Student Life

Graduate And Professional Student Council (GPSC). The Graduate and Professional Student Council is the representative body for the students of graduate departments and professional schools. The council provides a means of communication between schools and between graduate students and the administration. The council selects graduate students for membership on university committees. Representatives of each department and officers of the council are selected annually. For more information on GPSC you may visit their website at: http://www.duke.edu/gpsc/. The School of Nursing currently has two representatives on the Graduate and Professional Student Council.

The Graduate Nursing Student Association (GNSA) and Duke Student Nurses Association. The Graduate Nursing Student Association (GNSA) is the graduate student organization of the Duke University School of Nursing and the Duke Student Nurses Association is the Accelerated BSN (DNSA) student organization of the Duke University School of Nursing. The sole purpose of GNSA and DNSA is to serve the student’s educational and professional needs and provide a formal structure of student participation in a wide variety of events within the school. The GNSA is the governing body of students of the School and the source of information of importance to students. Both organizations submit information to the student list-serves covering local events and opportunities of interest to students, AND co-sponsor events at Duke with other organizations, (i.e., organizations of Duke University and Medical Center, the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and the DUSON Alumni Association). Both GNSA and DNSA positively affect students’ educational experience by increasing awareness of resources and student services, encouraging student involvement in DUSON activities, and sponsoring events throughout the school year, including alumni and student socials, book sales, and conference attendance. Students are represented on two standing committees: the Curriculm Committee and the Judicial Board. Students support this award with their student fees.

Sigma Theta Tau. In the spring of 1972 the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing, was established at Duke with a charter membership of 100 students, faculty, and alumni.

Sigma Theta Tau is the only international honor society for nursing and is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. The first chapter was established in 1922. The society recognizes achievement of superior quality, fosters high professional standards, encourages creative work, recognizes the development of leadership qualities and strengthens the individual’s commitment to the ideals and purposes of professional nursing. Sigma Theta Tau is an educational organization standing for the best in nursing. Duke
University School of Nursing students who meet Sigma Theta Tau’s criteria are eligible for induction into the Beta Epsilon Chapter. The induction ceremony is held once a year in the fall.

**Alumni Association.** Operating from the Alumni House at 614 Chapel Drive, the Duke University General Alumni Association, through its affiliate groups such as local clubs, classes, and school and college alumni associations, links over 85,000 members with the university and one another. The alumni office staff coordinates educational, cultural and social activities; provides avenues for involvement in university affairs; and promotes loyalty and esprit de corps throughout the Duke community. All alumni are automatically members of the association. An active alumnus is one for whom a current mailing address is on file; a contributing member is one who pays annual dues and becomes involved in class, club, and other alumni activities. The Alumni Association sponsors many university-wide programs and services. Included among these are student programs, off-campus and on-campus gatherings, *Duke Magazine*, recognition and awards programs, and travel and continuing education opportunities.

**The Duke University School of Nursing Alumni Association.** The Duke University School of Nursing Alumni Association (DUSON-AA) is an affiliate of the Duke University General Alumni Association. The purpose of DUSON-AA is to cultivate fellowship among alumni and with current students, as well as providing opportunities for involvement in Duke University Alumni Affairs Association.

All nursing alumni who have completed at least two semesters of work toward a degree from the School of Nursing are automatically members of the association. An active alumnus maintains a current mailing address with the Nursing Alumni Affairs office and a contributing alumnus is one who pays annual dues and becomes involved in alumni activities. The Nursing Alumni Affairs administrative office, is housed within the Office of External Affairs This office encourages alumni to maintain contact with the School of Nursing, its current students with their classmates. The office also provides opportunities for alumni to inform their classmates about changes in their lives and careers by sending information for publication in the class notes section of in the annual newsletter. The Nursing Alumni Association membership dues enable the DUSON-AA to sponsor the following programs/projects:

- provide student support and assistance such as mid-year graduation events, networking events and attendance at professional conferences.
- provide recognition and awards during Reunion Weekend
- sponsor Reunion Weekend events, and other networking opportunities.

**The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture** was dedicated in memory of the great lady of jazz and former artist-in-residence whose name it bears. Since its establishment in 1983, the center has served as a significant gathering place on campus where broadly based issues of social/cultural relevance are addressed to a cross-section of the Duke community. The center sponsors programs that honor black culture (African-American, South American, Caribbean, and African) and promote a better understanding of black history and culture. Among past programs have been art exhibits by renowned African-American artists, dance performances, musical performances, African-American film, film seminars, and a number of lecture-discussions on various aspects of the black diaspora. Black visiting artists from South Africa and London have performed in the center. Visit the website at http://mlw.stuaff.duke.edu.

**The Women’s Center** works to promote the full and active participation of women in higher education at Duke by providing advocacy, support services, referrals, and educational
programming on gender-related issues. The center houses an art gallery, a 3,000 volume feminist lending library; and publishes VOICES, a semester magazine addressing issues related to gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation on campus and in the wider community. Call (919) 684-3897 for more information or visit the center’s website at http://wc.stuaff.duke.edu.

**International House.** International House serves as the center of co-curricular programs for internationals and U.S. Americans interested in other cultures and peoples. As part of the Division of Student Affairs, the mission of International House is to assist internationals and their families with orientation and acclimation, to enhance cross-cultural interaction through programming and community outreach, and to provide advocacy and support for the Duke international community. In 2002-2003, there were approximately 1,376 international students from 101 countries enrolled at Duke. For more information, contact Carlisle Harvard, Director, (919) 684-3585, Box 90417, Durham, NC 27708 or e-mail: ihouse.duke.edu, or on the web at: http://ihouse.studentaffairs.duke.edu

**Recreation.** The Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation sponsors numerous programs for all students in intramurals, sports clubs, and recreation. The Intramural Sports Program provides an opportunity for every student to participate in organized recreation competition in forty-nine activities. The program is comprised of four major areas: men’s intramurals, women’s intramurals, co-ed intramurals, and recreation programs. It is open to all graduate and undergraduate students of Duke University. Participation, not skill, is a major factor that is emphasized in the program. The university’s many recreational facilities, available to all students, include the championship Robert Trent Jones Golf Course, tennis courts (some lighted) on both campuses, indoor swimming pools on East and West campuses and an outdoor pool on Central campus, three gymnasiums including the Brenda and Keith Brodie Recreation Center on East Campus and the Wilson Recreation Center on West Campus, several weight training rooms, squash and racquetball courts, outdoor handball and basketball courts, an all-weather track, numerous playing fields, jogging trails, and informal recreational areas. Tournaments in recreational sports are often organized and conducted by students.

**Religious Life.** Two symbols indicate the importance of religion to this university since its founding: Eruditio et Religio, the motto on the seal of the university, and the location of the Duke Chapel at the center of the campus. People from all segments of the university and the community gather in Duke Chapel on Sunday morning to worship in a service that offers excellent liturgy, music, and preaching. The dean of the Chapel and the director of Religious Life work with the campus ministers and staff from the Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Protestant communities, and with other groups to provide a ministry which is responsive to the plurality of religious interests on the campus.

**Duke Community Housing Office.** Duke Community Housing is an off-campus rental housing resource for graduate and professional students and professional affiliates of Duke University. The office is available to assist you in making intelligent choices as you search for off-campus housing that is right for you. For more information on this resource and their interactive web resource, visit their Web site at http://communityhousing.duke.edu.