-by-play for Dukes basketball for two seasons.

“I made a lot of friends at Duquesne and received a lot of encouragement from faculty,” he said. “People would always tell me I had a good speaking voice, and I enjoyed entertaining audiences. It was a natural fit for me.”

Today, his audience is Brewers fans. He wouldn’t want to work anywhere else.

“The best part of this job is that I get to go to the ballpark every day and I get paid for it,” he said. “And I also get to be part of the game. Talk about a dream come true.” ♦



“I made a lot of friends at Duquesne and received a lot of encouragement from faculty.”





# GOING OFF-SCRIPT

By Gina O'Malley

**T**he limit does not exist." Not just a famous line from the movie and musical *Mean Girls*, it's a way of being for many Duquesne alumni who prove success follows many paths. They reach beyond what's familiar in their chosen field and use their expertise in unexpected ways so others can thrive.

## ARTISTS AND ATHLETES

Kaelin Agar, HS '21, had two passions growing up—musical theater and sports.

When she began the athletic training program, she assumed her life's work would focus on treating athletes on the sidelines so they could get back into the game. Along that path, she completed clinical rotations with two Pittsburgh-area high schools and the Duquesne track and field team.

"I thought I would have to leave the performing arts side of myself behind," she said. "But the more I progressed in school, the more I missed it."

Little did she know she'd have the chance to combine her passions, and thanks to the guidance of faculty, she completed a clinical rotation with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and never had to narrow her ambitions.



Treating ballet dancers inspired her to learn more about career paths available for athletic trainers, and following graduation she secured a role with Neuro Tour, a company that places performing-arts practitioners with productions around the world.

## FROM THE BLUFF TO BROADWAY

Agar is working on the set of Broadway's touring production of *Mean Girls*, traveling the country and treating everything from acute ankle sprains to chronic overuse injuries.

The cast wear costumes intended to make them look like high school students, so they aren't wearing the most supportive dancing shoes. Combined with the unconventional choreography that requires jumping on cafeteria tables and couches, Agar has treated a range of injuries. She also coaches dance captains on using proper mechanics when lifting sets and their fellow performers.

Agar enjoys working with cast members to find the root of their issues so they can continue entertaining audiences comfortably and safely.

"A cast member had been dealing with an injury for nearly 10 years," she said. "They thought they'd never do certain dance moves again, which is scary and frustrating when this is their career. It was special for me to gain their trust and work to eventually eliminate their pain."

In addition to feeling thankful for faculty who introduced her to this path in athletic training and guided her along the way, Agar has newfound appreciation for herself. She's found her niche, so it's appropriate that her favorite *Mean Girls* song is "Where Do You Belong?" She sits in the wings and takes it all in with a sense of gratitude.

"It's easy for audience members to appreciate a good performance," she said. "With my theater crossover, I realize the amount of work it takes and have a greater appreciation for my role."

## A HELPING HAND

Chivon Smith, GN '22, is no stranger to hard work and has dedicated her career to providing excellent patient care—no matter the setting.

The former labor and delivery nurse works as a remote clinical care manager for Ophelia providing online opioid addiction services. Smith found her passion thanks to a clinical rotation working with pregnant women struggling with opioid use disorder. The experience opened Smith's eyes to the many possibilities in nursing and served as a catalyst for the next step in her career.

Smith meets virtually with patients undergoing medication-assisted treatment to address issues related to medication, sleep, mental health or other concerns. She celebrates their victories large and small—whether it's cutting back on smoking, landing a new job or becoming more involved in family life.

"We think of the whole person and want to make sure they're doing well and not struggling alone," said Smith.

Though her home office is a departure from the hospital setting where she started her career, Smith appreciates that



**"I feel like there's so much more that can be done, so I see a long future for me in addiction treatment. I found my place and my people."**

online care delivery removes barriers so patients can seek help discreetly.

"I want to make sure patients feel safe," she said. "They log on in their office, on their lunch break or at home."

## PATH TO A MEANINGFUL CAREER

Smith attributes much of her success in this emerging field to the School of Nursing. In addition to sharpening her time-management skills, the family nurse practitioner program's focus on mental health and substance-use disorders led to the clinical rotation that changed the course of her career.

"I feel like there's so much more that can be done, so I see a long future for me in addiction treatment," she said. "I found my place and my people."

## NEW KNOWLEDGE

Fourth-grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher Sean Carrick, GE '21, is a lifelong learner who feels most proud when he's teaching—that's why he spends his summers as a director for Camp Invention, a STEM camp that inspires children to design, build and problem-solve.

Carrick isn't just a successful educator in his own discipline. He steps outside the box—and the classroom—to connect subject matter in meaningful, productive ways to make an even bigger impact on his profession and the students he serves.

When the last dismissal bell rings each June, he trades grammar lessons and book reports for circuits and magnets, teaching new material in an unconventional setting and forging his own path in education. He believes it's important to apply STEM principles to all areas of study for a more enriching experience.

"STEM is about inquiry-based learning," he said. "In the School of Education, we learned that you don't want to give students the answer, but you want to lead them down a path."

When Carrick returns to the ELA classroom each fall, he arrives prepared with learnings from Camp Invention and applies STEM-based principles so his students can think bigger, expand their horizons and reach their highest potential.

"I know I can't make everyone feel like they can do everything, but I hope to inspire many to feel like they can push their limits and do as much possible." ♦







# Triple Threat

MEET AWARD-WINNING TRIATHLETE  
AND WOMEN'S TRIATHLON  
HEAD COACH JOELLA BAKER

By Amanda Dabbs



When Joella Baker, A'92, heard Duquesne was adding a women's triathlon team to its roster of NCAA Division I athletic programs, she could barely contain her excitement.

"I wanted to contribute in any way I could," she said. A triathlete herself, Baker competed in cross country, track and swimming as an undergraduate political science major at Duquesne. She has completed 27 marathons—including Boston's twice—along with six ultra-marathons, one Ironman-140.6 miles and 15 Half Ironman 70.3 mile races. Additionally, she represented USA Triathlon's age-group Team USA at seven International Triathlon Union (ITU) Long Distance Triathlon World Championships.

Baker recognizes that today's student athletes may face new and different challenges than she did while in college, but she brings to her team valuable advice that remains timeless.

"I tell my student athletes they still have to learn to get sleep, have proper nutrition, manage their time, work hard and get good grades," she remarked.

## OFF TO A RUNNING START

After spending a year recruiting female triathletes for Duquesne, Baker was eager to get the inaugural 2023-2024 season started.

"I'm very proud of our young team and their hard work. They are truly inspiring. It was an honor to build a program from scratch and work with strong and talented student-athletes who love to swim, bike and run," she said. "Our future is so bright."

In their first season, the women's triathlon team competed successfully in various events. They also performed well in the classroom—being one of 16 teams at Duquesne to collectively achieve a 3.0 or better GPA, with Duke triathlete Alaina Hicks earning a perfect 4.0.

## REACHING BIGGER GOALS IN TRIATHLONS

In the triathlon world, Baker's resume is the definition of bigger goals. She is a USA Triathlon Level II Certified Race Director, USA Triathlon Level II and Youth Certified Coach, USA Swimming Coach, USA Track & Field Coach, USA Cycling Coach, certified lifeguard, waterfront safety lifeguard, YMCA instructor and yoga instructor.

She is also the founder and president of Get Fit Families LLC, an organization inspired by her son Zachary's desire to compete in youth triathlons, centered on developing comprehensive individual and family fitness. Her organization is now the leading triathlon race directing company in the Pittsburgh area and hosts one of the largest youth triathlon programs in the country.

Exactly 30 years after graduating from Duquesne as a triathlete, Baker returned to campus as the women's triathlon head coach.

"I feel like I'm back home. So much has changed, but the culture, the mission, the people and the community are still the same." ♦



# PUT ME IN COACH

## FOGARTY ELECTED NEW PROVINCIAL OF THE SPIRITAN CONGREGATION

For a guy who's heard every conceivable Creedence Clearwater Revival joke, the Rev. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp., is a genial person, known for his wit, his keen intellect and his kindness.

He is also respected as a leader not just at Duquesne—where since 2022 he has served as senior advisor to President Ken Gormley for Spiritan mission and campus culture—but throughout the Congregation.

Fogarty has held various leadership positions with the Spiritans and, as of October 2024, is serving an elected four-year term as the Provincial of the Spiritan Congregation in the United States. In that role, Fogarty will be the highest-ranking Spiritan official in the U.S., operating in offices in Bethel Park, Pa., in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.

With a council of advisors that includes other ordained and lay clergy, Fogarty will oversee ministry and work across parishes in 10 states as well as the significant work in education done at Duquesne and Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bensalem, Pa., near Philadelphia.

However, he will still have an office in Old Main. "Father John's work at Duquesne, both recently and previously, when he led the Center for Spiritan Studies, has done much

to build community and invigorate understanding on the Bluff about the Spiritans," Gormley said. "While he has this significant new job, and we know it will be his top priority, I still value seeing him with our students and faculty, connecting people the way he's so good at doing."

The official vote for the U.S. Provincial was tallied in June, when the Spiritans' U.S. Province held its annual meeting on Duquesne's campus. Fogarty will succeed the outgoing U.S. Provincial, the Rev. Don McEachin, C.S.Sp., and the interim U.S. Provincial, the Rev. Bill Christy, C.S.Sp., who currently directs Campus Ministry at Duquesne. Both McEachin and Christy are well known to generations of Duquesne alumni for their work with the Congregation and with students.

"It is a privilege to lead in service," Fogarty says. "Ensuring we continue to serve those who most need the grace of our work, and that we walk with them on their journey and dignify their humanity, is the most important priority of our work. And to be able to keep some presence at Duquesne as well is quite an honor, especially as our new medical school provides us new ways to meet our mission to serve God by serving the students who will, in turn, serve others." ♦





Select photos from the first day of orientation, examples of Duquesne students in other health professions benefiting from the new facilities and technology and professional architectural photos of the completed building and spaces.



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# College of Medicine Kicks Off

Duquesne reached another historic milestone as the College of Osteopathic Medicine welcomed its first class of medical students on July 11.

"This is a day that really means so much," said President Ken Gormley. "Knowing that we are going to focus on creating a new generation of primary care doctors that includes physicians for underserved urban and rural communities is exciting."

Approximately two-thirds of the 90+ students in the inaugural class hail from Pennsylvania, with 43 percent having earned their degree from a Pennsylvania institution, including Duquesne.

Selected from more than 4,300 applicants, the incoming class reflects Duquesne's commitment to diversity and inclusion with more than 30 percent who are minorities or from underrepresented populations (32% and 19%, respectively).

"There's nothing like the energy of a new medical school and the inaugural class is always special," said Dr. John Kauffman, founding dean of the College. "We are surrounded by students who come with very high aspirations and tremendous drive."

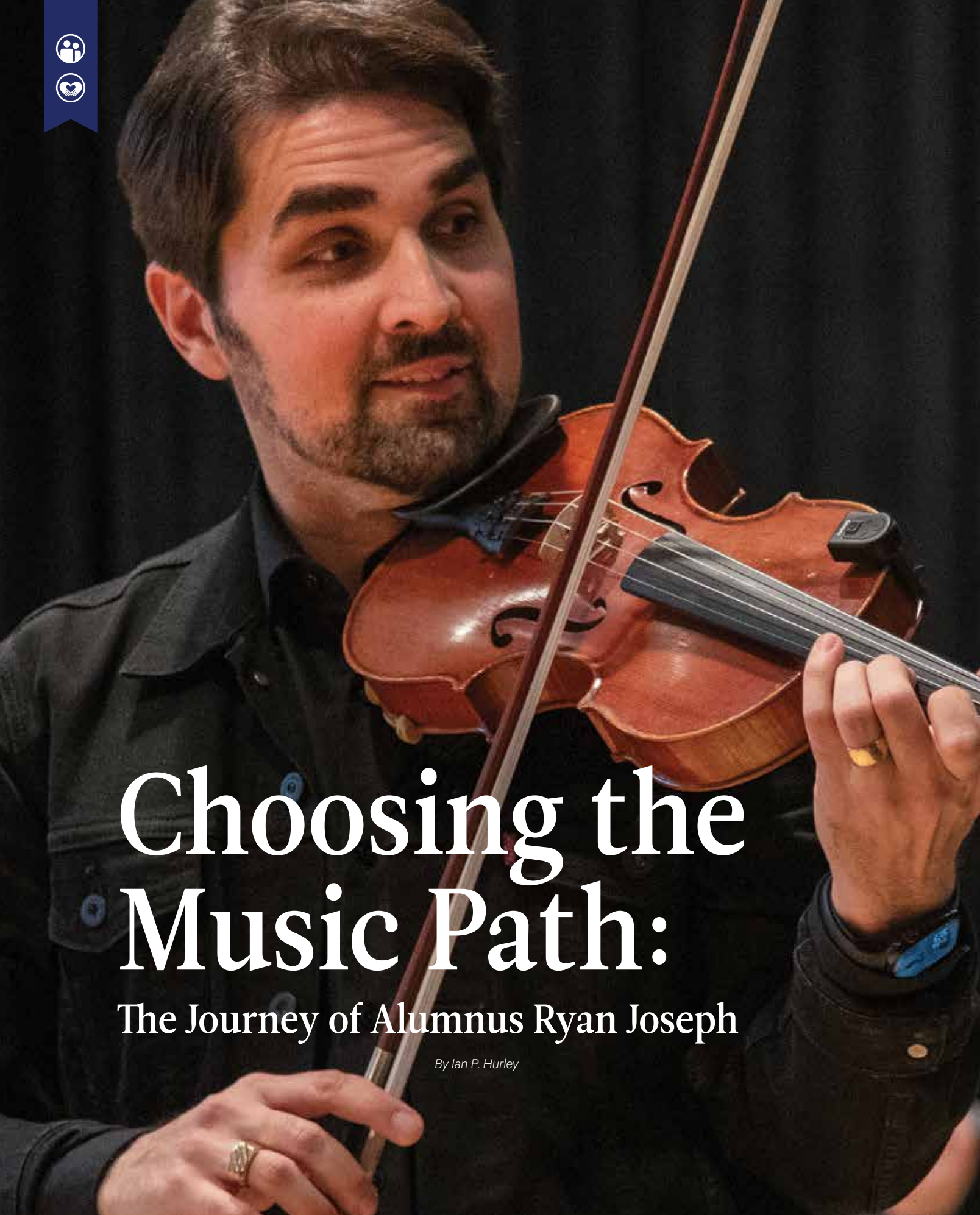
Visit [duq.edu/COM](http://duq.edu/COM) for more information.



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# Choosing the Music Path:

## The Journey of Alumnus Ryan Joseph

By Ian P. Hurley

The heart of country music, Nashville, Tenn., can seem like a world away from McKeesport, Pa., and the Mon Valley. A lifetime of musical prowess, supportive family and professors, courage, and hard work have taken Ryan Joseph, M'06, from Tube City to Music City.

"What I came to realize was that the folks in Nashville were people just like people from McKeesport. Everybody had a story, many folks were from small towns and somebody reached out their hand and helped them along the way," he told WTAE-TV in 2022.

Growing up in a musical family and having a violin in his hand since the age of 3 helped Joseph to develop as a musician. "I was surrounded by love from a very early age," he said. Joseph eventually joined the family's polka band, Henny and the Versa J's, where he played the violin and sang, much to the delight of the large crowds at their shows. The band was even nominated for a Grammy Award in 2004 in the polka category for their album, "Come On Over."

"Being in the family band really taught me the values that are most important to me, especially as a dad. But it also taught me the foundations of music that I, as the first in my family to go on as an exclusively professional musician, used to take the next steps."

There were numerous paths he could have taken upon leaving McKeesport Area Senior High School, but Joseph's path led him to Duquesne. "I loved teaching kids, and I was thinking about going for pediatrics and realized, 'Ok, you love kids and God gave you the gift of music.'" At Duquesne, he found faculty that wanted to walk alongside him in his musical journey.

"When I think back about my time at Duquesne, it was the relationships that I formed with my fellow students, with the faculty. It was the mentorship that I had from the faculty and knowing that who I was working with, they were masters in their field," he remarked. "I'm still dear friends and still

admire, look up to and learn from Dr. Stephen Benham," professor of music education and chair of performance at the Mary Pappert School of Music.

Joseph has never forgotten his roots and was back on the Bluff this past year to speak with and offer a master class to students. His enthusiasm was evident for all who attended. He also performed at a campus concert alongside Associate Professor Rachel Whitcomb, the program director of music education at the School.

His mission to help teach the next generation of musicians doesn't stop there. While not playing with international artists like Alan Jackson, Bonnie Raitt, Dierks Bentley and Carrie Underwood, he serves as the coordinator of strings at Belmont University's School of Music. Joseph teaches commercial and classical violin and viola and directs the Bluegrass and World Fiddle Ensembles.

In this role, Joseph led this summer's Strings Crossings camp for high school students to learn and perform classical, jazz, rock, Celtic, swing and bluegrass on Belmont's campus in Nashville. In offering advice to students, he says, "never forget there's not a dream too large."

Another clear affirmation of Joseph's dreams and bigger goals coming true is his weekly gig playing at the legendary Grand Ole Opry. There, he continues to hone his craft in front of audiences from around the world.

This is also the 13th year Ryan has been playing for country music legend Alan Jackson. "The energy has been through the roof. A favorite part is the people. Some of the band have been with Alan since the beginning. I got on when I was in my 20's. These guys are like my older brothers," Joseph said with a big smile. "The energy has been through the roof. My favorite part is the people. I feel like a grew up on that gig. I got on when I was 20 years old. These guys are like my older brothers," Joseph said with a big smile. ♦







# Treasure the Unknown Lasts

By Gina O'Malley

“  
**A DEFINING FEATURE OF BITTERSWEET MOMENTS IS THAT THEY ARE OFTEN COUPLED WITH WHAT I LIKE TO CALL UNKNOWN LASTS. AN UNKNOWN LAST IS WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING FOR THE VERY LAST TIME, BUT AT THAT MOMENT YOU DON'T REALIZE IT WILL BE THE LAST.**  
 PROVOST DAVID DAUSEY



**A**t the School of Education Commencement Ceremony in May 2024, Provost David Dausey reminded graduates and their loved ones to look out for—and appreciate—unknown lasts. Portions of his speech are italicized in blue, at the beginning of each segment throughout this story and are followed by Duquesne alums whose memories illustrate the idea.

## ENJOY THE VIEW

*“I spent my childhood playing baseball with my friends on the field next to my house,” Dausey said. “One day I went out to play my last game with them. At the time, I didn’t realize it would be our last game. I didn’t know to savor that moment. I can’t tell you when it occurred, yet that moment was transitional. It represented something profound, and somehow it snuck by unnoticed.”*

Daniel Ferrere, B’14, and his roommates covered every inch of their second-floor Brottier apartment in posters, banners, photos and video game scoreboards.

“I loved all the tacky decorations we had,” laughed Ferrere. “I now own bookshelves, decanters and houseplants, so things have changed drastically in 10 years.”

While their décor was decidedly maximalist, there was one surface that remained unobstructed: a living room window overlooking downtown Pittsburgh.

The apartment became a gathering place, hosting St. Patrick’s Day festivities as revelers paraded below and out-of-town friends eager to take in the Steel City.

The views never got old for Ferrere—in fact, they were the stuff of Hollywood.

“I remember watching *The Dark Knight Rises*, and as Batman flew over the U.S. Steel Tower in the movie, the real U.S. Steel Tower was just behind my TV,” he said.

While Ferrere doesn’t recall the last time he stood in the corner of his Brottier living room to take in that view, he’s held onto the friendships formed against the skyline, and the group commemorates their bond each year with a three-day float down the Allegheny River.

For Derrick Maultsby, Jr., L’20, Bluff views were always a source of inspiration and something he pointed out to tour groups as an admissions ambassador. Evening classes, early Power Center visits and work commitments allowed him to enjoy sunrises, sunsets and the sparkle of city lights after dark.



Though Maultsby’s daily walk from a downtown law firm to class in Hanley Hall could be tiring—especially before he discovered the shortcut through Rockwell Hall—he never lost gratitude for the scenery before him.

That walk transformed Maultsby from law student to lawyer, and at one point he unknowingly soaked in his final sunset as he hiked up the Bluff.

It was the perfect backdrop to the challenges of law school and reminded Maultsby to keep pushing toward bigger goals. “I didn’t realize how much I would miss seeing that,” he said. “I found motivation in it.”

## THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PLACE

*“Stop by the classroom where your favorite class was held or visit that spot where you spent time with your friends,” Dausey said. “Years from now, you won’t just think about matriculation, graduations or these defining points of time. What you’ll miss most are those little moments that filled your days, those unknown lasts that snuck by unnoticed. All those moments helped to shape the people you’ve become.”*

Sara Makin, GE’15, spent hours in Gumberg Library’s private study rooms. In those spaces, she found the solitude and focus she needed for study sessions that shaped her academic journey and guided personal growth.



Those rooms were a space for Makin to work hard and recharge while extending compassion to herself, important practices she now recommends to clients as founder and CEO of Makin Wellness, an online counseling service.

“I remember accidentally falling asleep while studying,” she said. “It feels like such a mundane thing, but it’s a reminder of how deeply I immersed myself in my studies and the solitude I found in those quiet rooms.”

Carly (Koza) Barnes, S’17, M’17, GM’18, felt most at peace in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, spending hours in the historic space as a cantor and active with Campus Ministry. As she prayed for a successful future, including a happy marriage, the space became a mainstay in her Duquesne experience and a place where she could uplift others as she inspired herself.



**Bluff views were always a source of inspiration and something he [Maultsby] pointed out to tour groups as an admissions ambassador. Evening classes, early Power Center visits and work commitments allowed him to enjoy sunrises, sunsets and the sparkle of city lights after dark.**



While Barnes doesn't remember the last time she visited the chapel as a student to think about hopes and dreams for her future, she did return in September 2023 to marry her husband, Matthew.

This wasn't just a full-circle moment for Barnes—it served as a reminder of the place where she prayed for the life that she now has. "The chapel is such an integral part of my story and I know that will always be the case," she said.



For Michelle Mikus, P'13, her Uptown house was the centerpiece of her story.

Aptly named "Pill Palace," four of its five residents were pharmacy students who, amid pharmacology homework, clinical rotations and final exams, supported each other at their best and worst and watched each other transition from students to independent, working adults. The housemates had some fun along the way and bonded over shared experiences while preparing and sharing meals.

"We still see each other throughout the year, and we still talk about that house," she said. "At the time I don't think any of us acknowledged just how special what we had was."

### A MOTHER'S LOVE

*"Your friends, family and loved ones have been with you every step of the way in good times and bad. They were your counsel, your confidants and your shoulder to cry on, and at times they put themselves second so they could put you first," said Dausey.*

Gina Govojdean, B'12, treasured opportunities to host her mother on campus and spend weekends in New Castle, Pa., with her family. The drives home provided valuable one-on-one time with her mom as they exchanged updates and her mother beamed.



"When I graduated, I knew it was the single happiest day of my mom's life," said Govojdean. "She was glowing with pride."

Following the unexpected loss of her mother five years later, Govojdean reflects on the opportunities they had to share her University experience, and she still senses her mother's love and support each time she steps on campus for an alumni event.

"I treasure those trips home with her and time spent talking about Duquesne with her on Academic Walk for the last time—an unknown last," said Govojdean.

**"When I graduated, I knew it was the single happiest day of my mom's life."**

### FACULTY ALONGSIDE US

*"Our faculty became champions of your aspirations and taught you the importance of being leaders who strive for goodness and act on behalf of the dignity for all," said Dausey. "It was their joy to give you a horizon-expanding education and help you uncover your passions."*

Dr. Britnee Weatherspoon, GE'16, acknowledges the many unforgettable faculty who shaped the person she's become.



After completing an online course, she wanted to meet her professor in person to express gratitude for her authenticity and knowledge. "I remember the feeling that came over me as I walked on campus," she said. "I felt a sense of belonging; I was valued. The experience left me eager to want more for my family."

Though at one point Weatherspoon stepped on campus for the final time as a student, she notes that her professors' impact remains years later as she returns for alumni events with her son and succeeds as a prevention and education manager in the health care field.

### THE VALUE OF UNKNOWN LASTS

*"Before you know it, you'll be on to the next stage of your journey. If I can offer you one final bit of advice, it's to savor this moment."*

As a licensed counselor, Makin believes positive memories come with valuable lessons.

"These emotions can boost your mood and improve overall mental health, and they can make you feel more optimistic and content," she shared. "Reflecting on unknown lasts can help you appreciate what's happening around you, and these memories play a crucial role in cherishing our lives and experiences." ♦



Discover more unknown lasts at [duq.edu/magazine](https://duq.edu/magazine).



# For You Who are Curious and Ready to Explore the Unknown

JEAN ANNE HATTLER CREATES ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND ENRICHMENT

One plane ticket. About \$650. One ticket that's usually less than \$700 is sometimes the only thing standing between a Duquesne student and a life-changing experience in the Eternal City.

That's just one example—with Duquesne offering study away programs on six continents and through its own programs in Rome and Dublin, the possibilities are many, and sometimes that ticket may cost more or less.

But think about it: A student has figured out a combination of savings, scholarships and loans to finance a Duquesne education. They understand the value of the investment and they're working to make it happen. They hear about the Rome campus. They know their tuition is wrapped into the regular Duquesne tuition. They start planning. And then—

Boom. That last bump. And some students just can't make it work.

Now, step in Dr. Jean Anne Hattler. For years, Hattler has organized Duquesne student and alumni study and travel experiences around the globe. She started at the University as a professor in the School of Education and later joined the Center for Global Engagement team.

As a former director of both the Short-Term Study Abroad Program and the Alumni and Friends Travel Program, she knows firsthand the difference even the shortest abroad experience can have in expanding a person's horizons and helping them think bigger.

As someone who has visited 108 countries (and counting!), Hattler has learned the value of literally moving the horizon. In remarks delivered at a celebration of her gift in July, she recalled how living and teaching middle school in Japan ignited her passion for travel and cultural exploration.

She recalled "countless joys: riding a camel in Morocco and Egypt, waltzing in Vienna, getting wonderfully lost on cobblestone streets and dirt paths in many countries around the world. Summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro as the sun was rising, telling stories around the campfire at Mt. Everest Base Camp, hearing a glacier calve in Antarctica."

Her reminiscences evoked the magic of places far from the Bluff and how experiencing them with others, learning together the connections among us, matters. "Each adventure," she said, "whether sampling street food in Bangkok or learning to use chopsticks in Kyoto, has enriched my appreciation of different cultures."

And now Hattler is helping to make that possible for more people. Her endowment has been established with a gift of more than \$1 million and it will help generations of students. The monumental endowment will support scholarships and other aid (even, potentially, cover the cost of a plane ticket) so that fewer students will have to turn down an opportunity for study abroad due to lack of means.

"I hope these students will not only learn about new cultures but will also form relationships that inspire and motivate them throughout their lives," Hattler said. ♦







# The Bakers: A Bond Beyond Brothers

By Tracy Jackson



**F**or two brothers, Duquesne University is more than just an academic institution; it's a place where family bonds are forged and strengthened. Among the many dedicated employees, these two stand out for their unwavering commitment to the University and each other. Duquesne University Police Sergeant Dan Baker and Facilities Carpenter Dave Baker, despite having different roles, share a unique bond that enhances their work and personal lives.

## DIFFERENT PATHS, SHARED COMMITMENT

Dan has been a steadfast presence at Duquesne for almost 23 years. As the patrol sergeant for the night shift, he ensures the wellbeing and safety of students, faculty, staff and property within the campus community.

"I'm exposed to new challenges regularly, which helps me develop both professionally and personally," he shares. Dan's role is multifaceted, involving not just law enforcement but also mentoring students, educating the campus community and building relationships. He emphasizes the importance of his department's

professionalism and the consistent support they receive from University leadership, which includes advanced training and equipment.

"Management has made it a priority to equip us with the tools needed to keep us and the community we serve safe," Dan explains. "Ensuring a safe environment for our students allows them to focus on their studies and become successful graduates."

Dave, the older of the two brothers, has been part of Duquesne for seven years, working as a carpenter in the facilities department.

"I've been doing construction work for over 30 years, and enjoy being surrounded by people who care about their work," he says. His role involves maintaining and improving the University's infrastructure, ensuring that students and employees have an appropriate and functional environment.

"Providing both students and employees with a comfortable space to accomplish their goals is my top priority," Dave notes. His decision to join Duquesne was influenced by his brother Dan's satisfaction at work and his desire to support his children's education, reflecting a deeply rooted commitment to family and the future.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Baker brothers' connection to Duquesne extends to their families. Dan's daughter, Larissa, is set to start at the University this fall, as a Discover Business student. Dave's daughter, Alaina, recently graduated with honors from the School of Education and is now a graduate assistant at the Center for Student Involvement, pursuing her master's degree in higher education administration. His other daughter, Ava, is in her second year in the School of Education and will be studying at Duquesne's Rome campus this fall. Dave's son, Dominic, a high school junior, is considering Duquesne for his future studies in engineering.

Working at the same university has its perks for the Baker brothers. While Dan works the night shift and doesn't see Dave often during work hours, their shared workplace fosters a deeper connection between them. "We've been working together for so long, even before Duquesne, doing carpentry and other jobs," Dave recalls. This long history

of working together began in high school when the brothers worked at their family's contracting business, and has continued into adulthood, strengthening their bond and making them not just brothers, but lifelong colleagues and friends.

Of the connection between the brothers, "We're close," says Dan. "We were born 16 months apart and share the same sense of humor."

In addition, the duo also shares similarities within their personal lives, including living in the same town just eight minutes apart, and having the same number of children—each has three.



## A SHARED VISION ROOTED IN THE DUQUESNE MISSION

Both brothers find immense satisfaction in their work. For Dan, the direct impact of his job on students' lives is a significant motivator. His role is crucial in maintaining a safe campus learning environment, a cornerstone of Duquesne's mission.

Dave, meanwhile, takes pride in resolving issues for students, faculty and staff, embodying the University's mission of serving God by serving students.

"My role involves responding quickly to issues and ensuring that the facilities are in top condition," he says. This dedication to service and quality resonates with the values of the Duquesne community.

The Baker brothers exemplify the spirit of Duquesne through their dedication, professionalism and strong family bond. Through their different roles, Dan and Dave contribute significantly to the University's mission, ensuring that Duquesne remains a place where everyone can achieve their bigger goals. ♦

## DISCOVER PROGRAM

In the U.S., 75% of college students change their majors at least once. Duquesne University's Discover program helps undecided students explore their interests before committing to a major. The program spans multiple schools—Music, Liberal Arts, Education, Business, Health Science and Science & Engineering—allowing students to thoroughly investigate their educational options.

Through Discover, students can reflect on their passions, strengths and values, considering how these align with future career goals. With guidance from a dedicated team of student success coaches, faculty advisors and wellness advocates, students receive the support they need to forge a successful academic and professional path.

To learn more, visit [duq.edu/discover](http://duq.edu/discover).







All photos are from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, July 1, 2022, taken by Dr. Kristine Blair

# Poland Personally

## Where Teachers Become Students

By Elizabeth Shestak

Each evening they were in Poland, after a full day spent absorbing the un-processable horror that is the Holocaust, the Poland Personally group engaged in a nightly reflection. For Bob Mallet, a non-religious Jew in his 60s who is generally uninterested in such public displays of emotion, it was as awful, and necessary, as it sounds.

"I hate sitting in a circle, like group therapy, like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*," he said, then added, "It was the only reason any of us held it together. The only way you could even close your eyes at night was to emote something you saw during the day."

Mallet, a Duquesne University board member, likes to make things happen. In addition to co-founding the Duquesne New Venture Challenge, his gifts have supported everything from Bob's Launchpad, a maker space in the School of Business's entrepreneurial suite to scholarships to the new medical school. Twice he has taken this trip, called Poland Personally, with the Pittsburgh-based non-profit Classrooms Without Borders (CWB). Each summer, CWB takes a group of educators from around the country to the epicenter of the Holocaust, understanding that most who teach the story of one of humanity's worst moments have never set foot where it took place.

Visiting multiple concentration camps, touring Jewish cemeteries, wandering through ghettos, viewing artwork

Each summer, Classrooms Without Borders takes a group of educators from around the country to the epicenter of the Holocaust...



left on the walls of Auschwitz by children and listening to a Holocaust survivor talk about where he watched, as a teenager, nearly everyone he loved be murdered, leaves its mark.

But it's a good mark, despite the pain. It's a mark, Mallet understood, that changes you—it changes how you look at the world, how you live, and if you're an educator, how you teach.

And so, since 2022, Mallet has funded five members of the Duquesne community to experience the Poland Personally trip each year as well.

### POLAND BECOMES PERSONAL

We all know about the Holocaust at this point, Mallet said while running errands in Somerset, Pa. In addition to his involvement on various boards, including CWB, retirement for Mallet has resulted in a hobby farm in constant need of maintenance.

But going to where it happened creates a knowing that is simply different.

For Dr. Kristine Blair, dean of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, it was learning how they used remains of the dead for fertilizer that made Poland personal. She took the trip in 2022, and speaks of that experience with a mixture of solemnity and gratitude.

"You never know the level of the familial that touches you, but also the level of evil, just pure evil, and how those different continuums impact you," Blair said. "And yet you need to channel that and bring it back and talk about it in such a way that helps us learn and remember the lessons of the Holocaust."

Her colleague, history professor Dr. John Mitcham, went on the trip the following year.

"I remember the moment it really became clear that this is not some type of abstract academic lecture or concept," Mitcham recalled. It was when they visited where Howard Chandler, the Holocaust survivor who accompanies the group, came from. "Howard pointed to a spot in the town square and said, 'This is where they shot my brother when they determined he was not worthy of working in the factory. This is the spot I last saw my mother and sister.'"

### PAYING IT FORWARD

Those who have the honor of making this trip are certainly learning together and also commit to bringing it back, perhaps working it into their curriculum or organizing a community event, as a means of paying it forward.

For Blair, this has involved partnering with Duquesne's Office of Global Engagement and Classrooms without Borders to promote and sustain Duquesne faculty and student involvement in Holocaust education. She and Mitcham partnered to bring renowned Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum, who attended the 2023 trip with Mitcham, to Duquesne's campus in the spring of 2024 for a special talk. In Mallet's case, making the Poland Personally trip accessible to others—expanding their horizons—is how he honors that pact. But why is it Duquesne faculty and students who benefit from Mallet's generosity?

The answer is personal.

"It all has to do with my dad; this is payback," Mallet said—the good kind. His father, Louis D. Mallet, B'40, took nine years to earn his degree. Duquesne gave him a tuition plan that was "a dollar down, and a dollar when you get it," along with a work-study program to support the future entrepreneur. That academic opportunity led the way to a successful career in business, a business that put Mallet in the position to fund trips to Poland.

"I can never thank Duquesne enough for doing what they did for my father during really, really rough times," Mallet said.

Some might argue he's done that already, and more.

Duquesne law student Bella Biancone, A'22, was invited to take the trip in 2023 when she was a liberal arts undergrad who had spent most of college as a student during the COVID pandemic, unable to travel abroad as she'd hoped. She initially thought the email was spam—a free trip to Poland?

It was personal long before the trip began. Biancone's family has been Catholic for some time, but she had a great-great-grandparent who was a Polish Jew, and that part of her family fled Poland in the 1800s due to antisemitism.

"I'm here because of a culmination of events," she said. "I very easily could have been there." ♦



## New Garden Memorializes Human Body Donors

By Ken Walters

Known as the serviceberry from the western Great Lakes into the New England region, the legend of the shrub's name holds that in colonial times the "service" referred to burial services for the dead. When the bush bloomed as a sign of spring wildflower season, it indicated that the ground had thawed enough for graves to be dug to the proper depth, in addition to the arrival of traveling priests to perform burial services, and thus the connection.

True or not in name and lore, the serviceberry will hold a special place in a special garden created by the Rangos School of Health Sciences and the University to remember those who donated their bodies to science.

The garden, located between the Rangos school's fourth floor entrance and the ring statue, recognizes the sacrifice of all human body donors, particularly those to the Rangos anatomy lab to enhance student education.

"It's such an important learning experience for students, not just about anatomy but also about themselves," said Dr. Rebecca Maatta, teaching associate professor in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, who teaches the Anatomy & the Archive class and co-teaches the Anatomy sequence with faculty in the Physical Therapy Department. "Students go through a lot of different emotions during the process."

As they work with the cadavers, they learn about a person's life, Maatta explained, noticing joints that have suffered from arthritis or seeing lasting injuries from accidents. This learning expands student horizons by creating a connection between the student and the donor, much like the connections they will need to make with their patients.

Noelle Compher, a fourth-year student majoring in physician assistant studies, spent last year in the anatomy lab and helped to create the garden.

"It definitely was intimidating the first time I entered the lab," she said. "You're afraid of hurting the donor because you want to respect and honor their decision to donate their body."

Compher admitted as she gained more experience she became less fearful and emotional, although she still had "moral moments."

"I would think, 'Should I use this tool to dissect the donor's face?' I had to remind myself that this person made the choice to donate their body to help me become a better health professional," Compher said. "It was definitely an emotional rollercoaster."

During physician assistant student labs, one area of the body that isn't dissected is the donor's hands, Compher said, which she found helpful. "Seeing their hands untouched reminded me of their humanity."

"Students spend so much time looking at models and illustrations. The lab provides the opportunity to understand what the body feels like," Matta said. "It makes the learning real."

The garden has been a collaborative effort among many of Duquesne's schools, faculty, administration and students. During the past year, Maatta pooled funds from a Rangos Prize, and all departments who use or visit the lab—including philosophy, nursing and English—contributed money to the project. Students in Pi Kappa Epsilon, a professional health science honor society, conducted a fundraiser, and \$6,000 was raised in total.

Anatomy students researched what other memorial gardens looked like, designed plaque ideas and organized a college-wide vote to choose a plaque design. Compher noted that the garden, which is visible from the end of Academic Walk, uses special lighting to recognize donors and represents their continuing impact on students.

Maatta and her students worked with Duquesne's facilities department to make arrangements for the planting, which began in fall 2024. A special ceremony to open the garden will be held in spring 2025.

And the serviceberry shrub? "The center of the garden features a serviceberry tree, which represents the labor and sacrifice of donors, and the connection between students to patients, both living and dead," Maatta said. "The garden serves as a visual hallmark of the work that occurs right across from it in our lab, and that work is profound and beautiful." ♦







# Paths with Purpose:

## Duquesne's Spiritan Mission Successfully Shapes Lifelong Service

By Rosemary Ravasio, A'90

As an advocate for equity and opportunity for nearly 150 years, Duquesne University's legacy of service is deeply ingrained in its mission and values. This tradition inspires students to work alongside their neighbors, fostering a deep understanding and commitment to others. Alumni like Nicole Molinaro, A'92, MA'93, and Randy Castriota, A'72, exemplify how the Spiritan Mission continues to resonate, successfully guiding their careers and personal lives as they work to create a future that everyone can share.

Randy Castriota stands in front of the In the Shade of Service sculpture that honors veterans.

Nicole Molinaro talks with a colleague from the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

### NICOLE MOLINARO: A CALLING TO SERVE

Nicole Molinaro's journey to becoming president and CEO of the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) began with a profound desire to make a difference. "Quickly after graduation, I realized I wanted to put my skills to use in the human services sector," she says.

Molinaro oversees WC&S, a longstanding leader in providing safety, shelter, support and guidance to all survivors of domestic violence. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center, which serves about 7,500 people annually.

"Domestic violence impacts one out of every four women and one out of every seven to 10 men. It's more common than most people think, and it's often considered a private matter. But in reality, it impacts way more than the people in the home—it impacts the

community, the family, the workplace, the children and their futures," she explains.

Molinaro says that her sense of purpose was nurtured by her time at Duquesne, where she earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in psychology.

"I believe this work is very much a calling," she reflects. "And the education I got at Duquesne was critical to my career path. Going there was a formative experience—I came in with a heart for compassion and service, and that was really encouraged."

She advocates for a broader understanding of domestic violence as a public health issue. "It's been called a major health epidemic," Molinaro explains. "It's an issue that we believe there should be services and help for, especially because so often, when it's an abusive relationship, there's a component of danger."

**"I came in with a heart for compassion and service, and that was really encouraged."**







# Dukes from the Last Decade Honored

“One of the reasons I love doing this work is because every day we can positively impact people with our compassion, kindness and welcoming,” Molinaro says. “It’s a very intentional part of my life.”

Her leadership echoes the Spiritan mission’s call to serve the vulnerable. “Domestic violence can mean many things—emotional, spiritual, financial or psychological abuse, to name a few. Wherever you are in that continuum, it’s an abusive relationship if there are power and control issues.”

Molinaro emphasizes that abusive behavior is often a learned pattern, which means it can be unlearned with the right support. This understanding drives her organization’s vision: “We exist to end domestic violence and create safe spaces for help, healing and hope.”

Guiding the Women’s Center and Shelter is about living the Spiritan values every day for Molinaro. “I’m responsible for the overall health of the organization, working with the board on our strategic vision, the day-to-day operations from our budget to our services—really positioning us to live out our values every day,” she says.

## RANDY CASTRIOTA: A LEGACY OF FAIRNESS, GENEROSITY AND ARTFUL SERVICE

Randy Castriota, founder of Castriota Metals, has also been profoundly influenced by the Spiritan mission.

“My parents didn’t have a lot of money, but they were very charitable,” he says. “I learned from my parents, my friends and my Catholic education, including Duquesne University, that when somebody needs help, you help them.”

This lesson has stayed with Castriota, the first in his family to graduate from college. “I don’t ever remember not thinking about going to Duquesne University. It’s like I was born to go to Duquesne,” he recalls. “I knew my parents wanted me to get a good Catholic education, and I was very happy there and made some lifelong friends.”

At Duquesne, Castriota was involved in efforts to support the University,



“The people I met at the University had the same values—you met different people, but the beliefs were very similar...”

including the Third Alternative, a student-led initiative to collect \$1 from 1,000,000 people. This involved going door-to-door, calling thousands of alumni and selling raffle tickets at local parishes to help save the University from its financial challenges.

“I thought that was very important,” he says, reflecting on the experience. “Going to Duquesne, I learned to be fair with people, to be honest with people. The people I met at the University had the same values—you met different people, but the beliefs were very similar, and they are the values that I hold to be truthful every day.”

His company, Castriota Metals, is built on principles of fairness, honesty and generosity. He also has dedicated himself to serving the community in creative and impactful ways. In 2008, he co-founded a boxing gym with the late Larry Chisholm, a former professional boxer who turned his life around in 2004 after serving years in and out of prison. Castriota became Chisholm’s mentor, and the two worked to provide a safe space for young people to learn discipline, gain confidence and stay out of trouble.

Continuing his commitment to service, Castriota co-founded Operation Valor Arts, a nonprofit organization that provides veterans with training and resources to design interpretive public art as a means to engage collaboratively with other veterans. One of the organization’s significant projects is “In the Shade of Service,” an approximately 17 foot by 17 foot sculpture that will be installed at Action Housing, a Pittsburgh company

dedicated to housing for underserved populations, such as veterans, seniors and those with disabilities. Designed as a large metal tree with “leaves” made to look like military dog tags, the sculpture is set to be unveiled in November at Action Housing’s senior and veteran-focused apartment building. Castriota and others enlisted friends to donate the variety of materials for the structure.

This project is a testament to Castriota’s commitment to honoring those who have served and his belief in the power of art to heal and bring people together.

Today, Castriota is “semi-retired,” with his wife Christine. Their son Michael is vice president at Castriota Metals. When asked why it’s important to continue to help those in need, he brings up luck.

“There’s an old saying, ‘The harder we work, the luckier we get,’” he says. “It’s just the right thing. It makes you feel better, it makes the other person feel better. Work hard, save your money, give a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay and learn patience and fairness.”

As Molinaro and Castriota continue to lead with compassion, integrity and creativity, they inspire future generations to carry these values forward, making a meaningful difference in the world around them. Through their work, they demonstrate that the Spiritan mission is not just a set of ideals but a way of life that can transform communities and change lives. ♦

The Duquesne University Young Alumni Network hosted the third annual Dukes from the Last Decade Awards Reception at the Energy Innovation Center in Uptown Pittsburgh on April 20. The evening of celebration brought together alumni, staff, faculty and friends to recognize the exceptional achievements of nine recent graduates. Honorees were selected based on their professional excellence, commitment and service to their communities, and dedication to their alma mater. Most importantly, the recipients live out the mission of Duquesne University in their daily lives.

The 2024 Dukes from the Last Decade recipients are:

**Rachel Beckstrom, A’18**, Global Lead for People, Culture and Engagement, BNY Mellon

**Jenna Bender, A’16**, CRM Manager, 9Rooftops

**Dr. Shanea Clancy, GN’18, GN’21**, Social Science Program Specialist, Veterans Health Administration

**Catherine Hull, B’17**, Solution Architect in Technology Modernization, Grant Thornton LLP

**Luke Macios, A’17, GA’19**, Manager, Business Development, Carnegie Science Center

**Eric Rousell, HS’20, GHS’21**, Emergency Medicine Residency Coordinator, Veterans Administration

**Abigail Ruppel, HS’16, GHS’18**, Founder, Abbie Road Physical Therapy LLC

**Ashley Tannous, A’15**, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Cachara and Associates LLC

**Dr. Michael Tompkins, GB’18**, Former Associate Dean, Community College of Allegheny County

The event featured live music by a jazz trio from the Mary Pappert School of Music, rooftop views of campus and the Pittsburgh skyline, and remarks from Crystal McCormick Ware, A’85, GE’94, chief diversity officer and senior advisor to the president for diversity, equity and inclusion. Herff Jones, official provider of Duquesne’s distinctive class ring, was presenting sponsor of the event.

To learn more about this year’s award recipients and nominees, the previous award recipients, and information about 2025 nominations, visit [duq.edu/lastdecade](http://duq.edu/lastdecade).

The 2025 awards reception will take place on Saturday, June 7, at the Energy Innovation Center. ♦



From left: Young Alumni Network President Dorian Evans, B’16; Dr. Michael Tompkins, GB’18; Eric Rousell, HS’20, GHS’21; Abigail Ruppel, HS’16, GHS’18; Jenna Bender, A’16; Ashley Tannous, A’15; Luke Macios, A’17, GA’19; Rachel Beckstrom, A’18; Dr. Shanea Clancy, GN’18, GN’21; Catherine Hull, B’17; Crystal McCormick Ware, A’85, GE’94.







# Where Are They Now?

STUDENT LIFE LEADERSHIP ROLES HELPED ALUMS DISCOVER THEIR PASSIONS

By Amanda Dabbs

Entering college as a single mom with an infant was not easy for Marissa Escajeda Sauer, A'11, but the immense support she received at Duquesne—including the invitation almost right away to get involved in student life on campus—quickly reassured her she chose the right place.



Marissa Escajeda Sauer

“Through Campus Ministry, I met Luci Jo DiMaggio, who changed the course of my life forever. Being involved on campus as a single mom was hard, but she pushed me. She always saw my potential to make a difference and showed me that there were ways to do the things I loved with a little hard work,” explained Escajeda Sauer.

DiMaggio introduced Escajeda Sauer to the nonprofit world and got her involved in various mission trips and clubs on campus like Amnesty International, which centered on helping others.

“To this day I know I would not be doing nonprofit work with women’s and girls’ organizations if it was not for my time at Duquesne and meeting Luci Jo,” said Escajeda Sauer, who is now CEO for the multi-generational mentoring organization Strong Women, Strong Girls.

## THE CATALYST FOR ACHIEVING BIGGER GOALS

Just like Escajeda Sauer, the student life leadership roles many Duquesne alumni took on during their college years became the catalyst to where they are today.

Take Ralph Gigliotti, E'07, an accomplished higher education administrator, educator, author, speaker and consultant who served in a variety of student life roles at Duquesne—from president of the Student Government

Association and chair of New Student Orientation to an active member of Campus Ministry, Delta Chi Fraternity and various service/professional organizations.

“Much of the work I do today can be tied back in some way to the skills and relationships I cultivated during my time on the Bluff,” remarked Gigliotti, an assistant vice president for organizational leadership in academic affairs at Rutgers University.

Student life leadership at Duquesne also has very personal meaning to Gigliotti. It’s how he met his wife, Colleen, H’08, GH’09. Their paths crossed as they both served in the role of president for the Student Government Association, Ralph from 2006-2007, Colleen from 2007-2008.

In July 2011, they got married in the campus chapel surrounded by many lifelong friends and mentors.

In recognition of Duquesne’s ongoing commitment to serving God by serving students, the couple established a Student Leadership Term Resource Fund benefitting an undergraduate student who demonstrates effective and ethical leadership in an on-campus organization.

“We had the pleasure of recently hosting a sendoff event at our home for incoming first-year Duquesne students from the Philadelphia area,” mentioned Gigliotti.

## LEARNING TOGETHER: A MASTER CLASS IN LEADERSHIP

“Was I collaborative? Was I inclusive in my collaboration or did I remain in an echo chamber? Did I spend enough time on the issue or question? Am I doing what is easy or what is right? Have I prayed about it?”

These were all questions Anissa Gilbert, B’13, digital



Ralph Gigliotti

“I keep the mission statement of Duquesne always close to my heart, which guides me daily.”

and payments senior manager and vice president for PNC, said she asked herself during her time as a student life leader serving in multiple roles across student government, Greek life and residence life.

“These experiences were all a master class in learning together how to be an effective advocate, a good risk manager and a friend,” she remarked.

For Gilbert, being involved in student life gave her a higher purpose and created communities that stretched beyond her dorm room and major.

“Some of the most important people in my life to this day I met through Student Government, Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and my time as an RA,” she added.

## EXPANDING HORIZONS INTERNATIONALLY

A student life leader turned alumna reaching her bigger goals on an international level is Emily Kinley, N’16.

Being an orientation team leader at Duquesne not only gave Kinley the confidence to be her true self—it also helped her develop the interpersonal skills she uses every day in her role as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.



Anissa Gilbert

“Orientation also gave me one of my very best friends to this day, and I am certain I would not be the person I am today had I not become involved in the program,” said Kinley.

Currently stationed in Sicily, Italy, Kinley works at the Naval Hospital there as a specialty care clinic manager in the areas of general surgery and OB/GYN.

“The education I received at Duquesne was unmatched. I was able to learn from well-respected professors and practice my craft in world-renowned hospitals,” Kinley explained.

## A UNIVERSITY CLOSE TO THE HEART

In addition to being student life leaders, all four alumni share another common theme: Duquesne University remains close to their hearts.

From a student life perspective, it’s a place where they learned to cultivate lifelong friends, deepen their faith and understand the importance of serving God by serving others.

“I keep the mission statement of Duquesne always close to my heart, which guides me daily,” noted Kinley.

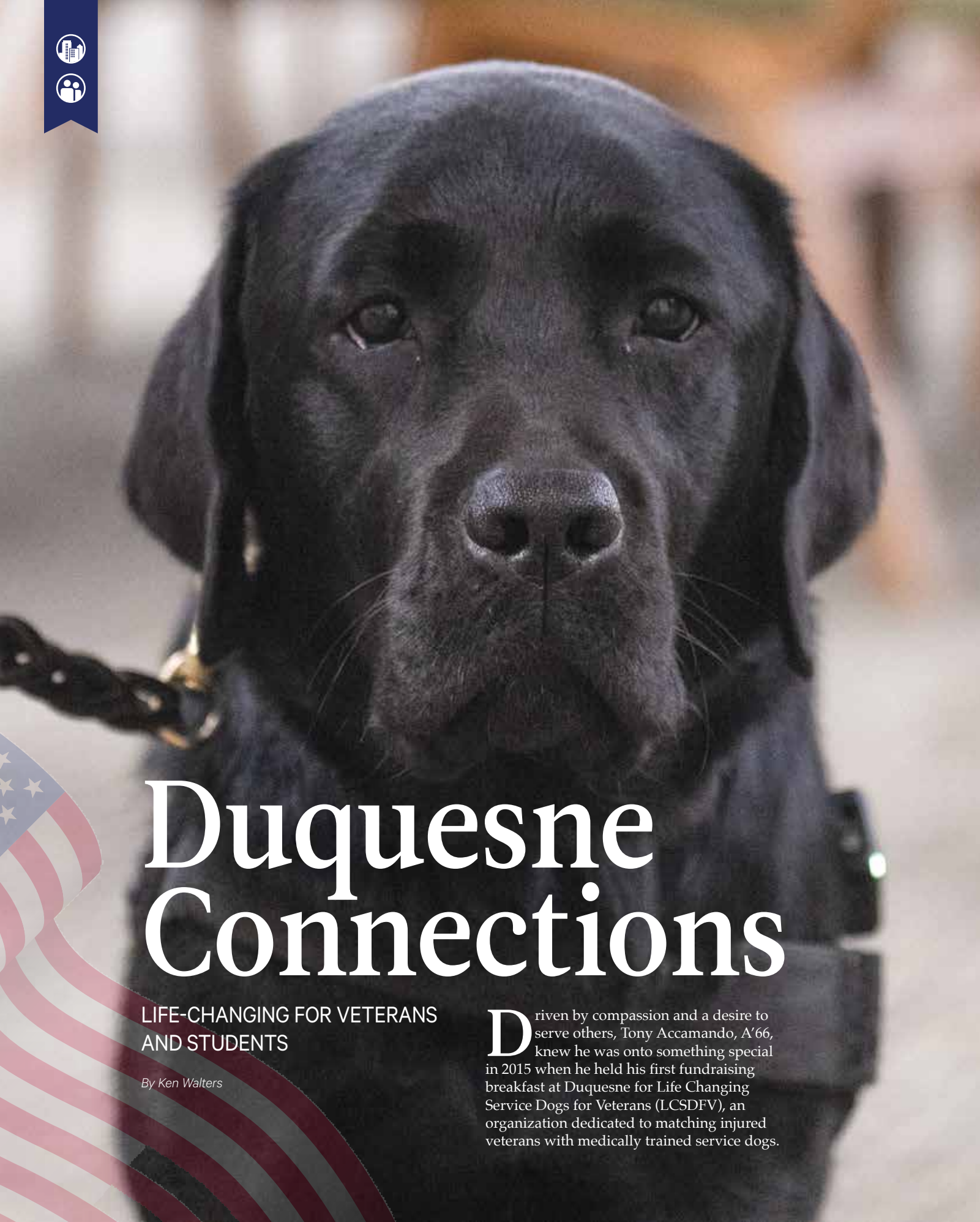
As a student life leader at Duquesne, Escajeda Sauer appreciates that she was constantly encouraged and pushed to reach for bigger goals—and that she was never looked at differently for being a teen mom.

“During those years at Duquesne, I learned what I really can do and how to overcome adversity,” she said. “The mentorship I received from staff and professors gave me the confidence I have today.”♦



Emily Kinley





# Duquesne Connections

LIFE-CHANGING FOR VETERANS AND STUDENTS

By Ken Walters

**D**riven by compassion and a desire to serve others, Tony Accamando, A'66, knew he was onto something special in 2015 when he held his first fundraising breakfast at Duquesne for Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans (LCSDFV), an organization dedicated to matching injured veterans with medically trained service dogs.



George D'Angelo with his dog Luca (left) and Tony Accamando with his dog Gunner founded LCSDFV in 2015. At right, Accamando and Connor Green meet with Duquesne's Physician Assistant students to discuss treating veterans.

"We were hoping to raise enough money to provide dogs to 22 veterans in 22 months at \$22,000 each," he recalled. "When those 22 months ended, the support was so overwhelming—we had enough money to provide dogs to 75 veterans."

It was a moment that moved Accamando, who served as an Army lieutenant in Vietnam and co-founded the non-profit organization with fellow Duquesne alumni and Air Force Col. George D'Angelo, A'65, who died earlier this year. Little did Accamando know at the time that LCSDFV would not only impact veterans, but also touch Duquesne's faculty and students.

The goal for that initial breakfast—22 dogs—was determined by the number of veterans who die by suicide each day, Accamando said.

"That's a heartbreaking number," he said. "It's difficult for many veterans to leave their military unit and transition back to civilian life. Service dogs play an important role in helping them mitigate injuries, both physical and mental, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries."

Now, for Accamando, the most important number is zero—that's the number of times a veteran with a service dog has committed suicide.

## "A BIG BOOST IN CONFIDENCE"

Connor Green, E'20, who served in the Army in Afghanistan from 2012-2013 and suffers from grand mal seizures, said he wasn't sure he wanted a service dog when Duquesne's Office for Military and Veteran Students first asked him.

"I took a full weekend to think about it," he said. "I'm the type of person who likes to keep to himself. When you have a dog with you all the time, you become very visible."

After talking with Don Accamando, Tony's brother and head of Duquesne's veterans office at the time, he decided to be paired with a dog.

Medically trained service dogs go through a rigorous training cycle, which begins when they are puppies and lasts 18 months to two years. Green remembers traveling to meet his dog, Bradley.

"When you arrive, you don't know which dog you will be paired with," he said. "You interact with a few of the dogs on the first day, and around the third day, I was paired with Bradley, who introduced himself by jumping on my lap and licking my face."

Once paired, Green worked with Bradley at the training facility, where both dog and owner underwent diligent training.

Back home in Pittsburgh, Green's horizons expanded almost immediately thanks to Bradley.

"I noticed a big boost in my confidence," he said. "When I had my previous seizures, they happened when I was out in public. Knowing that Bradley would be there if I collapsed—it was like taking a 1,000-pound weight off my shoulders."

Green also noticed that his hypersensitivity lessened with Bradley in tow.

"I was extremely observant about everything and would always have my back to the wall when I was in a room," he said. "But Bradley sees and hears everything, so I know he has my back."

He also helps Green manage his seizures, as he senses chemical changes in Green's body and will nudge him to take his medicine before the onset of a seizure.

"I have my emergency medicine in Bradley's vest, so if he nudges me or puts his paws on me, that's the signal that I should take the medicine," Green said. "It allows me to have the medicine before I lose consciousness."

## PREPARING STUDENTS TO TREAT VETERANS

But the Duquesne connection doesn't end with LCSDFV and Connor Green. Reflecting the University's commitment to the veteran community in the region, Green now regularly shares his story with Duquesne's physician assistant (PA) students.

As a social studies teacher at Springdale Junior and Senior High School, Green said helping educate students about veterans benefits both groups.

"Many students don't know how to treat vets, and many veterans don't want to speak about their challenges," he





# A New Room of Their Own

said. “By making it easier to discuss, I’m hoping to prepare these future health professionals so they can better treat the veteran population.”

Such collaboration is what makes the Duquesne experience special—professors working and learning alongside alumni and students to provide a truly unique educational experience.

Invited by PA Assistant Professor Kristyn Lowery, HS’03, GHS’04, Green talks with students as part of the Clinical Medicine III course, which focuses on how to diagnose and treat every medical condition. Bradley accompanies him for these visits.

“It’s a very complicated and intense program that occurs before students begin clinical rotations,” she said. “By having Connor speak to the class, it helps students to understand how to treat a patient, and not just treat the disease.”

Students ask Green a variety of questions, including the challenges for veterans returning home, how he manages his

seizures and, of course, Bradley.

“These discussions are always well received,” Lowery said, noting students and their families send thank you cards to Green after talking with him in class. “They help bring the whole patient to the forefront of the student’s mind.”

“This is a shining example of Duquesne alumni, staff and veterans embodying the great motto—*Spiritus est qui vivificat*—It is the Spirit that / who gives life,” said Don Accamando. “Or better yet—those who save lives, one veteran at a time.”

With all this Duquesne energy behind it, Accamando notes the LCSDFV continues to grow. The organization is developing a service dog training location in McDonald, Pa., that will add 50 more dogs each year to the program.

“This will double the number of dogs available to veterans, allowing us to further reduce the number of suicides,” Accamando said. “Thanks to the Duquesne community and other supporters, we truly are making a difference in the lives of our veterans.” ♦

“By making it easier to discuss, I’m hoping to prepare these future health professionals so they can better treat the veteran population.”



Service dogs play an important role in helping veterans mitigate both physical and mental injuries. No veteran with a service dog has committed suicide.

One of the most popular new spaces on campus lets students study, gather, eat and relax—and does so without any walls.

It’s not just the removal of metaphorical barriers. The new Unico Family Pavilion literally has no walls other than the brick structure surrounding its dramatic gas fireplace, for use in colder months.

Dedicated last November, the new pavilion has been popular since even before it was finished.

“We sometimes had to remind people it was still a construction site,” recalls Rod Dobish, associate vice president and chief facilities officer. “People were sitting in there just hanging out on nice weather days.”

Students appreciate the space. “The pavilion is one of my favorite study spots on campus!” says occupational therapy student Chrissy Bober. “I love being able to work outside while still being in such central part of campus.”

Leann Parisi, a biochemistry student, agrees. “I love having a casual place to eat lunch or study with friends with enjoying campus. It’s tucked away but also right in the middle of campus.”

The pavilion had its roots in a time a lot of folks would rather forget. During the heights of the COVID pandemic,

when 6 feet of social distancing was the norm and eating inside was discouraged, Duquesne rented large tents to erect around campus. The tents became the places where students not only took their meals but also informally socialized and studied. Even as social distancing measures were relaxed, the popularity of the tents never waned.

At that point, President Ken Gormley had an idea—why not make one permanent? The University already knew students were always looking for additional spaces and enjoyed the beauty of the campus. Alumnus Dan Unico, B’52, and his son, Ken, E’75, daughter-in-law Sheila, B’81, GHS’94, and their family decided they wanted to help make the vision a reality. Dan, who retired in 2017, his late wife, Joan, and his children operated the Paper Packaging Company for 35 years. Unico knew well how important it was to have a lively campus environment, since for decades he and his wife were a stalwart presence at Duquesne basketball games.

The Unico Family Pavilion now stands across A-Walk from Rooney Field. In addition to its gas fireplace, it also has tables and chairs, speakers for music or events, and is framed

by nearby oaks and a bank of low boxwood and holly shrubs. In a tranquil recess on the lawn behind the pavilion also sits a replica of Michelangelo’s Pietà, for those who wish to admire it or take a moment for quiet reflection.

Or not so quiet—Professor Liz Lev, a leading expert on Italian art in the world and a partner in Duquesne’s Rome campus for many years—created an audio guide to the Pietà for those interested.

On the bright fall day of the dedication, Dan Unico himself helped cut the ribbon, surrounded by family. The Rev. Ray French, C.S.Sp., blessed the space that has been purposely kept out of the University’s space scheduling system.

Why? The point is for students to find their way there, to connect casually, without the strictures of more organized events. The space honors how that happened not so long ago, at a time when connection happened amid challenging circumstances. The pavilion is not exactly a shrine but it is a monument to the community it reflects. ♦







# Century Club Welcomes Three New Members

Three new members were inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni at the President's Dinner during Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 5.

The Century Club was established during Duquesne's 100th anniversary in 1978 to recognize graduates with exemplary records of professional achievement and service to the University and their communities. Only 352 alumni have been admitted to its ranks.

A past Century Club honoree was also presented with the McNulty Service Award, recognizing outstanding continued support of Duquesne since his induction. Named for the University's 10th president, the Rev. Henry McNulty, C.S.Sp., and initially bestowed on him in 1980, the award was presented for only the 30th time this fall.

The new 2024 Century Club members are:

## JAMES N. ANDERSON, M'73

*Professor Emeritus  
Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music,  
Tisch School of the Arts  
New York University*

A Butler County native, Anderson attended Duquesne on a musical performance scholarship, discovering his passion for sound and technology in the school's recording studio. After graduation, he worked as an audio engineer and producer at WDUQ for one year. In 1974, he joined National Public Radio in Washington, D.C., where he engineered broadcast sessions for news programs, documentaries and performances by jazz icons, classical orchestras, folk singers and contemporary composers.

In 1980, Anderson moved to New York to launch his career as a freelance engineer and producer. He has recorded studio albums, live concerts and film scores across a diverse array of genres with the likes of McCoy Tyner, Christian McBride, Arturo Sandoval, Petula Clark, Patricia Barber, John Zorn and hundreds more. In 2003, he became a professor at the prestigious Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music in the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, and in 2008, he was elected president of the Audio Engineering Society.

With his wife and production partner Ulrike Schwarz, Anderson is recognized as a pioneer in the field of immersive audio. Anderson's recordings have received 30 nominations for Grammy and Latin Grammy Awards, winning the top honor 13 times. He has also earned two



Emmy nominations for television work, two Peabody Awards and multiple Alfred I. DuPont Awards for NPR programs, and Gold Awards from the International Radio Festival of New York and the Informational Film Producers of America. He received the Mary Pappert School of Music Distinguished Graduate Award in 2018.

Anderson is a frequent guest lecturer for the Audio Engineering Society and has presented lectures and master classes at Duquesne, the Berklee School of Music, McGill University, Ithaca College, Sibelius Academy in Finland and Tokyo International University.

## ALAN N. BRAVERMAN, ESQ., L'75

*Retired Senior Executive Vice President, General Counsel  
and Secretary  
The Walt Disney Company*

A native of Boston, Braverman enrolled at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University after earning his bachelor's degree at Brandeis University and serving as a VISTA volunteer in Gary, Ind. He earned his J.D. *summa cum laude* and served as editor-in-chief of the *Duquesne Law Review*.

Braverman began his legal career as a clerk for Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas W. Pomeroy, Jr. and joined the Washington, D.C. law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in 1976. Specializing in complex civil and administrative litigation, he became a partner in the firm in 1983.

In 1993, he joined Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. in New York as deputy general counsel. He was senior vice president and general counsel of Cap Cities/ABC when it merged with The Walt Disney Company in 1996. He oversaw the legal affairs of ABC Broadcast Group, ESPN and Disney/ABC Cable as well as labor relations. Braverman moved to California and assumed additional responsibilities as deputy general counsel of Disney in 2000. In 2003, he was named senior executive vice president, general counsel and Secretary, serving as the chief legal officer and overseeing teams of attorneys and professionals responsible for all aspects of Disney's legal affairs and government relations around the world.

Braverman's efforts to promote pro bono work, diversity in the legal profession and civic engagement have been recognized with the Ted Williams Home Run for Humanity Award from the Boston Area Church League, the Bill of Rights Award from the Constitutional Law Foundation, the



American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award and Disney's Executive of the Year award for volunteers.

He has served as a guest lecturer at Duquesne Kline Law, Stanford University Law School, University of Southern California Annenberg School, Brandeis University and the Yale School of Management.

## BENJAMIN A. QUAMINA, M.D., S'60

*Ophthalmologist and Founder  
Urban Eye MD Associates*

The son of immigrants from Trinidad and Jamaica. Quamina grew up in Rochester, N.Y., where a street now bears his mother's name. Inspired by his African-American family doctor, he recognized emerging professional opportunities for people of color and considered medical studies. But he also loved performing music, and found outlets for both passions in Pittsburgh's vibrant jazz community and at Duquesne, where he earned his bachelor's degree. After serving as a medic in the U.S. Army, Quamina earned his M.S. and M.D. at Boston University, where he also completed his ophthalmic internship and residency. Along the way, he participated in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and '70s and, with his wife Dorothy, served as a house parent in group homes for orphaned and troubled adolescents.

Committed to serving the minority community, Quamina founded Urban Eye MD associates, bringing specialized surgical treatment for cataracts and glaucoma to underserved neighborhoods. He has served as medical director of the Ophthalmic Technology program and associate clinical professor of ophthalmology at Boston Medical Center. Quamina held an adjunct clinical faculty appointment with the New England College of Optometry and was the consulting ophthalmologist for Dimock Community Health Center, Dorchester House Multiservice Center and South End Community Health Center.

Among his many honors, Quamina was the first recipient of the City of Boston's Community Clinician Award, which has since been renamed the Benjamin Andre Quamina Award for Community Care. He recently finalized a gift commitment to fund student-run free clinic initiatives in Duquesne's new College of Medicine. His generosity will support outreach to underserved urban areas in Allegheny County.



The McNulty Service Award was presented to:

## JOHN R. MCGINLEY, JR., ESQ., L'68

*Of Counsel, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Chair, Duquesne University Board of Directors*

McGinley, a 2006 Century Club inductee, has made a significant impact on the legal profession, the regional community and Duquesne University. A preeminent trial attorney for more than half a century, he began his career in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, co-founded the firm of Grogan Graffam McGinley, and joined Eckert Seamans as an equity partner in 2002, serving as chairman and pursuing high-profile corporate, business, real estate, professional liability and nonprofit law cases.

McGinley's business interests also include service as chairman of Ballymoney and Company and the Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company and as a director of Wilson-McGinley and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He chaired the Independent Regulatory Review Commission of Pennsylvania from 1994-2006.

McGinley served as board chair of his undergraduate alma mater, St. Bonaventure University and is currently chair of Duquesne University's Board of Directors. He also serves as chair of the Pittsburgh Foundation and formerly served as chair of Mercy Hospital, leading its merger with UPMC in 2008.

Individually and through the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, which he serves as chair, he has supported a wide range of initiatives, including the College of Osteopathic Medicine, empowerment scholarships, the Nursing School's Rita M. McGinley Symposium, facilities for the Psychology Clinic and renovation of the organ in the University Chapel. Among McGinley's numerous honors are the Spiritan Cor Unum Award, Duquesne University Spiritus Award, St. Bonaventure Gaudete Medal, Holy Name Franciscan Province Medal, Thomas Addison Award and the ALI Pennsylvania Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award. ♦



Read more about McGinley's impact on page 38.





# Expanding Educational Horizons for Generations—Duquesne and the G.I. Bill

By Elizabeth Shestak

As a high schooler, Scean Lawhorn, A'20, wanted to be an attorney. But, as he puts it, dreams like that weren't for people like him—a Black man from the Hill District, coming of age in the late 1970s.

"None of that was true, but I believed it," he said.

So, he sought a different path, first entering into the federal Job Corps program for low-income young adults, then enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces.

During his eight years in the military, followed by a few decades working for the Port Authority in Pittsburgh, he never saw himself earning a college degree, let alone a master's. While Duquesne was a familiar presence growing up (he remembers sneaking into nearby campus parties as a young man), he most certainly never imagined he'd be

## EVOLVING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE DAY

The G.I. Bill has taken on many iterations since its inception in 1944, originally called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, and has been used by more than 25 million veterans at institutions across the country. Spanning wars and generations, it has evolved to meet the needs of the day.

Duquesne currently has 288 veteran or active-duty students, of whom 192 are using G.I. Bill benefits, said Christopher Boissonnault, director of the Office for Military and Veteran Students. As a yellow-ribbon school, Duquesne entered into a voluntary agreement with the

As the son of a South Hills widow, there was no chance for Weiss to attend college otherwise, said his family, especially since by the time he graduated he was a married father.

Weiss died in 2006, but not before the "first gen" student saw to it that college would now be the norm, not the exception, for his family: all five of his children earned a bachelor's degree, with two earning doctorates, one in pharmacology from Duquesne. Dr. Patricia Keys, P'80, taught in the School of Pharmacy, retiring in 2020.

The statistics for first-generation college students versus those whose parents have blazed that educational trail are staggering: a Pew research study in 2022 found that 82% of students with college-educated parents graduated with a bachelor's degree, compared with only 26% of first-generation students.

All 12 of Weiss' grandchildren are proof of that, earning at least one secondary degree, if not more.

"We would have had to run away to not go to college," his son Bill Weiss recently shared, only half joking.

## MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

Alysa Ambrose's Navy journey took her across continents, including 30 countries. She was named commanding officer of the warship USS Gravelly—a billion-dollar, 510-foot long, guided-missile destroyer—and was the Navy's first female commander of the five-year old warship.

Following retirement from the Navy after 25 years of service and when the normalcy returned after the pandemic, she was ready to do something for herself—law school, a childhood dream.

**"Duquesne's mission lines up perfectly with the military."**

Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine this year, using Chapter 31 benefits earned from his years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Transitioning from active duty in 2019, it has been a major reason I've been academically successful while able to balance other aspects of my life," he said.

Lawhorn still marvels that he is about to graduate with a master's degree. He is so glad he heeded the instinct to randomly pull off the Boulevard of the Allies back in 2018 and seek out the Veterans Affairs liaison to discuss his options.

"Me going to college period, it was like wow, how can I do this? I was 52 years old," he recalls, when he first started courses at the local community college. "I just heard God saying, don't give up. Don't quit."

For Lawhorn, his bigger goal is to open a counseling center in Homewood.

"Their wounds are deep, and I want to be of service to my people," Lawhorn said. ♦



a student there, let alone a "Double Duker," holding two degrees from the University.

Yet, it's all true. Truer than those beliefs he succumbed to as a teenager. Truths made possible by the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program, a subset of the veteran assistance program known as the G.I. Bill, which funds part, or all, of a veteran's education and training following service.

"I got a late start, and somehow ended up at Duquesne, and that is amazing to me," said Lawhorn, who earned his Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 2020, and will complete his master's in clinical health counseling next spring.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to waive all tuition costs that exceed the national maximum Post-9/11 G.I. Bill reimbursement—ensuring no debt upon graduation for these students.

"Duquesne's mission lines up perfectly with the military," Boissonnault said.

The bill is credited in part for saving Duquesne from imminent closure in the 1940s. The dramatic increase in enrollment with veterans like Robert Weiss, A'50, generated the revenue needed to keep the doors open, and gave Weiss, and countless others, a generational breakthrough in terms of education.

Ambrose toured the Duquesne Kline Law School and, in 2021 within three weeks, she applied, leaned into her veteran benefits and took the LSATs. She graduated from Duquesne Kline Law in May of 2024.

"I know what a huge benefit I have received, and could not imagine needing to be paying back my own school loans as I am about to send my children off to college and have to deal with their loans too," Ambrose said. "I'm quite certain I would not have been able to achieve my schooling dreams without the use availability of these benefits."

Aaron Etelamaki, 28, joined the inaugural class of the





# McGINLEY HALL



# A FORBES AVENUE SURPRISE PARTY

DUQUESNE'S NEWEST STUDENT LIVING OPTION ENLIVENS FORBES CORRIDOR AND HONORS BOARD CHAIR

How can an 11-story apartment building, assembled over months and towering over one of Pittsburgh's main thoroughfares and adjacent to two other new gleaming edifices, be a *surprise*?

When its name is revealed. That's how.

In September, students, alumni, faculty and staff, and members of Duquesne's Board of Directors gathered to cut the ribbon on the brand-new McGinley Hall, named for John R. "Jack" McGinley, Jr.

McGinley himself attended the event. He was prepared to give typical remarks expected of a leader—and not an impromptu speech about accepting the honor of a lifetime, in front of family and friends grateful for his work and students wearing new blue t-shirts emblazoned with his name.

A few weeks before, 364 students moved in as the pioneering group to live in rooms

with enviable views of the city. Designed for juniors, seniors and medical students who may wish to live directly next to the new medical school, the residence is owned and managed by Lumina Properties—the same group that operates two other living facilities on Duquesne's campus, St. Martin's and Brottier halls.

In addition to apartment-like suites and rooms, the residence includes a market, socializing spaces, its own workout facility and more. When it was offered in spring 2024 during room selection, available spaces sold out in hours.

Naming it was more challenging. Lumina invited Duquesne to pick the perfect name for the "Forbes Avenue dorm," as it was called for months.

When President Ken Gormley floated Jack McGinley's name, it all clicked. A 1968 alumnus of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, McGinley has served as chair of Duquesne's Board since 2019, overseeing one of the most turbulent and vibrant periods in the University's history, one that included COVID, the launch of the medical school, the basketball team's A-10 championship, the addition of new programs and increased student interest in attending Duquesne.

He is also widely known in Pittsburgh for his leadership with the Steelers and his community-focused volunteer work chairing organizations including The Rita McGinley Foundation and the Pittsburgh Foundation.

McGinley has aimed his philanthropic support of the University toward students, establishing the McGinley Public Service Fellowships, which encourage law students to work in public service; the McGinley Rice Symposium on Justice for Vulnerable Populations; and an early gift to jumpstart fundraising in support of the medical school.

So Gormley surprised McGinley by unveiling the name "McGinley Hall" on the building, as family and friends streamed out of the building sporting McGinley t-shirts, capping off a perfectly executed ruse.

To complement that announcement, President Gormley named two inaugural McGinley Hall Scholars, each of whom will receive \$10,000 this academic year. These awards will be made annually to two deserving students living in the residence hall, who embody the qualities and devotion to the University of McGinley himself, with a goal of growing the endowment and number of recipients over time. This year's recipients were Christina Nguyen, a physician assistant major, and Aleksey Zahn, who is studying sports information and media, with a minor in digital media arts. ♦



Gormley surprised McGinley by unveiling the name "McGinley Hall" on the building, as family and friends streamed out of the building sporting McGinley t-shirts, capping off a perfectly executed ruse.





# Seen and Heard

FROM FESTIVE CAMPUS EVENTS TO NEWSWORTHY HAPPENINGS, THE DUQUESNE SPIRIT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.



Faculty and staff joined President Gormley at a **Welcome Back BBQ** to celebrate the kick-off of the new fall semester.

The Kline Center is proud that its annual Distinguished Speaker Series event not only brings together judges, lawyers and students to an educational event... but also fosters community and camaraderie...

Kline Center Director Erin Karsman speaks on the impact of the annual **Kline Center Distinguished Speaker Series** event

Duquesne University hosted the **2024 WYEP Summer Music Festival in Schenley Plaza in Oakland, Pa.** in Oakland, Pa.



It's my distinct privilege to confer this special presidential medal upon a wonderful human being and pastoral leader whose life's work has demonstrated a deep commitment to his faith...

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley confers the presidential medal upon the **Most Rev. David A. Zubik, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh**



**International Relations (IR) Club** teamed up with the Honors College to host their first Cultural Dinner for students. It was an opportunity to talk about food as an expression of culture and to learn more about study abroad opportunities at Duquesne.

I look back to 17-year-old me, who would be shocked at what I'm doing now. That's all thanks to Duquesne and this program.

Duquesne student **Kyla Covato** talks about her experience in the Biomedical Engineering program



DU fans bringing the energy to the double-header **women's and men's basketball home openers!**

Given its business and educational institutions, western Pennsylvania has the potential to be a leading innovator in the biotechnology field.

Dr. Don Very, director of the master's degree **Biotechnology Program at Duquesne** and co-PI of **STEMup**, talks about the advantages of Duquesne's location



To get the semester started off well, **Duquesne University Spiritan Campus Ministry** hosted a special rosary prayer for students at the Lourdes Grotto.

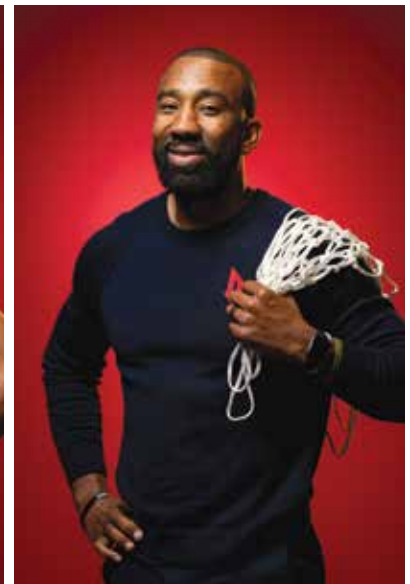


Duquesne celebrated **National Voter Registration Day** with music, sweet treats and two campus gatherings where the campus community had the opportunity to register to vote, check voter registration status and commit to respectful debate.

Whether it's choosing a program, help with military benefits or preparing for post-military life, we understand the unique needs of our active duty, reserve, guard and veteran students.

Christopher Boissonault, director of the University's Office for Military and Veteran Students, discusses **Duquesne's commitment to supporting veteran students**





The Dukes picked up one of their biggest wins in school history with a 28-25 victory at No. 21 Youngstown State as part of their non-conference schedule. The football team looks to defend their Northeast Conference championship and earn a spot in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoffs for the second consecutive year.



Duquesne volleyball celebrated its 50th anniversary as a program in a home match against Fordham and is highlighted by a number of underclass student-athletes, including first-year student, Emerson Schrom. A local product out of Hampton High School, Schrom has claimed multiple Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week honors in 2024.



Duquesne men's soccer is in the thick of the Atlantic 10 championship race behind the exploits of forward Maxi Hopper, who became just the seventh player in program history to eclipse career totals of both 20 goals and 50 points in 2024.



Behind one of the top offenses in NCAA Division I, Duquesne women's soccer got off to its best start in program history with an 8-2 (.800) record through the first 10 games of the 2024 season, including the first 6-0 start ever at Rooney Field. The Dukes have been led by the one-two punch of junior forwards Margey Brown and Brianna Moore.

First-year student Sasha Petrochko has helped the Duquesne women's golf program launch its first NCAA Division I season in 2024-25 with a pair of top 10 finishes individually as well as multiple Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week accolades.

At Homecoming and Family Weekend this past October, people snapped selfies under blue skies on A-Walk, by the burbling fountains, in front of Old Main's soaring chapel spire—and with hardware.

One of the most popular spots this year was a table in front of the Union, which stood three trophies. For all to see were the 2024 Atlantic 10 men's basketball championship trophy as well as the Northeast Conference championship trophies for both football and women's bowling.

If one sentiment echoed again and again, even amid the crowd's roars as the football team smashed its way to victory against Long Island University, it was, let's do this again!

As students, alumni and fans are prepare for another exciting year of men's and women's basketball at Duquesne, here are the fan highlights for what to catch this basketball season.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE

With non-conference play beginning in early November, Atlantic 10 play for the 2024-2025 men's season commences Dec. 31, with the Dukes hosting Rhode Island at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. A quartet of A-10 games for the Duquesne Men's team will be nationally televised, including two at home on CBS Sports Network.

Duquesne is led by Dru Joyce III, who was named the 18th head coach in program history March 28, 2024. Joyce spent the last two seasons as associate head coach and last year helped guide the Dukes to an overall record of 25-12 (.676).

Thanks to four wins in five days at the 2024 Atlantic 10 Championship in Brooklyn, N.Y., the Dukes earned their first automatic berth to the NCAA Championship since 1977. In the first round, Duquesne earned a 71-67 triumph over BYU, helping the program claim its first victory in the NCAA Championship since 1969.

The 2025 Atlantic 10 Championship is set for March 12-15 in Washington, D.C., at Capital One Arena.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NEWS

In August, Duquesne Athletics announced it had signed head women's basketball coach Dan Burt to a four-year contract extensions through the 2027-2028 season. The 2024-2025 campaign will mark his 18th as part of the coaching staff with the Dukes, including his 12th as head coach.

The all-time winningest coach in program history, Burt has had unprecedented success in both the Atlantic 10 Conference as well as nationally. In 2023-2024, Burt led the Dukes to 21 wins, the sixth most in school history while posting his seventh 20-win campaign.

"Our women's basketball team members represent what is best about our program," Burt said. "Our Duquesne women are a polestar for any young athlete who aspires to be their best. I am incredibly lucky and filled with pride to represent such a great university and to work with outstanding young women."

Game schedules for both teams can be found online at [goduquesne.com](http://goduquesne.com). ♦





# Bluff in Brief

DUQUESNE  
PEOPLE AND  
PLACES ARE  
ABOUT THOSE  
MOMENTS  
THAT MOVE  
YOU TO A NEW  
AND CLEARER  
VANTAGE POINT;  
THESE BRIEFS  
EMBRACE  
“BIGGER GOALS”  
IN ACTION.



## GREFENSTETTE CENTER RECEIVES HILLMAN FOUNDATION GIFT

Duquesne University's Carl G. Grefenstette Center has received a \$600,000 gift from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation to support the center's mission to research ethical issues confronting society in the intersected fields of science, technology and law.

"This new funding will allow the center to ramp up its work as a pivotal player in the modern field of ethics at a time when rapid technology changes are creating new societal challenges," said President Ken Gormley.

The Grefenstette Center is the first in the world to bring Catholic, Spiritan values and ideals in an ecumenical framework to grapple with the societal challenges in science and technology.

The center runs an annual tech ethics symposium, hosts a student-focused hackathon (hacking4humanity), and regularly supports and publishes new research. Led by Executive Director Dr. John Slattery, the center was recently named part of the National AI Safety Institute Consortium.

Slattery said, "These funds will allow us to expand the impact of the center through more people, research and programs, helping us become a leading national and global voice at the intersection of faith, ethics, science and technology."

[duq.edu/hillman-gift](http://duq.edu/hillman-gift)



## \$1.5 MILLION GRANT EXPANDS TRANSPLANTATION RESEARCH

Duquesne University has received a new \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's Reconstructive Transplant Research Program and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. The grant will expand research into using nanoparticle technology to preserve human limbs for transplantation surgeries.

The grant awarded to Dr. Jelena M. Janjic of Duquesne's School of Pharmacy will create novel preservation strategies for multiple tissue types, including skin, bone, nerves and blood vessels. Preserving tissue is essential for successful transplantation, as several hours can pass before the donor tissue is recovered and transplanted into the patient.

"The proposed technology is a breakthrough advance beyond current standard of care options," said Janjic, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Duquesne and founder and co-director of the University's Chronic Pain Research Consortium. "New preservation strategies that prolong tissue viability for more than 24 hours would allow time to transport tissue across large geographic zones while also improving patient outcomes."

The Duquesne nanotechnology, the first to be created using pharmaceutical Quality by Design (QbD) standards, uses nanoparticles as oxygen carriers. A key benefit of the quality by design process is that the nanoparticles can be manufactured on a large scale, as will be required for clinical use, Janjic said.

Janjic, who created the first inflammatory pain nanomedicine targeted to immune cells, added that reducing tissue damage could extend the donor allocation time and distance of transportation, allowing development of a national matching system for bone marrow and cord blood transplants.

[duq.edu/transplant](http://duq.edu/transplant)



## DUQUESNE WELCOMES NEW SVP FOR STUDENT LIFE, DR. LEANNA FENNEBERG

Announced last fall, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley named Dr. Leanna Fenneberg as the University's new senior vice president of student life. Fenneberg had been selected after a national search that yielded dozens of highly qualified applicants. Effective June 3, Fenneberg joined the leadership team on campus, diving into student life operations, and campus culture and preparing to welcome the new class of students in the fall.

"[Fenneberg's] achievements in promoting co-curricular student success and strengthening inclusive environments align nicely with the goals of Duquesne's strategic plan and the values of our Catholic and Spiritan heritage and mission," said Gormley. "On top of everything else, Leanna is an energetic and enthusiastic leader who will enhance our leadership team and serve as an inspiration to students across campus."

"I could not be more excited to join the Duquesne community," said Fenneberg. "My career in private higher education, much of which in Catholic, mission-driven institutional settings, has led me to a deep appreciation for a holistic education that is integrally aligned with Duquesne's identity."

Fenneberg holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Saint Louis University, a master's of education in student personnel services from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor's of arts in communication and psychology from Marquette University. She and her husband are the parents of two boys.

[duq.edu/Fenneberg](http://duq.edu/Fenneberg)

## Recent Rankings

**#144** among *The Wall Street Journal's College Pulse Best Colleges in the U.S.* The rankings include only the top 12% of colleges in the nation.

**Among Princeton Review's 2025 Best 390** which only includes approximately 10% of four-year institutions across the nation.

**#165** among the nearly 1,500 national colleges and universities evaluated for the 2025 *U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges* list.

*U.S. News & World Report's* highlights for the University this year include:

- # 39 for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing**
- # 62 for the undergraduate engineering programs**
- # 58 in the Best Value Schools—National Universities**



## Fall 2024 New Class Stats:

**1,500** first year students enrolled (from more than 13,300 applicants).

**30%** are First Gen college students

**57%** of enrolling students come from Pennsylvania

**30** students are starting in newest engineering programs

**3.79** Average GPA of incoming class

**70%** increase, year-to-year, in diversity among student population



# Alumni Updates

## 1950s

**Samuel J. Hazo, Ph.D., GA'55**, was honored at the 45th annual Common Wealth Awards of Distinguished Service. Spanning six decades and circling the globe, Hazo's works include poetry, fiction, drama, essays and various works of translation. He is the McAnulty Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Duquesne and served for 10 years as Pennsylvania's Poet Laureate.

## 1960s

**Robert S. Barker, A'63, L'66, GA'74**, is the author of "El Juicio Político (o 'Impeachment') , en los Estados Unidos," published as a chapter in García Belaunde et al., *El Juicio Político en el Perú...*(Lima: Instituto Pacífico, 2002 [2024]). Barker is a professor emeritus at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

## 1970s

**Mark T. Fatla, Esq., A'79, L'82**, published *Pittsburgh's Historic Ballparks* through Arcadia Press in 2023. He is scheduled to publish *Pittsburgh's Historic Stadiums and Arenas* in 2025.

**Paul Gaglia, E'73**, published his first book, *Four Front Doors of a Successful Business*, which explores the importance to current and future customers of a business's leadership, people and physical facilities.

## 1980s

**John C. Schmidt, A'80**, was inducted into the Irvington (N.J.) High School Athletics Hall of Fame, as a member of the school's historic 1975 football team.

**Bruce S. Zero, Esq., L'84**, was appointed by the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security for a term of two years commencing April 1, 2024. Zero, a partner at Powell Zero Mundy, has 39 years of extensive civil litigation and trial experience in state and federal courts in the areas of motor vehicle and truck accidents, product liability, medical malpractice, and workplace injuries.

**W. Grant Scott, Esq., L'87**, chair of the Real Estate and Lending Group of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, was elected a Fellow in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL) this spring. ACREL is the select national association of preeminent commercial real estate lawyers.

## 1990s

**William F. Caye, II, Esq., A'90, L'93**, recently celebrated his 30th anniversary in the practice of law, launched a private regional consulting venture, and was elected by the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame as senior regional vice president for western Pennsylvania. Caye is of Counsel at OGC Law, LLC, in Mt. Lebanon, Pa.

**Karen (Mascio) Romano, B'98, L'01**, was named chief counsel for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). PASSHE is the largest higher education provider in Pennsylvania with 10 universities and 14 campuses.

## 2000s

**Kenneth English, A'01**, was elected to the Superior Court in Sonoma County, Calif. on March 5, 2024.

**Heather Gray, GA'02**, is a co-founder of Silent Visual Media, a two-thirds deaf-owned production company based in Pittsburgh. Gray was an executive producer

and co-host for *SignTasTic*, a game show that boasts America's first deaf television host and promotes bridging the gap between the deaf and hearing worlds. Season One was signed to VSYN+ (a new streaming platform for global signed languages) and will release 11 episodes in 2024. Learn more at silentvisualmedia.com.

**Rachel (Moskovitz) Lerman, GP'02**, recently became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Lerman is director of pharmacy with University Hospitals of Cleveland in Ohio.

**Hayley Gallagher Wilds, A'03**, is a psychotherapist with more than two decades of clinical experience and has her own practice, the Center for Creative Counseling, specializing in therapy for moms, including art therapy, family therapy and grief counseling. Her new book, *Creative Healing for Pregnancy Loss*, is an art therapy-informed guided journal to help women heal after pregnancy and infant loss.

**Rev. Kevin Dennis O'Connor, A'03**, was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, C.S., Bishop of Charleston, S.C. on Aug. 17.

**Josue Batista, GB'05, GB'06**, recently published a book on

Generative AI with the sponsorship of Packt Publishing (Birmingham, UK). The book is currently available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

**Dr. Bryan O'Black, E'06, GE'08, GE'14**, was named superintendent of the Shaler Area School District. O'Black previously served for 15 years in the Shaler schools as technology director, curriculum director, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. He is currently president of the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

**Rebecca Burkett-Smith, GP'08**, was the keynote speaker on "Polypharmacy for Women" at the PennWest Clarion University Women's Health Symposium. Burkett-Smith is the Pharmacy Manager at The Medicine Shoppe in Brookville, Pa.

## 2010s

**Jessica Walter, GA'11**, published a new book, *Shifting the Energy: How Love Leads Remarkable Teams*, which is available on Amazon and Audible. Her research included input from more than 200,000 employees from a variety of job types, industries and locations, translating the insights

from her study into a model of society's new requirements for work life and a new leadership system.

**Connor Evans, S'18**, graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in November 2023. He is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow at UT Health San Antonio.

## Marriages

**Annaliese Elizabeth Kaucic, A'15**, married Timothy Finnerty on May 25, 2024

**Anna Isabelle Marsh, N'19**, and **Connor Evans, S'18**, were married in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Duquesne on Dec. 2, 2023.

**Victoria Beatrice Tepe, HS'20, GHS'21**, married Zachary Michael Nahorski on April 27, 2024.

**Emma Patrice Mangis, B'21**, married James Stephen Blaszkiewicz on May 11, 2024.

## Births

**Zaria Drewenskus, B'14**, and **Eric Drewenskus, B'12**, welcomed their second child, Eva, on May 5, 2024.

## In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following alumni and friends who recently passed away. This list is provided through Duquesne's Advancement Services office and includes deaths reported to us between Jan. 16, 2023, and July 31, 2024. If you have information about an alumnus or friend who is not listed, please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at (412) 396-6209 or [alumnionline@duq.edu](mailto:alumnionline@duq.edu).

### Deceased Alumni from Jan. 16-July 31, 2024

The Hon. Austin J. Murphy, A'49  
John T. Walsh, Jr., B'49

John N. McCensky, B'50  
Jason Rosenberg, A'50  
Nancy A. Huckestein, E'51  
Lois R. Wilson, E'51, GE'78  
Virginia G. Kudla, E'52, GE'78  
Steve L. Marlowe, B'52  
Francis A. Giovannitti, A'53  
John J. Slavoski, P'53  
Mary Ann Zappala, E'53, GE'80  
B. Mark Chernoff, Esq., L'54  
Roy J. Mackrell, B'54  
Marion Maola, M'54, GM'61  
Morton Markowitz, Esq., L'54  
William J. Wiseman, B'54  
Lorraine A. Bilich, B'55  
Maureen J. Boyle, A'55  
Frank J. Deli, P'55  
Bernard J. Frey, B'55  
Richard D. Maley, B'55  
John W. Sommer, B'55  
Frank Windelin Lamm, B'56  
Frank L. Leta, B'56  
Paul J. Lojpersberger, B'56  
Dr. Hugo A. Magliocco, M'56  
Shirley J. Rosa, M'56  
Joseph R. Bogden, P'57  
Dr. Yuan L. Chow, Ph.D., GS'57  
Maryann D. Cochran, A'57  
Mary Ellen Nienstedt, A'57  
Robert J. Schuler, B'57  
Stanley Z. White, B'57  
Kathleen J. Freismuth, B'58, GE'68  
Frank C. Rote, Esq., L'58  
Joseph A. Seitz, Jr., A'58  
Barbara A. Siegfried, A'58  
Elizabeth R. Srock, N'58  
John C. Thomson, P'58, GA'67  
Frederick J. Colabrese, P'59  
Mary E. DePra, GM'59  
William R. Jackson, E'59  
Sr. M. Margaret Paliotte, CDP, E'59  
James A. Sninsky, B'59  
Robert M. Gressler, B'60  
Frank E. Roberts, P'60  
Ronald H. Shakely, Esq., L'60  
Mary B. Anninos, E'61

## In MEMORIAM

**Sylvan M. Holzer, A'70**, died June 16 in Upper Saint Clair, Pa. at age 75. After earning his degree in economics, Holzer joined PNC Bank as a management trainee and spent his entire 45-year career with PNC, retiring as Pittsburgh regional president in 2016. Renowned for his civic leadership, Holzer served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the University of Pittsburgh, Hillman Cancer Center, Children's Hospital Foundation, Pittsburgh Opera, Fred Rogers Foundation and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Holzer was enshrined in the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 1997.

**The Hon. Austin J. Murphy, Jr., A'49**, passed away April 13 in Carroll Township, Pa. at age 96. One of the many military veterans to enroll at Duquesne after World War II, he later earned a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1958 and the state Senate in 1970, and won election to the United States House of Representatives in 1976. Known for his focus on employment, labor and Social Security issues, he retired from office in 1995. Murphy was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni in 1983.

**Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.** died May 13 in Pittsburgh at age 93. A world-renowned forensic pathologist, Wecht performed tens of thousands of postmortem examinations as Allegheny County Coroner and as a consultant in high-profile cases including the John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinations, the O.J. Simpson and Menendez Brothers prosecutions, and the deaths of Kurt Cobain, Elvis Presley and JonBenet Ramsey. Wecht taught at Duquesne for more than 60 years, founded the University's Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law, and donated his collection of forensic science books, journals and case files to the University's Gumberg Library in 2023.

Eleanor S. Gentile, E'61, GE'64	James F. Farrell, Sr., B'63
Clifford J. Harvison, A'61	Leo J. Hegner, P'63
Joseph P. McGarry, GS'61	Paul J. Ianni, GE'63
Claire B. Vergot, E'61	Richard N. Orzechowski, B'63
Paul A. Beck, Esq., L'62	William J. Bauer, B'64
LTC Joseph R. Blatnica, USA, Ret., B'62	Douglas B. Broglie, E'64, GE'70
Thomas A. Davies, GE'62	Ralph A. Holzer, E'64
David M. Flynn, GB'62	Thomas C. Knee, Ph.D., A'64, GA'72
Mary Kay Graziano, E'62	Joseph D. Kralicky, B'64
Raymond F. Keisling, Esq., L'62	John J. Morack, Ph.D., GE'64
Dr. Peter P. O'Donnell, GE'62	Juliana D. Stancik, A'64
Ronald L. Spero, B'62	Carol A. Zomok, A'64
Sr. Dolores Ann Therasse, E'62	Joseph M. Alfery, B'65
Paul F. Buehler, B'63	David K. Ault, A'65
Donald L. Crowley, Esq., A'63	Fr. Thomas R. Carroll, A'65
	Sr. Madeline Henry, GE'65



Alexander C. Kuklinski, P'65  
 Patricia A. Seibel, Ph.D., E'65  
 Helen Claire Wolf, GE'65  
 Kathleen M. Aleva, E'66  
 Edward H. Jones, Pharm.D., P'66, P'71  
 Barbara A. Logero, GE'66  
 Thomas J. Monheim, B'66  
 Patricia J. Pratkanis, E'66  
 John W. Varoscak, GE'66  
 Robert Harvey Ax, E'67  
 Judith E. Doerr, Ph.D., A'67  
 Robert T. Flynn, B'67  
 Raymond F. Jones, GE'67  
 Richard K. Oliver, A'67  
 Gretchen R. Stiehl, GE'67  
 Charles Willison, B'67  
 Joanne M. Barnhart, N'68, GE'73  
 Gail Brent, N'68  
 Judith L. Crawford, E'68  
 Gregory Danese, Esq., S'68, L'73  
 Robert C. Dilks, GB'68  
 Joseph M. Donadieu, GA'68  
 Jay T. Gould, A'68, GA'73  
 Joseph J. Hensler, A'68  
 Dr. Emil A. Magel, E'68, GA'70  
 Dianne E. Nolte, E'68  
 William J. Szymkowiak, E'68, GE'72  
 Richard M. Dwyer, E'69  
 Howard A. Grove, B'69  
 Thomas W. Hauck, Jr., A;69

James Ladson, B'69  
 Thomas G. Lemons, Esq., GB'69, L'74  
 Robert J. Opat, GE'69  
 Jacquelyn J. Schechter, Ph.D., A'69  
 Ms. Carol B. Stauffer, GE'69  
 Antoinette Stillitano, GE'69  
 Michael T. Thorsen, M'69  
 Michelle C. Chaido, M.S.W., A'70  
 Jack L. Cherkin, Esq., L'70  
 Val S. Ferretti, A'70, GE'73  
 Sylvan M. Holzer, A'70  
 David J. Horn, GE'70  
 Eugene R. Mariani, GE'70  
 Georgene A. Ritter, E'70  
 Neal T. Ryan, B'70  
 Roberta Sinclair, E'70  
 Margaret M. Bechtold, GE'71  
 James D. Black, A'71  
 Sr. Mary Grace Carlisano, CDP, GE'71  
 Rolando Giustini, A'71  
 J. Alan Johnson, Esq., L'71  
 Jane Ma, GS'71, GS'80  
 Raymond A. McGowan, B'71  
 David A. Presser, Esq., A'71, L'87  
 Ruth H. Rapetti, GE'71  
 Sr. Sheila A. Rooney, OLC, GE'71  
 George M. Sabo, B'71  
 Gerard F. Tozzi, S'71  
 James F. Barrett, GE'72, GA'75  
 Raymond T. Blackham, Jr., GB'72  
 Constance E. Bradley, N'72

Richard A. Carroll, D.D.S., P'72  
 Roger J. Gaydos, Esq., L'72  
 Gene Francis Gorman, GE'72  
 Robert T. Gownley, Jr., Esq., L'72  
 Edmund J. Kowalski, A'72  
 Keith H. Krystyniak, B'72  
 Dorothy Medic, GE'72  
 Nathaniel Miljus, Jr., GB'72  
 James A. Pagliaro, Jr., A'72  
 Rudolph J. Pallan, GB'72  
 Donald D. Solomon, A'72  
 Richard K. Dudley, GE'73  
 Kathleen J. Hansen, M'73  
 Diana M. Machi, E'73  
 Edward L. Nebiolo, B'73  
 The Hon. John W. Peck, L'73  
 Dr. Peter Paul Perla, A'73  
 Marijean Roussel-Dupre, N'73  
 John T. Schmidt, Esq., A'73  
 Lillian Shinohara, GE'73  
 Yvonne B. Sozek, A'73  
 Stephen H. Zinsi, GE'73  
 Bart J. Gardina, A'74  
 Deborah A. Ketterer, GE'74  
 W. Harry Moore, E'74  
 Rev. James W. Odenheimer, A'74  
 Robert Panconi, P'74  
 Allen David Staursky, B'74  
 Mary Walker, E'74  
 Frederick H. Wolken, P'74  
 Carl J. Axelson, B'75  
 James R. Bucci, GB'75  
 James R. Collieran, B'75  
 Judith A. Cox, E'75  
 Carolyn N. Gabos, GE'75  
 Thomas J. Gorman, E'75  
 Lorraine M. Holliday, GE'75  
 Charles J. Morris, Esq., L'75  
 Diane J. Patton, A'75, GE'82  
 James A. Vertullo, E'75  
 Harry W. Graff, GA'76  
 Susan H. Redfield, GE'76  
 David L. Schmitt, Esq., L'76  
 George A. Verlihay, Esq., L'76  
 Marlene A. Bisker, N'77  
 David V. Breen, Esq., L'77


William P. Fodiak, A'77  
 Bernard D. Freyberg, Ph.D., GA'77  
 Fr. James D. Munsch, OSB, GA'77  
 Kevin J. Altomari, A'78  
 William F. Miller, GE'78  
 Lt. Col. George Munkachy, A'78  
 Jack L. Smedley, GB'78  
 Russell M. Griffiths, E'79  
 Sr. Maliya Hock, CSJ, GE'67, GA'79  
 Roberta F. Bahm, B'79, GB'81  
 Michael K. Hankins, N'80  
 Karen M. Mrazik, N'80  
 Anne S. Radvansky, N'80  
 E. Denise Shean, A'80  
 Larry C. Victum, Esq., L'80  
 Charles G. Haugh, E'81  
 Mark L. Heverley, M'81  
 John R. Shaffer, Esq., L'81  
 Sr. M. Joyce Burkhart, GE'82  
 Kathryn J. Cioletti, S'82  
 Sr. Germaine C. Goyette, GA'82  
 Emma L. Peters, B'82, GB'94  
 Terence M. Scholze, B'82  
 Diane E. Clark, Esq., L'83  
 Nancy J. Knowlton, B'83  
 Michael M. Medlin, GE'83  
 Teresa A. Politano, A'83  
 Sr. Charlene Vogel, OP, GA'83  
 John R. Evancho, A'84  
 Christopher A. Lucca, GA'84  
 Jeffrey P. Mustovic, P'84  
 Cathy C. Questiaux, GB'84  
 Rev. James J. Caldarella, Jr., GA'85  
 Grace T. Harding, GE'85  
 Cynthia A. Headlee, P'85  
 Andrew C. Hughey, Esq., L'85  
 Rebecca J. Gardner, GA'86  
 Clyde A. Bonar, Ph.D., GA'87, GA'90  
 Natalie L. Cardiello, Esq., L'87  
 Lisa C. Flowers, A'87  
 Christopher H. Gebhardt, Esq., L'87  
 Susan Mahood Barone, Esq., L'87  
 Pauline Mullins, GA'87  
 Karen Lynn Myers, Esq., L'87  
 Michael A. Ledonne, B'89  
 Kristin M. Smith, Esq., E'89

Jennie K. Bullard, L'90  
 Richard P. Foster, B'91  
 Deanna L. Shingleton, S'91, GS'97  
 Marc R. Belo, A'92  
 Kimberly DeBald, GE'92  
 Janet Adams, GE'93  
 Roy S. Campbell, GE'94  
 Cynthia M. Cook, GE'94  
 Joel S. Colinear, N'95  
 Worth Mclendel Helms, GE'95  
 Cathy J. Peoples, B'95  
 Michael R. Keefe, GE'96  
 Harold W. Woodburn, GE'96  
 James A. Brown, GA'97  
 Grace Ghirardi, GE'98  
 Mary Rose Hensel, GE'98  
 Leslie E. Niepp, GB'99  
 Gregory M. Calig, GB'00  
 Lauretta B. Stanley, A'01  
 Patti M. Tyskewicz, GE'01  
 Helen F. Henke, Ed.D., GE'91, GE'02  
 Aubrey Mooney, E'02  
 John M. Bialon, GB'03  
 John A. Marlin, A'03  
 Vicki J. Lyons, A'04  
 Robert F. Flannery, III, A'05  
 Rachel M. Potts, HS'10, GHS'11

Tanya Beard, DNP, GN'14  
 David Gentile, GE'14  
 Antoinette Hanik, GN'20  
**Deceased Friends from Jan. 16-July 31, 2024**  
 Craig R. Andersson  
 John Andrejchak  
 Anthony Barton, Ph.D.  
 Timothy J. Boyle  
 Joseph M. Camillo  
 Jonas Chaney  
 K. Thomas R. Davies, Ph.D.  
 Shirley M. Destout  
 Bruce E. Ehnerd  
 Anna E. Elsner  
 William Fischer  
 Dr. Robert L. Furman  
 A. Joan Gunn  
 David P. Hanson  
 Margaret R. Hicks, Ph.D.  
 Teresa M. Hopkinson  
 Jean Pierre Lamarre  
 John MacFadyen  
 Joanne Malenock  
 Henry E. Mannella  
 Roy Matthews

Dr. Kathleen Miller  
 Norman Miller  
 Allen R. Negri  
 David W. Pentico, Ph.D.

Lewis Steele  
 Kathleen A. Taylor, Ph.D.  
 Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.  
 Gary Winkler



**Check out [www.myduquesne.duq.edu/events](http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu/events) for more information on upcoming virtual and in-person events that will be scheduled. Alumni also can visit [duq.edu/alumni](http://duq.edu/alumni) for the latest details on what's happening at Duquesne, events and how to get involved and stay connected.**

**Submit Alumni Updates or a Photo**

*Alumni Updates, online and in print, are an opportunity for alumni to share personal and professional news and accomplishments. Members of our alumni community are invited to log into [www.myduquesne.duq.edu/alumninews](http://www.myduquesne.duq.edu/alumninews) to tell us and others about a recent job change, promotion, award, publication, marriage, new family member, reunion or anniversary.*

*Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All submissions will be available online; however, space limitations prohibit us from including all alumni updates in our magazine.*



**SAVE THE DATE: 2/5/25**  
**TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

Join alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and friends in pursuing BIGGER GOALS!

**[duq.edu/dayofgiving](http://duq.edu/dayofgiving)**







## Know a student thinking about potential majors? Do they have a career path, but need to learn how to make it possible?



### IF SO, REFER A STUDENT.

Duquesne encourages students to **discover and shape their path to success** using our integrated program of academic exploration, career planning and professional development that is designed to help them:

- **Discover their** interests, strengths, values and passions
- **Shape their future** career paths, consider social and community impact and think about their goals and purpose

**A dedicated network** of student success coaches, faculty advisors, career planning and development counselors, wellbeing and health advocates, financial aid counselors, alumni mentors and others will walk alongside them on their path to success at Duquesne and beyond.



Contact us at [admissions@duq.edu](mailto:admissions@duq.edu) to get your student started. Be sure to include Student Referral in the subject line. Or, call us at **412-396-6222** to speak to an admissions rep or schedule a visit to campus.