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’s Work of Western PA, a nonprofit organization. The new building will sit across from the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse (formerly A.J. Palumbo Center), which began renovations 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’s Work for nearly 50 years.

see OSTEOPATH — page 2

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 see CANCER — page 2

Conflict With Iran

Trump’s terrible decision making

Starting 2020 off right

Can the team keep winning?

The iconic rock opera visits Pittsburgh

Follow us on...
POLICE BRIEFS

Welcome back to campus! Some-how 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.”

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 hallielauer2@gmail.com

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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.

Recently, the drug is still in animal trials. These studies have will be covered by upcoming. As the treatment has yielded positive results in both early and late-stage pancreatic cancer.

“We injected the drug in clinical trials in about a year or two, but there are a lot of hoops to jump through,” Ganggee said.

Gangjee is hopeful to begin preclinical development of the drug in the near future with a group 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.

“One week, we found that SMT 2 was an onco drug, 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 Naeem 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. Ganggee collaborates with Dr. Larry Matherly at the Karmas 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, 93% 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 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

OSTEOPATHY — 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, as the money raised for 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.”

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 presenting 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 defender’s previous conversation 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 Aurora, 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 when DNA tests in the case repeatedly revealed his true identity.

Rini had been released from a juvenile-detention center in March after serving more than a year on burglary and vandalism charges. Prison records showed 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 for Timmothy’s relatives.

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

MANHATTAN COLLEGE

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

“One week, we found that SMT 2 was an onco drug, 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 Naeem 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. Ganggee collaborates with Dr. Larry Matherly at the Karmas 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, 93% 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 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.

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 hallielauer2@gmail.com.

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

“One week, we found that SMT 2 was an onco drug, 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 Naeem 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. Ganggee collaborates with Dr. Larry Matherly at the Karmas 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, 93% 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 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.

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 hallielauer2@gmail.com.
Relief from high prescription prices is nearing

A

mid 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
ey easy to overlook the last bills introduced in 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 2004, 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

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

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief
 forfe features editor
 asse editor
 sport editor
 cut editor
 pho editor
 administrative staff
 adviser
 social media manager
 email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

“i see my body
as an instrument,
rather than an ornament.”

ALANIS MORISSETTE

You just read | Now tweet

Back To School Wordsearch

Therese Schroeder

KIPVYWDYVTHTGHGOGPMD
LDWZTOOGRMQCVQDVGUM
KWLNSWPCDCXYUFRUWPZ
TLKZBFXYGIOMASBQNONH
JQYRQQGOGBBUCPZYUU
HNYZIPKCMKWLWRFB
GXUCDMOZLEITJCIIZRF
KGWZDOWSHVLMFPDSIRW
QNDRMBUQWYVFDLZT
MX£IKESQ9IRWLEMIDJM
SGNRWPTDFTWQJYPSFR
CRECMQOGGDLIOTUJHMO
FATAGLNNFFASCRIMOOS
YDFETFHPARPERTOANVE
KEKIXYXJCJOLLDCLEDZ
OGBESYBLOLHEFTPEMRJZ
RTDMAYFREDHISNRNSPLR
XFGQFFVPSWBWCVBLYEV
SCHOOLETFHNFHPCXZQG
CFPZZXTTZIPFKZTCBDM

Back To School Wordsearch

BLACKBOARD
CLASS
EXAM
FUN
GRADE
LAB
NOTEBOOK
PROJECT
SCHOOL
TERM
TEST

EDUCATION

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, floating as smoke rose at the sun and night comes early.

It might sound like the establishing shot of a dystopian sci-fi movie from 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 March to December, 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 nation’s waters, as much water has been pulled out of the Indian Ocean and displaced to the Pacific Ocean, 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 fire season is set to become more frequent and more ferocious.

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

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the

WORKSEARCH BY KELLEN STEPLER

Boise State University, and she has been an editorial board member for the student newspaper, The Duquesne Duke. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alanis Morissette

Aside from the losses being reported currently, the devastation of the
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 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 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

Hallie Lauer
news editor

On Friday, Jan. 3, the U.S. launched a drone strike that killed Major General Qassem Suleimani – the head of Iranian security. Closely following the announcement of Suleimani’s death, “War World 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 has been 61 years of American involvement in the Middle East. The U.S. has 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 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 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 breeding 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 original residents must upend their lives and search for a new home. Wealthier

It has been 61 years of American presence in the Middle East. The U.S. has 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 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 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 breeding 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 original residents must upend their lives and search for a new home. Wealthier
Starting the new year and the new semester on the right foot

2:02 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

By Griffin Senderek

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 decide 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 slow 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/selecorized weight room with more than 100 machines, weight rooms, exercise 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 very last thing you want to do. However, doing so will make you feel better about yourself and your general health, according to Zurow. 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

By Grace Rosello

staff writer

Looking for ways to make your transition into Duquesne 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. The university is also promoting its online Writing Center, which has been specifically created for returning adult students and commuting students. It offers 45-minute video appointments with Zoom for the students who have multiple commitments. Consider scheduling an advance appointment 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 Library.

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 working on campus should inquire when filling out the FASFA while applying for student loans. The decision of who is qualified and who fails to qualify is ultimately determined by the Financial Aid office.

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

“Work study completes a FASFA indicating an interest in Work Study and it is determined the student has need according to the FASFA; 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 Zuwor, 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 Zuwor, is the focus on community service.

“We have many partnerships with community service organizations throughout the city of Pittsburgh,” Zuwor said.

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

Zuwor also notes the benefits of having a work study job, and says it can help students land full-time jobs once they graduate.

“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 might choose,” Zuwor said.

Networking is another added bonus because it helps students gain more experience in high education before entering the workforce is invaluable.

“Networking can lead to more opportunities for the future,” Zuwor said. "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 on campus. Students have the 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 on campus. Students have the opportunity to build their professional skill set.

“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 host some upcoming events this semester. The DPC hosts their annual Spring Expo on 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 Federal Work Study program 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 Career Development Office, who work with organizations in Pittsburgh looking to hire students and recent graduates.

Join a Club

Joining clubs helps 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 is a great way for students to get involved on campus.

“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 on campus. Students have the opportunity to build their professional skill set.

“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 host some upcoming events this semester. The DPC hosts their annual Spring Expo on 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.

Get involved

By 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 College Work Study program 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 Career Development Office, who work with organizations in Pittsburgh looking to hire students and recent graduates.

“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 on campus. Students have the opportunity to build their professional skill set.

“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 Federal Work Study program 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 Career Development Office, who work with organizations in Pittsburgh looking to hire students and recent graduates.

“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 on campus. Students have the opportunity to build their professional skill set.

“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 Federal Work Study program 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 Career Development Office, who work with organizations in Pittsburgh looking to hire students and recent graduates.

“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 on campus. Students have the opportunity to build their professional skill set.
Men’s hoops finding success in conference play

By Jacob Herda

Dambrot is a proven winner. He took the Akron Zips to the NCAA Tournament 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, other than 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 Ashtion 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 nationally-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.
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**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 *Lady Bird*, 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 direction make the time in this production feel like a timeless classic.

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 portray a portrait 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 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.
Now Hiring

lexicon is currently interviewing for a new
• Copyeditor
• Social Media Coordinator
• Editor-in-Chief
for Fall 2020.

Position duties will begin with shadowing of
the current editor in Spring of 2019. To apply
for Copyeditor & Social Media Coordinator
please visit our website lexiconjournal.org
or email us at lexicon@duq.edu. To apply for
Editor-in-Chief please email your resume and
cover letter to John Fried at friedj@duq.edu.

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.

An oasis engulfed in flames

STAFF ED—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 “Thund 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.

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. 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.