DIVISION OF BUSINESS AND ACCESS INTRODUCE NEW UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Healthcare Administration
DeSales University announced the launch of a new undergraduate major in healthcare administration. This new major fulfills the mission of the University by responding to the human and moral factors that are essential to the study of business and healthcare.

The Division of Business introduced this major to meet market demand. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that employment in healthcare administration is projected to grow at a rate three times faster than job growth for the entire economy, generating more than one third of the nation’s new jobs through 2024.

“The healthcare administration field is a rapidly growing area with expanding job opportunities,” says Dr. Christopher R. Cocozza, division head, Division of Business. “We believe this major will help graduates attain the necessary skills to have a very successful career in healthcare administration.”

Healthcare administration graduates will be prepared to plan, direct, and coordinate medical and health services in hospitals, physician group practices, skilled nursing facilities, insurance companies, and public health facilities.

Coursework will include a foundation of business courses, including management, marketing, and finance, as well as healthcare courses. New healthcare courses will include Foundations of Healthcare Systems, Strategic Management and Marketing in Health Care, and Ethics in Health Care.

The major complements the University’s healthcare systems management concentration in its MBA program, and healthcare administration students have the opportunity to earn an MBA from DeSales in 5 years.

Healthcare administration will also be offered in the University's adult evening undergraduate program, ACCESS.

Certified Financial Planner Board-Registered Certificate and Programs in Financial Planning
DeSales has registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc.
(CFP Board) to offer the first CFP Board-Registered programs in the Lehigh Valley.

The University’s financial planning track, offered in the finance major, and the certificate in financial planning program were recently approved and certified. The track is taught in both the traditional day program and online in the adult evening program (ACCESS). The certificate program is available to students who already have a bachelor’s degree, can be completed in less than one year, and is also offered online.

An independent certifying organization, CFP Board, owns the CFP® and Certified Financial Planner™ certification marks, which it awards to individuals who meet its education, examination, experience, and ethics requirements. Students completing a financial planning program at DeSales will meet the Education requirement for CFP Certification Examination administered by CFP Board.

“Preparing DeSales students for the CFP credential will allow them to succeed in financial planning positions in the Lehigh Valley and beyond,” said Bradley C. Barnhorst, CFA, chair of finance major and associate professor of business. “We’re very excited to offer these programs to our undergraduate students and, through online classes, to professionals anywhere who wish to earn the CFP designation.”

Today, CFP Board partners with more than 360 programs at more than 225 institutions. CFP Board-Registered programs are financial planning education programs at the college or university level that meet specific criteria for educating individuals who wish to fulfill the education component for obtaining CFP certification. For more about CFP Board, visit www.CFP.net.

Students interested in the programs should contact Barnhorst at 610.282.1100, ext. 1624, or e-mail Bradley.Barnhorst@desales.edu. Students can also contact the Division of Business.
Student’s Music Industry Internship Reaffirms Her Career Goals

by Olivia Reese ’17

Last summer, I had the opportunity to live in Nashville, Tenn., as an intern at Thirty Tigers, a music marketing, distribution, management, and publishing company. I have been fascinated with the idea of living in Nashville since middle school, so this experience was an absolute dream come true.

I had previously visited Nashville in 2010 and 2014. Going back for a significantly longer time, I was shocked to see how fast the city had grown and changed. In recent years, the longtime-present healthcare industry has grown immensely, and many automotive companies have moved their U.S. headquarters or major offices to the Nashville area. Banks, major retailers, and telecommunication companies have also had significant development in the area.

What hadn’t changed was the ubiquitous presence of music throughout the city. Almost everywhere you go there is something or someone related to music or music history. Even at the grocery store I overheard people who worked in the music industry talking about what artists, engineers, and executives they’d worked with. As a lifelong lover of all things music and music history, I thrived.

Working at Thirty Tigers reaffirmed my desire to work in the music industry. As a project management intern, I worked on exciting projects ranging from updating press, radio, sales, and tour reports, to Grammy submissions, social media marketing, financials for ad campaigns, and a variety of promotional projects. I enjoyed even the most monotonous projects. The business model of Thirty Tigers and the way it is run is different from other organizations. They do their work ethically, and they are all about the music and the artists’ benefits, which I really respected.

While working in Nashville, I lived at Vanderbilt University, and through work, I met students who go to schools all over the country, from universities that are smaller than DeSales to large state schools. This exposure made me appreciate how good I have it at DeSales.

Although I was only in Nashville for a relatively short time, I became friends and am starting an independent record label with people I met while there. These friends share my motivation, vision, goals, and love of all things music. I am confident that because of what I have learned at DeSales, I will be able to contribute to this endeavor in a way that will allow us to find success in the crazy world of the music industry.

The internship Olivia Reese ’17 had at Thirty Tigers in Nashville, Tenn., reaffirmed her desires to make a career in the music industry.
DeSales MBA Program Marks Its 25th Anniversary

by Kimberly Karpinski, Vanessa Williams, and Janelle Hill

DeSales’ MBA Program looks back at its humble beginnings as an extension of Wilkes University’s MBA program with pride—especially given DeSales’ current ranking as the second largest MBA program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (according to LVB.com). Indeed, over the last 25 years, DeSales has continued to refine, enhance, and deliver quality MBA offerings and train students to take their careers to the next level.

In Fall 1991, Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, then celebrating its 26th anniversary, collaborated with Wilkes University to launch an MBA program in the Lehigh Valley to address area needs. As the program grew, so did demand for new products and delivery options. From one location and a few concentrations, the program expanded both in size and offerings. Today students have the opportunity to focus on one of 10 concentration areas and attend classes in one of eight physical locations; they can even earn their MBA entirely online.

Over the last few years, the DeSales MBA program has developed delivery models and offerings to address student and employer needs. From a face-to-face format to online and hybrid delivery models, this “win-win” approach to meeting demand not only enhances the image of the MBA program, but also provides employees the practical, relevant, and timely training they need to succeed in their positions.

Why DeSales MBA? A recent survey of its current and prospective students and alumni indicates that one of the keys to DeSales MBA’s ongoing success is the program’s focus on flexibility. While most students earn their degrees within three-and-a-half to four years, they have up to seven years to finish their studies. This allows for peace of mind should they need to put their schooling on hold for “life demands,” such as family, work, and other issues.

In addition, courses are offered during 12-week sessions in the fall, winter, and spring, as well as one six-week session in the summer. On average, the program runs between 44 and 50 courses across the different campuses during the Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions, a definite selling point when compared to the competition.

Another key to DeSales MBA’s success is its commitment to teaching excellence. Collectively, the program’s instructors possess more than 2,000 years of real-world experience. In fact, many have been providing teaching excellence to the program for more than 15 years and have been part of the larger DeSales family even longer.

This was evident during the MBA program’s recent semi-annual professional development session, where Dr. David Gilfoil took an opportunity to acknowledge and spotlight individual faculty achievements and contributions. Of the 91 faculty who currently teach in the MBA program, 17 have been teaching for the DeSales MBA program at least 15 years (18.7%). Of the eight faculty who have been teaching here for at least 20 years, 4 instructors have been here since the very beginning (Dr. Tahereh Hojjat, 27 years; Dr. Robert Lovelace, 26 years; Dr. Peter Roland, 26 years, and Edward Luttenberg, 25 years).

Left to right, Drs. Bob Lovelace, Tahereh Hojjat, and Peter Roland have taught in the MBA program since its inception (Missing: Edward Luttenberg). An additional 17 faculty members have taught in the program for at least 15 years.

The DeSales MBA program is equally proud of its staff’s commitment to service excellence. This small but nimble team collectively serves 800+ students who highly value the personal attention they receive. At DeSales, students know they are a person, not a number, and are treated as such.

When reflecting on the last 25 years, Mary Ann Falk, associate director for the program, commented that, “The growth of the DeSales MBA program has been amazing. I have been here for 17 years and have had the pleasure of being part of this great MBA team. I’ve enjoyed seeing increases in students, course offerings, class locations, and faculty. I’ve also enjoyed seeing the growth of international partnerships and the overall increased awareness of the DeSales MBA. I’ve been in this position 10 years now, and I can truly say that the best part of my job has been the relationships I’ve formed with the students and being part of their MBA journey. Knowing I have helped in some small way is truly rewarding.”

MaryAnn and each of the other campus advisors—Jim Castagna and Joe Zukauskas, as well as Kimberly Karpinski, the assistant director, truly cares about the individual success of each student under his or her
advise and support. They go the extra mile to provide guidance and assistance—whether it is by helping with course selection, resolving personal issues, or getting the right technical solution to challenges that arise during a session.

While the program has grown in sheer size, it’s also managed in a different way. “Now we have a more formal system,” says Dr. David Gilfoil, director of the program. “This is run like a business—a business with suppliers, customers, and lots and lots of competitors,” he says. “In essence, we are applying the stuff that we’re teaching—applying it to the business we are running.”

The DeSales MBA program constantly surveys the landscape for new opportunities to address changing demands in the workforce, whether by freezing tuition (as they have this year in celebration of their 25th anniversary) or offering its MBA onsite to specific corporate customers. It also pursues new programs (such as the University’s highly unique DNP/MBA program), creates new concentrations (most recently supply chain management), and continually expands existing international partnerships, with academic partners in Europe and South America.

The DeSales MBA Program is growing internationally with each passing year. One of the more popular MBA courses is an international practicum (EL550) course developed by Dr. Christopher Cocozza and Dr. David Gilfoil. This course includes a study tour component to Europe or Peru—students attend lectures and visit cultural, historical, and economic sites in the host country.

This coming spring session, Drs. Cocozza and Gilfoil are taking students to Prague, Krakow, and Budapest in a course devoted to European eastern block countries. DeSales MBA also regularly sends faculty members to Lima, Peru, in South America to teach project management courses at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC), a key regional academic partner. In return, Peruvian medical doctors come here to meet with hospitals, clinics, and other players in the healthcare fields. Those doctors also formally interact with students and faculty.

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Happy 40th Anniversary greetings to alumni, staff, students, and faculty. We have some lovely celebrations planned this year to commemorate 40 years of amazing education in the ACCESS program, an adult accelerated bachelor’s degree program.

ACCESS was launched by Fr. Alexander Pocetto, OSFS, who inspired with his leadership, vision, and dedication to helping the community.

Over the years, thousands of students placed their trust in the ACCESS program to support their goal of earning a bachelor’s degree. They may have started out with some trepidation, but they continued with much hope and success.

Today, we have more than 5,000 alumni and I’m proud to say that the ACCESS tradition of offering unique pathways to completing a college degree continues.

ACCESS now offers its programs on campus and online, day and evening. We have 11 start dates, eight-week sessions, and three-week mini-mesters. You can actually start a class every four weeks. We now have three campuses (Center Valley, Bethlehem, and Lansdale) and an ever-growing virtual campus!

I am proud to have served as the dean of lifelong learning for more than 14 years at DSU. I have had the privilege of working with many talented people who helped make ACCESS an award-winning regionally- and nationally-known adult education program. For the second consecutive year, ACCESS won the award for the Best Continuing Education Program by Who’s Who in Lehigh Valley Business.

We also worked with the Division of Business to develop two new majors in health care administration and supply chain management (also offered totally online).

Over the years, the ACCESS staff has provided excellent support for students. They are more than employees—they lead lives inspired by high ideals and a strong sense of helping others. I feel privileged as the dean to know them and to work with them.

To all of the DeSales faculty, staff, alumni, and students, thanks for igniting something amazing—ACCESS.
Sport Management Students Benefit from Professional Development Events

Fall 2016 was marked by a number of professional development opportunities for sport management students, including:

- Matt Julian ’14, an account executive for group events with the Philadelphia 76ers, made sure DeSales students were included in the Philadelphia 76ers valuable Professionals in Sport event. There, the group had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of a Sixers executive before the game.

- Alumni Jeff Hurley ’05, C.O.O./general manager at Trenton Thunder Baseball Club, AA Affiliate of the New York Yankees; Ken Lisi ’08, manager, corporate partnerships at Prudential Center/New Jersey Devils; and Alexis Mudri ’16, coordinator - business development, Mountain Hawks Sports Properties, along with a handful of other key industry partners, shared their professional experiences with the Introduction to Sport Management classes.

- The Sport Marketing class has been working on a full marketing plan for the Bethlehem Steel FC, a United League Soccer club affiliated with the Philadelphia Union Major League Soccer. Representatives from the Steel took time out of their schedules to see the final presentations and offer feedback.

- The Sport Management Society organizing and executing DeSales’ Annual Midnight Madness, a celebration of the start of basketball season, and sponsored a facility tour of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., home to the Brooklyn Nets (NBA) and the New York Islanders (NHL)

Dr. Martin Brett and Dr. Lauren Brown are grateful that our alumni and industry partners are so generous with their time. The program is excited to already have a host of similarly valuable events in the spring.
Alumnus Andrew Ivankovits ’15 Shares Career Experiences with Marketing Students

by Dr. Sue McGorry

The DeSales Marketing Association hosts a variety of speakers each semester to provide students with career perspectives outside of the classroom.

Last fall, Andrew Ivankovits ’15 visited Dr. Sue McGorry’s Marketing Research class. Andrew is a clinical analyst at St. Luke’s Health Network in the quality department, which manages reporting needs for major service line administrators across all six (soon to be seven) hospitals in the health network. Of the 20+ service lines, Andrew manages eight of the scorecards managers used to track their progress on key metrics and make decisions surrounding issues and challenges that arise.

Andrew assists the hospital in providing the best possible care by preparing the most accurate data possible. He is also building a new online portal for managers and administrators that will allow them to view their service line data and write their own ad hoc reports. The project focuses on making the data more readily available and transparent to non-technical users.

“St. Luke’s has been a great place to learn and grow,” said Andrew. “Our department hired two new analysts about six months ago. However, the growth that our quality group has seen over the past two years is nothing compared to the changes created by the recent EPIC launch and the opening of the newest hospital in our network, the Monroe campus.”

Andrew shared his perspective on his experience at DeSales, which he thought was key for career development: “The programs and jobs I involved myself in throughout my four years helped me prepare for what I do now in different ways. The two clubs I started taught me leadership skills, how to motivate people around me, how to organize and execute events, and the importance of integrity and accountability. Dr. McGorry’s Marketing Research class and my internship with the Lehigh Valley Arts Council got me my start in data and made me realize that I wasn’t only interested in data, but that I could be an analyst. Conference Services taught me how to manage multiple projects simultaneously, how to work AV, and how to troubleshoot various hardware and software. Trexler Library taught me the importance of being thorough, and that attention to detail is what makes the bigger picture sharp and clear.

“However, if I had to identify the most important work experience I had at DeSales, it would have to be the time I spent with Kristin Eicholtz in the Career Development Center. My time as a career ambassador and the time I spent as an event coordinator for the office taught me the most about working in a professional environment.

“The office was a great environment not just because of the people—and Kristin has a great group of people working for her—but because, as a career ambassador, I was trained in resume reviews, cover letter writing, and mock interviews, which meant that I was helping other students find their passion and apply for positions. Interviewing becomes much less intimidating after you’ve administered one, or more than 50 in my case. I learned first-hand what to do and what not to do when looking for a job, interviewing, writing a resume, talking with prospective employers, networking—the list goes on. Between all the events I took part in (and planned) and all of the exposure to local hiring managers throughout the Lehigh Valley, I learned quickly what it means to work in a professional setting. The experience has paid dividends.”

Of his newly launched career, Andrew says “I never thought that a hospital would need analysts, yet here I am. Just because you study a particular discipline in school doesn’t mean you’re limited to a small group of companies. There are jobs hidden at every company—all you need to do is look, and network.”

Good advice, Andrew!
Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Focuses on Improving Health Care During DeSales Lecture

by Janelle Hill

The University’s Division of Business and Department of Nursing & Health hosted Dr. Karen Murphy, Pennsylvania state secretary of health, on December 8 for a Status Update of Healthcare in Pennsylvania. Dr. Murphy shared her many experiences with the audience, including her belief that becoming a registered nurse was key to her success.

She spoke of the state’s biggest health priorities, everything from improving the quality and safety of nursing homes to combating the Zika virus and the growing opioid and heroin crisis that Pennsylvania and many other states are facing.

Dr. Murphy discussed Pennsylvania’s successful launching of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which was implemented to help break the cycle of addiction.

Dr. Murphy also told students about Public Health 3.0, a national initiative which examines the role society plays in creating conditions that will allow community members to make healthy choices in all aspects of life.

Students Attend Annual Casino Night, Hosted by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants

by Emily Barron ’19

On October 19, members of the DeSales Accounting and Finance club attended the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) annual Casino Night at the Marriott Hotel in Conshohocken, Pa.

PICPA is the second-oldest CPA organization in the United States. Membership includes practitioners in public accounting, industry, government, and education.

The night began with networking opportunities, with a plethora of universities, employers, and CPA review companies in attendance. After networking, the PICPA provided dinner, followed by casino games with a chance to win tickets for the raffle drawing. This was also a great opportunity to continue to network.

The casino night was an experience worth attending. It was a great opportunity to network with a diverse group of individuals, whether students were looking to speak with employers about possible jobs or internship opportunities or simply to meet like-minded students from other local universities.

PICPA also brought CPA review companies to discuss the exam and requirements to get certified. The CPA review companies were gracious enough to hand out some scholarships for the courses they offer.

Overall, the night was a success. Our group had the chance to build connections, which is the most important part in finding job opportunities.
Business Students Host Run-A-Thon for Girls on the Run
by Dr. Sue McGorry

Senior business students developed and hosted the first Girls on the Run “Run-A-Thon” in the McShea Center on December 3, 2016.

For 24 hours, students, faculty, staff and Girls on the Run members filled treadmills and ellipticals, as well as core training, zumba, and boot camp sessions to celebrate the anniversary of the non-profit organization.

Girls on the Run is an international transformational learning program for 8- to 13-year-old girls. The program teaches life skills through after school athletic programs and running activities, with a mission to create a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.

DeSales senior business students have been working with the program for three years in numerous service learning capacities. Student teams develop and manage events such as the Run-a-Thon, and they conduct marketing research to evaluate program outcomes for funding and grant opportunities.

This year’s event involved more than 100 program supporters. Girls on the Run reaches more than 500 young girls in the Lehigh Valley each year.

Liz Fones and Lisa Fiore, program directors for Girls on the Run, were thrilled with the results. “We look forward to continuing this relationship with DeSales University students; they are innovative, creative and professional!”

Dr. Michael Gallagher and Dr. Sue McGorry manage the student service learning projects in the Business Division, which serves 12-15 non-profit client organizations each year.
**Business Clubs Host Inspiring Speakers**

**DeSales Entrepreneurial Community Hosts Michael Pires, CEO and President of JetPay**

The DeSales Entrepreneurial Community (DEC) had its first event on September 12, 2016, hosting Michael Pires, CEO and president of JetPay Corporation.

At the event, Pires discussed his professional career, starting with his college internship, where he worked in the management consulting industry. Following graduation, Pires worked overseas on consulting projects. He then came back to the states to work in sales and sales management. He and a colleague started their own internet company, offering services and new products for solutions in human resources.

In 2009, he sold his company to ADP and was hired by ADP to continue to develop his products. Always the entrepreneur, Pires saw an opportunity to become JetPay’s CEO and president. He upgraded their technology and improved their processes to bring the company into the new generation and grow this business beyond the Lehigh Valley.

**Accounting and Finance Club Hosts Mike Sobota ’01**

On September 22, the Accounting and Finance Club hosted a presentation by Mike Sobota ’01, global controller of Giorgi Global Holdings, Inc. At the event, Sobota discussed his early career path, including his experiences at Deloitte, LLP and his role as the senior vice president of investment banking at Griffin Financial Group. He then described his current responsibilities and the activities of Giorgi Global Holdings—a company with local roots in mushroom cultivation that has grown into a true multinational corporation.

Throughout the presentation, Sobota emphasized the importance of developing transferable skills that students can use to further their careers. Sobota ended his presentation by answering questions from the club members, including those about opportunities for graduating students.

**Business Students Partner with Engineers Without Borders and Major League Baseball Players Alumni**

*by Dr. Michael Gallagher*

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a non-profit organization with a mission to “build a better world one community at a time.” During the spring of 2016, DeSales students assisted EWB in planning their annual silent auction, the proceeds from which were used to provide water resources to a community in the Dominican Republic and to rebuild a school in Sierra Leone. The event took place on April 1, 2016, and was a great success, raising more than $30,000. In addition, DeSales students were part of the on-site team that helped with the event logistics.

During the spring of 2017, DeSales students will again collaborate with the EWB silent auction, scheduled for April 30, 2017.

Next fall, DeSales students will also collaborate on an event sponsored by Major League Baseball Players Alumni (MLBPA). This MLBPA event will be run by students completing their senior capstone project and will require the students to create a budget, advertising, and sponsorship templates for the event. The planned event will feature a retired MLB player presenting and then signing autographs, along with an auction of baseball-themed donations from various businesses and individuals.

**Division of Business Hosts “Dining for Success” to Teach Students the Etiquette of Dining in a Business Context**

*by John Pellosie ’17*

On September 19, 42 students from the Division of Business attended an etiquette dinner—“Dining for Success”—organized by Elizabeth Rosa, professor of business. Hosted in the Commonwealth Room of the DeSales University Center, the event focused on the proper manners of formal dining in a business context. Students came dressed in professional business attire and learned the rules on passing dishes, cutting food, and even buttering dinner rolls.

The event was open to students from Rosa’s Financial Accounting, Business Communication, and Auditing classes. Dr. Michael Gallagher, chair of the accounting department, was also present.

When asked about what the experience meant to her, Leslie Myers, a senior in the Financial Accounting class, said that the etiquette dinner was “extremely helpful—it illustrated what is expected in a business setting that includes a meal. I’ll now have more confidence going into a formal business dinner, especially if it is part of an interview.”
STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN ROME, ITALY
An Internship at the Vatican’s Global Conference on Faith and Sport Completes the Trip
by Alex Bondi ’18

Last fall, I was fortunate to spend the semester studying abroad in Rome, Italy, at the Dante Alighieri language school. I, along with 12 other DeSales students, set out in late August for the experience of a lifetime.

As we landed in Rome and settled into our apartments in the famous Trastevere region, I had no idea what to expect. I immediately regretted my limited Italian knowledge as we were coerced into eating at the first restaurant we saw by an enterprising restaurant owner. We were surprised when it came time to pay and the restaurant wouldn’t accept debit cards or split the check. As we came to learn, Italy is primarily a cash economy. For Italians, this means they can avoid paying service fees (or for the unscrupulous, taxes) and increase their profits. For me, this meant I had to always have enough Euros in my pocket for whatever I would encounter that day.

In addition to the differences in payment methods, the way Italians run their businesses is also different. Instead of the customer-centric policies that I have grown accustomed to, Italian shop owners seemed to operate in a way that is convenient for themselves. Often this entails closing for a few hours in the afternoon, not posting opening or closing hours, and refusing a customer’s business if they cannot pay in the way the owners stipulate.

Despite all of these hurdles, I adjusted to life in Italy in no time. Before I knew it, I was drinking cappuccinos in a café in the mornings, passing by the Colosseum on my way to class in the afternoon, and returning home in the evenings to make pasta for dinner.

In addition to exploring Italy, I traveled to Munich, Paris, London, Dublin, Amsterdam, and Barcelona during my time in Europe. Each city was incredible in its own way; however, one experience stands out among the rest.

In early October, I and a few other DeSales students had the opportunity to intern at the Vatican for the first global conference on faith and sport. I was allowed past the tourist area of St. Peter’s Basilica and into the conference rooms of the Vatican, where I saw the Pope, among other notable figures, speak in person. I was also present in the meeting rooms of the conference and heard top business executives, charity foundation heads, and sport stars share their expertise on how to bring about social change through sport.

I am extremely thankful to DeSales University for giving me the opportunity to study abroad and to the Division of Business for helping me conceive a way to make it possible. This trip has allowed me to grow as an individual and gain experiences that will carry me into the world of business and beyond.

“...adjusted to life in Italy in no time. Before I knew it, I was drinking cappuccinos in a café in the mornings, passing by the Colosseum on my way to class in the afternoon, and returning home in the evenings to make pasta for dinner.”
Dr. Tahereh Hojjat Speaks at DeSales’ Newest Lecture Series

by John Pellosie ’17

On October 26, 2016, DeSales hosted the inaugural event in the University’s new speaker series: Agape Latte. Sponsored by DeSales Campus Ministry, Agape Latte is a monthly event that allows a DSU community member to share the love story that has shaped his or her life and faith. The atmosphere is that of a coffee house—live music, free coffee, and dessert.

For the first event, Agape Latte invited Dr. Tahereh Hojjat, professor of economics from the Division of Business, to speak, in part because of her diverse life experiences as an immigrant from Iran.

The crowd that came to hear Dr. Hojjat speak was treated to a remarkable story of hard work, dedication, and perseverance through challenging times.

Dr. Hojjat shared her experiences of adapting to a new culture and language while simultaneously pursuing a graduate degree. She described how she and her husband worked overnight in a newspaper print shop to support themselves while studying full-time. She also talked about some of the people who have had a major influence on her life.

By the end of her speech, Dr. Hojjat had succeeded in bringing the audience both to tears and to laughter. Dr. Hojjat’s story is an inspirational testament to the importance of living life with passion and never losing hope for a bright future.

Dr. Tahereh Hojjat with John Pellosie ’17. At DeSales’ newest speaker series, Agape Latte, Dr. Hojjat shared the love story that has shaped her life and faith.