Duquesne's campus seems to be ever-changing and evolving — a trend that will continue as the university adds a medical college to the mix.

The university announced that it will be launching a College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will be the second medical school in Pittsburgh and the first Catholic osteopathic medical school in the state. The college is set to open and accept its first class in the fall semester of 2023.

To accommodate the expansion of university programs, Duquesne plans to construct an 80,000 to 100,000 square-foot building on Forbes Ave. to house the new medical college. The program, which consists of four years of study followed by a residency, will admit an initial class of 75 in fall 2023 and is expected to take another five years before reaching full maturity at an estimated 600 medical students or more. “Given Duquesne’s broad strengths in elements connected to integrative health — in pharmacy, nursing, the natural sciences, health sciences and even in business and music — we are exceptionally well suited to serve this need in our region,” Duquesne President Ken Gormley said in a news release.

Doctors of osteopathic medicine primarily serve as family or general practitioners, which strongly aligns with the university’s Catholic and Spiritan values, according to Duquesne University Provost David Dausey.

“The idea for the medical college is embedded within the mission of the university,” he said. “Osteopathic medical doctors seek to treat the mind, body and spirit as we seek to educate the mind, body and spirit.”

Planned for during the creation of Duquesne’s 2018-2023 strategic plan, Reimagining Duquesne’s Spiritan Legacy for a New Era, August 22, 2019

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THE DUQUESNE DUKE
PROUDLY SERVING OUR CAMPUS SINCE 1925

Students are back on the Bluff

New students line up to receive their name badges during Move-In Day on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Classes begin on Aug. 26, with upperclassmen moving in on August 23 and 24.
New vice provost announced for Duq

Kellen Stepler
staff writer

The start of a new school year can signal many changes and new beginnings for most people. Take Dr. Jeffrey Miller, for example. Miller was named vice provost of Duquesne University in July.

University Provost David Dausey said in a statement to the DU Times that, “Jeff Miller has provided the steady leadership necessary for the progress we have made in pursuing significant academic goals at Duquesne.”

Miller has been employed by Duquesne for 21 years. Previously, he served as an associate dean for graduate studies and research in the school of education. Before being promoted to vice provost, Miller served as associate provost for administration. All this will influence his outlook as vice provost.

“As a professor, scholar and administrator I understand the needs of both students and faculty which further helps guide my decision making,” Miller said.

He will continue to teach courses in psychological education, and re-searching and mentoring doctoral students.

As vice provost, Miller will be responsible for academic support units program development, planning and budget, international programs, academic and enterprise computing and classroom technology and facilities management.

“My overarching goal for all of these units is to encourage useful innovation that enhances the Duquesne experience for students, faculty, and staff,” Miller said.

His direct reports will be the offices of online learning, international programs, learning skills and classroom technologies. Miller will continue to serve as a liaison with planning and budget, computing and technology services and facilities management in the division of management and business. Miller, along with associate provosts, will work closely with the deans to achieve the academic mission of Duquesne.

The responsibilities and duties of vice provost are similar to those of the provost.

“The vice provost fills in for the provost in his absence and serves as a close advisor to him,” said Miller. “Also, I direct most of the operational activities of the provost office.”

While teaching at Duquesne, Miller has been recognized by the university with awards for leadership, service, innovation and teaching.

In 2009, he won a presidential scholarship award and in 2002, a creative teaching award. In 2009-2010, he was an academic leadership program fellow.

Miller earned his Ph.D. in school psychology from Arizona State University in 1995.

According to his biography, Miller is “a board-certified school psychologist by the American Board of Professional Psychology, a licensed psychologist and a certified school psychologist.”

In addition to his academic career, Miller has also served on the Board of the American Board of School Psychology, Vice-President of the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology, and chair of the School Psychology Specialty Council. Professionally, Miller is affiliated with the American Academy of School Psychology, the American Psychological Association, membership in the Division 16 School Psychology and the National Association of School Psychologists, and the Pennsylvania Psychological Association.

Miller has published more than 30 books, book chapters and refereed journal articles. His most recent book is entitled Speciality Competencies in School Psychology.

According to his biography, [Miller’s] research has focused on functional behavioral assessment of children, the translation of neuropsychological knowledge to improve teaching and learning, and professional issues in school psychology.”

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Aug. 19 - Sept. 2

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Praxis Practicum to take on new students for upcoming semester

PRAXIS— from page 1

“Hiring is on the rise,” Dausey notes. “Journalism students, I think, get the most out of it right now, as well as media and communications, but we’re trying to expand the scope a little bit,” he said.

The course aims to teach students how to think on their feet, while also giving them the opportunity to sharpen their narrative skills. “It’s great hands-on experience. You get to work with a camera and interview people. You get to learn how to craft a story from start to finish,” Dunham said. “You learn how to conceptualize, do research, go out and shoot, log your footage, edit and basically a bit of every step of the process.”

It’s that kind of knowledge that employers seek out in recent graduates. One of last semester’s Praxis students just started at WTAE.

Regarding a long-term goal for the semester, Dunham hopes students will leave the course with a better understanding of the storytelling process.

“Join the class if you’re interested, and we’ll see if we can teach you something,” he said.

Students who would like to learn more or enroll in the course are encouraged to reach out to Dunham at dunham@duq.edu, or Clark at news4clark@yahoo.com.

Osteopathic school only second in Pittsburgh

MED — from page 1

The medical college will be the university’s 10th school, in addition to the already existing schools of business, education, health sciences, law, liberal arts, music, natural sciences, nursing and pharmacy. The university intends for all to go hand in hand, creating interprofessional training across all programs.

“The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be a hub, synthesizing in some ways all that we do well,” Dausey said. “Because integrative medicine is so highly integrated, all of our competencies, liberal arts is also involved. We have a music therapy program here. The connection between law and pharmacy is perhaps many tentacles. Education is as much about wellness as it is about knowledge, and business concerns can both aggravate and ameliorate health challenges. The medical college will have ties to every school on campus.”

In order for this college to become a reality, however, it must find a dean. Duquesne is kicking off the search this month for a founding dean, with the help of a national search firm.

“We are looking for a medical leader who understands Duquesne University’s mission and who is an expert on integrative health approaches to medicine,” Dausey said. “At the core, we seek a leader to educate medical students to look at the mind, body and spirit of their patients, to be with them and to listen to their concerns. While such practice certainly is about curing, it is equally about caring.”

In addition to Duquesne’s highly-ranked programs related to health and healthcare, there is also a shortage of physicians, as shown in a study published by the Association of American Medical Colleges in April 2019. “Trends show medical students trained at major academic medical centers tend to practice primarily in medical subspecialties, while osteopaths are more likely to become general practitioners, where the demand for more physicians is even greater,” Dausey notes.

During their planning, Duquesne conferred with representatives from regional universities, medical professionals and other individuals in city and state government, and their plans were met with much enthusiasm.

Regional hospital officials even noted that with the already existing medical schools in the area, the need for residents and interns is still very high, specifically for osteopathic practitioners.

“This major leap forward for Duquesne, Pittsburgh and our region is a bold move that we’re confident will ensure quality healthcare requires new kinds of practitioners,” Gormley said.

Former Italian Prime Minister has ties to Duquesne

OLIVE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

After more than a year of political and financial uncertainty, Italy’s government collapsed on Tuesday following the resignation of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

According to a Duke article from the spring of 2018, Conte attended Duquesne University in the 1990s through the Villa Nazareth program, which allows Italian students to attend graduate programs on the Bluff and undergraduates from Duquesne to attend classes at Villa Nazareth in a sort of cultural exchange program. While Conte was not a student, he was engaged in legal research on campus, and had met university’s then-president John Murray, as well as A.J. Palumbo.

Conte had become prime minister in June 2018, after the anti-establishment Five Star Party (M5S) reached a coalition with the far-right and eurosceptic League. The coalition, however, was tenuous at best, and it fell apart earlier this month, with tensions reaching an apex following disputes over key policy decisions regarding immigration and Europe.

In an hour-long speech on Aug. 20, Conte criticized Matteo Salvini, Italy’s deputy prime minister, interior minister and frontman of the League, accusing him of putting his personal interests first, and thus jeopardizing the national interests of the country. His concerns were addressed to the nation’s upper legislative chamber, and his resignation was submitted to President Sergio Mattarella, who will decide what comes next.

Salvini has allegedly been running for Conte’s position as prime minister, and empowered by his increasing popularity and the waning popularity of Conte and the M5S, Salvini had called for new elections. A move that Conte had called “irresponsible.”

Salvini’s popularity, and thus his motions to unseat Conte, fit into a broader theme of far-right resurgence across Europe. The League stands by its populist “Italy First” sentiment, and under Salvini’s hand, it has embraced a staunch anti-immigration policy.

The new cloud of unease settling over Italy could jeopardize the already weakened financial state of the country, as borrowing costs threaten to rise. According to CNBC, Italy’s debt-to-GDP ratio exceeds 130% — the highest in Europe, aside from Greece, which rests at just over 170% as of 2017. With Italian growth rates seemingly locked in place, the government risks an overshoot of deficit spending as it enters an era of political diqust.

The future is uncertain, and one of several things could happen: Salvini could get his wish for fresh elections. But in submitting his resignation, Conte left the power in the hands of Mattarella, sidestepping Salvini’s call for a confidence vote, which he and the League had immediately withdrawn.

It’s also possible that Mattarella could begin putting together a new permanent governing coalition or a temporary caretaker government. There’s talk about the center-left Democratic Party partnering with the M5S, which would effectively oust both the League and Salvini.

The Democratic Party and the M5S have rejected one another’s policies and advancements in the past, and even though some deep differences form a stark divide between the parties, necessity might bring them to form an unlikely coalition.

For Hire

Opinions Editor

The Duquesne Duke

The Duke is currently looking for a new Opinions Editor starting in the Fall 2019 semester. This is a paid position that is open to any full-time Duquesne student, but candidates with journalism experience are preferred. For those looking to apply, resumes and cover letters should be sent to theduqduke@gmail.com by Sept 1.
“The world needs a sense of worth, and it will achieve it only by its people feeling that they are worthwhile.”

FRED ROGERS

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@TheDuquesneDuke

OPINIONS

Rainbow capitalism could harm LGBTQ+ community

TIMOTHY RUSH
staff columnist

The U.S. has undergone rapid social change over the course of the last two decades, and while things are far from perfect, strides have been made toward inclusion. Progress has been made to include members of the LGBTQ+ community, but recently, that same progress is co-opted by companies and corporations to make a profit.

Take so-called “rainbow capitalism,” which refers to the market shift to cater to the LGBTQ+ community, wherein even large corporations like banks become sponsors of gay pride parades and your local Hot Topic is selling gay pride merchandise. The greatest sign of this is the aptly named “Proud Whopper,” released for a limited time by Burger King in 2014 for the San Francisco Pride Parade. This burger was no different than other Whoppers, but it came with a rainbow packaging and a nice feel-good message, “We are all the same.” The point of this is very simple: spend little to no money to get a progressive message. Now, your gimmick has become the newest trend.

Civil rights and black liberation movements are not strangers to this, either, with their agendas being taken and resold in easily consumable merchandise. Not even feminism is immune to the market forces seeking to capitalize on those who wish to show off their support for women’s rights. The market is taking things that are even contrary to its current existence, like communism and anti-colonialism, and reverse engineering them to serve its benefactors a profit.

Now we come to a point where we must answer two questions. First, is this even a bad thing? Second, if it is bad, how can we, as consumers, stop it or cope with it?

The first is very nuanced and depends largely on your side of the political aisle. Neoliberalists may love this idea because the market is great, while socialists might hate it because the market is bad. I’m not writing this to praise or shame capitalism, but to raise awareness to the negatives of such a practice and why it is ultimately negative for a progressive society.

Slacktivism is the first part of this. People can now excuse going to actual activist events because they went to the highly capitalized pride parade sponsored by Niss, or instead of engaging with people in their lives they just wear their $25 T-shirt from Spencer’s. Instead of becoming activists — conduits for social change — they just become mindless consumers to a market that has deemed their beliefs as profitable.

Going to real marches and having those awkward conversations are both done less frequently now that the market has a convenient way to just show off you like LGBTQ+ rights for an awesome price. Why do the work when you can just pay to feel good about yourself?

You’re a real activist when you tell your racist relative that they’re wrong. A real activist doesn’t just go to Pride every year; they write their representatives in Congress to continue the fight that is still not won for equal rights. Real activism is not a hashtag on Twitter; it’s voting and engaging with people to change policies. Sure, pride parades are fun, but remember that it’s not a substitute for real social change.

Let’s also remember where most of those things come from and what they do. The Proud Whopper is still a greasy sandwich, and any health expert will tell you to avoid it. That shirt with the nice message about love and tolerance that you bought for $30 was more than likely made in a sweatshop by cheap and abused labor. Companies still do all the bad things they do, but now they can do it under the mask of being progressive.

So, what can be done about it?

First off, don’t fall into the sway of slacktivism as a result of this practice. Activism can be as grand as joining a march or a campaign, or as small as talking to your family and friends and taking time to write your representative in Congress. When it comes to activism, literally anything helps, but you still have to do something.

Second is get informed about the places you buy from. Instead of buying your pride or feminist T-shirt from a big company like Spencer’s or Hot Topic, look on line or locally for small businesses and artists. Not only is it often cheaper, but you know where the money is going, and your new shirt will be much more unique. Instead of going to Pride sponsored by Walmart, organize an event on your college campus or neighborhood. Locally organized events will often redistribute the money to the community, help local businesses and go much further in inspiring pride when your community comes together to celebrate it.

College students especially are in a unique position to make grand social change in even the smallest of communities. Duquesne University hosts several on-campus organizations that one can join up with to help make the change they want to see. If you want to help raise awareness and empower yourself and your community to combat racial injustice, look into such organizations as the Ebony Women for Social Change or Duquesne’s chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Gender Forum and Duquesne Pride (Lambda) exist for feminist and LGBTQ+ advocacy, respectively. The College Democrats, College Republicans and Democratic Socialists of America are on campus if you want to get more political. And if you don’t see one that fits what you’re looking for, Duquesne is always looking for new organizations to form and take part in the campus community.
FEATURES

What events are happening on campus this year?

Kendra Kneisl
staff writer

Welcome back to the Bluff! The start of a new academic year means another semester filled with time-tested favorite events as well as some new ones. So, what’s on the program from now until finals week? We’re here to help you get in the know and add some events to your calendar this term.

There are many regularly-scheduled events that occur throughout the semester, promising students something to attend every week. The Duquesne Program Council (DPC) shows movies every week on Friday and Saturday evenings, with the movies ranging from classics to more newly-released films. Catch the first of the DPC Film Series on Sept. 5, 6 and 7 in 105 College Hall, Assumption Commons and the NiteSpot, respectively.

Every Friday, students can attend DPC’s “DUNites,” located at the NiteSpot for plenty of entertainment and free food. DUNites include Tie Dye Night, Paint Monkey Night, Milkshake Night, Lava Lamp Night and more. DPC also hosts Trivia Nights throughout the semester, so be on the lookout for those events to test your knowledge for the chance to win some major prizes. Trivia lovers can also attend Orientation’s ‘Late Trivia on Aug. 23 at 11 p.m., and later in the semester is Homecoming’s Super Trivia, which occurs on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Red King Bar & Grille.

There are always a bunch of events offered at the beginning of the semester to welcome back students and celebrate the new school year. On Wednesday, Aug. 28, Bingo is in the NiteSpot. Come join at 9 p.m. in the quest to win gift cards and other prizes. To see what student organizations you could become a part of, stop by the Duquesne Expo on Sept. 4 on Academic Walk. Every semester, DPC hosts one of the most popular events on campus, Epic Bingo, which will occur on Sept. 20 at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. There are some huge prizes at stake, so it can get pretty competitive.

Also, PSA. Time to pull out your fuzzy socks and sweaters already. Starbucks is releasing their Pumpkin Spice Latte at their earliest ever date: Aug. 27. On an academic note, the 18th Annual Forensic Science and Law Symposium is presenting “Hunting the Hunters: An Interdisciplinary Investigation into Serial Killing,” from Sept. 11 to 13 in Fisher Hall; you can register online. Following, from Sept. 24 to 25 is the Integrity of Creation Conference: Towards a Healthy Planet, located in the Power Center Ballroom. Speakers from a variety of backgrounds will come to engage in meaningful discussion over the course of a couple days.

The Fall Career Expo takes place Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. On Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. is the 18th Annual Kattie Westbrook 5k and Dog Walk. All proceeds benefit the Public Interest Law Association and the Student Loan Fund.

And be sure to check out “DUQ N’ Roll,” the university’s very own Battle of the Bands on Sat., Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. First place winners receive $1,000! Tickets are free and can be picked up at the Union information desk with your student ID.

Enjoy these early semester events, because Homecoming Weekend will be here before you know it. Homecoming is full of festivities, including the annual AutumnFest on Academic Walk on Sat., Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. AutumnFest is a great way to learn more about and potentially get involved with the multitude of organizations on campus, especially if you missed the Expo on Sept. Not to mention the carnival games, prizes and free food along the route. If all that doesn’t entice you, at least drop by for a free Homecoming 2019 T-shirt handed out by DPC on Academic Walk, or cheer on the Dukes at Rooney Field for the football game at 1 p.m., where Duquesne faces Wagner.

Dining Services also hosts events during the semester, including cookie dough pop-ups, a Chopped competition, and even themed meals in Hogan Dining Center.

To stay up to date on all the happenings on campus, be sure to check your emails during the semester (even the junk folder), download the FoodU app to see campus menus, hours and Dining Services events; and download the CORQ app, which lists most of the events, service opportunities and student offers occurring on and around campus.

Weekend art festival takes over Shadyside area

Samantha Zapach
staff writer

Although the end of summer is quickly approaching, the fun activities to experience in Pittsburgh continue on.

The 23rd annual Shadyside Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning as a small art fair in 1997, the Shadyside Arts Festival is now one of the most popular outdoor art shows in Pennsylvania.

The festival, which is free to attend, will take place on Walnut Street in Shadyside. The neighborhood streets, which are already home to a variety of shops and restaurants, will be lined with tents and tables featuring various types of fine art from more than 150 vendors throughout the weekend.

Local artists, as well as those coming from around the globe, will showcase their passions and talents for the Pittsburgh community to browse and enjoy. Some of the art available for purchase include jewelry, ceramics, leather goods, photography, paintings, pottery, sculptures, glassworks, clothing and more. A full list of festival exhibitors can be found on the artfestival.com/shadyside-exhibitor-list-august-2019.

The intimate environment of the festival encourages visitors to directly speak with the artists, enabling them to get to know the artist and gain a solid understanding of the inspiration and story behind their work.

It is unclear how much street parking will be available in the immediate area due to the festival, but attendees can utilize the Shadyside Parking Garage located at 743 Bellefonte St. Or, if you don’t mind getting some extra steps in, find a spot to park a few blocks away and make your way over to enjoy the festival.

It may even be easier to travel via public transit, as Walnut Street is a hub for buses. From Duquesne’s campus, you can hop on bus line 71B at the corner of Forbes Ave. and McCaulay Dr., riding it for 17 stops until you reach the corner of Highland Ave. and Walnut Street, which should only take about 30 minutes. Other lines with routes passing near Walnut Street are lines 64, 71D and 75.

For more information about the Shadyside Arts Festival, please visit artfestival.com/festivals/shadyside-the-art-festival-walnut-street-pittsburgh.

The multitude of events that take place on campus allow students to not only get involved in campus organizations, but to have fun with their fellow Dukes!
MBB Dukes release non-conference schedule

Once the Dukes return from the Bahamas, they’ll host VMI at Kerr Fitness Center on Dec. 4, followed by Columbia on Nov. 14, 2017, and has never faced Columbia before.

For the second season in a row, Duquesne will face the Radford Highlanders in Akron, Ohio, with this season’s contest falling on Dec. 14 at Firestone High School. Last year, DU bested Radford 69-64 on Nov. 17 at Akron’s St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

During the weekend of Dec. 21, the Dukes will face UAB and Austin Peay at the Mary High School. For the second season in a row, they will face off against Indiana State.

The mid-season trip to the Bahamas will be the second visit to the island for the Dukes in a matter of months. In early August, the team embarked on a preseason tour of the Bahamas, playing games in Nassau against Raw Talent Elite on Aug. 7 and Abaco Elite on Aug. 9.

Marshall forward Darius George boxes out Duquesne’s Austin Rotroff on Dec. 5, 2018, at the Palumbo Center. DU topped Marshall, 53-82. The Dukes and Thundering Herd will play this season in Cleveland.

As the 2019-20 season game, they will probably recognize a familiar face on the defensive side of the field.

Former Duquesne linebacker signs with Steelers

When Duquesne football fans tune in to an upcoming Pittsburgh Steelers preseason game, they will probably recognize a familiar face on the defensive side of the field.

Former Dukes standout linebacker, Christian Kuntz, signed with the Steelers earlier this month and is battling for a spot on the team’s 53-man roster. The linebacker made his preseason debut on Aug. 17 in Pittsburgh’s 17-7 win over the Kansas City Chiefs.

“I like telling people I’m from Duquesne,” Kuntz told reporters following the win. “They’re like ‘what the heck is that? They see me wearing the shirt and they don’t know how to pronounce it, so I just say it’s in Pittsburgh. It’s kind of cool.”

In his four seasons on the Bluff, Kuntz established himself as one of the best defensive players in program history. The linebacker is one of two Duquesne products to earn All-American honors three times, and was named NEC Defensive Player of the year in 2015 and 2016.

He also holds the school record for most career sacks (30.5), and ranks fourth in NCAA FCS history with 71.5 tackles for loss.

Since he began his professional career, the 25-year-old has spent time with both the Denver Broncos and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

With both teams, he has primarily worked as a long snapper, but has taken reps on both sides of the ball with the Steelers.

Kuntz, a Pittsburgh-area native and graduate of Chartiers Valley High School, grew up a Steelers fan. He has attended a number of games at Heinz Field as a fan and idolized former Steelers defensive end Brett Keisel.

Now, he dons the same No. 99 on the back of his jersey that Keisel wore for 12 seasons with the Steelers. The former-Steelers even took to Twitter to send Kuntz his regards, and wished him luck in the upcoming season.

“Rooting for you Christian! @GoDuquesne 99,” said Keisel on his Twitter account.

Though the former Duke only saw a handful of snaps toward the end of his first game with the Steelers, he will have two more games to impress before the preseason concludes.

The Steelers will travel to face the Tennessee Titans on Aug. 25, before taking on the Carolina Panthers on Aug. 29.

It’s unclear whether Kuntz will latch onto the Steelers as a long snapper, a long snapper, or even at all. For now, he just wants to put in the necessary effort to get a shot.

“Just work hard,” he said. “It’s kind of instilled in us. It’s a Pittsburgh thing.”

He’s a Pittsburgh thing.”

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Kuntz been his professional career, the 25-year-old has spent time with both the Denver Broncos and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

With both teams, he has primarily worked as a long snapper, but has taken reps on both sides of the ball with the Steelers.

Kuntz, a Pittsburgh-area native and graduate of Chartiers Valley High School, grew up a Steelers fan. He has attended a number of games at Heinz Field as a fan and idolized former Steelers defensive end Brett Keisel.

Now, he dons the same No. 99 on the back of his jersey that Keisel wore for 12 seasons with the Steelers. The former-Steelers even took to Twitter to send Kuntz his regards, and wished him luck in the upcoming season.

“Rooting for you Christian! @GoDuquesne 99,” said Keisel on his Twitter account.

Though the former Duke only saw a handful of snaps toward the end of his first game with the Steelers, he will have two more games to impress before the preseason concludes.

The Steelers will travel to face the Tennessee Titans on Aug. 25, before taking on the Carolina Panthers on Aug. 29.

It’s unclear whether Kuntz will latch onto the Steelers as a long snapper, a long snapper, or even at all. For now, he just wants to put in the necessary effort to get a shot.

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Kuntz was a member of three NEC Championship teams (2013, 2015, 2016) during his time at Duquesne.
Invader Zim successfully returns to Earth

Neil Runge
staff writer

Invader Zim: Enter the Florpus, released on Netflix this past Friday, is yet another film to join the long list of media from the 90s and early 2000s to be rebooted and brought back to life.

More than a decade since the final episode of the show aired, Netflix has partnered with Nickelodeon to bring viewers back to The City, its citizens, the titular alien Zim and his arch-enemy Dib.

Unlike other reboots though, Enter the Florpus doesn’t try to be something it’s not. It sticks to the things that made the original series so fun to watch. The quirky humor and jokes that middle schoolers think are the height of comedy are what made Invader Zim amazing and its reboot film just as good, even though most of its viewers aren’t in middle school anymore.

At its core, Invader Zim was always grotesque and frankly odd show that was a staple for many people’s childhoods. It doesn’t abandon that in favor of, say, showing off computer technology in the name of a live-action remake. It stays true to the weird roots that made this show so popular during the early 2000s.

The adherence to the core aesthetic of Zim’s story in the new movie is largely thanks to the participation of the show’s original creator, Jhonen Vasquez. Netflix knew that any major creative departure from the classic series would be picked apart by loyal fans.

Vasquez is the main creative drive behind the characters that make up the world. He worked with the writers to build upon the Invader Zim characters and ideas that he originated.

Banking on an audience’s nostalgia wasn’t what brought Invader Zim and Dib back. It was the desire to continue a tale, to build lore and to show what had happened since the audience last saw these characters.

Under all of the jokes and behind the sharp lines of Vasquez’s famous art style is a new type of message. Invader Zim as a TV show was never really one to deliver deep messages but Enter the Florpus gave one about family.

It told the audience that family sticks around and supports weird interests and has your back no matter the situation. The writers changed an absent — and often mean — father to one that is confused by his son Dib’s interests but will stick by him and have his back.

Even with sticking to the essence of the world Vasquez created, minor changes were made, but they were far from bad. They gave depth to characters that were previously one-dimensional, added complexity to the world and made something already good into something better.

The art and story are captivating. The past decade of technological advancements allowed for a sharper, modernized style without sacrificing the distinctive visual aesthetic of the original.

This movie may be many fans’ introduction to Vasquez and his work, and there couldn’t have been a better start. It isn’t necessary to know every ounce of lore to find the film enjoyable.

This movie doesn’t disappoint. It’s colorful and funny. It uses nostalgia to draw in an audience but it doesn’t bank on it. Invader Zim: Enter the Florpus is beautiful, early-2000s art.
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