



## Dannielle Brown hungers for justice



COLLEEN HAMMOND

news editor

Dannielle Brown is set to prove there are no limits to a mother's love.

In the staggering August heat, Brown sat on the sizzling concrete of Freedom Corner in the Hill District as her hunger strike demanding justice for her son Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown rolled into its 53rd day.

On the evening of Oct. 4, 2018, Jaylen fell to his death from the 16th floor of Brottier Hall. It was his 21st birthday.

Although it has been nearly two years since the incident, Dannielle Brown has refused to stop searching for complete and satisfying answers about the moments leading up to her son's death.

"I am just an ordinary mom that wants a crack at the truth," Brown posted to social media in early July.

On July 4, she upended her life in Maryland and moved to Freedom Corner with no more than basic supplies and a white rocking chair. Brown then began her hunger strike and presented three demands to Duquesne University.

"1) An independent investigation with full access to information and resources.

2) Body cameras for all university police

3) Mandatory certification training in mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation for police and first responders" read a sign at Brown's protest site.

"Her demands are very clear and concise," said Kayla Harris, executive vice president of Duquesne's Black Student Union.

In the wake of George Floyd's death and the recent rise in protests for racial equality across the country, Jaylen's death has once again received public attention with many supporting Brown's demands, including Harris.

Harris, like several Duquesne students, has frequently visited Brown and her supporters at their camp-out residence at Freedom Corner, often bringing along coconut water and other supplies.



COLLEEN HAMMOND / NEWS EDITOR

Dannielle Brown, mother of late Duquesne student Marquis Jaylen Brown, places flowers on a symbolic empty casket during her living funeral procession through the streets of downtown.

"I want to make sure that the love and support is still there," Harris said.

Since Brown began her hunger strike, she has received widespread attention in the Duquesne community and surrounding Pittsburgh area, as well as gained a substantial following. Two online petitions calling for "Justice for Marquis Jaylen Brown" have combined received more than 120,000 signatures, and her social media following has boomed. She also has a consistent group of roughly 20 supporters at Freedom Corner who alternate camping out overnight and performing chores, said local Party of Socialism and Liberation (PSL) organizer and activist Emily Hannon.

"She just seemed like she needed help," Hannon said.

Hannon has been visiting Brown at Freedom Corner and protesting at the corner of Forbes Avenue and Washington Place since the first week of Brown's hunger strike.

In addition to the camp at Freedom Corner and picketing on campus, events and marches led by Brown have attracted crowds in the hundreds.

Her most notable event, a symbolic living funeral for her in which she eulogized herself, featured a large crowd of supporters dressed

in all black following a procession through the streets of downtown. It was led by Brown and her supporters pushing an empty casket and singing traditional American protest songs.

"You came for the wrong mother, until my last breath," Brown repeated to the crowd, with many supporters wearing shirts with the same statement printed on the back.

Despite her large following and wave of support, Brown said she has struggled to get her demands met by university officials.

After meeting with Brown and her former legal counsel, Lee Merritt, in early July, the university said they would make the complete Duquesne Public Safety file available for in-person review by Brown's counsel. The university also publicly urged the Pittsburgh Police bureau to do the same with their case file.

"Both parties are committed to transparency and resolution in a way that can celebrate and honor JB's life and contributions," said a joint statement by the university, Dannielle Brown and her legal counsel from July 9.

However, despite the university's statement of agreement, Brown alleged that the university did not sufficiently meet her demands and

continued her hunger strike for an additional month. At the time of publication, Brown had reached day 55 of her hunger strike.

"What the news don't tell you — I continue on this hunger strike because Duquesne keep ditching out red tape," Brown posted to social media on August 18.

That same day, attorneys for Duquesne held a press conference in which they said they had agreed to meet all of Brown's demands weeks earlier and formally announced this was not a case of police brutality, racism or negligence.

"Duquesne agreed to expeditiously seek to procure body cameras for its officers to add additional training, to satisfy Ms. Brown's other two demands and to bring closure to this matter," the university news release said.

University attorneys David Fawcett and Jason Hazelwood from Reed Smith also said the Duquesne Public Safety file was ready to be viewed "as soon as Ms. Brown's lawyer returns the relevant paperwork."

But Brown tells a different story.

She claimed the university has not met her demands and refuses to work with her to resolve issues of campus police reform and racial justice, citing "legal red tape" and a "lack of full access" She also alleged

## Black Student Union fights for change

COLLEEN HAMMOND

news editor

In the wake of civil unrest across the country as racial justice protests continue to surge in several major cities, Duquesne's minority student leaders are done waiting for change. They want immediate action.

On July 27, Duquesne's Black Student Union (BSU), in accord with a dozen other minority organizations on campus, published a document addressed to President Gormley and university administration detailing the specific changes needed to accommodate the unique struggles of minority, and specifically, Black students.

"Due to the current political and racial tension, and the unjust murders of Black men and women in the world, we are calling for Duquesne University to hear us and see us for our color and acknowledge its room for improvement," the document said.

Members of the BSU met frequently over the summer to craft this extensive twelve page document that outlines "a series of action plans designed to enhance and establish a more diverse and inclusive atmosphere for all students, more specifically the Black students, at Duquesne University."

Their plan proposed a variety of short and long term "actions plans" that touch on nearly every aspect of campus life including athletics, residence life and Greek life.

Among the short-term action plans is a "call to action" for administration to expand the DU Cares Program to include acts of racial discrimination as part of the student conduct rules, stating that perpetrators of racism or discrimination should be punished and held accountable for their ac-

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## DUKETIPS

This year, The Duke is investing itself to tell stories of Black voices on our college campus. If you've got a story worth sharing—and everyone does—please contact news editor and managing editor Colleen Hammond at [hammondcd@duq.edu](mailto:hammondcd@duq.edu)

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## Dannielle Brown's hunger strike continues

from BROWN — page 1

that the university has constructed a false narrative to discredit her and her work.

"I think Duquesne needs to stop trying to protect their image," Hannon said.

At the August 18 news conference, Fawcett and Hazelwood claimed that Brown had made a fourth demand consisting of a large sum of money.

"Ms. Brown now has communicated that she is making a substantial monetary demand of the University," said the accompanying news release.

Brown denies these allegations.

"There was no fourth demand. I never asked for any money,"

Since the August 18 statement, Duquesne has continued to say that Brown is seeking monetary compensation for her son's death from the university.

"It was a lot of back and forth," Harris said. "I just want her (Brown) to have the closure she's starving herself for."

Harris noted how she deeply cares for Brown and finds a sense of sisterhood with her as they are both members of Delta Sigma Theta.

Despite the conflicting reports from Brown and the university, Harris feels this case is about more than determining and making public the details of this case.

"I still think a lot more would happen had he been white," Harris said. "The mother would not



COLLEEN HAMMOND / NEWS EDITOR  
Dannielle Brown faces a crowd of supporters at Fifth Ave. and Washington Plc.

Brown said. "They (the university) offered me some, but it was insultingly low."

be on a hunger strike; she would have her answers."

After 55 days of Brown's hun-

## Changes to Title IX to be implemented at DU

KELLEN STEPLER & KELSEY BURTNER  
editor-in-chief & layout manager

National changes to new Title IX policies have sparked criticism at colleges across the country.

In May, U.S. Department of Education secretary Betsy DeVos announced new federal regulations regarding Title IX, to be implemented on Aug. 14. In a statement from the U.S. Department of Education, the new Title IX regulation "holds schools accountable for failure to respond equitably and promptly to sexual misconduct incidents and ensures a more reliable adjudication process that is fair to all students."

Vanessa Llewellyn, president of Duquesne's Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV), said that SASV along with other advocacy groups across the country does not support these new policies and regulations.

"The new definition of what qualifies as sexual harassment discounts so many significant experiences survivors have faced and continue to face," Llewellyn said. "As president, I will never look a student in the eyes and tell them that what happened to them wasn't harassment because it doesn't fit in this new, concise definition of 'harassment.'"

"It's intimidating, retraumatizing and creates another obstacle for survivors to overcome in the healing process," she said.

Duquesne University's Title IX coordinator Lee Robbins said that the university has implemented a new interim policy, TAP 61. TAP 61 establishes Duquesne's prohibition against Title IX Sexual Harassment, and Duquesne's response to allegations of sexual assault that occur off-campus.

Robbins said that many components of the new Title IX process will feel familiar, but some key changes include a new definition of sexual harassment; the opportunity for a complainant or respondent's advisor to ask questions of the other party or witnesses at a hearing, if one is held; and the option for parties to participate in informal resolution if both parties agree to it.

"Additionally, under the new Title IX Policy, the University will offer supportive measures to complainants and respondents, provide remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility has been made against the respondent, and will follow its formal grievance process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent," Robbins said.



COLLEEN HAMMOND / NEWS EDITOR  
Protestors carry signs reading "Justice 4 JB" outside PPG Arena.

ger strike, Harris is not interested in Duquesne's Public Safety file being made public.

"We don't have to know," Harris said. "I just want Dannielle Brown to have closure."

As the days drag on, Brown's health has become a large cause for concern. Even President Gormley expressed his concern for Brown's wellbeing in an exclusive statement to *The Duke*.

"I walked down to the entrance of campus yesterday to speak again with Dannielle, to see how she is doing, and to convey to her, personally, Duquesne's commitment to this new direction in seeking solutions," President Gormley said.

He also said that Brown "appreciated" his visit and that she "seemed in good spirits." Gormley restated

Duquesne's commitment, past and present, to honoring JB's legacy.

"Please keep those assisting Dannielle and Dannielle herself in your prayers as we move forward on this important endeavor," President Gormley said.

Brown remains adamant about continuing her hunger strike for the foreseeable future.

"When will I eat? When I reach a national platform where the Marquis Jaylen Brown foundation can properly advocate for mothers' rights and the safety of college students throughout our country," Brown posted to social media on August 26.

To view President Gormley's full letter, please visit: [duqsm.com](http://duqsm.com)

The university will continue to address non-Title IX sexual misconduct through TAP 31.

Llewellyn is also concerned that the policy permits cross examination of the survivor by the accused student, and said that she sees it as an intimidation tactic to keep assault statistics low.

"This obviously places extreme trauma on the survivor again," Llewellyn said. "Basically, survivors will recant or not come forward because they don't want to have to undergo legal cross-examination by the person they're accusing."

The current state of the world, Llewellyn said, makes this the worst time to implement these kinds of changes.

"The new policy prohibits the university from holding any reports that don't occur within a college related program," she said. "With COVID restrictions in place and almost everything happening remotely or off-campus, it's likely that even more sexual violence towards our students will occur off campus."

Duquesne speech pathology major Audrey Nigh believes the new Title IX regulation isn't inclusive enough.

"There's several criterion that must be present in order for the school to even get involved," Nigh said. "These

criterion aren't including a lot of cases that should be taken seriously by the school, such as assaults involving students off campus or abroad."

Sophia Bakar, a Duquesne graduate student studying biomedical engineering, disagrees with the "fine print" of the regulation — specifically, the cross-examination of both the complaining and responding parties, and that universities can choose to not respond to sexual assault allegations that occur off campus.

"There is a 60 day limit on this process, but in those 60 days it would still be possible for the victim to face further harassment if the situation is escalated or not taken care of," Bakar said. "Having a live hearing with both parties and witnesses also creates further opportunity for shame and embarrassment of the victim ... Duquesne has a large commuter population, and should be just as concerned about the well-being of these students as students residing on campus."

Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response with any questions.



# The Black Student Union's fight for institutional change

from BSU — page 1

tions. In addition, BSU and their supporters requested for an anonymous racism reporting system.

"It's about time that people are reprimanded for their actions," Brianna Smalls, BSU's vice president of campus engagement said.

Smalls noted the often unnoticed difficulties of being a minority student at a predominantly white university.

"When I go outside, it's like wow... it's only me," Smalls said.

Smalls and her peers at BSU took their time crafting this document, yet they urge the university to take immediate action to enhance the livelihood of its Black students.

Many student groups like BSU across the country have made similar demands to their universities, stating that the status quo for Black students must change after the death of George Floyd in May and the accompanying resurgence of civil rights advocacy across America.

"We cannot just go about business

major concerns BSU has about campus life and their role in it. The document also places a large emphasis on the disparity of mental health services available for Black students.

"We carry the weight of the world on our shoulders everyday," Harris said.

Black students, Harris noted, face a unique type of stress and trauma. Their demands urge the university to hire mental health professionals who are specifically trained to deal with the effects of racism on a person's mental health.

"A therapist can understand what I'm saying but not really empathize with my struggles," Smalls said.

Anthony Kane, Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, who has a background in counseling, said he hopes to help students "become one with their identity" through the resources and support of his office.

"As long as we each do our part, we can achieve a lot," Kane said.

In addition to the ongoing work at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Harris, Smalls and their peers at BSU hope this document will be a



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

with our lives," Kayla Harris, executive vice president of the Black Student Union, said.

Harris and Smalls both vocalized their discontent with the emails sent out to students in regard to the death of George Floyd and subsequent protests in Pittsburgh.

In a statement from President Gormley on May 31, he chose not to address Duquesne's stance on racial justice. Instead, he assured the Duquesne community that no campus property had been damaged in the protests.

"Although the protest swelled to a large size yesterday and came close to campus on Forbes and Fifth avenues, and resulted in several incidents near Centre Avenue, there was no damage done to our campus and no injury to Duquesne faculty, staff, students or personnel, including our officers who stayed on the periphery," Gormley said in the statement.

This attitude, Smalls noted, is why President Gormley was mentioned by name in the list of demands.

"What fueled us calling out Ken Gormley and (Duquesne Vice President of Student Life) Doug Frizzell was the email about George Floyd," Smalls said.

However, these are not the only

long lasting influence for change at Duquesne for all minority students.

"I really wanted everyone's voice to be included," Harris said, highlighting the importance of other minority groups on campus in the fight for equality.

Despite sending this document to university administration a month ago, BSU students said they have heard very little response. Harris stated that Gormley emailed the group to acknowledge the publication of the demands, but has not yet provided the students with a concrete plan to implement these changes.

"President Gormley is moving forward with his team to examine the various requests, many of which the University is working on now," Gabe Welsch, vice president for marketing and communications at Duquesne said.

"I wasn't expecting them to respond to us," Smalls said. "They like to turn a blind eye to us."

Still, BSU leadership is determined to continue the fight for equality and racial justice on Duquesne's campus.

"At the end of the day, people of color just want to be treated like everyone else," Smalls said.

# COVID-19 campus regulations pose new challenges for fall semester

KELLEN STEPLER  
editor-in-chief

As summer faded and the academic year began to come into fruition, Duquesne students received numerous emails from University administration, but there's one that definitely stood out -- the Aug. 20 email from Duquesne vice president of student life Douglas Frizzell, stating a ban on "all off-campus programs and social gatherings."

Then, on Aug. 20, Duquesne vice president of student life Doug Frizzell sent a mass email to the Duquesne community stating a ban "on all off-campus programs and social gatherings." All social interaction in off-campus housing may only include housemates and family members, and all other social gatherings are prohibited, constituting a violation of the COVID-19 policies for students.

After a flurry of confusion between students, that message prompted a follow-up email sent on Monday from Frizzell, clarifying some rules of the ban.

"Duquesne University is a private institution of higher education that can and does set the terms under which people can study or participate in activities on its campus, live in its residences, or be employed," Frizzell wrote in the follow-up. "Its policies are informed by recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Allegheny County Health Department, and close professional monitoring of conditions in our region."

Clarifying the ban, Duquesne vice president of marketing and communications Gab Welsch told The Duke that "common sense is very important."

"The overall goal is continued safety during the pandemic, and the intention is to prevent the sorts of gatherings -- particularly parties -- that tend to involve large groups of people, without masks, whose behaviors may be less cautious and involve people with whom you do not typically associate and, particularly, who are outside of your R-PODS," Welsch said.

"Students visiting family, conducting community service or working at a job, as a few examples, with safety measures in place, including masking, social distancing and proper hygiene, should be fine," Welsch said. "Completing the daily health screen questions and ensuring continuous proper observance of proper safety measures is key and necessary as part of the new Student Code of Conduct measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic."

Welsch said that despite it being very early in the academic year, Duquesne students and employees have been holding not only themselves, but others accountable regarding current policies for mask-wearing, social distancing, practicing good hygiene and adhering to the Protect Duquesne Pledge.

"Individuals are reporting violations to the university leadership,

academic deans and faculty and leadership across the division of student life," Welsch said.

Duquesne senior business management major Jonny Geisler, who lives off campus with Pitt students, thinks more clarification regarding

prehensive frequently asked questions section that addresses both COVID-19 and university operations," Rose Ravasio, Duquesne media and communications manager, said.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / PHOTO EDITOR

Hand sanitizing stations have now been added to all campus buildings

Duquesne's COVID-19 guidelines is necessary.

"I fully understand the intentionality behind it, and I agree with the intentionality without a doubt," Geisler said. "I think if we lack clarification, that will cause confusion. For example, I wasn't sure if I was able to attend church or not, based on the rules and regulations."

Giesler also feels for the incoming freshmen, who are beginning their college journey like no other.

"I think it's extremely hard for freshmen -- I think it's one of the worst-case scenarios," Geisler said. "Coming in as a freshman, that's where you meet everyone, that's where you get your friends. Those first couple of weeks are really make it or break it for freshmen, and to come in and be told that you can really only hang out with your roommate, and maybe a few other people -- it's just not the same. It's a lot more isolating."

Duquesne unveiled a master plan on July 10 to reopen campus, composed of seven different task forces -- health and safety protocols, academic affairs and online learning, faculty and staff re-entry, housing and auxiliary services, student success, athletics and finance and budget.

"The Master Plan ... reflects measures the University has taken to create a structured campus environment, allowing for face-to-face and hybrid classes, adapted living conditions and other necessary changes, while making it possible to be present on Duquesne's campus and earn a high-quality education," Welsch said.

14 days later, Duquesne announced four requirements for students to return to campus. Updated information from the university regarding COVID-19 can be found on <https://covid19.duq.edu>.

"The COVID-19 Planning and Information website includes news and updates, resources and a very com-

"Duquesne's COVID-19 Planning and Information website is definitely one you'll want to bookmark to make it easier to visit more often."

Ravasio said that Duquesne Health Services will provide "relevant statistics" regarding COVID-19 each week to senior administration, and the university will report the number of confirmed positive cases on its COVID-19 planning and information website, and will update that number as it receives reports. As of Tuesday, Aug. 25, that information has not been listed on the website.

In the July 24 announcement, Duquesne shared preventive measures for those returning to campus. Masks are required in all public spaces -- inside and outside -- and everyone will practice social distancing. Students living on campus are grouped into R-PODS to limit contact to their group initially, avoid meeting in large groups and signage indicating foot traffic patterns have been placed all over campus.

Additionally, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced on Aug. 4 \$28 million in aid to state colleges and universities to support health and safety plans. Duquesne received \$133,000.

"The funding provided helped to offset the considerable costs the university incurred in that area, including everything from PPE, to testing, to contracting for quarantine beds, to Plexiglas and on," Welsch said.



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“The greatest glory  
in living lies not in  
never failing, but  
in rising every time  
we fall”

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You just read | Now tweet  
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## EDITORIAL

## POLICY

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## OPINIONS



Comic By Kelsey Burtner

## The hybrid approach to course delivery poses unforeseen challenges

With the fall semester commencing across America, institutions of higher education have developed stringent reopening plans with the intentions of providing a near-normal college experience while proactively reducing the likelihood of a campus-wide outbreak. Universities introduced rigorous preventive measures to ensure a safe environment for students and faculty in response to the threat of which we are all familiar, known as COVID-19.

Requiring masks on school property, daily health screens, frequent temperature checks and considerably limiting capacity in all buildings are a few examples of the policies being set in place by administrations.

Campuses appear practically unrecognizable as the typical bustle of traveling college students and busy professors is no longer reality for the foreseeable future. Student bodies and university personnel must face the uphill battle of navigating constant uncertainty stemming from the new reality that we all live in now.

The most challenging and burdensome change in the academic experience is the transition from face-to-face instruction to a hybrid model blending both traditional and online learning.

Beginning in early March, international and domestic students first shifted to an online format – an endeavor into the unknown. Fast-forward five months and the virus has wreaked havoc around the country with more than 5.5 million cases in the United States alone.

Nevertheless, with students and parents indicating a preference for in-person classes and President Trump's relentless push to restore traditional schooling, higher education institutions appear adamant to resume normal operations to some extent.

As a result, the majority of universities are offering students two opportunities to receive an education this fall: either remain in the comfort of



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

one's residence and complete the courses solely online or partake in blended learning.

Combining traditional and online instruction seems rather feasible at first glance: continue with face-to-face classes while incorporating the flexibility of online learning to limit social engagement and thus prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Although the virus might be successfully controlled, can the hybrid model provide a valuable and worthwhile education while simultaneously preparing young adults for the real-world adversity that awaits them?

My criticism arises from the fact that the blended approach lacks sustainability due to the learning curve with technology

among students and professors, as well as the inevitable obstacles that emerge from the heavy use of technology.

Some of these barriers include technical failures, lack of technological literacy, high maintenance costs, miscommunication between professor and students, online temptations and lack of motivation, cognitive overload and the increased likelihood of plagiarism.

Most importantly, however, students are missing the opportunity of physically interacting and collaborating with peers – a critical factor in the development of well-rounded individuals. Even with a blend of in-person and online learning, it is nearly impossible for students to engage with one another when such austere restrictions are enforced.

Without social stimulation and networking with classmates, professors and industry professionals, will fail to develop the interpersonal skills necessary to reach their full potential in life after college.

The success of the hybrid model is ultimately contingent on whether students choose to hold themselves accountable by remaining focused on their coursework and making the utmost effort to “participate” in classes and other networking events whether virtual or face-to-face.

In the end, an education unfying traditional and online instruction is an effective alternative for self-disciplined and driven individuals, whereas more dependent learners will certainly struggle in the online learning environment.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

## Duquesne oversteps

## administrative boundaries

Welcome back to Duquesne University. We are exhilarated to have you back on campus, but remember that spending time with friends is strictly prohibited.

Duquesne has been placed in a difficult position – being pressured to reopen while equally as pressured to take measures to keep students safe are inherently contradictory.

Students received an email from Dr. Douglas Frizzell on Thursday, Aug. 20, announcing a newly-instated ban on all off-campus programs and social gatherings. The strictly-worded message outlined the punishments for violation of the new policy.

“First Offense - Probation for up to one year and offenders will be prohibited from the University Campus. Second Offense - Suspension from the University.”

It is not fair for the university to bring students back, citing the importance of in-person interactions while fundamentally banning all external social gatherings.

The motivation behind the strongly-worded email is clear: the university wants to discourage partying and other large gatherings. Duquesne has decided the only way to make students listen is to be strict. The reality of the situation is no amount of threats will stop partying. These restrictions are like putting a bandaid over a gaping wound, and serve more to provide a safety net of deniability in the chance of a large outbreak among students.

Governing what students can do and who they interact with in their off-campus housing, which is paid for completely independently of the university - feels like a massive overstep in authority.

Duquesne's administration should not be threatening students with punishments for things it can never hope to legitimately enforce.

Even before the pandemic, college has always been stressful for many, but the friends made along the way help make it all worth it. Today we are living through a more stressful time than ever before; every single day could bring news that fundamentally changes our lives. Small social gatherings and human interaction are some of the only things that grant any semblance of normalcy.

In a follow-up email answering frequently asked questions, the recipient was asked:

“If these guidelines or the message cause extra stress or aggravate existing mental health challenges, what resources are available to help with feelings of isolation and anxiety?”

To which the administration directed students to the services of the Wellbeing Center. That's really not good enough. Even with expansions to the services provided, no institution is equipped to take on the insurmountable mental pressures created by the pandemic.

Duquesne University cannot confidently say its mental health infrastructure is prepared to meet the needs of each and every student in a remotely timely manner.

There are a lot of steps the students of Duquesne need to take in order for this year to go by smoothly, and the university is right in wanting to discourage large gatherings. However, cracking the whip on students for simply wanting to spend some time with their friends is not the way forward.



# OPINIONS

## Open Letter to Campus from The Duquesne Duke

Dear Duquesne Students, Staff and Faculty,

It goes without saying that this has been an unbelievably challenging time for all of us in the Duquesne community. In a matter of six short months, our world has changed more times than any of us can count. Moments we took for granted — eating at restaurants, going to the movies, seeing a friend's smiling face in person — have completely changed for the foreseeable future.

We know this year has been a time of great uncertainty, anxiety, political unrest and fear of the unknown. In the past six months, we've watched our university close, seen supplies at the grocery store dwindle, said goodbye to loved ones far too soon and heard the global cries for racial justice. This year has been incredibly difficult for all of us, but we at The Duke see a silver lining to all this.

When the world changes, we have the unique opportunity to challenge ourselves to change with it.

Like so many campus organizations, we had to close our doors once the university

moved online this spring. However, we remained confident that we would find a way to not only restart, but also grow our news coverage come fall. With that in mind, we applied for the College Media Project through the renowned Poynter Institute of Journalism in March. The College Media Project is an award that funds select college news organizations to pursue a large, overarching story or theme for one year.

To our surprise and delight, The Duke was one of 10 student papers from across the country chosen to receive this honor.

In early May, when we learned the good news, our editorial staff began to discuss the primary focus of our story. For us, the choice was clear: We need to dedicate all the resources gained through this award to increasing our coverage of Duquesne's Black community.

We have noticed that the Black community of Pittsburgh has been frequently overlooked by the news media — regrettably, including us.

For the times we failed to properly invest our time, efforts and resources into

telling the essential stories of the Black community in the past, we would like to ask for forgiveness. We at The Duke recognize and acknowledge our role in the fight against racism. Racism and discrimination have no place at Duquesne, especially at The Duke.

The Duke has been a staple of student life for the past 95 years, and it is our mission to continue this legacy of storytelling as your local journalists.

When we applied for this project, we had no idea the new relevance it would take on as the summer progressed. As we watched scenes of civil rights and racial justice protests from our hometowns and our college town, we knew we had made the right choice.

**“WHEN THE WORLD CHANGES, WE HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES TO CHANGE WITH IT.”**

The time is now to do our part in addressing inequality in news coverage. This year, we are turning a new leaf. The Duke is committed to accurately, honestly and effectively telling the stories of the Black community.

Still, we realize this is not something we can do alone. As a predominantly white university and predominantly white newsroom, we recognize that we cannot cover these stories without immersing ourselves in the Black community.

It is for this reason that we are honored to announce our ongoing partnership with Duquesne's Black Student Union. Together, we hope to build a relationship based on trust with the common goal of ensuring the Black community of Duquesne feels seen, heard, respected and valued.

We hope to achieve this through a minimum of one story featuring the Black community per week. Because the Black experience does not stop with news coverage, these stories may appear in any of our sections. Our aim is to provide our campus with a well-rounded, robust and honest depiction of the triumphs, struggles, art, culture

and daily life of Duquesne's Black community.

While we realize this is an ambitious plan, moving forward, we ask that you, our readers and our community, hold us to this high standard.

Most importantly, we want the Duquesne community to know this is more than just a year long project. For us, this is a permanent, institutional change. The Duke is to be a safe haven for students, staff and faculty to tell their stories. We want to be an organization that is attuned to Duquesne's minority communities and fosters growth for the next generation of Black journalists and storytellers.

At The Duke, Black lives mattering is the bare minimum. Here, Black lives and Black voices are respected, valued and wanted.

May we be worthy of the task ahead of us.

THE DUKE EDITORIAL STAFF



## Duquesne's COVID-19 response lacks full commitment to protecting students

ALEXANDER WOLFE

staff writer

Amidst the deluge of emails from Doug Frizzell and President Ken Gormley informing students of new university restrictions, policies and updates to the ostentatious 'HyFlex' plan, one might arrive at the conclusion that the administration is doing everything in its power to keep Duquesne students safe during these difficult times.

We know that preventing the spread of COVID-19 requires a commitment to safety from an entire community, and the Duquesne community is certainly prepared to make that commitment. From those of us who chose to learn remotely, to those who dutifully don their mask and overuse their hand sanitizer, we all hope that every member of the Duquesne community will do what they can to protect

themselves and each other.

The Protect Duquesne Pledge asks us to protect ourselves, others and the Duquesne community, but the administration seems more concerned with protecting themselves from liability rather than upholding the very pledge they authored. As the flashy, high-production and somewhat condescendingly-phrased videos in the DU app show, Duquesne seems intent on highlighting the importance of taking the Daily Health Screen.

Upon taking the Health Screen, one will notice that there is no way to submit the questionnaire, placing responsibility wholly in the hands of the students while the administration touts this fruitless attempt at accountability. An effective daily health screen would collect responses from students, allowing the univer-

sity to collect a daily stream of data on student health and empowering at least the semblance of preventative action.

The aforementioned videos follow this methodology of a hands-off administration. Frizzell asked us to watch all four videos covering the COVID safety policy, and while informative, these videos failed to present new information and even offered students the opportunity to acknowledge their viewing without actually watching.

These semi-performative administrative publications lack any enforcement mechanism. Not to say President Gormley should personally ensure we meticulously adhere to the contents of his messages, but the administration's lax attitude demands further scrutiny. The content put forth by the university for students to browse is meant

less for us, and more for our parents and guardians who are more likely to challenge the university. How many worried mothers and fathers spent hours interpreting the administration's emails? Mine surely did.

Ironically, the most effective measures Duquesne has taken are the ones that seemingly cost the least: the distribution of masks and sanitizer, the designation of foot-traffic and, as draconian as they are, the consequences for on-campus and off-campus gatherings. Aside from understanding the need to follow public safety guidelines, we also understand that the administration's actions thus far have been the result of a streak of legal self-preservationism.

It's no secret that Duquesne is stretched financially. Nevertheless, I feel as if the university has not responsibly al-

located what scarce resources it possesses.

While other schools plan to test students every two weeks or send students a test weeks before move-in, the administration requested we begin a 14-day quarantine two weeks before that quarantine was meant to begin.

Ultimately, the students will dictate to the world the success or failure of our campus safety plans. While we should come together as a community now more than ever, I find it irresponsible to ignore the administration's failure to fully commit to protecting us.

I'm no public-health expert (econ and IR actually), but plainly, the lack of commitment to testing is frightening, and it's exasperating to watch my tuition be spent on largely performative measures that are likely to have little impact on our safety.



## The Village offers safe space for Black Duquesne students

KATIA FAROUN  
features editor

A new online support group provides Black Duquesne students with access to professional care, a place to be heard and an encouraging community: the support of a virtual village.

The Village is a virtual support group for African-American Duquesne students that began this past July. The mission of the group is to create a space for Black students where they can openly express themselves and their emotions, specifically regarding racial stress and trauma. The group, which meets over Zoom every Wednesday, consists of a small group of students that spend their time sharing their experiences and supporting each other.

Over the summer, the Center for Student Wellbeing released a statement of solidarity in which it mentioned the formation of The Village as a virtual support group and promised to “stand with our people and advocate for their wellness in this and many dimensions.” By July, The Village was established, and the number of students involved was increasing even before the start of classes.

The group is facilitated by Quincy Stephenson, assistant director and outreach coordinator of the Center for Student Wellbeing, who has been asked to lead the group each week. His experience with addressing racial stress and trauma — as well as his being the only African-American male therapist on staff — encouraged the center to ask that Stephenson act as the

group’s primary facilitator.

The group’s main objective is to create a welcoming space for Black students specifically, where they can share their emotions and experiences with each other while also receiving support from the other members within the group.

“The primary goal of the group is to provide a space for Black students where they can express their emotional needs and receive support, specifically around issues of racial stress and racial tension,” Stephenson said.

The Village was formed following the events surrounding the death of George Floyd and the national conversation on race that his death sparked. Students brought information to the Center for Student Wellbeing, encouraging the center to offer more support to Black students, especially in light of the tension surrounding the summer’s events. The Center for Student Wellbeing partnered with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to create The Village as a way to offer this support.

To accompany the support of the center, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s role includes assessment and evaluation of the outcomes of the group, according to Dr. Anthony Kane, director of the office.

“For our office, it’s continuing to promote The Village as a place for students to go and talk and get support, but more importantly to assess how it’s had positive effects on students,” Kane said. “We want to make sure that our students of color — our African-American and Black students at Duquesne — feel like they belong, and if participating in an hour virtual support group every week helps them establish that positive sense of belonging, then we’re doing the right thing — we’re moving in the right direction.”

So far, the group consists of anywhere between three and 15 students each week that offer support to each other and find the support they need themselves. The group continues to grow.

“We’re able to have real, authentic and genu-



COURTESY OF THE BUSINESS JOURNALS  
Quincy Stephenson facilitates the discussions.

ine conversations around their needs, around their hurts and around their understanding of what they’re feeling and why they’re feeling it,” Stephenson said.

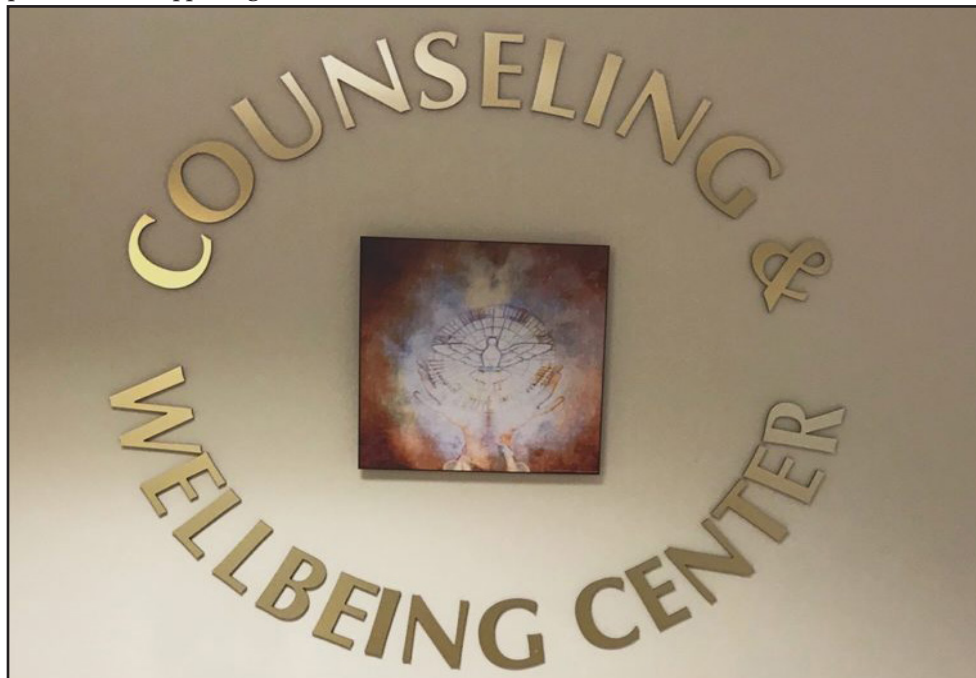
Despite only hosting meetings since July, Kane believes that the group has already had a positive effect on the students.

“We’ve already seen through conversations with students or just the students’ body language that students are becoming more comfortable in addressing the situations and leading the conversation around them,” Kane said.

While the main focus of the group is to support Black Duquesne students, the hope is for the conversation on race to continue, not just on campus but throughout the nation.

“If we’re not talking about race, if we’re not talking about racism, it tends to get dismissed or marginalized, so it is important for the conversation to happen,” Stephenson said. “It’s able to bring attention to the needs of so many students, and hopefully it will promote change.”

Those interested in joining The Village can sign up by emailing Quincy Stephenson at [stephensonq@duq.edu](mailto:stephensonq@duq.edu).



DUKE ARCHIVES

The Center for Student Wellbeing, along with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, started the support group.

## Freshman orientation a success despite restrictions

ASHLEY NEWMAN  
staff writer

With the novel coronavirus still active in the U.S., it is no surprise that everything is looking different for students this fall. From pre-school to college, all students and faculty are trying to adjust to the new protocols to stay safe during the school year. Among these new situations, Duquesne’s orientation also had to readjust its traditional

schedule.

Kirsa Danis, a junior nursing student at Duquesne, was an entertainment chair at orientation this year. Danis said that the orientation leaders were not told the status of orientation until June. Once they were told that they were able to have their orientation, they had to figure out how to go about it safely.

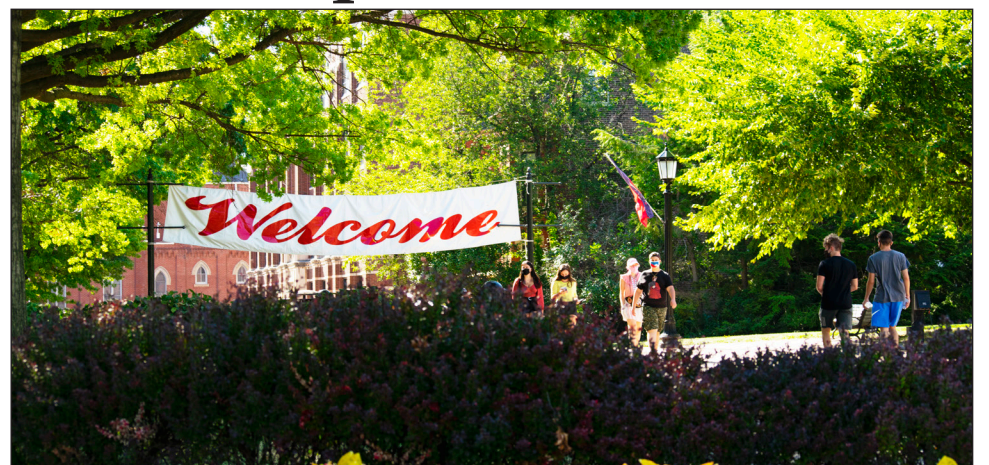
“We obviously had to follow CDC guidelines, so finding events that we could do was difficult, but we got creative and managed to make it happen,” Danis said.

To follow the social distancing recommendations, many events were held virtually, with new students watching the event with their teams.

“Team leaders had a lot more face-time with their new students than a normal year,” Danis said.

Events that were normally held in large rooms in person were held with the teams, such as matriculation and the Title IX lecture. Some of the fun events were also held in this way, like watching the comedian and the mentalist that come annually. Danis thought that this was a change in a positive direction.

“I believe that was very helpful because we asked the team leaders to stay on as peer counselors for the new students,” Danis said. “Since we weren’t able to do a lot of stuff to get the students acquainted with campus like the tour of Pittsburgh or helping them find their classrooms, they may not feel as comfortable with the campus as we like. So, the team leaders will be there to check up on them once a week.”



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Despite unknowns presented by the pandemic, freshmen received a full week of orientation activities.

Some events were still in person, like the carnival, according to Danis. The carnival consisted of games spread throughout A-Walk, so distancing was encouraged. The world record dance, a substitute for the graffiti dance, was also in person.

“We wanted to still have fun, big events,” Danis said.

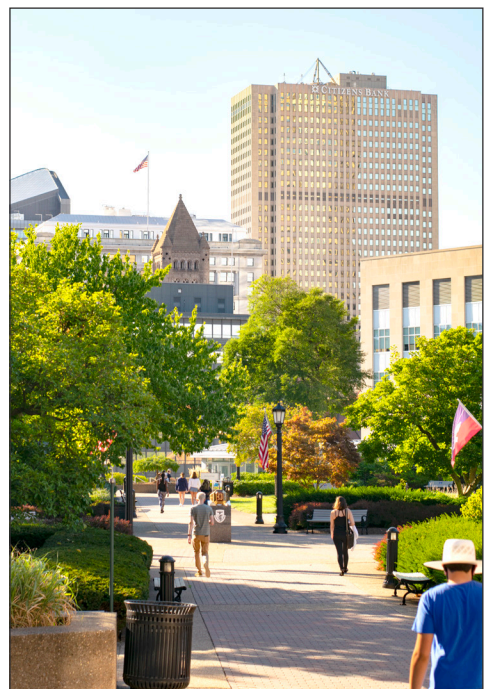
Orientation leaders had a few issues with new students not following guidelines, but for the most part, it was fine, Danis said. Once the students were told that campus was going to have these rules for at least a whole semester and were notified about the repercussions for not following rules like wearing a mask, they were understanding.

“It was hard because the team leaders and orientation leaders were looked at as the

authority figures, but we were there more to remind students about the rules than to fully enforce the rules. The new students outnumber us; we said something when we were able to, but our main job was to facilitate the events. If students were not at the events and walking around campus, we were not always there to remind them of CDC guidelines if they decided to not follow them,” Danis said.

Overall, Danis said that orientation went very well. Of course, it was difficult to make it happen, but she feels that they did the best given the circumstances.

“I just want people to know that the team leaders were very essential in making this program happen,” Danis said. “If it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t have been able to pull it off how we did. Orientation is a student-run event and I think we did very well with it.”



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Freshman orientation activities began Sunday, Aug. 16.



# DU MBB enters '20-21 with momentum

ADAM LINDNER  
sports editor

The Duquesne men's basketball team's 2019-20 campaign ended suddenly on March 12, only hours before the team was set to open play as the Atlantic 10 tournament's sixth seed. The decision, made in response to the sudden outbreak of COVID-19, came swiftly that Thursday afternoon as conferences across the nation successively announced the cancellations of their championships.

Hours after the A-10's cancellation, the NCAA announced that its remaining winter and spring championships were called off altogether.

Now months removed, the virus' proliferation has spawned many grim realities around the globe, and — albeit on a decidedly abbreviated scale — that's no different for sports, nor their leagues, teams, employees, athletes or supporters. Some, like DU center Baylee Steele, will forever be left wondering what could've been had their final college seasons ended naturally.

For Keith Dambrot and his Dukes, the uncertainty and ensuing frustration regarding what would have — could have — transpired had the postseason continued is, and will remain, unresolvable.

Be that as it may, that does not mean the team and its fans shouldn't take some solace in the campaign. For large portions, it was an encouraging showing, highlighted by a historic 10-0 start, an 11-7 showing in conference play — notching a program record for A-10 wins in a single season — and emboldening road victories over both Saint Louis and St. Bonaventure.

Contrarily, it also saw pedestrian, too-close-for-comfort wins

over George Washington, plebeian Fordham (twice) and La Salle. It saw a miserable second-half meltdown at Rhode Island, and regrettable losses against Massachusetts and GW.

The abbreviated season as a whole, though, can largely be marked as a positive development. The team with no true home court began its season with the program's best record since 1953-54, saw the emergence of forward Marcus Weathers as an all-league player and ended the season with 20-plus victories for just the third time in the last 48 years.

In retrospect, the 2019-20 Dukes' biggest regret will likely be never knowing just how much they could have achieved. It's probable that Dambrot would have found his Dukes victorious in the conference tournament for the first time in his three-year tenure at the school, and the possibilities beyond that are vast.

Boasting a season sweep of NCAA Tournament bubble team Saint Louis, two close contests with high-flying Dayton and a gutsy overtime win at VCU, the prospect of a National Invitation Tournament berth was absolutely plausible for Duquesne. The Dukes' postseason realities would've been crystallized given a proper conference tournament, including the slim possibility of a conference title and automatic March Madness bid — which, hypothetically, could have included a Cinderella-type triumph over Obi Toppin and the nationally-renowned Flyers in the league title game.

In another alternate reality, the team could have bounced No. 14 Fordham — which downed No. 11 GW on March 11 in what would eventually be the tourney's final game — before facing a struggling Rhode Island squad in the quar-



DUKE ARCHIVES | ALYSON LOREFICE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne forward Marcus Weathers prepares to shoot a free throw during a Jan. 29 contest at PPG Paints Arena. Duquesne would fall to eventual conference champion Dayton, 73-69, despite numerous second-half surges from the Dukes.

terfinal round. A win against URI would have put Duquesne in the league's second semifinal matchup on March 14, likely against No. 2 Richmond or a potentially-surging Davidson team.

After taking care of business against both Fordham and Rhode Island, though, the Dukes would fall one victory short of the title game, which would've been the program's first appearance since 2009. An NIT bid may have very well been thrown Duquesne's way, though, and the program could have taken solace in the tasting of postseason success for the first time in a while.

Then again, it's possible, too, that Duquesne would have faltered at the hands of Fordham — a team that the Dukes narrowly beat in two regular-season rock-fights — and moved to 0-3 all-time in the conference tourney under Dambrot. The positive momentum that the regular season generated wouldn't be nullified, necessarily, but the team's lack of postseason success would have surely dampened the campaign's memory, as well as the generally positive feeling regarding the program heading into a pivotal 2020-21 season.

Alas, nobody will ever know with certainty how the Dukes would have fared in the end. The 2019-20 sports season will forever be a mystery for countless teams around the globe; the Dukes are no different.

There were three major developments during the 2019-20 season, however, that indicate the possibility of an unforgettable 2020-21 campaign — if and when that season actually happens.

The foremost of those developments is found in Duquesne point guard Sincere Carry, his promising sophomore season and, most importantly, his self-evident health.

## 1. Sincere Carry's health

The criminally-under-recruited

Carry found himself with a lack of serious college interest when he graduated high school in 2018, largely as the result of missed time due to knee problems.

A top middle school player, he missed out on all-important time on the AAU circuit throughout high school, and coaches essentially retreated due to his murky injury history. He committed to D-II West Liberty before Duquesne offered, making him a late addition to a sizable 2018 recruiting haul for Dambrot.

He ended up being the gem of the class, taking over lead guard duties from Day One and never looking back. Now halfway through his Duquesne career, it's obvious to anyone watching that these Dukes will go only as far as Carry can take them.

Carry missed four games during his freshman campaign in 2018-19, and at times appeared hobbled on the court during others. In his absence, the lack of his presence on both sides of the ball was felt by the Dukes, who look to Carry to be the leader of their offensive attack and an energetic tone-setter on D.

Well, good news: He appeared entirely healthy throughout his sophomore season, playing 35.5 minutes per contest across 30 games. He notched a full 40-minute effort at Fordham, and played 40-plus minutes in overtime games versus Fordham (41), at St. Bonaventure (42) and at VCU (42). At no point did Carry appear limited on the floor, offering Duquesne its most encouraging development of the past season.

As a result, the point guard improved his yearly 3-point percentage by 2.1% (to 33.6%) while launching 26 more times from long-range in a season that saw the NCAA move its 3-point line back from a traditional length of 20 feet

## What To Watch For: Aug. 27 — Sept. 2

It is unclear, as of press time, which sporting competitions will be held over the course of the next week.

On Aug. 26, three NBA playoff games were postponed as the league's players grapple with yet another shooting of a Black man at the hands of police.

Jacob Blake, a Black man, was shot seven times by officers in Kenosha, WI, on Aug. 23, reigniting the nation's ongoing reconciliation with racial inequity, particularly pertaining to police brutality.

The Milwaukee Bucks — the NBA's team from Wisconsin, a state now embroiled in civil unrest following the shooting of Blake — were the first to boycott their game, which was set for 4 p.m. against Orlando. Soon thereafter, the NBA announced that its remaining games scheduled for Aug. 26 — Houston-Oklahoma City and L.A. Lakers-Portland — had been postponed, as well.

The NBA's plans beyond Aug. 26 are currently unclear.

The MLB's Milwaukee Brewers followed suit shortly after the Bucks' decision, postponing its game against the Cincinnati Reds. Then, the Seattle Mariners — MLB's most predominantly Black team — voted to postpone its contest against the San Diego Padres.

At press time, it also appeared the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers would postpone their Aug. 26 contest.

The WNBA decided to postpone its scheduled games for Wednesday, Aug. 26, as well.

For the time being, it does appear select MLB games will be played as scheduled, and that the NHL will continue play in its two bubble locations (one in Toronto, one in Edmonton).

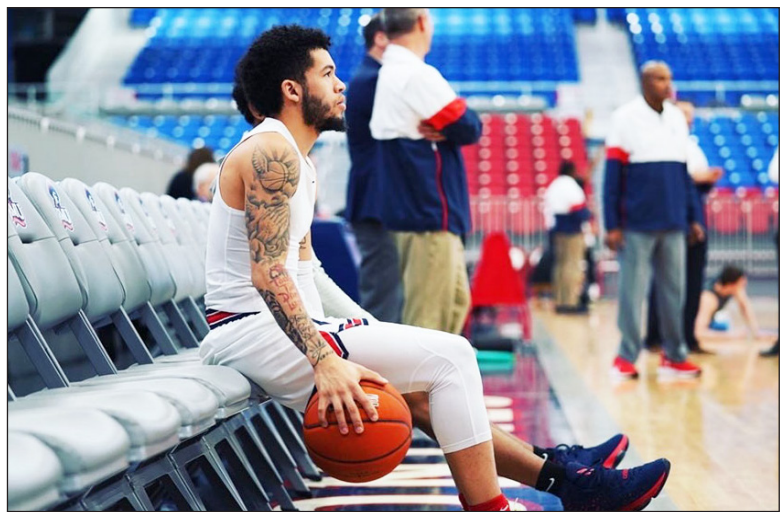
It is fair to assume that, in the coming days, more definitive decisions will be made regarding the NBA's plans, in addition to other professional sports leagues.

According to ESPN's Tim Bontemps, a veteran NBA player has told ESPN, "The season is in jeopardy."

— Adam Lindner

## On This Date ...

On **August 27, 2004**, Manu Ginobili scored 29 points to lead Argentina to a shocking upset of the United States in the semifinal round of the men's basketball tournament at the Summer Olympics in Athens.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne sharpshooter Tavian Dunn-Martin takes some time to himself prior to a Dukes' game at Robert Morris University's UPMC Events Center in 2020.

see **HOOPS** — page 8



# Three takeaways from DU MBB's abbreviated season

## HOOPS — from page 7

and 9 inches to 22 feet and 1¾ inches, the customary distance found in international play. Improved long-range shooting was a goal of Carry's entering his sophomore season; the results have been reassuring. Entering his junior year with a clean bill of health, a growing offensive arsenal and his brother, Mike Bekelja, now in the fold, Carry appears primed to continue ascending as one of the league's premier guards.

### 2. Marcus Weathers' emergence

A major question regarding the team entering the past season was which players would take sizable leaps in their production. It seemed, following the loss of swingman Eric Williams Jr., that a considerable onus of responsibility would fall on the team's other perimeter scorers in the wake of his departure.

Lamar Norman Jr. fared decently well in an augmented role, and freshman Maceo Austin showed flashes of his budding potential. Tavian Dunn-Martin had some huge moments, highlighted by an unreal individual effort from 3-point range at VCU.

For several periods throughout the season, though, it was forward Marcus Weathers that proved to be a matchup nightmare for innumerable hapless defenders.

### As a whole, the redshirt junior:

1. *Uppe*d his scoring average from 10.0 points per game to 14.3
2. *Improved* his field goal percentage from 48.9% to a whopping 55.7% clip while attempting 60 more shots in total
3. *Grabbed* 8.1 rebounds per game, an improvement from 6.4 per game the year prior
4. *Was one of two players to start all 30 games alongside Carry*
5. *Recorded double-digit points a team-high 21 times*

Weathers' emergence as an all-league talent may have initially caught some by surprise, but his enhanced game was evident from the outset of conference play to those paying attention. He began to produce at an unprecedented level toward the conclusion of non-league competition, posting 19 points and 13 rebounds against Radford on Dec. 14 before scoring 25 points and grabbing 13 boards against Marshall on Dec. 29.

His importance was magnified, though, in conference play, headlined by memorable performances against Saint Louis (twice) and Dayton.

Weathers' inside-out game proved to be a brutal assignment for many throughout the A-10, and nobody struggled to contain him quite like SLU. Weathers scored 26 points in both of the Dukes' games against the Billikens on 62.5% shooting, tormenting a team that prides itself upon its defensive versatility and toughness.

Entering his final year of eligibility, Weathers figures to be in win-now mode alongside fellow seniors Dunn-Martin and Mike Hughes. A more consistent jump shot would unlock yet another level of Weathers' game; he is already a masterful finisher around the rim but can often struggle when

shooting from outside the paint.

Regardless, Weathers' emergence as a top player in the A-10 in 2019-20 was a significant factor in the team's record-setting campaign. Without his increased production (and seemingly unstoppable spin move), it's clear Duquesne wouldn't have fared nearly as well as it did during the past year.

Likewise, the team will need a memorable final act from Weathers in his last season of eligibility in order to reach its goals of Atlantic 10 predominance and an NCAA Tournament appearance.

### 3. Gallant wins & collective resolve

One of the most impressive factors of Duquesne's 11-win conference season was the manner in which some of the wins came — and, for what it's worth, one of its losses.

In one, on the road at Saint Louis, Duquesne managed to beat a solid conference opponent for the second time in just over a month, this time in a hostile environment. The Billikens made runs, cutting their deficit to just two early in the second half, but the Dukes would answer each of SLU's jabs en route to an imposing 14-point victory.

Just two weeks prior, Duquesne was 5-0 in the A-10 and set for its first pivotal road game of the year at URI. The game saw a promising first half from DU before a monumental collapse, resulting in a 22-point loss following an eight-point halftime lead. It was disheartening for a team that began A-10 play on a surge, and things only became more bleak following a letdown at UMass days later.

The Feb. 5 game at SLU was Duquesne's first shot at a road game following those two outings, and beyond the implications that the game held in the league's standings, the game at a raucous Chaifetz Arena was to be a gut check for a program that hasn't fared well on the road in some time.

The win was, at the time, Dambrot's most impressive on the road during his tenure at DU.

Victories at St. Bonaventure on Feb. 26 and VCU on March 3, though, may be even more memorable in retrospect.

The Bonaventure game fell at another critical point for the team, then fresh off two straight losses, including a disconcerting home outing against GW on Feb. 19.

The Dukes were entering the latter part of their season, set to face the Bonnies at the Reilly Center before games against George Mason, VCU and Richmond to end the year. At 8-6 in the A-10 before the Bonaventure matchup, the team was in danger of dropping to just one game above .500 as the season was drawing to a close following a 5-0 start.

Duquesne hadn't won at St. Bonaventure since 2009, losing 11 consecutive games at the Reilly Center before the Feb. 26 matchup. Just weeks earlier, the Bonnies beat Duquesne, 83-80, in a hard-fought game at the UPMC Events Center on the campus of Robert Morris University in Moon Township, one of the Dukes' temporary homes for their nomadic campaign.

But Carry & Co. answered the bell in unforgettable fashion, with the point guard

recording 18 points and a career-high 11 assists en route to a statement win over SBU.

After forcing overtime with a pair of clutch free throws, Carry drew a key charge in overtime, then buried two more free throws at the end of the extra period to give DU an 81-77 win at St. Bonaventure, its first in over a decade.

The win was especially satisfying for longtime Duquesne supporters who'd grown particularly weary of the team's annual trip to Olean, N.Y., each season. It gave Dambrot his first victory over the Bonnies at Duquesne, leaving him just a win against VCU away from owning a victory against each of the A-10's other 13 programs during his young tenure.

That win came March 3, giving the Dukes victory No. 11 in the A-10, a school record. It was Duquesne's first-ever win against VCU in eight attempts, and gave Dambrot a win over each of the league's other programs. It also gave DU its sixth A-10 road victory on the season, shattering the previous benchmark of four (set multiple times).

Even so, the nature of the win itself was the most remarkable factor of the VCU win.

The Rams, pegged as the conference favorite in preseason polls, enjoyed a decently successful non-conference slate but disappointed in A-10 competition. By the end of the season, VCU remained a talented yet shorthanded group, and continued to struggle mightily against teams it was previously predicted to dominate.

On the Rams' senior night, a rocking Siegel Center welcomed the Dukes, who found themselves trailing by 12 with 8:14 remaining. Dunn-Martin went on a 3-point rampage in the game's second half, giving Duquesne second, third and fourth lives when it seemed VCU might finally pull away for good.

Norman Jr., a talented but inconsistent contributor during his sophomore year, sent the game to overtime with a tough drive to the rim in the game's final seconds.

The Dukes controlled overtime in large part due to timely 3-pointers from Steele and Dunn-Martin, and escaped from VCU with more than just another road victory — the trend of gutsy wins in hostile environments provided tangible evidence that the program is, in fact, in the process of returning to legitimacy.

Following Year 3 of Dambrot's time at Duquesne, one of the most promising things regarding the program has been its ability to show tremendous resolve in key moments, specifically throughout the 2019-20 season.

For the first time in over a decade, the team is gifted enough to compete at the heights of the A-10 and, when paired with the program's evident belief that it truly belongs, there is the real prospect of a much richer 2020-21 campaign.

Several moments from Duquesne's 73-69 loss against Dayton on Jan. 29 showcased the group's collective resolve in its highest form, exemplified by a 21-6 second half run against the then-No. 7 Flyers. Down 55-36

with just over 13 minutes remaining, the Dukes would cut their deficit to just four before Dayton regained an 11-point lead.

Even then, the team didn't concede, fighting back to a 71-69 tally before Dayton prevailed.

The character that the team displayed in the face of a national title contender is perhaps one of the season's most positive occurrences. The problem, as Dambrot may tell you, is the team's inability to exhibit consistent effort against all of its opponents.

Bad losses against UMass and George Washington killed the Dukes' hopes of a double-bye in the A-10 tournament, leaving them as the No. 6 seed; a team that could challenge anyone in the league on any given night, yet one that remained prone to losing games it shouldn't.

The 2020-21 team will be Dambrot's first with true veteran experience at Duquesne, led by integral seniors Weathers, Dunn-Martin and Hughes, as well as the beyond-his-years Carry.

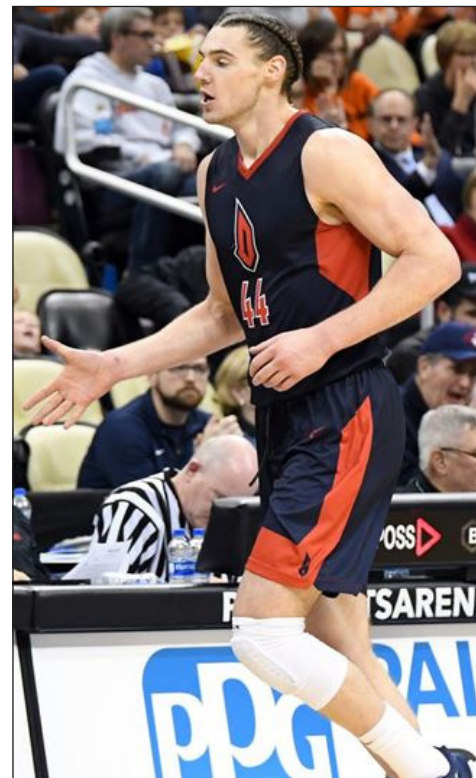
With the exception of Steele, the team's entire core is set to return, and will be joined by what seems to be a highly talented class of freshmen. It'll be Dambrot's fourth year at the helm of the program — his current contract runs through 2023-24.

If there's ever a time for Duquesne to do it big, to purge its long-standing NCAA Tournament drought, what greater time than now?

It's all contingent upon many factors, yes.

Beyond personnel matters, it's far from a sure thing that the season will even transpire as it's currently scheduled. If it does, this is nothing short of Duquesne's time to make history.

Of course, that's dependent upon Carry's health, Weathers' continued improvement and the team's ability to continue to show up in key moments. An improved level of preparedness against its lesser opponents might help, too.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
Duquesne center Baylee Steele extends his hand for a high-five during a November 2019 contest.



## Jurassic filming continues despite coronavirus

GRIFFIN SENDEK  
multimedia editor

As the production of *Jurassic World: Dominion* continues just outside of London, Universal Pictures seeks to prove that even during a global pandemic, Hollywood blockbusters are far from extinction.

Despite pouring an additional \$9 million in safety precautions into what was already a \$200 million dollar movie, no amount of money can guarantee anything when it comes to the spread of the coronavirus. Universal is moving forward with the shooting schedule, and is optimistic that the multitude of on-set changes will keep the cast and crew safe up to the filming's conclusion.

Filming for *Jurassic World: Dominion* began in February and continued until March 13, 2020, when production was placed on hold due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Filming picked back up again in the U.K. on July 6, this time following a 107-page safety manual outlining the changes for every job on set.

Movie sets have always been



COURTESY OF JOSH WILSON, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Production on the *Jurassic World : Dominion* continues despite COVID shutdowns.

ever-evolving balls of organized chaos, but never before have they required nurses at the entrances manning temperature gages, 150 hand sanitizer stations, the accumulation of 18,000 coronavirus test kits and the rental of an entire luxury hotel for 20 weeks.

The coronavirus is fundamentally changing the ways in which movies are made. Everyone from the actors and directors to each member of every crew department are all following set protocols never before seen.

So how does a movie get made while adhering to strict safety

protocols? Spoiler: Actors Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard will not be undergoing sudden costume changes while inexplicably wearing masks through half of the movie, nor will they be chased through the forest by velociraptors in face shields.

The first step for shooting a movie in 2020 is to not be in the U.S.

"It is virtually impossible to shoot anywhere in the U.S. right now," producer Mark Gill told the New York Times. The reduced severity of the outbreak in the U.K. compared to the U.S. has eased production.

The immediate filming location is called "the Green Zone" which consists of only the bare minimum personnel needed to capture each individual shot, actors, directors, camera operators, sound and lighting tech. Everyone that works within the Green Zone, including the actors, is tested three times a week, while the departments that work outside the zone are able to be tested on a less frequent basis.

Despite piling millions of dollars in safety precautions, the production of *Jurassic World: Dominion* is still teetering on the edge of a blade. Following the safety guidelines has worked well thus far, but if anything slips through and

any of the lead actors test positive for the virus, filming comes to an immediate halt.

No matter what happens over the course of production, *Jurassic World: Dominion* will set a precedent, whether it will be a bastion of hope delineating how the Hollywood machine can keep on churning or a lesson in disaster proving the world isn't ready for large scale films to return. If *Jurassic World: Dominion* is capable of reaching completion, its safety policies and guidelines will very likely be adopted for moviesets all across the world.

It's important to remember that *Jurassic World: Dominion* is not attempting to spearhead mid-pandemic filmmaking for the creative pursuit of the artform, but rather, money is the leading motivation.

There is an awful lot riding on the completion and release of *Jurassic World: Dominion*. The two previous entries in the *Jurassic World* series both grossed over \$1 billion and *Dominion* is expected to perform just as well at the box office. The possibility of future shutdowns and delays costing the studio more money just adds to the pressure.

To quote Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum's character from the original *Jurassic Park*), "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether they could, they didn't stop to think if they should."

The parallels that can be drawn between the fictional corporations from the movies and Universal Pictures moving forward with risks in the name of profits is almost laughable. Time will tell whether or not production will take after the chaos and disarray of the series it is creating, or if *Jurassic World: Dominion* will truly grace audiences in theaters on June 11, 2021.



COURTESY OF JOSH WILSON, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Production on the *Jurassic World : Dominion* continues despite COVID shutdowns

## WEEK'S EVENTS

Grab & Go Ice Cream  
August 27 @ 9 p.m.

Free ice cream of your choice available at the NiteSpot! Get it while supplies last.

Paint Monkey  
Sept. 5 @ 7-9 p.m.

A campus-wide paint n' sip with 50 spots available! Those interested can pay \$10 at the Assumption Hall front desk.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

Smile  
Katy Perry  
Friday, August 28

Katy Perry's sixth studio album, first one released in the past three years. This pop album will primarily focus on Perry's self-proclaimed "journey toward the light."

All Together Now  
Friday, August 28

An upcoming Netflix original, this film is about a seemingly normal teenage girl with a huge secret: She is homeless.

## MICRO REVIEW

Duquesne's Student Safety Kits

The coronavirus 'welcome back!' bag is efficient and useful for what it's worth. The pamphlet provides informative pointers on how to not breathe on the person next to you and how to properly wash your hands, which you think would be common sense. Alongside this, the kit is brimming with anti-COVID-19 gear, including a large bottle of hand sanitizer, a thermometer and a mask that does not fit around my ears. Aside from receiving my safety kit late, I know Duquesne has our backs at the end of the day!

—Capri Scarcelli

## HOROSCOPES



### Aquarius

Put your two cents in today. Someone's bound to listen, right?



### Pisces

Love isn't your strongsuit today, Pisces. Watch a movie instead.



### Aries

Listen to Aquarius, they might be able to help you with that.



### Taurus

Take a walk! Feel the fresh air! Say hi to the squirrels! It's okay to take a breather.



### Gemini

Treat yourself to something nice today! Or don't, up to you.



### Cancer

Cancer, check if you are in-person or online today.



### Leo

Read the room Leo! Read the room!



### Virgo

It is your time to shine this week. That's it. That's the tweet.



### Libra

Libra, why so lowkey? What's going on?



### Scorpio

You are feeling emotional today. It's okay, cry it out with Virgo.



### Sagittarius

Things might go your way today. You may receive good news if you're lucky.



### Capricorn

You're feeling lazy today. That's okay, you'll get it next time.



# New lab location takes theater from Red Masquers

**KELLEN STEPLER**  
editor in chief

Duquesne University's Red Masquers won't be able to have their shows in this Genesis Theater anytime soon, but that does not mean the show's going to stop. Over the summer, Masquers advisor John Lane received an email from the provost's office that the group would not be able to perform in the Genesis Theater for the foreseeable future. Instead, the space will be used for health science labs, which had to be moved to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

"I understand why — it's an extraordinary time," Lane said. "We're happy to help the university any way we can and do our part to make sure everyone is safe and sound. It's unfortunate, but everyone on campus is making sacrifices."



Griffin Sendek / Photo Editor  
The group is tasked to find alternatives outside of the theater.

Lane had to break the news during a Red Masquer executive board meeting.

"My reaction was a mix of shock and sadness. I never would have guessed that we would lose the theater," Red Masquer secretary Olivia Scherrer said. "We had already discussed modifying some shows and thinking of alternatives, but I never expected to lose our location to another major." Composed of 45-60 DU students from all majors, the Red Masquers have called the Genesis Theater home since 2015. The Red Masquers will have access to the rest of the building — the prop shop, costume storage and a rehearsal hall, for example — but not the auditorium itself.

"I feel upset that the theater won't be in use," actor Michael Kirk said. "It's a gorgeous building with so much potential and so many stories to tell. However, due to the

pandemic, it is rather difficult to justify the probability of putting people in danger just to satisfy our cravings for live entertainment."

For Masquers president Heather Umbel, the most frustrating thing about having no access to the theater is the inability to educate students interested in crew.

"We won't have access to the technical equipment in the theater, like the sound system and the lighting system," Umbel said. "People won't be able to learn skills."

Scherrer said that she was upset that the Red Masquers were not notified prior to the university making the decision, or were not part of the conversation that decided who would use the theater.

"There are theater majors who need that theater for their specific focus, and I feel that their education is being put on hold or pushed aside by Duquesne," Scherrer said. "There is already a bias toward STEM majors when compared to arts majors, and I feel that this instance exhibits that preference."

Classes that would have normally been in the theater have been moved to the rehearsal hall in Genesis Theater. It's up to individual directors of each show to decide where the cast will practice safely and follow protocols.

"I think it will be an interesting way to see how creative we can be," Umbel said. "I'm happy to be



Griffin Sendek / Photo Editor

Their home since 2015, the Red Masquers will be unable to use Genesis theater.

pushed out of our comfort zone." Lane explained that there are alternative types of shows that the Red Masquers will perform — doing virtual, radio and outdoor shows — with very small casts and short in length.

"We'll be just as busy as a normal semester," Lane said. "We're doing just as many, if not more, shows. We're just doing types of shows that we wouldn't normally do."

While they're still in the works, the plan is for virtual shows to be held on platforms such as Zoom or Facebook Live, radio shows to be broadcasted on Duquesne's radio station, WDSR, and 10-minute outdoor shows to be performed on campus during class switch times.

"I think this is an odd yet interesting way to go about our semester," Scherrer said. "The new stu-

dents will definitely experience an interesting and new way of working in theater, and I cannot wait to see what comes of it."

Lane said that the Red Masquers will plan other virtual events among its members to "keep morale up," and "create as many opportunities as possible for kids to do theater."

Although cliché, the phrase "the show must go on" may hold more bearing to the Red Masquers this year. In their 109-year-history, the Red Masquers have never cancelled a season.

"Safety should be our top priority in these coming months, even if that does, in fact, mean our theater will not be in use this year," Kirk said. "Duquesne will prevail, and the Red Masquers will prevail, but only if we keep our heads on straight and our hearts on our sleeves."

## Pittsburgh CLO gives season ticket holders another try

**CAPRI SCARCELLI**  
a&e editor

Though the coronavirus has stalled various events throughout the summer, companies such as the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (CLO) are more than prepared to go forth with regular production next summer at the Benedum Center.

The CLO is carefully preparing for its 2021 summer musical season, starting by extending this year's season subscription into next year. According to the Pittsburgh CLO website, regular season ticket holders are able to claim two tickets for any musical production from next June to August.

The show lineup for next summer includes the following: Jersey Boys from June 1-6, Kinky Boots from June 15-20, A Chorus Line from June 22-27, The Drowsy Chaperone from July 6-11, Sister Act from July 20-25, and Godspell from August 3-8.

Each show will run for six days from Tuesday to Sunday.

Weekdays have 7:30 p.m. showings, Fridays have them at 8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays have two showings at 2 p.m.

**August 27, 2020**



Courtesy of CLO Website

A new season means new beginnings for the Pittsburgh CLO.

and 8 p.m. Sunday's show, however, will start half an hour earlier.

To those who purchased tickets this summer and were not able to put them to use, there is no extra fee to transfer shows for the next season, with the exception of Jersey Boys.

A gift certificate form was sent out to season ticket holders, which allows audience members to select the show of their choice alongside the date and time.

This gift certificate is good for one or two

tickets for any one show from the summer 2021 season.

Along with this, those interested in newly subscribing to the premium ticket packages can do so now, which can save anywhere from 15% to 35% collectively.

According to the website, ticket holders can enjoy a six-show premium seating package, which reserves the same seat for all six shows, or the three-show premium seating package, which allows reservations for three shows of choice.

Benefits to this include the percentage discount aforementioned, reserved parking, exclusive pre-sales, guaranteed seating and the ability to pay through installments.

The gift voucher, however, is a simple one-time purchase with mailed-in ticket preference.

According to CLO, the "give the gift of Broadway" gift certificate "make[s] the perfect gift for those special someones — parents, employees, and that hard-to-shop-for friend... the perfect gift for every occasion and every budget."

Questions regarding gift certificate purchasing can be answered by the CLO ticketing associates at 412-282-2822.

Current ticket holders may also provide their gift certificate number along with the name of the person who gifted them their 2020 Summer Season Gift Certificate for the closest match to their previous tickets.

To ensure priority seating, gift certificate vouchers must be mailed in by Sept. 17.

Physical tickets will be mailed by spring of 2021.



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*dukeads@yahoo.com*

## **THIS WEEK'S WEATHER**


Thursday  
86°  Humidity: 51%


Friday  
85°  Humidity: 51%

Saturday  
81°  Humidity: 69%

Sunday  
77°  Humidity: 7%

Monday  
81°  Humidity: 9%

Tuesday  
84°  Humidity: 25%

Wednesday  
81°  Sunshine and  
patchy clouds  
*Courtesy of AccuWeather*



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**If you are under the age of 21, it is illegal to  
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beverages that contain alcohol**

#### **SECTION 6308 OF THE PA CRIMES CODE:**

A person commits a summary offense if he/she, being less than 21 years of age, attempts to purchase, consume, possess or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor, malt or brewed beverages.

<b>PENALTY</b> Note: These are penalties updated by the State Legislature August 2019	<b>1st Offense</b>	<b>2nd &amp; Subsequent Offenses</b>
<b>FINE</b>	Up to, but not to exceed, \$500	Up to, but not to exceed, \$1,000

**There may be additional penalties & sanctions through the University**

**DJ CARES**  
**412 396-5834**



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