

Duquesne

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2024



MEDICAL SCHOOL OPENS!

THE DUQUESNE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES A 100-YEAR GOAL

PLUS:
CELEBRATING A HISTORIC
YEAR IN ATHLETICS

In this issue: A Mission to Mars ♦ Making it to the Show

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Check out new *Duquesne University Magazine* videos at duq.edu/magazine highlighting: the College of Osteopathic Medicine ribbon-cutting.

Thoughts from the President

Earlier this semester, on the coldest day of January, the University cut the ribbon for our new College of Osteopathic Medicine. On the pages of this magazine, you'll read about that historic grand opening, and how the new College will advance Duquesne's commitment to bridge gaps in healthcare access, mirroring the legacy of our visionary founders.

Our mission extends far beyond our city and our region. Don't miss the story about our Spiritan Campus Ministry's recent trip to rural West Virginia. Our students' lives and career paths are transformed as they are called to serve the needs of individuals in communities across our nation and around the world.

Speaking of traveling, never before have I experienced the magic of school spirit like I did in Brooklyn, N.Y., during the NCAA Tournament, as we celebrated our men's basketball team's triumph as Atlantic 10 Conference champions—and later in Omaha, Neb. as we cheered them on to their first NCAA tournament win since 1969. Those remarkable student athletes, and our other phenomenal athletic teams—including our football team, the reigning Northeast Conference champions—exemplify the resilience and unity that define our University. You'll find those stories here, too.

Behind each athlete is a cadre of unsung heroes who stride purposefully across the fields, courts and tracks. They're the first responders to a sprained ankle, and they serve as the architects of recovery. I'm talking about athletic trainers, and we've caught up with Duquesne alums who serve in those important roles for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates. Read why they describe their Duquesne education as "top-notch" and pivotal for their careers.

These stories and many others detail Duquesne as a crucible of transformation. Our students arrive on our campus with dreams, aspirations and the courage to forge new paths. They come seeking knowledge, but they leave with something far greater—a sense of purpose, a community where they feel proud to belong and the tools to reach for bigger goals each day. ♦

Sincerely,

Ken Gormley
Duquesne University President



AS YOU READ...

...you will see the icons below on many stories. They reflect the imperatives of *Re-Imagining Duquesne's Spiritan Legacy for a New Era: Strategic Plan*. 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.

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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CORRECTION: In the Fall '23 issue of the *Duquesne University Magazine* the program that Duquesne's School of Education used to find a Spring breakaway opportunity in New Mexico was Indiana University's Global Gateway for Teachers.

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Afghan Siblings Find Hope

And strive to reach their bigger goals at Duquesne

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Making it to The Show

Athletic training alumni make in impact on Pittsburgh professional sports teams



COLD OPEN

ON THE COLDEST DAY OF THE YEAR, DUQUESNE'S NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL GOT A WARM OPENING.

By Gabriel Welsch



The red scarves were the first to go. A giveaway for celebrating the opening of Duquesne's new College of Osteopathic Medicine, guests heading into the sub-zero windchill of a gusty Forbes Avenue snapped up the timely items after their first tour of the brand new 80,000-square-foot-facility.

The new car magnets, journals, commemorative coins and, yes, mini-first-aid kits (suitable for clipping to backpacks) were also popular, particularly with students who later got their first look at the building thanks to a Student Government Association open house—but the scarves proved most useful that day. Faculty and staff collected journals and magnets on the cheery day a century in the making.

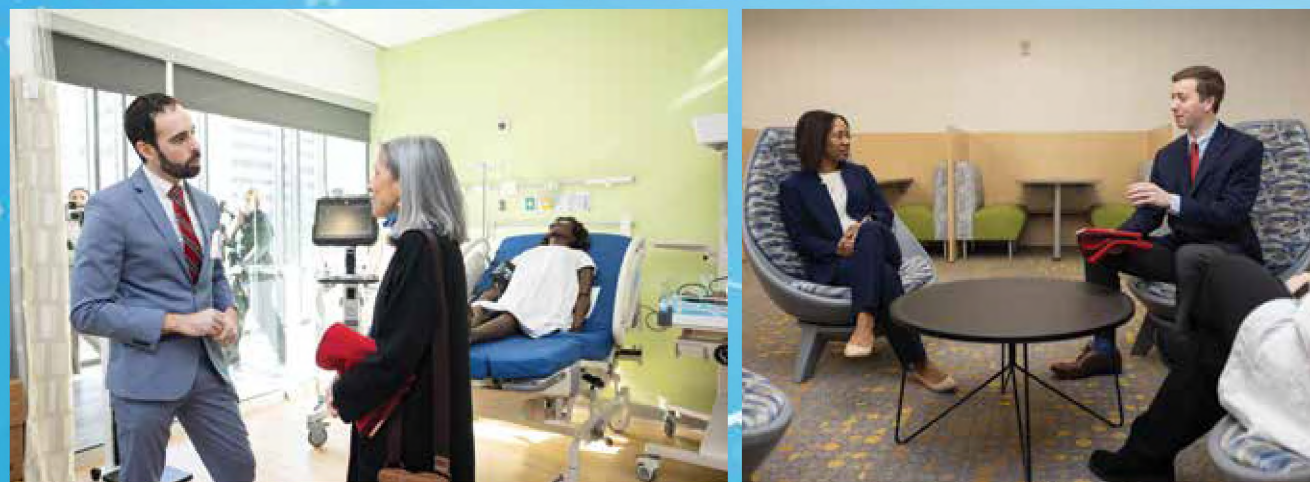
On Jan. 17, under a blue sky as bright as it was cold, a small group departed Old Main's doors under the sculpted gaze of Father Joseph Strub. Two students—Rose Trimpey-Warhaftig and Jacob Dimenbort—carried a banner with

words imagined more than 100 years earlier: College of Medicine.

The two students were among the first admitted to the medical school's inaugural class. Their journey toward their doctor of osteopathic medicine degree starts officially in July 2024, but both have roots at Duquesne. For Rose, it was her family—her parents are both from Pittsburgh and visit often. For Jacob, earning his master's of biomedical sciences at Duquesne, he'd had the chance to watch the building evolve from a deep hole into a gleaming façade over many months.

Walking alongside them, President Ken Gormley, board chairman Jack McGinley, Dean John Kaufmann, Provost David Dausey and The Rev. William (Bill) Cristy, C.S.Sp., started the symbolic procession from Duquesne's oldest building to its newest.





Scenes from Ribbon Cutting day—COM faculty interact with VIPs, students and campus partners to celebrate the opening of the new College of Medicine building.



(L-R) The Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp., director of campus ministry and University chaplain; Dr. Jennifer Elliott, Ed and Karen Fritzky Family Chair in Integrative Medicine and Wellbeing; Sylvia Fields, executive director, Eden Hall Foundation; Dr. Debra L. Bogen, acting secretary of health of Pennsylvania; Dr. David Dausey, executive vice president and provost; Austin Davis, lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania; Dr. John Kauffman, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine; Rose Trimpey-Warhaftig; President Ken Gormley; Jacob Dimenbort; Jack McGinley, chair, Duquesne University Board of Directors; Sara Innamorato, Allegheny County executive; the Honorable Jay Costa, Pennsylvania state senator; the Honorable Wayne Fontana, Pennsylvania state senator; Diane Hupp, vice-chair, Duquesne University Board of Directors; Bill Generett, senior vice president of civic engagement and external relations; The Rev. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp., senior advisor to the president for Spiritan mission and campus culture.

“...the College of Medicine will graduate students who are capable of exhibiting the compassion that is required in working with an aging population”

Despite the wind chill advisory that day on the Bluff, deans from every school and college joined the procession, along with students from each school whose work somehow touched medicine—whether as music therapists or health ethicists, future nurses or health care attorneys—until turning the corner at the end of Academic Walk to proceed to the medical school.

Invited guests streamed out of the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse to join them, including Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis; Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Debra Bogen and Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato. When the procession arrived at Forbes Avenue, the rush of traffic stilled as lights from Pittsburgh EMS vehicles flashed. Chatter rose and hundreds crossed the street to enter the building—the largest crowd yet to enter the space that will educate generations of physicians.

Over the next hour, dignitaries shared their enthusiasm for the medical school’s potential and their pride in helping

to make it a reality. Sylvia Fields, executive director of Pittsburgh’s Eden Hall Foundation, thanked those involved in starting the medical school for the promise of future doctors committed to serving others.

“The University’s long-standing relationship with Federally Qualified Health Centers alone tells me that the College of Medicine will graduate students who are capable of exhibiting the compassion that is required in working with an aging population,” Fields said, “coupled with the ability to understand and the willingness needed to address deep health disparities that we experience here in Southwestern Pennsylvania.”

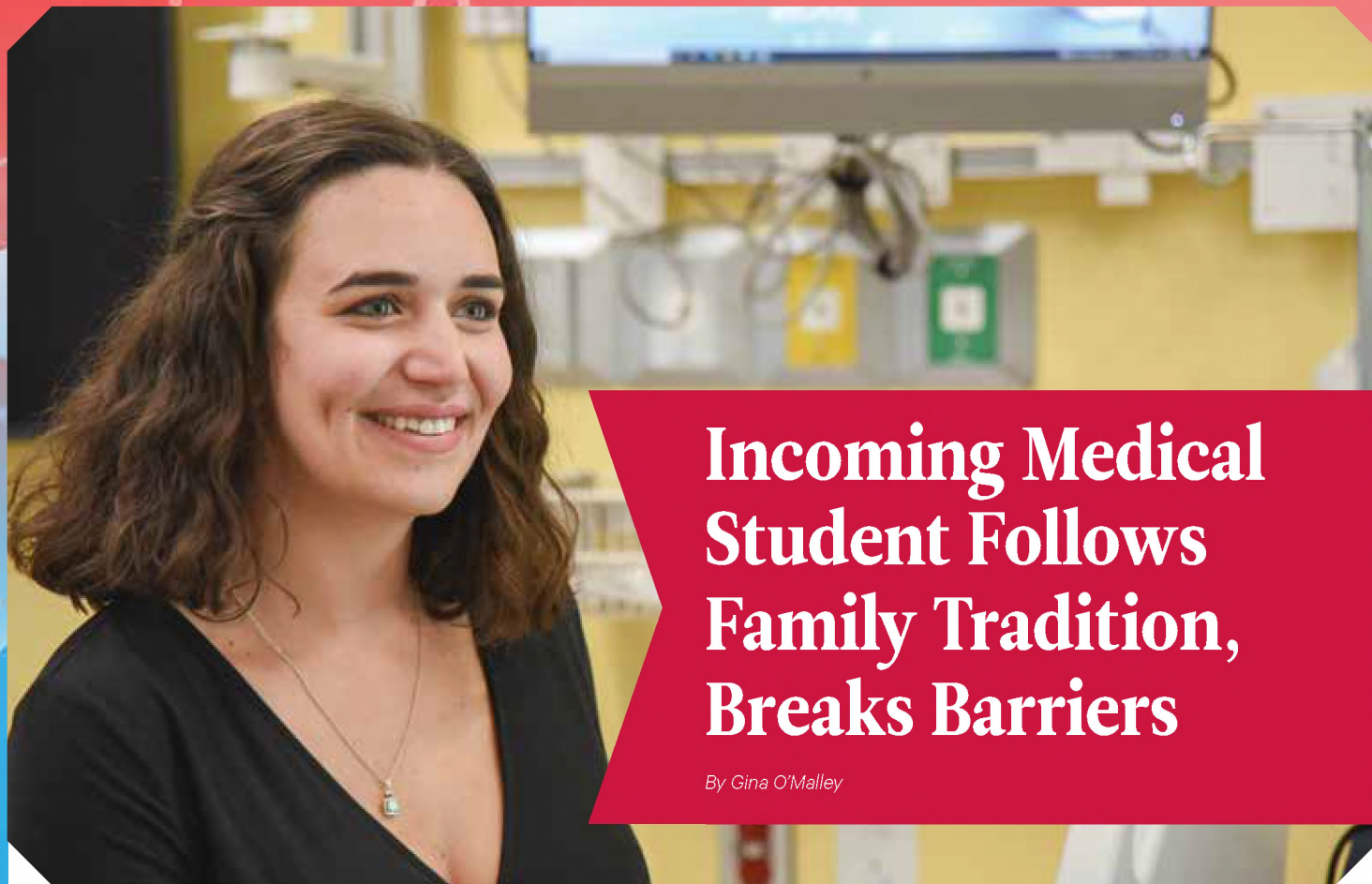
With his hand hovering over a bulbous red button, Dean John Kauffman said, “At every Duquesne University commencement, banners from the schools hang across the stage, in order of their founding. For more than 30 years, nine banners have adorned the stage. From now on, a 10th banner will hang.” He slapped the button, a small crack sounded and applause broke as Duquesne’s 10th school banner unfurled.

“Everyone that I’ve met who has anything to do with the COM has been incredibly impressive, incredibly kind and welcoming,” said Rose. “Everything they want to do fits so clearly with everything that I want to be and do as a physician.”

“It was super exciting to have students here. These are students who will remember this day the rest of their lives,” Kauffman said. ♦



Visit duq.edu/magazine for more on this historic event.



Incoming Medical Student Follows Family Tradition, Breaks Barriers

By Gina O'Malley

Rose Trimpey-Warhaftig has a good sense of what she wants to achieve and the impact she'll make on the world. Though she grew up in North Carolina and earned her undergraduate degree in biology there, she always knew her future would start in Pittsburgh.

"I had a project in eighth grade where I had to say what my life plans were, and I said I wanted to move to Pittsburgh for medical school," she said. "From the moment I first spoke with admissions counselors at Duquesne to now, I've constantly felt wanted and cared for—like I really deserve this."

Rose was the first student to commit to the new Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her parents are physicians, and the family is familiar with the Bluff. Her mother, Amanda Trimpey, MD, S'90, is a Duquesne alumna, and her sister, Grace Trimpey-Warhaftig, is a second-year student in Duquesne's occupational therapy program.

Learning about the University's strengths from her family gave Rose the confidence to pursue her medical degree at Duquesne.

"The fact that Duquesne has so many other health-related programs played a big role in my decision," she said. "Knowing there are other successful, competitive health programs is a bonus, and I think it provides so much opportunity for collaboration and research."

With plans to pursue family medicine, Rose has a special interest in treating women and children. She grew up

watching her father, a primary care physician, build rapport with his patients and give back to his community.

These are qualities Rose would like to emulate in her own practice. "With family medicine, it's more longitudinal care," she said. "What draws me to it most is you have the same patient base over years and you can build relationships."

Driven by compassion and empathy, Rose knows that studying osteopathic medicine will equip her with the skills needed to take a whole-body treatment approach. "Holistic patient care is so important," she said. "It's a better way to treat a person's individual needs."

A fluent Spanish-speaker, Rose is determined to improve access to medical care and make an even bigger impact on her profession and the people it serves. Her desire to address systemic challenges in health care will make her more open to the lives and journeys of others, creating a future everyone can share.

"There's a huge need for primary care physicians who speak Spanish," she said. "I want to use these skills in my daily work to help eliminate barriers."

Rose is honored to be part of the incoming class and looks forward to learning alongside fellow students and future doctors. She'll arrive at Duquesne after completing graduate studies in physiology in North Carolina this spring.

"I'm so excited to build a community," said Rose. "Pittsburgh is a place where I've always felt like I've belonged." ♦

New Medical School, Fresh Perspectives

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS CAMPUS WILL CONNECT IN MEANINGFUL, PRODUCTIVE WAYS.

By Gina O'Malley

FINDING CELLS SOONER

Kyla Covato was in preschool the first time someone asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up. Her answer? "Everything."

Recognizing her academic strengths of science and math, Covato researched careers where she could use her talents to make a difference and found biomedical engineering.

Her current research focuses on biomedical photoacoustics. In layman's terms, Covato describes the work as "speeding up the detection of any type of cell." This could allow sick patients to receive blood test results faster, and it could lead to earlier detection of diseases like cancer.

Covato looks forward to making discoveries alongside incoming College of Osteopathic Medicine students to make an even bigger impact in her future profession and on the people it serves.

"Biomedical engineering students are behind the scenes creating medical devices and detection methods," she says. "With the medical students we can look at issues they might have and help them discover what we can do about them. I'm excited to collaborate and solve more health issues."



BRINGING HOPE TO CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

Kirstin Franklin knows she's doing challenging, important work.

As a fourth-year doctoral student in Duquesne's school psychology program, she also knows that collaboration can go a long way to help children succeed in the classroom.

"Throughout my career I want to bridge the gap between school systems and kids with chronic illness," she says. "To do this, it's important to bridge the gap between medical providers and a child's school."

"The new College of Osteopathic Medicine will allow school psychology students to interact with medical students and learn how those teams work, while medical students get to learn how school systems work," says Franklin. "It's important to have these multidisciplinary teams working together so their patients—our students—can benefit."

A RUNNING START ON MEANINGFUL CAREER

Iván Del Toro Hernández never narrows his ambitions, and he's on his way to becoming exactly who he's meant to be.

While Del Toro Hernández calls Puerto Rico home, he's grateful for the support he found on the Bluff as he transferred to Duquesne and pivoted from nursing to occupational therapy and pursued his other interests of philosophy and opera.

He looks forward to sharing knowledge with the incoming College of Medicine students.

"We are a more interdisciplinary institution with more professionals coming into the workforce that show the Duquesne spirit," he said. "It's a chance for occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, medical students and more to work with each other sooner."

Del Toro Hernández also looks forward to conducting research alongside medical students and with consulting one another on best practices in patient care.



MUSICIAN-CLINICIAN USES TALENTS TO HEAL

Rachel Anderson plucks individual notes on her guitar while humming softly, keeping a watchful eye on the heart rate monitor next to her. The wires and leads are attached to a premature baby resting in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where she rotates as a music therapy student.

The baby's heart rate is high, and in collaboration with the NICU medical team, Anderson uses the strategies she learned at the Mary Pappert School of Music to help bring it to a safer level.

As Anderson slows her tempo on the guitar, the baby's heart rate decreases—matching her pace.

"I just feel so blessed to be doing this," she says. "It's important for infants in the NICU to create an environment of relaxation."

Anderson knew she wanted to help others and make an impact on the world from a young age. Though she's from Frederick, Md., she also knew she wanted to pursue these aspirations in Pittsburgh after visiting Duquesne in middle school with her aunt, a School of Nursing alumna.

"Even back then I said I was going to Duquesne," says Anderson. "When I decided on music therapy, I found that Duquesne was one of the few schools that offered it. I fell in love with the program."



Anderson is grateful that Duquesne's proximity to numerous hospitals and clinical sites has provided so many hands-on learning opportunities, and she looks forward to connecting with other students in new ways as the Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine welcomes its first class.

"I prioritize a holistic health approach in my own practice and consider physical, emotional and social well-being. It's really exciting that Duquesne is expanding and working to train new professionals in these resources," she says. ♦



Read more student stories at duq.edu/magazine.

NAME THIS MEDICAL SCHOOL!

Many of the colleges and schools at Duquesne have their own shorthand: McAnulty. Rangos. Duquesne Kline. Mary Pappert. While the new medical school was quick to gain its acronym—COM—it has yet to achieve the proper-noun-shorthand status of other schools at the University. That could change—with the right person, the right timing and an individual's extraordinary generosity.

Are you that person? As the Ignite campaign ends its final year and push to raise more than a third of a billion dollars to keep Duquesne's momentum going strong, the University is looking for the right person or entity that may have the resources and vision to help propel Duquesne's newest college. It is literally a once-in-a-century opportunity for philanthropic leadership. To explore the possibility of making a gift to name the medical school, which occupies a prominent spot on Forbes Avenue near the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse and that is expanding and defining the edge of campus, please contact Jim Miller, senior vice president of University Advancement, at millerj@duq.edu.



Hands-On Treatment

DR. BEN QUAMINA'S GIFT WILL SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS—THE LATEST GESTURE IN A LONG HISTORY OF GIVING BACK

"Community work was her thing," Dr. Ben Quamina, S'60, says about his late mother, Millie. "She has a street named for her after years of all her community work." Just north of the city's center, Quamina Drive in Rochester, N.Y., now encloses a neighborhood.

As an ophthalmologist and surgeon, Quamina's distinguished career as a medical practitioner, philanthropist and volunteer was driven by an urge to help others—including his alma mater's launch of the medical school. That urge came from his mother.

Millie taught English to immigrants and helped establish credit unions in underserved areas. In the 1960s, she aided the civil rights movement locally, refusing to enter the back of a city bus in a protest tactic later made famous by Rosa Parks.

His mother's example is meaningful also for what she overcame. Quamina's parents were from Trinidad and Jamaica and met working on the Panama Canal. They moved to Rochester and, when Quamina was still a baby, his father was stabbed and killed during an altercation while trying to help another man.

Still, Quamina recalls that he was "well loved" growing up with grandparents and lots of aunts and uncles in the house. His grandfather was a role model who regularly ensured he went to Mass.

"I had to wear short pants then, knickers, and I hated that," Quamina says. "When I got to the stage when I could wear long pants, I remember pushing out my chest, a sense of joy, feeling like I'm a young *man* now."

He also started to see his future. His physician at the time, Dr. Henry Jordan, was the first to tell him he could be a doctor. Quamina says, "Seeing a doctor of color, and hearing him say that, I thought hey, this *is* possible."

Successful in school, Quamina played sports and music, sang and worked. "The plan was to get me so tired I fell asleep before getting into any issues. When I graduated, I wanted to leave—it was a real corporal need. I wanted wider horizons."

STEEL CITY OR JAZZ CITY?

It turned out Pittsburgh was close, had sports, and for an enthusiastic trumpet player, it also had one of the best jazz scenes in the country. "I wanted to be Miles Davis," Quamina says. "I had lots of confidence."

While studying pre-med at Duquesne, Quamina would take study breaks and climb from campus to one of the destination jazz clubs in the Hill District. With little money to spare, he would sit outside the clubs and listen to the notes and beats thrumming into the street.

The Hill gave him more than music. Quamina was used to taking care of himself and decided he'd also rather cook for himself. He met a Korean War veteran through his fraternity and moved into his house, walking a little under two miles to campus for classes. He also learned to value how the community helped him.

"The many tiny restaurants I frequented were run by people from the South," Quamina recalls. The owners and patrons would tease him. "They said—you *don't* eat much for a college boy. So, they gave me food." He attended Masses in that neighborhood and made friends, connecting with one special person, his future wife, Dorothy.

LEARNING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Quamina says Duquesne prepared him well for medical school, and his experiences in Pittsburgh, added to his family's influence, kindled his desire to give back.

"I've always tried to maintain a balance between making money and making a difference," he says. When he arrived at Boston University, certain of his path in medicine and with his mother's and family's example of volunteering behind him, he looked for opportunity.

BU was adjacent to several row houses at the time that were home to low-income families. Through contacts and friends, he and Dorothy (now married) volunteered at a community center that did outreach and found facilities for kids to study and play after school. That led to people asking if he and Dorothy would work with a half-way house for orphaned adolescents. Soon, the Quaminas lived in a 5-story brownstone in which they worked as house parents and tutored while Quamina attended medical school.

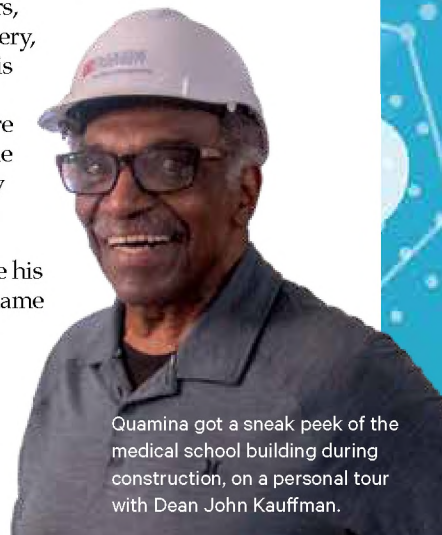
HANDS-ON TREATMENT

Quamina thought research was in his future, that he'd finish an M.D./Ph.D. program. "But I could hear my mother and grandfather telling me to put hands on people," he says. "Get out of the lab and help people." He found his way in clinical ophthalmology.

After the interruption of the Vietnam War, during which he served in the medical corps out of Ft. Sam Houston, he recommitted to service. Practicing in Boston, he also ran clinics for many years, taught ophthalmology and surgery, and cared for his patients and his neighbors.

And just like his mother before him, his name became part of the fabric of his city. In 2014, the city of Boston celebrated "Benjamin Quamina Day" on May 12.

And finally, today, to recognize his generous financial support, his name is on the wall with other donors to the new College of Medicine at Duquesne, his alma mater, recognizing a life of service and giving that will be continued in the work of generations of physicians to come. ♦



Quamina got a sneak peek of the medical school building during construction, on a personal tour with Dean John Kauffman.



More than a Trip

DUQUESNE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE WORLD, DISCOVER THEMSELVES

By Gina O'Malley

“They’re able to communicate and come to terms with differences. That’s so necessary to have compassion and empathy.”

Kelly Leach isn’t afraid to spread her wings or explore the unfamiliar.

The Philadelphia native headed just a few hours west to begin her first year at Duquesne with her sights set on a forensic science and law degree.

When her interests changed, she found a solid support system and quickly realized that Duquesne has the breadth and depth to serve all of her ambitions.

“I was afraid I couldn’t figure out what I wanted to do because I had my heart set on science for so long and realized it just wasn’t for me,” Leach said. “But having supportive academic advisors, professors and people around me really helped along the way.”

Leach found her niche and a passion for history following an internship at Penn Museum. She worked with curators, assisted in the archives and collaborated with archeologists on a dig in West Philadelphia.

Back in the classroom, vibrant conversations and exciting learning spaces contributed to a memorable campus experience for Leach. With faculty walking alongside her, she figured out what she’s good at and how those talents are good for the world.

HORIZON-EXPANDING EXPERIENCES

Now a women and gender studies and history double major, her desire to immerse herself in history inspired her to study abroad in Dublin, Ireland. She was determined to see and learn as much as possible throughout her stay, so she struck out to France and Italy on her own.

“I’ve never traveled before, and the only solo travel I had ever done was to the market,” she joked. “Traveling alone was enlightening. It taught me a lot about myself and solidified my independence.”

Inspired by coursework on Pompeii, Italy, Leach visited the archeological site and “saw history come to life.” Preserved under volcanic ash, the excavated city provided a glimpse into art, architecture and daily life in ancient Rome. Among the artifacts and lost-and-found frescoes, she gained a new and clearer vantage point about life’s fragility, her studies and the larger world.

Leach encourages others to explore their interests and ambitions—even if it means time away from home or on an unexpected path. Her gratitude for these lessons extends to Duquesne staff who gave her the confidence to travel. “With their knowledge and reassurance, I felt safe knowing there was someone to call if I needed help or advice,” she said.

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING... IN 89 DAYS

Alana Sacriponte, A’06, is one of many dedicated staff who connect students with these life-changing opportunities. As assistant director of Duquesne in Rome, she has walked alongside students for 17 years and is an alumna of the program.

“We always tell students to not call this a trip. This is your experience—an academic and personal journey,” said Sacriponte. “Give it words that make it that much more important.”

Duquesne in Rome often attracts students who want to know more about their Italian heritage, while others simply want to see the world. Regardless of their motivation, they grow leaps and bounds overseas.

“Parents frequently visit during spring break,” said Sacriponte. “They sent their kids at the beginning of the semester, and little did they know that by halfway through they would have a new skillset and know how to navigate public transport and communicate in some basic way. They can make plans, organize and coordinate.”

Just as this is a proud moment for parents, it’s a proud moment for students. They’ve developed enduring skills that apply to future careers.

“Students mix with people with different languages and faith backgrounds. They’re able to communicate and come to terms with differences,” said Sacriponte. “That’s so necessary to have compassion and empathy.”

These lessons also prepare students to become problem-solvers.

“They can deal with a train strike and figure out how to return from Paris to Rome with a limited budget,” said Sacriponte. “These limitless talents set them apart.”

And all of this can be accomplished in a matter of months.

“It is magical how much can be done in the length of the Duquesne in Rome program—89 days. It’s so short, but they accomplish so much.” ♦



RESTING IN PEACE

LEARNING TOGETHER HELPED BRING CLOSURE TO A VETERAN’S FAMILY

By Elizabeth Shestak

No one knows exactly how Pvt. Alfred W. Graham died during his tour in Italy. The military didn’t offer any details to his family back in Johnstown, Pa. All they were told in 1944 was that he died on Jan. 31 in the Battle of Anzio. By the family’s wishes, he was laid to rest with nearly 7,900 other American soldiers in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery outside Rome.

No one from his family attended the burial, nor ever visited his grave—that is, until last spring.

Each semester, Duquesne students who study at the Rome campus take an Intercultural Awareness and Exploration course. A central part of the course involves the “Be the Difference—Never Again” project, where students pair up to profile an American soldier buried in the nearby memorial military cemetery.

Duquesne physician’s assistant student Megan Stevens, HS ’25, had heard stories about her grandfather’s brother who died in service during WWII, but as her grandfather was the youngest of 13, what she mainly knew was that it was unfortunate no one was ever able to visit his brother’s grave.

While studying a semester abroad, Stevens received her assignment to profile one of the soldiers, and something clicked in her memory—was her relative among those souls interred outside Rome?

Stevens was paired with an Italian student named Ricardo, and they dove into the research... ♦



Read the full story at duq.edu/magazine.



Something Really Special Here

By Rose Ravasio, A '90

A year into her role as president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, alumna Kendra Whitlock Ingram, M '97, is excited to be leading an organization that—in its 40th year—has become a national model for how the arts play a critical role in urban revitalization.

"There's such a legacy and foundation that has been laid by the Cultural Trust," says Ingram, a graduate of Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music. "What I've really learned is to look toward the future and how [we] can continue to activate and revitalize downtown Pittsburgh through the arts. We have such a great opportunity."

In four decades, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's focus on cultural and economic development of Downtown has grown into 14 square blocks that serve as a dynamic and popular center for culture, art, dining and community.

"I have been reminded, having worked in many cities over the last 30 years since I left Pittsburgh, that we have something really special here," Ingram explains. "There are very few places in the United States that have something like our cultural district, something this vibrant *and* walkable."

Growing up in Scranton, Pa., Ingram's dad was a social worker and her mom was an art teacher. She describes them both as lovers of music. "She loved classical music and my dad loved a variety of music—gospel, jazz, all kinds of things," she recalls. "My mom took me to a lot of performances that weren't necessarily for kids."

Ingram says that while a few performances were a bit "boring" to her as an 8-year old, others impacted her greatly, especially musical theater or dance. "That was the most thrilling to me."

Her mom took her to see *Swan Lake*, the opera *Tosca* and a number of orchestra concerts, including the great violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman. She also remembers seeing renowned Black opera soprano Kathleen Battle perform.

"What I've really learned is to look toward the future and how [we] can continue to activate and revitalize downtown Pittsburgh through the arts."

"I was one of very few biracial kids, and my mother wanted me to see her because there weren't a lot of Black people in classical music," says Ingram, who is the first person of color to oversee the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. "She thought it was important."

As a music education major at Duquesne, Ingram describes hearing American contemporary classical music composer John Corigliano talk about his *Symphony No. 1* with the Pittsburgh Symphony as "one of the most amazing experiences" she's had.

"When you're growing up, you learn about Beethoven and Bach. I hadn't really discovered contemporary music by living composers," Ingram says. "To hear a work that was so completely different than anything I'd ever heard before, not in that traditional style—it was a real thrill to hear him."

That thrill, those memories she had as an undergraduate, is something she wants audience members to experience on their way home from seeing a Pittsburgh Cultural Trust performance.

"I want them to be thinking about that production for the next week—whether it's 'that really made me mad' or 'I can't stop listening to this soundtrack'—that's what we want to do," Ingram says. "We want to make people feel." ♦



Club Sports and Student Activities Change the Game

By Ethan Delp, E'24

Providing opportunities for recreation and personal growth isn't a responsibility at Duquesne—it's a joy. This is evidenced by more than 280 student organizations across campus, with new ones starting each year. Whether students' interests lie in sports, student government, Greek life, music or other areas, Duquesne has the breadth and depth to provide pathways to fun, friendships and well-being for all students.

A HOLISTIC CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

A recent \$1.1 million unrestricted estate gift to support club sports boosted already high morale among athletes. Ask any club sports participant about their season or their teammates, and you'll see their face light up.

This passion goes beyond play calls and practices and extends toward opportunities that allow students to grow and expand their horizons. After all, as Duquesne President Ken Gormley said in his remarks following the gift last fall, Duquesne's philosophy is to "develop the whole person."

GROWING ON AND OFF THE FIELD

No one knows this better than Alexandra Blunk. She's a senior in Duquesne's physician assistant program and a three-year veteran of club field hockey. Blunk feels that development of the players goes beyond their performance on the field. "Diligence and time management are part of every club sport athlete's routine," she said. "Being a member of the team and vice president has improved who I am as a person."

For Blunk, this is especially true when it comes to mentoring younger players and recruiting new teammates. She always shares a consistent message about helping them meet their full potential. "Club field hockey can only elevate you," said Blunk.

A SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION

Claudio Simone, a senior accounting and legal studies major, also swings a hockey stick. When he's off the ice, he

can be found scoring in the realm of student involvement as president of the Student Government Association (SGA). In his position, he was consulted when the club sports endowment was announced, and he had the opportunity to provide feedback as a student leader.

"It was about getting things right for everyone," said Simone. "Allowing students to have a seat at the table shows where Duquesne's values lie. Access to administration at Duquesne is unparalleled."

DEVELOPING LEADERS THROUGH SERVICE

While some thrive through club sports and student government, others grow by serving others. Another group that provides this opportunity is Duqathon, Duquesne's branch of THON™, a philanthropic organization that enhances the lives of those impacted by childhood cancer.

Mary Paternoster, a first-year student majoring in secondary education-English, already is on the executive board as an event operations co-chair. She believes that campus organizations are what allow students to shine as leaders—even early in their college journeys.

Paternoster participated in her high school's equivalent of this organization, which allowed her to step seamlessly into her role at Duquesne and reach for bigger goals.

"Serving at the collegiate level has allowed me to really see the impact and importance of not just what we currently do, but what we can do," said Paternoster. "Dukes are always excited for younger students to step up and be a part of the team." ♦



Ethan Delp, E'24, majored in Secondary Education—Social Studies and History. Involved in a variety of organizations at Duquesne, he was Homecoming King in 2023 and served as vice president of communications for Student Government Association, executive director for the Duquesne Program Council and as a staff coordinator for orientation in 2022 and 2023.



2024

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Building on a record-breaking turnout in 2023, we're preparing for even bigger festivities this fall.

Mark your calendar and save the dates for Oct. 4-6 to join fellow alumni, friends, students and their families, faculty and staff for a lively weekend celebrating everything that's great about Duquesne.

Visit duq.edu/homecoming and follow us on social media for updates and registration this summer!





Serving Others

STUDENTS WALK ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
THROUGH SPIRITAN MISSION EXPERIENCE TRIPS

By Amanda Dabbs

Once a thriving coal town, Mullens, W.Va., is now a shell of what it was many decades ago. A major flood in 2001 accelerated the declining economy and population, further devastating the town. Yet, during a Spiritan Mission Experience (SME) trip to Mullens this past November, 18 Duquesne students discovered the community remains a welcoming place filled with hope, resiliency and inspiring stories among its residents.

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY BEGIN AT HOME

For 37 years, Duquesne University students have been going on Spiritan Mission Experience trips. The first SME trip was in the spring of 1987 to Whitesville, W.Va.

"Duquesne's mission to serve God by serving others is in the DNA of our cross-cultural Spiritan Mission Experience trips. The goal is for our students to walk alongside people on the margins, building authentic relationships with them while experiencing our Spiritan values," said Spiritan Campus Minister Giovan Cuchapin.

For Duquesne transfer student Sam D'Addieco, a multiplatform journalism major, the Mullens trip was an opportunity to meet fellow Duquesne students and give back to a community in need.

"The trip embodied what Duquesne's mission is all about—serving others—and it was a lot of fun," remarked D'Addieco, who plans to attend another SME trip in the future.

D'Addieco also enjoyed hearing West Virginia state Sen. David "Bud" Stover give a captivating historical presentation of the town's timeline, as well as meeting Kathy and Arnie Simonse, former directors of the Itmann Food Pantry-Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They came to Mullens on a mission trip many years ago, fell in love with the town, and never left.

Senior physics major Hannah Valenty loved serving so much she returned for a second time.

"My favorite parts about being in Mullens are talking with the residents, hearing their stories and helping in whatever way will support the community best. Also, some of my fondest memories are cooking dinner with my fellow Duquesne classmates and having fun even doing the smallest of tasks," said Valenty.

Valenty added, "We gave physical service by the work we did, but we also served by giving our time. Duquesne's mission to serve incorporates both kinds of service."

LEARNING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES

When the students return from their mission trips, they are transformed. They are eager to learn more about the plight

of migrant workers, and the systemic root causes of poverty, food insecurity, racism and injustice, explained Cuchapin.

SME trips are an opportunity to introduce students to other cultures and the Spiritan way of life by approaching service work through the lens of justice, peace and respect, added Campus Minister Debbie Kostosky.

For Kostosky, this message from the Spiritans represents the goal of SME trips: "Guided by the Holy Spirit, we go to the people not primarily to accomplish a task, but rather to be with them, walk beside them, listen to them and share our faith with them."

During these trips, students volunteer at food banks and soup kitchens, lead youth summer camps and activities, transport food, clothing and home goods from storage spaces to distribution warehouses, perform yard work, help restore community parks and trails, assist in thrift stores, paint stage sets for community theaters, and more.

A HORIZON-EXPANDING EDUCATION INSPIRING BIGGER GOALS

In addition to Mullens, Spiritan Campus Ministry has led service-based mission trips over the years to Houston, Texas, Dayton, Ohio, Detroit, Mich., Immokalee, Fla., New Orleans, La., and the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area, as well as Arcibo, Puerto Rico, and San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic.

Duquesne biomedical engineering alumnus and School of Science and Engineering graduate student Tony Carbino, S'23, GS'24, has been on SME trips to San Juan de la Maguana, Mullens and Houston.

"Every time I go to the Dominican Republic, I never cease to be amazed by the beauty of our encounters. Despite my gaps in speaking Spanish, I've learned that there is a universal language spoken by those who live in 'one heart and one spirit' as the Spiritans would say," remarked Carbino.

Carbino's U.S.-based mission trips to Houston and Mullens have inspired his career path in biomedical engineering. He has become increasingly aware of the needs of the health care system to better serve those marginalized in society.

"My time with Spiritan service trips is 100% responsible for my choice to pursue a career in diagnostic tools engineering. As I wrap up my graduate degree, I am inspired to leverage my privileges and knowledge gained from Duquesne to promote social equity and wellness in my health care career," Carbino explained.

Whether it's an SME trip to distant places or outreach efforts right on the Duquesne campus, serving others with compassion and empathy is always at the heart of the Spiritan mission. ♦



Pat and Rita Joyce today.

Orchestrating a Miracle

PAT AND RITA JOYCE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF DEVOTION AND SERVICE

By Bob Woodside, A'83

Two candidates for student government met for the first time, in the Duquesne Union, each posting campaign signs. A moment in 1968 changed the course of their lives—and the University's history.

Rita Ferko, A'71, L'75, GA'95, and Pat Joyce, A'71, both won seats representing the College of Liberal Arts in the Student Senate; a year later he managed her campaign for Senate president. Rita won, and Pat became the student representative on the University budget committee, so they were among the first to hear the bad news.

"The University was deeply in debt; cash flow was *de minimus*, and the banks were threatening to cut off credit. Duquesne was on the verge of insolvency," Pat recalls. "We were told there were two alternatives—raise tuition at mid-year, when students were already struggling, or close the doors."

EPITOME OF BIGGER GOALS

Pat and Rita huddled with other student leaders, leading to a late-night knock on the door of Trinity Hall and an impromptu meeting with a slipper-clad University President, the Rev. Henry J. McAnulty, C.S.Sp.

"We proposed to raise a million dollars," Pat remembers, "and he asked, 'How will you do that?'"

"Of course, at that time, we didn't know," Rita admits.

The next six months unleashed a whirlwind of activity: McAnulty canceling classes on April 21, 1970, to explain the situation to the entire student body; a summer spent strategizing, followed by a fall in which hundreds of students deployed in buses each night to canvass Pittsburgh area neighborhoods.

"The Third Alternative—Students to Save Duquesne" became a legend. At a time when many private colleges succumbed to financial strain, Duquesne survived. As civil unrest permeated all corners of society, students from a wide range of political views and backgrounds rallied together for a cause.

PROBLEM SOLVERS LEARNING TOGETHER

While Pat and Rita are often said to have orchestrated a miracle, they are quick to shift the credit to their fellow students, support from alumni and the community, and most of all, a singular leader.

"In the 1960s and '70s, there was so much turmoil across the country that nobody trusted leadership," Pat explains. "Here's a man who's a Catholic priest, a military chaplain—a brigadier general in the Air Force, and a college president. Those are three strikes against him, in terms of credibility, but he had earned it by that time, because he was always present, always an available ear, always walking around



University President the Rev. Henry J. McAnulty, C.S.Sp., explains Duquesne's financial predicament to the student body on April 21, 1970.

campus. He was somebody students trusted. He was not 'the president,' he was 'Father Mac.'"

He was also prescient. "Father Mac told Pat that he should marry me," Rita laughs. In 1973, McAnulty officiated their wedding. More than 50 years later, their love for each other—and Duquesne—endures.

CREATING A FUTURE FOR OTHERS

Both went on to successful careers—Pat as a fundraiser, holding advancement leadership positions with Duquesne, Carlow University and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, among others, while Rita became a noted civil and canon lawyer and served as general counsel for the diocese.

Today, Pat and Rita honor Father Mac by supporting Third Alternative scholarships. "It's helping students who would otherwise have to drop out, for whatever circumstances," Pat explains. Students facing situations such as loss of a parent or catastrophic medical conditions have received aid.

"If not for the thousands of people who responded to the Third Alternative, Duquesne wouldn't have survived, we wouldn't have graduated and thousands since then wouldn't have graduated," Pat said. "This fund is helping the ordinary student who has a big problem and can't find a solution for it." ♦



Alumni and friends wishing to join in the celebration by making a gift in honor of the Joyces' 50th anniversary or in memory of McAnulty are invited to scan the code or visit duq.edu/joyce3A.





MADMEN: A Mission to Mars

By Holly McCalmon

Exploring the desolate Utah landscape in the fading light of winter, Duquesne's Mission to Mars crew is happy to be outside without their spacesuits. As they hike the Martian-like terrain for the last time, they leave knowing that they took one small step, have accomplished their mission and bonded with teammates far beyond their Mars analog habitat home.

MISSION INCEPTION

From the Apollo and space shuttle programs to the next lunar exploration program, Artemis, every great space mission starts with an idea and a cool name.

Though several met on the Bluff years earlier, Crew 290 at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) started their MADMEN (Martian Analysis and Detection of Microbial ENvironments) mission on Jan. 7, 2024, led by three tenacious Duquesne science alumni: Madelyn Hoying, S'20, Rebecca McCallin, S'21, and Benjamin Kazimer, S'22.

Hoying, whose bigger goal is to become a physician and astronaut, fell in love with physics while at Duquesne, where she helped spearhead DU Infinity, a student organization that competes in NASA's Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts—Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) challenges to further space exploration.

"I want to be an astronaut. I want to go to space. Everything I'm doing is working towards that," says Hoying—call sign Melon. As MADMEN commanding

officer, she is currently in her second year at MIT/Harvard Medical School with a focus on bioastronautics.

Space enthusiasts in their own right, McCallin, the team's second-in command and primary health and safety officer—call sign Chopper, and Kazimer, the GreenHab officer—call sign Funk, also discovered the DU Infinity team with dreams of bigger goals in space. At Duquesne, they all worked alongside Dr. Melikhan Tanyeri, Duquesne assistant professor of biomedical engineering, to advance the 2019-2020 NASA RASC-AL proposal for Project ALIEN (Alternative Lifeform Identification and Exploration Navigator).

"Every year NASA comes out with a particular quest," explains McCallin, a biologist who was the lead researcher on Project ALIEN. "Teams from across the United States come together to propose projects to meet the mission's goal, such as landing on the moon, colonizing a planet, etc. For Project ALIEN, we designed an end-to-end—from lift-off to reentry—mission to Mars with a 30-day search-for-life surface operation."

Although the DU Infinity ALIEN proposal did not win the challenge, all was not

Tretiakova and Hoying collecting soil samples.



1



2

1. McCallin conducting research on the soil samples. 2. Kazimer doing analysis. 3. Kazimer and Chan gathering soil samples. 4. McCallin taking a breather from collecting different layers of soil.



3



4



Tretiakova, Hoying and Sheppard in air lock. They had to depressurize in and out for 5 minutes to keep it as authentic an experience as possible.

**“I want to be an astronaut.
I want to go to space.
Everything I’m doing is
working towards that.”**

lost—Hoying, McCallin, Kazimer would not allow it. And, like any good alien movie, the project underwent a transformation, and Project MADMEN emerged.

MISSION MADMEN

In the spirit of astronaut Neil Armstrong’s famous quote, step-by-step the MADMEN project took shape and moved the crew closer to their habitat on Mars.

“It was actually Madelyn’s idea to adapt Project ALIEN to an actual analog [field test]. I thought it was crazy and then she sent me the MDRS application,” reflects McCallin with a laugh. McCallin is used to pivoting quickly as a trained EMT and manager of the Janjic Lab at Duquesne. “We put in a tremendous amount of effort to transform the project to a more limited two-week, surface-based mission.”

The project MADMEN crew initiated their mission at the MDRS simulated habitat in the middle of the Utah desert. Over 14 days, the crew ventured outside the habitat in a series of extravehicular activities (EVAs) with realistic simulated space protocols and spacesuits to collect soil samples at various depths across the Mars-like terrain to detect and analyze evidence of potential life.

“We targeted MDRS as a test site due to its unique geological features. I was excited about conducting analog research since it is a powerful and cost-effective method of testing experiments ultimately intended for space applications,” says Kazimer, who is currently an engineer

at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory. “It was a surreal experience to live in simulation for two weeks and see this research come to life!”

MISSION BONDS

The excitement and newness of the MADMEN mission could have easily overwhelmed Crew 290, but they took it step-by-step and were prepared for anything.

Alongside the Duquesne alumni, Remi the rover and three new Earthlings comprised Team-MADMEN: Wing Lam (Nicole) Chan—call sign PODO, the crew journalist from MIT; Anja Sheppard—call sign Freebee, crew scientist from the University of Michigan; and Anna Tretiakova—call sign Roots, crew engineer from Boston University.

“The best thing about doing MADMEN was being put in a unique situation of isolation with a group partly made up of strangers and quickly learning how to work effectively together. Our crew bonded well from the beginning and it made for a great experience at MDRS,” reminisces Kazimer, a self-proclaimed space-foodie who also cooked many of the crew’s meals using dehydrated food packets and produce, albeit limited, from the GreenHab that he meticulously cared for.

“Field procedures flowed smoothly and analysis established signs of microbial life, much to the excitement of the crew,” noted Chan on the project’s Facebook account. “The crew had plenty of fun too! We spent time sewing on mission patches, playing games and exploring plenty of teambuilding activities. Stargazing in the observatory was a consistent favorite and late-night crew bonding forged strong friendships that will last well beyond the mission.”

MISSION CONTINUES

The reach for outer space continues and so does the MADMEN crew to analyze the data collected and publish research papers so that their work moves mankind to the next step, be it small or giant. ♦



1. McCallin conducting research on soil samples. 2. Hoying and Tretiakova engaged in Tretiakova’s experiment for dexterity on the crew. 3. Kazimer, Chan, McCallin, Hoying, Tretiakova and Sheppard



The Dukes took the A10 with a victory over Virginia Commonwealth University capping the longest winning streak—nine straight games—since 1954.



WE (and We and We and We and We) ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

After the men's basketball team's thrilling win over Virginia Commonwealth University to clinch the 2024 Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Championship and gain an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament, the joyful noise of Duquesne fans erupted.

Newspapers, television, social media and podcasts across the U.S. delighted in Duquesne's Cinderella story and its historic return to the dance—and gushed even more after the first-round win over sixth-seeded Brigham Young University. A campus watch party shook the floors in the Power Center, and the crowd reaction to the final score felt like it hit the ear-ringing decibels of a rock concert.

While the run ended in the next game, one sentiment prevailed: Duquesne basketball was back—and new head coach Dru Joyce says it's here to stay. Time for bigger goals, indeed.

But that's not the whole story.



Duquesne's most famous fan drew a lot of attention to a team worthy of the spotlight.



DRU JOYCE III NAMED MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Duquesne University Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper announced that Dru Joyce III has been named the 18th head coach in the 108-year history of the Duquesne University men's basketball program. Joyce III was formally introduced at a press conference Monday, April 1, on DU's campus.

"I'm very pleased to have Dru as our next head men's basketball coach at Duquesne University," Harper said. "Dru exhibited a clear vision for our program going forward and understands the challenge of keeping our recent success a possibility in the years ahead."

Joyce III, a native of Akron, Ohio, has spent the last two seasons as associate head coach with the Dukes, helping guide Duquesne to an overall record of 45-25 leading to the 2024 Men's Basketball Atlantic 10 Championship crown in Brooklyn, N.Y. and the team's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1977 and earning its first victory in the championship since 1969.

"I've wanted to be an NCAA Division I head coach since I was 14 years old, so I'm overwhelmed with joy to be named the next head coach at Duquesne University," Joyce III said. "I'm looking forward to expanding on the legacy that Keith Dambrot has built...and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue to make an impact...to make our program one that Duquesne and the surrounding region can be proud of." ♦

goduquesne.com/DruJoyceHeadCoach

Duquesne's football team secured their sixth Northeast Conference title and its first trip to the NCAA Division I FCS Championship since 2018—its third trip overall in program history. Jerry Schmitt earned NEC Coach of the Year honors and was a finalist for national coach of the year. How rare is that? Only five other Division I schools (out of about 350) won their conference in both basketball and football.

But even that isn't the whole story. Women's basketball hosted the second round of the WNIT, defeating Monmouth in an overtime thriller to a howling UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse crowd clad in red and blue. While their season ended in the Super 16, falling at Purdue University, they still finished 21-13, with the third most wins in a season under Coach Dan Burt.

As this magazine headed to press, the women's bowling team earned an at-large bid to the 2024 NCAA Championship, having won the Northeast Conference championship for the second straight year. They, too, are led by a Coach of the Year, Jody Fetterhoff, and numerous players earned conference honors.

Finally, Duquesne swimmer Haley Scholer qualified for the USA Swimming Olympic Trials in the 200-meter backstroke. She is the second Duquesne swimmer ever to qualify, following Emma Brinton in 2020. ♦

800 faculty, staff and students celebrated and cheered on the Dukes as they made their first NCAA tournament appearance in 47 years, and earned their first win in over 50 years.



Duquesne bowling earned an at-large bid to the 2024 NCAA Championship after claiming their second consecutive NEC regular-season championship and first outright title. The Dukes advanced to the Elite Eight before bowing to No. 1 Jacksonville State.



(Above) Duquesne stunned Monmouth when, down 8 with a minute to go, they rallied behind a 9-point run by Lauren Wasylson to force overtime, and the Dukes prevailed. Dukes 69, Monmouth 65.

Junior marketing major Haley Scholer earned gold in the 200-yard backstroke at the A10 Championships, helped the 800-yard freestyle relay team capture silver and set a new Duquesne record. She also earned third place in the 200-yard backstroke at the CSCAA National Invitational Championship.





Dominant Dukes

“We are going to play Dukes football,” said Duquesne head football coach Jerry Schmitt in a preseason interview ahead of the 2023 season.

Owning a long-standing championship culture on the football field during its time as an NCAA program, the Dukes returned to the top of the mountain in 2023 after a four-year title drought.

Since the transition to the NCAA Division I FCS level in 1993, Duquesne has now won 17 conference championships. Nine of the 17 have been during the 19-year leadership of Schmitt.

The 2023 Dukes secured the program’s sixth Northeast Conference title and third NCAA FCS Playoff appearance with a 6-1 conference record, the second-most league wins as a member of the NEC.



Junior quarterback Darius Perrantes (#7) finished as the 2023 statistical champion in passing yards per completion.



"Our guys bought into that to finish this season," said Schmitt of the Dukes' football mantra and strong program tradition after the Dukes won at Merrimack to clinch the outright NEC title and FCS playoff berth. "Because it's tough when you're playing all these games. I think it meant a lot to them and now they're part of that. That's what Duquesne football is about."

After a dominating home opener and a pair of FBS road trips to West Virginia and Coastal Carolina, the Dukes opened conference play at Long Island University on a rainy Saturday afternoon in late September. In a tie game, 28-28, with three minutes left, Duquesne didn't flinch. The Dukes worked into LIU territory and after a pass interference call, DU ran four straight times to set up a game-winning field goal with three seconds left.

"To start conference play with a win on the road is just a credit to these guys," said Schmitt. "So proud of our guys, they earned it and played a full 60 minutes. It was a huge team effort by the entire team."

That 60-minute mentality and full team effort carried on, as Duquesne rattled off five Northeast Conference victories in a row to start league play, the best conference start since joining the NEC in 2008.

The win over Wagner clinched at least a share of DU's sixth NEC title, but the Dukes were not satisfied. One more win would give Duquesne its second outright title and third bid to the NCAA FCS playoffs.

The 2023 home finale and Senior Day ended in the first conference loss and set up a winner-take-all matchup for the Northeast Conference's automatic bid to the FCS in Week 12 at Merrimack.

"I am so proud of our players and our staff; what a gutty performance on the road..."

Duquesne regrouped and went on the road to take down Merrimack, 26-14.

"I am so proud of our players and our staff; what a gutty performance on the road, and to play the football we played today," said Schmitt after the championship-clinching win at Merrimack. "They've been through a whole lot and to come up with this performance on the road, I'm just proud as heck of them."

The Dukes went on to play at Youngstown State in the FCS playoffs and trailed by just 3 points, 10-7, after the first quarter, but ultimately dropped the contest to end the historic season.

Duquesne had 10 players earn All-NEC honors, the most of any team in the conference, and Schmitt was named the NEC Coach of the Year for the second time in his career.

It was Schmitt's fourth overall Coach of the Year honor, as he picked up two in his first three seasons when he led the Dukes to three straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) titles. Schmitt was also named a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award, which is given annually to the top head coach at the NCAA FCS level.

Duquesne finished the season receiving votes in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25 poll, after making its first appearance in the national polls entering the postseason. ♦

(Left to right) Senior defensive lineman Noah Palmer (#7) was named to the 2023 All-NEC First Team. Sophomore defensive back Ayden Garnes (#8) started all 12 games for the Dukes in 2023. Grad transfer wide receiver DJ Powell (#4) was named to the 2023 All-NEC First Team.





A Firm Foundation and Bright Future

By Amanda S. Drumm

In November, a group of law alumni posed for a chilly shot in front of picturesque (and very famous) marble columns just before heading inside for an Admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States ceremony. Only twice before in the school's 113-year history have Duquesne alumni been honored to do so. It's fitting it happened again *this* year, in the context of huge gains for the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

The school's palpable momentum is demonstrated especially in recent prestigious rankings. Duquesne Kline School of Law had the highest jump of any law school in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023-2024 Best Law School overall rankings, soaring 40 spots. The School of Law reached the top 100 of all law schools, at a placement of #89 out of 196 ranked schools. This positions Duquesne Kline School of Law in the top half of law schools in the United States and right alongside other Pennsylvania law schools.

Additionally, *Princeton Review's* 2023 Law School ratings placed Duquesne Kline at #27 for Career Rating, #26 for Quality of Professors Teaching and #63 Overall out of 168 law schools.

"We are on an upward trajectory by every measure," said Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton. "Our enrollment has steadily risen over the past five years along with our incoming class profile, and applications have increased by 25% over last year when nationally, applications are flat."

Alumni are more than pleased.

"We have innovative programs, and the Kline gift puts us in the forefront of teaching and educating our students. As we enter unique times with AI, a changing global world and a remote workplace environment, Duquesne Kline School of Law is uniquely positioned. Our climb in the national rankings is a byproduct of our focus on students, our leadership, innovativeness and that we produce the tools for

modern-day lawyers to be successful," said Jon Perry, L'91, partner at Rosen & Perry and chair-elect of the Duquesne Kline School of Law Advisory Board.

Barton attributes these high marks to the faculty and staff. "Because of their care and efforts, we consistently outperform other schools in bar pass rates and employment outcomes," she said.

Students appreciate the faculty's emphasis on bar prep and their drive to prepare students to be practice-ready upon graduation.

"It's clear in every professor in the law school. While I'm receiving tons of practical experiences through clinics and externships, the focus on the exam that will allow me to practice law gives me confidence and lowers my stress about the bar exam. I know I will be prepared," said Jeffrey Chmay, A'14, 2L.

Propelling the School of Law's reputation even higher was the momentous \$50 million commitment to the Duquesne Kline School of Law from alumnus Thomas R. Kline, L'78, the largest of its kind in University history.

Marie Milie Jones, L'87, founding partner of Jones Passodelis and chair of the Duquesne Kline School of Law Advisory Board, agreed. "I'm very grateful to see such an accomplished individual do this. [Kline's] commitment publicly says Duquesne was such a big part of his success. I'm happy my law school was the beneficiary."

The Honorable Maureen P. Kelly, L'87, past chair of the Duquesne Kline School of Law Advisory Board, said, "I attribute this momentum to the vision, positive energy and genuine commitment of Dean Barton and engaged faculty at the law school." She also attributes it to President Ken Gormley, saying, "We are fortunate to have a university president who understands the dynamics of operating a law school and is so supportive." ♦

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day of
giving

2.7.24

Day of Giving Shatters Records

Powered by more than \$290,000 in challenges, the 2024 Duquesne Day of Giving on Feb. 7 raised a record-breaking total of \$798,266. Alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and friends joined together to make 1,562 gifts supporting schools, scholarships, athletic teams and student organizations.

Visit duq.edu/dayofgiving to learn more and see lists of donors and challenges.

1,562

total gifts
made by our alumni and friends

\$798,266

raised
to support Duquesne students



THANK YOU!

**Save the Date for the 10th Anniversary
Duquesne Day of Giving on Feb. 5, 2025.**

Regardless of the day, you can make an impact on students on the Bluff. Scan the QR code to make a gift, in any amount, to your favorite area of campus.





Gabe Amponsah,
Pittsburgh Steelers

Making it to The Show

DUQUESNE ALUMNI
PROVIDE ATHLETIC
TRAINING FOR
PITTSBURGH'S TOP
PROFESSIONAL TEAMS

By Ken Walters

It's two outs in the bottom of the ninth. The game-winning drive with the clock winding down. Sudden-death overtime—first puck in the net wins.

PLAYOFF PRESSURE

Pittsburgh's professional sports teams have plenty of experience with it. You know the names. Cutch. Watt. Sid the Kid.

But what about Todd Tomczyk? Gabe Amponsah? Brandon Mazza? These Duquesne alumni understand the pressure, too.

"You can feel the intensity in the whole building," said Gabe Amponsah, HS '06, who is in his first year as head athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers and saw the team win its last three games of the season to make the playoffs. "Everyone is amped up. There is an intense focus."

The urgency around the NHL playoffs, where teams usually only have one day off between games, makes for a more intense experience, said Brandon Mazza, HS '08, the assistant athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Penguins and owner of two Stanley Cup rings.

"You may find yourself with an injured player at a hospital in Canada at two in the morning so he gets his MRI," he said. "The team needs to know if he can play right away."

Todd Tomczyk, HS '98, the director of sports medicine for the Pittsburgh Pirates and head athletic trainer during the Bucs' 2013-2015 playoff appearances, noted that the most prepared training staffs can often help cut the tension during high-stress times of the season.

"The sense of urgency to optimize the player's body response to the games is at its apex during the playoffs," Tomczyk said. "All the work, the processes, plans and programs that a staff begins to implement in training camp with the players will be battle tested."

"Most athletes look to the medical staff for a stable mindset, to maintain the steady, professional culture set forth by the team," he added.

THE DUQUESNE DIFFERENCE

It's not surprising that Duquesne athletic trainers are battle tested. The athletic training program ranked 19th out of 268 U.S. schools, according to College Factual. But the nationally acclaimed program scored quite a trifecta when Amponsah joined the Steelers in 2023, meaning the University has three alumni working as athletic trainers for the city's top professional sports teams.

All of them say their time at Duquesne was a key point in their career development.

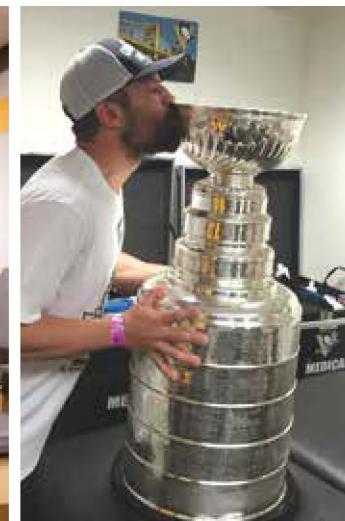
"Duquesne really set the foundation for my curiosity and learning about sports medicine," said Tomczyk, who regularly works with Duquesne students interning with the Pirates. "It was a dual collaborative—learning together with my professors and classmates. We would teach each other and focus on problem solving."

"Duquesne really allowed me to dip my toe into the professional world in a variety of ways, and there was a wide spectrum of opportunities," Amponsah said, noting that he interned with the Steelers as a student.

"The program is top-notch. The athletic training faculty



Brandon Mazza, Pittsburgh Penguins



"The program is top-notch. The athletic training faculty and curriculum are better than at other schools. We received so much hands-on training, and the internships..."

and curriculum are better than at other schools. We received so much hands-on training, and the internships were amazing," Mazza said. "We had a full-year of cadaver training, and I've met athletic trainers who never saw a cadaver in their programs."

DIFFERENT SPORTS BRING DIFFERENT CHALLENGES

Athletic trainers carry a lot of responsibilities, and the work is demanding. To professional athletes, a good athletic trainer can help them be a little stronger, a little faster, more flexible and heal more quickly. And that little bit extra can be the difference between winning and losing, or being available to play or not.

For baseball players, the season tends to be a marathon, playing almost every day for six months (not including spring training and playoffs), so they need to be game-ready each day.

"We may have a guy come in before a game and he's feeling 70% healthy," Tomczyk said. "The challenge is then finding ways to move them to closer to 100%, so they are in the lineup that day."

The trainer-player relationship is another important dynamic to helping athletes.



"Early on, it's important to connect with the player and understand their needs," Tomczyk said. "You want to have them engaged throughout the season, where you can communicate and give advice so they meet their goals."

For Mazza, the trainer-player relationship sometimes makes him the first point of contact when players look for medical help.

"Some of our players are from Europe and far from home, so often I'm the first point of contact when they are looking for medical care, for themselves or their families," he said. "I will sometimes take calls at weird hours, but providing that support helps me to build relationships."

The focus on becoming stronger, faster and more flexible are some typical conversations that arise in the Steelers training room, Amponsah said.

"Football players are a passionate and competitive group with questions about training trends or exercise. They look to us for guidance on how to feel better and be better on the field," he said.

Managing player expectations is another key component of the job, Amponsah said.

"With football, every game is precious, so players sometimes want the impossible and they want it yesterday," he said. "It's important to manage those expectations. When I help a player safely get back on the field sooner than expected, that's really rewarding."



Todd Tomczyk,
Pittsburgh Pirates

"Every day is a new opportunity to grow and learn at a very high level."

players overcome those medical obstacles and get back to their passion."

"Every day is a new opportunity to grow and learn at a very high level," Tomczyk said. "We work together with so many people from different generations and cultures, and it's a constant learning environment. I feel fortunate to work in professional sports."

WORKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

Athletic trainers collaborate with a variety of personnel in their position, from managers and coaches to front office administrators to nutritionists. And that job extends to the off-season as well.

"We develop medical profiles and look for opportunities where the player may be able to improve their skills," Tomczyk said. "We work with the front office, players, strength and conditioning coaches and others to help maximize their potential."

Having been with the Penguins for 14 years and two Stanley Cup runs, Mazza said he could never have imagined landing in such a perfect spot.

"I was lucky in that I sort of grew up with Sid (Crosby), Geno (Malkin) and Kris (Letang)," Mazza said. "You begin to develop relationships with these players, and it's really cool."

One moment that stands out for Mazza was when he met Crosby for the first time.

"On my first day, Sid walked up to me and introduced himself and asked me what I would be doing for the club," Mazza recalled. "He asked questions and wanted to know how I could contribute to the team's success. He's a very down-to-earth person and really sets the tone for the team." ♦

COMMITTED TO HELPING PEOPLE

One truism among all three is that they entered the field to help people.

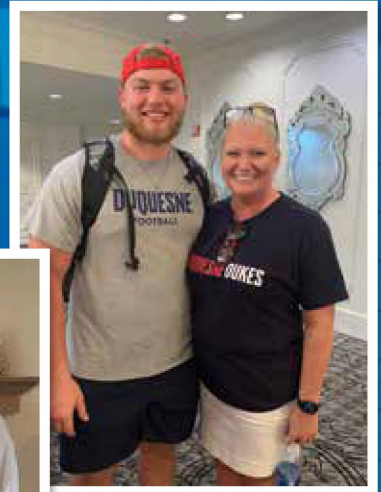
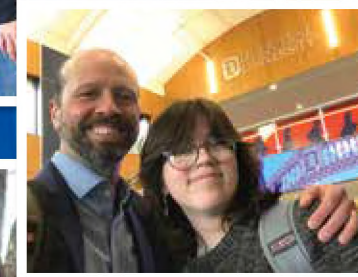
"When I was a kid, my mom took me to a palm reader who said I was going to be a healer," Mazza said. "And that was so right. I love helping people. It's the best part of the job."

The commitment to helping people also allows trainers to learn more and continue to improve at their craft, Amponsah said.

"We get to work at the intersection of medicine and professional sports," he said. "It's an opportunity to learn more about different injuries and illnesses and to help

Family Matters

At Duquesne, family matters. More than 100 faculty and staff members' children are proud to call Duquesne their alma mater and are currently pursuing their bigger goals here. Students choose from the more than 85 undergraduate and 110+ graduate programs the University has to offer—a testament to the quality of education they can obtain. Highlighted here are just a few of the many. Visit duq.edu/magazine to connect to the full photo gallery.



Have a student interested in Duquesne?

Contact us at admissions@duq.edu or, call us at 412-396-6222 to speak to an admissions rep or schedule a visit to campus.



Afghan Siblings Find Hope, Bigger Goals at Duquesne

By Rose Ravasio, A'90

Storai Tapesh remembers that the sun was shining on what was the darkest day for her, nine of her family members and thousands of other Afghan citizens who crowded the Kabul airport in August 2021 clamoring to evacuate the capital city that had been seized by the Taliban barely a week before.

The day that changed the lives of Storai and her family forever was part of one of the largest airlifts in history. The United States Department of Defense successfully evacuated more than 82,000 Afghans and U.S. citizens by the White House's self-imposed Aug. 31 deadline to withdraw from the war in Afghanistan.

Nearly 3 years after fleeing their home with just a change of clothes, cell phones and laptops, Storai and her family are safe and live nearly 7,000 miles away in Pittsburgh. To say they've gone through a big change is an understatement. Today, Storai Tapesh, her sisters Spozhmai Orzala Omar and Orbal Tapesh and their brother Khyber Khan Gharwal are literally learning together as students at Duquesne University.

Storai and Orbal are each working toward an MBA and an MS in Analytics and Information Management in the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business. Spozhmai is earning an MBA and Master's in Industrial Pharmacy and Khyber is completing his bachelor's degree in economics. They are expected to graduate in May 2026.

The family's memories of leaving home in 2021 at the urging of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul remain both vivid and frightening. In the days leading up to their escape, Orbal remembers the heaviness of their unknown futures.

"We were struggling to access the gate," says Orbal. "We just covered our faces, our whole identities. We were unable to speak to each other, unable to even call out our names...we were just so scared."

When the family finally boarded a plane, they were both relieved and overwhelmed with uncertainty about their future.

The family arrived at Dulles International Airport before flying to a U.S. Army Base, where they stayed for four months with more than 12,000 other Afghan evacuees. There, the uncertainty continued and rumors ran rampant, yet they still felt hope.

Storai and her family were relocated to Pittsburgh with other Afghans in January 2022. They were thrilled for the opportunity to continue their education and knew they were fortunate to have the opportunity to do so. The human rights condition in Afghanistan is dire, even more so for women and girls. The Taliban banned women from working for the United Nations and

nonprofits and restricted women from participating in anything social or public, especially education.

"At Duquesne, we have found more than education; we have discovered a powerful platform for change," Storai says. "Duquesne has given us the strength to aspire beyond the horizons of what we thought possible. For my family and me, Duquesne is not just a school; it is the ground from which we will contribute to the world. It's a tribute to our parents, who taught us that education is the key to unlocking life's greatest potential."

The siblings arrived in the U.S. with undergraduate and some graduate degrees. Storai had earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science, Orbal a bachelor's in business administration, Spozhmai a Pharm.D. and Khyber had completed three semesters toward a bachelor's in business administration. Despite this—and being fluent in English, Persian, Pashto and Dari—they were unsure whether their transcripts would transfer and that they might not be accepted to a university to pursue their advanced degrees.

But Duquesne University recognizes that equity and opportunity begin at home and has a tradition of standing up for people and communities on the margins.

"As our Spiritan founders have advocated for the marginalized over centuries, our campus community united to provide unwavering support," says Dr. Dan Sadler, director of graduate recruitment and admissions. "Their gratitude is profoundly shown in each meeting I have with them."

Similar to her siblings, Spozhmai reveals her happiness studying at the University.

"Duquesne is a very, very special place for me," Spozhmai says softly but with a smile. "I see my future as very bright here, and I'm very happy. It was quite challenging for me at the start, but every day I am learning new things."

Khyber points out that every day at Duquesne adds another layer to his understanding of the world and his role in it.

"Being here, surrounded by kind mentors and driven peers, I'm motivated to pursue not just a degree but a legacy of impactful work and innovation," Khyber says.

Orbal describes her experience at Duquesne as a "special and beautiful thing."

"Having faced so much anxiety and trauma, I once believed that all doors had closed on me. However, Duquesne has emerged as a significant opportunity," Orbal says, echoing Storai. "This place holds a special significance as it fills me with hope, inspiring me to plan for the future and move forward."

The siblings have an appreciation for the diversity at Duquesne and expressed excitement at meeting other international students from as far away as South Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Asia. Storai calls the University a "small version" of the whole world.

Since coming to Pittsburgh, the siblings enjoy living with little to no restrictions, especially the sisters. Here, they can practice some of their traditions while also learning new ones.

"I have the freedom to practice my religion openly, wear my headscarf and embrace our rich cultural heritage," Storai says. "I can communicate in my native language with no restrictions. I deeply appreciate the mutual respect and value that people here show toward one another."

In their short time at Duquesne, the siblings have become focused on uncovering new possibilities in their areas of study, becoming problem-solvers who think bigger and discovering the impact they want to make on the world as Duquesne graduates. ♦



DUQUESNE DEDICATES EUGENE P. BEARD CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, ANNOUNCES BEARD CHAIR

The University recently dedicated the Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success in the Donahue-Palumbo School of Business.

The 7,500-square-foot space on the seventh floor of Rockwell Hall houses career advising professionals to help ensure strong student outcomes in the business school.

During the event, President Ken Gormley surprised Beard, with his wife Nancy Jones Beard and family members, by announcing the creation of the new \$1 million Eugene P. Beard Endowed Chair in Professional Ethics.

"It is exceedingly rare for a president to create a university chair in this fashion," said Gormley. "The fact that it is so rare and momentous conveys how much we value Gene Beard's myriad professional accomplishments and philanthropic legacy in the School of Business, and throughout our University more widely."

In addition to the Center, Beard's recent philanthropic investments include:

The Eugene P. Beard Presidential Prizes for Innovation and Distinction, which benefit programs and initiatives to ensure resources are available to maximize the impact of Duquesne's new medical school.

The Eugene P. Beard Business School Endowment Fund, intended to elevate the national and international reputation and profile of the school.

Beard's contributions position him as the most generous donor to Duquesne's School of Business in its history.

"I have been impressed with the energy with which Duquesne has not only faced down the numerous challenges of the last few years but has really strengthened its curriculum, launched the founding of a medical school, and doubled down on its commitment to the community and region," Beard said. "I've also been impressed with the amazing growth and strength Duquesne's business school has achieved." ♦



Read the full story at duq.edu/magazine.



Defeat was Never an Option for Me

ALUMNUS SHARES HIS PERSONAL JOURNEY

By Ian P. Hurley

Ed Petner, A'81, has dealt with his share of adversity. The middle child of three children, it came early for him, losing his mother when he was 5, and his father at age 12. In the wake of those terrible losses, Petner and his siblings did the best they could to pick up the pieces, survive and carve out a life of purpose. "Defeat was never an option for me after that," Petner said.

At Bensalem High School, he worked hard and was a self-professed "unbelievable nerd" who wore glasses, played the violin and graduated in the top 3% of his class. His scholastic achievements helped pave the way to his acceptance at Duquesne with academic and need-based scholarships.

"I came out of my shell at Duquesne; becoming involved in residence council helped me to become a leader," he said. Petner led the organization for 2½ years. He achieved national recognition for increasing the size of the council from 10 active members to 100. It was the highest growth of any council in the country.

Petner also spent time working in the campus radio station and as a student advisor in the Admissions department. His admissions work involved traveling with staff to prospective student events to talk about his own experience on the Bluff.

A seminal moment came in the spring of 1978 when he was introduced to a charming young woman named Peggy Washabaugh, N'80, who was studying nursing. They met at a small party organized by his roommate Bob Littleton, P'82. They had their first date on April 12, where they walked out to the Grotto to take in the city, eventually making another trip back, where he proposed. Peggy accepted.

After graduating, the Petners moved to Philadelphia, where he pursued an MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and his wife worked as a nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He went on to a very successful career on Wall Street.

Fast-forward to Aug. 23, 2003, a date now etched in Petner's mind. He was hit by a car while on a bike ride. Petner lost the use of his legs and had no feeling below his waist. He miraculously survived but was given last rites three times in the following two years due to complications.

The chronic pain was one more obstacle to overcome. Petner spent many years taking narcotic pain pills, but the pain never went away. He pushed his doctors for an experimental surgery to help alleviate his suffering and to get off the medication. Amazingly, the successful surgery reduced his pain by 90% and, coupled with swimming, he found a new purpose.

Petner now uses swimming to fundraise for various charities. During his latest charity attempt for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, he swam 18 miles in his neighborhood pool in North Carolina.

This act is never done as a masochistic show of strength, but rather as an act of gratitude. There's value in all of life's moments, he says. It's our job to recognize and appreciate them.

His life journey will next include writing a book featuring the core lessons he's learned. It will partly be a guide to help his four children "understand what it takes to live a life with a lot of joy, a sense of peace, and most of all, what it takes to withstand and recover from the inevitable tragedies that we will all face in our lives. ♦



Celebrating Generosity

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW UNVEILS NEW ENTRANCEWAY AND FACILITIES

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University unveiled a new façade, front entryway and a third-floor archival collection room during a Re-Dedication Ceremony in April. A new gift from Kline himself made it possible, following his historic \$50 million commitment to the School in 2022.

The spaces include a limestone, granite and glass façade at the building's entryway; a refreshed two-story open grand entrance hall; and an exhibit and archival collection room that overlooks the entranceway. A second phase of the renovations continues next summer, creating a new student lounge area that will flow seamlessly into the entryway. ♦

Seen and Heard

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

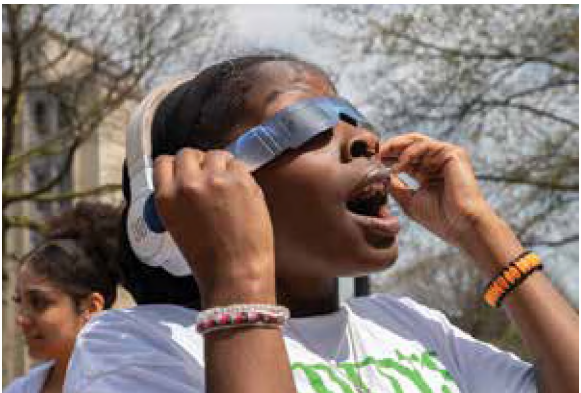


⬆ Hundreds of students gathered in the Power Center Ballroom to watch the men's basketball team during their [thrilling NCAA tournament run](#).

“As president of Duquesne University, I am deeply humbled to be named to the *Pittsburgh Business Times*’ prestigious Power 100 list. It reflects the achievements of the entire campus community, to be recognized in this fashion.

President Ken Gormley, reflecting on what it means to be included on the *Pittsburgh Business Times*’ prestigious Power 100 list

➡ Students gathered on A-walk, protective glasses in hand, to catch a glimpse of the [2024 solar eclipse](#).



“We make two things very clear: we’re providing estimates and they’re very reliable. And by doing it now and not waiting, families can start their financial planning conversations with us right away.”

Joel Bauman, senior vice president of enrollment, speaking on Duquesne adapting to changes in the Federal Student Aid process in order to better serve prospective students and their families



⬆ Twelve teams of student chefs stepped up to the chopping block to compete for the coveted [Duquesne Chopped trophy](#).

“The connections I make will hopefully allow me to help students make those connections if they want to work or study in Europe.”

Dr. Patrick Juola, the Joseph A. Lauritis, C.S.Sp., Endowed Chair in Teaching and Technology, talking about being selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for the 2024-2025 academic year



⬆ Alumni and friends celebrated the annual [Duquesne University Easter Egg Hunt](#).

“There’s a sensory aspect of music making that he really enjoys. It’s a way that we can connect...”

Tom Carsecka, director of admissions and community programs in the music school, discusses how *Full Spectrum*, a musical program he founded in order to help children who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, impacts his own son.

“I am looking forward to the opportunities this award will bring to Duquesne and to provide training and education for students, especially those from marginalized backgrounds.

Dr. Rana Zakerzadeh, assistant professor in the School of Science and Engineering comments of receiving the prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation (NSF)



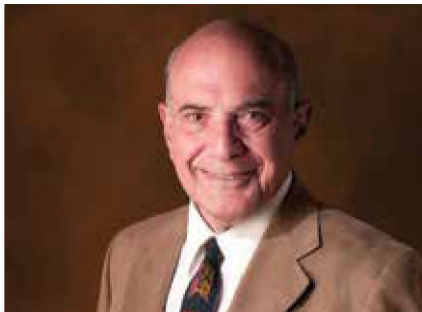
⬆ Duquesne was treated to a wonderful evening of learning about Morocco and Nigeria thanks to the [African Student Union](#). The cultural dinner also featured amazing Nigerian cuisine!



⬅ The [Duquesne University Dance Team](#) placed 13th in the nation in Jazz Division 1 at the National Dance Alliance (NDA) Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona Beach, Fl.

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.



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS SAM HAZO HONORED AT COMMON WEALTH AWARDS

Renowned poet and Duquesne University McAnulty Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English Dr. Sam Hazo was recently honored at the 45th annual Common Wealth Awards of Distinguished Service in the category of literature.

The awards are made by the Common Wealth Trust and bestowed to individuals who have enriched modern culture through their professional and personal endeavors. In the 44-year history of the Common Wealth Awards, more than \$7 million has been awarded to 215 honorees.

Hazo, who taught at Duquesne University for 43 years, has published 50 books of poetry, fiction, drama, essays and various works of translation.

“Sam Hazo is an iconic figure at Duquesne, based upon his teaching and mentoring of generations of students, but he is also a national treasure. It is fitting, and a source of great pride to the University, that he is being recognized with this prestigious Common Wealth Award,” said President Gormley. “Sam continues to bring honor to this University that is proud to call him Distinguished Professor Emeritus and the embodiment of the richest attributes and distinctive mission of Duquesne University.”

Hazo served as Pennsylvania’s Poet Laureate from 1993-2003 and has received numerous literary awards. Twice recognized as Pittsburgh’s Man of the Year in Arts, Hazo has been awarded 12 honorary degrees. In addition, Hazo founded the International Poetry Forum, which drew more than 800 of the world’s most acclaimed poets and performers, including Mary Oliver, Kurt Vonnegut, Terrance Hayes, Anthony Hopkins, Princess Grace of Monaco and Tennessee Williams.

duq.edu/news-hazo



PROFESSOR RECOGNIZED WITH NSF CAREER AWARD

Dr. Rana Zakerzadeh has received the prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). An assistant professor in the School of Science and Engineering, she is only the fourth Duquesne faculty member to receive this award since 2007.

The CAREER award supports junior faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education, and lead advances in their organizations. Activities pursued by early-career faculty build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research.

“I’m truly honored to receive this recognition from the NSF,” said Zakerzadeh, who teaches biomedical engineering. “I am looking forward to the opportunities this award will bring to Duquesne and to provide training and education for students, especially those from marginalized backgrounds.”

Zakerzadeh’s five-year CAREER project will help advance simulation technologies to achieve a fundamental understanding of the vascular lesions of human vocal folds, which are common in professions with high voice usage, such as educators, public speakers and singers. The models may be considered for potential use in surgery and enhanced prevention of voice disorders.

The award will also support the education and training of underrepresented minorities and virtual and on-site outreach activities to help increase understanding of voice disorders, including an annual summer workshop at Duquesne.

duq.edu/news-nsfaward

DR. SARA BARON NAMED DEAN OF LIBRARIES

Since becoming University librarian in 2015, Dr. Sarah Baron has led Gumberg Library through a period of significant change. Under her leadership, the library has enhanced its print and digital collections, bolstered its digital research with the creation of the Duquesne Scholarship Collection and maintained special collections such as the Curriculum Center, the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center and the University Archives.

Baron has also overseen significant improvements and renovations to the library, including new study and event spaces, a FlexTech classroom and an art exhibition space—with more projects to come in the future.

“I am proud to work with the talented members of Team Gumberg,” Baron said. “They make the library a welcoming space for the campus community, ensuring Gumberg Library remains a hub for academic exploration, distinctive resources, co-curricular programming and expert research services.”

duq.edu/news-baron

JUOLA NAMED PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Dr. Patrick Juola, the Joseph A. Lauritis, C.S.Sp., Endowed Chair in Teaching and Technology, has been selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2024-2025 academic year.



Juola will travel to Budapest, Hungary, for the spring 2025 semester to work with some of the world’s experts where the research team will work to improve natural language processing (NLP) in Hungarian, including improvements in authorship analysis technology. In addition, he will teach NLP, a machine-learning technology that gives computers the ability to interpret, manipulate and comprehend human language.

“One of my big goals is to support natural language processing for ‘low resource’ languages,” Juola said. He is looking forward to bringing new knowledge back to his classroom to create horizon-expanding opportunities for Duquesne students.

A presidentially appointed 12-member board supervises the Fulbright Program worldwide and approves recipient selection. The program is devoted to increasing mutual understanding between people of the United States and those of other countries.

Recognized as the world’s largest and most diverse international exchange program, the award allows researchers to join the distinguished ranks of alumni who have become heads of state, Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners and more.

duq.edu/news-juola

Recent U.S. News & World Report Rankings

SCHOOL OF NURSING

#12 Family Nurse Practitioner Program

#46 Master’s Program

#85 Doctor of Nursing Program



The School of Nursing is excited to be a top choice for nurses who seek to advance their careers, reach for bigger goals and make a greater impact in the field of nursing.

Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow, dean of nursing

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

#94 Among law schools nationally

#39 Part-Time Law Program



Alumni Updates

1960s

Robert S. Barker, A'63, L'66, GA'74, is the author of “Las cusiones políticas: Su definición, origen y desarrollo en el constitucionalismo de los Estados Unidos,” 46 *Revista Peruana de Derecho Público*, 15 (2023). Barker is a professor emeritus in the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

1970s

John Levitske, A'77, L'91, joined HKA's Chicago office as a partner in the Forensic Accounting and Commercial Damages practice, where he provides business valuation, forensic accounting and commercial damages expert services. Levitske also teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the Benedictine University College of Business.

1980s

Patricia Farrell, Esq., A'84, L'87, attorney with Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, was recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* as Pittsburgh's 2024 “Lawyer of the Year” for Mergers and Acquisitions Law. Farrell was also listed in

Best Lawyers 2024 for practice in Business Organizations, Closely Held Companies and Family Businesses Law, Corporate Law and Real Estate Law.

Marie Milie Jones, Esq., A'85, L'87, received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Papal Award, the highest honor the Pope can award to a lay person for distinguished service to the Church, bestowed on her by Bishop David Zubik as part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh “Manifesting the Kingdom” Awards event.

Theresa Talbott, R.Ph., P'87, director of pharmacy and retail advocacy with CVS Health, received the Carmen A. Catizone Honorary President Award from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) for her service to the state board and the national association. She is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for Duquesne's School of Pharmacy and a past president of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

John Bruno, CPA, B'89, GB'92, formerly vice president for investor relations with PPG, has been appointed as the corporation's vice president for finance. Bruno joined PPG in 1995 after working in various financial roles with U.S.

Steel. His earlier roles with PPG included CFO for the Asia-Pacific Region and financial leadership positions in Europe.

1990s

Mark Milsop, Esq., L'92, attorney with Berger and Green for 16 years, was appointed to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. The board oversees and administers the continuing legal education requirements for attorneys in the state. He also received the George F. Douglas Amicus Curiae Award and was named a Pennsylvania *Super Lawyer*.

Erin Siciliano, Esq., L'97, of counsel at the law firm of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP in Philadelphia, received the 2023 Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) C. Dale McClain Quality of Life/Balance Award. As co-chair of the PBA Quality of Life/Balance Committee, Siciliano was recognized for her consistent efforts to present information to help attorneys balance their professional and personal lives. She has presented workshops for Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Pennsylvania, for legal professionals and law students

who struggle with mental health/substance use issues.

Carol May, RN, MSN, MBA, CHPPN, GN'98, GB'98, received the Courageous Provider Award from the Ilene Beal Charitable Foundation and Courageous Parents Network recognizing clinicians who provide exceptional family-centered care in circumstances of serious childhood illness. May is the director of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Debra Price-West, GE'99, has started a new position as the enrollment services specialist for the Automotive Technology Department at Community College of Allegheny County, West Hills Center.

2000s

Barron Whited, GE'04, is a counselor at Agora Cyber Charter School and has been producing television segments for stations across Pennsylvania helping students and parents in K-12 and college since 2007. He recently completed his 125th video package; his recent productions are available for viewing on the CBS Pittsburgh YouTube channel.

Margaret Mullen, E'07, GE'11, was one of 500 teachers across Arizona to receive \$2,500 project grants through Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities. Mullen is a special education teacher at Joseph P. Spracale Elementary School in Tempe. Her grant was used to purchase supplies for the school's garden.

Ernest Blackwell, A'09, has been appointed chairman of the board of Waterford.org, a national nonprofit dedicated to providing equitable access to proven early education programs. A Teach for America alumnus and founder of Equity & Beyond, Blackwell previously served on a Waterford external advisory committee and joined the board of trustees in 2021. He also serves as Global Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Business Partner at Amazon Web Services.

2010s

Allison Burdette, Esq., L'13, has been elected as counsel with the firm of Saul Ewing. Burdette advises clients on matters involving investigations by state and federal government agencies, including litigation and regulatory enforcement to help proactively assess compliance with laws and regulations and mitigate risk.

Andrew Clifford, Esq., L'16, has joined Meyer, Unkovic & Scott as an associate in the Construction Practice and Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice groups. He was named a *Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” in 2023.

2020s

Emma Frey, E'21, graduated from Arizona State University with a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She teaches third grade in Maui.

Marriages

Maria Miller, A'19, E'19, and Durrant Carlson, Pharm.D., GP'22, were married on June 24, 2023. They met on campus at an Honors College tabling event in the Duquesne Union in 2016. Durrant proposed on campus in 2021.

Births

Lauren Morus, M'09, and David Morus, M'08, welcomed daughter Autumn Joan on Nov. 30, 2023.

Katelin (Lambert) Hunt, A'11, and Jason Hunt, A'11, welcomed son Logan Oliver on Nov. 27, 2023 in Harrisburg, Pa.

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 July 16, 2023-Jan. 15, 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.

Deceased Alumni from July 16, 2023-Jan. 15, 2024

- Mary C. Imbrogno, P'45
- Lois J. Caulfield, N'47
- William J. Trohaugh, B'49
- Arthur J. Basso, GS'50
- Edwin H. Chadwick, B'50
- Michael C. Ferraro, M'50
- George Levitt, Ph.D., S'50, GA'52
- Joseph E. Rentler, B'50
- Thomas F. Frankart, B'51
- Raymond G. Hasley, Esq., A'51, L'58
- Lillian Meyers, GE'51
- Joseph W. Schilken, B'51
- Francis T. Cendar, A'52
- Roseanne K. Corrigan, N'52
- Henry DeEulio, P'52

In MEMORIAM

George L. Levitt, Ph.D., S'50, GS'52, passed away in Lauderhill, Fla. on Sept. 3, 2023, at age 98. Born to Latvian immigrant parents in upstate New York, Levitt served in the U.S. Navy during World War II before attending Duquesne. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry, Levitt completed doctoral studies at Michigan State University and joined E. I. Du Pont de Nemours, Inc. in 1956. During his 30-year career with DuPont, Levitt won global recognition as an authority on agrochemical research, earning 103 U.S. patents and discovering a novel class of herbicides. In 1993, President Bill Clinton presented Levitt with the National Medal of Technology for his contributions to the discovery and commercialization of environmentally friendly herbicides that help ensure an abundant food supply. Levitt was inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 1999.

Eugene R. Mariani, GE'70, died Jan. 26, 2024, in Pittsburgh at age 83. After receiving his bachelor's degree from the College of Steubenville in 1963, Mariani worked as a high school English teacher, economic development specialist and advertising copywriter before joining Duquesne's financial aid office in 1967. Mariani spent most of the next 38 years at Duquesne as director of Financial Aid, acting director of Admission, and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, a position that encompassed a variety of duties in government relations, enrollment management, academic policies and accreditation.

Francis M. Prezioso, B'59, passed away on Oct. 1, 2023, at age 87. A lifelong Pittsburgh resident, Prezioso founded Pittsburgh-Fayette Express, a regional trucking company with operations in western and central Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and Virginia. He joined the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity as a student at Duquesne and remained a leading member of its Pittsburgh alumni chapter, earning its 2009 Adam DiVincenzo Award for Outstanding Community Service and 2017 “Man of the Year” honors. Prezioso was also active with the Audia Caring Heritage Association, a charity that assists families locally and in Calabria, Italy, and a devoted supporter of Duquesne's men's and women's basketball programs.

- Rita Marie Klein, E'52, GE'57
- Theologus N. Kyriazi, B'52
- Patricia C. Croke, N'53, GE'62
- Joan DiSalle, A'53
- Mildred R. Flaherty, N'53
- William G. Gast, A'53
- Rita M. Herbst, A'53
- John R. Kardos, B'53, GB'59
- Mary Lou McCurrie, E'53, GE'56
- Joseph C. Nardone, P'53
- Ellen M. Clair, E'54, GE'70
- Joseph F. Dandrea, B'54
- Thomas A. Dougherty, Esq., B'55, L'62
- Helen M. Spano, A'55, GE'61
- John D. DeMary, P'56
- Robert E. Fleckenstein, A'56
- Martina C. Ossman, A'56
- Ralph K. Poynter, M'57
- Samuel V. Capozzoli, B'58
- Anthony Dangelo, B'58
- Raymond F. Feith, B'58
- Sr. Antoinette Kostelnik, VSC, E'58
- Rev. Gerald J. Lutz, GE'58

DUKESCONNECT

The Office of Career Development, in partnership with the Office of Alumni Engagement, is excited to offer our DukesConnect platform. This online community provides the platform for alumni who wish to serve as mentors for alumni and students, or wish to find a mentor themselves. You can register for the platform using your personal email or LinkedIn account.



SCAN TO CONNECT



Check out 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 for the latest details on what's happening at Duquesne, events and how to get involved and stay connected.

Thomasine Brown Miller, E'58
Victor J. Ruisi, A'58
Joan F. Santelli, A'58
Daniel A. Sullivan, A'58
James D. Walko, P'58
Francis Regis Griffin, E'59
Carl J. Henn, B'59
Constance H. Hickey, N'59
G. Norman McCann, B'59
Carl P. McKeever, A'59
Martin S. Mulkerrin, A'59, GB'67
Francis M. Prezioso, B'59
Raymond K. Aiken, B'60
Don A. Angel, B'60
William R. Cagney, Ph.D., B'60, GA'65, GA'68
Katherine L. Carr, P'60
P. David Pappert, A'60
Marlene Theresa Scarry, E'60
Sr. Rosemarie Wilson, E'60, GE'65
Ann C. Wintermantel, A'60, GA'67
Thomas John Goral, Jr., B'61
Charles A. Hollis, S'61, GS'66
Michael W. Matisko, E'61
Walter H. Milinski, GE'61
Kathryn L. Newtz, E'61
Sr. Rose M. Sieber, CDP, E'61, GE'68
Rosanne B. Stawiany, E'61
Sr. Anne Winschel, CDP, E'61
Diane Wishinski, E'61
Eugene A. Bolt, Ph.D., GE'62
Pauline Deluca, E'62
Rosemary E. Duffy, E'62
Joan L. Kernahan, GE'62
Ronald J. Kniess, E'62
Paul A. Platek, B'63, GA'82
Edward M. Schmidt, B'63
Patricia A. Sereno, A'63
Paul R. Borcik, A'64
Sr. M. O. Buser, OSU, GA'64
Jerome Deriso, Esq., B'64, L'67
Sr. Frances DeSalle, E'64
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Robert E. Evans, S'64
Sr. M. Alice Gotti, CDP, E'64, GE'70
Joseph C. Hahn, GE'64
Nancy J. Laughery, N'64

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Sr. Joan Laboon, RSM, GA'65
Sr. Theresa J. Metz, SSJ, E'65
Richard A. Pinkerton, P'65
Walter L. Weaver, E'65, GE'68
David R. Whitehart, S'65
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Glenn R. Thiel, B'68, GE'76
Paul F. Von Bloch, E'68, GE'73
Fred W. Decker, B'69
William J. Glunk, A'69
James V. Jabour, A'69
Thomas A. Schaffner, GE'69
Bernard P. Tomic, GE'69
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Anthony J. Betz III, P'70
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P. Louis DeRose, Esq., L'70
Frank M. McClellan, Esq., L'70

David L. Potts, B'70
Sr. Mary Catherine Seli, GE'70
Paul R. Topolosky, B'70
George E. Bartolomeo, B'71
Gary L. Beccari, GE'71
Mia Forscher, GE'71
Jeanne F. Graff, E'71, GE'75
David A. Konecny, A'71
Robert M. Tomko, B'71
Norma M. Bluestone, GE'72
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Sr. Theodore Bollati, GE'73
John H. Braun, GB'73
Mary M. Gaffney, M'73
Sr. Mary Kay Hammond, CSJ, GE'73
Martin J. Harris, A'73
Joel M. Hoskowitz, A'73, GE'75
Diana J. Laviolette, Esq., GA'73
Robert C. Metz, A'73
Patrick Ratesic, GE'73
William R. Seitzinger, R.Ph., P'73
George N. Terzis, A'73
Rev. Michael W. Decewicz, A'74
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Anne D. Gyurisin, A'74
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Kathleen M. Koelsch, GE'74
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Sr. Maryann C. Potgurney, OSF, GE'74
Stephen V. Russell, GA'74
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Sr. Catherine Meinert, SC, GE'75
Matthew J. Ruyechan, OFM, A'75
Kenneth M. Trampusch, S'75
Michael S. Vosk, S'75
Barbara A. Wrazien, GE'75
Douglas E. Gonano, Esq., A'76
Ronald W. Jones, GB'76
Christine R. Rollins, GE'76

John W. Seybert, Ed.D., GE'76
Charles S. Davis, B'77
Maxine L. Fisher, GE'77
Elaine I. Grimm, E'77, GE'79
Juliana M. Nowak, P'77
Georgina A. Estok, GE'78
Genevieve Garvin-Isaac, GA'78
Stephen S. Strunck, Esq., L'78
D. James Dodds, M'79
William Kelleher, Jr., Esq., L'79
Rev. Thomas A. Wagner, A'79
Molly Winek, P'79
Leslie A. Bauder, E'80
Rev. Michael P. Greb, OFM Cap., A'80
Brother Roland Ouellette, SC, GA'80
Jon E. Popovich, M.D., L'80
Mark P. Fallert, Esq., L'81
Sandra K. Jacobs, GE'81
Sr. Barbara Jean Miller, OSF, GA'81
Julia Tremain, A'81
Kathleen Cabraja, Esq., L'82
Daniel K. Goff, Esq., B'82
Linda S. Chilzer, A'83
Brian E. Manning, Esq., L'84
Barbara Deane Price, GE'84
Helena Tiedeken, GA'87
M. Geraldine Adreon, A'89
Barbara M. Moskal, E'89
Richard G. Beer, Esq., L'90
Stephanie A. Reisdorf, N'90
Laurel M. Galanda, E'92
Paul M. Graycar, A'55, GE'93
Jason M. Kalakos, A'93
Tricia D. Kreitzer, S'93, GE'95
Joann M. Prellwitz, GE'93
Sheila A. Timm, GA'93
Richard D. Jordan, A'95
William L. Spalding, A'95
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Edward W. Middleton, A'98
Timothy C. O'Connor, GA'98
Jerry A. Hodge, GA'99
Mark E. Peachey, GA'00
Antoinette M. Veraldi, GE'02
Gregory M. Steinmetz, B'03

Michael S. Berman, GB'05
Lynda Schaaf Brown, Ph.D., GA'05
Jennifer L. Martin-Voit, DSc, GA'06
Amy C. Black Kuneman, L'09
Aaron W. Smith, Esq., L'10
Alexander T. Poorman, Esq., L'15

Deceased Friends from July 16, 2023-Jan. 15, 2024

Wilton L. Barber
Betty Beaman
Latasha R. Butts
Denise L. Clemente
Roseann Coso
Mila S. Eggers
Kevin P. Keenan, DVM, Ph.D.
Eugene R. Liebel
David G. Maskalick, Ph.D.
Joanne Piel
John A. Ray
Anne Robb
Patrick J. Rooney
Marian Saffer
Roger Zacher
Jerzy Zderkowski
Roberta Zisman
Donald J. O'Rourke
John M. Raevens
Mary C. Rapp
Ann Turner
John H. Wilson

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 onto www.myduquesne.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.



President Ken Gormley crowning **2023 Homecoming Queen Elisha Schoeneck** during Homecoming and Family Weekend.



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, well-being 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 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.