

DU Employees Recongnized with Staff Awards

By Rose Ravasio

Nearly 800 Duquesne employees packed the Union Ballroom on Dec. 23 for the annual Staff Awards Holiday Luncheon.

Among those honored for going above and beyond Duquesne's mission were members of the Office of Stewardship, composed of staff from the financial aid office and the Division of University Advancement. Carrie Matesevac Collins, Cecilia Hughes, Joy Hopkins, Jody Rieg, Alison Wojcik, Carolyn Grimes and Bob Woodside received the Team Award for their collaboration to better coordinate and expand efforts to protect its philanthropic support by building donor confidence.

Dr. Jack Nelson, director of the University Counseling Center, received the President's Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by Duquesne.

Nelson, who was recognized for his 45 years of serving University students, first came to Duquesne in 1964 as director of testing. After serving as assistant director of admissions for 10 years, Nelson founded the counseling center in 1973 in direct response to student needs. Through the counseling center, he has led his staff in having a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Duquesne students.

John Sucha, manager of student accounts, received the Innovation Award for creating a convenient online system enabling Duquesne students and employees to register and pay to attend University events. He personally trains any department requesting the system, which saves countless hours of recordkeeping.

Lisa Newell, procurement card program administrator in the support services office, received the Consumer



Outstanding employees receiving recognition at the annual staff luncheon from President Charles J. Dougherty, far right, include, from left, John Sucha, Innovative Award; Jack Nelson, President's Distinguished Service Award; and Lisa Newell, Consumer Service Award.



Members of the Office of Stewardship accept their team award from President Charles J. Dougherty.

Service Award. Newell personally conducted training sessions for nearly 250 employees during the University's transition to CentreSuite procurement card transaction management software.

The Staff Awards also included

recognition of Duquesne employees who have provided 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service to the University. In addition, employees enjoyed a viewing of *The 2009 Duquesne Overture*, the year's Christmas video.

Duquesne's Health Literacy Efforts Continue at Carnegie Science Center

By Rose Ravasio

Dr. Emily Allevable, an animated character created by Duquesne University's Partnership in Education team, is back in a new adventure at the Carnegie Science Center's new exhibit, *If a Starfish Can Grow a New Arm, Why Can't I?*

Led by Dr. John Pollock, associate professor of biology in Duquesne's Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, the Partnership in Education team created Allevable, a biomedical research scientist on the cutting edge of regenerative medicine, to help guide children through scientific information in an encouraging manner.

The *If a Starfish Can Grow a New Arm* exhibit is designed to familiarize visitors with the fields of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Allevable stars with her robot sidekick, Regenerobot, in three interactive video games as part *Dr. Allevable's Unbelievable Kiosk*, which the Partnership in Education team developed and created with the Entertainment Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University.

In video games, *Stem Cell Wrangler*, *SOS Heart* and *Grow with the Flow*, children are invited to collect stem cells from bone marrow, guide them to tissue where they are needed to

make repairs and provide blood supply to the stem cells in growing bones.

"We're using these animated characters in our kiosk because they are already familiar characters that are featured in the Science Center's Planetarium," explained Pollock. "The games feature a tutorial in which the characters explain the goals of the game as well as explain the biology and science behind the game. It's interesting to watch the kids play the games as teams working together, getting very high scores and having a lot of fun with the games."

In addition, *Dr. Allevable's Unbelievable Kiosk* is available for distribution to teachers in DVD and print formats for use in the classroom.

"That gives an important second life to the whole display—we created it so that not only could it be featured at the Carnegie Science Center, it can be used by children in the classroom as part of a standard curriculum," added Pollock.

The Partnership in Education team first introduced Allevable in *Dr. Allevable's Unbelievable Laboratory*, a planetarium show and DVD addressing bone and heart tissue engineering. Visit www.carnegiesciencecenter.org for more information on *If a Starfish Can Grow a New Arm, Why Can't I?*

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kent Moors, director of the Energy Policy Research Group at Duquesne University, presented a workshop in Moscow for the Russian Ministry on *Energy on Current Oil Financing Trends* on Dec. 1 and presented *Netback Provisions from the European TTF-Index Changes* before the Ministry's Annual Energy Policy Conference on Dec. 3. In London, Moors was part of an Argus Media ASCI panel briefing on a new benchmark crude oil rate on Dec. 4.

Moors also appeared on the syndicated *Market Wake Up Call* business video in Baltimore on Jan. 6 to discuss the changing dynamics in the oil market.

Maggie Jones Patterson, associate professor of journalism and media arts, has received a Kappa Tau Alpha Chapter Adviser Research Grant of \$1,000.

With the grant, Patterson will study how iconic images carried by new media break through barriers created by governments that historically have blocked traditional news media. She will compare images of the widely Web-distributed video of the death on Neda Agha-Soltan on a Tehran street with photos of China's "Tank Man" during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Patterson has served as adviser of the Duquesne chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society for journalism and mass communication, for 19 years.

Dr. Tomislav Pintauer, assistant professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry, was invited to two venues in Europe to discuss his research to make certain reactions "greener" in producing chemicals that could be used in pharmaceutical and industrial settings. Pintauer was in Amsterdam in November and at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in December.

Dr. Robert Sroufe, holder of the Murrin Chair of Global Competitiveness, has received a 2009 Decision Science Institute Instructional Innovation Award. The national award recognizes Sroufe's creative approach and integration of real-world projects into Duquesne's MBA Sustainability program. In the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business, Sroufe leads students in hands-on projects with area businesses, emphasizing sustainability in auditing, process improvement and change management.