New Post-Gazette podcast investigates DU student deaths

Gabriella diPietro
staff writer

To this day, the deaths of Duquesne students Paul Kochu and Dakota James leave unanswered questions. This is the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette’s topic for their first ever serialized podcast called “Three Rivers, Two Mysteries.”

The podcast, hosted by enterprise reporter Michael A. Fuoco, contains five installments, which can be found on iTunes, Google Play and other platforms. The first chapter debuted on Oct. 24, and the second was released Oct. 31, with the remaining chapters to be released weekly through Nov. 21.

Kochu, a 22-year-old Duquesne graduate from Bucktown, Pennsylvania, disappeared from the South Side on Dec. 16, 2014, and was later found dead in the Ohio River in March 2015. James, 23-year-old Duquesne graduate student from Frederick, Maryland, similarly disappeared from Downtown Pittsburgh on Jan. 25, 2017. His body was later found in the Ohio River in March.

Fuoco investigated both cases for eight months and originally began to write a print story, but after listening to an unrelated podcast, decided that a podcast would do the story more justice. “I had all the makings of what I thought a podcast would be,” Fuoco said. “In a podcast, you actually hear the people involved, and having interviewed the families, their grief, their pain, their loss was represented in their voices so much that I knew that would be a very powerful element for people to hear.”

Being that Fuoco was unfamiliar with the production of podcasts, Ashley Murray, a graduate student at Point Park University who interned at the Post-Gazette last summer, took on the role of producing the project. They teamed up with Point Park’s Center for Media Innovation, which had the equipment needed to record and edit a professional podcast.

The piece shines a light on these eerily similar cases, looking at the details of Kochu’s and James’ deaths, the traumas suffered by their families, the police investigations and all of the unknowns surrounding their disappearances and deaths.

“I went into it thinking that these cases were mysterious, and I came out of it thinking that it was more mysterious than I thought,” Fuoco said. “The Kochu and James families are suffering the loss of their child, and they don’t know what happened to them or how they came to die.”

Were their deaths suicides? Were they murdered? Are their similar deaths linked to a serial killer? Were they simply accidents? These are all questions asked by others and are discussed in “Three Rivers, Two Mysteries.”

“This may be our first serialized podcast, but Michael and Ashley’s remarkable piece of work makes it inevitable that it will not be our last,” said Post-Gazette Executive Editor David Shribman. “[The Post-Gazette] began more than two centuries ago, and to this day, the deaths of two Duquesne students are still unanswered.”

see JAMES — page 11
Duquesne celebrates third annual Africa Week

Sarah Aslam staff writer

Africa Week took place recently on the Bluff. Hosted and organized by the Center of African Studies and the Union of African Students, among other groups, the three-part program showcased events geared toward engaging the politically inclined, the college consumer and even the casual observer mildly interested in diversity.

The third annual celebration of Africa Week featured a screening on United States public policy regarding the continent, presented by Ambassador Faida Mitifu, Krobo Edusasi, Jr. and Bernadette Paolo on Oct. 24th. Paolo is a Scholar-in-Residence at Duquesne University and has considerable credentials: She served on the Presidential Trade Advisory Committee for Africa under both George W. Bush and Barack Obama, worked on Capitol Hill for 12 years (including 10 on the Committee of Foreign Affairs), represented The Africa Society at the National Summit on Africa as CEO and President, and was selected last year as one of 47 Harvard Leadership Fellows worldwide.

Faida Mitifu will present information on the importance of critical thinking and if it’s a teachable skill.

Endeavoring to engage every member of the Duquesne community, the Center of African Studies (CAS) also hosted a Taste of Africa Marketplace event on Oct. 25. Participants listened to musicians’ expressions of their national pride on traditional instruments, tasted ethnic fried food and yogurt and bought various African wares.

New York City truck attack done ‘in the name of ISIS’

AP — The Uzbek immigrant accused of using a truck to mow people down along a bike path, killing eight, “did this in the name of ISIS” and followed the extremist group’s online ideas practicality to the letter, said the police Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Sayfullo Saipov, working to extract information about the attack Tuesday near the World Trade Center memorial that also left 12 people injured, Saipov was shot by a police officer after jumping from his rented Home Depot pickup truck.

John Miller, deputy police commissioner for intelligence, said Saipov left behind notes at the scene, handwritten in Arabic with symbols and words, that essentially said the Islamic State group, or ISIS, “would endure forever.”

“It appears that Mr. Saipov had been planning this for a number of weeks. He did this in the name of ISIS,” Miller said, citing the notes.

In the past few years, the Islamic State has been exhorting followers online to use vehicles or other large objects or the means of killing five people in their home countries. England, France and Germany have seen deadly vehicle attacks in the past year.

“He appears to have followed, almost exactly to a T, the instructions that ISIS has put out in its social media channels before with instructions to its followers on how to carry out such an attack,” Miller said.

In Tuesday’s attack, Saipov drove his speeding truck for nearly a mile along the bike path, running down cyclists and pedestrians, then crashed into a school bus, authorities said. He was shot in the abdomen after he jumped out of the vehicle brandishing air guns and yelling “God is great!” in Arabic, they said.

Mayor Bill de Blasio called it “a cowardly act of terror.”

Miller said Saipov had never been the subject of a New York police investigation but appears to have some links to people who have been investigated.

The aftermath took a political turn Wednesday when President Donald Trump said Saipov came to the U.S. under a visa lottery program — “a Chuck Schumer beauty,” Trump called it in a reference to the Senate’s top Democrat.

The program dates to 1990, when Republican President George H.W. Bush signed it as part of a bipartisan immigration bill. Trump urged tougher immigration measures based instead on merit and said he will ask Congress to end the program.

Schumer, who represents New York in the Senate, said, “America is a nation of immigrants,” adding that Saipov was an illegal alien.

“Bred by hate, fed by fear, organized by terrorists, inspired to acts of violence by terrorists, it does not belong in our country and I look forward to working with the Congress to stop this policy,” Schumer said.

In a number of recent extremist attacks around the world, the assailants were found to have been citizens of the Islamic State. In some cases they even never made contact with the group.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saipov became “radicalized domestically.”

On the morning after the bloodshed, city leaders vowed New York would be not intimidated, and they commended New Yorkers for going about their business on Wednesday night.

They also said Sunday’s New York City Marathon, with 50,000 participants and some 2 million spectators anticipated, will go on as scheduled.

“We will not be cowed. We will not be thrown off by anything,” de Blasio said.

While the mayor said there have been no credible threats of any additional attacks, police announced the deployment of sniper teams, bomb-sniffing dogs, helicopters, sand-truck barricades and other stepped-up security along the marathons route, in the subways and other sites.

New York Police Commissioner James O’Neill urged people to be vigilant and tell police if they see something that doesn’t look right.

The New York Times reported that the 29-year-old was from Tashkent, a city of 2.8 million people from Argentina, one from Germany, and two Americans, authorities said. Nine people remained hospitalized Thursday in critical condition, with injuries that included lost limbs and head, chest and neck wounds.

A roughly two-mile stretch of highway in lower Manhattan was shut down for the investigation.

Duquesne celebrates third annual Africa Week

The McAnulty College of Liberal Arts will be showing the film “Last Days of Vietnam” as part of activities on the week of Veterans Day.

The award-winning documentary by Rory Kennedy examines the American retreat from Saigon in the final days of the war. It also looks at the evacuation of 135,000 South Vietnamese citizens.

The documentary has appearances by Duquesne alum and Vietnam veteran Stuart Harrington.

The movie will be shown on Nov. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Africa Room of the Student Union.
DUQUESNE IN THE NEWS

Former basketball player accused of rape

According to his official biography on Go Duquesne, Washington was a Top 10 2017 recruit for the Caribbean and Latin American regions, as ranked by the Caribbean Basketball Report. He was also the starting forward for the U16, U17 and U18 Puerto Rican national teams. Washington also notes that his grandfather is a minority owner of the Charlotte Hornets NBA team.

Fare also said that allegations like these do not fit Duquesne’s missions or values.

“Verbal, nonverbal or physical sexual misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated,” she said in a statement.

Casey White, a Pittsburgh-based defense attorney, is representing Washington.

Nick adamantly denies any and all claims, White said.

He said that Washington is “looking forward” to presenting his defense in court.

Dave Saba, associate athletics director and media relations for Duquesne Athletics, and Keith Dambrot, head coach for the men’s basketball team, did not return requests for comment by press time.

AWARDS

PR student recognized with nat’l award

essay consisting of how she would uphold the standards of PRSSA and professional public relations.

Along with her current scholarship, Willis is a finalist for the PR News People of the Year Awards in 2017. Willis was a finalist for the Young Media Category, the winner of which will be announced on December 6, 2017.

“It’s a great reflection on the media department,” said Michael Dillon, the chair of the media department. “It’s a tremendous reflection on her teachers. Mainly, it’s a tremendous reflection on her. I think Rachel embodies the best of what we hope for and expect from our students.”

Willis displayed her gratitude for Duquesne University’s help in her success.

“I really appreciate the support Duquesne has afforded me over the years,” she said. “The university truly cultivates an entrepreneurial spirit and offers students the resources to stand out and pursue their passions, if they’re willing to dedicate the time.”

Dillon stated how the faculty in the department can be a driving force in one’s success.

“Our job, as I see it, is to provide students with the resources and a map to get where they want to and to help them along the way, but they have to take the journey,” he said.

“Just having the resources and the map, that’s not taking the journey.”

Dillon explained that Willis carried herself well as a student.

“I think Rachel really embraced that. She took the resources that we were able to provide her, she followed the map, she asked for guidance, and she had a very professional attitude as a student,” Dillon said. “I think her teachers almost immediately treated her more like a young peer than just a student.”

Not only is Willis a strong representative of the Media Department, but she is also the RHA president and social media and outreach coordinator for Duquesne Strong Women, Strong Girls.

“In the near future, I hope I want to work for a marketing communications agency in a mid-size to large city, perhaps Pittsburgh or D.C., and hope to build upon my skills as a strategic communicator, strong writer and creative thinker and problem solver,” Willis said. “In the future, I’d like to work in-house for a technology or social enterprise company working on the company’s global communications and sustainability/CSR efforts.”

Willis’ most inspirational words of advice for those seeking to follow in her footsteps.

“Embrace your entrepreneurial spirit and pursue your passions,” she said. “If an opportunity doesn’t exist, whether on campus, in class or elsewhere, go and create it yourself.”

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

RAYMOND ARKE
news editor

An influential local media fixture and Duquesne graduate passed away last week. Frank Gottlieb was a Vietnam War veteran and the former news director for KQV News Radio in Pittsburgh, according to his obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

He graduated from Duquesne in 1968 with a degree in print journalism, Duquesne’s Office of Alumni Engagement said in an email.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Gottlieb started his media career while in the military as part of the Armed Forces Radio. He then worked for WMAQ-FM and was a news producer at WTAJ-TV and at WCMH-TV in Columbus, Ohio. Gottlieb was also a news writer for KDKA-TV and Pittsburgh CBS Local.

He started working for KQV in 1985 and became the news director in 1993 until his retirement several years ago, according to the Post-Gazette.

Robert Kerlik, vice president of media relations for the Allegheny County Airport Authority, was a former editor for The Duquesne and member of Duquesne’s Publications Board, fondly recalled Gottlieb.

“I first met Frank through his work at KQV when I was a reporter at the Trib,” he said. “He was always interested in getting the story fast, but accurate.”

Kerlik was appreciative of a unique opportunity Gottlieb gave him.

“I remember one time as a reporter when Frank asked me to provide regular radio updates for KQV during a weeks-long high-profile trial I was covering at the time,” he said. “It was one of my first forays into radio, and I always appreciated that.”

He also enjoyed working with Gottlieb on the Publications Board.

“He was dedicated to whatever was best for the student publications. I enjoyed seeing him at the annual Pub Board dinner each year where he usually had some helpful insight into some ongoing story that was in the news,” Kerlik said.

Margaret Patterson, professor of journalism at Duquesne and representative on the Duquesne Publications Board, knew Gottlieb for years from her time as a Pittsburgh Post-Register journalist and on the Publications Board.

Patterson said that Gottlieb had been on the Publications Board for the past 15 years and that she had recently sent him an email about an upcoming Board meeting this week.

She and Gottlieb shared the same birthday and would often go get a meal together to celebrate.

“Breakfast at Pamela’s was a very special place for him,” she said.

Patterson recalled that Gottlieb was a great journalist.

“He was a very engaged guy ... If you went to an event, he was always there ... [He was] very devoted to it anyway, the First Amendment issues,” she said.

Duquesne’s Publications Board has a local media representative to give an outside perspective on Duquesne issues, Patterson said.

“He was an ideal representative. He knew Duquesne and felt very loyal to Duquesne ... [Gottlieb was] always present when we interviewed students for editor roles [in student publications] and was a very thoughtful, all wrongdoer,” she said.

Gottlieb had an “outstanding career,” Patterson recalled. “Some people called him Mr. Journalism. He was such a part of it.”

Ken Cormley, president of Duquesne, also fondly remembered Gottlieb.

“I had the privilege of doing dozens upon dozens of shows with Frank over the years, including many on my books and political issues confronting our country,” he said.

“Frank was a consummate professional and a true gentleman who was proud of his Duquesne education. He’ll be deeply missed.”

Kim Palmiero is the president of the Western Pennsylvania Press Club, a volunteer organization that Frank was very much a member on.

“[Being on the board] is a pretty big volunteer commitment, and Frank really jumped right in,” Palmiero said.

“Duquesne has afforded me over the time.”

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“Everybody has talent, but ability takes hard work.”

MICHAEL JORDAN

Gender discrimination happens in every industry, no matter the size of the corporation. Regardless of anti-discrimination laws that make gender discrimination illegal, it’s no surprise that management at small or large corporations often favor the advancement of men. Recently, three female software engineers have declared a lawsuit against Uber for discrimination.

The women, Ingrid Avendano, Roxana del Toro Lopez and Ana Medina, claim that compensation and other practices are unfair to minorities and women. According to the lawsuit, Uber is favoring men and white or Asian employees as opposed to women, African American, American Indian or Latinx employees. Lower performance scores are given to these specific minorities, causing them to struggle to advance and confining them to menial tasks. The women themselves have recounted times in the lawsuit where they lost out on promotions and benefits.

The case, filed in the San Francisco Superior Court, claims that Uber has violated the California Equal Pay Act, as well as the California Private Attorney Attorneys General Act.

I thoroughly support these women’s actions against male chauvinism and sexism, and commend them for taking a stand. Engineering is a male-dominated industry, not because men perform better, but because the industry is seemingly discouraging for women. According to the Society of Women Engineers, 20 percent of engineering school graduates are women, but make up only 11 percent of total practicing engineers.

The field is seemingly so disadvantageous that one in four female engineers leave the field after the age of 30.

Women have it hard enough in the workplace. According to a 2016 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission report, 60 percent of women have experienced workplace gender harassment. Michelle Haynes of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and Madeline Heilman of New York University reported that in mixed-sex teams, credit is far more often given to the male than the female team member.

According to a Reuters article, Uber made a series of changes in August addressing pay equity by increasing the pay of employees who were paid below the median salary for their job. It still seems as though they did not look hard enough at the problem at hand. Uber should be paying women and people of color equally for their hard work.

As a woman of color, I’m thoroughly ashamed of Uber, but proud that there are women who aren’t afraid to stand up to discrimination. The three women seem to be saying to the rest of the world, “Go ahead and try to stop us from equal opportunities, but you can’t stop us from speaking out and fighting against it.”

I would love to see these women take down Uber, so I say to them, and any women out there who feel like they are not being treated fairly: Get your coins ladies. Down with the patriarchy!
The amendment will prohibit the CHIP program from covering gender-reassignment surgery.

CHARLIE MEGGINSON
staff columnist

Read any newspaper in Pennsylvania, and you’re likely to see this headline: It could soon be illegal for transgender youth in Pennsylvania to receive healthcare under the Children’s Health Insurance Program. But before you get upset with out-of-touch lawmakers in Harrisburg, let’s dig a little deeper into the context of Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 1388. The Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, provides healthcare for over 177,000 children and families in Pennsylvania. Just like any other insurance, this program pays for the essentials: checkups, physicals, emergency medical services, medications and more. There’s just one difference — CHIP is publicly funded. Pennsylvania Sen. Don White (R-41 District) doesn’t believe taxpayer funds should be allocated to sex-reassignment surgeries for children. That’s why he drafted the amendment to the bill which reauthorizes CHIP. The amendment is only one sentence long and removes that the program will fund gender-reassignment surgeries for children. The topic is a controversial one, prompting emotional responses from both sides. But what if the issue behind this controversy isn’t an issue at all? It looks like that might be the case.

Reacting to the amendment, the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT advocacy group, sent out a mass email, saying, “This attack is dangerous and mean-spirited. The amendment puts the health and safety of children across the commonwealth at risk.” Protecting children and ensuring they have equal access to healthcare is a nonpartisan issue, and we urge the House Rules committee to reject this harmful amendment.”

Sen. White doesn’t believe his amendment is discriminatory. Describing his motives for drafting the amendment, Sen. White stated, “The CHIP Program is a tremendous resource to families in our Commonwealth. However, Gov. Wolf’s effort to require the program pay for gender reassignment services is not in the interest of the taxpayer. I’m eager to see this program reauthorized, while ensuring it offers critical health care coverage to children as originally intended when the program was created.”

In attaching this amendment to the legislation, White is putting House Democrats in an uncomfortable position: vote against the reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program entirely, or vote for its reauthorization with the caveat that sex-reassignment surgeries are no longer be covered.

But just how many transgender children have used CHIP money to undergo sex reassignment? Almost none. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, of the 177,000+ children enrolled in the program, only 34 have requested counseling, medication or sex reassignment surgery. Ultimately, no surgeries have been funded under the program.

Dr. Daniel Herwitz, President of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, the world’s leading transgender advocacy group, advises that young people should only be allowed to receive sex reassignment surgery after they’ve reached the age of medical consent. In the U.S., that age is 18. He stated, “The CHIP Program is a tremendous resource to families in our Commonwealth. However, Gov. Wolf’s amendment would only apply to transgender young people between their 18 and 19 birthdays. Now, we, the reasonable people of the world — the people who aren’t afraid to dig a little deeper into news stories with inflammatory headlines — are left with two questions: First, why would news agencies publish articles accusing Republicans in Harrisburg of trying to take away all health care from transgender youth? And second, with almost nobody trying to use CHIP to pay for sex reassignment, why would Sen. White take a non-issue and make it an issue?

To answer the first question, let’s acknowledge a simple truth: There’s no better way to increase views on an article or column than with an inflammatory headline. And who wouldn’t be outraged by an out-of-touch senator trying to deny basic healthcare for transgender children? But you know, and I know, Sen. White isn’t doing any such thing. Transgender children will still be able to go to the dentist or the emergency room or receive their medication. To write an article suggesting otherwise is enabling the toxicity that has plagued political discourse in recent years. Rather than respectfully debating the legitimate political question of whether taxpayer dollars should be used to pay for sex-reassignment surgeries, opponents to the former must defend themselves against charges that they are robbing children of access to basic healthcare.

The second question is a bit trickier. If almost nobody is trying to use CHIP to pay for sex reassignment, why would Sen. White (or any sensible politician) not simply avoid needless drama and a political firestorm?

If we look to his electoral history, we’ll see that Senator White has been in office for 16 years, and, in his most recent election, he won his seat with nearly 70 percent of the vote in his district. It’s safe to say that he won’t be losing any support over this controversial move. In the eyes of the community, is the safety of children across the commonwealth. However, Gov. Wolf’s amendment would only apply to transgender young people between their 18 and 19 birthdays. Now, we, the reasonable people of the world — the people who aren’t afraid to dig a little deeper into news stories with inflammatory headlines — are left with two questions: First, why would news agencies publish articles accusing Republicans in Harrisburg of trying to take away all health care from transgender youth? And second, with almost nobody trying to use CHIP to pay for sex reassignment, why would Sen. White take a non-issue and make it an issue?

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**Local Elections**

Alright, let’s start really local. The Allegheny County Council elections are pretty tepid, with two districts — District 9 and District 12 — featuring uncontested candidates. But then there’s the other four elections. We have a two and two deal here with two Republicans and two Democrats defending their seats.

We’ll begin with the Republicans: In District 1, which includes North Fayette, Moon and Ross Townships, Tom Baker (R) is fending off challenger Jack Betkowski (D). Baker is the president of Baker Leadership, and Betkowski was elected to Ward 9 representative for the Ross Township Board of Commissioners in 2015. Baker has served as District 1’s representative since 2013.

In District 3, Democratic candidate Adam Prizio is running for “Unofficial Kress’” seat next Tuesday to represent Fox Chapel, Millvale, Hampton and Shaler, among others. Both candidates earned their law degrees here in the ‘Burgh: Kress from Duquesne’s School of Law and Prizio from Pitt. Kress, like Baker, has represented his district since 2013.

In the fourth incumbent Patrick Catena Jr (D) is pitted against Dimitrios Pantzoulas (R) for the District 4 seat, representing South Fayette, Robinson and Carnegie. Charles Martoni (D) of District 8, representing Plum, Monroeville and East McKeesport, will be facing Michael Dell (R) next week as well. Martoni is a campus president and adjunct at Community College for Allegheny County and was first elected to his position in 1999. Dell was elected to the Plum Borough Council in 2017 and has served since.

There’s also one seat up for grabs on the Pittsburgh City Council. Cleo Cibrom (D) and Anthony Coghill (D) will be vying for the District 4 seat next Tuesday. The seat is currently held by Democrat Natalia Radlka who is leaving the position to pursue other opportunities.

**Judicial Elections**

**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**


**Superior Court of Pennsylvania**

The Superior Court is an appellate court, which means it hears cases that are appealed from the 67 county Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. The vast majority of cases end here; only a few each year are picked by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Superior Court consists of 15 members who each serve 10-year terms. You can vote for four of the candidates.

Emil Giordano — Republican. Villanova University School of Law (J.D.), Moravian College. Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association. Currently a judge on the Northampton Court of Common Pleas. Endorsed by the PA State Troopers Association.

Wade Alan Kasnare — Republican. Widener University School of Law (J.D.). Pennsylvania State University. Currently a judge on the Blair County Court of Common Pleas. Seven years as Blair County Deputy District Attorney. Twelve years of private practice. U.S. Army Reserve veteran. Adjunct professor at Saint Francis University (PA).


Geoffrey Moaklin Jr. — Democrat. Cornell University School of Law (J.D.), Amherst College. Law clerk for the United States Supreme Court. Eight years as federal prosecutor in Philadelphia. Served as chief counsel to a U.S. Senator. Chief of Staff of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Directed independent investigations of the ATF raid on the Branch Davidians in Waco for the U.S. Department of the Treasury and of the Jerry Sandusky investigation for the PA Office of Attorney General. Endorsed by former Vice President Joe Biden, among others.

Mary Murray — Republican. Duquesne University School of Law (J.D.), Duquesne University. Magisterial District judge for past 13 years. Practiced law for 20 years. Chair of Rules Committee for the Special Courts Judges Association. Served as Auditor of Moon Township.


Craig Stedman — Republican. Penn State Dickinson School of Law (J.D.), with high academic honors. University of Delaware. Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association. Currently District Attorney of Lancaster County. Launched the Lancaster County Elder Abuse Protection Unit and Task Force. Served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. Endorsed by the PA State Troopers Association, the NRA, among others.

**Commonwealth Court**

The Commonwealth Court is the

**DU student studies in Iceland**

Claudia Hardy

staff writer

Deciding to study abroad is exhilarating, but the real challenge is deciding where to go. Duquesne offers a wide variety of study abroad programs, but some students have their mind set on a specific place, and others want to go anywhere. Kimberly Bischof, a third-year environmental science major, did just that. Bischof studied abroad to Iceland via Duquesne’s ICELAND program. This study abroad opportunity focuses on sustainability and is an eight-day trip for students of all majors, especially those in environmental science, from all over the U.S. and Canada. The study abroad office is familiar with the opportunities this program offers, but it is an entirely separate organization.

“We completed a class on renewable energy through Reykjavik University,” Bischof said. “We head seminars on solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energy.”

In addition to class time, students experienced hands-on learning spending their days with only a few belongings in their backpacks and little detail regarding what they would be experiencing.

“We were never told what our schedule was,” Bischof pointed out. “Within only a few hours of stepping off the plane, I found myself hiking beautiful, ice-covered mountains to reach several hot springs.”

Whether it was meeting a descendant of a real-life Viking or off-roading through feet-deep streams and steep mountains, Bischof was able to leave her comfort zone back in the U.S. and test her bravery with strangers who became friends fast throughout the week, while learning and getting credit for it at the same time.

“We spent a day touring geysers in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland,” Bischof said. “Geyzers only occur in two locations in the world: Yellowstone and the area of Iceland we visited. In addition, we also hiked an active volcano.”

There wasn’t anything Bischof disliked about her trip, except leaving those behind whom she became so close to in such a short amount of time.

“My least favorite part of the trip was saying goodbye to the people I had come to consider friends in my time there,” Bischof said. “We waited for the planes that would send us off in different directions ... I am still in contact with nearly all 30 students from that trip, and I was the only Duquesne student.”

Credits can range from 1 to 3 depending on what their advisor would like them to do in addition to the trip. Students can work out the exact number of credits awarded for this excursion with

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**Voting duties go far beyond the presidential election every four years. Local elections happen more frequently, and often, the results will impact your city, state or county in many different ways. Voting is your civic duty and your vote matters. It’s that time of the year... it’s that time of the year to head to the polls and exercise your right to vote.**

Kimberly Bischof, a third-year environmental science major, did just that. Bischof studied abroad to Iceland via Duquesne’s ICELAND program. This study abroad opportunity focuses on sustainability and is an eight-day trip for students of all majors, especially those in environmental science, from all over the U.S. and Canada. The study abroad office is familiar with the opportunities this program offers, but it is an entirely separate organization.
Dukes roll over SHU in seventh-straight win

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Following Duquesne’s 37-21 win at Sacred Heart on Oct. 28, the Dukes (7-1, 4-0) sit atop the Northeast Conference (FCS) ahead of their Nov. 4 game at Liberty.

Sophomore running back A.J. Hines matched a career-high three rushing touchdowns on the afternoon, totaling 88 yards on 18 carries against the Pioneers (3-5, 1-2). Hines previously ran for three scores against Bucknell in a 30-19 win on Sept. 10, 2016.

“It felt good getting three TDs again,” Hines said. “I just want to give all the credit to my line, and also [our] wide receivers for blocking for me and opening up seams for me to find. It gives blocking for me and opening up and also [our] wide receivers for more all of us confidence [when the

Duquesne’s lone game versus an FBS opponent came on Aug. 30, 2018, against Buffalo. The Dukes fell 38-28 to the Bulls in the program’s first game versus an FBS opponent. Duquesne was only the NEC’s third school to ever play an FBS school when the Dukes traveled to Buffalo in 2014.

The Dukes are scheduled to play two FBS teams next season, when they will face UMass and the University of Hawaii.

Duquesne will open its 2018 schedule on Aug. 25 at UMass, which plays its home games at Gillette Stadium, the home of the NFL’s New England Patriots.

On Sept. 22, 2018, the Dukes will play their first game west of the Rocky Mountains since 1947, when Duquesne played at San Francisco, when Jerry Schmitt’s team travels to Hawaii.

For now, the Dukes are content dominating the FCS’ NEC ranks.

The Flames will move to the FBS level next season as an independent, and following Marc-Andre Fleury’s return, the Penguins continue to struggle to find a reliable backup goalie, having already placing Antti Niemi on waivers and sending Casey DeSmith back to the AHL’s Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in favor of fellow prospect Tristan Jarry.

On This Day...

— On Nov. 2, 2016, the Chicago Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in Game 7 of the World Series for Chicago’s first World Series victory in 108 years.
Duquesne women’s soccer advances in A-10 tournament

Admittedly, I’m not the Chicago Cubs’ biggest fan, so I was glad that I could watch the World Series in objective peace this year when they were bounced in the N.L.C.S. in Game 5 by the Dodgers. I’m not the world’s biggest baseball fan, either, and I haven’t paid the game too much attention ever since I became enamored with basketball in middle school. It’s the like began to permeate in our culture like never before, impressionable children with increasingly shorter attention spans grew to love short, action-filled highlight videos of basketball stars dunking, football players celebrating in the end zone, and of talk show hosts yelling at each other in debate. Somewhere in the world’s new entertainment order, baseball became lost, as younger generations didn’t find any intrigue in nine-inning long and sometimes mundane games. Even for someone who appreciates the sport for what it is, I struggle to watch it on television unless I’m either doing something else simultaneously or it’s playoff time. With that being said, I’d like to extend a sincere ‘Thank you’ to both the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers. I enjoyed Game 5 more than any other sporting event that I’ve watched in recent memory, and though I was preoccupied on Halloween night, I was overjoyed to hear that the Dodgers won to force a Game 7 on Nov. 1. Regardless of the outcome of the night’s game, baseball has been really fun to witness lately, as there’s nothing to relish more as a sports fan than the knowledge that what you’re watching is history in the making. While the only major history that the Series’ teams have rewritten is the number of total home runs hit in a World Series, this World Series will not be forgotten any time soon, largely thanks to its rich entertainment value. If the emergence of the steroid era threatened to kill baseball, the idea that baseballs might be “juiced” saved this year’s World Series. All respect to L.A. reliever Brandon Morrow — who pitched in Games 1 through 5 after not pitching in even three consecutive games during the regular-season — but I was dumbfounded watching the Astros rock seemingly every single one of his pitches in the seventh inning. Regardless of the outcome of Game 7, I’m optimistic for baseball’s future. While children in lower-income environments will always have much more access to a basketball or a football than they will to all of the equipment that baseball requires and although the attention span of our world’s younger generations continues to grow shorter and shorter, baseball will have no problem promoting its product if the game continues to be played like this. It goes without saying that regular-season baseball is nowhere near this competitive or captivating, but if the game’s key moments continue to inspire like they have in this season’s World Series championship, people will always be around to witness its magic. Or, perhaps — The game is fine. The problem is with us demented Pirates fans.

Adam Lindner is an undeclared sophomore and can be reached lindnera1@duq.edu.

Dugout outfilder Joc Pederson celebrates a solo home run vs. Houston in the seventh inning of Game 6 on Oct. 31. The Dodgers won 3-1 to force a decisive Game 7 on Nov. 1 in Los Angeles.
The Center Will Not Hold space on details, big on melancholic feelings

Hallie Laier
layout editor

Joan Didion’s writing has a heartbeat, a rhythmic pulse that compels the reader to keep going. The new Netflix documentary about Didion’s life, The Center Will Not Hold, manages to capture that very same pulse and replicate it. Produced by her grandniece and directed by her nephew, The Center Will Not Hold borrows its title from the same poem that Didion’s book Slouching Towards Bethlehem gets its name, a small homage to the W. B. Yeats poem whose lines Didion says, “have reverberated in my inner ear as if they were surgically implanted there.”

The film starts with a grainy aerial shot of the Golden Gate Bridge and other San Francisco landmarks as a narrator reads from Didion’s work. The rest of the documentary follows this format in part, with shots of home videos or cities Didion lived in coupled with — her work being read over moody music. Interviews with Didion mix with these scenes, with the now-82-year-old looking back on her life with supplemental commentary from those closest to her.

Small moments in these interviews remind the viewers how influential Didion really is. When an old friend talks of the dinner parties Didion would throw, with guests such as Harrison Ford, Steven Spielberg and Marlin Scorsese, the viewer sees how far reaching and impactful the writer was. Didion’s likeness is further enhanced by the simple presentation of her life, avoiding any implications of bragging or haughtiness.

An element of sadness and nostalgia over- layers the whole film, though. Most scenes pair cool tones with slow, wistful music, giving the entirety of the film a gloomy feeling, even as Didion talks of her brighter moments. This melancholy could be a reflection of Didion’s own writing. In both her fiction and nonfiction, one would be hard pressed to find a happily-ever-after. The sadness of the film really comes to a head in its later half when the focus shifts to Didion losing both her daughter and her husband within two years of each other.

The Center Will Not Hold does allow for more quirky aspects of Didion’s life to come to light. Between her big sunglasses and her bob haircut, the artist finally lets people in on the little details of her life — like her need for an ice cold Coca-Cola first thing in the morning, or how, when she was stuck on a manuscript, she would put it in a bag in the freezer and come back to it later. Didion was rarely forthcoming about her life, which makes these insights about who she is as a person all the more valuable.

The worst part of the documentary, however, is that the beginning of the film pushes through much of Didion’s young career. Her time at Vogue is briefly glided over, as is the first time she moves back to California. Much of the latter half of the movie is focused on the novel she wrote in response to her grief, which is understandable as a significant event, but it would have been nice to also see where Didion got her start. This is not a documentary I would have watched without prior knowledge of Didion.

The film also could have wrapped up about fifteen minutes before it actually ended. Besides offering a little insight into another of her works, this time is more-or-less directionless filler.

Watching this film, I see a part of every aspiring writer I know. Didion’s desire to get the story and to tell it right is mimicked in every one of them. This, on top of the new light shed on such an iconic voice, not only exposes a new generation to her work but ex- alts Didion and the life she lived.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Thor: Ragnarok
Nov. 2

Thor has been thoroughly de- feated and Asgard has fallen to Hela. Finding himself imprisoned on the other side of the universe, Thor must fight for his freedom in a gladiatorial match while attempting to put together a team to help save Asgard.

Call of Duty: WWII
Nov. 3

The Call of Duty franchise makes its glorious return to WWII. The game boasts of a revamped multiplayer, as well as a new single-player campaign and, of course, the popular Zombies mode. Call of Duty WWII will be releasing on PC, Xbox One, PS4.

MICRO REVIEW

The Zombie Frappuccino

The Zombie Frappuccino took a staple Halloween monster and blended it into a Starbucks cup. Being a crime crap, the Frappuc- cino has no coffee, so its taste is created by its green caramel apple powder and the mocha drizzle. The blended drink, with the pink whipped cream top, did look like zombie brains and tasted, appropriately, like sour apples. It definitely is not the worst limited-time-offer drink Starbucks ever made, and it is arguably better than Starbucks’ Unicorn Frappuccino.

—Nicolas Jozefczyk
Walking Dead struggles to follow up on sister series’ success

Nicole Prieto
staff writer

On the heels of Fear the Walking Dead’s surprisingly successful season, Season 8 of The Walking Dead premiered on Oct. 22 with Rick Grimes and company dead set on the warpath against Negan and the Saviors. Season 7 saw the emotional reunion of Rick’s allies from Alexandria, The Hilltop and the Kingdom. In an unexpected twist, the odd, dead-dressing garbage people betrayed Rick in favor of a deal with the Saviors. Thankfully, the united Hilltoppers and people of the Kingdom stormed in to save the day just as Negan was set to sick Lucille on Carl. We said goodbye to Sasha Williams and the capable talent of actress Sonequa Martin in one of the more creative cast exits to date, and we witnessed the rise of Maggie Blane as a respected leader on the show.

If you have not watched “Mercy” or “The Damned,” this is your final warning — because here is the good, the OK, and the ugly of TWD’s Season 8 openers.

The Good

“The Damned” is certainly the stronger of this season’s first episodes, and it takes its time between violent shootouts and shocking revelations to give our heroes some much-needed moments of self-reflection.

In executing a raid against one of the Savior outposts, Morgan and two of his allies are gunned down in a retaliating group; wearing body armor, Morgan is the only one who survives. He manages to kill several Saviors as he escapes the compound, experiencing flashbacks to his confrontation with Rick about killing them off. His turmoil comes to a head when he encounters a large group that surrendered to Jesus and the others. He immediately sees the man who killed Ben out of spite, Jared. It is a watershed moment for Morgan, who nearly guns him down on the spot before Jesus intervenes. Morgan is once again forced to compromise the tenets of his own moral code against the Saviors’ brutality.

For their own part, Rick and Daryl check out one of the Savior gun caches indicated on Dwight’s map. The pair, sharing few words, decide to split up. While exploring a room, Daryl unexpectedly finds a chilling scene: a pair of bloody handcuffs next to a half-eaten plate of food on the ground. Someone tried — and perhaps succeeded — in escaping the outpost, likely by cutting off their hand. It is a subtle callback not only to Daryl’s own tortuous imprisonment at Negan’s compound but also a smart reminder of his brother, Merle.

For all his propensity in doling out inspiring speeches every season, it is nice to see Rick taken down a notch when he gets too caught up in his grand plans. During his own search in the building, Rick is ambushed by a lone man desperate to take him down. Rick succeeds in strangling and impaling the man against a wall mount. But it does not take long for Rick to realize the gravity of what he has done; in the next room over, he stumbles upon a nursery and a sleeping baby girl apparently named Gracie. This is a poignant moment that pairs nicely with Morgan’s own self-doubt about mercy and revenge. A mirror hanging over the child’s crib forces Rick to face the consequences of his actions: He has killed the child’s father, and he is left with a hard choice about what to do with that information.

The OK

Seven years and eight seasons later and the most impressive thing we learn about Rick in “The Damned” is his indomitable memory for side characters from Season 1. A man named Morales was among the group that parted from Rick and company back in Atlanta — presumably never to be heard from again. Sometime after Rick kills Gracie’s father, Morales holds him at gunpoint, revealing that he has taken up with Negan’s crew.

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The Ugly

“Mercy” was TWD’s toothiest episode and, surprisingly, one of the least compelling entries in

see TWD — page 12

Super Mario Odyssey forges a new path for tired series

Zach Landau
a&c editor

You know, one would think that after being burned twice before, I would learn not to get excited for Mario games. You would think.

But by George, I got excited for Super Mario Odyssey. After Breath of the Wild did the unthinkable and jettisoned the tired, exhausting formula of the Zelda series for the tired, exhausting formula of Western RPGs, a vague sense of hope started blooming within me. Perhaps, I began to think, Nintendo will finally make a Mario game that doesn’t feel like an afterthought, a game that returns to sublime controls and drops the ridiculous preconception that the game can accomplish so much with such a simplified control scheme. However, this basic setup begs the question as to why players can activate with a press of the button.

Speaking of, the options in the game are admirable compared to past entries in the series but still sorely lacking. Odyssey uses only three buttons — Y/X, A/B and Z/L/R — and credit where credit is due: it is impressive that the game can accomplish so much with such a simplified control scheme. However, this basic setup begs the question as to why players cannot customize their controls. Cramping in the Y button while also trying to press B and trying to move both control sticks to land a tricky jump is not ideal. This is to say nothing about the accessibility issue. If two face buttons can be dedicated to jumping, why can’t we change one of them to the crouch button? Hopefully this will come later down the line, but the fact Odyssey launched without a feature that is virtually standard in the gaming space is absurd.

Despite pumping roughly 30 hours into Odyssey, I still cannot come to grips with how the plumber handles. Mario’s momentum is virtually non-existent; pressing forward on the control stick will cause the plumber to lurch forward and reach his terminal velocity nearly instantly. Running down hills and slopes will temporarily increase his running speed, but this increase feels more like a switch being turned on than a gradual shift into faster and faster speeds. The same can be said for the new rolling mechanic, a feature that allows Mario to move just a bit faster, but only — and infuriatingly — a bit. Rather than speed being a reward for well-timed jumps and dives (or splashing a little water in front of you to make an impromptu Slip-n-Slide), it is a mode, a state of being almost, that players can activate with a press of the button.

The actual layout of Odyssey is also disappointing. Rather than being mission-based, the majority of the collectable dujour this time around — Power Moons — are scattered across mid-sized maps in weird and interesting locations. Players can stumble across a Moon under a pile of garbage, or maybe hidden in a piece of the level’s architecture, and a number of other interesting places. Earning Moons definitely feels exciting at times, with some hiding behind some genuinely difficult or clever challenges, but the sheer amount of them, as well as how easy it is to happen on a lot of them, sucks a lot of the fun out of the experience. While Power Stars from games past felt momentous as great rewards for completing missions, Moons feel virtually useless in comparison. Beating a boss or overcoming a platforming section feels less significant when faced later down the line, but the fact Odyssey introduces to the series, and it’s fine. Just OK, really. While Capturing is an exciting feature at first, it quickly loses its charm as the challenge of the game shifts from actual running and jumping to lock and key puzzles. See an unlit torch? Capture a Fire Bros. See a Goomba wearing a red hat? Capture another Goomba and start stacking the little mushroom freaks.

Actually, quick tangent: I honestly can’t stand Peach in this game. Once again relegated to the role of helpless victim, it was absolutely

see MARIO — page 11
Super Mario Odyssey all right

MARIO— from page 10

infuriating to watch her do absolutely nothing throughout the entire game. Maybe I like the Peach from the Mario RPGs too much, but even in Galaxy, she would send assistance in the form of lives. And I don’t think I would be so upset about it if it wasn’t for Tiara, Peach’s personified head-piece that is also a damsel in distress.

Oh, and Nintendo wants you to definitely know that Tiara is a girl. This is of utmost importance to the company because in no way, shape or form do they want to give the impression that a piece of clothing can be associated with anyone of any gender, and that it is the role of boy hats to save the girl ones.

Anyway, there is a lot more that can be said about Super Mario Odyssey, but to conclude this 1000-some word review, let me just emphasize that it is by no means a bad game. Were it to come out 15 years ago, I would have ranked it among the best ever produced. However, to pretend like Odyssey is the triumphant return for Nintendo’s iconic hero is honestly a testament to just how dire the past few years have been for Mario’s fans. Odyssey certainly does better than before, but better does not account for much when the actual product is passable at best.

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Twitter @TheDuquesneDuke

Spacey faces allegations of assault

STAFF ED— from page 4

getting away with it for decades. Anthony Rapp and all others coming forward about Spacey’s vulgar actions deserve to be heard and validated rather than ignored in favor of taking the angle of a gossip site and hyperfocusing on Spacey’s sexuality the way he intended with his superficial statement. One of the priorities of the media is to give a voice to the voiceless, not to amplify the voices of those with an already large audience.

Podcast covers DU mysteries

JAMES— from page 1

ago as a print product, but in the last decade we have committed ourselves to telling compelling stories like this one on different platforms—print, of course, but also on the Web and now on NewsSlide and in podcasts. The podcast can be found at www.post-gazette.com/twomysteries or downloaded on iTunes, GooglePlay and more. The interactive website will include photos, videos and other content dedicated to the podcast.

Attend Duquesne’s Graduate School Information Session and Open House

Monday, Nov. 6, 4-6 p.m., Wolfe Lecture Hall, Bayer Learning Center

A graduate degree will enhance your resume and increase your earning power. There’s no better time than now to find out what degree program is right for you.

- Get your grad school questions answered
- Meet representatives from Duquesne’s nationally recognized graduate programs
- Learn how to research programs and degrees, when to apply and how to submit your strongest application
- Pizza and drinks provided

Free and open to all Duquesne University students.
Everything to know about PA elections

VOTE— from page 6

state’s other appellate court, the partner to the Superior Court. However, this one only deals with legal matters that relate to state and local government agencies. It consists of nine judges who serve for 10-year terms. You’ll be voting for two of the candidates this election. Christine Pizzano Cannon - Republican. Widener University School of Law (J.D.), cum laude. University of Arizona. Rated as Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association. Seventeen years as an attorney. Served as Assistant County Solicitor, Former Special Prosecutor of Child Support Enforcement.

Ellen Crisler - Democrat. Temple University School of Law (J.D.), Temple University. Montgomery County Community College. Ten years as a judge on the Common Pleas Court.

Irene Clark - Democrat. CUNY Law School (J.D.). Anitauch University McGregor School (M.A. Conflict Resolution), University of Pennsylvania. Ten years as judge on the Pittsburgh Municipal Court. Public Interest attorney.


Ballot Measures

The Pennsylvania Allow Taxing Authorities to Exempt Full Value of Homestead Amendment, the single ballot measure appearing in the general election, has the ability to inflict a great deal of change (or none at all). In simplest terms, this measure allows legislators to reduce or eliminate property taxes and create a distinction between residential and commercial properties. More specifically, if this amendment passes, the state legislature would be allowed to increase the assessed value of a home that local taxing authorities are permitted to exempt.

However, there are several implications if this law were to pass. First of all, the amendment does not include any language that specifically compels lawmakers to make any of the proposed changes. In order to do so, they would have to create another round of measures in order to take advantage of the amendment in full.

It may also be possible that the way schools in Pennsylvania are funded. As the law currently stands, 41 percent of K-12 education is funded through local property tax (totalling about $12.6 billion annually) according to Keystone Crossroads analysis. For schools, property tax is a crucial part of the overall funding of education as well as keeps control of that funding at the local level. Without keeping local property tax, this funding would come from other taxation means such as sales tax (which is a more unreliable source due to the constant fluctuation of the economy).

However, if this amendment would pass and be utilized in full, the effects on different school districts would be disproportionate, with wealthy school districts being subsidized (taking away from poorer districts and potentially causing them to be even worse off).

The counter argument in favor of the measure focuses on how the property tax affects those who are in danger of losing their home due to rising property taxes. One of the largest populations this affects is seniors, who usually have a fixed income and don’t even have the option to attend the schools their property tax is funding. School districts with swelling enrollment numbers have struggled with local property tax, putting pressure on homeowners and creating an increased sense of discontent amongst those against the tax.

Though there are valid points on both sides of the argument, it is important to once again revisit the fact that even if this legislation passes, the language of the ballot measure is not specific enough to warrant legislative action and within the current framework and laws passed by legislators, there may not be any change at all. This should be kept in mind when voting and just ensure that the polls, regardless of where they fall on the issue at hand.

series to date. The problem was not the quality of the production, the acting or the occasionally tenuous suspension of disbelief. Rather, for being a landmark in TWD’s production history, it contains a shocking dearth of substantive development. We watch Rick’s odd visions of the future and him and company execute the early stages of their major assault on the Saviors.

This humdrum hallmark immediately follows the unexpected compellingness of FTWD’s third season. The comparison is jarring, and Season 8 is in dire need of ramping up the action to hide its companion series’ comparatively superior quality.

With the bulk of the Saviors alerted to the group’s plans, the fate of the united communities once again hangs in the balance. King Ezekiel is under- tered, deciding to continue leading his own group to fulfill their part of Rick’s plan. Eric is shot during the prolonged shootout against the Saviors at the Sanctuary. From “Mercy,” Carl might have inadvertently made a key new ally with a larger role to play in upcoming episodes, and we have yet to see the fate of Father Gabriel at Negan’s very ticked off hands. Episode 3, “Monsters,” premieres on Sunday at 9 p.m. EST.

Everyone who serves for 10 years as judge on the Commonwealth Court.

Christine Fizzano Cannon

everything to know about PA elections

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Third annual Africa Week a success

AFRICA— from page 2

also points out that Africa Week helps instill a temporary sense of familiarity for African students. “It kind of lets us go home for a day … and Our Motherland is a different way of presenting Africa, because we are actually bringing our experiences here. It makes it more authentic,” she said.

Leah Shiferaw, another member of US, summed the experience up. “It’s a great way to share stuff I love about being African … we’re fun and lively,” she said, “and through Motherland, I hope people get to appreciate Africa as much as we do.”