



## Welcome back, time to hit the stacks



Students return to campus and to the library as the Spring 2020 semester begins on Jan. 9.

GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

## New drug created to target only cancer cells

**KELLEN STEPLER**  
features editor

A Duquesne University pharmacy professor and his team have recently created and synthesized a drug that targets cancer cells without damaging normal cells.

Aleem Gangjee and students in his lab have developed a way to block the protein SHMT 2. When SHMT 2 is overproduced in the body, it is a major contributing factor in pancreatic cancer cases.

Gangjee explained that SHMT 2 is known as an “onco driver,” which is an enzyme that drives cancer.

“The goal of the drug is to attack a specific enzyme in pancreatic cancers,” Gangjee said. “The onco driver leads to growth of cancer cells in the pancreas.”

Gangjee also notes the drug is selective; the new treatment will

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## Osteopathic School of Medicine finds its home at DU

**JESSICA LINCOLN**  
staff writer

Duquesne's new College of Osteopathic Medicine now has a home, officials confirmed in December, as the university entered into a purchase agreement for a Forbes Avenue building site.

The Medical College will be located at 1323 Forbes Ave., a 1.2-acre site bordered by Magee Street to the west and Stevenson Street to the east.

The university has agreed to pay \$5.7 million for the site, which is currently occupied by the headquarters of Life'sWork of Western PA, a non-profit organization. The new building will sit across from the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse (formerly A.J. Palumbo Center), which began renovations last year.



KATIA FAROUN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ations last year.

“I believe that 1323 Forbes Avenue is the ideal location for the new medical school,” said John M. Kauffman Jr., the founding dean of the medical college, who assumed the role on Jan. 1. “In addition to being at the entrance of the university, it is located across the street from UPMC Mercy Hospital, where we anticipate training medical students. This co-location of medical school and teaching hospital would serve the needs of our communities, the medical students and the faculty very well.”

Work on the building will commence later this year with the demolition of the Weitzman Building, which has served as the headquarters of Life'sWork for nearly 50 years.

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## POLICE BRIEFS

Welcome back to campus! Somehow there was crime over break for us to report. Let's hope your New Year's resolution is to do better.

On Dec. 18, a student reported that one of his roommates may have taken his microwave and an expensive jacket.

On Dec. 23, a non-affiliated female reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a Duquesne University student in the Locust Street Parking Garage. The City of Pittsburgh Police sexual assault unit was contacted and is handling the investigation.

On Dec. 28, the theft of a bicycle had been discovered, but no victim has reported it missing as of this time.

## JOKE CORNER!

I was gonna tell a time-traveling joke, but you guys didn't like it.

Job interviewer: "And where would you see yourself in five years' time Mr. Jeffries?"

Mr. Jeffries: "Personally I believe my biggest weakness is in listening."

Q: What's the best thing about Switzerland?

A: I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

Q: What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?

A: It gets toad away.

## EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Hallie Lauer and hallielauer18@gmail.com

# DU professor creates drug to attack cancer cells, leave healthy cells alone

CANCER — from page 1

enter only pancreatic tumors. He explained that cancer cells have a transport mechanism that allows them to facilitate nutrients to enter the cell. Some transport systems are only in tumor cells, while others are found in normal and tumor cells.

"The drug avoids normal cells, and just attacks cancerous cells," Gangjee said. "Only cancerous cells get transported."

Currently, the drug is still in animal trials. These studies have been successful thus far, as the treatment has yielded positive results in both early and late-stage pancreatic cancer.

"We expect the drug in clinical trials in about a year or two, but there are a lot of hoops to jump through," Gangjee said.

Gangjee is hopeful to begin pre-clinical development of the drug in the near future with a group



COURTESY DUQUESNE.EDU

called Flag Therapeutics, which is an early-stage oncology company.

Last year, Gangjee shared his findings at an American Association of Cancer Research conference, and the results have been published in Molecular Cancer Therapeutics.

The idea to create a drug like this was "obvious," according to Gangjee.

"Once we found that SHMT 2 was an onco driver, it was just a matter of designing a drug," Gangjee said. "It took an enormous amount of time, it didn't just happen overnight. The idea was mine, and lab student Junayed Nayeem synthesized the drug."

Chemical synthesis in drugs is an artificial execution of chemical reactions to obtain a product. Synthesis occurs through physical and chemical manipulations involving one or more reactions.

Gangjee explained that students in his lab synthesize the drug at Duquesne, and then send out the drug to other institutions to be tested. Gangjee collaborates with Dr. Larry Matherly at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, which tests the treatment, and Dr. Frank Sorgi, president and chief

executive officer at Flag Therapeutics, which develops the drug for clinical trials.

According to the American Cancer Society, pancreatic cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S., and has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers. For all stages combined, 91% of pancreatic cancer patients will die within five years of diagnosis.

Gangjee's research is not going unnoticed at Duquesne.

"Dr. Gangjee has dedicated his entire career to new drug discovery. His latest discovery, a drug targeting pancreatic cancer, is an excellent example of how basic science medical research contributes to increasing health outcomes in patient their communities, which is the essence of the mission of the School of Pharmacy at Duquesne," said J. Douglas Bricker, dean of Duquesne's School of Pharmacy.

## Medical school to take over LifeWorks building

OSTEOPATH— from page 1

Planners estimate that the new building and other improvements to the medical college will cost about \$60 million. A "substantial portion of the cost of construction" will be covered by upcoming fundraising efforts, the university said in a statement.

SLAM collaborative architects have already completed preliminary designs for the 80,000 square foot building, and construction is set to begin in June 2021. SLAM's previous work includes the Medical Education Building at Emory University and the Simulation Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

"In addition to administrative and faculty offices, the building will include more than 12,000 square feet of classroom space and more than 20,000 square feet of space for such advanced learning technologies as virtual anatomy labs, simulation exam and clinical spaces and virtual reality studios," the university statement said.

The project has been designed to work with Pittsburgh's Uptown EcoInnovation District initiative, a plan for sustainable redevelopment that the City Planning Commission formally adopted in 2017.

According to its official website, "the EcoInnovation District is an opportunity to identify the ways in which redevelopment can improve the environment, support the needs of existing residents and expand entrepreneurship and job growth."

As a result of the plan, new development in the Uptown area is expected to adhere to sustainable building performance standards, and developers are encouraged to use other "green" design strategies throughout the planning process. Preliminary designs for the medical college include enhanced greenspace in the area, as well as glassed lobby spaces and a curved setback from the road.

As for Life'sWork, the university has structured a delayed closing so that the organization and its tenants will have time to relocate. The organization will begin transitioning to its new space in the South Side this spring, with the move set to be completed by June 30.

"The space we have on Forbes Avenue is no longer ideally suited to meet our current and future needs," the organization said in a blog post. "We are proud that this new development will be so beneficial to all of our neighbors in the Uptown community and the City of Pittsburgh; it is a win all around!"

Although the university has not said when construction of the building is expected to finish, the College of Osteopathic Medicine is set to admit its first class in the fall of 2023. Kauffman, who has been included in discussions with the architects, is ready to get started.

"I am very honored and excited to have this amazing opportunity to build a medical school at this outstanding and highly respected university," Kauffman said.

## Man who claimed to be missing boy gets two years in prison

(AP) — An Ohio man who claimed to be a child who disappeared at age 6 pleaded guilty Wednesday to aggravated identity theft and will serve two years in prison, minus time served.

Brian Michael Rini, 24, of Medina, will be on one year of probation to be served at the end of his sentence, U.S. Judge Michael Barrett told him. Rini will be credited for time served dating to his arrest on April 4, 2019.

Rini, now with a neatly trimmed beard, answered Barrett with a soft "Yes, sir," when asked whether he understood the consequences of his plea.

Prosecutors dropped charges of lying to FBI agents. Barrett ordered a presentencing investigation into Rini's background, but both sides agreed that the federal identity theft statute requires a two-year sentence and that Rini will remain jailed without bond during the official sentencing.

Rini last year pleaded not guilty to identity theft and lying to FBI agents. He would have faced as many as eight years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Judge Barrett ruled Oct. 31 that Rini was competent to stand trial, after he underwent an evaluation in a federal facility in Chicago. A court transcript of the that hearing showed that the defense and prosecution had discussed settling the case.

Police said Rini was wandering the streets of Newport, Kentucky, last April 3. Police said he told them he was Timmothy Pitzen, an Auro-

ra, Illinois, boy who disappeared in 2011 at age 6. Authorities said Rini claimed he had just escaped captors who sexually abused him.

Federal authorities said they were suspicious after he refused to be fingerprinted. DNA testing quickly revealed his true identity.

Rini had been released from a state prison last March after serving more than a year on burglary and vandalism charges. Prison records show he was accused of making up stories during his time there.

Richard Monahan, a federal public defender, told Barrett that Rini still faces state probation violation charges, among other pending legal matters.

When confronted with the DNA results, Rini said he'd watched a story about Timmothy on ABC's "20/20" and wanted to get away from his own family, the FBI said. Authorities said he twice earlier portrayed himself in Ohio as a juvenile victim of sex trafficking.

In 2017, Rini was treated at an Ohio center for people with mental health or substance abuse problems, according to court records.

The hoax had briefly raised hope last year among Timmothy's relatives.

Timmothy vanished after his mother pulled him out of kindergarten, took him on a two-day road trip to the zoo and a water park, and then killed herself at a hotel. She left a note saying that her son was safe with people who would love and care for him, and added: "You will never find him."



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“I see my body  
as an instrument,  
rather than an  
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EDITORIAL  
POLICY

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WORDSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Relief from high prescription prices is nearing

Amid the recent chaos of the holiday season, a pending impeachment trial and the potential for a major conflict in the Middle East, it can be all too easy to overlook the last bills introduced to the Senate in the final days of 2019. After years of petitioning, the Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2019 is finally picking up speed in congress.

As many American families can attest to, prescription drug prices in the U.S. have soared in recent years. However, the cost of producing these drugs have not risen at the same speed as the out of pocket price.

Since 2014, a name brand EpiPen, owned by Mylan Pharmaceuticals, has more than doubled in price; the retail cost for a two-pack of EpiPens is currently close to \$700. Although a generic version of the drug was released in 2018 at roughly \$150 per two-pack, the new drug is also owned by Mylan Pharmaceuticals.

This product provides life-saving doses of epinephrine to people experiencing potentially deadly allergic reactions and anaphylactic shock. It is not a luxury item that should be reserved only for the wealthy. Severe allergies are not a choice and are in no way indicative of personal health failures, yet large pharmaceutical companies, like Mylan, choose to charge their customers unimaginable fees for vital medication.

This often places low-income families in extremely difficult situations, frequently having

to choose to allocate money to life-saving medication or other necessities like food, clothing or housing. No family should be placed in a position where their child cannot receive necessary medication because of its price.

However, pharmaceutical companies often argue that their high prices are needed to fund ground-breaking research and ensure the quality and



COLLEEN HAMMOND  
opinions editor

safety of their medications.

This could not be farther from the truth. The profit margins for Mylan are astronomical. Despite its bank-breaking price tag, Mylan employees have reported that a standard EpiPen only costs about \$30 to produce.

With that excessive profit margin, Mylan reported their 2018 total revenues reached \$11.43 billion. Unfortunately, as industry trends show, the majority of that revenue was spent on high executive salaries and marketing — not research.

As recent as 2016, large drug companies have been spending nearly double on marketing than on research. Johnson & Johnson, one of the largest drug

companies in America spent over \$17.2 million dollars on marketing while only spending \$8.2 million on research.

While these companies present themselves as cutting-edge medical pioneers, their interest in profit over research has paralyzed Americans most in need of medications.

Luckily, hope is not lost.

With the introduction of the Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2019, lawmakers have a unique opportunity to reform a very distorted section of the American marketplace. This bill, if passed, will allow for Congressional oversight of the price of brand-name drugs and force big pharmaceutical companies to disclose more financial information to help lawmakers discern appropriate prices for drugs.

This will increase transparency between the drug industry and consumers. Although it is not a perfect solution, this bill has the rare potential to adjust industry standards.

The Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2019 will bring the U.S. to the same level as the rest of the developed world. The U.S. has the highest prescription drug prices in the western world.

The industry's quest for profit has greatly disadvantaged the American people and places many low-income families in dire situations.

Despite the overwhelming start to 2020, lawmakers must not neglect their duty to protect the American people from pharmaceutical companies who seek to profit off of medical desperation.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

Paradise Lost

In a city called Eden, the skies overhead have turned red. Empty streets and vacated houses stand in stark opposition to the flames pushing residents toward the coast, where they hope to seek refuge on a crowded beach. Children wearing respirators pile into boats, and by the town's wharf, families wait out the blaze on dinghies and harbors, watching as smoke blots out the sun and night comes early.

It might sound like the establishing shot of a dystopian movie set sometime in the distant future, but for many Australians, a life cast in flames has been a harsh reality since Sept. 2019, when more than 100 wildfires began ravaging the southeastern portion of the continent, killing at least 25 people and more than one billion animals, according to USA Today.

The smoke is visible from space, and its haze reaches as far as New Zealand, situated more than 2,500 miles away.

Australia usually experiences a wildfire season ranging from December to March, but experts say human-caused climate change has contributed to a longer, more catastrophic fire season, which is quickly shaping up to be the worst in the country's history.

This year, a natural weather phenomenon called the Indian Ocean Dipole has brought record-breaking heat (an average maximum of about 107 degrees Fahrenheit) and drought to the states most affected, according to the BBC. But “the overwhelming scientific consensus is that rising levels of CO2 are warming the planet,” and with Australia's average temperatures running roughly 1C above the long-term average, the country's fires are set to become more frequent and more intense.

Climate change has lengthened the wildfire season, decreased rainfall across the continent and brought temperatures to new and dangerous highs. According to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, last year was both the hottest and driest year in the nation's history, and December was one of the top two hottest months ever recorded in Australia.

The devastation brought on by human-caused climate change has contributed to a long-term alteration to Australia's natural environment. Out of the more than one billion animals that are estimated to have perished, some of those are found on no other continent. Estimates say that up to 30% of koalas may have already perished, pushing the species closer to the brink of extinction, according to a USA Today interview with Stuart Blanch, an environmental scientist with the World Wildlife Fund in Australia.

Other species, including Australia natives such as kangaroos, wallabies, cockatoos and honeyeaters, have suffered devastating losses during the recent fires, and some subspecies are estimated to have been wiped out entirely.

Besides the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the



## Tensions with Iran raise under deeply inconsistent policies

HALLIE LAUER  
news editor

On Friday, Jan. 3, the U.S. launched a drone strike that killed Major General Qassim Suleimani — the head of Iranian security. Closely following the announcement of Suleimani's death, "World War 3" began trending on Twitter.

This drone strike, which the president is saying was not an act of war, has people contemplating the fact that America might very soon be in a conflict with Iran, as Iran has been promising retaliation. The president, though, is saying he launched this attack to "stop a war," and that Iran should not retaliate. Pot, meet kettle; we all know if the situation was reversed, the U.S. would retaliate without a second thought.

The U.S. put boots on the ground in the Middle East in 1958, and we haven't left since. It has been 61 years of American presence in the Middle East.

I thought Donald Trump's mantra was "America First." Yet, starting a conflict where we have to send more troops overseas and spend more money on the military doesn't seem like a very "America First" thing to do.

It is also beneficial to note that almost exactly a year ago, on Jan. 13, 2019, Donald Trump was tweeting about bringing troops from Syria home saying, "Stop the ENDLESS WARS," in his tweet.

What exactly are you doing here, President Trump, if not creating another endless war? You are creating a scenario that your successor, whether that be this year or in four more, will have to clean up.

The U.S. government is making a mistake here, and history will not look kindly upon this moment. War is wasteful — it wastes lives, resources and typically has little success. The military option is a very easy option for governments to cling to. However, it is less likely to yield sustainable results.

It is an even easier option when your country spends more on military alone than any other country in the entire world.

On Sunday, Jan. 5, two days after the drone strike, President Trump tweeted that the U.S. had spent \$2 trillion on new military equipment. Where are we getting that money? Somehow we don't have the funds for healthcare for all, or to help the homeless population in the U.S. or to combat climate



COURTESY OF CNN

Mourners take to the streets of Iran after the death of Iranian general and national hero, Qassim Suleimani.

change, but we have the money to get into a senseless war?

What we are in right now is similar, in my opinion, to when the U.S. was in the Vietnam War. Multiple presidents knew that the war wasn't going anywhere, yet they kept sending young men over there to die. For 61 years we've been sending American citizens to their death in the Middle East. Can someone explain what the difference is right now?

I understand that at this point it would be impossible for us to pull out completely, lest we risk creating another power vacuum (as is what happened when ISIS

was formed). But there was no need to launch this drone attack and mobilize American troops to send overseas.

I also completely understand that Suleimani was not a "good guy." He was an enemy of the state. However, that doesn't mean we can just launch drone strikes willy-nilly to kill our enemies every time our president feels like his power has been threatened.

Because that's really what I believe happened here. Donald Trump felt undermined and decided he needed to do something drastic to remind everyone of

the power that he holds.

Trump says that this was in response to the death of an American contractor working in Iraq. If that is the case, which I don't believe it is, where was that outrage when Turkey killed and dismembered a journalist working for The Washington Post? And how many more innocent deaths are we going to see now?

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, President Trump said in a televised statement that "the United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it."

But is the U.S. seeking peace?

## Gentrification breeds radically different views of the same city

NOAH WILBUR  
staff columnist

Over the past two decades, gentrification has developed into a widespread topic often appearing in the headlines of major U.S. cities such as San Francisco, New York, Washington, D.C. and many more. The controversial expression has become a heavily disputed topic in political debates, as well as a critical action point in the campaigns of many candidates seeking election in local and national offices.

By definition, gentrification is the process of renovating and upgrading homes, buildings and surrounding infrastructure in deteriorating neighborhoods to conditions that are considered affluent and "middle-class."

Behind the efforts to gentrify poorer neighborhoods, a paradoxical situation arises. As investment pours into these communities, buildings and infrastructure drastically improve; consequently, there is a sharp increase in rent, property values and taxes.

Unable to afford these rising prices, original residents must upend their lives and search for a new home. Wealthier citizens and families continue to arrive and enjoy the updated structures and contemporary amenities.

Across the nation, we are seeing the forced displacement of low-income individuals and people of color as an adverse consequence of gentrification.

Supporters declare that neighborhoods subject to gentrification are in desperate need of investment, and that the displacement of residents is a necessary cost of urban development that can be mitigated.

In contrast, adversaries are calling the process of gentrifying low value areas as discriminatory and an act of marginalization on the working class.

Here in Pittsburgh, the effects of gentrification are indisputably seen by taking a drive around the city and the surrounding communities.

Take South Side for example; beginning on S16th street and East Carson and heading towards SouthSide Works, one can see the buildings and residential homes beginning to change as they appear newer, renovated and modern. Likewise, the infrastructure also considerably improves as you near SouthSide Works — the preeminent destination of the area.

Other areas that have experienced gentrification in Pittsburgh include: Downtown Pittsburgh, Mount Washington, North Side and Lawrenceville.

By visiting only a few local news websites, you will likely see numerous articles pertaining to the widespread occurrence of



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Pittsburgh's South Side shows signs of increasing gentrification at the new South Side Works.

gentrification sweeping across the Steel City.

Within the past two years, Pittsburgh has made headlines as one of the most gentrified cities in the U.S. In a recent study from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the NCRC developed a helpful visual to reveal the cities with the highest intensity of gentrification from 2000-2013. To my surprise, Pittsburgh ranked eighth, outpacing the likes of San Francisco, Los Angeles and Austin. Deeper investigation indicates that the Pittsburgh residents mainly being displaced are those of color and with lower-paying employment.

However, it is difficult to argue that gentrification is wholly unfavorable as it does indeed steer a community towards economic growth and prosperity. Obvious examples include substantial investments

into modernizing and improving homes, buildings and infrastructure.

The gentrification process often results in reduced crime rates, and increased productivity of business activities related to retail and entertainment (e.g. restaurants, boutiques, stores, theaters).

Finally, I cannot neglect to mention the most significant benefit of them all: jobs. Increased investment within an area is met with the arrival of more diverse and abundant job opportunities.

Therefore, when it comes down to the brass tacks, the negative criticism surrounding gentrification corresponds largely to the expulsion of residents. If wide-spread displacement does not

see **SOUTH SIDE** — page 8



## Starting the new year and the new semester on the right foot

2020 marks not just the start of a new semester, but a new year. Whether you're beginning your first semester or you're set to graduate in May, *The Duke* has some tips to start the new year off on the right foot.

**On the right foot**  
**GRIFFIN SENDEK**  
photo editor

One of the most common lies nearly everyone tells at the beginning of every semester is, "From now on, I'm going to the gym every day."

For the most part this is only followed for the first week of classes before the stress and fatigue of the semester sets in. However, it is time to start this new semester and decade off on the right foot by better committing to your physical health.

Be careful not to set your goals too high, especially if you are a gym newbie. It's easy to want to come out of this year with ripped abs, a perfectly toned butt and able to lift double your bodyweight. While having high expectations for yourself is a good thing, setting the bar too high is the fastest way to burn yourself out and get back into the rut of going months without stepping foot in the Power Center.

If it has been awhile since you have dedicated yourself to working out, or if it's your first time going to the gym, start small with some cardio and simple weight lifting. Commit to going at the very least to once or twice a week.

Duquesne's Power Center is host to a fully equipped cardio/selectorized weight room with more than 100 machines, weight rooms, excercise studios and a spin room, a high intensity training (HIT) zone, according to the Power Center's website.

The Power Center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays.

At first, going to the gym might be the worst thing you've ever experienced, but do yourself a favor and don't let that deter you. Before too long it will become a habit and you might even start enjoying it and go more often.

Pro tip: Go with a buddy and the whole process will be a lot easier. And don't forget to drink plenty of water!

**On the "write" foot**  
**GRACE ROSELLO**  
staff writer

Looking for ways to make your transition into the spring semester easier? Here are some academic ways you can lay a good foundation during the first week of classes.

The university offers plenty of academic resources to students. The University Writing Center offers help with writing at any stage of the process: planning a schedule for drafting a research paper, developing a thesis, organizing paragraphs or editing a final draft.

The Writing Center has locations at Gumberg Library in room 402A and at College Hall in room 216. The Online Writing Center has been specifically created for returning adult students and commuting students. It offers 45-minute video appointments with Zoom for the student who has multiple commitments. Consider scheduling an advance appoint-

ment online around the time a paper is due this semester.

The Duquesne University Barnes & Noble bookstore offers an on-campus resource to purchase school supplies, apparel and textbooks. Note that the bookstore accepts all forms of payment, including Student Financial Aid and Barnes & Noble Gift cards.

You can find the required textbooks by logging into DORI, going to Self Service, Student Information, Registration and then View Customized Booklist/Order



Start the new year by working out at Duquesne's on-campus gym, the Power Center.

Books Now. Many people suggest to wait until classes actually start to see if textbooks are required, but not having a book can make coursework difficult. Reach out to a professor or the financial aid office if purchase is an issue.

Organizing your study space has the potential to refocus your mind for a new semester of homework and projects. Go through paper clutter from the fall semester, keeping only what you need for this semester or want to remember, and, if possible, recycling the rest. Make sure that your desk surface and laptop are disinfected.

Financial organization of your life prepares you not just for a successful academic semester but a new year as well. Sort out your finances by looking at your purchases from last year. See where you can spend less or where you can afford to spend more. Set financial goals for yourself, such as an amount you want to see in your savings or coming up with the money for a spring break trip.

Finally, whether you live in a dorm, an apartment or at home, look for a few new recipes to try this semester. Finding new things to cook can prevent the rut of cooking the same thing all the time or at least give you an option to cook something decent in the microwave when you have a night class that lets out at the moment most dining options are closing. Use a Google Search such as "dorm recipes" or "quick healthy meals for college students." With a combination of organization and attention to wellbeing, you will be prepared to face any challenges the next few months offer.

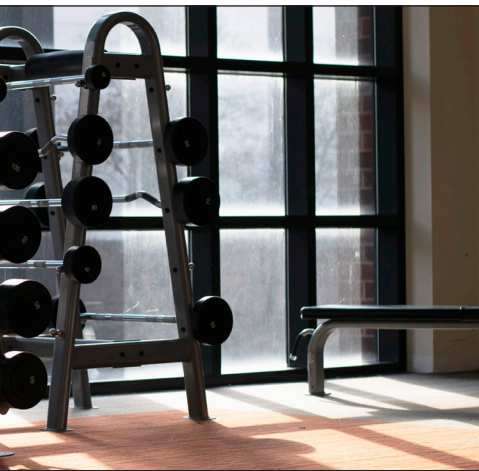
**Get involved**  
**KELLEN STEPLER**  
features editor

### *Get a Work Study Job*

Everyone's parents have probably told us one time or another to "go get a job." That's the whole reason why we are in college, right?

Well, finding a job available through the Federal College Work Study program at Duquesne is one way students can get involved on campus.

The Federal Work Study program is a need-based program. A work study award is provided to students demonstrating financial need. Students interested in work study must indicate their interest when filling out the FAFSA while applying for student loans. The decision of who is qualified and who fails to qualify is ultimately determined by the Financial Aid office.



GRIFFIN SENDEK | PHOTO EDITOR

John Falleroni, the senior associate director of financial aid at Duquesne, explains that the work study program is awarded to students demonstrating need, which is determined by the FAFSA.

"When a student completes a FAFSA indicating an interest in Work Study and it is determined the student has need according to the FAFSA; the clearance is automatically given on the initial Financial Aid Notification," Falleroni said.

After the clearance is provided, students can check with the Student Employment office about opportunities for the upcoming semester.

According to Tiffany Zurow, Duquesne's student employment recruiter, jobs range from office assistants, CTS computer lab aides, residence hall desk attendants and tour guides, among others.

Another aspect of the work study program, according to Zurow, is the focus on community service.

"We have many partnerships with community service organizations throughout the city of Pittsburgh," Zurow said.

For example, Duquesne has partnerships with organizations such as the Brashear Association, Mercy Hospital, the Children's Institute and the John C. Heinz Family Center.

Zurow also notes the benefits of having a work study job, and says that the experience gained from working in higher education before entering the workforce is "invaluable."

"Not only does it help with adding to one's resume, but having a work study job also provides some extra pocket money that students can use for books, groceries, late night pizza cravings, paying off tuition or whatever they may choose," Zurow said.

Networking is another added bonus when it comes to having a work study.

"The connections made through working can help students land full-time jobs once they graduate," Zurow said. "In fact, some students have even been hired into full-time positions at Duquesne in the department where they completed their work

study position."

Falleroni also sees the benefits of a work study, saying that it prepares students for the "real world."

"Federal Work Study is part of the college process of making students into responsible adults," Falleroni said.

Students who fail to qualify for work study are still able to earn on-campus jobs, according to Zurow. Parkhurst Dining and Barnes and Noble offer jobs throughout each academic year, and students can contact the Center for Career Development, who work with organizations in Pittsburgh looking to hire students and recent graduates.

### *Join a Club*

Joining clubs help students meet new people with similar interests, make new friends and have fun, among other things. At Duquesne, there are more than 260 student organizations, ranging from fraternities and sororities, community service and advocacy groups to club sports.

Marc Grandillo, director of programs and leadership at Duquesne, says that joining an organization on campus gives students an opportunity to build their professional skill set.

"Whether this includes communication, leadership or time management skills, any additional experience improves employment marketability when applying to jobs and internships," Grandillo said.

Grandillo also said that involvement in clubs can lead to long-lasting friendships, and allows students to meet and network with others outside their immediate social circle. Participation in these organizations can also help build self-confidence.

"By learning to balance academics with extra-curricular activities, students gain an understanding of their own capabilities, and are better prepared to take on more challenges," Grandillo said.

There will be a Meet the Sororities event Sunday, Jan. 12 at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom, and a Meet the Fraternities event Wednesday Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. According to the Student Organizations webpage, there are 10 fraternities and 10 sororities at Duquesne. Additionally, Duquesne hosts 11 Greek lettered professional organizations as well.

A Spring Student Organization Expo will take place the week of Monday, Jan. 21 to Friday, Jan. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day on the second floor of the Student Union.

"The Expo is a great opportunity for students looking to join an organization to meet some of the great organizations we have on campus," Grandillo said.

The Duquesne Program Council (DPC) will also host some upcoming events this semester. The DPC will sponsor Epic Bingo on Friday, Jan. 31 at 9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom, hosts DPC DUNites on Fridays at 9 p.m. in the Union NiteSpot, and will have a Spring Film Series on select Fridays at 7 p.m. in room 105 in College Hall and Saturdays at 9 p.m. in the Union NiteSpot.

Grandillo also said that for more information regarding upcoming on campus events, students can visit CampusLink, download the free CORQ app on your phone and check out the weekly email blast sent to all students.

"While academics are the priority, the Center for Student Involvement encourages students to make the most of their collegiate experiences and get involved with campus organizations and activities," Grandillo said.



# Men's hoops finding success in conference play

JACOB HEBDA  
staff writer

There has been plenty of talk about the men's basketball program since Keith Dambrot was hired.

By this point, the narrative is familiar. Dambrot's hiring signaled a new era for Duquesne basketball. After decades of program ineptitude, Athletic Director Dave Harper saw him as the right man to turn things around.

Dambrot is a proven winner. He took the Akron Zips to the NCAA Tournament



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
Duquesne forward Marcus Weathers looks to make a pass during the team's season opener against Princeton on Nov. 5 at PPG Paints Arena.

three times in his thirteen seasons there. Before his arrival in 2004, they'd qualified only once.

So who better to get Duquesne back to the Big Dance than Dambrot? Everyone involved knew the turnaround wouldn't be quick, but were confident he was capable of eventually achieving something not seen on the Bluff since 1977.

His first two seasons were rocky, but the positive momentum was undeniable. Now, after all the talk about Dambrot and this program, results are starting to happen. In Year 3, Dambrot's team is currently 12-2. That's Duquesne's best start since 1971. The Dukes won their first ten games, making for their best start since the 1953-54 season.

Dambrot's team opened with a 2-0 in A-10 play. That's just the eighth time that's happened in 43 seasons.

The veteran coach is getting results that have not been seen in years, even decades in some cases.

Their schedule thus far has not been particularly difficult, but as the old adage goes, you can only play the teams in front of you. It is also worth noting that the so-called "easy games" are the sort of games Duquesne would have lost in years past. In the past two seasons alone, the Dukes suffered frustrating losses to likes of Robert Morris, Cornell, and NJIT.

This season, they were among the only college squads without a loss before finally falling on Dec. 22 to UAB.

A blowout loss to Marshall a week later further halted the momentum of the initial winning streak.

Yet the Dukes have rebounded well to kick off A-10 play. Albeit early in the season, they currently sit atop the conference

standings with their 2-0 record.

Those two victories have come against Saint Louis and Davidson, two programs with recent NCAA Tournament experience. Neither team has quite played up to their preseason expectations, but they represent quality wins nonetheless.

After a couple seasons of rotation flux, Dambrot appears to have solidified his core rotation. That group consists of Marcus Weathers, Sincere Carry, Michael Hughes, Tavian Dunn-Martin, Baylee Steele, Maceo Austin, Lamar Norman Jr. and Ashton Miller.

Carry was expected to be the team's best player this year, and he's been great. He leads the team in assists and is second in points.

He's complemented by Weathers and Hughes, who have also been outstanding. Weathers has averaged a team-best 14.4 points per game and 8.1 rebounds per game.

Hughes has averaged 10.9 points per game and 7.1 rebounds per game. He also has a team-leading 42 blocks.

The depth beyond these three has been reliable. Dunn-Martin, Steele, and Austin each average nearly ten points a game. Norman Jr. is capable of getting hot at any time, though he hasn't been at his best this year.

Miller has not provided much in the way of scoring but should continue to grow as his freshman year progresses.

There is still plenty left to prove, but it's been a promising start to the season. Duquesne now has a chance to build on this momentum before they enter the harder stretch of the season.

What will prove telling are the final five games of the season. The Dukes take on na-

tionally-ranked Dayton and other present conference leaders VCU, St. Bonaventure, and Richmond.

Plenty remains to be seen, but Duquesne looks to have taken a step forward.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
Duquesne center Michael Hughes celebrates on the bench during the team's win over Davidson on Jan. 5 at the UPMC Events Center.

## What obscure statistics tell us about the 2020 NFL playoffs

JAMES LEO  
staff writer

It may seem lazy to pick the two number one seeds from each conference, the Baltimore Ravens (AFC) and the San Francisco 49ers (NFC), to reach Super Bowl LIV. However, history has shown that this is the most likely matchup.

Since the Wild Card system was implemented in 1970, only 10 wild card teams have ever reached the Super Bowl. Of those 10, only six have ever won the Super Bowl: the 1980 Oakland Raiders, the 1997 Denver Broncos, the 2000 Baltimore Ravens, the 2005 Pittsburgh Steelers, the 2007 New York Giants and the 2010 Green Bay Packers.

It is true that the last three wild card teams to reach the Super Bowl have won it, but the odds are still very low. Based on the stats mentioned above, wild card teams have a 5% chance of actually reaching the Super Bowl, and only a 3% chance of winning it. No matter how you spin it, wild card teams just aren't that likely to make it out of their conference.

For this reason, we can eliminate this year's four wild card teams: the Buffalo Bills and Tennessee Titans from the AFC, and the Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks from the NFC.

To eliminate more teams, we need to review some history. In 1978, major changes were made to the playoff format. The top two seeds in each conference were granted

first round byes, and a second wild card spot was added to each conference. Since this change, 40 Super Bowls have been played. As noted above, six wild card teams have won the Super Bowl (all since these changes). Of the 34 division winners to win the Super Bowl, only three have done so without securing a first round bye: the 2006 Indianapolis Colts, the 2011 Giants and the 2012 Baltimore Ravens.

This means that teams that secure a first round bye are much more likely (around 78% more likely) to win the Super Bowl. This can help us eliminate the bottom two division winners from each conference: the Philadelphia Eagles and New Orleans Saints from the NFC, and the Houston Texans and New England Patriots from the AFC.

The four remaining teams, the Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers from the NFC, and the Baltimore Ravens and Kansas City Chiefs from the AFC, have more statistics on their side.

For instance, the old adage that "defense wins championships" has shown to be true in the Super Bowl. Of the 53 winners, only seven teams have won without a top-10 defense (determined by points/game allowed in the regular season).

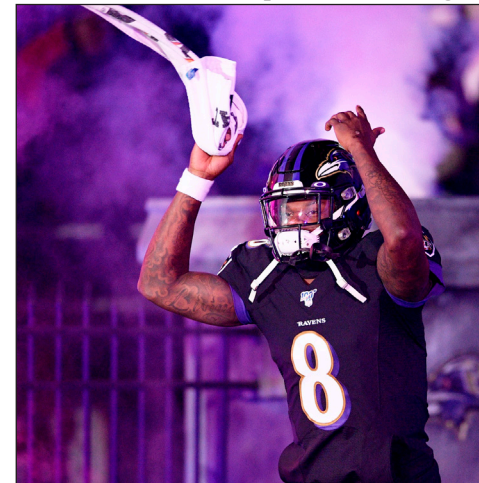
The other 46 winners have had a top-10 defense, with several being the number one defense in the league. All four teams listed here, meet this standard.

Only 16 of the 53 Super Bowl winners have ever had a 1,000 yard receiver and

rusher in the same season. This stat may not seem to represent changes in the NFL, as football has become more of a passing game in recent years, but only five teams since 1999 have won the Super Bowl with both a 1,000 yard rusher and receiver.

The other 37 teams (15 since 1999) only had one, or didn't have either. Our four remaining teams — the Chiefs, Ravens, 49ers and Packers — only have one of these two qualifications.

To eliminate two of our four remaining teams, we have to dig a little deeper. MVP winners usually do not win the Super Bowl, but don't have a problem reaching it.



AP PHOTO  
Ravens' quarterback Lamar Jackson pumps up the crowd before a game earlier this season

Just look at all the players who have won an MVP award but lost in the Super Bowl in the same year: Tom Brady (2017), Matt Ryan (2016), Cam Newton (2015), Peyton Manning (2013), Peyton Manning (2009), Tom Brady (2007), Shaun Alexander (2005), Rich Gannon (2002), Kurt Warner (2001), etc. There are several more examples, but the point is made. For this reason, we can put the Ravens (with MVP frontrunner Lamar Jackson) in the Super Bowl over the Chiefs.

In the NFC, we can eliminate the Packers. Only four Super Bowl winners ever have won with a first-year head coach: the 1970 Baltimore Colts, the 1989 49ers, the 2002 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and the 2015 Denver Broncos.

The Packers, with first-year head coach Matt Lefleur, seem to have worse odds than the 49ers to reach the Super Bowl. After all, several head coaches have won the Super Bowl in their second or third year; 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan is in his third.

And then there were two: the Ravens and the 49ers. As surmised earlier in this article, teams with an MVP frontrunner have no problem reaching the Super Bowl, but they will have difficulty winning the Super Bowl. For this reason, one can deduce from NFL stats that it will be the San Francisco 49ers versus the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl LIV (54). If Jackson wins the league MVP, the stats suggest he won't win the Super Bowl.



## Little Women is a big success for Greta Gerwig

COLLEEN HAMMOND  
opinions editor

To the delight of audiences, the dynamic duo of Greta Gerwig and Saoirse Ronan reunite for another show-stopping, female-centered film in the new adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*.

After their directing and leading lady debuts, respectively, in *Ladybird*, Gerwig and Ronan revived their partnership to bring a fresh perspective to a timeless classic.

Set in New England in the 1860s, *Little Women* follows the lives of four sisters and their journeys of survival, sisterhood, artistic dreams and love. Even in the face of unimaginable tragedy, personal loss and an often sexist society, these sisters find a way to preserve their familial bonds while pursuing their individual desires.

Although the general plot may seem like a lagging historical drama or belabored chick flick, the magnificent performances of this star-studded cast and Gerwig's engaging dialogue keep the audience invested and entertained for the entirety of this nearly two and a half hour film.

Despite its length, the story never feels overly extended. Each actor draws the audience into the inner life of their character, making the time in the theater fly by.

The chemistry among this cast is undeniable. Timothée Chalamet shines as the sisters' wealthy neigh-

bor and childhood playmate, Laurie. His boyish charm pairs beautifully with Ronan's electric, feminine defiance. The two balance each other out perfectly and bring a remarkable sense of youth to the roles, while still managing to honor the original literary characters.

Another stand out performance comes from Hollywood newcomer, Florence Pugh. In this film, Pugh manages to expertly embody Amy March, the youngest and most materialistic of the sisters. Pugh crafts incredible growth in Amy over the film's seven-year time frame. She raises Amy from a bratty and jealous adolescent to a mature, dignified woman without betraying the character. Her astounding acting chops steal the show.

In addition to Pugh's brilliant debut, another fabulous performance comes from film veteran Meryl Streep. Although audiences have come to expect perfection from the star, Streep somehow manages to surprise audiences with her hilarious portrayal of Aunt March. Streep takes this stuffy, aristocratic woman and turns her into a welcomed comic relief and expert social critique. Despite Streep's extensive resume, her performance in *Little Women* is lasting and deeply memorable.

While many find the civil war-era story of sisterhood dated and dull, Gerwig managed to breathe new life into this iconic story. In Gerwig's



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

Saoirse Ronan, pictured with Timothée Chalamet, was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama.

adaptation, she ensures that each sister's journey is honored and respected, displaying an often forgotten section of the feminist movement: to respect the women who choose to live a domestic life. By focusing the story through the lens of modern feminism, Gerwig brings to fruition the original themes and visions of Alcott's classic novel.

From the tender, maternal love of Marmee (Laura Dern) to the soft glow of the March family home, this film radiates warmth. Even while tackling the complex themes of sisterhood, grief and feminism, *Little Women* retains an air of honesty and grace.

Gerwig expertly crafts and captures multi-dimensional female characters, expertly displaying the simultaneous kindness and strength of the March sisters. These women perfectly show that generosity is not a weakness, but a natural lifestyle admired by all.

*Little Women* is sure to please lifelong fans and new audiences alike. Gerwig's new adaptation masterfully captures the literary classic and its beloved characters while still adding her own unique fingerprint to the classic tale. This film's rare honesty make it the perfect start to the new year.

To put it simply, *Little Women* is a masterpiece.

## Jesus Christ Superstar resurrected at Benedum

JOSIAH MARTIN  
a&e editor

When done right, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is a chilling, powerful show. The 50th anniversary touring production, which appeared at the Benedum Center from Dec. 31 to Jan. 5, did it right.

Director Timothy Sheader certainly understands *Superstar*'s strengths. True to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's 1971 concept album, this production relies on a relatively small ensemble backed by a stellar band. Sheader has allowed the stellar vocal performances and moving lyrics to stand on their own. Despite not being a primarily visual production, it did feature stellar costumes and set design.

Emphasizing the show's roots as a rock opera that depicts Jesus as a rock star-like celebrity figure, most of the main cast performed using handheld microphones. These also served as a visual motif throughout the show — Judas' red-corded microphone hung in a single spotlight to represent his suicide, and that same red cord was used to restrain Jesus during "Trial



COURTESY OF MATTHEW MURPHY

The cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* posing as da Vinci's "The Last Supper."

Before Pilate." The high priests entered with tall golden staffs that doubled as microphone stands for "This Jesus Must Die."

*Jesus Christ Superstar*'s show stopping "Gethsemane" perfectly showed off this production's unique style. Jesus (Aaron LaVigne), standing in a single spotlight at a microphone stand, performed the song with an acoustic guitar. In most versions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the song peaks with Jesus exclaiming "why" at an impressive G5. While LaVigne nails this note, it's his delivery of the line "take me now, before I change my mind" — sung twice with a false ending in between — that shows off the full prowess of both him and the band.

LaVigne does not portray a particularly troubled Jesus. Many productions abandon the confident rock star swagger and style of the character, in favor of an emotionally torn Jesus facing his hesitancy toward his own execution from the first scene. Both methods are valid and captivating, but LaVigne's is fresh. It is not until "The Last Supper" that he truly appears upset and vulnerable, making it all the more heartbreaking when he does.

However, *Superstar* always relies on its Judas, who is debatably the true protagonist of the show. James Delisco Beeks plays the role beautifully. The desperation he conveys in the opening number "Heaven on Their Minds" lingers in his voice and

his eyes up until the astonishing titular "Jesus Christ Superstar." Judas is one of the most emotionally and vocally demanding roles in the realm of musical theater, and Beeks was up to the challenge.

Alongside the perfectly cast and performed group of high priests, Beeks' performance of "Damned for All Time/Blood Money" was a gloriously frantic, high-energy number. The song included a long saxophone solo, a feature of the original album, which elicited applause and cheers from the audience as it crescendoed into pure manic squealing. Most of the orchestra performed from the stage, and clearly had fun doing so. As they should — *Jesus Christ Superstar* is one of Webber and Rice's finest works, and stands as a musical triumph off of the stage as well.

This tour has received acclaim across the board, and it's clear why. This production, more than the recent NBC performance, and perhaps even more than the classic 1973 film, understands the goal and the style of these songs as they were originally recorded. Sheader and company have earned their place in the ongoing history of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

### WEEK'S EVENTS

Play in a Day  
Jan. 11 @ 8 p.m.

Formerly known as the 24 Hour Play Festival, the Red Masquers challenge themselves to write and rehearse plays in a single day, culminating in public performances in the Genesis Theater.

SGA Meeting  
Jan. 12 @ 7 p.m.

The SGA kicks off the semester with their first weekly meeting in room 203 of the Law School. The meetings are open to all students.

### UPCOMING RELEASES

1917  
Friday, Jan. 10

This World War I film has already received critical acclaim and a Golden Globe win for Best Motion Picture — Drama.

Rare  
Selena Gomez  
Friday, Jan. 10

Gomez's third solo album has been led by singles "Lose You to Love Me" and "Look at Her Now."

### MICRO REVIEW

Doctor Who "Spyfall"

On New Year's Day, the 13th Doctor returned with her titular trio of companions for *Doctor Who*'s Season 12 premiere, "Spyfall." The season opener was a two-part adventure that reunited the Doctor (Jodie Whittaker) with an old foe and reopened a slew of old wounds for the dynamic Time Lord. Whittaker, Mandip Gill, Bradley Walsh, Tosin Cole and Sacha Dhawa delivered brilliant performances in particular, and if "Spyfall" is any indication, showrunner Chris Chibnall's writing promises bigger stories, broader character arcs and darker themes than seasons past.

- Ollie Gratzinger



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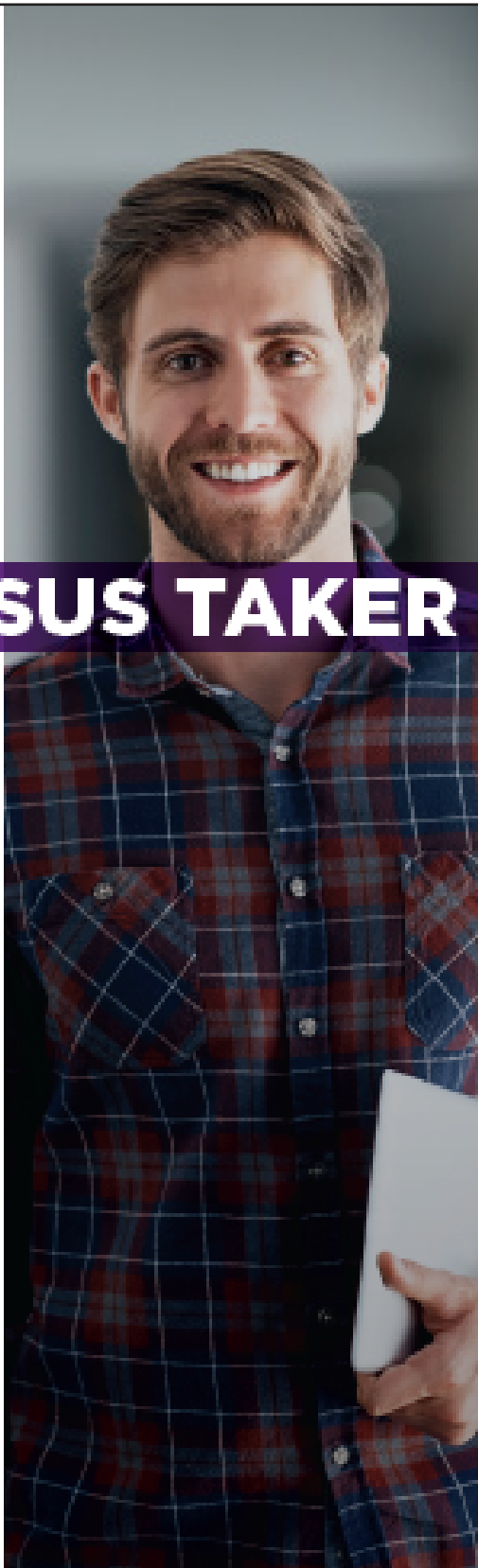
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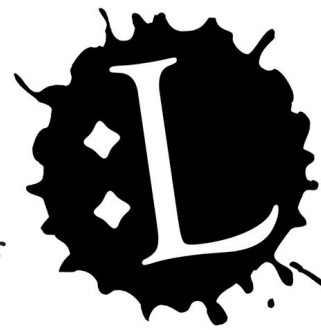


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## An oasis engulfed in flames

**STAFFED—**from page 3

Australian fires will continue to contribute to animal deaths and habitat loss. Suffocation from the leftover smoke and starvation due to the death and displacement of various species of animals will result in continued declines of Australian wildlife populations. The destruction and long-term alteration of Australia's ecosystems will continue to disrupt natural patterns and processes within Australia's natural areas far into the future.

All this comes with a series of disparaging comments targeted at teenage climate change activist Greta Thunberg; the 72-year-old singer Meatloaf said she was "brainwashed" into thinking climate change is real, and Salem Radio Host and Ex-Deputy Assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka referred to her as "Thunder Thighs" in a Jan. 7 interview. It seems like the more the world tries to prove to us that climate change is killing the planet, the stronger the denialists bunker down and insult the work of scientists and activists alike.

We can't keep denying the catastrophic impact that climate change is having on our world,

and we can't stand idly by as people in positions of social power spread misinformation. It's easy to feel as though we're individually helpless in the face of global warming, since its biggest contributors are the industries and corporations that produce oil, carbon and natural gas, but we can still help. We can pressure our governments and institutions to divest from fossil fuel industries, and we can donate to the organizations working hard to put out the fires in Australia.

To directly assist members of the country's First Nations or Indigenous population, Yorta Yorta musician and community rights activist Neil Morris has started a GoFundMe page: [au.gofundme.com](http://au.gofundme.com).

In both New South Wales and Victoria — the two states most affected by the flames — you can donate directly to the fire departments. The Australian Red Cross has also helped more than 18,000 displaced or otherwise impacted people, and are accepting donations at [redcross.org.au](http://redcross.org.au).

Organizations such as Airbnb are offering free temporary housing for the displaced, and individuals around the world are doing their part by stitching mittens for koalas and sewing bat wraps and joey patches for kangaroos.

## South Side gentrification transforms city landscape

**SOUTH SIDE—**from page 4

occur, gentrification becomes favorable and advantageous for a community.

Although a considerable "what-if" circumstance, it does not necessarily seem like an impossible task to achieve. For example, policies and programs such as affordable housing, reduced property taxes and vouchers are methods that can curb displacement among residents.

The truth of the matter is that the process of gentrifying neighborhoods is not likely to slow down or cease to exist, especially in Pittsburgh — a place of monumental opportunity. We must change our perception

of gentrification as a cynical act, and instead consider it as a mechanism that can improve quality of life for both sides.

Through concentrated planning, the fostering of bold ideas and direct involvement with the community, wide-spread displacement can be significantly reduced. As a result, gentrified neighborhoods will reap the benefits of modern infrastructure and a diverse population.

I call upon city officials and community leaders to join together and focus their efforts on developing new strategies that can utilize gentrification in a way that equally benefits all sides of society.

Your  
Ad  
Here

Contact  
Vincent Gullo  
at [dukeads@yahoo.com](mailto:dukeads@yahoo.com)

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