DU students raise funds to combat Somalian famine

RAYMOND ARKE
asst. news editor

A dire United Nations report showed more than half the population of Somalia is in danger of starvation, and Duquesne students half a world away are helping out.

Cynthia Umutoni, a sophomore international business and finance major, and Aminata Soko, a senior accounting major, are running a fundraiser to benefit struggling Somalis. The money goes to the American Refugee Committee, a volunteer relief group which has an office in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The idea for a holding a fundraiser was sparked by the moment for the two students.

“The idea came randomly. We were going to get dinner and [Aminata] told me ‘Cynthia did you see what’s going on in Somalia?’ ... And I was like ‘Can we do something about it?” Umutoni said.

Soko then came up with the plan to start an online fundraiser.

“We just felt how fortunate we are to have basic food and water, things like that. Just knowing there are people out there who don’t have that, it’s just crazy to us ... Being at the university, we thought it was a great place to start a fundraiser,” Soko said.

By starting this effort, Umutoni hopes that they can help just a few Somalis from suffering.

“As college students we don’t have the means to immediately stop the famine in like two days. The little we can do I’m sure can benefit a few families,” she said. Another important aspect of their efforts is that they hope more students and, people in general, will start paying attention to what’s going on.

“Creating the awareness ... just letting people know that OK this is happening in the world. There are people dying of hunger, we need to know about this. I think that’s the first step towards trying to make change,” Soko said.

Umutoni said it’s upsetting to see extensive TV coverage of tragedies around the world but nothing actually happening to stop them.

“It’s sad to see that happen. We just feel like contributing to making Somalia a little bit better, however much we can,” she said.

The situation is getting dire. Umutoni said that it is “one of the biggest crises the UN has faced.”

“It’s very real. It is creating refugees that are going to neighboring countries like Kenya and South Sudan,” she said.

The fundraiser can be found on the crowdfunding website, GoFundMe, and is titled “Surging Somalia.” The two students have been sharing the across Facebook.

They want students to know that these Somalis are just like anyone else.

“The people who are being affected are somebody’s family,” Umutoni said.

Soko asked students to reflect on how lucky they are.

“Think about what they have and really sit down and appreciate it. These people are struggling to find the minimum,” she said.

The fundraiser has raised $145 in one week.

Somalia facing devastation coupled with fundraising campaigns to help is nothing new, according to Fr. John Sawicki, director and professor of international relations at Duquesne.

The story of Somalia is the story of donor fatigue,” he said.

The current famine harkens back to the 1992 civil war and famine, which needed massive UN assistance. But now, it’s different.

“The country doesn’t get the star power as it did in 1992 ... [but] the malnutrition and famine is as bad as...
Science supporters take over Oakland for march

Harbourne gets physical therapy honor


to page 1

Students give to drought victims

SOMALI— from page 1

"92" Sawicki said.

Somalia has been scarred by decades of conflict, he explained.

"There has always been intense and bitter competition between various [Somali] clans," Sawicki said.

Terror groups run deep within the region, some being renowned for their deadlines — especially the Somali-based group Al-Shabab.

"If ISDS [Al-Shabab was the most impressive terror group ... [they were] a rockstar in the global terrorist movement," Sawicki said. Sawicki explained that the prevalence of terror groups has left the government almost nonexistent. African Union troops have tried to support orders of years, but their contract with the UN is running out and Sawicki expects problems.

"If and when the peacekeepers go ... this may be the moment for Al-Shabab to release what they have in reserve," he said, reminding that it is still just speculation.

Sawicki lauded the students running the fundraiser, calling the American Refugee Committee "very reputable."
News ed. Addeo says adieu

BRANDON ADEDO
news editor

When my eighth grade teacher asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, it gave me pause. Obviously, every young person at one point wanted to be a professional athlete or an astronaut or something else that’s fantastical. But at that moment — for the first time — I had to ask myself the very real question: “What do I want to do with my life?”

I always loved to write, so my answer to that teacher was that I wanted to be a journalist.

Well, I think it started out as “photожournalist.” I can’t exactly remember why, though. The first interview I ever conducted (which was no doubt incredibly awkward) was with a photographer for the Scranton Times-Tribune, for an assignment in that same class. That conversation almost 10 years ago was probably the first step on the path to where I am today (thanks again, Butch.)

That path led me to The Duquesne Duke’s newsroom for an open house my first semester of freshman year, where I met a group of weird and friendly editors. As I sat on a gross old couch of freshman year, where I met a professor and senior at Duquesne University graduated alongside me and to

The newsroom this week will always be a special place for me.

And it pains me to realize this will be my last story I write here. I guess I should thank some people (that’s what you do in these things, right?) Special thanks to former Duke editor-in-chief Julian Routh, current editor-in-chief Kaye Burnet and advisor Bob Kerlik for their guidance — they ensured I never made a royal mess of things. I also have to thank the Duquesne Media Department (I liked the old name better, by the way) and all of the professors in it who taught me everything I know about news writing.

Thanks also to everyone who wrote for my news section. I literally could not do my job without your help, and I was very pleased with some of the stories we wrote this year.

Last but not least, I have to thank my assistant editor Raymond Arke for putting up with my bossiness without complaining once. Raymond will be taking over my job next year, and I know the news section is in capable hands.

Best of luck to the editors who will be replacing me. They’ll be taking over our desks in that College Hall room that will always be a special place for me.

Gun violence outlined in online city map

GUNS — from page 1

Although students living on campus at Duquesne University experience the dangers of gun crimes, students who live off campus at various locations seem to experience more. One area that Duquesne students off live off campus is the South Side of Pittsburgh, like Duquesne senior journalism and public relations major Matt Voggel.

“I have never seen gun crimes occur near my house or myself, personally. Though, I have heard of them,” Voggel said. “In general, I would consider the area in which I live to be safe, as safe as any neighborhood could be in a city like Pittsburgh.”

Some students like Voggel consider the area they live in to be safe. However, within a one-mile radius of where Voggel lives, there have been 15 homicides, 84 non-fatal shootings and 93 aggravated assaults, adding up to 190 gun crimes.

Those figures caught Voggel off guard.

“That is surprising, actually. I would have never guessed those numbers would have been that high,” Voggel said. “I definitely makes me a little more concerned about who I’m living near.”

Ryan Stephany, an information systems management major and senior at Duquesne University also lives in the South Side of Pittsburgh, and has never seen or experienced any gun crimes while living off campus.

Although, within a mile radius of Stephany’s home, there have been 385 gun crimes since 2010. Twenty-eight homicides, 156 non-fatal shootings and 181 aggravated assaults have all occurred within that area.

“I like living off campus because it allows for more freedom, but I’m not a fan of South Side due to all of the sketchy crimes that happen near here,” Stephany said.

Duquesne Public Safety declined to respond to requests for comment.
FEATURES

Bluff Street food trucks to benefit Duquesne clubs

ELSA BUEHLER
staff writer

A was made clear during the food truck event last week, there is one magical factor that unites every Duquesne student: food.

Well, on April 20, there was plenty of good food to be found on Bluff Street, directly behind Mellon Hall. This was the day of the “Day-A-Palooza Food Truck Frenzy” — a mouthful (literally) of an event hosted by Duquesne University’s Greek Life and Ambassadors Program. According to Emily Rice, one of the event’s coordinators, “The Greek Ambassador program is a sophomore leadership program for Greek students, in an effort to create opportunities for leadership earlier on in their fraternal experience.”

If a love of good food is where we Duquesne students come together, it follows that we must have conflicting food preferences. Luckily, the Food Truck Frenzy offered a full spread of delicious options.

I spoke briefly to Regina Akhmetzyan, co-owner of PGH Crepes Food Truck, about her business before the lunch rush hit. Regina told me that she and her husband, Ilmir, opened the food truck originally as a crepe stall on Sunday in 2015. Since then, their business has taken off incredibly; they own a full food truck, hired a few employees, and moved to the Oakland area so that they are content with the current state of their company, but the opening of an actual restaurant could be a possibility for them. Regina’s husband, Ilmir, is a native of Ufa, Russia, where crepes are an extremely popular dish. The couple’s website, pghcrepes.com, states, “our company wholeheartedly offers delicious, savory, and sweet crepes.” Sure enough, their mission is clear and simple.

PGH Crepes offers crepe flavors which change seasonally. These flavors feature several combinations of savory and sweet ingredients with the crepe itself being the base. The basic crepe is a thin French crepe that is grated with a choice of fillings. Pairs of crepes are stacked together, and they are served in a single order. A variety of flavors are available, and the menu changes weekly. The most popular flavors are the strawberry banana crepe and the Nutella crepe. The strawberry banana crepe is made with fresh strawberries, bananas, and Nutella. The Nutella crepe is made with Nutella and a variety of other ingredients such as bananas, strawberries, and honey. The crepes are served with a side of fresh-squeezed lemonade.

According to Emily Rice, one of the event’s coordinators, “We chose to support Best Buddies and Circle of Sisterhood because they are the philanthropies supported by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council respectively.” Rice said, “Since this event was benefits by the Greek Ambassadors Program in conjunction with Greek Life, we decided it would be a great way to raise money for each philanthropy.”

Circle of Sisterhood, Rice said, works to educate “impoverished young women and girls in underdevel- oped nations around the world in order to give them a better life for themselves and their families,” and is the national philanthropy for the Alpha Lambda Delta National Panhellenic Council. Duquesne is the founding chapter of the United States. Best Buddies is an organization thatpairs high school and college students with adults with developmental disabilities to participate in fun, organized events.

The Food Truck Frenzy benefitted the organizations in two ways: each truck paid a base fee to participate in the event and there were also donation jars set up at each station. Rice said that a Venmo account was even created so donations could be made with debit and credit cards. She was proud to announce the event raised in around $750, which will be divided in half, with $375 going to each Best Buddies and Circle of Sisterhood.

Because of the event, Rice was able to connect with students who were interested in participating in Circle of Sisterhood and Best Buddies.

“The proceeds go towards a very important cause. We were able to get more people involved with the organizations and create awareness for what they do,” Rice said.

Brady Collins
contributor

Pittsburgh’s Schenley Park and surrounding areas offer a variety of ways to enjoy the late-spring weather. The park skirts the vibrant, nearby neighbor, Oakland, and is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The area includes free WiFi, and there are several diverse, fast-dining options directly adjacent to the lawn. These options include Waffalonia, Asia Tea House, Opa Gyro and Conflict Kitchen, which is currently serving Palestinian fare.

Also included within Schenley Park is the PNC Carousel. Most Pittsburgh city parks previously included carousels on the grounds (the original carousel in Schenley was built in 1913), and the PNC Carousel revives that attraction with Victorian-style craftsmanship and pipe organ music. There are a wide variety of animals meant to represent the vibrancy and diversity of Pittsburgh. The opening of the carousel has been postponed until further notice via their website. However, the park plans on adding days in the fall to account for days missed in the spring season.

The Meadow and The Oval

While Schenley Plaza does not allow sports, The Meadow and The Oval, located along Overlook Drive, offer outlets for activities including a tennis court, soccer field, softball field, disc golf course and a large open lawn.

The Meadow is also an ideal spot for a picnic. The expansive lawn stretches over a large hill. On the horizon, you can see a panoramic view of Pittsburgh. Scanning from left to right, you can clearly make out the neighborhoods of Mount Oliver, Southside, Allegheny, Mount Washington, Downtown and Oakland.

Bridges

Quintessential to Pittsburgh, the park includes bridges. Both Schenley Bridge and Panther Hollow Bridge are worth experiencing on foot. Schenley Bridge connects Oakland with the majority of the park’s grounds. Schenley Bridge’s fence is brimming with love locks, a French tradition that invites those in love to express their connection by adding a lock to the bridge.

The Panther Hollow Bridge carries vehicles and pedestrians over Panther Hollow Lake. Framing the four corners of the bridge are imposing, bronze panther statues. Artist Giuseppe Moretti sculpted these statues before the turn of the 20th century.

Memorials

Behind Schenley Plaza toward the entrance of the park is the Mary Schenley Memorial Fountain. Mary Schenley was a major philanthropist and landowner, and in 1888 donated much of the land that was to be conserved for the park. Visitors often sit around its basin to admire the fountain, which includes large bronze statues of Pan and a woman playing a lyre. The memorial is also called “A Song To Nature.”

George Westinghouse, engineer and Civil War Veteran, is memorialized in Schenley as well. The stunning memorial is located along Schenley Drive. When George Westinghouse died in 1914, nearly 60,000 mourners contributed to a fund to erect this memorial. Stone walkways border a lily pond and lead back to a bronze statue of a young boy gazing upon George Westinghouse and his inventions. The memorial represents the inspiration he is to future generations.

Not only is Schenley Park a nature conservatory, offering usual park amenities, but it also offers unexpected historical and cultural charm worth exploring.

Schenley Park offers cultural, historical look at the ‘Burgh

SCHENLEY PARK OFFERS CULTURAL, HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE ‘BURGH

TYLER CARY
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROCEEDS FROM THE FOOD TRUCK FRENZY WILL GO TOWARDS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BEST BUDDIES AND CIRCLE OF SISTERS.

SETH CEPHAL-KESLER/FEATURES EDITOR

TEN OUT OF TEN WOULD RECOMMEND. S'MORES IS ALWAYS WORTH IT.

Linda Speck added, “Fabulous! Ten out of ten would recommend.”

PGH Crepes can be found in Oakland and surrounding areas, including the 80 degree heat. As a staff writer, I can personally assure you, fresh-squeezed lemonade. The lemonade is also called “A Song To Nature.”

The Meadow is also an ideal spot for a picnic. The expansive lawn stretches over a large hill. On the horizon, you can see a panoramic view of Pittsburgh. Scanning from left to right, you can clearly make out the neighborhoods of Mount Oliver, Southside, Allegheny, Mount Washington, Downtown and Oakland.

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SCHENLEY PARK OFFERS CULTURAL, HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE ‘BURGH

THERE IS ONE MAGICAL FACTOR THAT UNITES EVERY DUQUESNE STUDENT: FOOD.
Saying goodbye is the hardest thing to do

Ernie Harwell
You just read | Now tweet our thoughts | us yours.
@TheDuquesneDuke

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to The Duke office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesdays. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications
Readers should report any story or photo error to The Duke. All letter-type errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

Contact
email theduqduke@gmail.com

Rebekah Devorak
opinions editor

Well Mr. President, it’s all the approved budget will allow.

Cartoon by Shelley Wals

I think good-byes are sad and I’d much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.

you just read | now tweet our thoughts | us yours.
@TheDuquesneDuke

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opinions editor

All good writing is swimming underwater and holding your breath.” I pinned that F. Scott Fitzgerald quote onto the side of my desk that sat in a pod in the middle of the room. It was the first day of my junior year, and it was the first day – the first real day, at least – of my time as the Opinions Editor for The Duke. I hoped that the quote would inspire me every time I looked at it.

When you look at the outside of 113 College Hall, it’s not a very inspiring sight. It’s a shabby-looking white door with a large window next to it, usually half-covered by blinds that we couldn’t figure out how to close properly. Occasionally, there would be some doodles on the window in washable marker. Passersby rushing off to class probably wouldn’t have noticed much about The Duquesne Duke newsroom at all, unless they tripped over the newspaper stand outside of the doorway.

While the outside of 113 College Hall might be forgettable to the average Duquesne student, whatever goes on inside that room – beyond that shabby door with the convoluted lock system – will forever be remembered by the few who are lucky enough to be a part of its operations. There were several times where I almost stopped coming to the newsroom – like after being recommended by a professor in the department to meet the then-news editor or after my first few visits when the atmosphere was intimidating – but I realize now that that would’ve been the biggest mistake of my life thus far.

I’ve worked at The Duke for two and a half years. I wrote once a week and sometimes twice – regarding anything my heart felt passionate about, anything I thought Duquesne students deserved to know about, anything that I felt impacted them strongly. I’m too lazy to count the actual number of articles that amounts to, but it doesn’t even matter. It won’t be the work that I will remember. What went on inside that room beyond the page will always be the most precious memories to me.

I will always remember Bobby’s buffalo fries. I will always remember the first physical piece of hate mail I received for what I said in one of my columns. I will always remember Ted Cruz and Jeb Bush YouTube videos being played around the newsroom for no reason at all.

I will always remember the most important person in my life the last two feet away from me for an entire year, and I didn’t even realize what the future would hold. I have no idea how, or even if, my career in the future, but it doesn’t matter. Working with every single person in that newsroom, past or present, has made me into the person I am today. I value those friendships more than anything else, and it will be those relationships that I will remember from college forever.

It’s been an unforgettable two and a half years, if I do say so myself.

Rebekah Devorak is a senior journalism and advertising major and can be reached at devorakr@duq.edu.
Keep up the good work, DU

Photo by Leah Devorak

Kay Burnet was editor-in-chief for one year. She is a triple major in math, economics and journalism.

KAY BURNET
editor-in-chief

When I started at The Duke, there was a generally accepted notion ever-present in the newsroom: Duquesne students don't care about anything. School sports? They don't care. Politics? They don't care. While students at the University of Pittsburgh were blocking traffic to demand a higher minimum wage, Duquesne students were...going home to their parents' house for the weekend? We knew there were some students at Duquesne with drive and passion, but such campus leaders were few and far between.

Yet over the four years I have spent with The Duke, I have been honored and impressed to watch more and more students become active participants in their campus community. I witnessed the return of Duquesne's gay-straight alliance, Lambda, and the creation of the Gender Forum, which just hosted a pop-up museum on feminism in the student union. Just recently, I watched as more than 40 students lined the hallways of College Hall outside a faculty meeting to show support for the liberal arts college and human rights … I think it's imperative the university's mission and expectations they give students regarding diversity and inclusion.

Even as they write final papers and prepare for exam period, Martini and his colleagues have made time to meet with various administrative bodies, write up their concerns and move through the bureaucratic channels necessary to state their case to the administration. While we have yet to discover how the administration will respond to them, these same students have become the target of a public insult by a well-known political figure, Donald Trump Jr., who trivialized their concern as a fear of chicken sandwiches and demeaned them as “triggered” Other less well-known internet commenters, on the university’s own site and beyond, have similarly mocked their commitment to this important issue. Drawing such a volume of criticism, as hostile and inappropriate as it has been, suggests that our students’ protest was important and timely, and in this indirect sense, was gratifying.

We applaud students for putting themselves on the line and hope that we, as educators, empowered them to stand for their values.

Sincerely,
Dr. Elaine Parsons, Dr. Fred Evans, Dr. Jaime Munoz, Dr. Julia Sienkiewicz, Dr. Matt Schneirer, Dr. Emad Mirmotahari, Dr. James P. Bailey, Dr. Linda Kinnaman, Dr. Ania Foor-Scheid, Dr. Patrick Cooper, Dr. Robert Bel- lamy, Dr. Daniel Seler, Dr. Daniel Lieberfeld, Dr. Susan G Goldberg, Dr. James Weber, Dr. Lisa Lopez Lovers, Dr. Danielle A. St. Hilaire, Dr. Michael Irwin, Dr. Lamé Rodemeyer, Dr. Erik Garrett, Dr. Jay Lampert, Dr. Tom Eys, Dr. Norman Conti, Ms. Christie Klewer, Dr. Elisabeth Vusko, Dr. Moni McIntyre, Dr. Dan Burston, Dr. Faith Bjalobok, Dr. Maureen Gallagher, Prof. John Fried, Dr. Faith Barrett, Dr. Daniel P. Scheid, Dr. Stuart M. Karland, Dr. Mark Frisch, Dr. Debra Hyatt-Burbard, Dr. Sarah Miller, Dr. Edith H. Krause, Dr. Eva Simms, Dr. Marco Gemignani, Dr. Judy Stu

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

A newspaper is worth fifty thousand words

Photo by Leah Devorak

Seth Culp-Ressler served as the features editor for The Duquesne Duke for five and a half semesters. He graduates in May.

Seth Culp-Ressler is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sculprressler@gmail.com.

Dear President Gormley,

We, the undersigned members of the Faculty and Staff Social Justice Association, wish to express our strong support for Duquesne University students who are questioning the administration’s decision to bring the Chick-fil-A franchise to our campus. In keeping with our traditional roles, faculty are charged with guiding students’ intellectual development and with supporting their growth as citizens who share a commitment to social justice and universal human dignity. We are also charged with encouraging them to think critically, because critical thinking is a vital prerequisite to good citizenship.

That being so, we are relieved that many students questioned an administrative decision which may be detrimental to Duquesne’s campus culture (and the wellbeing of their fellow students.) The Duquesne Duke quotes Niko Martini, a senator at large in the Student Government Association and a member of the Lambda executive board, as saying “Chick- filament A has a questionable historical on civil rights and human rights… I think it’s imperative the university chooses to do business with organizations that coincide with the university’s mission and expectations they give students regarding diversity and inclusion.

As they write final papers and prepare for exam period, students have made time to meet with various administrative bodies, write up their concerns and move through the bureaucratic channels necessary to state their case to the administration. While we have yet to discover how the administration will respond, these same students have become the target of a public insult by a well-known political figure, Donald Trump Jr., who trivialized their concern as a fear of chicken sandwiches and demeaned them as “triggered.” Other less well-known internet commenters, on the university’s own site and beyond, have similarly mocked their commitment to this important issue. Drawing such a volume of criticism, as hostile and inappropriate as it has been, suggests that our students’ protest was important and timely, and in this indirect sense, was gratifying.

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Photograph by Leah Devorak

Seth Culp-Ressler features editor

51,701 words. That’s an average of about 850 words over the span of 61 total articles, profiles, features and columns. Now it’s my job to sum all that up in just under 800.

I didn’t know that it would be this difficult to do.

In my mind it was a given that the words would already be there. Surely the column had already been written; all it needed was to show up on the page. Yet, sitting here now, it’s still writer’s block as ever.

When awkward, shy, far-less-handsome-than-now Seth moved into his Assumption Hall base- ment triple in the fall of 2013, jour- nalism was the one and only path to take. I knew I wanted to write. I knew I wanted to tell stories, and, to be quite frank, I thought I was pretty damn good at doing both.

I wasn’t—not sure that’s changed much, really. The one sen- tible thought I did have, however, is that any respectable student journalist needed to be involved with the student newspaper. So, after getting my bearings for a semester, I headed down to the dark, dingy newsroom in the basement of College Hall.

Despite being intimidated from day one, I stuck it out and kept showing up, week after week. I wrote some decent stories, and I certainly wrote some that I’d rather not remember. Above all, it was clear that the paper was the place to be for the next three years.

When I returned in the fall of 2014, I expected more of the same—writing primarily for the features section as a staff writer. As a first semester sophomore, the idea of being hired on as a section editor wasn’t even a thought in my mind. Life has a way of shaking things up though, and shortly into that term, as a result of some unforeseen staff changes, the features section was in need of an editor.

This fact, I should say, was sprung upon me one evening by the then editor-in-chief. What caught me off guard was that it came as more than just a notice. It was a job offer, effective immediately. A few long days of deliberation later—this was an enormous responsibility to take on, after all—I decided to swallow my anxieties and take the leap. After some slapdash training in the remainder of the fall term, I began my tenure as a features editor in the spring 2015 semester.

I can say with strong confidence that those first four months were some of the most stressful and mentally taxing that I’ve ever experienced. It was a whirlwind of overwhelming change, hard work and stress, and I was caught right in the eye of the storm.

Just like I had as a staff writer, though, I stuck it out. Thankfully, I got easier each day, each week, each month. Now, after five semesters in the position, it’s hard to believe my time at The Duke is done.

That dingy old office saw some renovations over my time calling it home; it’s much more welcoming now than when I first ventured in. But the sensation of walking in the door is still the same. Those renovations over my time calling it home; it’s much more welcoming now than when I first ventured in. But the sensation of walking in the door is still the same. Those poignant feelings of stress, excitement, disdain and joy, all rolled up into one confusing concoction.

Like most who have been privileged to show up on The Duke’s masthead, the paper was the cornerstone of my college career. It’s where I spent most of my time—where I made most of my friends.

A certain tension can arise when the same people spend so much of their waking hours together, but I’d like to extend my sincere and utmost thanks to everyone I’ve been able to work alongside in the newsroom. You all may not know it, but every single one of you has played a hugely important role in shaping what these four brief years mean to me.

When I think back to this time years down the road, your names will be the ones I remember, your friendships will be the ones I cherish and our experiences together will be the stories that define my college career. Thank you for everything.

Now, at last, it’s time for us to part ways, at least as coworkers. But before we go, I have one more thing to wrap up: 52,486.

Seth Culp-Ressler is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sculprressler@gmail.com.
The Duke recognizes remarkable players, coaches and teams for their successes over the past year.

Best Men’s Team: Football
Slightly edging out Cross Country to earn this year’s title of “Best Men’s Team,” Duquesne’s Football team followed up last season’s strong 8-4 campaign with another impressive trophy year. The Dukes went 8-3 this season and won a share of the NEC title with Saint Francis. Since the Red & Blue fell to SFU in the regular season, the Red Flash were awarded the tiebreaker over Duquesne and represented the NEC in the FCS playoffs. Nonetheless, seniors Dillon Buechel and Christian Kuntz led the Dukes to a second consecutive NEC title, and freshman running back A.J. Hines was outstanding.

Best Women’s Team: Swimming
Improving upon last season’s third-place finish, Duquesne’s Swim team finished second in the A10. Throughout the course of this season, the Dukes demonstrated extremely consistent success. A victory at the Richmond Duels, that hosted the likes of conference foes Richmond, Davidson and George Mason, and a second-place finish at Cleveland State’s Magnus Cup that included 13 other schools highlighted the year for the Dukes. The addition of a Diving team next season will augment Duquesne’s status as a perennial contender within the A10.

Best Male Athlete: Christian Kuntz – Football
The star linebacker ends his illustrious Duquesne career as the NEC’s all-time sack leader. This year, he led the NEC in sacks (11.5) as well as tackles for loss (24.0). The NFL Draft hopeful also forced three fumbles and was named the NEC Defensive Player of the Week twice. Kuntz leaves the Bluff as one of the most renowned football players in program history.

Best Female Athlete: Jenny DelSignore – Cross Country
A Track & Field athlete for Duquesne as well, DelSignore performed impressively during the Cross Country campaign to garner Female Athlete of the Year honors. The junior had a pair of first-place finishes, with wins coming in the Duquesne Duals and in the UB Stampede Invitational at the University of Buffalo. At the A10 Cross Country Championships, she finished seventh with a time of 17:30.3 (5k). DelSignore was twice named the A10 Cross Country Women’s Performer of the Week.

Best Seniors: Dillon Buechel and Amadea Szamosi
Buechel shined in his last year on the Bluff, throwing for 2,865 yards and 23 touchdowns. Buechel ranked in the Top 20 nationally in several passing categories, including passing yards (17th), passing TDs (16th), and yards per completion (13.77, 17th). In addition, he tied the school record for touchdown passes in a game with six in a 54-35 win at Jacksonville. Buechel was named to the All-NEC First Team and ends his career as a Duke as a three-time NEC champion.

In Szamosi’s final season, she averaged 13.0 points per game for the Dukes, the second most on the team, while shooting .457 from the field. She also led the team with 8.3 rebounds per game.

Best Play: Mike Lewis II’s half-court buzzer beater
Seven seconds before halftime in Duquesne’s game vs. UMass on February 15, Lewis hit a floater to extend the Dukes’ lead to 14. On the ensuing inbounds pass, Lewis stole the ball from UMass guard Luwane Pipkins and hit an incredible on-the-run, across-the-body heave from half-court. Lewis would finish with 31 points in Duquesne’s 96-66 victory.

Newcomer of the Year: A. J. Hines – Football
The freshman tailback from Wilson, North Carolina had unprecedented success in his freshman season with the Dukes. On 242 carries, Hines rushed for 1,291 yards, 13 touchdowns and a phenomenal 117.4 yards per game. Hines was named the NEC’s Player of the Week six times and was awarded the STAT FCS Jerry Rice Award, presented to the most outstanding freshman at the FCS level. Hines is the first NEC player to ever receive the award.
Another journey down, on to the next chapter

Andrew Holman
sports editor

One day you are unpacking your life into a dorm room hoping to find your home away from home, and before you know it, you are picking up your cap and gown from the campus bookstore and standing down the last two weeks of your college life.

Life comes at you fast. Real fast. That’s why I challenge all of you reading this to embark on the journey. It’s not always going to be easy. It might not always live up to your expectations. But when that journey comes to an end, you are inevitably going to be wishing that you had made the most of it.

Now it’s time for me to embark on my next journey. Many graduates leave college fearing the next stage of their lives. I can’t wait.

For the better part of the past 20 years, I have been working toward the same dream, which has been to pursue a career in the world of sports. Being from Cleveland, the “nothing is given, everything is earned,” motto has been instilled in me since day one, and bringing that mindset and work ethic to campus was crucial to developing my skills over the past three years.

My time at Duquesne University provided me with so many valuable opportunities which have helped me to become an experienced up-and-comer in the very competitive sports communications industry.

I was able to find my voice as the play-by-play commentator for Duquesne Athletics alongside my good friend Matt Veggel for a variety of sports on campus. I was able to serve as the Vice President of Duquesne’s PRSSA chapter. Additionally, with my educational background, I was able to secure opportunities in my field with Lifebanc, Trib-Live and Sports Radio, the Akron Racers, Notre Dame College Athletics, and most recently, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

And, of course, I had the privilege of holding the sports editor position for the 2016-17 school year, as well as being a sports writer for the past three years with The Duquesne Duke.

Thank you to all of you who have read and supported my work. Thank you to former editor-in-chief Julian Routh and our advisor Bobby Kerlik for challenging me and developing me as a sports writer. Thank you to all of the coaches and athletes who I have battled over the years, but who have treated me with the utmost respect. Thank you to Dave Saha and Ryan Gavatorta for all of your assistance when working with Athletics.

Thank you to my professors, especially Professor Healy, for opening doors for me and providing me with a strong educational foundation.

Thank you to all the people who told me my dream was out of reach, impossible or too ambitious. Without your motivation, I might have just given up like so many others have. I will prove you wrong.

Thank you to Nick. You certainly proved the grumpy old man stereotype wrong, and our five minute conversations were always a pleasure while I perfected your personalized grande caramel frappucino with extra caramel drizzle. Every time you came into my Starbucks, you always made it a point to ask how my dream was coming along and you told me that I was going to “make it” more times than anyone else ever has. For that I thank you, and I hope somehow this message finds you.

Thank you to my parents for all of their support over the last 20 years, and for encouraging me to pursue my dream instead of chasing me away from it like many others tried to do. Thank you to my siblings for lifting my spirits every time I came home for break and for serving as my biggest fans. Thank you to my best friends for all the laughs, the phone calls and the memories that I won’t soon forget. Thank you to my girlfriend for all of her endless love and support.

Each of you have helped me to reach this point in my life in your own unique way.

Lastly, don’t be afraid to go out there and chase your dreams. Don’t be afraid to stand out.

“The longer you have to wait for something, the more you will appreciate it when it finally arrives. The harder you have to fight for something, the more priceless it will become once you achieve it. And the more pain you have to endure on your journey, the sweeter the arrival at your destination. All good things are worth waiting for and worth fighting for.”

Athletics continues to alter identity, reaches deal with Nike

David Borne
staff writer

Duquesne Athletic programs will sport a bit of a new look next season. Last week, athletic director Dave Harper announced the university’s new seven-year partnership with Nike.

While there had been plenty of speculation about a change, nothing was made official until this announcement.

The university was previously sponsored by adidas. The partnership with the European manufacturer began in 2007. Harper broke the news of the switch at the A.J. Palumbo Center in front of every athletic team, as well as students and faculty members.

“It’s a testament to the institution, it’s a testament to our coaches, and it’s a testament especially to our student-athletes,” Harper said. “Because Nike thinks so much of you to associate their brand with your excellence, it’s truly a blessing.”

A short video was then played on the jumbotron, displaying images of cookie cutter uniforms to show athletes something like what their uniforms will be next season. Athletes Millie Micho, Rico Galasssi, Linnea Faccenda, Andy Struttman, Connor Richardson, and Mike Lewis II then took the stage, each showcasing off what the uniforms for their respective teams will look something like.

President Ken Gormley even joined in on the fun and ran onto the stage wearing one of the Nike football jerseys. Harper jokingly referred to the first-year university president as the new starting quarterback for the football team.

Nike comes with plenty of perks, including the primetime athletes that it sponsors. The most notable, of course, is LeBron James. New men’s basketball head coach Keith Dambrot, who coached James in high school, confirmed in an interview with Sports Illustrated that Duquesne will join the exclusive list of programs that will sport LeBron-brand gear on the court.

Something like a special brand of gear is just one of many things that could potentially benefit Duquesne when a recruit is trying to decide which school to attend.

Many student-athletes, fans and coaches are thrilled with the switch from adidas to Nike. Most displayed their excitement by yelling and cheering at the announcement, and some even took to social media to express their excitement.

Everybody in attendance was able to leave with a new piece of Nike apparel: Red and blue shirts, that read, “We Are Duquesne” with the university’s logo below, were handed out following the announcement.

Football head coach Jerry Schmitt is looking forward to the transition to Nike and believes it will lead to many positive things for not only his program, but all of the others on campus as well.

“The Nike swoosh is one of the iconic logos in all of sports. To have Duquesne associated with the industry leader in athletics apparel will benefit our program in many ways. I know our student-athletes and staff are excited to begin this new relationship.”

Switching to Nike is just another step in Gormley and Harper’s process in reshaping the image of Duquesne Athletics. The new look will hopefully come with plenty of success for the Dukes on and off the playing fields.

Fans looking to purchase some of the new Nike gear can do so through the Duquesne University retail shop on the website for BSN Sports, another of Duquesne’s new business partners.
A&E Editor says final farewell to Duquesne

The plight of a disabled gamer against time

I hate being sick. Unfortunately, my disability has the capability to turn minor colds into full-blown pandemics, only curable through a proverbial cocktail of antibiotics and steroids. Very rarely does this method fail, but if and when it does, I am forced to leave the comforts of my home, trading my poster-filled walls for the dull orange paint of a hospital room. Each hospitalization means that I am to be at the mercy of strangers, but more importantly, it forces me to temporarily give up gaming.

At a younger age, my strength levels allowed me to hold my Game Boy Advance, letting me escape into virtual worlds. In fact, my hospital admissions are the cause for my 37 completions on “Pokemon: Silver Version.” Yet, as I grew older, my disease resulted in a weakening of my muscles, preventing me from effectively holding my gaming devices. This fact became even more evident during my most recent visit to my least favorite institution.

One month ago, I took the all-too-familiar ambulance trip to the emergency room. The cold proved too much for my immune system, and I had no choice but to rely on the assistance of others. What I thought would be a quick “visit” turned into a 13-day ordeal, filled with needles, a plethora of medicines and a constant rotation of doctors and nurses. The only constant during my time in the ICU was watching the bleached tips of a very obvious Food Network host.

With nothing to pass the time, I longed to return to the region of “Johto,” but my muscles had other ideas. Without the ability to game, every pain, every cramp and every ris-
What does “Gamer” mean in a more mainstream world

CRAIG TAYLOR
staff writer

Gamer. It’s a word that is so common among video game enthusiasts and gaming media that few people even think about. Most would simply define the word as “someone who plays video games.” But in 2017, what does that mean?

Is the mom who plays “Candy Crush” on her iPhone every night after work just as much of a “gamer” as the twenty-something who kicks his butt and shoots the breech with his friends on “Call of Duty?” Or, is the moniker “gamer” reserved for the hardest of hardwood, who live and breathe gaming and pre-order every $150 special edition at their local GameStop?

Truthfully, each of these is an example of people participating in the same entertainment to differing degrees. They are all enjoying gaming in their own way, yet the idea that video games can only be enjoyed by a certain type of reclusive, anti-social person continues to perpetuate.

Now, are there more pressing issues within the video game industry? Absolutely, but in order for video games to permeate into mainstream industry, they need to be enjoyed in the gaming industry hope it one day will, the g-word needs to be eliminated, as it reinforces a social divide between “gamers” and “normal people” that does not exist.

One of the chief uses of the word is in careless writing, and some members of the gaming press have taken a stand against it. On his former editorial web series, “The Final Boss,” video game journalist Kyle Bosman had a list of words the he didn’t allow himself to say, one of them being “gamer.” His reason was that when writers use the word “gamer,” they could just replace it with the word “person,” and it would mean the exact same thing but without the connotation.

For example, in an article about the midnight launch of a new title, one might see the headline, “Gamers Wait for Midnight Release,” instead of just, “People Wait for Midnight Release.”

Comparing games to other media, there’s no equivalent label for fans of music, movies or television shows, at least to the degree that the word “gamer” is used. Someone who loves cinema and studies the craft isn’t labeled as a “filmmaker,” nor is there a popularized word in music reserved for people who study the intricacies of music theory. So why is there a distinction for video games?

Because it points to a deep-seated belief that people who love video games are fundamentally different. If there’s a scandal or controversy, it’s always commented that “gamers” were upset, presuming that whatever the news was, it was too complicated, nerdy or otherwise unrelatable for “normal” people to understand. But that’s such an antiquated idea, and it’s one that mainstream news and media games media unknowingly allow to continue.

According to the Entertainment Software Association “65 percent of American households are home to at least one person who plays video games regularly, or at least three hours per week.”

The majority of people who play games don’t exist in a vacuum, so consumed with their hobby they have no semblance of the outside world. Admittedly, those people do exist, however there’s plenty of sports, car and music enthusiasts who also exhibit that type of behavior without stigma. “Nerds” (for lack of a better term) exist in every hobby, but somehow it’s gaming whose posterboy is the pesty teen that lives in their mom’s basement eating Doritos and drinking Mountain Dew.

And while the term ought to be eliminated to improve the perception of people who play video games, more importantly, the g-word stunts the growth of the industry by creating a barrier that newcomers are intimidated to cross over.

see GAMER — page 11

Duquesne student’s poetry book covers love and pick-up lines

SEAN ARMSTRONG
staff writer

Often times poets and the poetry they write are seen as overly serious and dramatic. Makeem White, a Duquesne University, lacks that overly dramatic aspect to his work and favors a lighter and more approachable style of poetry. His work ranges from short stories to poems to memoirs to fiction. Makeem recently released his first poetry book, titled “Let Your Emotions Explode.”

I surprised the class had to work on and then we submitted our poems for a book called “The Gold Edition,” and that was way back in 2010. I can’t even really remember what was in that book, but I did receive something in the mail months after I finished up seventh grade, and I found out that the poem I wrote for that made it into the “Gold Edition.” It (the poem I wrote) was called “Untitled,” and I unfortunately lost that poem so it kinda sucks.

Q: What is your favorite poem in the book and why?
A: One of my personal favorite poems in the book is “The Genesis of Picking Up Lines.” It was a poem I wrote way back in August and it’s a poem about really bad pick up lines. I thought it would be really funny, and I read it to some of my friends back then. They thought it was great, they coined this really bizarre term called “fertilize the garden.” It can mean so many things, and I incorporated that line into a short story as well. The whole “fertilize the garden” thing is in there. The whole group thought that line was hilarious, they couldn’t help but chuckle whenever I would read it, or reading it, so it’s definitely the “Genesis of Picking Up Lines.”

Q: How long have you been writing poetry, and how did you get started?
A: Okay, so it goes back to even farther than high school, more like middle school. So seventh grade there was a poetry project that the class had to work on and then we submitted our poems for a book called “The Gold Edition,” and that was way back in 2010. I can’t even really remember what was in that book, but I discovered something in the mail months after I finished up seventh grade, and I found out that the poem I wrote for that made it into the “Gold Edition.” It (the poem I wrote) was called “Untitled,” and I unfortunately lost that poem so it kinda sucks.

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Q: Any plans in the future for other work or current work?
A: So earlier I did say that I would work on a short story called “The Aviod of Romance,” and I finished the second chapter to that. It’s a big work in progress, so still making lots of changes from the manuscript my group and I wrote. It’s an adaptation of an adaptation. I wrote a short story called “Love Hurts” right before Valentine’s Day, and it had a pretty dark ending to it. The main character was nearly heartbroken, and I showed it to my group and we decided to make a play based around that. We all decided to change the ending to a more optimistic one. Yeah, the heartbreak is still there, but something better comes along the way. So I’m taking elements from both the manuscript as well as the original short story that I wrote to create the final version. Much later down the line there will be a sequel to “Let Your Emotions Explode,” and it’s going to be titled “The Semester Strikes Back.” People have asked me to incorporate more art based around the people I drew around the cover, well, that is going to happen for “The Semester Strikes Back.” I’ll also incorporate another short story or two within it. It’ll kinda be more than just a poetry book. People actually liked the comics I drew to my surprise, so I’ll also include a new comic hand drawn by myself.

April 27, 2017

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
‘Gamer’ title losing common meaning

I’ve heard sentiments like, “I think games are interesting, but they’re just too complicated to get into,” or, “I respect the hobby, but it just seems like too much to get into.” While it’s true these people might not enjoy games even if they tried them, it doesn’t help that they feel like their legitimacy as a “gamer” will be questioned if they’re not on the same knowledge level as someone who has been studying the industry for ten or more years. It speaks to this idea that being a “gamer” is a common experience with a linear path of expertise, when in reality, it’s an incredibly multifaceted, diverse network of communities interested in the artistic, tech or cultural side of gaming.

Now realistically, there are far more insidious words that Americans need to eliminate from their vocabulary, so I can understand how complaining about something as innocuous as this seems silly. But if you’re talking about games and wondering what to call those who devote their free time to one of the fastest-growing entertainment industries in the world, why not try the word “people?”

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March for Science attracts crowd

SCIENCE — from page 2
for more than just their careers, but for their lives.

Retired nurse Susan Cox, for example, was 41 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and accredits her survival, and the continued health of her family, to science. She also said her time spent in the practice of medicine inspired her to participate in the march.

"Being a nurse, I participated in a lot of regulations and studies for patients in my work, and I helped do research for the surgeon I worked for. I’m here today because of my husband... He’s here because of science. He has congestive heart failure, and he has a defibrillator/pacemaker."

Cox continued to work in the medical field fighting cancer as a nurse for breast surgeons and radiographers, as well as helped form the Y-ME hotline for women to talk to other breast cancer survivors.

FAREWELL — from page 5
will attend the climate march in Washington, D.C. You might not necessarily support all these actions and events (after all, Duquesne is a very conservative-leaning college campus), but that’s beside the point. What matters is that instead of being passive people who allow others to make decisions that affect the world around them, Duquesne students are taking action. They are speaking up, and that is inspiring and humbling.

During my time at The Duke, I have learned what a huge influence speaking up can have. It has been such a privilege to lead a team of talented and dedicated writers who help bring attention to issues ranging from mold in the Honors Dorms (which are now nicely renovated!) to the hazards of walking down the icy City steps in winter (still a problem). Duke writers have honored deceased students and faculty with beautiful obituaries, and celebrated when students received national grants or when professors win prestigious awards.

Of course, speaking up comes with risks. I’ve stood by, enraged, as strangers online have verbally attacked and insulted my writers just for doing their jobs. I’ve seen my writers be shunned by their friends for doing their jobs. Just this month, I’ve watched students at Duquesne be subjected to ridicule on a national scale for daring to oppose a company whose values don’t align with their own. I’ve fielded phone calls and emails from readers who just want to spew vitriol, and I’ve had to develop a very thick skin as a result.

So, members of my Duquesne family: It might be hard to get involved, to become engaged and to put your voice out there. People can and will mock you. You will face opposition. But by doing so, you can make Duquesne a better place for future generations of students. I hope that as News Editor and then Editor-in-Chief of The Duke, I’ve been able to contribute to that goal in a small way, but there’s still so much to do.

Kaye Burnet is a senior economics, math and journalism major and can be reached at kayeburnet@gmail.com.