



LATEST RANGOS GIFT RECOGNIZES CREATIVE PATHWAYS

By Gabriel Welsch

Imagine a contemporary riff on a library bookmobile that focuses on making things to help communities. Such a van would provide power, wi-fi, storage and work surfaces for students to make their ideas come to life. Imagine further such an idea in action.

John G. Rangos, Sr.'s latest gift to Duquesne aims to move ideas from the imagination to helping people learn and solve problems. The new John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes for Faculty and Students recognize undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members who develop learning experiences to help address problems facing current and future generations.

The inaugural prizes went to the best ideas submitted last spring, and were celebrated on the occasion of Rangos' 90th birthday in July.



The interesting van was one of the winning ideas. To a packed dining room, Regina Harbourne, assistant professor of physical therapy in the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, described the work of a Duquesne student club, "START-Play Hackers." In the club, students in physical therapy, occupational therapy, biomedical engineering and physics adapt toys for children with disabilities to use.

That club's impulse for making, combined with what two of Harbourne's colleagues—Richard Simpson, associate professor of physical therapy, and Patrick Cooper, assistant professor of physics—knew from their experience in volunteering with local communities, led to their imagining the Mobile Maker Space.

The Mobile Maker Space can visit communities and students can work directly with people to test concepts they had seen previously only on a board or in a book.

Harbourne and her colleagues were one of 16 winning teams—8 of faculty and 8 of students—who won inaugural John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes for Faculty and Students. Her parting words echoed throughout the evening in the sentiments of all who spoke: "Thank you for this opportunity to help our students grow, while also helping the community."

A key phrase in the original call for submissions was "creative pathways." The interest was to support something new, something novel, and to do so by looking everywhere. The first class of awardees forged a variety of paths, with the common aim of shaping new ways to learn.

"The Rangos Prizes are driven by a simple but transformative idea: that students and faculty together can help shape learning for a new generation," Duquesne University President Ken Gormley says.

Students and faculty received the same prize funding: \$1,000 per team. They earned the same medals. Their contributions were valued the same.

"It shows that we expect to reward good ideas from any direction," says Provost David Dausey. "No one has a monopoly on useful perspectives."

The call for entries in the spring asked for ideas to "enhance the learning experience" to help students "reimagine their world." The winning entries went beyond reimagining the world and to reimagining the work of learning in the first place.

A sample of some prize winners shows the thinking.

- A good education prepares people to learn how to learn—so what if a course existed focused solely on techniques and skills to handle advanced learning? Brandon Hoening, a doctoral student in biology, proposed the course "Learning How To Learn," with a key feature its ongoing learning portfolio. He envisions students maintaining an online resource of their learning—and that the next year's or semester's students in the class could learn from and add to it.
- Michelle Blohm, a doctoral candidate in systematic theology, proposed the addition of a new course to the University's required curriculum, an "introduction to the Spiritan ethos." Duquesne professionals could serve as mentors. A doctoral nursing student might discuss how the Spiritan charism enriches her nursing practice. A marketing instructor might discuss how work with a non-profit community partner enables him to walk with those on the margins. Blohm said such a course would help people be more receptive to "insight from unexpected sources."
- Junior Meredith Bennet described her team's proposal to provide a social media site for environmental responsibility—a key value for Duquesne.
- English faculty member James Purdy described a course about the issues around intellectual property in an age of easy digital production. "The course will explore questions like: Can robots be authors? Can monkeys make money from their selfies?" Purdy said, and then got more serious. "Who owns the writing posted to and data created from engagement with social media? Is it a crime to publish an online video remixing copyrighted publications? And, most important, in what ways can writers make ethical decisions in the context of these changing technologies and publication spaces?"

As faculty and students spoke of their ideas, the man who spurred them to action looked on while seated with his family. Rangos could pass for a seasoned diplomat—a vital build, a clean pate, appearing younger than his nine decades might suggest.

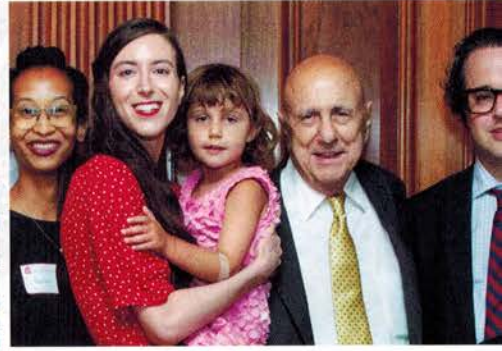
Now chair of the John G. Rangos, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Rangos was an innovator in the environmental



President Gormley presents John Rangos, Sr. with the first Rangos medal.



Rangos Prize-winning faculty and students present birthday cards: Anna Saylor, a senior (left), chemistry student Meredith Bennet (center), and Sarah Wallace (right), associate professor of speech-language pathology.



The celebration involved Rangos' family and friends, including (l-r) Mary Taylor; Virginia Burridge, his granddaughter; great-granddaughter, Lucia; Rangos; and son-in-law Jason Welch.

THE FOUNDING CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE JOHN G. RANGOS, SR. PRIZES

Students look at the world through a different lens. One that's global. And digital. Our students want a chance to voice their opinions. To engage in civil conversation about important issues. To find solutions to challenging problems. And to make a meaningful difference in their world.

That's why we're looking for passionate Duquesne students and faculty who will help us enhance the learning experience—so our graduates can go out and reimagine their world.

Duquesne University is pleased to offer John G. Rangos, Sr. Prizes, designed to inspire students and faculty to work to enhance our curriculum, ensuring that it remains relevant and prepares students for productive futures.

For a complete list of the award-winning projects, visit www.duq.edu/RangosPrizes.



As a philanthropist, Rangos has a long history of supporting vital institutions, including Pittsburgh's major universities, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, hospitals, cultural institutions, and Greek heritage organizations.

industry who set the standard for waste receptacles and recycling in America during his time as chairman of the Chambers Development Co. and vice chairman of USA Waste Services. Rangos launched and operated 23 successful companies during his career.

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At Duquesne specifically, his contributions have supported scholarships for students, the John G. Rangos, Sr. School of Health Sciences, and now the Rangos Prizes.

Gormley presented Rangos with one of the medals that will be given to all future Rangos Prize winners. Weighty and bronze, the medal bears the man's face in relief on its front.

When Rangos took the podium, attendees learned that President Harry Truman once kissed his forehead and he knew all 13 of the political Kennedys. They also learned that former Duquesne President John Murray changed Rangos' life.

"John Murray put philanthropy in my mind," Rangos recalled. "Now, if you look at the societal benefit Duquesne has created over the years, it is very fulfilling for my family. You have done great things for the world." ♦