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A New Role for Dr. Edward Kocher



Dr. Edward Kocher, former Dean of the Mary Pappert School of Music, will transition into a new role at Duquesne, following a year-long sabbatical. Kocher served as Dean of the Mary Pappert School of Music from 2000-2014 and in September 2014, was appointed to the William Patrick Power, C.S.Sp., Endowed Chair in Academic Leadership. An important element of his new position will be to provide leadership for the implementation and development of the recently approved Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business degree. In addition to teaching the Leadership in the Arts course and supervising internships, he will continue his teaching role in the brass department and other areas.

On his former position as Dean of the School of Music, Kocher offers, "For me, it has been a magical deanship, and I cherish the teamwork, cooperation, and *esprit de corps* that we have achieved. My strong commitment to the mission of Duquesne University will continue in future years."

Kocher was named Dean and Professor of Music in 2000, after serving as Associate Dean and Professor at the DePaul University School of Music in Chicago. During his tenure in the Mary Pappert School of Music, Kocher oversaw the expansion of the music school's academic programs, an increase in faculty diversity, and a strong outreach in the cultural community. His deanship spawned the addition of several new degree programs, including the Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business, as well as both undergraduate and graduate degrees in music technology.

Within the School of Music, the music building underwent extensive structural renovations, significantly

enhancing the rehearsal and performance opportunities available to both students and faculty. Upgrades to both PNC Recital Hall and its lobby were implemented. Several practice rooms were combined, improved, and dedicated as the Anthony F. Triano Woodwind Suite. The Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation, a state-of-the-art rehearsal and performance space, was added alongside a cutting-edge recording studio with the ability to capture both audio and video of performances in the hall. In addition to the structural improvements, Kocher led a fundraising campaign for 68 new Steinway pianos, making the Mary Pappert School of Music the first Catholic university in the world to be designated an "All-Steinway School."

Kocher's academic legacy can be found outside of the walls of the music school, as well. Working closely with music faculty and University administration, teaching and learning were greatly enhanced through the establishment of a full-time music librarian and the Mary Jane Schultz Music Center on the fifth floor of the Gumberg Library. The Center houses the University's music holdings, including audio and video recordings, scores, journals, books, and a variety of digital resources.

An accomplished trombonist, Kocher has maintained an active trombone studio. In addition to "having a lot of fun performing on and about campus," he counts his world premiere performance of *Sketches of America* by Duquesne composer Lynn Purse and a GRAMMY winning recording, *Turned to Blue*, with Nancy Wilson on the MCG Jazz label among his Pittsburgh performing highlights.

Professionally, he has worked as a visiting accreditation evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM); is an elected member of the NASM's Commission on Accreditation; and is a past president of the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society Board of Directors.

When asked about his new opportunity, Kocher was characteristically upbeat. He stated that "ever since I taught my first music lesson while in high school, I have loved being with people and music." For Kocher, every chapter has been rewarding, and he expects nothing less for this new role. Kocher holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis-Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Arts in Trombone Performance from the University of Iowa, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Northwestern University.