



Swim team safe after Fla. shooting

BRANDON ADDEO
news editor

Senior Duquesne swimmer Hallie McCue was facing a window in the Fort Lauderdale airport awaiting her flight home when she first heard the gunshots.

"There was a pack of people running — I can't even describe their faces," McCue said.

On Jan. 6, Esteban Santiago, 26, of New Jersey, shot and killed 5 people at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Five members of Duquesne's Women Swimming team were at the airport when Santiago opened fire — though none were physically harmed.

McCue and two of her teammates, freshman Lauren Devorace and junior Michelle Heim,

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Unpacking a new semester at Duquesne



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

Vehicles carrying Duquesne students returning for the spring semester line both sides of Seitz Street Wednesday. The first classes of the spring semester begin today.

Port Authority announces changes to fares, payment system

RAYMOND ARKE
asst. news editor

The Allegheny County Port Authority debuted a New Year's resolution aimed to help simplify the Pittsburgh bus system.

Following recommendations of riders, the Port Authority lowered fares on Jan. 1. Commuters will now pay a flat fee of \$2.50 for those with a ConnectCard and \$2.75 for cash rides. This differs from the previous system which varied rates based on how long the trip was. Previously, it was \$2.50 for a short trip and \$3.75 for a longer one.

According to Adam Brandolph, public relations representative for the Port Authority, many of the new features come from rider surveys done in 2015.

"Among the suggestions, riders wanted an incentive for using their ConnectCard, a simpler system and, more specifically, a single zone in which one fare could take



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

Allegheny County Port Authority implemented changes Jan. 1 to fares for busses.

them anywhere we provide service," Brandolph said.

ConnectCard is a "reusable plastic smart card that makes paying your fares faster, easier and more secure than paying with cash," according to

the ConnectCard website.

The Port Authority approved a new plan in 2016, which is now being put into effect.

Bus transfers are changing as well. "Transfers are \$1 with a Con-

nectCard ... there are no transfers for cash users. Cash users must pay \$2.75 every time they board," Brandolph said.

Another change is that bus riders will pay their fares as they enter the bus and then will exit from the back of the bus to help avoid confusion. Previously, the system had some riders pay on entry and some on exit, depending on what direction they were going.

Additionally, Brandolph said that the free fares bus zone in Downtown was eliminated; however he assured that the Downtown free fare zone for the Light Rail System will continue.

One of Port Authority's goals was to encourage ConnectCard usage, according to Brandolph, and progress is being made already.

"We have already seen our ConnectCard usage increase, though it is too early to tell by how much," Brandolph said.

The Port Authority has undertaken a media blitz to inform the

public to the changes.

"We have placed advertisements in several local newspapers and radio stations, placed flyers inside our buses [and] promoted the changes through the media," along with wrapping buses with the details and playing audio messages on every bus, Brandolph said.

Many Duquesne students stand to be affected by the changes.

Kellen Wisniewski, a sophomore dual major in entrepreneurship and marketing, is a frequent user of the Port Authority buses.

"I use the bus two to six times a week," he said.

He said the change in pricing will encourage him to use his ConnectCard more, since fares will be twenty-five cents cheaper.

"[The changes] will force me to keep my ConnectCard loaded as previously I would use cash when my card ran out," Wisniewski said.

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BLUFF BRIEFS

Duquesne announces winners of staff awards

Over the holiday break, Duquesne recognized the winners of the 2016 Staff Awards with a special luncheon. The annual event awards acknowledges "individual and team efforts that go above and beyond regularly assigned duties."

The four awards given out were The President's Spirit of Duquesne Award, the Innovation Award, the Quality Service Award, and the Teamwork Award. The President's Spirit Award went to Alia Pustorino-Clevenger, the associate director for community engagement for the Duquesne University Volunteers.

This commendation goes to a staff member who "exemplifies the Duquesne mission of serving God by serving students."

The Innovation Award was given to the DORI Student Notification Team. Sean Flaherty, outcomes coordinator for the School of Nursing won the Quality Service Award. The Pa. Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) Team were given the Teamwork Award.

Music school to host cabaret performance

The Mary Pappert School of Music ensemble will be presenting "The Art of Cabaret" this month. A mix of songs will be performed including Broadway, pop music, and classics from cabarets in Paris and Berlin.

A trio composed of Benjamin Binder, a Duquesne associate professor, mezzo-soprano Liza Forrester, and baritone Daniel Teadt. Binder is also the coordinator and pianist for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. They will also deliver a look at the history of cabaret.

The musical event will be held in a nightclub-like environment featuring wine, sparkling wine, and soda. A reception will follow. Admission is \$10 and it will be held on Jan 14 at 7:30 in the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Brandon Addeo at brandonjaddeo@gmail.com.

HALLIE LAUER
layout editor

On average, seven children are killed a day in some gun related incident, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The issue of gun violence in America will be addressed at an upcoming film viewing hosted by Duquesne's Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

The film "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA" will be shown Wednesday, Jan 18 in 105 College Hall at 7 p.m., the first film in the department's annual Human Rights Film Series.

This year's theme, "For the Sake of Humanity," will bring films about Syrian refugees, homeless teenagers and migrant workers in California.

"Our purpose is to raise awareness within the Duquesne community and the larger Pittsburgh area of human rights issues, and to get the attendees thinking about potential solutions to the problems," said Mark Frisch, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and a member of the film series committee.

All of the films except "Making A Killing" are accompanied by an expert speaker that leads a question-and-answer session.



COURTESY OF BRAVE NEW FILMS

"Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA" is the first in a series of six films to be shown in the Human Rights Film Series.

The movie by Brave New Films, a non-profit organization, features stories from people who have been personally affected by gun violence. The film also looks into unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and gun trafficking.

"For several years, we had been searching for a good film on gun rights and gun control to present at our series, because we see it as a serious human rights issue confronting our country," Frisch said. "This film highlights the link between the present leadership of the NRA and the organization's financial support

by the gun manufacturers who want to maximize their profits by not limiting gun sales in any way."

The NRA was founded in 1871. According to Colonel William C. Church, one of the original founders, the NRA was developed with the goal to promote and "encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis."

According to BBC News, the NRA's political presence did not begin until the 1930's when different firearm bills were being enacted.

Today, according to BBC News, the NRA has a budget of about \$250 million a year. It is also said that about \$3 million of that goes into

influencing gun policies in Congress.

Much of the current dispute over gun rights comes from whether or not a person should be required to have a background check before being able to purchase a firearm.

According to Amy Campbell, a banquet chairperson at Tri-County Friends of the NRA, which covers Allegheny, Beaver and Washington counties, "If you've never gone through [a background check] you cannot [legally] get a firearm in the state of Pennsylvania."

The National Instant Criminal

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Five DU swimmers recount airport shooting



KAYE BURNET/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Two Duquesne swimmers embrace after a press conference Jan 10, five days after the Fort Lauderdale airport shooting.

SHOOTING — from page 1

were waiting for flights back to their hometowns in the airport's Terminal 2 when the shooter began firing nearby.

The team competed in a winter training competition Jan. 3 in Key Largo, Florida, according to Head Coach David Sheets.

When the gunfire began, the three student-athletes in Terminal 2 were separated.

Heim described a "mob of people ... running and screaming."

"It was so surreal," she said.

Heim said she did not know why everyone was fleeing, but ran immediately to an emergency exit.

"When I pushed it, the alarm went off, but the door wouldn't open," Heim recalled.

The panicked crowd behind her tried to force their way through the door, pinning her against it.

"There were people climbing on top of me, people were being pushed," Heim said.

The door was eventually forced open and they ran onto the tarmac. Meanwhile, McCue and those around her dove to the ground for cover when the shots rang out.

"I had someone on top of me, holding my head down," she said. "That's when I saw the girl."

McCue spotted a nearby girl she guessed to be about 10 years

old "screaming and crying" on the ground with no parent in sight.

"I told her, 'We're going to be ok, we will get out,'" McCue recounted.

Devorace had left to get food when the shooter opened fire. She hid behind a bar, and after McCue and Sheets tried unsuccessfully to call her, Devorace sent a text confirming she was safe.

McCue made her way out to the tarmac, where she found Heim and the little girl's mother.

When McCue and Heim reunited, McCue cried, but Heim said she managed to stay calm throughout the whole ordeal.

"It kind of hits you afterward," Heim said. "I didn't cry at all while

everything was going on."

When news of the shooting emerged, Sheets and senior team member Lilly Nelson drove to the airport to pick up the three girls. They found Devorace first, but heavy traffic at the airport forced the pair to search on foot for Heim and McCue.

When Nelson saw McCue's red sweatshirt in the crowd, she ran to embrace her.

"I just hugged her so tight, and we just cried," Nelson said.

The team stayed the night in Fort Lauderdale the night of the shooting. The next day, Saturday Jan. 7, the team unsuccessfully tried to recover luggage from the airport, according to Sheets. The team flew home on Sunday through Tampa.

Sheets thanked Duquesne's athletics department, who helped arrange transport for the team after the shooting.

"[Athletics Director] Dave Harper made sure any resources we needed were all taken care of," he said. "[Athletics] did a fabulous job of working with us."

Sheets said his team is trying to come to terms with what happened.

"We're working through this as a team," he said. "Our ladies are very strong."

Duquesne swimming's next meet is against St. Francis this Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Towers Pool.

Kaye Burnet contributed reporting.

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CARTOON BY LEAH DEVORAK

if i do say so myself...

'Fences' brings in cash to Pittsburgh

Hollywood award shows, like the Jan. 8 Golden Globes, seem so far away from real life here in Pittsburgh. But if you watched Viola Davis win Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Fences," you'll know that the connection between the two is stronger than you might think.

"Fences," which debuted in theaters on Dec. 25 and has a box office revenue of over \$40 million as of Jan. 8, was shot locally here in Pittsburgh. The movie stars Denzel Washington, who plays a sanitation worker in 1950s Pittsburgh as he struggles to deal with a missed opportunity to become a professional baseball player due to his race and age. Neighborhoods such as the Hill District, the West End, the Strip District and other locations are featured heavily in the film. The original screenplay was even written by Pittsburgh native August Wilson, and it premiered on Broadway in 1987.

What's even more surprising than the award-winning movie's connections to the Steel City, though, is how much money it generated for the region.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the filming of "Fences" brought in over \$9.4 million to the city. The flick also hired more than 900 local work-

ers and paid out \$5.6 million in wages. Those numbers don't include the nearly \$3 million spent on transportation, lodging, catering or supplies.

"Fences" isn't Pittsburgh's first foray into the film industry and the economic spoils that it can bring. Other box office blockbusters that were shot here include Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight Rises" and Steven Chbosky's "Perks of Being a Wallflower." Even Josh Boone's teen favorite "The Fault in Our Stars" and Joss Whedon's superhero-packed "The Avengers" were partially filmed in areas around Western Pennsylvania.

According to a 2012 article by Entertainment Weekly, Pittsburgh's film production raked in over \$100 million in local profits each year from 2010 to 2012. For comparison, Pittsburgh was projected to receive \$134 million in real estate taxes for 2016, according to the city's yearly operating budget.

Needless to say, the movie industry plays a vital role in Pittsburgh's robust economic success, and it should continue to attract as many blockbuster features and Hollywood starlets as it can. Af-

ter all, beyond the thrill of spotting a celebrity while walking to dinner down in Market Square or recognizing the famed yellow bridges on the silver screen, it's exciting to know that fan-favorite films are helping to bolster the city's ability to grow and thrive. That's always a good thing.

One reason why it performs so well is because Pittsburgh has one of the best incentivized tax credit programs in the nation for producers and film companies. If a movie crew decides to shoot a picture within the city — while spending cash to hire local workers and use local lodgings and restaurants while they do it — they receive significant financial breaks in the process. However, one major problem is that the credits are capped at \$60 million per year, according to the Pittsburgh Film Office.

As with any other business in any other industry, it usually comes down to the money. Cities that offer more incentives to shoot there will often win over more movies, and Pittsburgh should seriously consider raising the cap to allow the region more opportunities to capture work.

It's been proven time and again

that Pittsburgh benefits from having big-name pictures filmed here, as the projects themselves bring in significant revenue to the region and a general buzz to the area. But beyond that, having Pittsburgh on-screen across the nation leads to the widespread exposure of our diverse, vibrant 92 neighborhoods. Some of these are neighborhoods, like the Hill District featured in "Fences," that often get overlooked by other publications that feature the city or general tourists.

The Steel City is voted year after year as being one of the best in the world to visit, with Harper's Bazaar being the most recent publication to be named as only one of two American cities to its "17 Best Places to Travel in 2017" list. Showcasing Pittsburgh's culture, people, landscape and entertainment in films can only help to strengthen tourism even more. Dreams to visit our city can be sparked in the minds of young and old after seeing matinees of movies set here just as hearts have yearned for New York, Paris or Los Angeles.

And knowing that the rest of the world loves Pittsburgh just as much as we do can only grow our community closer together.

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REBEKAH DEVORAK
opinions editor

DUQUESNE EVENTS PREVIEW

Spring



OLLIE GRATZINGER
asst. features editor

As the holidays wind down and the spring semester sets in, it's time to kiss candy canes and sleeping 'till noon goodbye. Those responsibilities you've been ignoring for the past month are coming back with a vengeance, and textbooks sure aren't going to read themselves. But fear not — as life returns to its normal, routine pace and students return to the Bluff, Duquesne's calendar is full of new and exciting events for you to attend. Hopefully, they'll help you to de-stress, get involved and remember just how much fun the campus community can be.

JANUARY

Even though January is the month during which students take the time to get adjusted to their new schedules and course loads, there's still a ton of fun things going on around campus and beyond to ward off that dreaded boredom.

The first event takes place on **Jan. 17** in the Student Union Atrium with day one of the Spring Student Organization Expo. Here, you can find some information about different organizations around campus that you might want to get involved with. This event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day until **Jan. 20**.

Also on **Jan. 20**, get to know Duquesne's fraternities and learn a little about the recruitment process at a "Meet the Fraternities" event in the Power Center Ballroom. This is also a great opportunity for you to grab a schedule of the events taking place during Rush Week, as well as to determine whether or not Greek Life is for you.

Jan. 18 kicks off sorority season with a casual "Meet the Sororities" event in the Union Ballroom. If you plan on rushing, this will be a great opportunity to get to know what they're all about before formal recruitment begins on **Jan. 23**.

Since it's going to be cold out, you might as well enjoy it with some winter recreation. On **Jan. 28**, the Center for Student Involvement kicks off its Outdoor Adventure Series with a skiing and snowboarding trip to Seven Springs. Bundle up, get out there and above all, try not to break anything.



COURTESY OF DAVE COULIER

Dave Coulier will perform in the Union Ballroom on Feb. 16.

FEBRUARY

As per university tradition, February is for the Founders. Starting on **Feb. 1**, a week of dinners, talks and other activities centered around Spiritan education will be held to celebrate and honor the legacy, visions and values of Duquesne's founding fathers.

Don't miss comedian Dave Coulier as he takes the stage in the Union Ballroom on **Feb. 16**. Best known as Uncle Joey in the beloved, long-running "Full House" — and more recently for reprising the role in Netflix's original series, "Fuller House" — he's sure to bring you a good laugh that'll whisk all that mid-semester stress away.

Support campus entertainment by going out on **Feb. 16** to see the Red Masquers, Duquesne's own theater group, perform the world premiere of "Rust" by Pittsburgh playwright F.J. Hartland. The show will be comedic, but other than that, the plot has been a well-kept secret. "Rust" will run until **Feb. 26**, so find some time in those ten days to see what all the buzz is about.

If poetry is your thing, the Genesius Theater has something for you, too. On **Feb. 22**, the spring semester's first Coffee House Reading will take place. Here, established writers come to present their work alongside that of students with the goal of furthering creative writing and literary arts within the campus community.

MARCH

The Red Masquers are at it again on **March 15**, performing the punk-rock "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson." Chronicling the founding of America's Democratic Party with a comedic, theatrical spin, it's a must-see for history buffs, rock aficionados and theater lovers alike.

Don't forget to check out the Union Ballroom on **March 18** for Phi Kappa Theta's annual Monte Carlo Night. \$10 will buy you \$10,000 worth of play money so that you can try your luck in Vegas-style gambling games like roulette, blackjack and poker. With semi-formal attire required, this event is the closest you can get to a high-end Las Vegas casino without having to leave the 'Bluff. All proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network, so be there for one of the only guilt-free gambling experiences you'll encounter in your life.

March 23 brings in the second installment of this semester's Coffee House Readings. Come to the Genesius Theater to hear poetry read aloud by professional writers.

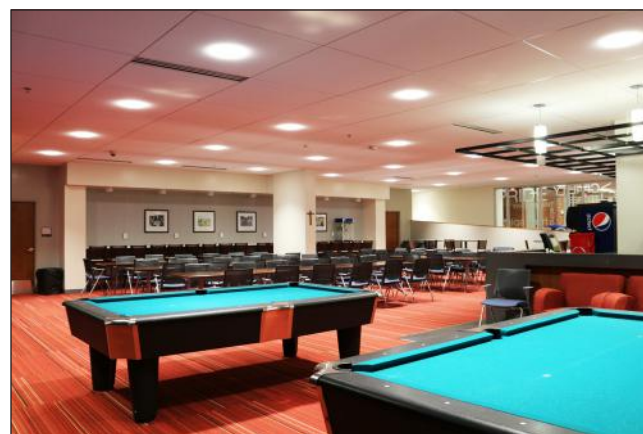
On **March 30**, the Red Masquers will perform the Pulitzer Prize winning show "Proof." Unlike the other shows to look forward to this semester, "Proof" goes a little bit heavier on the drama with the telling of a story about a professor-slash-mathematical-genius and her struggle with mental illness. The show will run until **April 9**, so grab a box of tissues and don't miss out!

APRIL

On **April 5**, the third and final installment of this semester's Coffee House Readings will feature both fiction and non-fiction selections at the Genesius Theater.

The Red Masquers close out a semester of great shows with their production of "True West" on **April 26**. With a drama depicting the relationship between two brothers who couldn't be any more different, the play is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. It'll only run until **April 30**, so see it while you can.

Come to the Union Ballroom on **April 28** for the Spirit of Diversity Dinner. Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Af-



SETH CULP-RESSLER/FEATURES EDITOR

The Union NiteSpot hosts events nearly every night of the week.

fairs, this event celebrates the importance of diversity on our campus and beyond.

ONGOING EVENTS

Even though each month sees its fair share of interesting events, there are quite a few things happening regularly to keep an eye out for.

If you ever have a free evening that you don't know what to do with, look no further than the NiteSpot. **Sundays** see service programs, **Mondays** host tournaments and **Tuesdays** encourage students to get creative with "Make Your Own Nite." On **Wednesday**, there's a variety of entertainment options, and **Thursday** is Ladies Nite, featuring activities such as painting to help you unwind. Kick off the weekend right with the Duquesne Program Council's (DPC) DUNites on **Fridays**, where everything from epic bingo to piggy-bank painting can be found, and treat yourself to a movie every **Saturday**.

Speaking of movies, the DPC hosts a weekly film series, also in the NiteSpot, and this semester's line-up includes exciting new titles such as "Arrival," "Moana," "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," "Dr. Strange," "Hidden Figures," "La La Land," "Manchester by the Sea," "Passengers" and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

Every **Wednesday**, free PB&J sandwiches can be found in the Commuter Center around lunch time. They're made-to-order by none other than Duquesne's own faculty, so if you've ever wanted to put your professors to work for a change, check it out!

If you're interested in the more political aspects of campus life, be sure to attend the Student Government Association's weekly meetings every Sunday, starting on **Jan. 15** in room 203 of the Law School.

On a similar note, the DPC meets in room 613 of the Union every Monday, starting on **Jan. 23**. If you've got a mind for planning and a love of all things campus entertainment, this is a great way for you to get involved and plan some fun activities in the process.

There you have it, folks! There's a little something for everybody going on at Duquesne this semester. Whether you're interested in a day out in nature, an opportunity to let your creative side shine or just a laugh among friends, you can find it all here. When you've got a break in coursework and a few hours to spare, pull this guide out from your desk drawer and check out some of the happenings around campus. You won't regret it.

A.J. Hines brings Jerry Rice Award to Duquesne

ANDREW HOLMAN

sports editor

Greatness — it's something every athlete strives for, but few achieve. It is the fruition of hard work, passion and commitment to one's craft.

In one season at Duquesne University, A.J. Hines not only achieved greatness at the collegiate level, but he was also honored by a man that defines the word greatness — Hall of Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice.

Hines and Rice shared the same stage for a few moments as Rice presented Hines with the 2016 FCS Stats Jerry Rice Award, given to the nation's top freshman at the FCS level.

"It was the best thing that happened in my life," Hines said. "He is a character and he is a big inspiration in my life, and he showed me the way, and how to be great. He pushes me to be great just by what I have seen him do and his accomplishments."

Hines began playing flag football at just five years old and football has been an important part of his life ever since. He finds his motivation from a familiar place.

"I use my family back home to motivate me," Hines said. "I want to show them that I can be the best that I can be, and that I am doing it for them."

Hines attended Fike High School in Wilson, North Carolina where he was named an All-State performer and a three-time All-Conference player. He accumulated over 2,000 yards rushing and 33 touchdowns in just his final two years at Fike alone.

When his high school days became numbered, he originally verbally committed to the University of Richmond, but in June of 2016 changed his commitment to Duquesne. After one year on the Bluff, Hines was already able to accomplish something he never could at the high school level — winning a

championship with his teammates.

"It was special," Hines said. "I've always been wanting a ring and I didn't get one in high school, so I got one now and I'm waiting on three more."

With a dynamic, powerful runner like Hines in the backfield, don't count the Dukes out to be a force once again within the NEC Conference. The Dukes, under the direction of head coach Jerry Schmitt, won the conference outright in 2015 and followed that up with a share of the NEC title in 2016.

This season began with a 45-10 rout handed to the Red & Blue by Youngstown State, and in that game the Dukes managed just 34 yards on the ground. That is when Hines was given his chance to prove himself.

"When I played my first game ever, we played Youngstown State, and I got in for five carries, [Coach Schmitt] said I never gave up even though we were down so much," Hines said. "I guess he just saw that in me — that I will do my best out there on the field with every carry I get."

Following a five rush, 19-yard performance in the opener, Hines took over the Duquesne rushing attack on his way to 1,291 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns in just 11 games in his rookie year.

The numbers he was putting up certainly caught the attention of coaches, fans and media personnel in the NEC Conference and across the country. Hines was named NEC Rookie of the Week a school-record 10 times as well as receiving First Team All-NEC and NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year honors.

Hines was just one of 13 Dukes to receive postseason NEC honors. Additionally, teammates Christian Kuntz and Ben Huss were named to the FCS Stats All-America teams. Huss was one of the offensive linemen who helped carve a path for Hines to

rumble through all season long.

Even with all the accolades, receiving the Jerry Rice Award is something Hines will never forget.

"When I got that call, I was speechless," Hines said. "I didn't know what to say. I didn't know who to call. I was just talking to coach and he told me. I was coming out of one of my classes and it just surprised me. I was so excited and I just started calling everybody, my parents, my friends, everybody."

Hines secured the award by just a single point in the voting but that one vote was monumental to the Duquesne football program.

"It's huge for our Duquesne program here to have a young man get awarded for his work, and for the work of the team," Schmitt said in an interview. "He is a humble young man and he knows his teammates helped him gain that

award and we were so happy when he got through the summer and decided to join our family here."

Hines still has plenty of goals he'd like to achieve in the near future including playing in an FCS Championship with his teammates and becoming the first to win both the Jerry Rice Award and the Walter Payton Award, which is given to the best offensive player in the FCS each year.

And finally, Hines has his sights set on following the footsteps of the great Jerry Rice by making the jump from the FCS to the NFL.

"That is a dream. I am pushing to do that — to play football on Sundays. I want to get my education first and graduate from Duquesne. But if that does happen, it will be a great opportunity and I will take it, and ride with it."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Freshman running back A.J. Hines receives the FCS STATS Jerry Rice Award from Jerry Rice himself at the awards banquet in Frisco, Texas on Jan 6. The award is given to the top freshman at the FCS level.

Eight teams remain in pursuit of Super Bowl glory

ANDREW HOLMAN

sports editor

The 2016 NFL regular season was full of many surprises with the Dallas Cowboys riding a pair of rookies to the No. 1 seed in the NFC and the Carolina Panthers imploding after a Super Bowl run just one season ago.

But 12 teams emerged from the pack of 32 and claimed this year's playoff berths. Each team experienced their own unique ups and downs during their respective journeys, but eventually they all arrived at the same destination with a chance to bring home the Lombardi Trophy.

However, Wild Card weekend did its best to narrow down the

field to the league's elite. None of the four opening round games were all that close and the winning teams had a 19-point average margin of victory. And with the exception of the Oakland Raiders, who were derailed by Derek Carr's injury, most people would probably agree the other three losers in the Wild Card round were longshots to win the Super Bowl.

So now that just seven teams remain — let's be honest, Houston isn't a legitimate contender — one can only hope the games will become increasingly close and more captivating in this week's Divisional round.

In the NFC, the Seattle Seahawks will head to Atlanta to take on the Falcons in the opening game of the

Divisional round. The Seahawks defense, playing without safety Earl Thomas, will have a tough test as the Falcons posted the highest scoring offense (33.8 points per game) in the NFL this year combined with finishing second in total yards (415.8 yards per game) according to Pro Football Reference.

On the other hand, the Seahawks have allowed just 18.2 points per game this year and allowed the Detroit Lions to tally just six points in the Wild Card round. They surely won't be afraid of Matt Ryan and the Falcons.

History says that playoff Ryan and regular season Ryan aren't the same guy, as displayed by his 1-4 playoff record. But now a veteran of the league, expect a better day from Ryan that closely resembles his 335-yard, three touchdown performance against the Seahawks during the regular season. Ultimately, it just comes down to whether the Seahawks defense can slow down the Falcons enough to give their offense a fighting chance.

Prediction: Seahawks 31, Falcons 30

The other side of the NFC bracket features the top-seeded Cowboys hosting the red-hot Green Bay Packers who have won seven-straight games. This Packers team was pitiful in the opening weeks of the season, but as Rodgers has improved his play, the wins have started to accumulate.

But their win streak is in serious jeopardy as they travel to "Jerry

World" and take on a Cowboys team that went 13-1 against teams other than the New York Giants. But hey, the Packers just slaughtered the Giants, so they'll beat Dallas too, right? Not so fast.

Ezekiel Elliott and Dak Prescott may lack NFL playoff experience, but Elliott won a National Championship with Ohio State and neither guy blinked all season long when they were called into duty, so don't expect them to shy away from the lights in the playoffs.

Prediction: Cowboys 35, Packers 24

Over in the AFC, the Patriots and Texans will play the night-cap on Saturday for a spot in the AFC Championship. While the Texans put up a solid showing against a Carr-less Raiders team, their play all season proved them to be nothing more than a mediocre football team that overpaid for a below-average quarterback.

Never take a below-average quarterback against a team with Tom Brady. Maybe if J.J. Watt was in the picture, the Texans would have a fighting chance, but without him this one won't be close.

Prediction: Patriots 30, Texans 9

Finally, the local Pittsburgh Steelers will have to go to Arrowhead Stadium — one of the toughest places to play in football — to square off with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Earlier in the season, Pittsburgh routed Kansas City 43-14 at Heinz Field. But with a change in location and significant improvements for both teams, don't ex-



AP PHOTO

James Harrison rushes the quarterback in the 2016 AFC Wild Card round.

pect this one to be so one-sided.

The player that can spin the game into the Chiefs' favor is Tyreek Hill. Hill has found more and more ways to produce for Kansas City both on offense and on special teams. He is the most dynamic player on their roster and if the Steelers can't keep him in check, one long punt return touchdown could prove to be the difference.

As for the Steelers, it's pretty simple — get Le'Veon Bell the ball. Bell rushed for 144 yards against the Chiefs last game, but they also surrendered five touchdowns through the air and a multitude of big plays. So are the Chiefs going to pack the box to stop the run, or are they going to drop back and contain the passing attack? Either way, Bell can be a key weapon in the offense for Pittsburgh.

Prediction: Steelers 27, Chiefs 23



AP PHOTO

Ezekiel Elliot and Jason Garrett hope to clinch a spot in the team's first NFC Championship since 1995. The Cowboys have been led by a pair of rookies in 2016.

Meryl Streep steals show at Golden Globe awards

SEAN RAY
a&e editor

Hollywood's self-congratulatory award season continued this past weekend with the 74th Golden Globes. Largely considered the second biggest film award show, after the Academy Awards, the Globes focuses on drama, comedies and musicals.

The biggest winner of the night was "La La Land," netting a total of seven nominations and winning every single one. The musical-romance walked away with Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Score and gave Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone their Best Performance in a Musical awards.

Despite the Globes going gaga for "La La Land," the talk of the night was definitely Meryl Streep, who won the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award. Streep used her acceptance speech to criticize president-elect Donald Trump.

"When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose," Streep said, referencing an incident where Trump mocked a reporter with a disability.

Trump responded on Twitter, calling Streep "overrated" and, "a Hill-



AP PHOTO

Veteran actress Meryl Streep has received criticism and praise for her award acceptance speech, where she made negative references to Donald Trump.

ary flunky who lost big."

In an announcement that surprised absolutely no one, Disney took home Best Animated Feature Film with their summer surprise hit "Zootopia." The House of Mouse did face tough competition... from itself, as the company's "Moana" was also nominated for the same award.

Seemingly in an attempt to show the Academy Awards how diversity is done, the Golden Globes featured many minority-led films, both as nominees and winners.

"Moonlight," which focuses on an African American man struggling with growing up as a homosexual, nabbed the Best Motion Picture (Drama) title, while Viola Davis won Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Rose Maxson in the Pittsburgh-based "Fences."

"Moonlight" was also the second most-nominated film of the night.

The Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) award also featured a surprise. Not the winner, which was again "La La Land," but instead in

the fact that one of the nominee's was dark superhero-comedy "Deadpool."

While superhero movies have taken the summer blockbuster market by storm, they have largely been ignored at award shows besides a few Best Effects here and there. The fact that "Deadpool" even got a nomination might be a sign Hollywood is warming up to movies about people in spandex saving the day.

On the television side of things, the British-made "The Night Manager" won the most, despite "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" receiving more nominations. Netflix turned in a strong showing, netting four nominations between "Stranger Things" and "The Crown." However, only the latter took home any awards.

Bizarrely, after a year that seemed to be defined by dead celebrities, no "In Memoriam" section was performed at the show, despite usually being part of the ceremony. Instead, an online list was put up on the website of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which helps produce the Golden Globes.

The film award season concludes next month with the 89th Academy Awards, which will take place on Feb. 26.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Cerebral Sorcery
Jan. 14, 5 p.m.

The magic and illusion show will be performed at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre in the Cultural District. Tickets start at \$20. For more information to this all ages event, please visit post-gazette.com/events.

Circa Survive
Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

The Philadelphia based rock band will be performing at Stage AE on the Northshore. Tickets are \$23 in advance, \$25 at the show. For more information to this all-ages event, please visit promowestlive.com.

UPCOMING RELEASES

"Strike a Pose"
Jan. 18

This documentary follows the lives of seven male dancers of Madonna's 1990 "Blond Ambition World Tour" during and after the controversial performances. It has already garnered awards from independent film festivals.

"I See You"
Jan. 13

After nearly five years, The xx are releasing their third studio album. The 10-track record represents a new direction for the band after member and producer Jamie xx released his own independent album. The lead single, "On Hold," peaked at number 3 on the UK Indie Chart, and the album's second single, "Say Something Loving," premiered Jan. 1

Editorial: Sherlock faces hardest problem yet

ZACHARY LANDAU
asst. a&e editor

What has happened to "Sherlock?" Seven years ago, the show was a breakout hit and immediately garnered praise from both critics and the public. It was slick and stylish, innovative in its effects and absolutely delightful in how it managed to transpose the classic Doyle crime stories into the modern day. Seven years ago, I would have unquestionably recommended "Sherlock" to anyone looking for interesting and provocative television.

Now, in the middle of the show's fourth season, I find the whole affair rather tedious.

This opinion is not uncommon; the last season saw a dip in ratings from critics from a 91 Metascore to 88. It was confusing, muddled in its presentation and, perhaps worst of all, littered with copious, unflinching fan service. The one-off special released last year was alright by most standards, but only alright is hardly praise for a series that raised the bar for television.

The falling quality of "Sherlock" seems unyielding if these last two episodes are any indication. The season's opener, "The Six Thatchers," was a convoluted nightmare of threads and flashbacks that left a sour taste in the mouth. The trappings of the previous season, with all of its nonsensical plot twists and ego-centric posturing, were in full-force and by the end of the episode, any meaningful plot development from the last season thrown out the window (not spoiling how, but suffice to say it was done in the most fumbling way possible).

The first two seasons kept a narrow focus, centralizing each episode on one mystery at a time. Hints of broader, overarching plots were dropped occasionally, but the notion that Sherlock Holmes represented an invaluable asset to the British government never crossed anybody's (both within the



COURTESY OF BBC

Despite a dip in ratings from its previous season, "Sherlock" seems stuck repeating the same mistakes that are turning critics off of the BBC drama. The Season 4 finale is this Sunday, Jan. 15.

show's world and in ours) minds. He was just some weird genius who happened to like solving crimes.

He was not, as the show and its die-hard fans would want you to believe, the second coming of Jesus Christ himself.

What's worse, the series affinity for fan service seems to be the primary force behind these changes. Tons of little nods to the audience are sprinkled throughout each episode, but of late, it feels as if the show stops every minute to remind the audience that Sherlock is the best and the whole world loves Sherlock and would it not be fantastic if we were all friends with Sherlock because he is the best boy. Nearly every episode from the last and current season features an impossible bit of Sherlock magic that even the character himself admits was basically a pot shot (such as predicting the exact moment an ambulance will appear two weeks prior).

I guess my problem is a selfish one; "Sher-

lock" is not made for me anymore. It is made for the obsessive fans, the fans that will buy the physical copies just to have them. While the first two seasons were just flat-out good television, wholly watchable even to the uninitiated, now they feel less like quality entertainment and more like self-congratulations. Whenever Benedict Cumberbatch is maniacally waving a gun around and hollering at an empty room, I do not think, "Wow, Cumberbatch, is a fantastic actor who is able to express extreme emotions." I think, "Wow, can Cumberbatch just stop making GIF material and move on."

It would honestly be more subtle if instead of having Sherlock look fantastic by doing something stupidly impossible, every character would just pan to camera and say, "We know you can't get enough of this, you worms."

And I'm just not here for that.

MICRO REVIEW

"ReCore"

"A hidden gem on the Xbox One, "ReCore" is a budget action-platformer that was criminally overlooked in 2016. Pacing and backtracking issues aside, the satisfying and laid-back gameplay of 'ReCore' pairs perfectly with a podcast playing in the background. Fans of "Mega Man" and "Metroid Prime" should consider this Microsoft-published title while it's still on sale."

— Craig Taylor

‘Hidden Figures’ brings unrecognized heroes to big screen

NICOLE PRIETO
staff writer



Despite projections from its studio, “Hidden Figures” managed to beat “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” during its opening weekend. The film has made over \$30.5 million against a \$25 million budget.

When you hear the word “computers,” perhaps the last (or at least second) thing you think of are people hashing out math problems of literal astronomical importance by hand. But that is one of the first history lessons box office hit “Hidden Figures” teaches. Based on Margot Lee Shetterly’s book, the film follows the triumphs of three black women employed at NASA as they work to put the first Americans in space.

Since she was a child, Katherine Goble (Taraji P. Henson) was a math prodigy who could not only keep up with advanced collegiate mathematics but also explain its principles to stunned older students. It is no surprise, then, that she becomes employed as a mathematician (computer) at NASA’s Langley Research Center. With her friends and coworkers Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), Katherine breaks barriers during a critical era in the 1960s U.S. space race against the Soviet Union.

“Hidden Figures” is absolutely a feel-good film. From the start, it is not hard to divine that the women will get their happily-ever-afters while changing hearts and minds along the way. But the movie does not shy away from the emotional toil of living as a person of color in the early ’60s. From segregated public accommodations and working areas to civil rights protests and firebombed Freedom Rider buses, the film is frank about the difficult social reality the women must navigate.

Amidst all of this, Katherine’s experiences

take front and center, where we witness her temporary assignment to the all-white east area of the research center. Her new office is a shared room with the Space Task Group, headed by the intimidating Al Harrison (Kevin Costner). She is responsible for checking the group’s math as it calculates the flight trajectories of the U.S.’s nascent astronauts. But even with her groundbreaking contributions, she is no less subject to the various humiliations of segregation.

Perhaps one of the film’s most heart-wrenching scenes is when Katherine eventually tells off the room about a deceptively benign problem she faces that makes doing her work far more difficult: using the restroom. The West Area where the black “computers” work is located half a mile from the Space Task Group. The problem is that the only “colored women’s restroom” she may use is in the West Area — requiring her to make exhausting runs just so she may relieve herself.

Tensions come to a head when Harrison

angrily asks why she seems to disappear from her desk for long stretches of time. Henson’s performance is nothing short of moving. The normally reserved and soft-spoken Katherine, soaked to the bone from getting caught in the rain during her latest run, vents her frustrations with no punches held.

Spencer’s role as Dorothy Vaughan is no less effective. After being down an official supervisor, Dorothy has taken on managerial responsibilities over the roomful of West Area “colored computers” — without so much as a promotion in title or increase in pay. Not only must Dorothy contend with the thinly veiled racism of her superior, Vivian Mitchell (Kirsten Dunst), she also faces a much more ominous threat: the arrival of the center’s first IBM computers.

Dorothy quickly sees they are in a race against time to learn new skills that will keep all of the human computers — black and white — from being laid off once the hulking IBM machines are operational. In a blatantly unauthorized move, she takes the initiative to figure

out how the automated computers work and transmit those skills to her coworkers. Spencer’s acting is a delight; her depiction of Dorothy as a capable leader with a tactful brand of wit is a nice balance to Mary’s more biting assertiveness.

Speaking of Mary, I will try to keep my fan-girl bias brief: Admittedly, I already had stars in my eyes the moment I saw singer-actress Janelle Monáe (also known by fans as “Cindi Mayweather” or “Electric Lady No. 1”) appear on-screen in her second film.

Mary’s dream is to become NASA’s first black female engineer. But when an addendum in employment requirements states that she needs to take additional classes at an all-white high school to be qualified for the position, she must petition a Virginia court to be permitted to attend. From her barely held-back relish at speeding down a roadway to her charismatic charm in setting up Katherine with Colonel Jim Johnson (Mahershala Ali), Monáe depicts Mary as a vivacious and funny friend who remains no-nonsense about her goals. Fans still waiting for Monáe’s next album ought to keep an eye out for her first Oscar.

Overall, it is difficult to find so much as a technical detail to criticize in the film. It is directed by Theodore Melfi, scored by producer Pharrell Williams and contains a number of quality supporting performances. The movie is a fitting celebration of women of color’s historic contributions to the space program. It is no surprise that it in its wide release opening weekend, it unseated “Rogue One” from the No. 1 spot in the box office. If you are looking for a good start to the new year, “Hidden Figures” is a movie you do not want to miss.

August Wilson’s classic ‘Fences’ given perfect film treatment

LOREN SMITH
staff writer

August Wilson’s iconic 1983 play “Fences” was brought to the big screen for the first time this Dec. 16. The powerful film, which was also a Tony Award-winning Broadway show that starred Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in its revival, tells the brutally honest story of the Maxson family, who live in the Hill District in Pittsburgh during the 1950s.

The historical drama deals with the struggles waste collector Troy Maxson (Washington) faces, both in raising his family and in moving on from his failed attempt at a Major League Baseball career. His contempt for sports strains his relationship with his son, Cory (Jovan Adepo), who wants to be a football player and even impacts his relationship with his wife, Rose (Davis), who supports their son’s interests.

The film’s abundance of witty banter and casual interactions among characters makes it a unique and dynamic story. Troy’s brother, Gabe (Mykelti Williamson), who was left mentally impaired from World War II, acts as a comic relief with a simple yet genuine understanding of the way things are. Lyons (Russell Hornsby), Troy’s son from a previous marriage, makes for a relatable character who wants to bond with his father, despite his love for music being something that is difficult for Troy to understand.

Featuring several well-known Pittsburgh areas, the locations and scenery in “Fences” play a major role into the overall mid-20th century, urban vibe of the film. The majority of the film takes place in the Hill District, where the Maxsons’ home is located and where Wilson grew up. Also playing into the film’s setting are some famous staples in the city’s culture, from a bottle of Heinz ketchup to the numerous mentions of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Washington, who directed the film along with starring in it, brings an incredible amount of power and emotion to his role. The many stories and metaphors that Troy comes up with regarding him fighting off death are especially well-delivered by Washington and captivating to the audience due to how believable he makes the speeches seem, with both his intense words and physicality. He and Davis’ onscreen chemistry is unequivocal,



Denzel Washington and Viola Davis reprise their roles as Troy and Rose Maxson from the Broadway revival of “Fences” for the film adaptation. Both Washington and Davis were nominated for Golden Globes for their roles, with Davis winning last Sunday.

cal, with each of their performances generating the film’s success by adding depth to the characters that Wilson created.

The movie also touches on African Americans’ struggle for racial equality during a pivotal time in the Civil Rights Movement. Troy often associates his failure at becoming a professional baseball player with the fact that most players at that time were white. He even meaningfully challenges the waste collection company that he works for as to why they only let white men drive the garbage trucks.

Though it has only been out for a relatively short amount of

time, “Fences” has already received a well-deserved multitude of awards and nominations, with the most notable among these being Davis’ recent Golden Globe win for Best Supporting Actress. The combination of Wilson’s classic work and a cast of famous stars makes this film a lovable masterpiece.

“Fences” has become such a remarkable story because of its honesty of the struggles of one working class family in the 1950s. The film is not an action-packed thriller, but its timeless tale about the resilience of the human spirit will leave audiences with a new understanding of life.

NRA, guns topic of film at DU

GUNS — from page 2

Background Check System (NICS) is a system that allows cashiers who are selling firearms to check and see if the buyer has a criminal record or is otherwise ineligible to purchase a firearm. This does not apply to interstate trade between private parties however.

"It's about freedom of choice," Campbell said. "Without the Second Amendment, you will not have the Constitution."

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Changes made to PGH Port Authority busses

BUS — from page 1

Abigail Whitewood, a sophomore nursing major, also uses city transit regularly.

"I use the bus around three times a week both ways so in total I am on a bus six times a week," she said.

Since she already has a ConnectCard, the changes won't affect her too much. However, she's happy with the simplification of the paying system.

"I appreciate the change to allow for consistency," Whitewood said. "I always got confused when I would have to pay."

Maria Miller, a sophomore secondary education and history major, uses the buses to get to her education field experience, along with going to the airport. She also uses the Port Authority's prepaid card.

"I already use a ConnectCard, so the change from \$2.50 to \$2.75 won't affect me," Miller said.

Miller does support the new \$2.50 flat rate, regardless of trip distance.

"I do like the idea of having a flat \$2.50 rate because it reduces the cost for longer rides, like the air-

port shuttle," she said.

Caroline McAadoo, a sophomore, also enjoys the benefits of holding a Port Authority ConnectCard.

However, she's concerned that, for cash customers, the process won't be as friendly.

"I think the new changes are inconvenient for people who don't have a ConnectCard because now to pay a cheaper price, they have to go out of their way to get a ConnectCard and then remember to load money onto it," she said.

Kaitlin Andres, a sophomore nursing major, had known that changes were coming.

"I got a ConnectCard halfway through the fall semester once I realized they were switching," she said.

Andres is in the ROTC, and she often has to take the bus to get to training and meetings. She said all the rides across town stretch her budget.

"I still really hope Duquesne will be able to give us free bus fare because I can spend anywhere from \$25 to \$50 in bus fares in a month depending how busy I get. It definitely adds up throughout the year," Andres said.