



## Duquesne research team finds early autism markers

HANNAH BOUCHER  
staff writer

In 2006, Dr. Scott Faber and Howard Kingston were told they were crazy for believing that autism was not a genetic disease, but rather an autoimmune one. However, this did not stop the pair from carrying out research for 14 years to prove those who doubted them wrong.

During their research, Faber and Kingston developed their own measurement system in order to assess the likelihood of a child developing autism. This measurement system utilized 21 different biomarkers to test for autism.

A biomarker is any substance that occurs naturally in the body that is measured to indicate a phenomenon. In this case, the phenomenon is a disease — autism.

With around \$1.4 million in grant money funding their project, Faber and Kingston supported their hypothesis, even inventing their own measurement systems in order to complete their tests.

One of the biomarker measurements they invented involved tracking glutathione (GHS), an antioxidant found in the body that reduces oxidative stress. Improper levels of the oxidized variation of GSH can place children at risk of suffering from irreversible brain damage.

Once the GSH oxidizes and becomes glutathione disulfide (GSSG), there is no more GSH left. If all of the GSH turns into GSSG, then the child's immune system is no longer functioning properly. In fact, if there is anywhere from 3 to 5% of GSSG in the body instead of GSH, the immune system will begin to

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## Mardi Gras meets Towers



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

RAs of the second, third and eleventh floors of St. Martin Hall held a Mardi Gras celebration for their residents in Towers MPR. The celebration included Mardi Gras-colored cupcakes, pepperoni rolls and drinks, as well as fun crafts.

## Duquesne mourns loss of a student

OLLIE GRATZINGER  
editor-in-chief

A Duquesne University student enrolled in the physician's assistant program died unexpectedly Wednesday.

Anthony Bove, 22, of Hopewell Twp., died on Ash Wednesday following surgery at UPMC Presbyterian in Oakland, according to an online obituary posted by Tatalovich Funeral Home in Aliquippa.

He was a fourth year student in the physician's assistant program, and was set to graduate from Duquesne on May 8 with a bachelor of science in health sciences degree and a master of physician assistant studies degree, according to the obituary.

Bove studied abroad at Duquesne's Rome campus in fall 2017, and was "a well-liked person," according to an emailed statement sent to students, faculty and staff by Vice President for Student Life Douglas K. Frizzell early Wednesday afternoon.

"I join President Gormley and the entire Duquesne University community in extending our sincerest condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him, during this difficult

time," Frizzell said in the email. "Anthony and his loved ones will be in our prayers."

Frizzell also explained that a variety of services are available to those on campus. Counselors are available at the Wellbeing Center in 636 Fisher Hall for anyone who needs support, and the Spiritan community of clergy, along with Campus Ministry staff, "are available for conversation or prayer."

Senior marketing major Julia Badgley traveled to Italy with Bove as part of the university's study abroad program, and said that everyone who knew him is "absolutely heartbroken."

"Anthony was one of the nicest, funniest, most outgoing people that I've ever met. He positively impacted everyone he met — he had a way of making everyone feel comfortable," Badgley said. "Anthony was one of my favorite people that I've met at Duquesne, and he'll be missed by everyone he met."

The obituary described Bove as an avid tennis player and competitive swimmer who loved to travel, and said that his "last act in life was that he donated his organs so others may live."

Friends will be received on Friday,



COURTESY TATALOVICH FUNERAL HOME

Feb. 28 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Tatalovich Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., located at 2205 McMinn St. in Aliquippa. Family and friends will meet at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 2270 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, on Saturday, Feb. 29. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to McGuire Memorial, 2119 Mercer Road, New Brighton, Pa. 15066, which was "near and dear" to Bove.

Information regarding a campus memorial at Duquesne will be forthcoming.

## Students upset over unclear event rules

HALLIE LAUER  
news editor

When the Duquesne University College Republicans wanted to host a movie screening event on Feb. 23, they received permission from university administration. The movie, titled *Unplanned*, follows the life of a Planned Parenthood executive who reverses her abortion views and becomes pro-life.

They also received permission to hang flyers on campus advertising the event that said, "Pro-choice? I challenge you to watch this movie."

But after at least one student raised concerns about the poster — and many were pulled down — the Office of Student Life reversed course and instructed Alec Skomo, the president of the College Republicans, in an email, that the flyers could not be replaced.

"Students have expressed concerns that members of our campus community feel distressed, due to personal or family experiences with the content matter at hand. In this light we are not letting the posters be rehung," the email said.

The event went on as scheduled, with about 20 people in attendance, even after being included in the DU Activities Weekly Events email blast.

Skomo was frustrated by the university stopping advertisements for the event.

"I feel they are censoring us and allowing it to not be as successful as it could be," he said.

Imani Chisom, one of the students who had voiced complaints about the posters, was also frustrated, wondering exactly how events on campus are approved.

Chisom has been involved in organizations like Ebony Women for Social Change, Kappa Alpha Kappa Sorority Incorporated and the Multicultural Program Council

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### Follow us on...



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## POLICE BRIEFS

Another week of damaged cars, which listen I understand, for some reason it's difficult to park between those two lines in the parking garages ... y'all passed your driver's tests right?

On Feb. 19, a resident student reported that her roommate was missing. Campus police located the missing student a short-time later in Brottier Hall and no further action was required.

On Feb. 21, damage to an unattended vehicle parked in the Locust Garage extension was reported.

On Feb. 24, a student reported that her vehicle was damaged while parked unattended in a university garage.

## JOKE CORNER!

**Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?**

**A: Envelope.**

**Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?**

**A: "Put it on my bill."**

**A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a bar. The rabbit says, "I think I might be a typo."**

**Q: How does the moon cut his hair?**

**A: Eclipse it.**

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*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 at [hallielauer18@gmail.com](mailto:hallielauer18@gmail.com).

# Biomarker measurements may help to detect autism earlier in children

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weaken.

In terms of its relationship to autism, children under the age of two that show signs of having a weak or underdeveloped immune system are at a greater risk of developing autism.

"From 2006 to 2012, the world disagreed on this [biomarker] measurement by three orders of magnitude. We now make that measurement to plus or minus five percent," said Kingston.

Kingston compared this discrepancy with the uncertainty of going into battle.

"Imagine me telling a general that he has 1,000 soldiers in the field, but he doesn't know if he has 999 dead soldiers and one live one, or 999 live soldiers and one dead one," he said.

This is just one of the many markers that Faber and Kingston test for to see whether or not a child is trending towards developing autism.

All of these biomarkers, including GSH, are tested for through bloodwork. In their research, the team tested the blood of 30 children with autism and 30 children without autism.

Their blood samples were then given to John Kern, the head of Duquesne's mathematics department. The purpose of this was to blindly analyze the data without

there being any bias. This helped increase the credibility of their data.

With these findings, Faber and Kingston hope to apply these tests in a way that would be more accessible to people around the world.

"They don't have to get to the disease. If we catch [it] soon enough, we can prevent [it]. We could rescue 2% of the world's population. That is the dream of the doctor in myself," said Kingston.

The goal is to be able to conduct the same blood work tests using a dry blood spot card. This allows children to be tested more frequently, along with allowing doctors to possibly prescribe the card to parents so they can test their children from home.

If a child were to have results that came back positive for autism, or possibly trending towards autism, then possible treatment or preventative measures could be used to intervene. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," said Kingston.

While Faber and Kingston themselves have not come up with a cure for autism, their tests make it possible for children to receive the intervention they need from other medical professionals.

"It is because of our two different sets of talents that we were able to come together and form this team," said Kingston



COURTESY OF HOWARD KINGSTON

Members of the research team, back row from left to right: Howard Kingston, Jeremiah Jamrom, Weiwei Hao and James Henderson and in the front row left to right: Caley Moore, Ashley Dillard, Taylor Teitelbaum, Ashley Trouten and Ashley Parisi-Goldblatt

Faber is the Scholar in Residence here at Duquesne, which means that he assists in research, participates in committees and helps write grant applications.

On top of all that, he also has three board certifications in developmental neurological pediatrics, neurological developmental disabilities and general pediatrics. Faber also has his own practice, Developmental Integrative Pediatrics.

Kingston is a professor of analytical chemistry, and has received many awards for his work in biology, chemistry and phys-

ics. Currently, he has a research team of 10, consisting of both graduate and undergraduate students. He and his team conduct research that uses isotope dilution in mass spectrometry and analytical chemistry.

At any given time, Kingston's team can have up to 20 different research projects going on at once.

"This research group are the people I spend the most time every week with. I have no idea what a job is. I get to come here every-day and work with these wonderful people, and hope we can make a contribution," Kingston said.

## New chair of biological sciences department

JESSICA LINCOLN

staff writer

The Department of Biological Sciences is getting a new department chair this July, as Jana Patton-Vogt takes over for Joseph McCormick. Patton-Vogt's term is set to begin on July 1 and end on June 30, 2023.

"It should be a fairly seamless and easy transition. I think we're fairly like-minded, so I don't think a lot is going to change," McCormick said.

Patton-Vogt has been a professor at Duquesne since 2001. In addition to teaching courses in cellular and molecular biology, she has previously served as the department's undergraduate coordinator and is an active researcher. She also advises the Duquesne chapter of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), a student organization.

"Right now, I'm working with the current chair, the dean and the current faculty and staff to assess where we are. What are we doing well? What do we need to improve on? What's on the horizon?" Patton-Vogt said.

The process of selecting the

new chair involved a hectic year of calls for nominations, requests for faculty comments about those nominations and approval from the dean, provost and president.

"Technically, the provost and president can approve a candidate no matter what faculty members say, but I think we've made a good choice," said McCormick.

While the transition is in its early stages, course offerings and budgets for the summer and fall semesters have already been discussed. One of the biggest challenges Patton-Vogt will face during her tenure, McCormick said, is the introduction of the new osteopathic school of medicine, with which the department will be closely involved.

"It's kind of hectic," he said of the process of becoming chair. "You have a lot of responsibilities in a very short time."

After Patton-Vogt becomes chair, McCormick will remain a faculty member in the department, continuing his research and teaching first semester freshmen and Ph.D. students. During his tenure, he was involved in hiring a third of the department's current tenure track professors,

and he oversaw millions of dollars worth of lab renovations.

Students in the department spoke fondly of McCormick, noting that he has made a habit of stopping to talk to them in Mellon Hall.

"He knew everything that was happening on the floor, all the professors — everything he needed to know about the department," said Raahi Modi, a junior biology major who serves as the vice president of ASBMB.

"He reminds you why you became a biology student in the first place. I think that's the kind of person you need as chair, someone who can do that thoroughly," said Noah Kent, a freshman biology major.

Overall, McCormick said that he was glad to have served as chair.

"Hopefully, we did a lot of good in the past decade, but at the very least, we pledged to do no harm. And I think we've avoided that," he said.

With enrollment and the need for department staff likely to increase once the medical school opens, according to McCormick, the process of adjusting to a new chair may be complex.

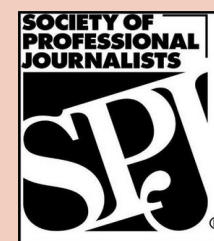
"Dr. McCormick has been chair for quite some time, so I think there will be a period of adjust-

ment, but I think it will work out for the better," Modi said.

Although little has been decided at this point, Patton-Vogt said that she was excited to get started.

"In this department, we want to teach well, we want to do good research, and we always want to improve," she said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge."

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# Criteria for event approval murky

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(which is no longer functioning on campus). She has also worked on a number of programs that have run into roadblocks similar to this one.

As an event for Kappa Alpha Kappa, their group had planned on holding a “Trap Karaoke” night.

“We experienced a lot of push-back, and I would say threats, from the event and conference services saying that trap wasn’t Duquesnable,” she said.

The issue surrounding this event came from the word “trap” which, in this context, is a term from the ‘90s that defines a certain subgenre of hip-hop music — current artists like Future and Drake are often considered to perform under the umbrella of trap.

Regarding the screening of *Unplanned*, Chisom made clear that it wasn’t the topic of the event that was the problem, but rather the portrayal of the topic in the posters.

“I reached out to Dr. Frizzell and a few people in the Center for Student Involvement just to tell them that some of the female students on campus that I’ve had conversations with were uncomfortable with the event,” said Chisom.

Events like this can be particularly difficult for female members of the campus community to deal with, she continued, as it may bring up traumatic experiences from their personal lives.

Both Skomo and Chisom separately mentioned the controversy over the Gender Neutral Fashion Show event and its posters, in questioning what the standard and criteria are for holding events

on campus.

The term “Duquesnable” is an expression that came about from students themselves, and is used in reference to something that reflects the mission of Duquesne.

According to Adam Wasilko, the assistant vice president for the Center for Student Involvement, the term is not used in an official university capacity to determine whether or not an event can happen, but there is a separate process that takes into consideration various factors and depends on the program type.

“Offices such as University Conference and Event Services or the Center for Student Involvement are usually the starting point for proposed events, but it depends on whether the event is a residence hall program, dining event, faculty program, DPC event, etc.,” Wasilko said.

Questions submitted Wednesday afternoon with the Conference and Event Services office were not answered before publication deadline. Inquiries on this topic were submitted to university officials last week.

Chisom and Skomo think the university needs to provide clarity for organization leaders when scheduling events on campus.

“The students who accept admissions to Duquesne understand Duquesne’s religious ties; moving forward we would not like Duquesne to disregard its religious tradition. We understand that things need to be Duquesnable, but if you’re going to make that the standard, it should be the standard,” Chisom said.

# Professor awarded select fellowship

LUKE SCHRUM  
staff writer

Duquesne is well-known for its many faculty-led research projects that range from the humanities to health sciences, but one commonality of all research is the need for funding. Greg Barnhisel, English professor in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, has been awarded a \$60,000 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, his second fellowship in seven years, to support his most recent project.

Barnhisel explained why this particular fellowship is highly coveted and competitive as it provides funding to scholars to complete research and projects associated with their work.

“[The fellowships] give recipients up to 12 months of support to work on a scholarly project, usually a book. They are highly competitive; only about 7% of applicants are funded,” Barnhisel said.

This program is also responsible for a variety of funding outside of scholarly projects.

“[The agency] doesn’t just support people writing books, but gives money to local libraries, museums and educational institutions,” Barnhisel said.

For the last five years, Barnhisel has been working on a biography of Norman Holmes Pearson, a former professor at Yale University, as he researches the life and impact Pearson had. *The Professor Was a Spy: A Biography of Norman Holmes Pearson, American Literary Scholar* aims to tell Pearson’s story as well as how he wrote the

narrative of the 20th century.

“I’ve been working on this book for about five years now, since I finished my last one. [In] that time, I’ve mostly been laying the groundwork: figuring out all of the major facts and events of his life, identifying where the documents I will need to use are and what people I will need to interview,” Barnhisel said.

Research for a biography of this type requires extensive traveling to the locations where important events occurred and Barnhisel has already spent time gathering information.

“I’ve visited the town where he grew up, the town his parents came from, and the area near Gloucester, Mass. where his ancestors settled in America. And I’ve spent a lot of time at Yale, where his papers are held,” Barnhisel said.

As all of the research that goes into the book must be done on location, the fellowship will greatly increase the information he can collect and include.

“This is the kind of project that really needs dedicated time because of all of the travel involved. The facts of his life aren’t in published books; they are in his personal papers and the papers of the people that knew him, which are held in archive libraries and can’t be lent out. So I need to actually go there to use them,” Barnhisel said. “Also, it’s important to visit the places where he lived and worked to get a sense of what this life was like, what he would have seen every day.”

The fellowship also provides Barnhisel the opportunity to meet

those who knew Pearson best and to observe the items he valued.

“[Pearson’s] surviving step-daughter, who is almost 90, invited me to their weekend house on the Connecticut shore and it was really amazing to be surrounded with all of his things, the art and books that he collected. The fellowship, and the time it gives me to dedicate to this book, literally make it possible for me to write it,” Barnhisel said.

Telling Pearson’s story will shed light on a figure of the 20th century, who was largely behind-the-scenes.

“[Pearson] started his career at a time when many people around the world weren’t sure American literature was even worth reading, and then after World War II he was really central in the government’s effort to explain American culture to people around the world, to try to sway them to the American side in the Cold War,” Barnhisel said.

Pearson’s work and life are also the reasons Barnhisel initially became interested in him as he was very prolific in the twentieth century.

“[Pearson] was an important CIA recruiter, and maybe more, in the 1950s,” Barnhisel said. “And he’s also just a fascinating person: He knew and socialized with just about every writer of the time, he came from some of the oldest and most prominent Massachusetts families and then married into one of the richest families in New England, the Winchesters of the gun company ... he also had a pretty significant disability in a time when people were happy to discriminate against him because of it.”

Ultimately Barnhisel hopes the biography will open eyes regarding how important Pearson was to the development of American culture in the 20th century and what made it possible.

“I would hope that more people appreciate what Pearson accomplished as a teacher, editor, cultural diplomat, and general behind-the-scenes operator ... A biography of Pearson won’t just tell us more about the life of this one extraordinary man, but about how America transformed itself over the first 25 years of the Cold War,” Barnhisel said.



COURTESY DUQ.EDU

Greg Barnhisel, an English professor at Duquesne was recently awarded his second fellowship in seven years.

# Arizona newspaper quits candidate endorsements

(AP) — The Arizona Republic, which drew global attention in 2016 for endorsing a Democrat for president for the first time in its history, will stop endorsing candidates for public office, newspaper leaders wrote Wednesday.

Executive Editor Greg Burton and Editorial Page Editor Phil Boas explained in a column that research by the Phoenix-based newspaper, Arizona’s largest, showed readers find endorsements alienating and “blur the way they view our news stories.”

The editors wrote that many readers don’t see the sharp line that news organizations draw between their neutral news stories and their opinion content.

“More and more of today’s readers see candidate endorsements as an intrusion on the electoral process,” Burton and Boas wrote.

With a hyper-partisan political environment and an increasing

number of voters getting their news online, the Republic and other newspapers are rethinking the unsigned editorials that represent the views of the newspaper’s opinion editors.

The Republic’s 2016 endorsement of Hillary Clinton garnered global attention because it was the first time the paper recommended a Democrat in its 126-year history. Burton and Boas wrote that they stand by that decision and their decision to forego an endorsement in 2020 does not represent a retreat from their position four years ago.

The newspaper will continue to weigh in on big questions of public policy and will still make endorsements for ballot measures.

“We will inform with perspective and opinion about the major races as they unfold and will raise red flags when we see candidates violating traditional norms,” they wrote.

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## EDITORIAL

## POLICY

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Comic By: Katie SeCaur

## Shaving away at gender specific products

Strolling through any local drugstore, men's and women's health and beauty products line their respective sides of the aisle. Shades of pink, purple and a variety of other gentle pastels decorate the female products while dark grays and cool blues hold the promise of masculine appeal.

While this gender division has existed for centuries, these products were primarily birthed out of the post- World War II era. In a time of booming American prosperity, middle-class consumers had the money to buy more gender specific goods, and advertisers took notice. Subsequently, the personal care market experienced a massive boom in gendered products.

Products that were previously seen as unisex suddenly became highly feminized and masculinized. Soap became one of the largest culprits with companies advertising pink, flower-scented soap for women specifically. The previous standard, unisex products suddenly became marketed for men only, and the industry practice only grew from there.

Today, most stores and consumers are still feeling the effects of the advertising practices of the 1950s. It is no secret that the personal hygiene industry is highly gendered. Nearly every health and beauty product has a male or female counterpart. Everything from razors to body wash to deodorant are strategically marketed by gender.

But in this day in age, are these gender-specific products still necessary?

While large corporations will argue that they gender specify

products because those products have certain advantages for members of that gender. Women's shampoo is said to volumize hair or restore salon color; men's razors are said to leave the perfect, clean shave. However, there is little proof that these claims are valid.



COLLEEN HAMMOND  
opinions editor

To the disdain of die hard, brand-oriented consumers, shampoo is shampoo. Despite what advertisers would like the public to believe, there isn't a large difference between the quality of men's and women's products. For the most part, they achieve the same goal: they wash hair.

However, despite their similarity in quality, gendered health and beauty products do not come with matching price tags.

The U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee conducted a study on this issue. "Everyday products marketed to women often come with a higher price tag when compared to nearly identical versions marketed to men," said their 2016 report.

This is completely absurd. There should not be a higher price for goods just because women are purchasing

them. Likewise, male products should not be inherently cheaper because they are marketed toward men.

The current system of gendered consumer goods needs to reevaluate its place in the American market, and consumers need to gain a greater awareness of the unfairness in the current system.

Luckily, this movement is already underway and gaining momentum. This week the Wall Street Journal released a study stating that 30% of consumers have purchased and used genderless beauty products.

Businesses like Dollar Shave Club, a shaving tool subscription delivery service, are working to erase the stigma of men's and women's products. By including both men and women in its ad campaigns, they open up its consumer base to a much wider range. In addition, Dollar Shave Club was originally marketed to men, and therefore it has evaded the dreaded pink tax.

While the pink tax is overall unfair and should not exist, genderless companies offer a major solution to this problem. Genderless hygiene products eliminate the need for the more expensive female products.

Although this may seem like a niche issue, equality in the marketplace is a major step to ensuring equal rights and social standings between men and women.

There is no need for gender specific health and beauty products. Despite company claims and smoke and mirrors marketing strategies, it does not matter if a product is made for men or women.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL*Math is not always  
the answer*

When it comes to classifying intelligence, it is usually accepted that if you have strong abilities in science and mathematics, you are considered to be smart. Unfortunately, most people do not take the time to appreciate the amount of work and creativity that goes into artistic fields.

Science and math carry such high esteem in our society to the point where a stigma has been created around them. There's a misconception that if you are not doing something related to science and math, you are not going to be successful in life and you are therefore less intelligent than others. But those same people will turn around and praise the newest films and the hottest music.

If there truly is no value in having training in the arts, then it would stand to reason that art should not be as prevalent in daily life. However, everywhere you look you will find someone talking about their favorite books, movies, animations, musicals, plays and music. Most people listen to music and watch television every day. Without the arts, such luxuries would not exist.

It is true that education in math and science has led to groundbreaking discoveries, but that does not make it the only path to success. No one would dare to say that Alfred Hitchcock and Martin Scorsese are unsuccessful, as their films such as *Psycho* and *The Wolf of Wall Street* respectively have become iconic statements of pop culture. No one would claim that a company like Pixar is unsuccessful for their award-winning animations that have shaped the childhoods of many. No one would try to argue that authors like Edgar Allen Poe and Jane Austen have not left a lasting impact on this world with works withstanding the test of time.

Artistic expression helps to shape the world just as much as any other skill, and it carries its own importance in society. It is challenging and innovative and brings about emotions that are often hard to convey. Training and education in artistic fields must be encouraged among students rather than trampled and ridiculed.

Yes, there is uncertainty when pursuing a career in the arts, but there is uncertainty in all fields. It is important to allow students to explore their talents instead of restricting them to only certain subjects. Intelligence can take many forms, and to say that math and science are the only true way to judge intelligence is a dangerous misconception.

To those who feel as though the arts are not important, stop watching films and listening to different music artists. Stop enjoying comic books and graphic novels and books in general. Stop praising the latest animations and graphics in television and video games. If art truly has no value, then there should be no problem giving it up.



# OPINIONS

## Subtitles and captions make movies more inclusive

GRIFFIN SENDEK

photo editor

The use of captioning for television and movies is readily available on streaming services in home entertainment devices, yet has failed to be properly implemented on the big screen.

In the times of silent cinema, the theater could entertain the hearing and deaf alike. However, since the first development of sound in moving pictures in 1927, the medium took off running and never looked back.

In the transition away from silent films, the deaf and hard of hearing have been left in the dark, unable to enjoy the proper movie theater experience. It's long overdue for this to change. It is necessary for American cinemas to undergo widespread adoption of open captions.

Subtitles and captions are very similar and often used synonymously, but there is a key difference between the two. Subtitles are only a transcription of dialogue, meant for language translation and designed for people without hearing disabilities. Captions, on the other hand, are designed for the hard of hearing and include dialogue as well as audio transcription of non-verbal sounds.

Open captions are projected on the screen with the film and are unable to be turned off, and closed captions, often abbreviated CC on TV menus and remotes, are available at the viewer's discretion. Movie theaters are capable of providing closed captioning, albeit in less than ideal ways.

As part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III, it is required for all movie theaters to own and maintain equipment that provides closed captioning and audio description to its customers.

Despite the legal requirement for such devices, they are plagued with functional and mechanical errors. It is common for CC equipment to be out of sync with the movie, missing lines of dialogue, or have the batteries die part-way through.

Instead of working to ensure that all the assistive listening devices are fully functional for hard of hearing or deaf patrons, most theaters resort to apologizing by giving away free movie vouchers. These free vouchers are about as useful as if McDonald's apologized to vegetarians for not having meat-free options by offering them free burgers.

What is the point in movie theaters offering accommodations for people with disabilities if said accommodations cannot be trust-



COURTESY OF LINCOLN JOURNALIST.COM

Closed captions make movie theaters more accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences.

ed to function 100% of the time?

Continuously giving away free movie tickets is not and never will be a proper solution. Theaters beginning to offer open captioned movie screenings, on the other hand, is a method that would eliminate many of the issues plaguing assistive listening devices.

Additionally, the implementation of open captions in cinemas cuts out the middleman allowing hard of hearing and deaf customers to view movies in just the same way as everyone else.

The most common argument against the use of captions is always the same — that captions

are a huge distraction from the movie, that watching with them on pulls the focus completely to reading the words and not to the action on the screen.

The one-inch bar of mild-inconvenience for some is enough to make an entire world of difference for others. Your slight distaste for captions is in no way a valid excuse for denying an entire community of people from being able to take part in the movie theater experience.

The two-word "it's distracting" argument, though thin as it may be, seems to be a massive roadblock for insertion of captioned screenings. Especially in a time when overall ticket sales are

declining year to year, theaters are reluctant to make any sort of change that could potentially alienate audiences.

The fact of the matter is that hearing moviegoers can learn to deal with captions and still, but deaf moviegoers cannot learn to hear.

It is not even necessary for open captions to be implemented on the theater wide level, not every single movie screening needs to be an open captioned one. Offering captioned showtimes a few times a day would still be a big leap forward in making the simple pleasure of going out to the movies something that's accessible to all.

## Weinstein conviction opens doors for other survivors

KELSEY BURTNER

layout editor

On Monday, Feb. 24, Harvey Weinstein, the once renowned and most influential producer in Hollywood, was convicted of criminal sexual acts in the first degree as well as rape in the third degree. This conviction was decided by the members of the jury in the State Supreme Court in Manhattan. Currently, Weinstein faces a minimum of five years in prison with a sentencing set for March 11. However, while found guilty of two crimes of sexual misconduct, the producer was acquitted of the most serious charges he faced.

Weinstein was found not guilty of two counts of predatory sexual assault and one count of rape in the first degree. These charges carry the highest possible sentences with predatory sexual assault carrying a penalty of 10 years to life in prison.

While the jury acquitted the most serious charges against Weinstein in the Manhattan trial, this is a monumental moment for the #MeToo movement. The #MeToo movement is an activism initiative fighting against sexual harassment and assault, and it was pushed into the mainstream media after the



COURTESY OF VANITY FAIR

Former Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein hobbles before spectators during his recent sexual assault trial.

first allegations against Weinstein were published by the New York Times and the New Yorker in October of 2017.

According to the New York Times, many victims viewed the trial as "a crucial test in the effort to hold powerful men accountable for sexual harassment in the workplace." A conviction of any kind, despite the not guilty verdict on his most severe charges, is a victory in the ongoing battle for justice for the countless sexual assault victims at the hands of Weinstein and other powerful and influential abusers. Weinstein's conviction has even been referred to as a watershed

moment for those who are embroiled in similar situations.

After the verdict, Weinstein was handcuffed and removed from the courtroom as he had refused to move on his own and he was taken away in an ambulance to Bellevue Hospital Center for complaints of chest pain and blood pressure before being relocated to a medical center on Rikers Island. Rikers Island is the large jail complex in the city of Manhattan, where Weinstein will be held while he awaits his sentence hearing.

Currently, Weinstein is being held without bail and his lead attorney Donna Rotunno issued a

statement that she and the rest of Weinstein's legal team are working to have him placed under house arrest instead due to health issues. In addition, Rotunno has gone on record stating that the victims had consented to the sexual acts with Weinstein and only came forward as a way to take part in a growing feminist agenda. On the news podcast The Daily, Rotunno said that she had never been sexually assaulted "because [I] would never put myself in that position."

By holding Weinstein responsible for his misconduct, this conviction opens the door for other victims to seek justice

where it may have been impossible before. They no longer need to feel as though they are going up against a goliath that cannot be defeated in a court of law. The impact of this ruling will serve as an inspiration to others who have been suffering in silence.

The verdict sends out a powerful message of hope and demonstrates the amount of progress being made for sexual assault victims from all walks of life. Taran Burke, the original creator of the #MeToo movement, said in an interview "Harvey Weinstein operated with impunity and without remorse for decades in Hollywood. Yet, it still took years, and millions of voices raised, for one man to be held accountable by the justice system."

She went on to say "this case reminds us that sexual violence thrives on unchecked power and privilege." Weinstein's conviction demonstrates the ability to place checks and balances on power-hungry individuals and strips away the protection that for years was inherently linked to power and status. Those who felt weak have been empowered to fight back to make their voices heard. With the playing field becoming more level, justice and victory appear to be closer than ever before.



## 4121 Main offers warm atmosphere and rich coffee

KATIA FAROUN

associate photo editor

When you live in one of the dreariest cities in the U.S., it can be pretty difficult to find the sunshine. Luckily for us Yinzers, Bloomfield has just the spot — and it comes with a cup of coffee.

4121 Main, located on the border of Bloomfield and Lawrenceville, offers a much-needed respite for all types of coffee lovers, but especially those who enjoy a small and cozy atmosphere. A tiny 1920's storefront houses the shop, and the interior is adorned with flowers — fresh and dried — house plants and knick knacks galore, creating a warm and inspiring atmosphere.

Upon entering the shop, customers exit



KATIA FAROUN / ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR  
The shop presents flowers as well as coffee.

the gloomy streets of central Pittsburgh and are greeted by a warm glow and the sweet scent of flowers and coffee. The wooden floors and benches along the walls create a comfortable, home-like environment. Far from ostentatious, the benches are decorated simply with plush pillows and wooden stepping stools to substitute tables. This set-up extends a casual space to communicate and collaborate to customers, without the separation that tables with chairs would present. The addition of quiet acoustic music and friendly staff adds to the charming vibe of the space.

The room is illuminated by simple Edison bulb chandeliers, adding to the warmth of the ambience. Along the walls, shelves covered with vases, flowers, succulents and pots make 4121 Main resemble Roxanne's Dried Flowers in the Strip, which 4121 Main's owner, Thommy Conroy, aided in designing. In the center of the room, a lone table presents more art pieces that are available for purchase.

The back corner of the space accommodates a modest coffee bar, usually run by no more than a single barista. 4121 Main imports its coffee from Heart Coffee Roasters in Portland, Ore., and customers can buy bags of their rich coffee. The bar also offers local Bee Boy honey from Greenfield for sale, a nice bonus for the shop's ecologically-conscious customers.

It would be disappointing for a coffee shop with such a compelling atmosphere to offer a subpar brew. But luckily for 4121 Main (and its regulars), the menu has a wide range of tasty selections.

Presented on a small clipboard, the menu contains various brews from Heart Coffee Roasters, but starts with a handwritten page of creative seasonals, such as



KATIA FAROUN / ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

4121 Main, located in Bloomfield, creates a warm and inspiring atmosphere in a typically dreary Pittsburgh.

a ginger, honey and cinnamon latte or a white chocolate and strawberry mocha.

In addition to classic coffee styles, the shop provides an assortment of unorthodox flavors, including a tasty maple lavender latte and a lemon and mint soda, mixed with Bee Boy honey. 4121 Main also provides a diverse selection of teas from Bellocq, a prestigious tea atelier in Brooklyn, and tops off the menu with a small selection of pastries and baked goods.

Besides its desire to offer Pittsburgh residents excellent coffee in an intimate atmosphere, 4121 Main aspires to stir creativity and conversation among its visitors. The intentional placement of art and natural decor helps form the shop into an area where guests can formulate ideas and have inspired conversation.

To encourage the creative atmosphere, the art within the shop changes every few months to exhibit a new design that intends to keep returning individuals consistently inspired.

Conroy uses his background in floristry and event planning to bring 4121 Main's aesthetic to events, including dinner parties and weddings. The shop's website displays an image gallery of bouquets and events showcasing the company's crafty roots. Its social media presence also exhibits the shop's emphasis on craftsmanship and creativity, linking its floral designs with an overall rustic theme.

With nothing short of wonderful in its atmosphere or espresso, 4121 Main gives its frequenters an open space to collaborate and indulge in creative ideas — and a solid cup of coffee.

## The five-year-old sophomore: being born on leap day

KELLEN STEPLER

features editor

Joe Chobany has been waiting for this day for four years.

Chobany is one of approximately 187,000 Americans who was born on Feb. 29. Dubbed "leaplings," the odds of being born on Feb. 29 are greater than 1 in 1,461.

Feb. 29 can be found on a calendar only once every four years. The day is added to the calendar in leap years as a corrective measure, because the Earth revolves around the Sun in approximately 365.25 days. So, to make sure the calendar year is the same as a typical year, there needs to be a day added every four years.

However, a year that is divisible by 100, but not by 400, is not a leap year. So, 2000 was a leap year under the Gregorian calendar, as was 1600. But 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years.

Fittingly, the day falls between Feb. 28 and March 1.

Chobany said that when he was younger, his parents asked him when he wanted to celebrate his birthday on non-leap years. He celebrates it on Feb. 28, because his birth month is February, so he feels that he should celebrate it in February.

"Whenever I don't have a birthday, it's normal," Chobany said. "When it



KELLEN STEPLER / FEATURES EDITOR

Joe Chobany is one of approximately 187,000 Americans who is born on Feb. 29.

actually is my birthday, I get cards for four-year-olds, five-year-olds."

Despite the unique birthday, Chobany said there's really "no advantage or disadvantage" of being a leapling. However, he uses the day as a fun fact about himself "all the time."

"People don't believe me when I say my birthday is February 29," Chobany said.

In non-leap years, the effective legal date of a leapling's birthday varies between jurisdiction. In New Zealand, for example, the official birthday falls on

Feb. 28 in common years. In the United Kingdom, leap year babies have to wait until March 1.

Chobany explained that while this has never happened to him yet, it depends on the legal document to determine when his birthday is recognized in non-leap years.

"Some services don't recognize Feb. 29 [as a birthday]," Chobany said. "They move it to March 1."

People with the unique birthday can join the Facebook group, "The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies." Ac-

cording to their website, it is a free-membership birthday club for people born on Feb. 29.

The group's mission is to promote Leap Year Day awareness (LYDA) by accumulating knowledge about the day along with people's experiences.

The website is edited and produced by Raenell Dawn and Peter Brouwer, both born on Leap Year Day, cofounders of the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies and determined celebrators of everything leap day, according to the website.

Although only a day as added now to correct the Earth's orbit around the Sun, there used to be a leap month.

Ancient Romans added an extra month every few years because the Roman calendar year was 355 days, rather than the 365 days recognized now. However, this method became shortlived when Julius Caesar and ancient Roman astronomers decided to add just one day every four years. So, Caesar is therefore known as "the father of the leap year."

On Feb. 29, Chobany will be celebrating his 5th birthday and 20th year of life.

"I've only had five birthdays, but I've also been living for 20 years," Chobany said.

Once his birthday passes, he will have to wait four more years until he officially turns six.

"It's fun to have a unique birthday," Chobany said.



Swimming and Diving finishes third at A-10 Championship

JAMES LEO  
staff writer

The Duquesne women’s swimming and diving team secured a third place finish at the Atlantic 10 Championship held on Feb. 19-22, marking their sixth straight top-three finish at the Conference Championship. The Dukes also broke several school records in the process.

The Dukes scored a total of 525 points during this year’s tournament which now ranks as the third highest total in school history. The first and second highest point totals were also recently captured with the Dukes’ 1st-place finishes in 2018 and 2019.

The first day of the A-10 Championship Tournament started fast for the Dukes. Freshman diver Sidney O’Donnell earned a bronze medal in the 1-meter dive for Duquesne, and the 800 Yard Freestyle Relay team (junior Emma Brinton, senior Carson Gross, senior Lauren Devorace and sophomore Hanna Everhart) took gold and broke a school record with a time of 7:15.54. At the end of the first day, the Dukes were in second place.

The second day proved equally successful with seniors Gross and Devorace earning the silver and bronze medal respectively in the 500-yard freestyle. Gross’s silver-medal performance time of 4:50.07 broke a school record for the event. By the end of the second night, the Dukes maintained their second place position.

Duquesne came out strong on the third day with Everhart earning gold for the Dukes in the 200-yard freestyle. Everhart also set a new school record for this event with a time of 1:48.10. In the 100-yard backstroke, Sophomore Audrey Steen earned a bronze medal to shorten the points gap between Duquesne and George Washington.

On the final day, Everhart earned her third gold medal of the Tournament in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 50.32. The Dukes finished the tournament in third place, only nine points behind the next school, Fordham.

The tournament featured several record-breaking performances for the Dukes, capping a stellar season and proving once again that Head Coach David Sheets seems to have a

formula to keep the swimming program consistent.

“I think for us, it’s just about finding the right kids who fit who we are, that understand what our culture is,” Sheets said. “We’re looking for student-athletes that buy into everything we do. Once you can start doing that on a consistent basis, then you can start having more consistent success. We’re also trying to make sure our swimmers are not just swimmers, but complete athletes as well.”

The team, who won the A-10 Championship in 2018 and 2019, trains hard to remain at top competitors, which Coach Sheets know can be a full time job.

“I think I learned that it [roster changes] is never going to be an organic process,” Sheets said. “It’s something that I’ve got to work at on a daily basis to build and maintain the program.”

Sheets was happy with the A-10 third place finish; however, he seems to hold his team to a higher standard.

“Now, third is good; there’s a lot of other schools that would’ve been happy to finish third,” Sheets said. “But for us, that’s not the bar anymore.”

Although they may not have been crowned champions, the team worked hard all season towards and will continue to strive for perfection.

Such determination can be seen in their practice schedule. “We double up on Mon-



COURTESY OF SYDNEY BAUER | DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

A group of Duquesne swimmers and divers cheer on their teammates during an event at the Atlantic 10 Championship Meet at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

day, Wednesday, and Friday,” Sheets said. “Then, we’ll have one practice on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. They have Sunday off.”

Sheets, once a swimmer himself, noted that training has changed drastically since his days as an athlete.

“I swam back in the early ‘90s, so the way you train has completely evolved from the way that I trained,” Sheets said. “So, I think keeping myself educated and learning from my mistakes from the way that I was trained, helps make our kids better.”

It is quite evident that Coach Sheets’ training regime is working both in the water and out. His resume speaks for itself, as the programs [men’s and women’s] have broken every school

record and established a tradition of academic success, having either the men’s or women’s teams being ranked in the top 15 in the country for team GPA each season.

The one thing that the Duquesne women’s swimming and diving team could use is support from the student body.

“We’re in a situation where we don’t have a lot of home meets,” Sheets said. “I think coming to those home meets that we do have, and supporting our student-athletes in that manner, is probably the best way to support us.”

Duquesne students who will be present when the season commences again should take note — as this is certainly a team to follow and one that deserves the spotlight.



COUTRESY OF SYDNEY BAUER | DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne sophomore Hanna Everhart celebrates at the finish line after winning the gold medal in the 100-yard freestyle. She finished with a time of 50:32. The Bloomsburg native ended the weekend with a team-best three gold medals.

Upcoming Events

The following events are all of Duquesne’s varsity athletic contests for the next several weeks.

- **Feb. 28, 1 a.m.**  
Women’s Tennis vs. Eastern Michigan
- **Feb. 29**  
Women’s Track and Field at Atlantic 10 Championships (Amherst, MA)
- **Feb. 29, 1 p.m.**  
Women’s Basketball vs. St. Bonaventure
- **Feb. 29, 7 p.m.**  
Men’s Basketball vs. George Mason
- **March 3, TBA**  
Men’s Tennis vs. Davidson
- **March 3, TBA**  
Women’s Tennis vs. Davidson
- **March 3, 7 p.m.**  
Women’s Basketball vs. TBA (First Round, Atlantic 10 Championship Tournament)
- **March 3, 7 p.m.**  
Men’s Basketball at VCU
- **March 4, 3 p.m.**  
Women’s Lacrosse at University of Delaware
- **March 6, TBA**  
Women’s Tennis at College of Charleston
- **March 6, TBA**  
Men’s Tennis at College of Charleston

This Week in Sports History

- On **Feb. 28, 1940**, the University of Pittsburgh played Fordham in the first televised college basketball game. Pittsburgh bested the Rams, 57-37, at Madison Square Garden.
- On **March 2, 1962**, Philadelphia Warriors’ center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100-points, most ever by a single player in an NBA game. Chamberlain finished the night shooting 36-of-63 from the field, and 28-of-32 from the free throw line in the Warriors 169-147 win over the New York Knicks in Hershey.

A-10 MBB Standings — Top 10

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	No. 4 Dayton	15-0	26-6	W17	2/28 vs. Davidson
2.	Rhode Island	12-3	20-7	W1	3/1 vs. Saint Louis
3.	Richmond	11-4	21-7	W1	2/29 vs. UMass
4.	St. Bonaventure	10-5	18-10	L1	2/29 at La Salle
5.	<b>Duquesne</b>	9-6	19-8	W1	2/29 vs George Mason
6.	Davidson	9-6	15-12	W2	2/28 at Dayton
7.	Saint Louis	8-6	19-8	W1	3/1 at Rhode Island
8.	UMass	7-8	13-15	W3	2/29 at Richmond
9.	VCU	7-8	17-11	L5	2/29 vs. G. Washington
10.	G. Washington	6-9	12-16	L2	2/29 at VCU

A-10 WBB Standings — Top 10

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	14-1	21-8	W1	2/29 at SLU
2.	VCU	12-3	17-11	W3	2/29 at Davidson
3.	Fordham	10-5	18-10	L1	2/29 vs. Saint Joseph’s
4.	Saint Louis	9-6	17-11	W1	2/29 vs. Dayton
5.	UMass	8-7	18-10	W2	2/29 vs. Rhode Island
6.	<b>Duquesne</b>	8-7	18-10	W1	2/29 at St. Bonaventure
7.	Davidson	8-7	15-13	W1	2/29 vs. VCU
8.	Richmond	7-8	14-15	L1	2/29 at G. Washington
9.	G. Washington	7-8	13-15	W2	2/29 vs. Richmond
10.	La Salle	6-9	12-16	L1	2/29 at George Mason



# Women's basketball beats Fordham on Senior Night

DAVID BORNE  
sports editor

After a tough loss to George Washington on Saturday, Duquesne's women's basketball found a way to right the ship against Fordham on Tuesday at the UPMC Events Center.

Tuesday's game was Duquesne's Senior Night, and Angela Stafileno, Nina Aho and Paige Cannon were honored in a ceremony before the game.

The seniors' last regular season "home" contest could not have gone better — as the Dukes (18-10, 8-7) pulled out a 74-63 win over the best defensive team in the conference.

"We know that we did not play well in the second half against George Washington. It was super disappointing, but we also knew we had to move forward," Cannon said. "We all had a chip on our shoulder for this next game because we lost the last game, and because of what happened last year [against Fordham] too. It was just a really exciting game for all of us."

As Cannon referenced, Duquesne's last time out against the Rams resulted in a brutal 76-34 loss at the A.J. Palumbo Center.

This year's result could not have been any more different.

The Red and Blue finished the night shooting 50% from the floor. Libby Bazalak led the team in scoring with 21 points. Laia Sole ended her night right behind Bazalak, with 20 points of her own.

Cannon made the most of her Senior Night, posting 15 points and grabbing a team-high 15 rebounds.

In total, eight different Dukes finished the night with a field goal.

Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt noted that the win was probably his team's most complete performance of the season. Every Duke that saw the floor made an impact, with contributions coming on both ends of the court.

"We had 21 assists on 27 buckets. That's team basketball," Burt said. "And to only have 13 turnovers, that's a really good night."

Aho echoed Burt's words, and added that when a few of her teammates get going, it makes it easier for everybody else to get in on the action.

"It was a team effort," Aho said. "So when Paige hit one, then Libby hit one,

then Amanda [Kalin] hit one, then Laia hit one, it gets everybody going. It was such a team effort."

The win increased Duquesne's odds at hosting a game in the first round of the A-10 Tournament. Burt mentioned that he's content with playing in the first round, as opposed to getting a bye. The game will allow his team to stay sharp before heading to Dayton for the rest of the tournament, if they advance that far.

It's evident that the league is wide open

this season, and the Dukes' win on Tuesday was just another example of that.

The Dukes seem to be hitting their stride at the right time, but nothing is guaranteed in March.

"The handshakes after [games] with coaches, every conversation has been 'It's that year. Anybody can win the Atlantic 10 Championship', Burt said. "It's going to make for a really exciting week of basketball. Whoever gets to Dayton — boy it's going to be a lot of fun."



DAVID BORNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Seniors (left to right) Nina Aho, Paige Cannon and Angela Stafileno pose with friends and family.

# Penguins locked and loaded after trade deadline

JACOB HEBDA  
staff writer

Penguins fans have become accustomed to bold moves by Jim Rutherford, so there was plenty of anticipation leading up to this week's NHL trade deadline, which was on at 3 p.m. on Feb. 24.

It did not disappoint.

Rutherford made three moves involving NHL players, with the most noteworthy coming about two weeks ago. The Penguins finally threw in the towel on their Alex Galchenyuk reclamation effort, shipping him to Minnesota with highly touted prospect Calen Addison and a 2020 first round pick. In return, they received veteran forward Jason Zucker.

Most already figured Pittsburgh would be a buyer as the deadline neared, but that decision made it official. They released a bundle of assets brimming with potential for a player they believed could be an instant game-changer.

That notion seems accurate so far, as Zucker already has five points in seven games since the trade. His best performance came in a 4-1 win over Montreal where he scored twice.

Better yet, the 28-year-old is signed through the 2022-23 season at a reasonable \$5.5 million average annual salary. Rutherford's next big move came on deadline day, Feb. 24. He swapped a 2021 third-round pick for San Jose forward Patrick Marleau, who leads all active players in career games played.

With 10 goals and 10 assists this season, Marleau has been productive. Nonetheless, he proved expendable for a struggling Sharks team that's nearing a rebuild.

Now, he'll step into a depth-forward role

with the Penguins. Between his experience and continuing production, he should be a perfect complementary piece.

It's also worth mentioning that Marleau has never won a Stanley Cup. In fact, thanks to his new team, he just fell short in 2016. As he joins a Penguins team looking to win now, his hunger to finally win the big one makes him an even better fit on the roster.

Rutherford capped his deadline moves by acquiring a familiar face, Conor Sheary. Sheary, of course, won two Cups with Pittsburgh in 2016 and 2017.

The 27-year-old was a key role player during each title run, scoring a combined 12 points. He also netted a career-high 23 goals during the 2016-17 season.

However, after his production dropped the following year, he was traded to the Buffalo Sabres. Now he returns to his old

team hoping to help them achieve a familiar goal.

As part of the deal, the Penguins also received forward Evan Rodrigues. In exchange, Domink Kahun was sent to Buffalo.

Rodrigues has struggled this year with only nine total points, but he posted 25 and 29 points in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons, respectively. For a player who spent his first four NHL seasons with the Sabres, perhaps a change of scenery will prove beneficial.

Now, with the dust finally settled, it's time to consider the effects of these transactions.

As mentioned before, there is no doubting the current motive of Rutherford and the Penguins. This team is chasing another Stanley Cup now, and it's not hard to understand why.

The longtime core of Sidney Crosby, Ev-

geni Malkin and Kris Letang is getting older by the day. Each player is over 30, and as we have repeatedly witnessed in sports, you can never really predict when that dramatic decline will finally arrive.

It makes sense to seize the current opportunity. The Penguins are among the best teams in the league right now, so why not go all in while they have the chance? Some have complained about Rutherford's moves, particularly the Zucker deal. They have suggested a first-round pick and high-end prospect were too much to give up for a good, but not great, player like Zucker.

Some have also pointed out that Kahun is the best player of him, Sheary and Rodrigues. So why bother trading him with that sort of return?

These are familiar responses. When Rutherford first arrived, he made it clear he wanted to win now. That meant trading away draft picks and prospects for questionable players.

It wasn't particularly well-received at the time, but sure enough, his aggressiveness brought two championships back to Pittsburgh.

Rutherford's track record here has been fantastic. Key contributors like Phil Kessel, Patric Hornqvist and Justin Schultz were all acquired through trades. Even this season, Rutherford scored big when he made a deal for John Marino, who has been among the team's best defensemen. Sure, deals for Derick Brassard, Ryan Reaves and others didn't pan out, but that happens.

The Penguins are going all in, and their fans should embrace it. Otherwise, in a few years when Crosby and Malkin are past their primes, fans will still be wondering, "What if?"



COURTESY OF THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

Recently acquired forward Patrick Marleau skates along the boards during his first practice with the Penguins. The 40-year-old veteran has scored 561 goals and tallied 625 assists in his career. Marleau has appeared 191 career playoff games, burying 72 goals in postseason play.



# Josh Peck entertains DU in Student Union

CAPRI SCARCELLI

staff writer

On Thursday, Feb. 20, television star and media personality Josh Peck visited Duquesne's campus to talk about his career, his life and his fondest memories — all the while cracking jokes effortlessly.

Although most widely known for his role on Nickelodeon's *Drake and Josh*, Peck has moved toward various new projects and successes that he was excited to share with the audience.

The event began at 9 p.m., though students were lined up outside of the Union as early as an hour-and-a-half before the doors even opened. Because it was below freezing, Center of Student Involvement advisor Marc Grandillo let students into the building at 8 p.m. rather than 8:30.

Even then, the excitement did not settle there. As soon as Peck took the stage, the entire audience lit up, according to Jonathan Radinovic, a junior integrated and marketing communications major.

"Everybody just freaked out ... everybody was interested," Radinovic said. "There was not a single person that under-reacted."

Organized by Duquesne Program Council (DPC) Arts & Entertainment directors Carley Fredericks and Dominic Cristini, the conversation was mostly a Q&A between Cristini and Peck himself, which opened itself up to the audience. Cristini would ask questions pertaining to the evolution of Peck's career, as Peck would answer, yet continue to go on his own humorous tangents, too.

For instance, on his Instagram account, Peck "vlogged" inside the Robinson Giant Eagle Market District prior to the event, which he talked about on stage. Peck said he got lost several times, finding junk foods he hadn't seen since childhood, very unlike the local markets in California.

"So I'm at a 'Pittsburghean' super market right now ... I'm sorry, is there a sporting event happening? 'Cause I'm in an arena," Peck said.

He made fun of himself on various fronts throughout the night, from his childhood mannerisms to his interactions with co-stars.

When speaking of what made him want to go into comedy, he said, "Well I was chubby; I was thicker than most kids ... I was a thick young boy who made people laugh."

Still now, Peck's goal is to always make people laugh — even other celebrities.

"I just made Tom Cruise laugh so I deserve a treat ... so I went to Dairy Queen," Peck joked.

Each story had a texture to it that kept the audience completely engaged throughout.

He also told a few stories of how people have reacted to seeing him in public, making various *Drake and Josh* references that still make him



COURTESY OF @SHUAPECK ON INSTAGRAM

Peck explored the Robinson Giant Eagle on his Instagram story. "This is my jam," he said of Schneider's iced tea.

laugh to this day.

"I remember recently I was going through airport security, and this TSA agent is looking at my ID and he's like 'you good ... pip pip doody doo,'" he said. "Like did this guy just drive-by 'pip pip doody doo' me?"

Peck continued, saying, "Another time I was at the airport, a guy was looking through my luggage, you know because I guess I'm shady, and he said 'yo your sister ... she got jokes ... she always be trickin' y'all ... you can't beat her!'"

Shifting the conversation to his career's start, Peck said the president of Nickelodeon "took a shining to him," as he explained the pure happiness he felt when given the opportunity to play a role in *The Amanda Show*. According to Peck, after that show had aired its final episode, the directors looked at the interactions between Peck and co-star Drake Bell, where in that moment it was decided: They would have their own show just six months later.

Radinovic said he recalled a time where he and his siblings would fight, though would quickly make up as soon as *Drake and Josh* would pop up on the TV.

"One of us would have the TV remote next to us, and then we'd turn it on and *Drake and Josh* would always be on," Radinovic said. "We'd sit there and bond over it — we'd all start laughing and my parents would sit down and be like 'oh, they must've apologized.' It was one of those shows where no matter what age you are, everyone is laughing [while watching it]."

This, of course, is all attributed to Peck's impact and the value of his work.

"It's so wild and so incredibly cool to be here with you guys and talking about my work and especially something like *Drake and Josh* where I know has resonated," Peck said, "because I know we haven't made it for many years, and yet it still is so much a part of people's lives ... I think it was because it was about a family."

Along these lines, Peck spoke of his son, Max, and what it is like to

go from being a childhood actor to becoming a father, along with the joys that come with this transitional period of his and his wife Paige O'Brien's lives.

"It seems so weird that I'm doing this grown-up stuff ... I have to remember 'but I'm Josh from *Drake and Josh*,'" Peck joked.

Recently, Peck took his comedy from the television to our very phone screens.

Peck was well-known for his Vine career before the app was discontinued, and has taken to YouTube as well. By befriending YouTube stars such as David Dobrik, Peck took the route of making videos where the audience gets to spend a day in the life with him and his friends: "The Vlog Squad."

"So there's someone working super hard and going home to watch me and stupid Jonah [Nick Anthony] and my friend Joe eating like, you know, hot chicken sandwiches," Peck said. "Not only do I work with these people, but they become really good friends. I'm so lucky to fall into David's [Dobrik] group because I didn't really know Youtube and it seemed incredibly intimidating, and [it was] like walking into a master's class on how to do it the right way."

Thus, natural comedy became his lane.

Peck also encouraged the audience to use their talents and make themselves known, saying it does not take a professional acting career to do so.

"You don't have to be in the business to tell your story," he said.

Peck will also soon be featured on the Disney+ reboot of *Turner and Hooch*, where Tom Hanks originally starred in the 1989 original. Peck said that this role is different from his earlier works, as it is a much more serious role with big shoes to fill.

Peck said his inspirations for comedy came from "heroes" Adam Sandler, Jim Carrey and "all [of] the greats." Peck recalled picking up on actor Jack Black's mannerisms as well, incorporating some of his movements through seasons of

*Drake and Josh*.

"It's funny when I watch episodes of *Drake and Josh* and I can see that there's moments where I'm stealing from people I love," Peck said.

According to Fredericks, arrangement for this event took place months ago, as they have diligently worked on booking Peck since then.

"We were all kind of brainstorming ideas, and I knew in the past that we've jumped around the idea of Josh Peck coming to campus, but then this year we really wanted to make it happen and bring a bigger event to campus," Fredericks said. "We went back and forth through several different companies and agencies until we found one that was in our budget, and we were able to book him."

"I was so insanely nervous when I was waiting for [Peck] to get here ... as soon as I got to meet him, [Cristini] and I instantly calmed down because he was so insanely humble," Fredericks said. "He was nice and kind and just funny and easy to talk to."

Radinovic agreed, saying, "to think he's the same person as he is on the show, comedy-wise, everything ... he nailed everything I was expecting to the tee ... it was ridiculous ... he didn't have to act or put on a show, he is true to who he is and it was worth every penny ... he just got to be himself and we all got a good kick out of it."

Often, childhood stars will try to escape their past roles in order to be seen in a different light. *The Duke* asked Peck whether or not he considered Josh Nichols, or any of his past roles, a part of his identity, or rather something he tried to free himself from.

"I feel like what I've always tried to remember in any kind of thing I do, whether it be movies, TV or YouTube would be, hopefully, it makes people happy. It gives people a reprieve from their life and their daily grind or whatever is going on with them, and the idea that we can give them a little relief," Peck told *The Duke*. "For me, that is the driving factor [in my career] and is what makes me super happy."

## WEEK'S EVENTS

Movie Night with Ebony Women  
Feb. 27 @ 9 p.m.

Ebony Women: Women for Social Change hosts this event in the Union NiteSpot with a viewing of the 2011 film *The Help*.

Motivational Monday  
Feb. 18 @ 11 a.m.

Strong Women Strong Girls invite students to paint their favorite inspiration quote on a canvas in the Union NiteSpot.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

*The Invisible Man*  
Friday, Feb. 28

Elisabeth Moss stars in this horror reimagining of the H. G. Wells novel of the same name.

*Color Theory*  
*Soccer Mommy*  
Friday, Feb. 28

Indie band Soccer Mommy, led by Sophie Allison, releases its second album this weekend, having performed at a Bernie Sanders rally in Houston on Sunday.

## MICRO REVIEW

*Always Tomorrow*

On Feb. 21, California indie-rock duo Best Coast released its fourth studio album *Always Tomorrow*. With dreamy vocals, punchy guitars and captivating melodies, the album dazzles and delivers; it captures the feeling of "leaving the darkness for the light, but still understanding that nothing is ever going to be perfect," according to lead singer Bethany Cosentino. Marking the band's first release since 2015, *Always Tomorrow* is definitely worth a listen and a thumbs-up.

- Ollie Gratzinger



# Pittsburgh crowd welcomes Lumineers' folk-inspired sound

KATIA FAROUN

associate photo editor

The Lumineers drew out Pittsburgh's folk crowd on Tuesday night and filled PPG Paints Arena with wide-brimmed hats and heavy Americana music, bringing a country aesthetic to the city.

The folk-rock band made a stop Downtown as part of their third world tour for their newest album, *III*. The group performed after openers J.S. Ondara and Mt. Joy.

J.S. Ondara kicked off the night with a beautiful performance featuring soulful tunes and heavy strings. With little more than 320,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, J.S. Ondara was surely the lesser-known of opening acts, but his allotted 30 minutes kept the audience entranced. His rich melodies, combined with the resounding tones of the miniature orchestra that accompanied him, offered the crowd a calming, yet powerful introduction to the night.

If J.S. Ondara's performance was soothing and peaceful, Mt. Joy's was on the opposite end of the spectrum. The band's indie folk/rock style filled the arena with a buzzing electricity. The inclusion of their popular singles "Astrovan" and "Silver Lining" filled the audience with an energy

that could only be released by the long-awaited entrance of The Lumineers.

And they didn't disappoint. The Lumineers began their two-hour set with hit single "Sleep on the Floor," with the crowd immediately on their feet and shouting out the well-known lyrics. The group's energy was contagious, and their minimal stage design and casual demeanor created a comfortable atmosphere for the band members and the audience.

This humility was further exhibited through lead vocalist and guitarist Wesley Schultz's down-to-earth and relatable character. His few spoken bits between songs drew attention not to the band's talent, but rather to the formation of the songs and the stories behind their lyrics. During the band's performance of "Angela," Schultz sang while wandering through the floor and lower sections, greeting fans. Multiple times during the evening, Schultz recognized his fellow instrumentalists before the crowd and acknowledged their contributions to the album.

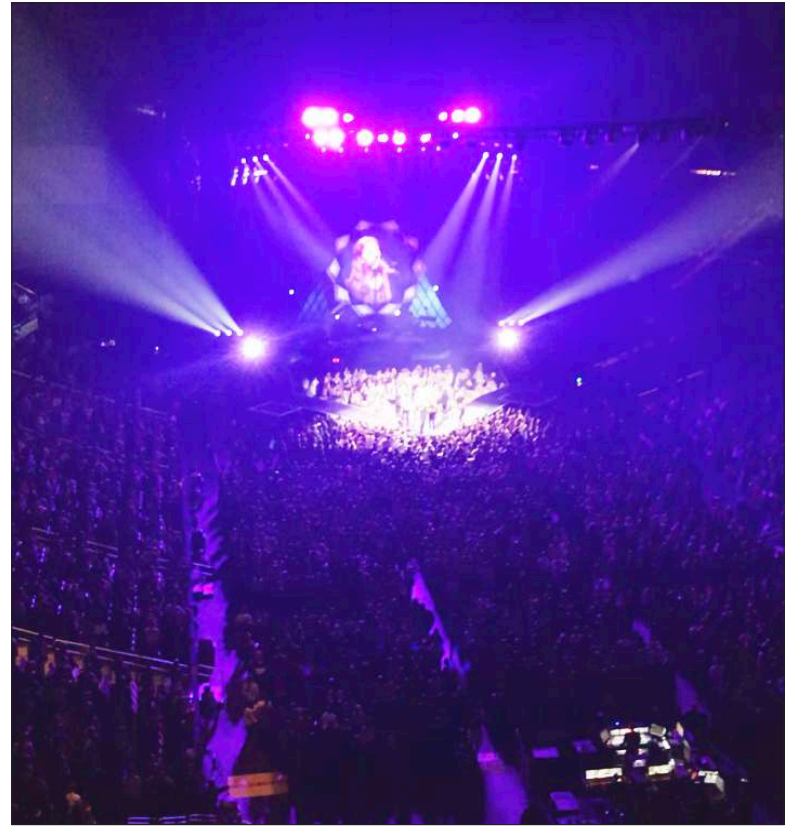
The entire concert followed along an artistic narrative, weaving in hits from previous albums into the story portrayed in *III*. The album follows the story of the fictitious Sparks family, which Schultz based off of a family member who

has been struggling with drug and alcohol abuse. The album selects were accompanied with snippets of their respective music videos projected onto the screens. The combination of meaningful lyrics, familiar footage and a raw sound created a narrative that escaped the music and related to the lives of those listening.

A clear fan favorite was the group's most popular song from *III*, "Gloria." As a more upbeat song, it represents the chaos of the life of the character Gloria Sparks by juxtaposing a somber and disheartening story with a lively and cheerful tune. The sounds of joyful belting from the crowd conflicted with the tragic footage on the screen, stirring an unsettled feeling among the listeners.

Melancholic songs such as "My Cell" and "Jimmy Sparks" underscored the musicianship of the band, with specific riffs highlighting strings player Lauren Jacobson and pianist Stelth Ulvang. The alternation between pensive and jubilant songs captivated the audience, engaging them in the concert's overarching narrative.

Without interrupting the storyline of the album, The Lumineers entertained fans by including singles such as "Ho Hey," "Cleopatra" and "Ophelia," along with deep cuts like "Flowers in Your Hair"



KATIA FAROUN | ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

The Lumineers come to PPG Paints Arena as part of their third world tour.

and "In The Light." The group invited J.S. Ondara and Mt. Joy back onstage for their rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Democracy," designating a verse to each group's lead vocalist. The Lumineers wrapped up the night with a personal favorite, "Stubborn Love," topping off the joyful night with

stomps and hollers.

The Lumineers effortlessly immersed fans into the story of *III* through their incorporation of melancholic melodies and ominous imagery. Overall, the group treated fans to a tender, rustic night of music they surely won't forget.

## Pittsburgh Public Theater cast nails *Little Shop of Horrors*

JOSIAH MARTIN

a&e editor

This past weekend, on Feb. 23, Pittsburgh Public Theater wrapped up its month-long production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the b-movie inspired classic musical from Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. As a *Little Shop* fan, I was glad to see the show's classic numbers

done justice — but more than anything, I was blown away by the stellar performances of the small cast.

The set design fully utilized the O'Reilly Theater's small space. The back wall was converted into a Skid Row apartment building, with different images and colors projected onto it to add atmosphere to musical numbers.

A large set of sliding doors gave way to the wallpapered interior of Mushnik's flower shop, which emerged onto the stage for scenes featuring beloved man-eating plant Audrey II.

Audrey II was voiced by Montez Freeland and puppeteered by J. Alex Noble. The two of them make a great pair, as the plant was the same vibrant, animated,

show-stealing, back-talking monster that audiences have come to know and love. The two of them worked perfectly opposite the production's Seymour Krelborn, portrayed by Philippe Arroyo.

Arroyo played the perfect Seymour — a shy, clumsy character with paradoxically proficient vocal chops. Arroyo took "Feed Me (Git It)," the number that signifies the turning point into the show's bloodier half, and went absolutely full throttle. Sitting front row, I was genuinely worried Arroyo may have been on the verge of exploding. He did a Jerry Lee Lewis impression, banging on imaginary piano keys at the flower shop's counter, jumping around the set and nearly singing the veins out of his neck.

Seymour was accompanied, of course, by Audrey, portrayed by Lauren Marcus. Marcus nailed the classic breathy Audrey voice, a mainstay of *Little Shop* owed to actress Ellen Green who originated the role.

The production was notably more comedic than some others; a few scenes' more emotional moments were broken up with laughs. This is largely due to the fantastic dynamic between Marcus, Arroyo and Marc Moritz, who

played Mr. Mushnik. Moritz and Arroyo's complex dance number in "Mushnik and Son" had the audience in hysterics, and Moritz perfectly shows Mushnik's cynical-yet-paternal relationship with the rest of the cast.

Patrick Cannon carried the role of Orin Scrivello, DDS in the most physically comedic performance of the whole production. The character's spasmodic movement as he takes in a fatal amount of nitrous oxide in "Now (It's Just the Gas)" was impressive to behold. Cannon additionally played a handful of other roles, his impressive range on display as he disappeared for two near-instant costume changes in "The Meek Shall Inherit."

The show opens and closes with the '60s girl-group inspired greek chorus, helmed in this production by Abigail Stephenson, Tavia Riveé and Melessie Clark. The trio perfectly brought the fast banter and powerful vocals necessary for those roles.

All in all, this production was peak *Little Shop*. It was hilarious, every musical number retained the energy and emotion the fans expect and the cast embodied the classic roles in every second of this fantastic show.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL HENNINGER | ENTERTAINMENT CENTRAL PITTSBURGH

Seymour (Philippe Arroyo) sings in Mushnik's flower shop alongside Audrey II (Montez Freeland, J. Alex Noble).



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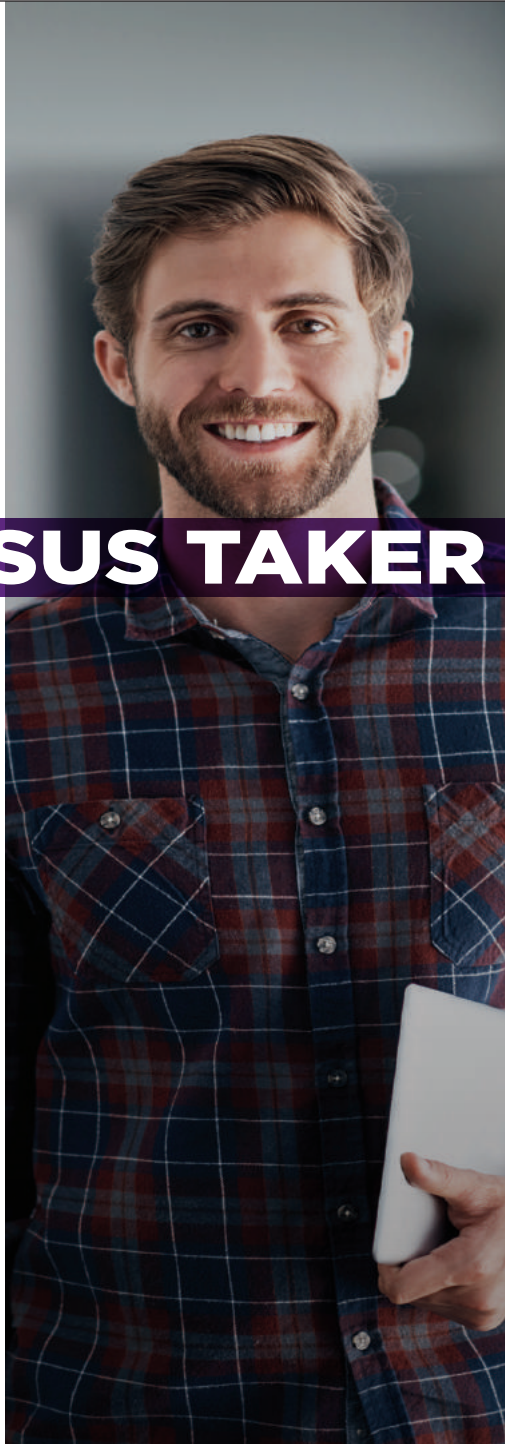
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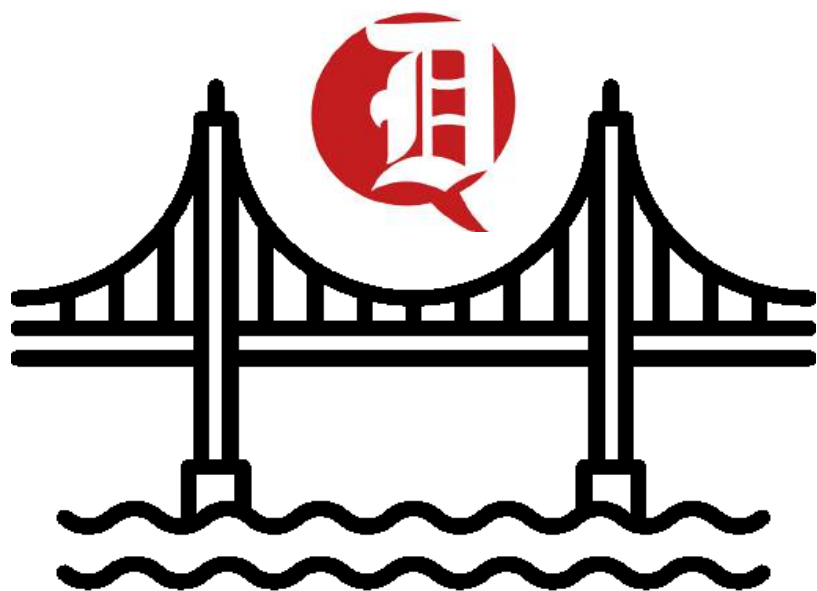
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