

Duquesne

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



The Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine

FAMILY'S GIFT TO FUEL
STUDENT SUCCESS

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Helping students and graduates achieve their bigger goals is nothing new at Duquesne—we've been doing it for nearly 150 years, since our founding in 1878. Our students make contributions that shape the world in meaningful and productive ways. In this magazine, you'll read their stories—like those of our most recent Goldwater and Fulbright scholars, who are making a difference both here at home and around the globe. Generations of Duquesne graduates have gone on to do transformative work in their professions, and you'll find those stories here as well, including a group of young alumni who are improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Duquesne's close-knit alumni and friends continue to give back to this special university. Thanks to their generosity, we recently celebrated the conclusion of the most successful capital campaign in our history—raising more than \$345 million. Among the many gifts received was a transformative contribution to our medical school from Jim, S'70, and Celeste Nasuti. Their generosity will empower the newly named Nasutis College of Osteopathic Medicine to serve others in countless ways for generations to come. Their story is featured in these pages, too.

There's additional exciting news that you may have already heard—Duquesne's Board of Directors has appointed our current Provost, Dr. David Dausey, as the next President, effective July 1, when I step down and transition into the role of Chancellor. David has been a key partner with me in launching our new medical school and advancing many other major initiatives. He will be an outstanding successor, ensuring that our positive momentum continues.

Our star continues to rise here on the Bluff, thanks to the dedication of so many members of the extended Duquesne University family. I hope you enjoy this issue and that you're inspired by the stories showcasing the remarkable work our faculty, students and staff are doing in the world. There are many more great things on the horizon! ♦

Sincerely,

Ken Gormley
Duquesne University President



AS YOU READ...

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

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



Burning Brightly

IGNITE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS LIGHTS UP CAMPUS

Kicking off the 2025 Homecoming and Family Weekend, hundreds gathered in the Union ballroom to celebrate the official conclusion of the most ambitious fundraising effort in Duquesne's history—the IGNITE campaign. Launched nine years ago under the leadership of President Ken Gormley, the campaign aimed to raise a third of a billion dollars to fuel a bold vision for the University's future.

When the campaign closed in July, it had surpassed its goal, raising an extraordinary \$345.1 million—a sum greater than the total of all previous fundraising campaigns at the University.

IGNITE achieved more than a financial milestone. Inspired by the Spiritan flame that symbolizes Duquesne's mission and founding congregation, the campaign sought to spark innovation and opportunity in every part of the campus. Alumni, friends and partners responded with unprecedented generosity, and the largest gift ever made to Duquesne was part of the success.

Many alumni can rattle off quickly the major successes of the campaign, all of which have been highly visible. One of the earliest wins was the renovation of the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. The revitalized facility became a beacon of pride as Duquesne athletics soared. The men's basketball team captured the A-10 title for the first time in 47 years and made a memorable (if brief) splash in the NCAA tournament, while women's basketball and football also celebrated championship seasons.

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law received national attention for the transformative gift made to Duquesne by the school's namesake. Across campus, new and enhanced facilities—from the Joanne Barkett Conway Simulation Center in the School of Nursing to the revitalized Jill

Jankowski Media Hub—have created dynamic learning environments for students.

Bob and Joan Peirce gave the most significant gift ever made in the U.S. in support of dyslexia education through the School of Education. Rockwell Hall, home to the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, underwent a stunning transformation, featuring new centers for entrepreneurship, ethics, investment strategy and more—thanks to visionary support from donors like Gene and Nancy Beard and Bob and Toni Mallet.

The launch of the School of Science and Engineering added in-demand new programs to Duquesne's academic offerings. Matthew and Liselott Costello provided key support in the form of an endowed chair, which allowed the school to recruit faculty leadership necessary to launch engineering programs quickly. And thanks to numerous individuals who banded together for early and ongoing support, the University realized a vision a century in the making by opening its College of Osteopathic Medicine—about which you can read more in this magazine.

Scholarships were a cornerstone of the campaign, with the generosity of alumni and friends creating opportunity—now and far into the future—for thousands of students to pursue their bigger goals at Duquesne. A candle-lighting ceremony during the campaign's closing celebration honored donors whose support has illuminated the path for future generations.

Gormley credited a huge measure of the campaign's success to the tireless efforts of Jim Miller, senior advisor to the president for advancement, and to the collective belief in Duquesne's mission. "You've ignited something truly special," Gormley said. "Your gifts will live well beyond this moment in our history." ♦

\$345.1 MILLION RAISED





Duquesne Board Names David Dausey as 14th President

On Nov. 19, Duquesne Board of Directors Chair Diane Hupp announced to a packed press conference that the Board had selected David Dausey to serve as the University's 14th president. A nationally recognized leader in higher education, epidemiology and public health, Dausey will officially assume the role on July 1, 2026.

"Dr. Dausey stood out among a very distinguished and accomplished group of applicants from around the country," said Hupp. "I'm grateful to the search committee for weighing carefully the feedback from our community, including Spiritans, students, faculty, emeritus faculty and alumni."

Hupp stressed that Dausey's experience and values aligned perfectly with Duquesne's mission and vision for the future. "We face a period of great challenge and great opportunity for higher education, when mission-driven Catholic education especially has so much to give students and our larger society," Hupp said. "David Dausey's values and experience uniquely align with our collective vision for an exciting future of service to our students, our region and the world."

Dausey currently serves as executive vice president and provost, a role he's held since 2018. During his tenure, he has overseen transformative initiatives, including the creation of the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine, the launch of new engineering programs and the development of the Bridges Common Learning Experience curriculum. His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic drew on his deep expertise in epidemiology and health administration.

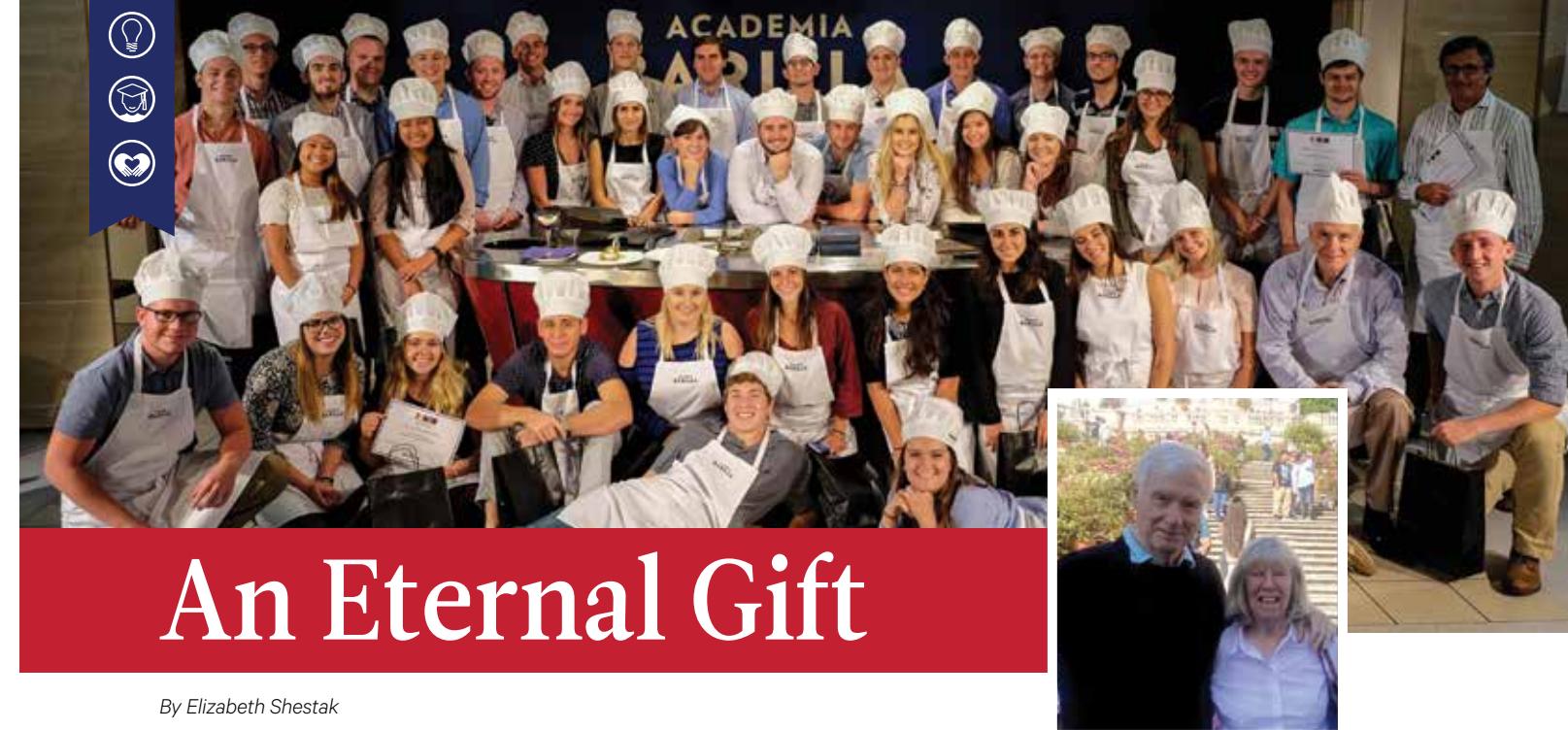
A Pittsburgh native, Dausey grew up in Jefferson Hills and holds degrees from Mercyhurst University, Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. His academic career includes appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and extensive international work with organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

At the press conference announcing his appointment, Dausey emphasized his commitment to Duquesne's Catholic and Spiritan mission. "I am honored and humbled to lead this institution," he said. "Duquesne prepares students not just for careers, but for lives of meaning. That's why I entrusted this University with my own children's education."

The Rev. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp., provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and chair of the Duquesne University Corporation, praised Dausey's dedication to the Spiritan ethos. "He has kept our character at the heart of Duquesne's academic enterprise," Fogarty said.

Dausey will be the fourth lay president in Duquesne's history. His appointment signals a continued commitment to academic excellence, student success and service to the broader community. With deep roots in Pittsburgh and a global perspective, Dausey is poised to lead Duquesne into a new era of innovation and impact. ♦

Dausey addresses the Duquesne community and gathered media.



An Eternal Gift

By Elizabeth Shestak

It started with patio furniture.

Mark Ciccone, A'70, GA'72, and Eileen Keeney, N'72, college sweethearts married more than 50 years, were visiting the new home of Duquesne in Rome in 2005 when they asked Michael Wright, director of European programs, if they needed anything. While Duquesne students had been studying in Rome for years, the program had opened in what would be its permanent home in the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth convent. Wright said it would be nice to have a place for the students to relax on the sunny rooftop.

That was the first time the Ciccones contributed to the Rome experience, but it wasn't the last.

For more than 20 years, the Ciccones have enriched Duquesne student opportunities abroad, from the intangible financial support of maintaining its facilities to more visceral experiences involving Ciccone's prolific professional connections.

Chanel, Ferrari, Barilla and Procter & Gamble—all household names, and all companies Ciccone has connected Duquesne in Rome students to during their time abroad thanks to his decades-long career with Procter & Gamble, retiring as global director of retail innovation.

WHEN IN ROME

The Ciccones never studied abroad during their time as students at Duquesne, but Procter & Gamble brought them, and their four daughters, to Rome for about three years in the early 1990s.

It was transformative. They have returned to Rome countless times, making it to the Vatican for the last two papal conclaves. Ciccone has even written a book, *Obelisk Odyssey*, researching many Roman obelisks, which Keeney illustrated.

When they had the opportunity to connect with Duquesne students in Rome, they couldn't help but be moved.

"The students reminded us of ourselves when we were that age," Ciccone said. "We, of course, identified with Duquesne

and we identified with Rome because we had lived there. But I think we identified with the students. I think that's what we both said, that maybe a lot of these kids haven't traveled abroad. Thank goodness they're doing this."

LASTING CONNECTIONS

Their involvement didn't end with chaise lounges. Ciccone realized his connections could broaden the student experience, and he started making phone calls.

With so many of the courses offered in Rome centered around art and history, the many business majors who study abroad sometimes lacked an Italian experience they could truly connect with. Ciccone's connections changed that.

"They just become a little bit more passionate about their experiential learning," Wright said of the business majors. "It worked, and it continues to work."

Ciccone even taught a business course in 2017, and Dean Bartins, B'20, was among those students.

"Professor Ciccone seemed to know every person he talked to personally. It was obvious that he spent his career curating and maintaining great relationships with everyone he crossed paths with," said Bartins, now a construction risk analyst in Cleveland. "It was really neat to see the power of networking come to life, and I would dare say that people are extremely more willing to help people who are kind. The network Professor Ciccone has built is a direct reflection of who he is."

Students are still benefitting from Ciccone's business connections.

This spring, William McCracken, B'26, went to the Barilla factory and toured the Ferrari campus. "Touring the campus is something only people buying a Ferrari can do, and so being able to see it without buying a Ferrari is thrilling!" he said. "Although I never met or interacted with Mark Ciccone personally, his influence was still felt during my time abroad." ♦



Celebrating Scholars

GOLDWATER AND FULBRIGHT AWARDEES
FOLLOW TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

By Gina O'Malley



(From left) Trista Newman, Alayna Funke and Madison Fitzgerald collaborate in the lab.

Curing infection. Connecting with culture. Healing the planet. Duquesne's Goldwater and Fulbright Scholars reach for bigger goals and impact the world in meaningful, productive ways—all while establishing a track record of success.

GOING BEYOND

In 2025, Trista Newman, S'26, Alayna Funke, S'26, and Madison Fitzgerald, S'26, received esteemed Goldwater Scholarships, federal awards providing financial assistance for students committed to research careers.

Joy Chen, E'25, won a prestigious Fulbright award. Recognized as the world's largest international exchange program, Fulbright Program alumni have become heads of state, Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners and more.

BATTLING ANTIBACTERIAL RESISTANCE

Newman's goal is to cure infection. Her coursework, research and desire to make a difference gave her confidence to complete her Goldwater application.

"Antibacterial resistance is a growing global crisis," said Newman. "We have to identify new compounds that can be used as new antibiotics to fill this gap."

A biochemistry major, Newman was thrilled to become involved in research her first year.

"As a freshman I was learning about what it is to be in a research lab, including literature collecting, keeping a good lab notebook, collaborating and talking with peers," she said.



Joy Chen celebrates her graduation.

ADVANCING MEDICINE, INSPIRING OTHERS

Like Newman, Funke is passionate about helping others.

The chemistry major strives to understand how things work—how atoms interact and react with other molecules to create something to improve health outcomes.

Though Funke planned to become a physician, she learned there are many ways to contribute to health care, including behind-the-scenes work creating tools to advance medicine.

"I grew up in a very small town and had a poor math and science background," she said. "There was a girl who mentored me while I struggled through this, and she was a Goldwater Scholar. I remember telling one of my advisors that I wanted to be like her, and now I'm in the position to mentor other younger researchers and scientists."

Funke balances school, research and community involvement while thinking bigger and keeping her eye out for opportunities to advance medicine. Her next project? Researching ways to make chemotherapy more potent and efficient.

CREATING A FUTURE EVERYONE CAN SHARE

Fitzgerald wants to be the earth's doctor. The environmental science major has studied illegal sand mines in South Africa, interned for the Department of Energy and studied microplastics in water.

As she expands her horizons in Duquesne's new civil engineering lab, she notes that research, which began her first year, has given her confidence.

"I was so excited to receive the Goldwater Scholarship because it feels amazing to be recognized for my research abilities," she said. "I've developed everything that I know about research here at Duquesne, so it's really a testament to the strength of our programs."

Environmental health is personal for Fitzgerald, who lives with hereditary angioedema, a rare genetic swelling disorder.

"When I was younger, people would always say that I should be a doctor, since I was good at math and science and had a disability," she said. "But I actually want to go into environmental health, which is like being the earth's doctor. So I'll improve human health on a global scale."

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

For 11 months, Chen, an early childhood education major, is teaching English in a Taiwanese classroom alongside a cooperative teacher who speaks fluent Mandarin. Chen plans and leads lessons, designs curricula, co-hosts language camps and shares American culture with students.

In addition to sharpening her Mandarin, Chen is exploring Taiwan—her mother's home country—and meeting relatives.

"This is a great opportunity to travel and immerse myself in the culture while also learning and doing something related to my passion," she said. "The School of Education has given me a lot of experience teaching in the U.S. I want to collaborate with Taiwanese teachers to learn about their curriculum and see how they teach their students."

 Hear from Duquesne's most recent Goldwater Scholars at duq.edu/magazine.



"Really exceptional things happened at Duquesne that don't always happen other places."

ENGINEERING PROTEINS

2025 scholars follow in the footsteps of alumni who are changing lives around the world.

Chemistry major and Goldwater recipient Ben Jagger, S'15, earned a Ph.D. in computational and theoretical chemistry.

His scientific career has focused on using computational protein design to aid in the development of new therapeutics.

"I'm interested in unlocking new ways to treat diseases using proteins that we can design entirely using a computer," explained Jagger.

Jagger currently works as an associate principal scientist at Merck in the disruptive technologies group. He attributes his success to the running start he received at Duquesne.

"Really exceptional things happened at Duquesne that don't always happen other places," he said. "The opportunity to do so much at an early stage in a scientific career is incredible."

HELPING HEARTS BEAT

As a Goldwater Scholar and dual nursing and biomedical engineering major, Amanda Pellegrino, S'21, N'21, gained a wealth of experience that guides her as a UPMC artificial heart engineer and Ph.D. student.

Pellegrino supports patients who are on ventricular assist devices—also known as artificial hearts. The implanted devices circulate blood in individuals with end-stage heart failure or those awaiting a heart transplant.

Her nursing and biomedical engineering knowledge have been invaluable in the workplace. Researchers frequently consult her for clinical insight, and she is confident to help.

"I use my nursing background a lot," said Pellegrino. "The dual degree is what drove me to where I am."

In the future, Pellegrino hopes to work in transplant medicine and organ bioengineering, or in academia as a professor. Years after receiving her scholarship, she reflects on the Goldwater application where she was asked to list her academic and career goals.

"I've hit most of the milestones I wanted to hit," she said. "It's really exciting." ♦



Driven to Try Extraordinary Things

By Alison Juram D'Addieco

John Dziak, A'96, carefully rolls up the sleeve of his crisp blue dress shirt to show the words, "Johnny Waffle," inked on his forearm.

What's a Johnny Waffle?

"It's commitment," he smiles.

Dziak fell in love with waffles when he and his wife Tula, A'89, GE'98, were visiting Belgium.

"Street vendors sold them in little paper envelopes," said Dziak. "They were fantastic!"

Back home, Dziak cracked the code for the perfect dough recipe and started making waffles.

Today, he's trademarked Johnny Waffles, and they're available exclusively at Fresh Start Café in Canonsburg, Pa., a registered non-profit where Dziak is board president. It's one of Dziak's latest business ventures—and a way he can serve his neighbors in need.

RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITY-REACHING FOR BIGGER GOALS

After serving in the Air Force, Dziak earned his Duquesne business degree while working full-time at Washington Reprographics, a local print shop catering to the architectural, engineering and construction industries.

He had a vision for that print shop, beginning with purchasing the company.

Today, Dziak has transformed it into Printscape, Inc., specializing in large-format digital printing and graphics. It has multiple offices around the region and lists big national names—like Trek Bicycle Corp.—alongside local clients. It also holds naming rights to Printscape Arena at Southpointe and is the title sponsor for the PONY League World Series.

GIVING OTHERS A FRESH START

"A professor once told me the key to success is continuous improvement," said Dziak. "You wake up in the morning and you say, 'What can I do today to make it better?' And that's what I do."

Like Fresh Start Café.

Fresh Start was the dream of the late Father George Livanos, pastor of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, where



Dziak and his wife and daughters, Malina, B'19, and Alaina, A'23, are members.

"Father would call me," said Dziak. "He'd say, 'Yanni, ask me about the coffee shop.'"

Livanos had a dream—to create a "kafenio," an intimate Greek café where patrons could feed the soul while nourishing the body.

In 2022, shortly before Livanos passed, Dziak felt called to bring that vision to life.

Together with a group of community leaders, Dziak purchased and gutted a century-old building, transforming it into the bright and airy café.

"Everything we make, above our expenses, goes right back to the community," said Dziak. "We've purchased electric wheelchairs. Prom dresses. Helped pay for summer school. Helped make funeral arrangements. I never envisioned just how far we could reach."

The café manages the Santa Fund for the Canon-McMillan School District, where Tula Dziak serves as an elementary school principal. It's also a popular meeting place for veterans, church groups and other social organizations and hosts a Saturday morning music series, featuring local talent.

"A lot of times, folks come in and just need someone to talk to," said Dziak.

He still finds time to speak to students at Duquesne's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business. "I tell them to challenge themselves," he said, "to stretch to make things happen."

Building upon the Duquesne business degree foundation, Dziak has also earned an MBA, currently serves on the board of directors at a local community bank and has formed an active Merchant's Association in Canonsburg.

And he takes his own advice to heart. His latest venture? He's on the board of the Canonsburg Educational and Cultural Institute, which is transforming the town's former middle school into a vibrant regional center for arts, education and culture.

After all, success comes when you venture outside your comfort zone, and when, as Dziak puts it, "you're driven to try extraordinary things." ♦



Young riders celebrate success at Making Strides Foundation.

"I've had a little one take their first steps here...a girl who just started with us who is signing and making more vocals than before. She even brings play horses into her other therapies because she loves this so much."



A HORIZON-EXPANDING EDUCATION

Gray runs her business with compassion and empathy, and she's grateful that Duquesne's mission allowed her to hone these skills.

"Learning the theories of servant leadership and emotional intelligence allowed me to expand upon the academic approach to serve individuals in the disability community," she said.

SADDLING UP FOR A CAUSE

Like Gray, Alexis Baney, HS'06, aims to create a future everyone can share. In addition to her day job as an equine veterinarian, she sits on the board of Making Strides Foundation.

The organization enhances the lives of children living with disabilities by promoting inclusivity, encouraging healthy lifestyles and providing a flexible learning environment through equine-assisted services.

Founded by Jillian Masciantonio, an occupational therapist and adjunct professor in the Duquesne-China Health Institute, Making Strides Foundation provides occupational and speech therapy, adaptive riding lessons and group programs like inclusive horse camps, field trips, birthday parties and more.

PURSUING BIGGER GOALS

Clients may have intellectual disabilities, psychosocial conditions or movement disorders or are on the autism spectrum.

"I've had little ones as young as 2 and 3 on our ponies if they're not meeting developmental milestones," said Masciantonio. "I've had a little one take their first steps here at 3 or 4 years old after riding and a girl who just started with us who is signing and making more vocals than before. She even brings play horses into her other therapies because she loves this so much."

While many children see improvement in their conditions through these therapies, others find autonomy.

"We work with a client who is in a wheelchair 24 hours a day and he rides once a week," said Masciantonio. "He

gets some independence and it's a great feeling to offer that to someone."

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING, DRIVEN TO SERVE

Baney received her undergraduate degree in athletic training before pursuing her veterinarian degree—a lifelong dream. Now, she combines all of her passions at Making Strides.

"It's neat to see these kids get therapies and know it's with animals I love," she said.

Baney values the opportunity to provide veterinary care to the horses at Making Strides and considers the animals athletes with an important role.

"It may be that a horse has been injured, and when we get to recovery and see the client get back on the horse and ride—it's amazing," she said.

Giving back to the community isn't new for Baney. It's something she dates back to her time as an undergraduate at Duquesne.

"I learned how to work harder and to be mindful of not just serving myself, but also serving the community," she said.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

For Kimberly Tucker, GA'22, a career dedicated to service also began at Duquesne. As a philosophy doctoral student, she began her dissertation focusing on applied phenomenology, focusing on human experience and how individuals perceive and interact with the world.

Partway through this work, the philosophy department was approached by Dr. José-Alain Sahel, director of the UPMC Vision Institute.

"Dr. Sahel wanted to integrate phenomenology into the low-vision clinic and rehab," said Tucker. "My original focus was chronic illness, but I switched gears to focus on vision and perception and low-vision experiences. UPMC ophthalmologist Dr. Jay Chhablani and my dissertation advisor Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer supported the interdisciplinary project between philosophy and ophthalmology, which paved the way to conduct a clinical project in phenomenology."

IMPROVING LIVES

Tucker's work was well-received—she was awarded Duquesne's Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2025 in Humanities and Fine Arts—and she now works as a postdoc researcher at the UPMC Vision Institute studying the lived experience of individuals with vision loss. Combined with a clinical diagnosis and treatment from a medical team, Tucker contributes to a holistic treatment plan that allows the team to address physical, social, emotional and the often inarticulable existential facets of health and illness.

"We're dealing with two epistemologies: one is grounded in experience and the other is from an empirical, scientific standpoint," said Tucker. "We bring in this other side of first-person experience to give information about what the patient might need and is lacking."

Tucker recognizes that low vision doesn't simply impact an individual's ability to perform certain activities—it impacts life more than most would imagine.

By conversing with patients, Tucker helps to identify their existential needs through a phenomenological attitude so they can maintain as much independence as possible. She also hopes to start a low-vision support group in the coming year alongside an occupational therapist.

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

As phenomenology is increasingly applied in medical settings, Tucker hopes to create more opportunities for Duquesne students and alumni to work with patients and contribute positively to their lives.

"Engaging with patients, doing this deep listening practice rooted in principles and methods of hermeneutic phenomenology and giving them space to tell their story can be very therapeutic," said Tucker. "As far as I can find, there's no model for a phenomenological approach to low vision, which is very exciting. When you're paving the path of something new, there's a lot of questions to be answered and things to work out, but hopefully this can serve as a model for other institutions." ♦



The Wisdom of A Walk

By Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.
A'86, University Chaplain

CARPE DIEM SEIZE THE DAY ALL YOU STUDENTS WHO WALK HERE rings out from a small brick on the lower perron as students turn from Academic Walk (known by many as A-Walk) on to the steps leading into the Student Union. F. Lorenzen, Ph.D., left that message, part of the array of engraved bricks that cover this area.

I've noticed the brick because, like many older alums, I need to get my steps in. My University Chaplain's office is on the third floor of the Union; I use the printer in the Campus Ministry office in Old Main. It gets me out of the office multiple times a day and hopefully, I can bump into a few students, faculty or staff while adding steps to my daily tally. It also has me crossing this small sea of messages hundreds of times a week.

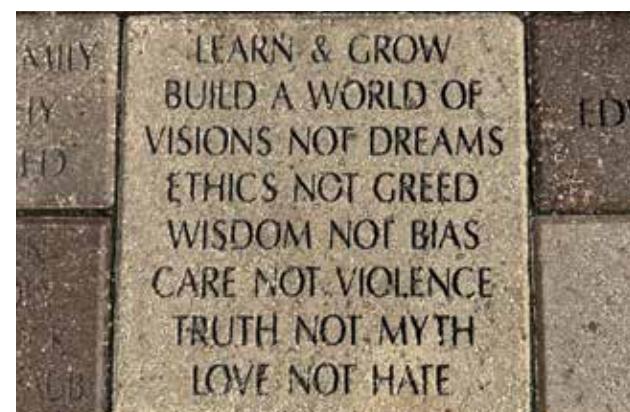
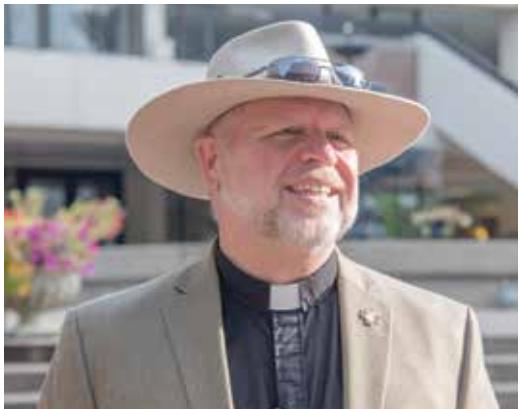
Sometimes, I look down and take note of the wisdom of A-Walk.

One brick might be more famous than others. THIS IS NOT JUST A BRICK, THIS IS A BRICK WITH WORDS ON IT had to have been donated by an anonymous philosophy major who specialized in phenomenology. It has been used as the elusive grand prize winner for numerous scavenger hunts on campus. If I see a student stooped over the bricks, phone in hand ready to take a picture, hurriedly scanning, I tell them to look for the circular access panel near the eastern light post, put your toes on the panel and take a giant step backwards and look down, the prize is right beneath you. A better brick to use for the grand prize would be IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT GIVES LIFE, JOHN 6:63, which is on the west side, but that's the chaplain in me speaking.

As a Spiritan, I'm edified that a number of donors opted to honor the congregation with their inscriptions. WE MAKE OURSELVES THE ADVOCATES OF THE WEAK, THE LITTLE ONES is a quote from the Spiritan Rule of Life. FRANCIS LIBERMANN'S DYING WORDS WERE FERVOR, CHARITY, SACRIFICE is a tribute to the second founder of the Spiritans. And, while many Spiritans are named on bricks, possibly the most poignant recognition says IN MEMORY OF FATHER HENRY MCANULTY, HE WAS A VERY KIND & GRACIOUS MAN. I ADMIRE & MISS HIM VERY MUCH, GOD BLESS HIM. FROM HIS FRIEND DICK WRIGHT.

Some bricks call out encouragement. IT'S NEVER AS EASY OR AS HARD AS THEY SAID IT WOULD BE. JAG '75 TKS M&D calls to today's students to stay level-headed. Parenthetically, I'd like to have that message posted all over campus every finals week.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY A LASTING IMPACT ON MY LIFE—LINDA D LANGER, A'70, and WHAT I LEARNED HERE AFFECTED OTHERS—ANDREA BLASKOVICH BARLOW, NURSING '65, help today's





Recently retired after 42 years of teaching journalism, Maggie Patterson touched the lives of countless students at Duquesne, including David Brown, A'84, with whom she reconnected at the inaugural Keystone News Summit.

“...he speaks to fruits of the Duquesne experience as he experienced it though decades of life.”

students keep in mind that the reach of what they learn at Duquesne changes them *and* their community.

EDUCATION IS THE ONLY PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE—DAVID HOFFER calls the present student into the future they are building now. A GOOD EDUCATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF INDEPENDENT THINKING & LIFE TIME SECURITY—FRANK W SCHRATZ, CLASS OF 1933, is probably the most senior voice on A-Walk, and he speaks to fruits of the Duquesne experience as he experienced it though decades of life.

There are also bricks that call to the current Dukes with the wisdom of those who look back to their time on the Bluff. TO SUCCEED ONE MUST KNOW THE MEANING OF DISCIPLINE, PRIDE, HUMILITY & WORK advises one brick. While IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS—JAMES P. MCQUADE, B'61, seems to be a call to the Duquesne community at large.

The only specific class celebrated among the bricks is PRAISE THE COURSE INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS & LOGIC FOR LIFE. Rev. Ed Bushinski, C.S.Sp., is the only professor quoted on the walk: THE GREATEST GIFT TO A CHILD IS A HAPPY MARRIAGE; YOUR MARRIAGE IS YOUR CHILD'S 1ST LESSON ON MARRIAGE. This

inscription is most likely copied directly from Bushinski's famous charts before marriage class. The message IN GRATITUDE OF A BETTER LIFE: BUILD ON HIGH STANDARDS, SUPERIOR VALUES & CLEAR MORAL PRECEPTS—H. ARNOLD GEFSKY, LAW 1967, is one of many that praise Duquesne for offering something more than an academic background.

A few lessons on the power of a philosophy of life are left to instruct our students. LEARN & GROW: BUILD A WORLD OF VISIONS NOT DREAMS, ETHICS NOT GREED, WISDOM NOT BIAS, CARE NOT VIOLENCE, TRUTH NOT MYTH, LOVE NOT HATE was left by an anonymous alum. Dr. Helen and Joe Sobehart's message expresses gratitude: FOR THE JOY OF TEACHING & LEARNING, FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO LEAD & TO FOLLOW, FOR THE GIFTS OF PEACE & LOVE.

The last brick I want to mention is not profound or especially witty but charms me with its casual familiarity; HELLO TOM—LOVE, MOM, DAD, DAN, JOAN & MARILYN reminds me, as I'm crossing A-Walk, to say hello because I never know when I might meet Tom and I want to be sure he gets the message. ♦

David Brown, A'84, stepped to the podium at the Hilton Harrisburg in May to open the inaugural Keystone News Summit, an event—designed to combat the local news desert crisis—spearheaded by Duquesne and Temple universities. What he didn't realize was this forward-thinking gathering would take him down memory lane.

“When I walked into the summit today and saw a copy of *The Duquesne Duke* with the front-page story about Maggie Patterson, who taught me, that was a full circle moment for me,” Brown told the room of journalists as he held a copy of the student newspaper he once edited. Among those present was Patterson, who recently retired after 42 years teaching journalism.

Brown described Patterson as a champion for student journalism who also has made significant contributions to media ethics research. Yet that enduring student connection is what she loved most about her time at Duquesne.

“Some students, like David, stand out in their eagerness to learn and grow. They come with a spark that makes teaching and mentoring easy and fun,” Patterson said.

But that spark wasn't always so bright for Brown.

“Early on, I was discouraged by instructors to pursue journalism as a degree and a career,” recalled Brown. “By the time I had Professor Patterson, I was a much stronger writer. She encouraged me to believe in myself and my ability.”



By Laura Smail

That self-belief shaped Brown's career, leading him to Temple, where he co-launched the Keystone News Summit along with Dr. Pamela E. Walck, associate professor of multiplatform journalism, and Tara Bradley-Steck from Duquesne's Patricia Doherty Yoder Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism and Media, along with colleagues from Lehigh, Penn State and Point Park universities.

More than 100 journalism faculty, legislators, philanthropists, students and news professionals, including several Duquesne alumni, attended the event. One of those alums was Julie Sidoni Yelen, A'00, director of journalism for WVIA, the NPR/PBS affiliate for northeast and central Pennsylvania.

“We have a lot of work to do in making sure all Pennsylvanians have access to good, smart, empowering journalism,” she said. “Now I know I have a solid partner in that, in Duquesne. I'm a proud alum.”

Duquesne multiplatform journalism major and rising senior Eliyahu Gasson shares Yelen's sentiments.

“The Keystone News Summit gave me a more optimistic view of what the future of journalism might look like,” Gasson said.

Brown said he's proud of his colleagues, who spent a year working toward the bigger goal of holding the summit. And he looks forward to next year's event, which he promises will be even better.

“We're in a crisis and we've got to find ways to overcome the crisis to bring light into dark corners,” Brown said. “If we can do that...we will continue to find solutions that will lift us all.” ♦

Shortly before this magazine went to press, we were saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected passing of Maggie Patterson. Maggie inspired generations of students to find their voices and pursue their creative passions. She will be fondly missed by all who knew her.

Century Club Welcomes Five New Members

Four alumni and President Ken Gormley were inducted into the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni at the President's Dinner during Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 11.

The Century Club was established during Duquesne's 100th anniversary in 1978 to recognize graduates with exemplary records of professional achievement and service to the University and their communities. Only 356 alumni have been admitted to its ranks.

For only the fourth time in history, honorary membership was bestowed on a non-alumnus. Gormley, who will step down from his position next year, joins his three immediate predecessors in membership.

The new 2025 Century Club members are:

PETER D. BERNARDO, PH.D., P'59

*Founder and President
Xerimis Inc.*



With more than 40 years of experience in research and development, Bernardo has been instrumental in initiating tremendous changes in the pharmaceutical industry.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in pharmacy at Duquesne, he earned a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Bernardo began his career at Parke-Davis and then SmithKline, gaining experience in manufacturing and clinical supply production, labeling and packaging. Continuing in research and development, he became the head of formulation development at Lederle Laboratories. His next transition was a position at Baxter Travenol as vice president of the Flint Division, where he oversaw all aspects of development and production.

After more than 25 years in the industry, Bernardo founded the first independent clinical supply company, Simirex Inc., in 1988 with his wife, Loretta. Simirex was dedicated to contract packaging and labeling of clinical supplies. Bernardo guided the company through 10 years of exponential growth, marked by global expansion and the launch of Simirex Europe in 1996, until its acquisition by Quintiles Transnational Inc., one of the world's largest clinical research organizations. He served Quintiles as chief operating officer, Worldwide Clinical Supplies, from 1998 through 2000.

During his time with Quintiles, Bernardo's desire to once again lead an independent contract packaging

organization led to the creation of a new company. In 2001, he and Loretta founded Xerimis Inc., a leading provider of clinical supply packaging and distribution services with locations in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Bernardo takes pride in seeing Xerimis continue to flourish under family leadership, now led by his daughter Carol Sue Bernardo, who is building on his legacy and guiding its next chapter by fostering long-term partnerships and a workplace where employees feel they are part of a family.

Bernardo has been a member of the Dean's Steering Committee of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan. He is a member of AAPS, DIA, APhA, ISPE, Rho Chi, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Sigma XI, and a recipient of the Duquesne School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a generous supporter of the Pharmacy School and Duquesne's men's basketball program.

DANIEL J. CANCELMI, CPA, B'85

*Retired Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Tenet Healthcare Corp.*



A native of Bethel Park, Pa., Cancelmi served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for Tenet Healthcare Corporation, a Dallas-based NYSE publicly traded \$20 billion company, until his retirement in 2024. He was the CFO of Tenet for more than 11 years, responsible for overseeing all finance, investor relations, accounting and SEC reporting and related functions. His tenure at Tenet included previous positions as senior vice president, controller and principal accounting officer.

He is a certified public accountant licensed in Texas and Florida, and serves on the board of Conifer Health Solutions, Tenet's majority-owned revenue cycle company.

Before moving to Tenet's corporate headquarters in 1999, Cancelmi served as chief financial officer of Hahnemann University Hospital, a former Tenet property in Philadelphia. He began his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, working for more than nine years in Pittsburgh, and in the firm's National Accounting and SEC Directorate unit in New York City.

Cancelmi is currently a member of Duquesne University's Board of Directors, and has generously shared his experience expertise in health care and business

in support of Duquesne's new College of Osteopathic Medicine. His philanthropic commitments include the establishment of a scholarship fund benefiting underprivileged students in the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business and the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, along with discretionary funds supporting the deans' priorities advancing both schools.

Cancelmi and his wife, Ronda, reside in Southlake, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, and have five children.

THOMAS A. TRIBONE, GB'81, L'85

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Franklin Park Investments, Inc.*



After earning his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University, Tribone began his career in 1974 as an engineering manager with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) chemical plant in Monaca, Pa.—near his hometown in Beaver Falls. He earned his MBA and Juris Doctor degrees as an evening student at Duquesne. Three generations of his family have earned degrees at Duquesne, starting with his father as a GI Bill student following World War II.

With a vision for "infrastructure writ large" and inspiration from his classes at Duquesne, Tribone founded a business that eventually became AES Corporation. What began as a start-up in 1982 became the largest power company in the world, pioneering the global independent power industry.

In 2000, he founded Franklin Park Investments, which owns and manages energy and infrastructure businesses worldwide including ATVOS, an ethanol production company in Brazil. Tribone's work has taken him to more than 35 countries. His commitment to broader influence is evident in his policy and academic contributions—chairing Case Western Reserve's Great Lakes Energy Institute, serving as director at Georgia Tech Research Corporation and Columbia Climate School, and advising the U.S. government as a special government employee.

Tribone's achievements and insights have been chronicled in business books including *What America Does Right, Cases in Contemporary Strategy Analysis, Power to People and Joy at Work*. He is a recipient of the Case Gold Medal from Case Western Reserve University, a two-time finalist for the Standard and Poor's Lifetime Achievement Award, a member of the Hall of Achievement of the Magical Coach Foundation for Business Leadership and a 2025 recipient of the Baldrige Foundation Leadership Award.

Tribone is a former member of Duquesne University's Board of Directors and currently serves on the Academic Affairs Committee. He is the naming benefactor of the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education and has contributed to a host of other University initiatives, including the Student Success Endowment, Center for

Emerging Media, UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse and the Schools of Business, Music and Medicine.

Tom and his wife Michele have four daughters and five grandchildren.

LOIS A. WYGONIK, RN, CRNA, BSN, ARNP, N'74

*Retired Nurse Practitioner and Anesthetist
Florida Anesthesia Associates, P.A.*



Wyggonik earned her hospital-based nursing degree in 1960 at Butler Memorial Hospital and became a certified registered nurse anesthetist in 1962 at Allegheny Valley Hospital. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 1974 at Duquesne.

Wyggonik worked as staff nurse anesthetist at Allegheny Valley Hospital, St. Clair Hospital and Allegheny General Hospital and served as didactic instructor at Allegheny Valley Hospital School of Anesthesia. Relocating to Florida in 1981, she served as a CRNA, ARNP and instructor at Florida Anesthesia Associates in Winter Haven. Since retiring in 2015, she has continued to guide new generations of aspiring nurses with her vast clinical knowledge and thoughtful advice.

Wyggonik's achievements are especially impressive given her battle with neurosarcoma, a rare and aggressive type of cancer. In 1965, doctors removed extensive tissue, affecting her muscles and nerves. She spent more than five months in the hospital, relearning how to walk and talk. She had to adapt to using her left hand, lost hearing in her right ear and vision in her right eye, experienced permanent paralysis on the right side of her face, and had to learn to read from right to left following her surgery.

Through it all, she has maintained a strong and independent life, serving as co-chair of *Tidings*, a magazine of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and pursuing her passion for animals, dedicating decades to rescuing abandoned and injured dogs and birds and nursing them back to health.

Wyggonik was honored as a Life Achiever Retiree by Continental Who's Who (2017-2018) and appeared in the Top 100 Registry of Business Leaders and Professionals (2018), *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare* magazine (2017), and on CUTV News Radio (2018).

Despite the handicaps from brain surgery, Wygonik earned her degree and credits her success to the instruction and support she received at Duquesne. Her philanthropic legacy includes support for a scholarship benefiting Duquesne Nursing students, especially those with physical disabilities, and a nursing anesthesia training space in the school's new Joanne Barkett Conway Simulation Center.

continued on next page...

AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR...
PRESIDENT GORMLEY JOINS ESTEEMED COHORT

He has been a fixture on the Bluff for more than 30 years. He sports the distinctive ruby ring on his right hand. And his passion for the place is palpable—and contagious. It would be easy to forget that Ken Gormley didn't graduate from Duquesne. Now, he is one of just four non-alumni to be inducted into the Century Club, and only the fifth University president to receive this prestigious recognition.



Like all Century Club members, Gormley meets the high standards for induction: professional achievement, service to the community and service to the University. He joined the Duquesne Kline Law faculty in 1994 and served seven years as dean of the school before becoming Duquesne's 13th president in 2016. He will step down and assume the role of University chancellor on June 30, 2026.

Prior to coming to Duquesne, Gormley taught at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and engaged in private practice. He earned his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1977, summa cum laude, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980, serving as a teaching assistant to Professor Archibald Cox in Constitutional Law.

Gormley's written several legal publications, including three books and numerous articles, receiving awards and critical acclaim for his work and earning him a reputation as a highly respected constitutional scholar. Read more at duq.edu/Gormley.

Gormley formerly served as president of the Allegheny County Bar Association, the first academic to hold that position in the organization's 137-year history. He has testified in the United States Senate three times and testified in the Pennsylvania Senate on multiple occasions.

From 1998-2001, Gormley served as mayor of Forest Hills, Pa. He lives there with his wife Laura. They have four children and six grandchildren.

PREVIOUS ESTEEMED (NON-ALUMNI) INDUCTEES TO THE CENTURY CLUB

The Rev. Henry J. McAnulty, C.S.Sp., A'36, H'90, was the first president inducted and the only alumnus, as a member of the inaugural class at Duquesne's Centennial in 1978. His successor, the Rev. Donald S. Nesti, C.S.Sp., became the first non-alumnus honoree in 1982. The next two presidents, John E. Murray, Jr., J.D., S.J.D., in 1996, and Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D., in 2004, were invited to membership during their terms. The only other non-alumnus inductee was Isadore R. Lenglet, Murray's vice president for Management and Business, who was honored in 1997 and subsequently received an honorary degree in 2001.

Dukes from the Last Decade Honored

The Duquesne University Young Alumni Network and presenting sponsor Herff Jones proudly presented the fifth Annual Dukes from the Last Decade Awards at the Energy Innovation Center on June 7.

To learn more about the awards program and this year's honorees, visit duq.edu/alumni.



Pictured (l-r) are Young Alumni Network president Anthony Priore, A'16, GA'18; honorees Kylie McCracken, A'16, B'16, Alison Williams, S'16, Dr. Brendan Gebler, A'17, Dominic Bigi, HS'18 and Piper O'Neal, GN'21; Master of Ceremonies Josh Taylor, A'07; honoree Talia Kirkland, A'14, GA'15; University President Ken Gormley; and honorees Luke Gormley, GP'18, Katie Sulkowski, GP'15, and Christopher Profeta, B'15.



How Duquesne Conclaves

By Elizabeth Shestak

When Jen Cardone, A'15, enrolled at Duquesne, she was really only certain about one thing: she would study abroad in Rome. One of the first things she did was apply for the Duquesne in Rome program for the spring of her junior year, and she planned her curriculum accordingly.

What she could not have planned, however, was the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI while she was abroad, the resulting conclave and running into Pittsburgh's Action News 4 anchor Mike Clark on the streets of Rome.

"I got my first broadcast experience because he interviewed me," she recalled last summer, just home after a long day working as a news broadcaster for Queen City News from CBS 42 in Charlotte, N.C.

Cardone was already planning to take one of Clark's classes in the media department, but after Rome the broadcast bug had formally bitten, and her path was clear.

"Here was a student who was hungry for the opportunity to be a journalist," reflected Clark, who teaches as an adjunct at Duquesne, as a McAnulty College Distinguished Practitioner in Media and Communications, and still keeps in touch with former students like Cardone. That experience in Rome, combined with her coursework, supported her goals at every turn.

"Duquesne does a great job on helping students become who they want to be," Clark said.

In the decade since graduating from Duquesne, she has covered countless stories ranging from tragic to joyous, but she has also garnered a nickname—as Pope Correspondent—due to her insights as someone who was actually in St. Peter's Square for a conclave.

When the white smoke flew once again last May, Cardone was prepared to contribute to her station's coverage in a way only someone who had been to a conclave could. She was positioned on air as an expert of sorts, talking viewers through what they were seeing in St. Peter's Square. She was also able to share what such a historic moment means as a practicing Catholic.

"Being able to use my personal experience was really cool," she said. "I found my voice when I was in Italy."

PERFECT PAPAL TIMING

This year, a large cohort of Duquesne health science students, faculty and staff were taking advantage of a Maymester in Rome where they partook in a Physical Therapy World Summit and a week-long longevity lifestyle study in the HEAL Initiative program.

Arriving on airplanes where most of the passengers streamed the film *Conclave*, they knew the white smoke could fly at any moment. When it did, a number of them made it to St. Peter's Square in time for Pope Leo XIV, the first American pope, to emerge from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to greet the crowds who had been camped out for days.

Among them were Mikey Brivchik, S'23, GS'24, a resident director brought to Rome to assist with the Maymester program.



TOP: Jen Cardone reporting this May on Pope Leo XIV. BOTTOM LEFT: Jen Cardone as an undergraduate during her semester in Rome. BOTTOM RIGHT: Duquesne alum Mikey Brivchik (right) in St. Peter's Square immediately following Pope Leo's inaugural speech.

"I'll never forget the adrenaline rush of jumping into a taxi and racing through the streets of Rome as the announcement was made. The energy in the city was electric; people were running, cheering and flooding toward St. Peter's Square from every direction. As the bells rang out and the crowd erupted in celebration, I knew I was witnessing history," she recalled. "To stand in the square among thousands of people from around the world and feel that sense of unity and awe was deeply moving."

Fellow resident director Mia Grazian shared in the excitement. "Our Uber down to the Vatican was something out of a film. We watched hundreds of people dash on foot, fly by on scooters and squeeze their way down the small stone streets on bikes. I had to remind myself that this was real life and not a Hollywood set. The entire time, I kept telling myself that this is one of those moments that I will be able to share with my future children and remember for the rest of my life!"

While Brivchik is not Catholic, the importance of the moment still held great significance.

"As a Duquesne alum, it was incredibly meaningful to be there—not just as a visitor, but as someone representing our university and its values," she said. "It reminded me of the global reach of faith, community and education, and how our experiences at Duquesne prepare us to engage with the world in profound ways."



Donuts, a Dog and a Dedication to Duquesne Doctors

PHILADELPHIA COUPLE WITH ROOTS ON THE BLUFF MAKE TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT TO NAME THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

by Gabriel Welsch

Jim and Celeste Nasuti have earned a place in the history of Duquesne through their remarkable support of the University's most significant initiative in a century. The Nasuti family has given a naming gift—one of the two largest gifts ever made to Duquesne—to what will now be named the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine of Duquesne University.

Announced by President Ken Gormley as part of the Homecoming celebrations on campus in October, the gift will enable the medical school to serve generations of people through the works of future Duquesne doctors.

ROOTS ON THE BLUFF

The Nasuti family's commitment to people has very deep roots.

Jim Nasuti, S'70, grew up in Philadelphia and spent summers at the Jersey shore, in Ocean City. There, he worked at Dot's Pastry Shop, the neon-signed clapboard bakery his mother and father built, which still operates today under the same name but different ownership, the longest-running pastry shop at the shore.

"The world needs doctors. Plus, Duquesne adds that important consideration of service and helping people, going back to its founding purpose to help immigrants to Pittsburgh."

"I helped out as a little boy, and once I could see over the counter, I started taking orders," Jim recalled. By the time he was a teenager attending Holy Ghost Preparatory School (Duquesne's sister institution in Philadelphia), he spent his summers rising in the 3 a.m. oceanside darkness to help fry donuts.

After enrolling at Duquesne and majoring in biology, he still returned every summer, making the long drive from the Bluff to work in the family bakery.

"My parents poured everything they had into that business and made it very special," he said. He would later build a business empire of his own, alongside Celeste Bahl, a young woman from Crafton, Pa., who would meet him thanks to shared Duquesne connections. That spark would ultimately make history at the University.

While Jim attended Duquesne, across town in Crafton, Celeste knew Duquesne through her parents. Her mother had studied in the School of Pharmacy and her father attended Duquesne Prep and wrote for the *Duquesne Duke* as a student in the College of Liberal Arts before a career in which he ascended to president of Keystone Plumbing, a local plumbing supply chain. Celeste's sister, Constance, who took vows as a Sister of Charity, did work with Campus Ministry nearby at Point Park College (now University).

In fact, it was Sister Constance who led to Jim and Celeste's meeting. One day she brought home an issue of the *Duquesne Duke* for Celeste to read. She noticed a listing for a social event.

"It was the '70s, and they used to hold 'encounter groups,'" Jim recalled. Celeste added, "There was one for singles in Shadyside, and my sister said I should go. She was right."

BIGGER GOALS

Now, the entrepreneurs own Summerwood, a firm that operates more than 200 Taco Bell and KFC franchises across six states. They know their success is built on values they each learned growing up.

"The business is really about supporting people," Jim said. "The restaurants are franchises. In that situation, the

company tells you what to make and they market the brand, so your work is really to focus on people. Without people, you're nothing."

They happen to be very good at focusing on people. In their Conshohocken, Pa., offices overlooking the region's storied Schuylkill River, a long bank of glass shelves contains dozens of awards for their professional and volunteer work. Long-time employees in their organization who started as franchise employees have stayed with them and moved up, such as Terry Brown-Walker, now the company's vice president for IT.

Their commitment to their people extends into their spare time. On many vacations, the family of five—the Nasutis have two daughters and a son, all of whom work in the business—would travel to meet the people running the restaurants. The Nasutis got to know them as people and made themselves accessible to the men and women running the stores.

Now, the couple is expanding their impact well beyond the opportunities that their business has created. Their gift to Duquesne's medical school will fund scholarships and faculty enhancements to help make the medical school accessible for those aspiring doctors with a heart for service, working as excellent general practitioners in a wide array of communities that need them.

"We are just honored to be associated with such an excellent project," Jim said. "The world needs doctors. Plus, Duquesne adds that important consideration of service and helping people, going back to its founding purpose to help immigrants to Pittsburgh."

SPIRITAN VALUES

At Holy Ghost Prep, Jim and many of his classmates knew well the reputation of the Spiritan University across the state. Holy Ghost itself is a Spiritan school, founded in 1897. At the time Jim started, it was in its earliest years transitioning from a junior seminary to welcoming lay students as well.

When Jim enrolled at Duquesne, he studied biology, thinking he wanted to be a doctor. Like many people, his

plans and interests changed. After earning his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh, he pursued a career in law back home in Philadelphia. Celeste became a CPA and earned her MBA at Wharton and within a few years the couple were entrepreneurs, working as a team. Now, Jim's early aspirations to medicine have come somewhat full circle with a medical school named after him and his family.

"So much has changed for Duquesne," he said, recalling the smell of soot and the noise from local mills during his days on the Bluff. "It has such momentum now and has really grown its reputation."

That reputation and the excellence of the endeavor on Forbes Avenue drew their interest and, ultimately, commitment.

"To have a couple with such meaningful connections to Duquesne and Pittsburgh emerge and provide such transformational philanthropic support for our medical school is truly inspirational," said Gormley, who worked directly with the Nasutis in ensuring the gift reflected their ambitious vision. "A significant portion of the funding will be used for scholarships, so that students who want to attend this mission-focused medical school will have that opportunity. This will enable our highly trained graduates of the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine to go on and serve others in myriad ways."

Gormley added, "It's been a joy to work with Jim and Celeste and to see their enthusiasm for elevating this new medical school to national prominence, at a University that has played a central part in their lives. And it's wonderful that their children have been involved in this decision to endow and name the medical school. It's a source of passion and pride for the whole family. That makes it particularly special."

PEOPLE HQ

The Nasutis' headquarters today reflect both the cutting edge and data-driven focus of their work as well as its more human, and even canine, side. Huge screens display everything from real-time analytics about store and business

operations to videos of workers pouring concrete or laying bricks at new properties or those undergoing renovation. The front lobby glows with scrolling displays of messages, thanking colleagues for help with various tasks or projects.

And through the entire facility trots Marci, the Labradoodle who has full run of the space and saunters in and out of meeting rooms, stopping here and there for a pet or a scratch before moving on.

"Marci gets lots of attention," said Celeste. As she trots around, people at Summerwood bend to pet her or smile as they greet her.

"The Nasutis' care for people aligns with our Spiritan commitment to developing authentic relationships," said the Rev. John Fogarty, C.S.Sp., who has held several positions at Duquesne and currently serves as U.S. Provincial of the Spiritans. "It's wonderful to have people that have modeled that work serve as benefactors for the school, and to see a connection all the way from Holy Ghost Prep to Duquesne to now!"

The Nasutis first toured the medical school during the spring of 2025 as part of a meeting with Gormley, Jim Miller, then-vice president of university advancement, and Dr. John Kauffman, dean of the medical school. The Nasutis admired the spaces and the technology and saw students who probably had little idea who they were as they studied. Soon, a portrait of them will hang in the building, another reminder that for all the technology and research, people remain at the heart of the practice and profession of medicine.

"We are absolutely honored to have the Nasuti name on our medical school," said Diane Hupp, chair of the Duquesne University Board of Directors and CEO of UPMC Children's Hospital. "We need highly qualified doctors, especially primary care doctors, and their gift is serving a crucial good for our society. We are honored to be the home of the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine at this special University." ♦

The Nasutis were honored at the Spotlight on Duquesne dinner during Homecoming Weekend.

Students of the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine will benefit from the Nasutis' gift for years to come.





Endless Potential

ALUMNA AMANDA DUNYAK GILLEN DISCOVERED A PROGRAM THAT TAUGHT HER TO HELP OTHERS DISCOVER.



By Gabriel Welsch

If not for a Duquesne evening program, the Frick Pittsburgh's innovative car and carriage exhibit might not be the draw it is today.

Spoiler: it wasn't in law.

Recently named the executive director of the Frick Pittsburgh Museum and Gardens, Amanda Dunyak Gillen, GA'02, started at the renowned decorative arts museum in 2004 after working at another Pittsburgh landmark, the Senator John Heinz History Center.

Duquesne's master's program in public history helped get her there.

After earning degrees in history and elementary education elsewhere, Gillen discovered a Duquesne program that truly expanded her horizons.

"I felt like I'd discovered something," she recalled. Dr. Perry Blatz headed Duquesne's program then—himself a scholar of Pennsylvania labor history, where Henry Clay Frick's presence hunkers like the blast furnaces he had built along Pittsburgh's rivers. Public history differs from traditional academic history because it applies the concepts of historical study to translate and interpret history for a broader array of audiences.

"It sounded perfect. While it was unclear how I'd translate it into museum work, I liked the idea of bringing people in to interact with history," Gillen said.

As the Frick's director of learning and visitor experience since 2013, her work inspired people to explore exhibits through stories that appreciate the world's complexities. She helped design the Frick's first learning center. She worked on the team that expanded the Frick's noted car and carriage exhibit. Made largely of the preserved vehicles that transported the family through Pittsburgh, it shows the frenetic early developments in automotive technology—and especially the art present in design.

But for all her work innovating, Gillen's first love is Clayton, the Frick family's home during the height of their power and influence, and where she designed and gave tours for years.

"I'm a historic house person," she said. "And lately we've been considering how to make people think more about the house and what happened there."

For years, visitors to Clayton were told about the furnishings, the history and the timeline of people who lived there. Now, the tour focuses solely on the year 1892, when Frick made extensive remodels to expand the property, recovered from an attempted assassination and crushed a union uprising.

Current window views look out on the steel mills as they appeared then. Frick's room has simulated bloody bandages, from wounds sustained when an anarchist attacked him.

"It's a mess," Gillen said, with a laugh. "But it brings life into the rooms in a way that makes the history real. It shows how one year had a huge impact on shaping Pittsburgh—which we can appreciate now."

Gillen knows well how a single year can have an impact. Duquesne's evening public history program shaped her career. "If I hadn't been able to keep working, I wouldn't have done it. That meant everything to me," Gillen said. "I wanted to work, and I wanted to grow. I even met my husband at Duquesne."

Her husband was in the evening law program. Both busy, they'd rest at the fountain behind the Union, catching up over the water bubble, watching people traverse A-Walk.

An internship at the Heinz History Center led to her first job and, she said, another internship at the Frick got her the second job. "Duquesne gets people jobs, the *program* got people jobs," she said.

Gillen is proud to have worked in both the Heinz and the Frick. "I grew up in Charleroi and I always felt Pittsburgh held such endless potential," she said. "I wanted to help tell the story of this place."

In addition to telling stories, Gillen also helps students get jobs. Every fall she teaches a graduate-level class at Duquesne on public programming and museum education. One of her students earned a position at the Frick.

Dalena Collins facilitates tours of Clayton, the same house where Gillen got her start. "She was my teacher, and she was so fun, so energetic and so passionate that it was hard not to feel inspired," Collins recalled. "When the Frick posted for tour facilitators, she plugged it in class, urging us to apply."

Duquesne's presence is all through the property. Students intern frequently there. One of music professor Nicole Vilkner's "Sound Walk" installations—the very first created by Duquesne students and not hosted on campus—lives on the grounds of the Frick.

"You see that iconic D on cards all over the grounds," Gillen said. Visitors scan QR codes and hear sounds like the orchestrion—an enormous barrel-organ-like instrument intended to mimic the sound of a full orchestra—at Clayton or an antique trumpeting car horn by the carriage museum.

It fits with what Gillen sees as the Frick's most important task.

"I want people to think about their lives with what they're seeing and hearing," she said. ♦





It All Starts in the Lab

DUQUESNE ALUMNI RETURN TO SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM TO SHARE INSIGHTS, EXPERIENCES

By Ken Walters

Mat Pletcher, S'96, remembers the first time he felt the pull of the lab.

Pletcher's original plan was to become a lawyer, but when his former biology professor, Dr. John Doctor, suggested he work in his biology lab, Pletcher was hooked. The Indian Head, Pa., native has now worked in the field of genetics for more than 25 years, helping develop treatments for rare diseases around the globe.

"I've gotten to do so many things and seen so much of the world," said Pletcher, who is the chief scientific officer for Weaver Biosciences in Boston, Mass. "And it all comes back to that first lab experience."

The love of the lab and the opportunity to share his insights with the next generation of scientists are why Pletcher returned to Duquesne's campus, along with other alumni, to speak at the University's summer Undergraduate Research Program (URP).

Now in its 28th year, the URP attracts students from universities around the country, along with many Duquesne students. The program expands student horizons, offering 10 weeks of lab experience conducting research, presenting findings and networking with fellow scientists.

But what possesses students to spend a sunny summer inside a lab?

"I've gotten to do so many things and seen so much of the world. And it all comes back to that first lab experience."



Lauren Rebel



Brynn Roman



Mat Pletcher

"The idea that you can go into a lab and then come out being the first person to know something that no one else knows is exciting," Pletcher explained. "It's like every day in the lab is Christmas morning—some days you will get socks; other days it could be a new Xbox."

At this summer's URP, the connection between students and alumni was readily apparent. When Jacobs senior developer Daniel Robinson, S'19, spoke at the program, student Miriam Freer immediately related to his experience.

"Dan was talking about using mapping software for environmental studies," said Freer, a senior biomedical engineering and environmental science student. "I knew exactly what he was talking about, because I am doing the exact same thing."

"It's helpful to see how people who were in the URP are doing now," said Carley Csikos, S'25, who is pursuing her master's degree at Duquesne. "It's great to look back at that summer experience and see where it can take you and what you can accomplish."

"The idea that you can go into a lab and then come out being the first person to know something that no one else knows is exciting."

A SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY LEARNING TOGETHER

This sense of scientific community is what drew Brynn Roman, S'20, to the URP early in her academic career. When she attended her first summer program, Roman thought the URP would be a good way to test out her interest in research. She discovered more than she expected, both in and outside of the lab.

"I got to know so many people there and it was such a great supportive environment," she recalled. "Fellow students took the time to train me on lab techniques and involve me in collaborations. Outside the lab, they would

invite me to hang out with them, go to a Pirates game or have bubble tea. It made me feel welcome—it's why I participated the next two summers as well."

Roman, who is pursuing her doctorate degree in biological sciences at Vanderbilt University, said the hands-on experience of the program sets up students for success.

"That extensive lab time fosters critical thinking skills and gives you a sense of how to question things," she said. "That comes in handy when you need to write scientific papers or grant proposals for funding."

MAKING A PERSONAL IMPACT

During her presentation, alumna Lauren Rebel, S'22, shared some of the intangible benefits she gained while at the URP.

"Sometimes, you will work on a project and the results won't be of any use," said Rebel, who is going to medical school locally. "That's OK. You still learn things from the work—patience, dedication, communication and the importance of working together."

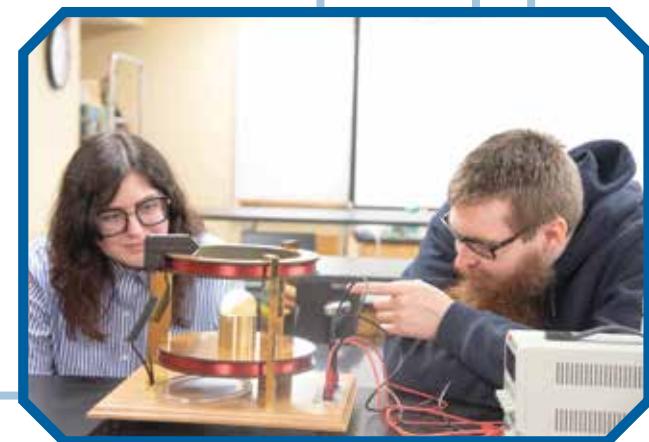
Planning to become a pediatrician, Rebel's current research focuses on developing resources for children who have lost a sibling.

"It's an honor to work in that space and help families cope with their grief, especially children, who may have trouble expressing their emotions at such a difficult time," she said. "It's a reminder that research goes well beyond the labs—it has a very real and direct impact on people."

Nobody understands that impact better from a professional and personal perspective than Pletcher, who was part of a team that successfully developed a treatment for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a terminal disease where children did not typically live past the age of 2. Thanks to his work on early intervention gene therapies and other treatments, children with SMA today can now live healthy, productive lives.

Personally, Pletcher and his wife Jennifer created a foundation to fund research for Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), a disease that affects vision in children, including their child, Finley. The research team is on the verge of creating treatments that can help reduce vision loss due to LCA and help those with the disease keep the eyesight they still have.

"Most of my career, I've been fortunate to work on projects that help improve children's lives," he said. "The hope is all of this work will pay off and help others with this disease to keep their sight as well." ♦





The Forbes Avenue corridor is now home to McGinley Hall, the Nasuti College of Osteopathic Medicine and the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

A Then and Now Look at the Physical Transformation of Campus

By Ian P. Hurley

Perched high on top of a hill overlooking the city, Duquesne has long been a visible part of the Pittsburgh skyline. From humble beginnings in a rented space above a bakery on Wylie Avenue in the Hill District, the footprint of the Bluff campus has moved, expanded and been enhanced many times over.

With additional growth along the Fifth and Forbes Avenue corridors, the University continues to pursue bigger goals and offer students first-rate facilities.

Alumnus and University archivist Tom White, GA'99, has been working here for 20 years and has noticed a lot of changes. "The University has expanded substantially down to Fifth and Forbes. I remember in the late '90s when Fisher Hall was the first building we got down on Forbes. It was weird to kind of be off campus." He noted that in the 1930s and '40s Duquesne had buildings off campus, but the goal of subsequent initiatives was to get campus life centered back up on the Bluff.

"There's more expansion than I thought I would ever see. The new medical school and the new McGinley Hall residential building are the latest examples. I never thought that area would get developed as quickly as it did," he said.

Alumni have favorite memories of their time on the Bluff and those often reveal themselves in the spaces where they spent time.

Who remembers the bowling alley on the first floor of the Union? How about when Rooney Field was completed?

Yes, the faculty parking lot is long gone, but how cool is it to watch a Dukes game right in heart of campus with downtown Pittsburgh as the backdrop?

Commencement is a seminal event in many students' journeys. Whether you graduated at the Civic Arena, in the Union Ballroom or at the A.J. Palumbo Center, most graduates and their families now get to experience the state-of-the-art UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse one last time before becoming alumni. Walking across that stage in front of the crowd reminds graduates they are prepared for anything.

Academic Walk, or A-Walk, is now free of cars (except during move-in!) and Rockwell Hall has been transformed through a multi-phased renovation, creating a modern environment where business students engage, collaborate and grow. These dynamic spaces support the kind of education that empowers students to lead, innovate and become the difference makers of tomorrow.

If you haven't been on campus in the last few years, you will be pleasantly surprised at how things have changed and what that means for our students.

It means more opportunities to learn together with their faculty, have horizon-expanding experiences with their friends and make memories they'll remember years down the road as alumni. ♦



2025 Commencement held in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse



1976 Commencement held in the Student Union



1977 Duquesne Union bowling alley



1970 Duquesne Union



2025 Duquesne Union



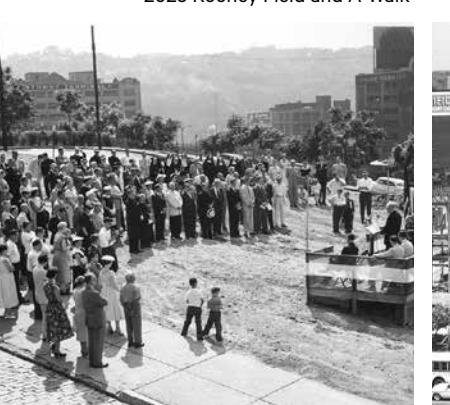
2025 Rooney Field and A-Walk



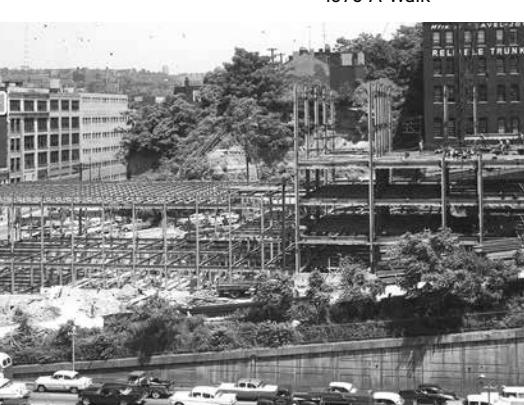
1970 A-Walk



Press box construction



1956 Rockwell Hall dedication



1957 Rockwell Hall construction



2025 Rockwell Hall



Buchanan Ingersoll • Rooney



Natasha Patel, L'24



Samuel Baycer, L'24

Law Grads Beat the Numbers

DUQUESNE KLINE SCHOOL OF
LAW CONTINUES TO OUTPERFORM
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AVERAGE

By Amanda Dabbs

Year after year, graduates of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University surpass national employment outcomes. The most recent employment results for the class of 2024 report Duquesne Kline School of Law is 4.6% higher than the national average among all American Bar Association (ABA) approved law schools.

Of the 157 graduates, 91.7% are employed in a position requiring bar passage or where the Juris Doctor is an advantage to their work. These Duquesne Kline grads are achieving their bigger goals and landing positions in a variety of sectors from government, public interest and judicial clerkships to business, education and private practice law firms of all sizes.

One of those graduates working in private practice is Samuel Baycer, L'24, an associate for Buchanan Ingersoll &

Rooney, a national law firm serving regional, national and international clients, including over 40% of Fortune 500 companies.

“Duquesne Kline’s alumni network was critical to my success in obtaining employment during law school and post-graduation,” said Baycer, who spoke with several Duquesne Kline alumni employed at Buchanan as he prepared for his interviews. “They offered me valuable insight on the firm’s culture, expectations and norms. This helped me determine Buchanan was where I wanted to work.”

BUILDING CAREER CONNECTIONS AND A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

The school’s assistant dean of career services and alumni relations Maria Comas, GE’07, L’00, B’97—a three-time Duquesne alumna—attributes the continuous high employment rate among law graduates to an engaged law school community network.

“The students benefit from the strong support of alumni who take part in recruiting initiatives, attend networking events and serve as mentors,” noted Comas. “Additionally, the law school’s close proximity to downtown Pittsburgh’s legal community provides students with opportunities to gain practical experience throughout the school year and during the summer months, while also building professional connections with many lawyers and judges.”

It was through the mock interview program organized by Comas that first-generation college and law school graduate Natasha Patel, L'24, landed her associate position with the regional law firm Strassburger McKenna Gutnik & Gefsky.

“One thing led to another, and my mock interview turned into a real interview,” said Patel, who served as a summer associate for two years and then officially joined the law firm in September 2024.

Patel added, “Law school is tough and challenging, but I was able to succeed because the Duquesne Kline Law community supported me and continue to support me throughout my journey.”

Maria Comas, Duquesne Kline School of Law assistant dean of career services and alumni relations, meets with a law student regarding career planning.



EMPOWERED TO LEAD, PREPARED FOR WHAT’S NEXT

During his third year of law school, John Brophy, L'24, was offered the position of assistant public defender for Monroe County in New York. He learned about the job opportunity by attending the Equal Justice Works Career Fair, an event Comas connected him to during a one-on-one career session with her.

Brophy explained that he took advantage of nearly every opportunity the law school offered for professional development and was able to build a resume of practice-oriented experiences that helped him stand out among other candidates.

“Duquesne Kline empowered me to lead by giving me actual opportunities to be a leader,” he said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law’s high employment and bar passage rates have been instrumental in maintaining its prestigious top 100 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking for three consecutive years. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2025-2026 Best Law Schools rankings, Duquesne Kline School of Law rose two places, securing the No.92 position among 196 ranked law schools nationwide.

“I had a fantastic educational experience, the best I ever had,” remarked Brophy. “It’s the law school to choose if you want to hit the ground running as a practice-ready attorney.” ♦

“Duquesne Kline’s alumni network was critical to my success in obtaining employment.”



John Brophy, L'24

Seen and Heard

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



↑
Several Alpha Phi sisters and their spouses traveled to Santorini, Greece, in September to celebrate their 60th birthdays. Pictured left to right: Paul Might, B'87, GB '88, Jean Monteverde Might, B'87, Scott Powell, B'87, Michelle Mutscheller Powell, P'88, Mary Kay Burke, N'87, Mary Ann Rizzo McCallister, B'87 and Pat McCallister, B'85.



↑
The Jill Jankowski Student Media Hub was dedicated during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Friends, family and members of the Duquesne community gathered to honor the former Duquesne Duke writer (pictured at center).

“

These students are eager to discover their purpose and appreciate the value of our programs to prepare them for anything—they’re coming here to build the professional confidence, impressive experience and powerful networks they need to get a running start on a meaningful career.

Joel Bauman, senior vice president for enrollment management, comments on the incoming class of Duquesne students



↑

Some of the **Golden Dukes** take a moment for a group photo while celebrating 50 years at Homecoming.



“

The intimate environment of PNC Recital Hall is the perfect place to experience chamber music at its finest.

*Mary Pappert School of Music Dean David Allen Wehr discussing the annual **Music on the Bluff** concert series*



Difference Maker Ashton Jell Receives Athletics' Leadership Award

by James Duzyk

The totality of the college experience is something that isn't lost on Ashton Jell, B'26.

In addition to being a mainstay for the Duquesne men's soccer program over the last four seasons, he has excelled outside of the sport. In April, Jell, a native of Lancaster, N.Y., was among a number of student-athletes honored at the Dukes Awards Show by garnering the Leadership Award, which honors a student-athlete who exemplifies leadership principles and is an outstanding representative of Duquesne Athletics. Jell is a student-athlete who "models the way and is willing to raise [his] hand, roll up [his] sleeves and get to work." He was instrumental in forming a soccer game on campus to promote men's mental health as well as putting together a town hall about mental health for all Duquesne students.

"It was really special to be honored with that award," Jell said. "It's just as important as any honor you may get on the field. As our coaching staff says, 'The way you do one thing is the way you do everything,' and that's a good motto to carry with you. It all relates to who you are as a person."

A valued member of the Duquesne Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) as well as member of the leadership council for the men's soccer program, Jell's development during his time on the Bluff has culminated in his final season with the Dukes as one he wants to remember for him and his teammates.

"It's special to be able to play for this program for four years," Jell said. "I really feel with this group that an Atlantic 10 title is within our reach. I'm excited to see what we can do this season."

Logging time at both midfield and on defense for Duquesne throughout his career, Jell's consistent presence

and work ethic has led the Dukes, who peaked at No. 23 last season in the United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll, and looks to continue their growth in 2025.

"Ashton is always in such great shape, and we know as a coaching staff that he's going to give us everything he has every day, whether that's in practice, games or in activities away from the field," head coach Chase Brooks said. "He's been an important part of the steady rise of this program just through his commitment to the team."

What excites Jell the most about being a marketing major is the fact there are a number of routes he can take when it comes to his career. Getting a jump on that career, Jell has assisted with Clean Plate Innovations, which was selected as the 2024-2025 winner of the Duquesne New Venture Challenge (DNVC).

"Working with Clean Plate Innovations has been huge for my development since I've been involved with the marketing and business side," Jell said. "The guys who started it have been great working around my schedule with soccer, but I'm very invested in it and excited to see where that leads."

Prepared for anything, career opportunities shouldn't be a worry for Jell after his time at Duquesne concludes. He still loves lacing up the spikes and getting ready for a game, even if an opportunity arises to play beyond when he will no longer sport a Duquesne uniform.

"I want to know at the end of the day that I gave soccer everything I possibly could," Jell said. As for his bigger goals? "It's everyone's dream that comes to play college at this level to play professionally. Soccer is a huge part of me, and I want to take it as far as I can." ♦

Honoring the Voice of the Dukes

By James Duzyk

Nestled among the dignitaries in late June at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, N.C., at the 65th National Sports Media Association (NSMA) Awards Banquet was a who's who of the sports media industry.

Ian Eagle of CBS, Westwood One and TNT and Ken Rosenthal of *The Athletic* were honored as the 2024 National Sportscaster and National Sportswriter of the Year, respectively. The 2025 NSMA Hall of Fame inductees included Mike Tirico, Dan Shaughnessy, the late Charlie Jones and the late Wendell Smith, who began his professional writing career in 1937 with the *Pittsburgh Courier* covering both the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords.

Seated at a table in the middle of the proceedings and surrounded by family and friends was the venerable Ray Goss, A'58, who was being honored as the eighth recipient of the Woody Durham Voice of College Sports Award. The honor recognizes college broadcasters for their character, mentorship of young broadcasters, efforts in the community and their association and tenure at their respective institutions.

"I didn't know what to expect but I was impressed how everything was handled and pleased that three of my children were there," Goss said. "Plus it generated some very nice publicity for Duquesne."

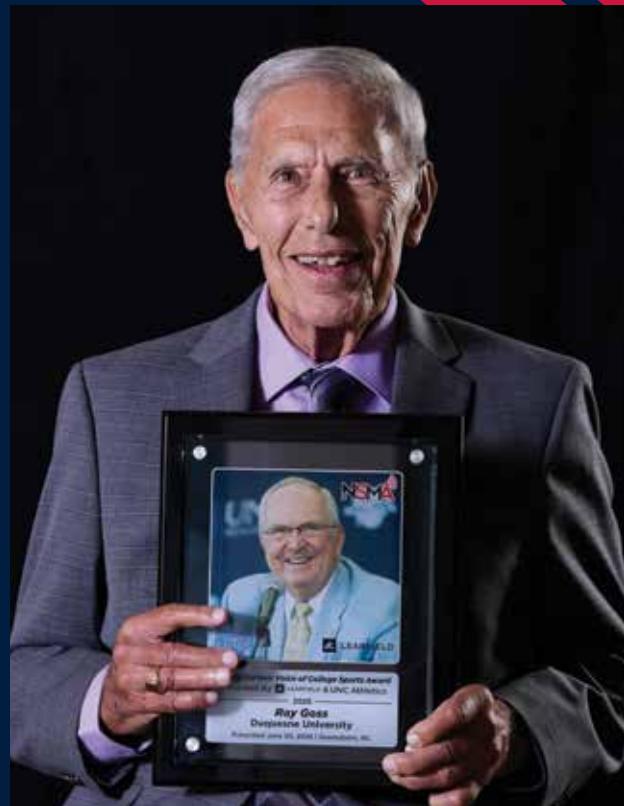
No one may be more associated with Duquesne men's basketball throughout the program's storied tradition than Goss. He has been behind the microphone calling games since March 17, 1968, and has already begun preparation for his 58th year on the Bluff when the Dukes open the 2025-2026 campaign Nov. 3 against Niagara at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

As Goss stepped to the podium in acceptance of the award, it was natural for him to highlight what he's been doing all of his life in radio. First came the thanks of many he's worked with over the years before dusting off an old tape of one of his many famed calls.

The sound was the final seconds of a thrilling 88-87 overtime win over Providence in Pittsburgh Jan. 31, 1974. The Friars were ranked ninth at the time and owned the lead, 87-86, with eight seconds to go in the extra period. The Dukes were able to secure the historic win in Red Manning's final season as head coach thanks to Bernie O'Keefe, A' 75, who hit a jumper after an outlet pass from Norm Nixon, A'77, who picked up a steal to lead the heroics late in the contest. Pandemonium ensued at the Civic Arena, including from the voice of the Dukes.

"If I did that game today, I don't think I would get as excited as I'm too old," Goss joked after the tape played at the induction ceremony.

Goss is the longest tenured NCAA Division I broadcaster, and it's the perfect compliment as he gets set to embark on another year behind the mic.



"I love Duquesne and I love Duquesne basketball," Goss said. "As long as I'm healthy I'm going to continue to call games. I take it easy 90% of the time."

While Goss is most famously known as the Voice of the Dukes, his talents spread beyond the basketball court. In the last 70 years, starting with play-by-play on WDUQ as an 18-year old sophomore in 1955, Goss has called over 3,000 games, including Indiana High School football, IUP basketball and football, Little League and Junior and Senior Legion baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, hockey, tennis, bowling, harness racing and even the outhouse races each year at the Indiana County Fair.

So, what is the key to longevity for Goss?

"I go by the fans a lot," Goss said. "They've let me know over the years when I've had a good call for a game. I just try to give the listener what they want. My philosophy has never changed and is pretty simple. What I see, I say." ♦

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.

DUQUESNE APPOINTS LAFRANKIE AS FOR SVP ADVANCEMENT

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley announced the appointment of Michael S. LaFrankie as its new senior vice president for university advancement, effective Aug. 18, 2025. LaFrankie brings more than three decades of distinguished experience in fundraising, executive leadership and strategic advancement, with a particular emphasis on higher education philanthropy.

“Mike LaFrankie is an impressive leader and a powerhouse in the advancement field,” said Gormley. “His track record of securing major gifts, building high-performing

teams, working with prominent alumni and donors and aligning philanthropic strategy with institutional mission is unmatched. He is also a true son of Western Pennsylvania, deeply committed to the values and vision that define Duquesne. Mike’s arrival marks a new chapter of opportunity and momentum for our special University.”

Throughout his career, LaFrankie has demonstrated a distinctive ability to build and lead large, complex advancement



operations. He has managed a team of more than 70 professionals and oversaw fundraising efforts across 27 hospitals and 14 community foundations for the dominant Pittsburgh health system. Under his leadership, annual fundraising increased by 60% over five years, and he implemented innovative programs and a restructured grateful patient fundraising model.

He holds a master’s degree in public policy and management from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor’s degree in communications from California University of Pennsylvania.

LaFrankie succeeds Jim Miller, who is continuing to serve as senior advisor to the president for university advancement.

“Jim Miller has set a new standard of excellence and fundraising success as senior vice president for university advancement at Duquesne,” said Gormley. “I’m confident that Mike LaFrankie will continue that high standard and leave his own positive mark on the University in the years to come.”

Read more at: duq.edu/news-lafrankie

PRESIDENT GORMLEY REAPPOINTS THREE DEANS

School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. James Drennen, School of Education Dean Dr. Gretchen Givens Generett and School of Nursing Dean Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow were reappointed deans of their respective schools in May.

Read more at: duq.edu/news-3deans



Dr. James Drennen



Dr. Gretchen Givens Generett



Dr. Mary Ellen Glasgow

THE REBIRTH AND RISE OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

In February of 1969, a group of Duquesne University students gathered on the 13th floor of St. Martin’s Hall with an ambitious goal: to revive intercollegiate football on the Bluff after a nearly two-decade absence.

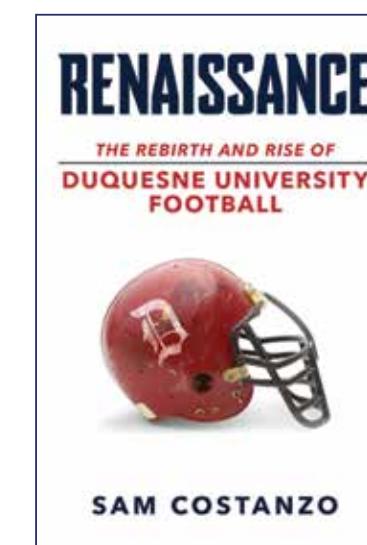
The Gridiron Dukes would become part of a rising tide of club football teams from across the U.S. and win a national championship on the hallowed tartan turf of Three Rivers Stadium in 1973. The friendships formed and the foundation laid endure to this day.

Sam Costanzo, A’72, a member of the Duquesne University Athletic Committee, was at the center of it all working from the team’s “front office” at St. Martin’s.

In his book *Renaissance: The Rebirth and Rise of Duquesne University Football*, Costanzo chronicles how building a football program with the right mix of elements—a committed University administration, savvy management, talented players, outstanding coaches and devoted fans—came into play once the Athletic Committee approved football as a student-run club.

With the success that began 50 years ago, the now Division 1 Duquesne Dukes have won multiple Northeast Conference championships and can trace their roots directly to Costanzo and his early ‘70s cohort.

Net proceeds from the book will provide football scholarships to deserving Duquesne student-athletes.



Recent Rankings

U.S. News & World Report

For 2025, Duquesne’s Master’s in Nursing Education program is **ranked #1** in the nation for Best Online Programs.

For 2026, Duquesne ranked among **Best Value Schools**.

Washington Monthly

Duquesne’s service rank is **#63 nationally** and **#4 among Pennsylvania universities**.

Earning power for Duquesne ranks **#46 nationally** and **#5 in Pennsylvania**.

Duquesne is listed among **“Best Bang for the Buck”** schools in Northeast.

Princeton Review

The Palumbo-Donahue School of Business was named a **Best Business School** for 2025.

Duquesne Kline School of Law ranks in the **top 10** for “Professor Accessibility” and is ranked **#39 for “Career” outcomes**.

Other Rankings

Wall Street Journal (WSJ)/College Pulse named Duquesne among the **2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.**

Niche (2025) gave Duquesne University an **A+ ranking for campus location**.

Duquesne University has been recognized as one of the **2024 Money Best Colleges in America**. Money’s analysis showcases the country’s top colleges based on graduation rates, cost of attendance, financial aid, alumni salaries and more.

Alumni Updates

1960s

Dr. Rosemarie Rizzo Parse, N'60, former Dean of Duquesne University School of Nursing and charter member of the Century Club, has received two national awards. The American Academy of Nursing has honored her with its Lifetime Legacy Award, and the Society of Rogerian Scholars has named her the inaugural recipient of the John Phillips Outstanding Publication Award.

Robert S. Barker, A'63, L'66, GA'74, spoke to the Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Costa Rica (the Costa Rican Bar Association), Oct. 16, 2024, on "Como Interpretar la Constitución: Sesenta Años de Debate en los Estados Unidos" (How to Interpret the Constitution: Sixty Years of Debate in the United States), as part of Costa Rica's celebration of the 75th anniversary of its Constitution. At the same event, Professor Barker was inducted as an honorary member of the Costa Rican Bar. Professor Barker's paper, "El Presidente, las órdenes ejecutivas y la separación de poderes" (The President, Executive Orders, and the Separation of Powers), was the keynote basis of discussions by the Constitutional

Law Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association, June 12, 2025, in São Paulo, Brazil.

1970s

Mark Tolan, CFP, B'71, has been named to the 2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list for California for the fifth consecutive year. His firm, Confluence Wealth Management Group, has been named to the 2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams list for California for the second consecutive year.

Cynthia Maleski Groch, Esq., L'76, recently retired as national President and CEO of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), a fraternal benefit society founded in 1892 that provides financial security to its members and embraces Catholic values and Slovak (Slavic) traditions. Maleski had served as President and CEO since 2012, also serving as Chair of the Board. Under her leadership, FCSLA achieved unprecedented growth in financial strength, reach, membership and impact, with insurance in force and assets each eclipsing \$1 billion, top analyst rankings and more than 500 branches nationwide.

1980s

John C. Schmidt, A'80, has retired after a 44-year career in journalism and corporate communications. He served in executive roles for more than two decades, leading public relations and marketing communications teams for BASF, Lucent Technologies and other global corporations.

1990s

Sheree Thomas, B'94, was honored as the Pennsylvania Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Thomas is founder and president of SB Thomas & Associates, a construction management firm that began as a one-woman shop. Thomas and her 25-member team now manage new construction and major renovations of buildings and inspect roadwork and small bridge projects throughout Allegheny County. Through a joint venture agreement with the U.S. Air Force, SB Thomas was part of a team tasked with documenting the condition of Air Force housing units around the globe.

Stephanie Thum, Ph.D., GA'99, recently authored the following articles in *Sage Business Cases*:

"Followership," "C-Suite Shocker & Employee Revolt: OpenAI and the Power of Followership," "From Discouraged to Driven: Using Behavioral Science, Collaboration, and Communication to Close the Gender Gap in Senior Role Job Reapplications in New South Wales, Australia," "Art Basel, Hong Kong Tourism, and a Global Marketing Partnership," and "Endangered and Ignored: Followership and The Case of Dollar General."

2000s

Richard W. Saxe, Jr., Esq., L'01, has been named a shareholder in the Pittsburgh offices of the law firm of Saxton & Stump. Saxe often serves as outside general counsel for his clients, representing business owners, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, developers and other industry professionals in both litigation and day-to-day business matters.

2010s

Alyssa M. Dedola, A'13, L'17, has joined Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, as an associate in the Product Liability Practice Group in Pittsburgh. Prior to joining Pietragallo, she practiced at a national law firm

where she concentrated her practice in civil litigation, with an emphasis on medical malpractice and general liability claims.

James D. Mazzocco, L'14, has been named a shareholder in the law firm Babst Calland. Mazzocco is a member of the firm's Litigation and Environmental groups, with a practice focusing on environmental and complex commercial litigation. He has received *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" recognition for Environmental Litigation since 2021, Transportation Law since 2022 and Construction Law since 2024. He has also been selected to the Pennsylvania Rising Stars list (Thomson Reuters) since 2018.

Anthony Priore, A'16, GA'18, has been promoted to Digital Marketing Manager at TPGi, a leading accessibility software and solutions company.

Sr. Amanda Matkovic, N'17, completed her seminary studies with the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louis and has begun her first ministry serving the refugee community in Utica, N.Y. She serves as an Outreach Nurse/Family Health Liaison at Thea Bowman House, a pre-K and childcare program that offers a safe and nurturing environment for local low income/at-risk families.

Marriages

Lauren Scharding, B'02, A'02, and **David Jakielo, A'05, GA'10**, were married in Duquesne's Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Oct. 19, 2024. The Rev. Ray French, C.S.Sp., was the celebrant.

Births & Adoptions

Christopher Caruso, HS'07, N'09, and **Karla (Kershaw) Caruso, GP'09**, had a baby girl, Gabriella Rose Caruso, on Feb. 24, 2025.

Amber Speciale Koller, A'09, and Dan Koller joyfully announce the arrival of their daughter, Aria Marie.

After 18 months on the adoption list, they were chosen by a birth mother on Nov. 23, 2024, and Aria was born five days later, on Thanksgiving Day.

Emily (Godshalk) Paisley, GP'09, and Kevin Paisley welcomed their second child, Nolan James, on March 5, 2025.

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following alumni and friends who recently passed away. This list is provided through Duquesne's Advancement Services office and includes deaths reported to us between Jan. 15 and July 22, 2025. 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 Jan. 15-July 22, 2025

William A. Jacko, PCC'21
Charlotte M. Steinert, A'30
Jane Goings, E'47, GE'50
Ruth S. Rubenstein, N'47
Anthony Cancilla, M.D., A'49
Jean G. McKenna, E'50
Paul L. Behers, A'52
Margaret M. Ceh, M'52
Elizabeth M. Lindauere, M'52
Thomas J. Schmitt, M.D., A'53
John A. Beyer, E'54, GE'58
Roland J. Gargani, E'54, GE'60
James A. Ingram, P'54
Lawrence J. Koch, B'54
James F. Herbert, B'55
Sr. M. Claire Kennedy, SSJ, GS'55, GA'72
Catherine M. Kuzma, E'55
Lt. Cmdr. Marie L. Pinto, USN (Ret.), N'55
Charles R. Rehak, B'55
Robert L. Shankovich, Ph.D., M'55, GM'67
Kathryn D. Thomas, A'55
John T. Trambley, A'55
Roger J. Wagner, B'55
Rev. Francis G. Yurek, A'55
Dr. Philip G. Irwin, S'56
Carmen Joseph Lonigro, B'56
Dorothy M. Lynch, E'56
Robert E. Martello, Pharm.D., P'56, GP'76
Barry Tenenouser, M.D., P'56
Jean E. Onderko, B'62
Cecilia B. Bertini, E'57
Samuel R. Bertucci, P'57
John J. Binder, Ph.D., E'57
Sr. Mary J. Seman, VSC, A'57
Daniel Belisario, Jr., A'58, GE'64
James F. Colleran, B'58
Richard F. Koscelnik, B'58
James L. McHugh, Esq., A'59
John A. Pravlochak, B'59
Richard L. Rohrer, S'59
Sr. Jeanine Ruhe, CDP, E'59
Joseph P. Gallagher, B'60
Rev. Francis T. Gera, A'60
Violet C. Matteo, M'60, GM'70
Donna Mondik, N'60
Daniel J. Pavlic, M'60, GE'70
Joseph W. Simitz, B'60
Sr. Mary Stella Wagner, CDP, E'60
Carmen J. Gonot, GE'61
Mary Joan Stanisha, GM'61
Howard M. Stilley, GE'61
Howard R. Von Schaven, B'61
John R. Wargo, B'61
Sr. Bernadette Bell, RSM, GE'62
Ernest A. Burti, A'62
Pamela M. Johns, E'62
Jean E. Onderko, B'62
Sr. Elizabeth J. Sundry, CDP, E'62
Joseph D. Boario, GE'63
Lois A. Espenshade, R.N., N'63
Judy Holahan, A'63
Sr. Marilyn Seidel, CDP, E'63
Chester A. Smith, B'63
Jerry A. Bonacci, B'64
Sr. Anna M. Cole, SSJ, E'64
Sr. Patricia Hodge, RSM, GA'64
Patsy F. Raschiatore, GE'64
Frank G. Raucci, B'64
V. Timothy Rooney, E'64
Joel M. Roteman, A'64
Edward L. Blank, A'65
Robert P. Bruno, GE'65
John A. Cegalis, B'65
Pamela M. Endsley, M'65
John James Gresh, A'65
Richard B. Groth, A'65

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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

In MEMORIAM

James P. Fallon, Jr., B'55, passed away June 24 in Pittsburgh at age 94. Known as the "Try Guy," Fallon was a three-year letterman on the Duquesne basketball team and a key member of the 1955 Dukes, who finished with a record of 22-4 and won the National Invitation Tournament. In his championship senior season, Fallon was one of four teammates to play in all 26 games, averaging 7.1 points and 3.2 rebounds per contest while shooting 42.2% from the field and 84.4% from the free-throw line. He worked as a CPA and Director of Accounting at Allegheny Ludlum Steel until his retirement.

Robert L. Shankovich, M'55, GM'67, passed away Jan. 29 in Lower Burrell, Pa. at age 92. He began his career teaching public school music in Baltimore before being drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as the conductor of the 10th Division Artillery Band, Chorus and Jazz Ensemble. Returning from the service, he taught high school music in Pennsylvania and Ohio before joining the Duquesne music faculty, where he taught theory, analysis and choral conducting and served as director of graduate studies in 2007. Shankovich was named to the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne Alumni in 2003.

In MEMORIAM

V. Timothy Rooney, E'64, died July 8 in Pittsburgh at age 84. Rooney became a teacher and coach at Bishop Canevin High School immediately after graduation and served as a football coach at Villanova University and the University of Rhode Island from 1968-1971. He joined the Pittsburgh Steelers as director of pro personnel and college scout in 1972, moving to the Detroit Lions in 1979 and the New York Giants in 1985, before retiring in 1999. Rooney played an important role in the legendary Steelers 1974 draft and earned five Super Bowl rings during his NFL career. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann (Miller) Rooney, B'64, son Michael, daughter Sarah Rooney Breslin and several grandchildren.

"Tim and Mary Ann have been stalwart philanthropic supporters of Duquesne University for decades, most recently establishing the Tim and Mary Ann Rooney Early Start Scholarship in the School of Education," said University President Ken Gormley. The fund provides significant resources to help students defray tuition and fee expenses associated with their enrollment in the master's (M.S.Ed.) Reading and Literacy Education program during their junior or senior years of study.

"In addition to their generous financial support, Tim and Mary Ann have maintained a constant presence in the life of their alma mater, rarely missing the opportunity to attend major University events," Gormley added. "They exuded pride in all things Duquesne; they were always happiest amidst family and fellow Duquesne alums. Tim was a kind and gregarious gentleman (in the truest sense of that word) who possessed an unfailingly pleasant and engaging demeanor, an uplifting spirit and an outstanding sense of humor. His presence will be deeply missed."

Francis J. Keenan, CPA, B'65	A. Joseph DeBaldo, M.Ed., B'68, GB'75
R. Mark Petersen, Esq., A'65	Sr. M Concetta Fabo, OSF, E'68
Peter F. Ramage, E'65, GE'68	Ronald W. Genser, S'68
Rosalie F. Schenker, E'65	Yolanda G. Kachmar, A'68
Patricia L. Valoon, N'65	Joseph A. Murphy, Esq., L'68
Judith A. Detrude, Ph.D., E'66	Edward W. Sommers, S'68
Donna Fester, E'66	Cheryl Woods, A'68
Nancy C. Gillen, E'66	Paulette A. Arnold, E'69
Patricia D. Goehlert, A'66	Valerie M. Byrne, N'69
Jerry W. Gorby, GE'66	Richard J. Croker, B'69
Judith P. Horvath, N'66	Joseph T. Deet, B'69, GE'73
Michael A. Jakub, E'66	Elisa T. Hackett, N'69
Edward J. Meell, GE'66	Anthony R. Keay, A'69
Sr. M. Clare Reese, CSJ, GE'66	Sr. Mary Donota Kokot, OSU, GE'69
Sr. M. Anne Angelcyk, Sdr, E'67	Edward T. Ozosky, E'69
Ned B. Cash, Ph.D., A'67, GE'72	Carol A. Rush, Ph.D., S'69, GS'71
William A. G. Fisher, GE'67	Charles J. Schilken, A'69
Sr. Eleanor Giuliani, SHS, E'67	Thomas W. Spalla, E'69
Rosemary S. Hulsman, GE'67	John J. Baggio, A'71
Richard Edward Myers, Esq., L'67	

→ **Alumni can visit duq.edu/alumni for the latest details on what's happening at Duquesne, events and how to get involved and stay connected.**

Submit Alumni Updates or a Photo

Alumni Updates, online and in print, are an opportunity for alumni to share personal and professional news and accomplishments. Members of our alumni community are invited to log into www.myduquesne.duq.edu/alumninews 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.

Dr. Eler S. Beatty, Esq., L'71	Mary H. Karlek, N'75	Michael P. Pitterich, Esq., L'81	Gina M. Amoroso, A'90	Danielle L. McCann, GE'02	Hugh P. Cowdin
Dr. Rebecca L. Hartman, N'71	Dr. Robert J. Maddalon, GS'75	Dr. Michael Currid, GB'82	Edward F. Knobloch, Jr., GB'90	Zachary S. Zemanek, A'03	Ronald E. Doiron
John F. Kaucic, Jr., B'71	Norman H. Ranallo, GB'75	Roberta G. Thalimer, GE'82	Bro. James R. Vorndran, S.M., N'90	Rev. Emmanuel Agbakwuru, Ph.D., GA'96, GA'04	Daniel S. Gardner
Edward V. Kollar, B'71	John L. Rosinski, P'75	Edward V. Carr, Jr., P'83, GA'87, GB'87	Joseph R. Ford, Jr., A'92	Jason M. Nash, GHS'04	Helen R. Golob
Diane M. Kondrla, E'71	James F. Andrews, Jr., Esq., A'76, L'79	Margaret E. Stewart, B'83, GB'86	Stefanie H. Jones, Esq., L'92	Dena R. Finnegan, E'11	Bruce H. Large
Frances M. Melusky, M'71, GM'73	Casimir Z. Biedrzycki, P'76	William Coholan, Esq., L'84	Thomas D. Hall, Esq., L'93	Judith R. Baker, GS'15	Roy B. Negley
John J. Morelli, A'71	Frank T. Copeland, B'76	Cynthia C. Jergan, A'84	Leo M. Stepanian II, Esq., L'94	Alison S. Wojcik, A'15, GE'21	Larry Ober
Raymond M. Piaggesi, Jr., B'71	Janet M. Corey, A'76	Kathleen A. Zeiler, N'84	Kenneth J. Smith Jr., A'96	Margaret R. Lemley, Ph.D., GA'17	Raymond Osborne
Daniel J. Sullivan, A'71	Phyllis Hamilton, GE'76	Sr. Coletta Adelsberg, CSJ, GA'85	Edith L. Sutton, Esq., L'96	Ryan J. Kingerski, B'21	Ralph L. Pearson
The Hon. Joseph C. Visalli, L'71	Peter D. Ladd, Ph.D., A'76	Teresa Ann LaCorte, B'85	Diana L. Mahoney, N'97	Deceased Friends from Jan. 15-July 22, 2025	Mary Ann Pflumm
Allan Becer, E'72	L. Scott Neely, GB'76	Robert F. Eberley, GE'86	Terry L. Hamann, Ph.D., GA'86, GA'99	John C. Sallis	Holly Scott
Edward M. Janero, GE'72	Robert J. Pinos, P'76	Eileen S. Finestone, GE'86	Mary Almendarez	Kenneth P. Service	
Karl P. Kargle, GE'72	Anthony N. Sciullo, E'76	Twila M. Clevenger, A'87	Madeline C. Archer, Ph.D.	Mary Ellen Thomas	
Paul R. Keane, A'72	Michael J. Aul, B'77	Charles A. Knoll, Jr., Esq., L'87	Paul J. Brysh	Bernard J. Weiss, Ph.D.	
Kenneth A. Kovalcik, A'72	Michael R. Gildea, GE'77	Sr. Barbara Juszkievicz, GA'88	Arlene F. Buchanan		
Dr. Mary Alice O'Donnell, E'72	Sr. Catherine O'Halloran, GE'77	Edward C. Eckert, B'89	Diane O'Brien Cahill		
Suzanne Shaver, A'72	Kenneth Ferretti, Pharm.D., GP'78, GB'85	David W. Kindelberger, S'89	Keith A. Mitchell, A'01		
Edward R. Wolf, B'72	Emmanuel Aivaliotis, A'73, GE'75	Joan F. Humphrey, M'78	Issac Charlton		
Rosezella Carty-Letsome, Esq., L'73	Rosezella Carty-Letsome, Esq., L'73	Robert W. Kollinger, A'78			
Charles T. Demek, GA'73	Lawrence R. Losi, E'78	David A. Saniga, GB'78			
Anthony L. Fisher III, A'73	Irene T. Spezialetti, E'78	Eleanor A. Dickey, N'79			
Darlene A. Hunter, B'73	Rev. Christopher H. McDermott, C.S.Sp., A'73	Eric J. Haines, GM'79, GA'87			
David W. Michalski, GE'73	David W. Michalski, GE'73	Thomas J. Michael, Esq., A'69, L'79			
Sara C. Bauer, N'74	Sara C. Bauer, N'74	Donald J. Nakles, A'79			
Gregory M. Manga, P'74	Gregory M. Manga, P'74	Michael J. Semes, Esq., M'79			
Joanne L. Schleifer, E'74	Joanne L. Schleifer, E'74	Valerie M. Barnes, GE'80			
Ronald J. Scungio, B'74	Ronald J. Scungio, B'74	Eileen Karl, GE'80			
Lee E. Crum, Esq., L'75	Lee E. Crum, Esq., L'75	Barbara G. Opie, GE'80			
Christine A. Davis, GE'75	Christine A. Davis, GE'75	Arlene B. Angel-Shaffer, Esq., L'81			
Sr. Lois J. DiFalco OSF, GE'75	Sr. Lois J. DiFalco OSF, GE'75	Therese Cullen, B'81			

REMEMBERING FORMER PROVOST RALPH L. PEARSON

Ralph L. Pearson, Ph.D., retired provost and academic vice president, passed away on June 23 in Cranberry Township, Pa., at age 85. Pearson came to Duquesne in 2001 after serving as academic vice president of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He previously held teaching and administrative positions at Northern Kentucky University, Loyola University of Chicago and Otterbein College.

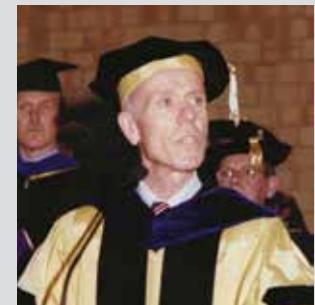
Pearson was a 1961 graduate of Gettysburg College and earned master's degrees at New York University and Johns Hopkins University, and his doctorate at Johns Hopkins. He also served as a professor of history at Duquesne with research interests including race relations, city planning and higher education.

Pearson held the University's top academic office during the presidency of Charles J. Dougherty until retiring in 2013. "Ralph was personally responsible for innumerable improvements in Duquesne's teaching, research and service areas," Dougherty remembered. "He was a scholar of history, deeply dedicated to the Spiritan and academic mission of the University."

Dougherty credited Pearson with guiding a strategic planning process that assured Duquesne's organizational and budgeting priorities reflected that mission. "He worked effectively with the other vice presidents, our deans and the staff in academic affairs," Dougherty continued. "He oversaw the hiring of new faculty members and the assessment of proposals for new or revised academic programs. He was the final in-house authority on the accreditation and re-accreditation of our degree programs. Because of his many efforts, Ralph left Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit a far better institution than he found it."

On a personal level, Dougherty recalled Pearson as "a Christian gentleman in the classical sense. He had high moral standards and was widely admired on campus. He was a humble and honest man who always put the interests of others first."

Current President Ken Gormley worked with Pearson as a faculty member, associate vice president for special initiatives, interim dean, and dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. "Ralph was slight of build but filled with a deep commitment to academic excellence, to the faculty over whom he presided as chief academic officer, and to his Catholic faith," Gormley said. "He was one of the most caring, gentle yet firm, kind, ethical individuals I've ever been privileged to work with."



"He was one of the most caring, gentle yet firm, kind, ethical individuals I've ever been privileged to work with."



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



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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.