Duquesne professor named as science society fellow

Duquesne University Professor John Pollock of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences was recently named as one of the fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

AAAS is known as being one of the world’s largest science societies. According to its website, “The American Association for the Advancement of Science (founded in 1848) bestows a lifetime honor of being an elected fellow in recognition of extraordinary achievements in advancing science.”

Each year, AAAS elects individuals who have made extreme efforts for advancement in the science community. Existing members who are fellows nominate individuals who are then voted on by the AAAS council.

AAAS elected Pollock as a fellow for his distinguished contributions to the field of developmental neurobiology and pain research, and also STEM education outreach to museums, schools and the public using digital media.

Pollock is a graduate of Syracuse University with a B.S. in physics, M.S. in physics, and Ph.D. in biophysics. He previously conducted neurogenetic research at Caltech, Pasadena and was a professor of biology at Carnegie Mellon University for 12 years prior to joining the faculty at Duquesne.

In the past, Pollock has been recognized as a recipient for numerous awards including, but not limited to, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM class of 2015 – awarded June 2018) awarded by the White House;

Duquesne Student Government Association hosted the 22nd annual Night of Lights celebration, themed Duquesne and the Nutcracker, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 5. All donations and proceeds from the event will benefit Autism Speaks.

In an effort to expand the perspectives of students and faculty beyond the classroom, Duquesne University’s Department of Political Science, in conjunction with the provost, hosted human rights lawyer and scholar Delaram Farzaneh on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. for a lecture on women’s rights issues in Iran.

“[Farzaneh] helped all of us understand the complexity of the discrimination issue, beyond media headlines, as well as problems that could arise from well-meaning outsiders intervening to help Iranian women,” Bob said.

Farzaneh’s book, Judgeships in Iran: Step Down, You Are a Woman – A Legal Analysis of International Human Rights, details the frequent occurrences of human rights viola...
Human rights lawyer gives lecture on DU campus

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS shared by DU students

Prestigious science society names Pollock as fellow

On Nov. 27, a student reported that another vehicle had struck his unattended vehicle in the Forbes Surface Lot.

On Nov. 28, an unknown male attempted to steal a pair of wireless headphones from the Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

On Nov. 29, a DU commuter student reported damage to her car while it was parked on the ninth level of the Loucet Garage.

Also on Nov. 29, a known male was trespassing in the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. During an investigation, DUPO discovered he was stealing magazines and there was a warrant for his arrest.

On Nov. 29, a DU POTD resident reported receiving information that the student had an alcohol situation. Being unresponsive to Assumption Hall for the Office of Student Conduct.

Also on Dec. 2, a St. Martin resident director of St. Martin Hall had an intoxicated student. Being unresponsive to her ability to continue her work, as well as her personal safety. Bob explained how a particular organization helps scholars who are in situations like Farzaneh's.

Also on Dec. 2, a DUPO referred a student to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. in the Bauer Pappert Lecture Hall, Delaram Farzaneh, Iranian human rights lawyer and scholar, visited Duquesne's campus.

Delaram Farzaneh, Iranian human rights lawyer and scholar, visited Duquesne's campus on Nov. 29. There, he will be honored at the 2019 AAAS Annual Fellows Forum as a 2018 AAAS Fellow. He was also presented with an official certificate and a gold-and-blue rosette pin.
Editor-in-Chief Raymond Arke bids Duke farewell after four years

Raymond Arke
editor-in-chief

There’s an old photo of myself, when I’m probably less than two years-old, spread out on the kitchen floor with an open newspaper “reading” an article about the Ken Starr investigation. It is an amusing foreshadow to now as I reflect on four incredibly well-spent years at The Duke. What I never could have imagined was how much this weekly rattle-rousing rag would end up meaning to me.

It’s tough for me to write this, tough to even imagine leaving The Duke. Since I walked through its doors as a freshman, it quickly became a home, I joined the news section and wrote nearly every week and attended every budget meeting. And then I never stopped coming, spending many a long, pizza-filled Wednesday night trading jokes, stories and producing the paper. Plus many other Tuesdays, Thursdays and often weekends spent enjoying each other’s company.

Throughout my time as assistant news editor, news editor and editor-in-chief, I have tried my best to provide the Duquesne community with important, detailed and accurate stories and have greatly enjoyed that opportunity. I deeply hope that it’s led to some kind of change, or barraging that, at least illuminated important issues and educated the community. Some of these stories have angered or upset members of the campus community (here’s to you SGA, Greek Life and Duquesne Administration!), but I’ve always seen that as a sure-fire sign we had done a good job.

The biggest takeaways from it all, though, are the friends I’ve made here. I’ve found wonderful roommates and lasting pals. The current editorial staff I oversee feels more like a family than coworkers. I’m deeply indebted to the hard work, good humor and great ideas the staff has provided. They’ve kept a physical book and running tab of what can best be described as my misspeaks or goofy quotes - and that book will be one of my most treasured possessions. From venturing to Canada to hanging in Up-town, the people I’ve worked with on the paper are the people I’ll remember for the rest of my life.

This works as a natural transition to the much-expected thank you list. So here it goes:

To Julian, you were editor-in-chief when I was a freshman, welcomed me to the paper and made journalism something I wanted to do. You included me in a short-lived political journalism site (RIP CapitalPundits) which helped me realize how much fun reporting is.

To Kaye and Brandon, thank you for taking me into the news section and trusting me with big assignments. You both contributed immensely to making me a better writer and were always willing to listen to my story pitches. Your examples of never shying away from a controversial story and defending quality journalism shaped me as news editor and will continue to do so in the future.

To Mom and Dad, all this wouldn’t be possible without all the guidance and support you’ve given me over the years. Thank you for encouraging my love of reading and for introducing me to journalism at a young age. I can remember many an afternoon in the car returning from elementary school listening along as you would play NPR. Who knew that’d pay off! Also, thank you for advising me through many a tough story, or journalistic question. All this couldn’t have been possible without your love and support.

There are of course many more people that have been an important part of my experience. I unfortunatly don’t have the space to name them all - but thank you. To quote my hero Bobby Kennedy, “The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better,” and you all have that down in my life. I’ll be passing on the editor-in-chief position to Kailey Love, our current managing editor. We’ve spent the past seven semesters working together at the paper, starting out at the same time as freshmen. I’ve been lucky to have her serve as managing editor. She will be an incredible editor-in-chief, and I look forward to seeing the paper continue to prosper under her guidance.

To the wider campus community, I’ll leave you with a few things I’ve learned from my experiences that I hope will help all of you. Find issues you care about, dig in and take a stand. Speak out, even if that means getting called to the president’s office (and that does happen!). There’s a whole world that exists off the Bluff and it is all of our memories. I’ll miss it, and get involved in that world, because it’s far more important than the “bubble” here.

And to paraphrase a journalist maxim, afflic the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. I hope the work I’ve left in these pages has lived up to the virtues I’ve stated. I’ve been incredibly lucky these past few years, and am a better person because of my experience at The Duke. There’s a quote by the legendary journalist H.L. Mencken that I think best sums up my experience here: “As I look back over a misspent youth, I find myself more and more convinced that I had more fun doing news reporting than in any other enterprise. It is really the life of kings.”

I have truly, 100 percent lived that “life of kings” while here - and I owe that to my dear friends and colleagues. A lifetime of wonderful memories. I’ll miss it, and get involved in that world, because it’s far more important than the “bubble” here.

And with that, this Arke(s) will leave the blue walls and string lights of 113 College Hall and sail on.
Gabriella DiPietro  
news editor

As students progress through their academic programs at Duquesne University, many eventually choose to move off campus to apartments and houses in the city and nearby South Side neighborhoods. By doing so and commuting to campus, many students gain more freedom by living on their own, maybe for the first time. A common misconception, however, is that a commuter’s social life and campus involvement continues to thrive after moving off campus.

Like many others, I lived on campus my freshman year, which granted me the opportunity to form friendships, join clubs and find my groove while transitioning to college life. Being on campus helped me to become more involved and be more social simply because I was there. It was my new home, and I needed to make it feel like home in order to be a happy and successful student. As a result, I joined the Duquesne Program Council, the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and the Duquesne Duke, the university’s student newspaper.

For my sophomore year, however, I chose to commute. I live in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, which is a 30-minute drive from Duquesne, so it seemed to be an easy, smart and cost-effective decision.

Duquesne has a large population of commuter students, who travel from all directions to get to campus each day, bringing their own commuter experiences and stories with them. According to Timothy Lewis, director of commuter affairs, 5,465 students commute, which comprises about 58 percent of the total university population. For the undergraduate student population alone, 3,454 out of 6,135 are commuters, which equates to 40 percent.

It’s important to note that commuter students can be traditional commuters who live at home with family (like me) or commuters who reside in apartments or houses throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Nick Cipriano, a senior majoring in pharmacy, pointed out how he of- ten felt left out or like she was missing out in some way.

“There were around a hundred people in my pharmacy class, but there were very few commuters among us,” Kelli said. “Oftentimes, students would meet up to hang out or study later in the day, but by then, most of us commuters were no longer on campus. So, I never really felt like I belonged.”

David DiPietro, my father, did not find his decision to commute to be detrimental in any way.

“It was simply the option that I chose. Granted, I don’t know what I missed out on because I didn’t seek out social things,” David said. “However, if I wasn’t a commuter, I would not have been hanging out on the fifth floor of the Union, and I may never have met my wife. Instead, I most likely would have been in my room on campus.”

Commuting requires students to plan ahead more because they no longer have the luxury of quickly stopping by their room to grab something they forgot. Instead, they are forced to think. What should I wear today? Do I need a change of clothes for the gym? What do I need to bring for class today? What am I going to eat for lunch? Will I find a place to park? Commuting forces students to ask themselves these sorts of questions every day.

Unlike resident students, commuters not only have to factor weather conditions and traffic patterns into their daily commute, but they have to locate a place to park in the zoo we call Duquesne University. Nowadays, I drive to campus and hope there is an open spot in the Locust Garage, but when my parents attended Duquesne, they had even more to worry about.

“Parking has always been an issue at Duquesne, and, though the problem has morphed, it’s an issue that still remains today,” David said. “When I went to school, the Forbes and Locust garages didn’t exist. Instead, there were just open gravel lots located on the hillsides, and you just prayed that your parking brake worked that day. If those were filled, which they often were, you had to park along the street or anywhere else you could find.”

After commuters are done with their classes each day, many choose to head home instead of hanging out on campus. Personally, I love racing home after a long day of classes because while on campus, I don’t have anywhere to go to relax. Unlike on-campus residents, I can’t go to my room to take a nap in between classes. Instead, I have to go to the library, hang out in the Student Union’s Commuter Center or occupy a table in Starbucks for hours on end.

While I have a car and have the freedom to come and go as I please, many other commuters don’t have that luxury.

“I didn’t have a car, so I had to take the bus to get to campus. My classes started at 8 a.m., so I had to wake up at 6 a.m. in order to get there on time, while residents could just roll out of bed minutes beforehand and walk to class,” Kelli said.

“I used to get so aggravated when resident students didn’t show up to class because of snowy weather or something, after I got up hours beforehand in order to ride the bus and be there on time.”

While, yes, I agree that commuting offers me more freedom in life, I’ve also recognized the adverse effects of commuting. Now, I’m forced to plan everything almost to a tee, including when I get to hang with my friends, attend events or help out with activities for the organizations I’m involved in on campus. Not many students realize that until they experience it themselves.

“Students on campus have no idea how stressful it can be to commute,” Kelli said. “Compared to us, they have it easy.”
The history of PPG's Christmas Tree and ice rink

Throughout the year Market Square is a popular place for Duquesne students to go. The holiday season is an even better reason to go over to the square to participate in the many events and exciting things it has going on. On most days of the year, Market Square and the PPG plaza look like their normal selves. However, around Nov. 9, the week before their first holiday event Light Up Night, the large green Christmas tree and ice rink are in the PPG Plaza.

The ice rink was built in 2001, but the tree has been there since 1991. Both are sponsored by Highwoods Property. The tree was re-built in 2015. It has not always been the original decoration for the plaza.

“Before the tree we have now, the plaza used to decorate with other small decorations or would put real Christmas trees around the obelisk that has been in the plaza since 1984,” said Anita Falce, the PPG Place Events Coordinator. “We wanted a change because the decorations would either get lost or wouldn’t really do anything for the plaza. If the trees weren’t around the obelisk they were put in corners around the plaza.”

When Highwoods (PPG) decided to put up the tree that is there today, they measured it so it would fit perfectly around the obelisk. In 2001, the ice rink was built around the tree so that the tree would still be the main attraction.

“It really is an attraction to see. It is different from other ice rinks,” Falce added.

Andrew Trebesh, who works at the Highwoods (PPG) ice rink, said, “It’s real nice to work here, I basically get paid to skate.” This is his eighth season working as staff for the rink working there since 2010 when he was in high school.

“This is one of the main things down here. There are always families and couples here around the tree or taking pictures,” Trebesh commented on the plaza goers. “Fridays and Saturdays are probably the busiest days and we have a lot of events like Skate with Santa and a few other things during the season.”

Kate and McKenzie, two University of Pittsburgh students, were two out of the many skaters that said they try to come at least once a year. The Pitt students say that they have a closer rink to them and the PPG rink is worth the drive to come and skate.

“The Season of Lights tree has spherical metal balls that display white and red lights and it is put up on the first day of Light Up Night. The lights on Market Square’s tree are coordinated with music and at random points will have light shows. This tree has been shown in the square for the past nine years.”

Some might become confused when they tell them that the PPG Plaza is not in connection with Market Square. The two might be a short walk away from one another, but the PPG Plaza is not affiliated with Market Square. The Christmas tree in the ice rink is Highwoods’/PPG’s Tree, while Market Square also has its own Christmas tree — the Season of Lights tree that is sponsored by BNY Mellon.

The Season of Lights tree has spherical metal balls that display white and red lights and it is put up on the first day of Light Up Night. The lights on Market Square’s tree are coordinated with music and at random points will have light shows. This tree has been shown in the square for the past nine years.

Some of the buildings in the square also have lights on their sides that correspond with the tree and its light show. The lights from the building will light up and be a part of the light show.

No matter whether you go to the square or the plaza, you will be greeted with holiday cheer and beautiful decorations. Both trees are spectacular in their own ways: one is 65 feet tall and the other has light shows. No one could go wrong with either, both will get you into the Christmas spirit.
Panthers thrash Dukes in City Game, 74-53

Duquesne jumped out to a promising 8-0 early lead, but Xavier Johnson and the Pitt Panthers proved too much for a young Dukes team on Nov. 30, winning 74-53. Mikes Hughes led Duquesne with 20 points and 10 boards.

**JACOB HERBA**

**staff writer**

For the second consecutive year, Duquesne entered the City Game with high expectations, only to be stifled by Pitt, 74-53. It was a competitive matchup, though Pitt eventually pulled away to grab the 21-point win at PPG Paints Arena on Friday, Nov. 30.

This most recent edition of the Dukes’ annual rivalry game against the Panthers was not one of the series’ more exhilarating battles. The teams’ collective play could be best described as sloppy and lackluster offensively, as Duquesne and Pitt shot just 33.3 and 43.9 percent from the field, respectively.

After getting off to a hot start and grabbing an 8-0 lead, Duquesne could not find its rhythm, being outscored 74-45 the rest of the way.

Much of that could be attributed to Panthers’ strong defense, which limited Keith Dambrot’s team to its worst shooting performance of the season.

However, with 22 personal fouls and 22 turnovers, the Dukes certainly didn’t help themselves either. Pitt capitalized off those miscues, making 21 of 27 free throws and scoring 28 points off of Duquesne turnovers.

Whereas as the Panthers were opportunistic, it was missed opportunities that crippled the Dukes. Arguably the most deflating was a missed layup by Eric Williams Jr. with 14:18 remaining in the game. The transition basket would have cut the deficit to four points, but instead, Pitt took control of the game. Duquesne never came within five points again.

Part of the reason Duquesne struggled on the court was the absence of Marcus Weathers, their usual starting power forward. Dambrot thought his team had a difficult time replacing Weathers’ experience, saying, “I’m not gonna make excuses, but we don’t have a lot of guys that have played that four spot.”

Freshman Austin Rotroff, usually a center, was decent in relief of Weathers, but his lack of experience showed.

It wasn’t all bad for Duquesne, though. Michael Hughes had arguably his best game of the season thus far, posting 20 points and 10 rebounds in 26 minutes for his first career double-double.

Outside of Hughes’ performance, however, Dambrot’s team had a difficult time generating offense. The sophomore center was the only Duke to reach double figures in points or rebounds.

Eric Williams Jr. struggled, making just three of his 10 shots and turning the ball over three times.

Duquesne guards Mike Lewis II, Sincere Carry, Tavian Dunn-Martin, Brandon Ware and LaMar Norman Jr., combined for just 15 points on 3-22 shooting.

According to Dambrot, “our guard play [has] gotta be better than that if we’re gonna win.”

In summation, just about everyone除了 Hughes had a tough night.

Pitt wasn’t great either, but Head Coach Jeff Capel got enough out of his team to grind out the win. Four Panthers reached double-digit scoring, led by freshman Trey McGowens with 14.

Graduate transfer Sidy N’Dir was also clutch down the stretch, making a layup with 7:08 remaining to extend Pitt’s lead to 11 points. Then, with 4:37 left, N’Dir hit a 3-point dagger to essentially seal the game for the Panthers.

Ultimately, Pitt was able to take over late thanks to some big defensive stops and important scores. Duquesne struggled to find good shooting opportunities, scoring just 13 points over the last 10 minutes of the game.

Mike Hughes didn’t think this will be a recurring theme, however. He chalked up much of Duquesne’s poor performance to “uncharacteristic mistakes.”

He added that “we got a lot of young guys playing in an atmosphere like this, they’re not used to it ... but it’s nothing we can bounce back from.”

The Dukes will be hoping that Hughes’ comments hold true, as the team returns to grand stage of PPG Paints Arena on Dec 19. Then, they’ll face another Pennsylvania Power 5 conference opponent as the Penn State Nittany Lions come to Pittsburgh.

Before then, Marshall (Dec. 5, 7 p.m.), Longwood (Dec. 9, 1 p.m.), Maryland Eastern Shore (Dec. 13, 7 p.m.) and Maine (Dec. 16, 12 p.m.) will make visits to the A.J. Palumbo Center, respectively.

**SEATTLE RECEIVES EXPANSION BID FROM NHL FOR 2021 YEAR**

The National Hockey League is expanding to Seattle. The NHL Board of Governors unanimously approved adding Seattle as the league’s 32nd franchise on Tuesday, with play set to begin in 2021 to allow enough time for arena renovations.

The as-yet unnamed franchise will be the Emerald City’s first major winter sports team since the NBA’s SuperSonics left town in 2008.

“Today is an exciting and historic day for our league as we expand to one of North America’s most innovative, beautiful and fastest-growing cities,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. “And we are thrilled that Seattle, a city with a proud hockey history that includes being the home for the first American team ever to win the Stanley Cup, is finally joining the NHL.”

The announcement came a few moments after Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan let the news slip at a watch party in Seattle, prompting cheers: “I got a call from a mole in the room and it was a unanimous vote. We’re getting hockey.”

— The Lowell Sun via AP

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**NCAA MBB AP Rankings — Week 5**

**Rank** | **Team** | **Conf.** | **Overall** | **Streak** | **Next**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1. | Gonzaga (43) | 0-0 | 8-0 | W8 | 12/3 vs. Washington
2. | Kansas (10) | 0-0 | 7-0 | W9 | 12/8 vs. N. Mexico State
3. | Duke (1) | 0-0 | 7-0 | W4 | 12/3 vs. Hartford
4. | Virginia (1) | 0-0 | 8-0 | W6 | 12/8 vs. VCU
5. | Michigan | 0-0 | 8-0 | W9 | 12/8 vs. North Carolina
6. | Nevada | 0-0 | 8-0 | W8 | 12/7 vs. 20 Arizona State
7. | Tennessee | 0-0 | 8-0 | W2 | 12/8 vs. 1 Gonzaga
8. | Auburn | 0-0 | 7-1 | W5 | 12/8 vs. Dayton
9. | Kentucky | 0-0 | 7-1 | W4 | 12/8 vs. Seton Hall
10. | Michigan State | 0-0 | 7-2 | W2 | 12/8 vs. Florida

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**NCAA MBB AP Rankings — Week 5 Cont.**

**Rank** | **Team** | **Conf.** | **Overall** | **Streak** | **Next**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
11. | Florida State | 0-0 | 7-1 | W2 | 12/8 vs. UConn
12. | Wisconsin | 0-0 | 8-1 | W3 | 12/8 @ Marquette
13. | Texas Tech | 0-0 | 7-0 | W7 | 12/2 @ Ark.-Pine Bluff
14. | North Carolina | 0-0 | 8-2 | L1 | 12/5 vs. UConn
15. | Virginia Tech | 0-0 | 8-2 | W4 | 12/7 vs. Virginia
16. | Kansas State | 0-0 | 8-2 | W1 | 12/8 @ Tulsa
17. | Buffalo | 0-0 | 8-1 | W7 | 12/5 vs. Le Moyne
18. | Iowa | 0-0 | 8-2 | L2 | 12/5 vs. Florida State
19. | Ohio State | 0-0 | 7-1 | W4 | 12/5 vs. Illinois
20. | Arizona State | 0-0 | 7-0 | W7 | 12/7 vs. 6 Nevada
Netflix cancels *Daredevil* after three seasons

**Griffin Sendek**

Marvel’s Netflix saga is coming to an end. With the cancellation of *Daredevil*, the show that started it all back in 2015, the light of Marvel’s most successful venture onto the small screen is slowly, but surely, burning out.

The announcement on Nov. 29, 2018, that *Daredevil* would not be returning for a fourth season came as a surprise that no one saw coming, this decision not only blindsided the fans of the show, but the actors, writers and even the Marvel executives as well.

“Marvel’s *Daredevil* will not return for a fourth season on Netflix,” Netflix told Deadline in an official statement. “We are tremendously grateful to our incredible cast and crew for their incredible work. *Daredevil* character will live on in future projects for Marvel.”

That final statement about the *Daredevil* character living on in future projects might be a sign of hope for die-hard fans, but should be taken with a grain of salt. Netflix holds no domain over the character, and what they say should not be taken as an immediate announcement that *Daredevil* will return elsewhere for season four, if at all.

Marvel followed up Netflix’s statement the very next day with their own: “Marvel is extremely grateful to the huge audience that loved Marvel’s *Daredevil* ... We look forward to more adventures with the Man without Fear in the future.”

Yet again a hopeful message, but one that gives zero concrete details of when the character of *Daredevil* might return, or in what capacity. No matter how much I would like to add to the rumors that the show might be making the transition over to Disney’s upcoming streaming service Disney+, all the current evidence points to that not being the case.

Disney already has announced a list of Marvel-themed plans for the streaming service, such as a Loki show, Winter Soldier and Falcon series, as well as a show centered around Scarlet Witch — not included is any mention of *Daredevil* or other Marvel Netflix show characters. Another nail in the coffin for *Daredevil* making the transition is that all the planned Disney+ series are being developed by Marvel’s movie studio and not its TV division.

After Netflix axed Marvel’s Iron Fist and Luke Cage in October, the signs that Netflix was starting to cut the majority of its Marvel TV series were beginning to show. After the immense critical success of *Daredevil* season 3 though, it appeared that the show would be here to stay, but obviously, that was not the case.

Netflix doesn’t reveal viewership statistics for their shows and likely never will, but third-party data measurement platforms are occasionally able to extract some figures. According to Parrot analytics, Marvel’s *Daredevil* placed fourth in viewer demand and popularity among Netflix original content. If Parrot analytics’ data is to be believed, it seems as though Netflix saw the substantial fan base of *Daredevil* but turned a blind eye.

The only remaining Marvel Netflix series are *Jessica Jones* and *The Punisher*. Nothing has been confirmed as of yet but all the signs point to *Jessica Jones* and *The Punisher* soon joining the ranks of the other canceled Marvel Netflix shows, after the release of their latest seasons. The chances of *Jessica Jones* surviving past season 3, and *The Punisher* continuing past season 2, are slim to none.

It is sad to see *Daredevil* go, but if this truly the end for this iteration of the character, season 3 was the best goodbye anyone could have asked for.

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**Natalie Schroeder**

With Christmas coming up this month, Freeform premiered *Life-size 2: A Christmas Eve*, the long awaited sequel to *Life-size* that was released in 2000. The first installment follows Casey Stuart, portrayed by Lindsay Lohan, as she tries to cope with the death of her mother. Hoping to bring her mother back with a magic book she has found, the spell goes awry when her Eve doll comes to life instead.

Following this, Eve helps Casey cope with the death of her mother and everything that has happened since. While Tyra Banks has reprised her role as Eve, the role of the cast is new. Both the original and this sequel follow the main character through hardships and Eve attempts to help the girls.

This sequel follows Grace Manning, portrayed by Francia Raisa, as she becomes the CEO of Marathon Toys. Soon after taking this role, she realizes she is in over her head and the Eve doll gets discontinued, which moves the plot toward Grace’s Eve doll coming to life. The movie follows Grace as she gives up on the company and soon realizes that she can’t let the Eve doll be discontinued.

Although Lindsay Lohan does not make a physical cameo as fans had hoped, there are nods to her character in the first film. There was a picture of her character, Casey, with a note about the book that brought Eve to life in the first movie. The name Casey was mentioned again in the ending when they used her love for football as an inspiration for a new doll.

The first movie was highly rated and taught valuable lessons and morals to their viewers. While this second movie has lessons to be taught, the storytelling is several levels under the first. Throughout the movie, there were many scenes that someone who grew up with the first movie would find uncomfortable and forced.

Adapting the dialogue to how people think teens talk today is almost ill advised for a movie that is about a doll coming to life with magic. Since the platform allows more leeway with subject matter, there are many scenes that suggest they were thinking of their older audience. However, these scenes were the hardest to watch.

This sequel brought back the song “Be A Star” and also attempted to add a new flair to it. While the desire to do this is understandable, the new version was difficult to watch because the lyrics did not match the childlike performance. During this new version, they introduced new dolls to their audience with “woke Eve” being one of the main ideas. While it is easy to understand the reasoning behind this idea, this being the name of the doll seems to be unnecessary.

With the extended wait of almost 19 years between the first movies and its sequel, it was hard to look away from the movie because of the desire to see the ending. There were important conversations between Grace and her friends and, even more importantly, with her mom. Throughout the movie we learn about the hardships that Grace has had to face and even though it is enough for anyone to give up, the viewers are certain that Grace won’t.

Even though the wait was long, and Banks was capable of reprising her role, the Grace Manning character was not as likeable as Casey Stuart. The ratings for this movie were not awful but there were aspects of the movie that hindered its ability to get a rating higher than 5.5 from IMDb. The movie as a whole was not as iconic as the first movie, but what sequel is?
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THIS WEEK’S WEATHER

Thursday
37 ° Cloudy, snow late in the p.m.

Friday
32 ° Mostly cloudy; cold

Saturday
32 ° Times of clouds and sun

Sunday
36 ° Rather cloudy

Monday
38 ° Mostly cloudy

Tuesday
39 ° Partly sunny

Wednesday
42 ° Times of clouds and sun

Courtesy of AccuWeather

LISTEN LIVE 24/7

DUQSM.COM/WDSR/

Happy Holidays!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE DUKE