



## Masking it up in Brottier



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

A friendly reminder from a Brottier Hall window nudges the Duquesne community to wear a mask and socially distance.

## Duquesne releases COVID data table

**KELLEN STEPLER**

editor-in-chief

This week, Duquesne University unveiled a daily report of cases by isolation and quarantine status for the past seven days.

The table is split up into six different categories: confirmed cases, suspected cases, students isolated on campus, students isolated at home, students quarantined in a hotel and students quarantined at home. According to the table, confirmed cases are based on a laboratory test using either an Abbott ID test or a Quest PCR Nasal Swab test. Suspected cases are based on CDC Clinical and Epidemiologic Criteria.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 2, there are zero confirmed cases cumulative over time, and four cumulative suspected cases over time. There is one student isolated on campus over time, and seven students quarantined on

**see COVID — page 3**

## DU prof calls for removal of police in Pittsburgh schools

**KELLEN STEPLER**

editor-in-chief

The national conversation regarding police presence in schools hit Pittsburgh this summer, as Duquesne law professor Tiffany Sizemore and Pitt professor Jeff Shook wrote an open call for Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) to stop using police to manage children in their schools.

Sizemore, head of the Juvenile Defender Clinic at Duquesne, wrote that “in light of the continued police killings of unarmed African-American teens citizens in this country, there is no justification for continuing to have police officers or other quasi-law enforcement security forces patrolling the school



KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Brashear High School is one of four grades 9-12 high schools in the Pittsburgh Public School district. Advocates, like DU professor Tiffany Sizemore, are pushing to remove police presence in schools across the district.

buildings of this city’s children.”

Sizemore cited data from the American Civil Liberties Union, stating that students who attend schools with police are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested than in schools without police.

“Arresting children and pushing them into magistrates, juvenile courts and adult courts makes them more likely to drop out of school which, in turn, makes them at higher risk for a wide range of poor life outcomes,” Sizemore said.

Shook said that mentors, including police, play an authority figure in schools to improve school climate, but that role can be fulfilled without the police label.

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## POLICE BRIEFS

Welcome back! The coronavirus might have changed a lot of things on campus, but not the consistent use of marijuana by Duquesne students...

On Aug. 25, Duquesne students were found to be in possession of fake identification cards, marijuana, alcohol and paraphernalia. Students are being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Aug. 26, Campus police responded to Duquesne Towers for a marijuana incident. A state citation was issued to a resident student for a second offense and the case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Aug. 28, a resident student reported harassment via communication.

Also, on Aug. 28, a student reported that his vehicle was damaged while it was parked unattended in a university garage.

On Sept. 1, all Duquesne students received an email from assistant police chief Michael Sippey regarding a registered sex offender attempting to interact with female students. On Aug. 31, Johnathan Caito walked alongside a female student walking from City View apartments and engaged in conversation, trying to elicit information from the student. On this occasion, the report said that Caito did not commit any criminal offense.

Caito is a registered sex offender, and is banned from university grounds after a November 2019 incident. If he enters private property, he will be arrested for defiant trespass.

Remember to never walk alone while walking outside of campus, and DUPD will always provide an escort at any time on campus property. The emergency contact for DUPD is 412-396-2677.

## JOIN THE DUKE!

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### We want your input!

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# Duquesne Student EXPO goes virtual

GRIFFIN SENDEK  
multimedia editor

The Student EXPO has been a staple of every new semester on Duquesne's campus, however, like many other university events, this year's expo went entirely virtual.

Booths lining A-walk instead were replaced with several dozen Zoom chat rooms where students could pop in, chat with representatives from each club and move on to the next room of their choosing.

The most miraculous aspect of the expo's shift to a virtual format is how seamlessly it all worked from a technology standpoint. All of the club's Zoom rooms were accessible through Campus Link, at 11 a.m. the student expo event page opened up with a long list of each organization taking part.

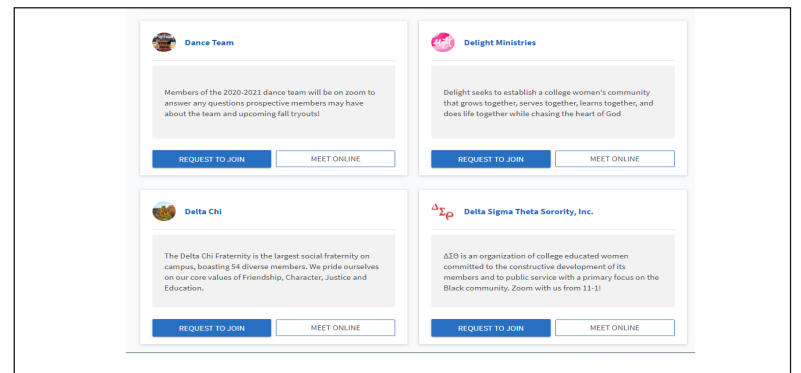
Students could scroll through the page reading the short descriptions of each group and if they found one they were interested in, they could click a

small "join Zoom" button and be instantly directed to a call with members willing to answer any and all questions.

"Honestly, I thought the expo went better than expected," Vincent Gullo, President of Delta Chi Fraternity, said. "My recruitment chair and I talked about how impressive it was for people to hop in on a Zoom call with people they didn't even know and have a conversation."

Where the expo couldn't avoid issues is the social awkwardness associated with using zoom. Joining a call and being alone with only members of the organization can be slightly uncomfortable, but the moment conversations started flowing most all of the awkward feelings fell away.

"Although the number of participants was obviously down than in previous years, it really seemed that the people who came wanted to be a part of the organization because they took that social risk. They had to do



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE CAMPUSLINK

a lot more than just pick up a flyer," Gullo said.

However, not all organizations were created equal. The members of HerCampusDUQ, the newly added Duquesne branch of the digital women's magazine, did not come away with the same level of positivity.

The social fraternities such as Delta Chi are already well-known throughout campus, whereas new and smaller clubs do not have that same luxury.

"Our expo turnout was disappointing," Lauren DeMicoli, Public Relations & advertising

major and co-president of HerCampusDUQ said. "We had a total of three people."

DeMicoli wishes the expo had been a week-long event that each organization had a set date and time.

"I think they could have easily adhered to CDC guidelines ... It also would be very helpful to clubs such as mine who have yet to make a physical appearance and are, therefore, at a much larger disadvantage than clubs that have been around for even a year longer than we have," DeMicoli said.

## Duq BSU reactivated



KELLEN STEPLER  
editor-in-chief

Why not now?

Now, Darian Reynolds thought, would be the time to reactivate Duquesne's Black Student Union (BSU). He said that the revival of the BSU came from "everything happening in the world today."

"We're in the midst of big, racial tension in America," Reynolds, BSU president, said. "There are Black brothers and sisters out there being tormented, killed. Now, people are being vocal about it, and expressing concern."

Reynolds is currently a grad student pursuing higher education administration. He earned his undergraduate degree at Duquesne in 2017, majoring in integrated marketing communications. During his undergraduate years, he served as both president and vice president of the BSU.

Former Duquesne Assistant Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Student Advancement Jeff Mallory, who Reynolds views as a mentor, played an integral part in the BSU's reactivation.

"The group is comprised of tremendous student leaders who have a strong connection to the university community," Mallory said. "Their love, appreciation and respect for the university community is special. Overall, BSU simply wants the best for other students with much attention to minority students. BSU fulfills student needs that are critical to their



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY FACEBOOK

Reynolds will lead Duquesne's BSU this year, focusing on a mission to give a voice to Black and brown students on campus.

experiences and to their opportunities for future success. In fact, during my time at Duquesne, several alums would express their gratitude for the impact BSU had on them."

All reactivation means, according to BSU executive vice president Kayla Harris, is that the presence of the club is back on campus, and that the organization can hold meetings and events like other activated clubs on campus.

The goal of the BSU, Reynolds said, is to give a platform to Black and brown students at Duquesne and create a sense of community.

"We want Black and brown students to be comfortable to bring issues to our attention," Reynolds said. "We're an organization that is here to advocate for Black and brown students at Duquesne, and also to educate others to know what it is like to be Black at a predominately white institution."

Mallory said that BSU can provide

an opportunity where students have a place where they can belong and are respected and appreciated, and also have the opportunity to be along like-minded peers and peers that challenge them to think differently.

"In many cases, BSU provides the mentioned opportunities to them," Mallory said. "It can certainly play a critical role to student success and also can play a major role into the appreciation students have for the university community. Duquesne is to be commended for uplifting the voice of students and for being proactive in the process."

To achieve these goals, the BSU has a "perfect mix of leadership," according to Reynolds. He said a combination of the BSU executive board, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and university administration will assist BSU to become a voice for minority students.

Harris, who said she played a big role in the Black Lives Matter movement in Pittsburgh, joined BSU to

continue that drive at Duquesne, and for the university to be more in tune with Pittsburgh.

"We want to have an organization like the BSU to come back and be that voice," Harris said.

This year, the organization will tackle the call to action letter written to university administration that the executive board wrote in July, fighting for institutional change on campus.

A common misconception of the BSU is that you have to be a minority to be involved — which Reynolds said is not the case. He said the BSU welcomes all students and views, and requires that you respect yourself, others and cultures.

"We're just another student organization; we shouldn't be labeled by our color," Reynolds said.

A "social justice platform," according to Harris, the BSU is a place where people can come and speak freely on issues impacting them, and can also educate others on things they never knew, or don't understand.

"Experiences are the best education you can receive," Harris said. "Black students explaining their experiences to white allies; it's a win-win."

The biggest struggle for the BSU now is to grow its membership and maintain its status. Harris noted that because of COVID-19 restrictions, it's hard for campus organizations to gather in large in-person groups, but two recruitment events have piqued more interest in the club.

"Although we are dedicated to bring to light issues, we can't do this alone," Reynolds said. "It's up to students to participate and make it a collaborative effort. We want students to rally behind us and create change at Duquesne. Duquesne is such a great place, and it has lots of room to grow."

"With the things we're trying, BSU will have a lasting impact so that we don't have to have this conversation every couple years," Reynolds said.



# COVID stats unveiled

## COVID — from page 1

campus over time.

All students undergoing isolation or quarantine must receive a clearance letter from Duquesne University Health Services (DUHS) before returning to campus.

“The Daily Report of Cases by Isolation and Quarantine Status provides the following: verification of Duquesne University’s approach to testing symptomatic students overall strategy, reinforces the requirement to conduct Daily Health Screens and directs students to Health Services for further guidance, states how the University deals with symptomatic students, (and) provides daily statistics on campus isolation/quarantine,” said Dessa Mrvos, director of Health Services.

According to the report, symptomatic students who test positive or receive a diagnosis of COVID-19 based on CDC criteria will be placed in isolation on campus or at home — based on their choice. DUHS staff will conduct contact tracing of the university-affiliated contacts according to Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and university guidelines. Students placed in isolation must contact DUHS to schedule a re-evaluation for clearance.

Duquesne will periodically conduct randomized testing of asymptomatic students and employees to estimate the prevalence of COVID-19

on campus. Participation in randomized testing is completely voluntary. After periodic tests are done, the results will be posted on Duquesne’s COVID-19 mini-site.

Symptomatic employees who show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 according to their daily health screen should contact their primary care provider (PCP) and university supervisor. The employee’s PCP office will determine if testing is indicated according to established clinical protocols. Testing results, medical treatment and return-to-work clearance are the responsibility of the ordering health care provider or an employee’s designated PCP.

As of Aug. 31, there have been four total employees currently under isolation for COVID-19, and five total cumulative number of employees under isolation for COVID-19.

Daily Report of Cases by Isolation and Quarantine Status Past 7 Days (Not cumulative)

DATE	Confirmed Case*	Suspected Case**	Isolated on Campus	Isolated at Home	Quarantine in Hotel	Quarantine at Home
8/26/20	0	2	1	1	5	0
8/27/20	0	3	1	2	7	1
8/28/20	0	1	0	1	2	1
8/29/20	0	1	0	1	2	1
8/30/20	0	1	0	1	0	3
8/31/20	0	1	0	1	0	3
9/1/20	0	0	0	1	0	6

\*Laboratory confirmed test using either Abbott ID test or Quest PCR Nasal Swab Test  
\*\*Based on CDC Clinical & Epidemiologic Criteria

COURTESY COVID19.DUQ.EDU

# Advocates call for PPS police removal

## POLICE — from page 1

“With police,” he said, “the reliance is on them intervening, leading to a lot of referrals to juvenile court.”

“We know that there’s not evidence that police make schools safer,” Shook said.

The Woodland Hills school district, for example, is one area school district that is phasing out their police department — a plan that was initiated in 2018. Additionally, youth specialists will be replacing security guards at Linton Middle School, in the Penn Hills school district.

Something to learn from districts that have already removed campus police, Sizemore said, is “that the world will not fall apart.”

“Students can be in school, and will continue to engage in all of the behaviors of adolescence, but without the presence of police in the building,” Sizemore said. “If we treat our students like human beings who do not need to have their childhoods policed, we will have safer learning environments.”

A December 2019 report from the state Department of Education showed that five PPS high schools — Brashear, Carrick, Westinghouse, Perry and Oliver — were among the top 25 schools across the state for arrests across Pennsylvania. Sizemore noted that locally, Black boys are five times more likely than white boys to be referred by PPS to the juvenile justice system and Black girls are nine times more likely than white girls.

“Students of color are more likely to go to a school with a police officer, more likely to be referred to law enforcement and more likely to be arrested at school,” Sizemore said. “A very large proportion of all referrals of Black youth to juvenile justice in Allegheny County — 32% of Black girls and 19% of Black boys — comes from Pittsburgh Public Schools police.”

However, the idea to remove police in schools has gotten a mixed reaction from other local educational leaders. Nina Esposito-Visgitis, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT), does not want to see school officers removed. According to their website, PFT represents over 3,100 teachers, paraprofessionals, technical, clerical and support staff in PPS.

Esposito-Visgitis cited data from a June PFT survey, where 96.1% of 1,340 PFT members believed that school police should not be eliminated from Pittsburgh schools. The study also showed that out of 1,316 responses, 64% of respondents “strongly agree” that school police officers treat students with respect.

In the survey, PFT members also could identify areas of added support to increase safety of school and staff. Some things they suggested were more counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists and mental health therapists; training for all staff in de-escalation and trauma informed care; community mental health and resiliency services and anti-racism training.

Now, where teachers are called

upon to do “more and more with less and less,” Esposito-Visgitis said that there’s a need for more support in schools, and police are one example. She said that she sees the mentors that police are to students, and that teachers go to them for a resource.

“It’s an issue that we need to work on together to ensure the proper support, where students can learn and teachers can teach,” she said.

Esposito-Visgitis also said that there’s more than what meets the eye when it comes to some reports, saying that parents often file charges.

“We all have to be careful when we look at the data,” Esposito-Visgitis said. “We have to respect the data and not use it against each other — let’s talk about it and make things better.”

Since the letter was written in June, Sizemore said that not much has developed. Over the summer, PPS has heard from hundreds of people both arguing for and against the removal of police in schools, but there has actually been very little movement toward the elimination of police in schools.

But, the conversation won’t stop here. Shook said that the Black Girls Equity Alliance, a juvenile justice group that both he and Sizemore contribute to, will host a news conference Sept. 14 to discuss policing in PPS, and a town hall meeting Sept. 17 as “another way to move the conversation forward.”

“We’ve got to move to solutions,” Shook said. “We’ve got to improve the school experience without criminalizing students.”

# ICE rules created fear, disappointment for international students

## COLLEEN HAMMOND

managing editor

At a university founded by immigrants, international students have been faced with a unique set of struggles this semester.

In early July, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released new regulations for international students attending virtual classes during the fall 2020 semester.

Previously, international students could qualify for their student visa and remain in the U.S. even if all or the majority of their classes were held online. Under this new regulation, that would no longer hold true. International students whose courses were entirely online would be given just 10 days to return to their home country before being forcibly deported by ICE.

This new rule, backed by the Trump administration, caused great fear, uncertainty and outrage among international students across the country.

“Not living in a bubble, this was widely viewed as a punitive measure,” said Aaron Higgins-Brake, a Duquesne Ph.D. philosophy student.

Luckily for international students, this rule was quickly reversed after

dozens of universities across the country backed a lawsuit filed by MIT and Harvard.

However, many international students are still displeased with Duquesne’s response to the situation.

After this new regulation was announced, all international students received an email from the Center for Global Development outlining students’ potential “decisions” going forward.

“Whether you are a new or continuing student at Duquesne, we want you to know that the Center for Global Engagement is here to support you in whatever decision you make for the fall semester,” Joe DeCrosta, executive director of the Center for Global Development said in an email to all international student from July 8.

“All he did was tell us what ICE told us,” Higgins-Brake said.

Higgins-Brake stated that, like many of his peers, he felt that this statement did not take a strong enough stance on protecting international students.

“I expected something more in line with other universities, provosts, presidents and administrations,” Higgins-Brake said. “I was kind of hoping for something more.”

Higgins-Brake and many other in-



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne international students, who come from 85 different countries, were disappointed in the university’s actions regarding new ICE regulations.

international students during this time began to fear the “nightmare scenario.” In the event that Duquesne would switch to all virtual classes at some point this semester, international students would have just 10 days to pack up their belongings, find a flight and move back to their home country.

This became even more terrifying to Higgins-Brake when he learned that not all of his friends would be able to get to their home country, given new COVID-19 flight restrictions in many countries. And, to make matters worse, not all international students currently have a home to return to in their country of origin.

“We just don’t have a place to go in our home country,”

Higgins-Brake said. “Duquesne never really acknowledged this nightmare scenario.”

Rikki Janyapanich, a freshman majoring in cyber security, shared similar fears about the possibility of being forced to return to Thailand, a place she hasn’t called home for years. She visited her family over the summer, but had no plans of staying long.

“It was a little bit scary because obviously I wanted to return here and study, and I like it here better,” Janyapanich said. “I consider Pittsburgh as my home.”

Higgins-Brake said this lack of response was exacerbated by the strong responses of other universities in the area.

Penn State University, Carnegie

Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh all filed amicus briefs in support of the Harvard and MIT lawsuit against the federal government on the rule changes.

Duquesne chose not to file an amicus brief in support of international students.

“Our immediate focus was to provide help and guidance to students who were managing conflicting messages, and on the plan to safely open the University,” Gabe Welsch, vice president for marketing and communications at Duquesne, said.

However, Higgins-Brake and his close circle of international students noted that they felt Duquesne should have defended their students by filing a similar amicus brief or proposing creative alternatives to all virtual classes.

“They really tried to avoid taking a stance on anything,” Higgins-Brake said.

The university claims they did not file the amicus brief because they did not think the policy would be carried out in the fall.

“Duquesne was confident that the ICE policy would be swiftly overturned or abandoned (and it was), and focused on strategies to mitigate its impact on students in the unlikely



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that is faced can be  
changed, but nothing  
can be changed  
until it is faced.”

JAMES BALDWIN

You just read | Now tweet  
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# OPINIONS

## Rural communities face unique challenges with online learning



COURTESY OF BRETT ZIEGLER

Students in rural communities struggle to complete online classwork without reliable internet connections at home.

With doors opened wide at schools around America, most institutions of primary and secondary education have chosen to introduce several aspects of online learning into their curriculums for the Fall semester. Students are adapting to an unconventional and seemingly speculative style of schooling that is unproven as an effective alternative to face-to-face instruction.

Quickly emerging as the primary mode of education, the majority of Americans consider online learning to be the most logical approach for ensuring that students of all walks-of-life receive an equal educational experience while also averting potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

However, I am here to inform you of a demographic in the U.S. that is certainly not receiving an equitable standard of education relative to others: the students living in rural communities.

Residents in these areas endure obsolete and largely inadequate internet infrastructure while modern cities reveling in urbanization enjoy advanced networking capabilities and high-speed connectivity.

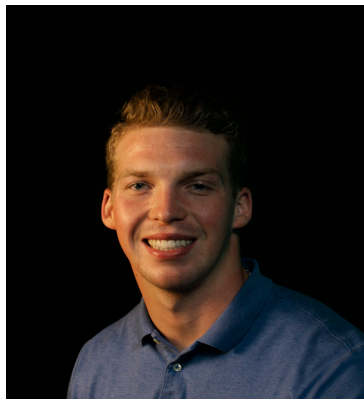
The failure to upgrade existing broadband frameworks and other related hardware is attributed to a lack of investment as businesses discover that implementing new technology in rural America is costly and not nearly as lucrative.

In fact, a study conducted by Microsoft in 2018 found that around half of Americans do not have access to high-speed

internet at home – approximately 164 million.

Making matters worse, one of the largest rural internet providers – Frontier Communications – recently filed for bankruptcy, citing increased costs of expanding broadband coverage as the primary determinant.

Unreliable connections, sluggish loading speeds and



NOAH WILBUR  
opinions editor

inaccessibility are a few of the challenges that must be overcome while online learning is continually integrated into the curriculum. Numerous reports have even recently emerged of students sitting in their cars near school facilities to obtain internet access for online exams, daily discussion board questions, and Zoom classes.

In short, rural communities simply do not possess the technological infrastructure necessary to provide and support an immersive, thorough and fulfilling learning experience.

For these reasons, local governments are faced with a particularly difficult decision: proceed with online learning

and accept that hundreds of students cannot participate, or continue with traditional instruction and face the likelihood that hundreds of students and their families contract COVID-19.

It is evident now that schools in rural areas have elected to implement a blended approach, combining the flexibility of online learning with in-person classes – known as the Hybrid Model. Proponents insist that the incorporation of some physical class attendance assists in gapping the digital divide between urban and rural living.

Nevertheless, blended learning is wholly unfavorable and ineffective as students are still placed at an enormous disadvantage due to a lack of connectivity for the foreseeable future.

Whether it is a purely online experience or the hybrid approach, they will undoubtedly receive a substandard education in comparison to those residing in modern cities and towns.

We must ultimately urge state leaders and the federal government to join forces and address the antiquated internet infrastructure of rural America by providing the capital, resources and logistical expertise needed to upgrade broadband capabilities and increase the affordability of internet access.

These improvements hold the capability of positively impacting thousands of students in this country while simultaneously creating new opportunities and enhancing quality-of-life for even more.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Frontline workers deserve more appreciation

We've heard it so many times: we're all in this together.

And, in March and April, we were, for the most part. Seeing commercials and advertisements blasting our screens with togetherness, positive, upbeat sayings and appreciation for frontline workers — who are often underappreciated.

But, it's nearly four months later, and the coronavirus pandemic is still going on — where did that compassion go?

This pandemic has taught us all that frontline workers are essential — even the ones that are mostly overlooked and underappreciated, like grocery store workers and garbage collectors. They're putting their lives at risk to provide life-sustaining services to others. During a time of national crisis, these individuals stepped up to the challenge and provided services to keep our society going.

We're over that now.

Social media videos of anti-maskers and COVID-19 deniers circulate the Internet, as they take out their frustrations and baseless conspiracies against people just trying to do their jobs. Disruption of businesses because state and federal requirements are inconvenient, and shaming of those trying to follow the rules are, unfortunately, things we've seen this summer.

News flash: The coronavirus pandemic has made things inconvenient for everyone — and frontline workers know this best.

So quickly, our society went from cheesy commercials honoring these workers to a blatant disregard for the work they've done, and continue to do. It's almost like it was a “photo-op” to state your appreciation for them.

Nurses and doctors have seen first hand the impact that COVID-19 has on people in their communities. Grocery and essential retail workers have worked tirelessly to ensure products are on shelves, stocking items all day. Public transit drivers are doing the best they can to safely provide transportation, and janitors working overtime to guarantee extra-clean spaces are more examples of the work these people do.

But yeah, a social media post with “proof” that COVID-19 is a hoax definitely gives you an excuse to treat these workers like garbage.

It's embarrassing, quite frankly. And it needs to change.

Maybe it's a simple “thank you” to the mail carrier dropping a delivery off at your house. Or, maybe it's showing compassion and understanding to the health care professionals who have, first-hand, seen this virus every single day. Or, it's being respectful to the cashier at Sheetz. It's up to you to decide what that looks like.

Once the pandemic eventually ends, it is certain that no one will want to go back and relive COVID-19. Let's leave our subpar treatment of frontline workers in the past, too.



# OPINIONS

## Defunding the police creates new opportunities for society

ALYSE KAMINSKI  
staff columnist

The year 2020 has definitely shaken a lot of outlooks I've had on America and its institutions — the police being one of them.

I have two police officers in my family, so I've always tried to see the best in this long-standing establishment.

After the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many more, combined with the recent shooting of Jacob Blake, I have a very hard time believing we need a system of policing in this country, or any country, that is so blatantly and inherently racist.

Police departments need to be defunded.

I personally do not find this to be a radical idea, especially when the U.S. has been defunding education for years which is arguably more important to American wellbeing than the police.

I know for many defunding the police is completely out of the question. However, it really should not be. We would be better off as a society if money that is typically given to the police is reallocated

to education and social programs that ultimately benefit the community.

Think of it this way — we are asking too much of the police. They're doing jobs that could be given to other people who are specialized in specific fields such as mental health, domestic disputes and de-escalation.

The police, in some capacity, are still necessary. Abolition and defunding of the police are two completely different arguments.

What I am saying is that cops should only respond to specific types of calls that they are trained extensively to answer.

That brings me to another point about the allocation of funds for police departments. I cannot fathom why so much money is spent on militarizing the police when police officers are not adequately trained to handle such hardware.

In 2014, the Ohio Township Police Department received \$733,000 for Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles (MRAPs).

For what? I live in Ohio Township, and I can honestly say that my local police de-



COURTESY OF IRA L. BLACK

Public cries for defunding the police continue to gain traction across America.

partment getting their hands on such heavy machinery has not made me feel any safer. It seems to me as if the police department got some new toys to play with that year. I have never once seen one used.

How can one justify militarizing local police departments when Pennsylvania officers' only undergo 20 weeks of training. It takes me longer to complete two semesters of my political science and journalism degree, and I won't have people's lives in my hands upon graduation.

Why do police departments allocate resources for guns and MRAPs instead of adequate training for its officers?

If redistribution was to occur, police departments would not be left with nothing. They would still have the funds necessary to complete their job, and their job would become easier if non-policing forms of public safety entered the conversation.

The inherent racism behind policing in the U.S. cannot go unaddressed. In particular, southern states began police departments in order to catch runaway slaves in the 1700s, eventually enforcing segregation once slavery was abolished.

Why would we want to fund a system that is rooted in the disenfranchisement of Black

communities? Not only is it rooted in that, but police officers still arrest and kill more Black people today than white people. I personally want no part in that sort of system.

Police aren't supposed to kill guilty people, and they seem to grasp that concept when a teenage white boy murders students and teachers in a school or murders protesters. Those kids walk away unscathed. But when George Floyd was suspected of a counterfeit bill or Tamir Rice was simply playing with a toy gun, they were murdered.

This is an inherently flawed system that does not deserve our tax dollars. I want my taxes to go towards improving our communities and repairing our damaged system in America by defunding the police.

This argument comes down to whether or not you're paying attention to the news.

You, no matter what the color of your skin is, should be enraged that Kyle Rittenhouse killed two protesters, but Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back with his kids watching. The police need to be defunded.

## Mail-in ballots emerge as the primary method of voting during COVID-19

ZOE STRATOS  
staff columnist

As the 2020 presidential election draws near, questions of where and how to vote are rising amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Although rarely used in the past, states are now pushing for universal mail-in voting rather than in person at the polling booths to keep the inclusivity and accuracy of the elections intact.

However, as with any major change within our democracy, there is a partisan debate regarding the legitimacy of mail-in voting between citizens and even government officials — including President Donald Trump.

The main points of the debate surround the increasing chances of voter fraud or tampering of votes by foreign actors. Right on cue, President Trump joined the Twitter conversation with an onslaught of tweets calling 2020 the “most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history” while simultaneously opposing further funding to the U.S. Postal Service and ultimately preventing mail-in voting.

It is important to note that President Trump has no issue with absentee voting — only the mail-in method — as stated in one of his tweets. So as voters, we have to know the difference (or lack thereof) between the two methods of voting.

Absentee ballots are submitted by mail from an absentee. An absentee is a person who physically cannot go to a polling booth, whether it be because of military deployment or because the voter will not be in his or her registered state during the election. Moreover, the absentee ballot cannot be given to anyone; there has to be a reason. The voter must then request and be accepted to use the ballot through his or her state government.

Where the area becomes gray is the method of submission after this approval. Both absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are submitted through the mail, of course — and very rarely through fax, for absentees.

Furthermore, 29 states and the District of Columbia allow no-excuse absentee ballots, which are essentially no different from mail-ins. Pushing the boundaries even further, some of these states even refer to these no-excuse absentee ballots as mail-in ballots.

Circling back to the debate at hand: In the past, there has been no evidence of substantial mail-in voter fraud. According to a study from the Heritage Foundation, over 250,000,000 million votes have been cast by mail, and there have only been 1,285 proven cases of voter fraud.

Furthering the legitimacy of mail-ins, five states already transferred to a method referred to as

‘all-mail voting’ in previous elections. Although not mandatory, citizens in these states vote primarily by mail, beginning with Oregon who first made the shift back in 1981.

Since then, Washington, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii followed suit with no substantial qualms from opposition or presidential candidates. These states even went as far to contemplate defunding the Postal Service.

However, mail-ins have never been the primary method of voting. Skepticism is warranted, but condemnation of the voting method is not the solution, either. With that said, there is no foolproof approach to stop the argument against mail-in ballots, regardless of past experience.

Fortunately, states were given what could be considered a “trial run” during primary season; and for the most part, mail-in voting went well.

On the other hand, certain states ran into trouble — including New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In New Jersey, investigations show that nearly 10% of mail-in votes went uncounted; and in Pennsylvania, thousands of absentee votes went uncasted or uncounted as well, according to the New York Times.

As a result of the state blunders, President Trump and allies put their mistakes on a pedestal, claiming these mishaps



COURTESY OF PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE

As the election nears, some Americans choose to vote via mail-in ballots.

during the primaries will be amplified during the presidential election in November. In a tweet, President Trump emphasized this point in stating, “Rigged Election. I told you so. Same thing would happen, but on massive scale, with USA.”

There's no downplaying what happened in these states; the elections weren't as accurate as they could — and should — have been.

With the evidence from all-mail voting states, though, the state governments are capable of running a safe and accurate election. They must work overtime to equip themselves with the proper equipment and tracking software to ensure legitimacy.

What's arguably more alarming is President Trump's bold

statement to oppose the funding of the U.S. Postal Service. President Trump admitted that he wanted to decrease funding for the sole reason of preventing fraudulent voting.

What the president fails to realize is that pulling funds from an entity designed to connect the United States first, and make profit second, will largely hurt them not only now but also in the future.

The Postal Service is written into the Constitution to help connect the American people, just as the U.S. Military is written into the Constitution to defend the American people.

These entities are here for our benefit, not their profit, and we as Americans have the right to vote — in whichever method need be.



## School of Pharmacy introduces new interim dean

CARISSA HASLAM  
ad manager

After 30 years working in the School of Pharmacy, Dr. James Kirk Drennen stepped into the role of interim dean this summer with ease.

Following Dr. J. Douglas Bricker's final term as dean during the 2020 spring semester, the School of Pharmacy welcomed Dr. Drennen into his new position.

Drennen himself is a product of Duquesne's pharmacy program. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from Duquesne in 1985. Though he's spent the entirety of his career researching and teaching in the field, Drennen originally chose to pursue a pharmacy degree as an entry way into the medical field.

"We have some physicians in the family; a lot of people in the family have had interest in that, and I did as well at that age. So I thought pharmacy would be a great preparation for medicine," Drennen said.

However, while attaining his degree, Drennen developed a strong interest in and passion for pharmacy, especially for pharmaceutical manufacturing. He went on to get his doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Kentucky and has remained in the field. Despite never pursuing medicine, Drennen has no regrets.

"I've enjoyed my career in pharmacy," Drennen said. "It was a good decision; I've been happy

with the career I've had and I feel like I've contributed a good bit. In addition to the teaching and research in academia, I've done a lot of work with the pharmaceutical industry."

The industry work that Drennen speaks of includes his significant research regarding various methods which enhance pharmaceutical manufacturing efficiency and product quality, as well as his work as co-founder and partner of Strategic Process Control Technologies, LLC.

It wasn't long after his graduation from Duquesne that Drennen found himself back on the Bluff, this time as a faculty member. But again, it was not where he originally expected to end up.

"I was looking at jobs in industry as I was ready to finish up graduate school at the University of Kentucky, and I happened to come back to Pittsburgh for an alumni event, as an alumni of the pharmacy program," Drennen said. "The dean at the time let me know that there was a faculty position open in my field and he thought I should interview."

Obviously, he got the job in 1991 and has held a position at Duquesne ever since. Beginning as a professor and researcher, he eventually moved into various administrative roles. Most recently, he served as the associate dean of research and graduate programs. He feels that his experience as a student in the pharmacy school, paired with all the years of re-

search, teaching and administrative work prepared him exceptionally well for this new role.

"Having been through all that for 30 years, I understand what the challenges are for faculty on a day-to-day basis and what all the opportunities are to make sure we provide the very best education that's possible for our pharmacy students," Drennen said.

His initial appreciation for Duquesne during his time as a student has not changed throughout his many years as a faculty member. Now entering the role of interim dean, he continues to appreciate the atmosphere and environment at Duquesne.

"I have enjoyed Duquesne since the time I was a student here. I enjoyed the atmosphere at Duquesne at that time and I still enjoy it very much. I like the conservative setting of a Christian university and I feel very comfortable here," Drennen said. "I have a lot of respect for my coworkers and the leaders of the university and I feel that same respect in return, so I find it a very pleasant and positive work environment."

Provost David Dausey echoed this sentiment in a recent statement regarding Drennen's new position.

"Dr. Drennen enjoys the enormous respect of his peers and the esteem of decades of graduates of the School of Pharmacy, and as such is a fine successor to Dean Bricker."

Drennen also appreciates



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE PHARMACY TWITTER  
Dr. Drennen took over as interim dean of the School of Pharmacy in the spring.

the opportunity to interact and form professional relationships with pharmacy students through teaching and mentoring.

As he faces the year ahead as interim dean, he hopes to focus on a few critical short-term goals. While universities throughout the country are struggling financially, Drennen recognizes the importance of developing additional streams of revenue for the Pharmacy School. Additionally, he looks forward to forming a mutually beneficial relationship with the future School of Medicine.

Drennen also noted the importance of diversity in the School of Pharmacy. He plans to implement programs that will ensure Duquesne's students are educated and prepared to work to

improve the health disparities currently facing minority populations.

"Considering the challenges in our country and academic settings right now, diversity and inclusion is a top priority," he said.

Lastly, Drennen aspires to facilitate good faculty relationships and ensure faculty are fully supported so they are able to accomplish their own professional goals, in hopes that others can enjoy a long and pleasant career with Duquesne like he has.

"I'm going to be identifying opportunities to develop our organization," he said. "We'll look for programs to enhance the quality of the workplace to make sure our faculty and staff can enjoy their work at Duquesne."

## Campus Pet Pals: Meet 2-month-old Charlotte

ASHLEY NEWMAN  
staff writer

Encountering a dog on campus can brighten anyone's day. Some of the furry friends you might see going for walks down A-Walk could be service animals, like Charlotte.

Charlotte is a 2-month-old standard poodle. Her owners, Claire Toomey and Justin Feild, have had her for about one week.

"I have always wanted a dog because of what a great relationship you and your dog can de-



COURTESY OF CLAIRE TOOMEY

One of Charlotte's favorite toys is her dish rag.

velop," Toomey said. "I love the personalities they can have and how each dog is their own person, even though they are four-legged and not two."

Charlotte, named after a character in Werther, a Massenet opera, is an emotional support animal.

According to the American Kennel Club, emotional support animals "legally must be prescribed by a licensed mental health professional like a therapist, psychologist or psychiatrist."

Toomey said that it took two weeks to get Charlotte certified to be an emotional support animal. Since emotional support animals are not meant to help people with disabilities, they are not trained specifically like other service animals. It is up to the owners to decide how they want to train their animal.

Toomey got Charlotte to help with her social anxiety. She said that she has never had an emotional support animal before.

"She is truly just the light of my life and taking care of her means everything to me," Toomey said.

Charlotte now lives with Toomey and her housemates in the Allentown area of Pittsburgh.

"Emotional support animals (ESAs) refer to dogs and other pets that provide emotional support and comfort to their owners on a daily basis," according to the American Kennel Club.

A typical day for Charlotte includes going on a short walk in the morning and playing with Toomey before she goes to work. On her walks to a corner near their house, Charlotte likes to watch police cars leaving the station parking lot.

Charlotte is mainly distracted on her walks by



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

Charlotte enjoys interacting with students outside of the Mary Pappert School of Music by McCloskey Field.

leaves, according to Toomey.

After her walks, Charlotte likes to sit with Toomey's other housemates, including her "Aunt Carissa" or "Aunt Isabel," according to Toomey. She rests during the day and plays or watches TV when everyone is home at night.

Her favorite place in the house is either in the kitchen or "truly wherever anyone is. She's a big people dog," according to Toomey.

Overnight, Charlotte sleeps in her crate next to Toomey's bed.

"She is crate-trained ... she is so well behaved. She is already potty trained and can sit on command," Toomey said.

According to Toomey, Charlotte's favorite toys include "washcloths, rawhides, her cow stuffed animal and her cloud stuffed animal." Her favorite snacks are Honey Nut Cheerios and ice cubes.

"She loves people and playing around more than anything. She also adores listening to her housemates sing and play the piano," Toomey said.

Charlotte's favorite music is classical, but she's particularly fond of her Aunt Carissa's singing.

Overall, Charlotte is very curious, according to Toomey. She barks at other dogs to say hi, or when she is startled.

"Her personality is sweet, spunky and inquisitive," Toomey said.

If you would like to see Charlotte around campus, her favorite spot is outside of the first-floor landing at the Mary Pappert School of Music. Important reminder: Make sure that it is okay with whoever Charlotte is with before trying to pet or interact with her, or any other pets you may see around campus.



# Season postponed, but DU has potential

BRENTARO YAMANE  
staff writer

It is weird walking along Duquesne's "Academic Walk" and not seeing all of the football players practicing as a team. With the coronavirus pandemic changing the way people live their lives, it has affected many sports organizations, including leagues such as the Northeastern Conference (NEC), the conference in which Duquesne's football program competes.

The NEC has postponed all fall sports until 2021, so while we won't be seeing the Gridiron Dukes this autumn, there is a chance that the team can still play in the spring. There is also the possibility that the Dukes could play as an NCAA Division I FCS Independent school for this school year, but such an event is unclear at this point.

With the beginning of college football season upon us, it's becoming more and more apparent that the Dukes will not likely play this season.

With everything going on in today's society, all the Duquesne football players can do is simply keep practicing to become better, as a lot of the players are having individual or small group workouts.

For the Dukes, they come off a 2019 season in which they finished with a conference record of 4-3 and an overall record of 6-5. Duquesne started off 2019 hot with a conference record of 4-0, but things started slipping away

when they lost their last three games of the season — all conference games. With the way that Duquesne played, fans could see that the team had the capability of winning another conference championship; it's just that they couldn't end the season strong.

The last time the Dukes won a conference title was in 2018 when they were co-conference champions with Sacred Heart.

So, it wasn't that long ago that Duquesne's football team were champions, but they want to get back to the top after not exceeding expectations from last season.

If the Dukes actually play a season before the end of the 2020-21 school year, that would be great to see as they will probably play all of their conference opponents. The only difference in the NEC going into the future is that there will be eight teams rather than nine, like in previous years.

Duquesne rival Robert Morris left the NEC during this summer to currently become an FCS independent school and will join the Big South Conference starting in 2021-22.

Duquesne's head football coach Jerry Schmitt will enter his 16th season at the school and has some questions to think about when it comes to improving his ball club.

One of the key questions for the Dukes remains: Who will be the starting quarterback in the future? Both starting quarterbacks from last year, Daniel Parr and Brett Brumbaugh, have exhausted their eligibility. Parr, who was the team's starting



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH SPORTS NOW

quarterback before getting a collarbone injury in the middle of last season, capped his Duquesne career with the second-highest completion percentage (59%) in program history. Whoever will be the team's starting quarterback in the future will have to perform just as well as Parr.

Some of the potential starting quarterbacks for the Dukes in the future are players such as junior Evan Nelson, junior Alex Smith, sophomore Bryce Veasley and others.

Another hole that Duquesne will have to fix is the running game. The Dukes' two leading rushers from last season, Mark Allen and A.J. Hines, have used all their years of eligibility. Hines led the Dukes in rushing yards in 2019 with 809 yards and is the all-time leader for the Dukes in rushing yards (4,629), rushing touchdowns (44) and total touchdowns (47).

Replacing Hines seems hard, but it is not impossible.

Sophomore Ky'ren Cunningham is one of the running backs expected to start for the Dukes for whenever they play. Even though he rushed for only 107 yards last season, he recorded 21 carries for a career-high 96 yards in the last game of the season against Central Connecticut State. That performance shows that he has the capability of being great.

The Dukes' two leading receivers from 2019 in Kellon Taylor and Kareem Coles Jr. are no longer at the school, either, which means that Duquesne fans should see senior Dominic Thiemann get more targets. Junior Davie Henderson should get more looks as well.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Dukes have lost their leading tackler (Brendan Thompson,

75), sack leader (Chris Favoroso, 9.5), and their leader in interceptions (Reid Harrison-Ducros, 4) from 2019. Daivon Ellison is also no longer on Duquesne's football team after being ranked third on the team in tackles and second in interceptions a year ago.

Also, on special teams, the Dukes will have to replace their placekicker, Mitch MacZura, as he led the Dukes in field goals made with 9 in 2019. Rising senior Jacob Gill should be expected to be the team's starting placekicker for the future, barring any unforeseen developments.

Also, last season, the Dukes had nine football players in total that were named to the 2019 All-NEC First or Second teams. All nine of those players, which include Kam Carter, Sterling Jenkins, Gabe Spurlock, Thompson, Favoroso, Harrison-Ducros, Allen, Taylor and Hines are all gone.

Duquesne did a good job recruiting 20 high school football players from the Class of 2020 to commit to the school. So, perhaps one of those 20 freshmen can make an impact for the Dukes in the upcoming season — whenever that may be.

Expect linebacker Connor Barrett, defensive back Michael Dauré, and linebacker Todd Hill to continue to make big plays for the Dukes. All three of these players were freshmen last year and all three were the only football players from Duquesne's recruitment class of 2019 that are true sophomores on this season's roster. All three of them started a game for the Dukes last season.

With everything going on in today's world, it can be hoped that sooner rather than later we can expect to see the Dukes' football team back on Arthur J. Rooney Athletic Field.

## Todd Reirden returns to Pens as assistant coach

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Todd Reirden is back with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The team hired Reirden as an assistant coach under Mike Sullivan on Wednesday, just over a week after Reirden was fired as head coach of the Washington Capitals following a playoff loss to the New York Islanders.

This is Reirden's second stint in Pittsburgh. He served as an assistant under Dan Byslma from 2010-14 before leaving to join the Capitals. Reirden worked four seasons as an assistant under Barry Trotz, helping guide Washington to its first Stanley Cup in 2018.

Reirden replaced Trotz in the summer of 2018 and went 89-46-16 in two years, but was let go last month after failing to lead Washington past the opening round of the playoffs for the second straight season.

"I, obviously, still need to learn and grow and improve," Reirden said. "I learned a lot of lessons over my two years of being a head coach in Washington. Looking forward to learning, like I said, in particular from (head coach) Mike Sullivan and the success he's had in winning back-to-back championships."

Reirden said the Penguins "aggressively" courted him following his dismissal. Reirden joins a restructured coaching staff under Sullivan. The Penguins parted ways with long-time assistants Mark Recchi, Sergei Gonchar and Jacques Martin after getting upset by Montreal in four games during the qualifying round of the playoffs.

"I think it was something that just seemed to go full circle and the way it happened here was a perfect fit for everyone involved," Reirden said.

In addition to hiring Reirden, the Penguins also promoted Mike Vellucci to round out the staff. Vellucci spent last season as the general manager and head coach of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pittsburgh's affiliate in the American Hockey League.

"They're really good coaches, first and foremost," Sullivan said of Reirden and Vellucci. "They have a wealth of experience in a lot of different capacities. They've won championships at different respective levels. So they know what it takes to win a championship. We felt as though, through the interview process, that these guys were a good fit for us."

Pittsburgh will have some continuity on the staff. The team signed goaltending coach Mike Buckley to a two-year extension.



COURTESY OF VILLANOVA ATHLETICS

Todd Summers, a transfer from Villanova, will be eligible as a redshirt senior for the Dukes (whenever DU plays football again). Summers is originally from Murrysville and attended Franklin Regional High School.



# Pirates to wear No. 21 on Sept. 9 to honor Roberto Clemente

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Roberto Clemente's legacy in Pittsburgh and his native Puerto Rico is secure. The club the Hall of Fame outfielder spent two decades playing for is trying to ensure that legacy — both on and off the field — is acknowledged regularly by the masses.

The team announced Tuesday that all Pittsburgh players and coaches will wear Clemente's No. 21 when the Pirates host the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 9 at PNC Park, where there's a statue honoring him outside the stadium and a bridge named for him beyond the outfield wall.

It's a move Clemente's family and the organization hope is a step toward having Major League Baseball retire his number as it did with Jackie Robinson's No. 42 in 1997, a half-century after Robinson broke MLB's color barrier.

"I feel that this is just the beginning," said Luis Clemente, the second of Clemente's three sons. "That's why it's so important. It's so exciting that it happened, that it was approved. It is a platform to continue to grow on it. So we're very happy and thankful to MLB also for this."

Clemente collected 3,000 hits during his 18-year career while helping the Pirates win a pair of World Series titles. He died in a plane crash on Dec. 31, 1972, at age 38 while attempting to bring humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. The team retired Clemente's number before the start of the 1973 season. That streak will

end next week against the White Sox.

The importance of slipping a No. 21 jersey over his shoulders isn't lost on current Pirates third base coach Joey Cora, a Puerto Rico native and former major leaguer.

"I'm getting goosebumps right now," Cora said. "Wearing No. 21, as a Puerto Rican, as a Pirate, it means a lot. It's a responsibility on that one, but hopefully I can wear it and make him proud with the fact that I'm wearing it and that we all are. As a Puerto Rican, it's a little bit more special, obviously. To honor Roberto Clemente, not only the player but the person, it's a huge honor."

While the drumbeat for finding a way to honor Clemente annually has been growing for years, it received a loud advocate when the Pirates hired manager Derek Shelton last fall. He approached owner Bob Nutting and president Travis Williams about having a one-day celebration, then connected with the Clemente family in hopes of building momentum.

"I think that it says something that the last time it was worn was in 1972 and it's still probably the jersey that you see the most, it's the number that you see the most," Shelton said. "And you know, when people are out walking their dogs or doing things, there's always a 21 around. I just think it's an extremely important thing not only to honor Roberto the player but Roberto the humanitarian and the person, and I think we never lose sight of how those

things work together."

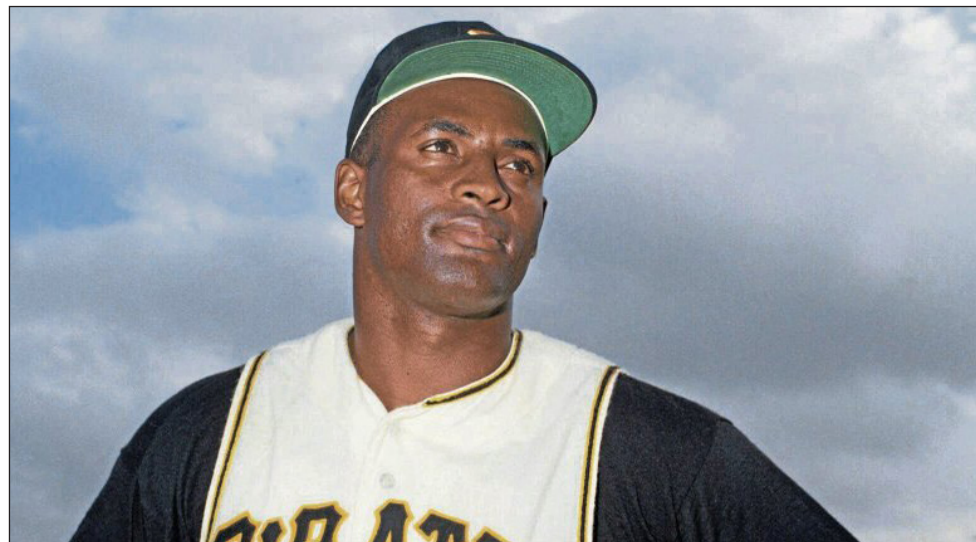
The plan is limited to this season for now, but the Pirates and the Clementes hope to make it a regular occurrence.

"Our hopes as an organization are that this is something that we'll do every year," Shelton said. "I would like to continue to do it. I don't see any reason why we shouldn't be able to honor Roberto on Roberto Clemente Day."

Roberto Clemente Jr. said the family has spoken to MLB about different ways to honor Clemente, with celebrating his num-

ber annually just one of them. He pointed out a couple of key years that are approaching: Next season is 2021, and 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of Clemente's passing.

"It's not just retiring (the number) for the sake of retiring it," Clemente Jr. said. "It is the right thing to do, but it should be done in such a way that it becomes more prestigious with that action. We have some ideas that we will be sharing. In the meantime, I think this program just got started. It's moving in the right direction. At least the conversations are beginning."



AP PHOTO

The Pittsburgh Pirates will honor Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente (pictured above) when they wear No. 21 against the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020.

# John Thompson spoke truth to power 'when it was hard to do'

AP — John Thompson opened the palm of one of his catcher's mitt-sized hands and pointed to it with the index finger of the other. The lesson of hard work was never far from his mind.

"See this?" he asked. "I never saw my own father's palms this ... light. Never."

"I remember: He'd come home after work, wash 'em over and over, sit down at the dinner table and they always looked dark as this," Thompson said, pointing now to the back of his hand. "After a while I figured out the stain of all that hard labor wasn't ever going to wash away."

This happened during a conversation about fathers and sons at an NCAA tournament East Regional final in March, 2007. It was long after a lifetime of work had secured Thompson, who died at age 78, his own place on Easy Street. He was almost two decades out of the coaching business by then and already inside the Hall of Fame. If basketball had a main boulevard, his accomplishments would have earned him a prominent spot on that street, too:

First African American coach to win a major college championship (Georgetown, 1984). Two-time NBA champion (Boston Celtics, 1965-66). NABC and three-time Big East Coach of the Year, plus an Olympic bronze medal (1988 Seoul Games) that Thompson was forever ambivalent about.

Hard work was the bedrock of all those achievements, but Thompson viewed it as just the ante for a seat at the table. To keep it, and change the game from the inside, he knew he'd have to win early and often, keep working just as hard and fight even harder. It's tough in this fast-moving moment of reckoning to mark where many of the pioneers of the social-justice movement made

their most important stand, but not with "Big John."

He took tough stands on so many issues that the system wound up bending in his direction instead of the other way around. Like Congressman John Lewis, another social justice warrior who passed recently, he knew "good trouble" when he saw it and wasn't afraid to wade in.

"I'll never forget when Coach Thompson protested an NCAA rule that he felt discriminated against Black players by refusing to coach a game until it was changed," Kentucky coach John Calipari recalled in a tweet. "He was ahead of his time by speaking truth to power when it was hard to do."



AP PHOTO

Legendary Georgetown coach John Thompson poses with Hoya center Patrick Ewing following the 1985 Big East Championship. Thompson, the first Black coach to win a national title, died on Aug. 30. He was 78.

Thompson grew up tall and talented in Washington, D.C., wooed by the same basketball establishment he would later occasionally seek to turn inside-out. His parents sacrificed plenty to send him to Catholic schools as a youngster, and after heading to Providence College, he saw first-hand how the major programs exploited Black athletes, many of whom arrived on campus without the solid educational foundation he had. Most left school not long after, with little more than they began. Changing that equation became the centerpiece of his life's work.

After a brief stint with the Celtics, Thompson learned the trade during a half-dozen years as coach at St. Anthony High back in D.C. In 1972, he took over a Georgetown team that had gone 3-23 and had the Hoyas in the NCAA tournament in his third season. His teams posted a winning percentage of .714 over the next 27 years — including 24 postseason trips, three Final Fours and the 1984 title — but those numbers only hinted at the scope of his ambition.

Thompson challenged the fairness of standardized testing long before it was demonstrated and Proposition 42, a rule that barred freshmen from playing games if they failed to qualify academically, became a favorite target. He pulled his players off the floor in protest during one game and walked off the floor in the middle of another, turning his duties over to an assistant. He never apologized for any of it. Thompson railed against the criminal justice system, too, for its inherent bias against young Black men, then put an exclamation point to his words by handing Allen Iverson a scholarship to Georgetown — when no other school would touch him.

In his own Hall of Fame speech in 2016, Iverson fought back tears trying to describe what that chance meant to him. "Coach Thompson ... Coach Thompson," he began. "Coach Thompson ... thanks for saving my life."

Iverson added a postscript on Twitter after news of Thompson's death: "I will always see your face in my mind, hoping that I made you proud."

Thompson took those tributes in stride, rarely letting his gruff exterior slip. But truth is, he wasn't soft on anybody, including his family and himself. He made his players defend like their lives depended on it. He insisted every one of his players graduate, and 97 percent of them did. Thompson once confronted a well-known D.C. drug dealer for hanging around his players, and as the Washington Post put it "lit into him." He even resigned as Georgetown's coach in 1999, acknowledging that marital discord would prevent him from doing his job the right way.

But Thompson had mellowed some by the time of the 2007 conversation, in no small part because his son, John Thompson III, was on the verge of returning Georgetown to the Final Four for the first time since his father's last appearance there in 1985.

And after the Hoyas beat North Carolina in overtime, the two reunited in the hallway heading out. Not surprising, the first thing the old man said wasn't "Congratulations." Instead, it was a reminder that tough times build character.

"You've been complaining about the bus being rickety," Thompson scolded his namesake in that familiar booming baritone, then broke into a wide smile. "But the ride home is going to be good tonight."



## Virtual “Play-In-A-Day” keeps theatre alive on campus

CAPRI SCARCELLI

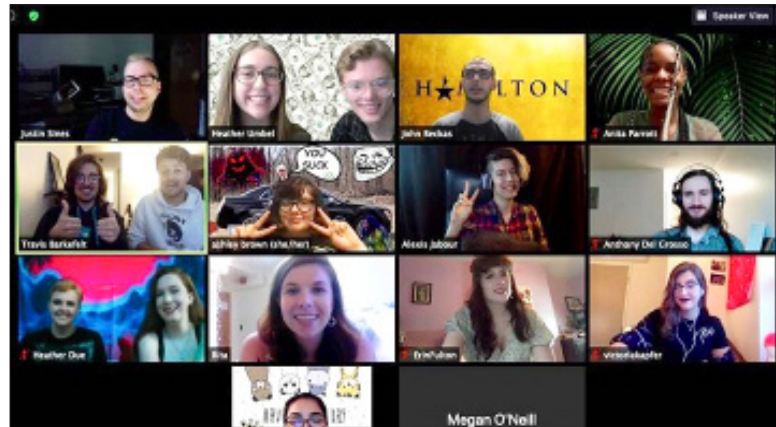
a&e editor

The first week of the semester is typically dedicated to sifting through syllabi; however, Duquesne’s Red Masquers held nothing back in terms of opening the curtain as soon as possible.

From Aug. 28-29, in just 24 hours, Red Masquers’ “Play in a Day” allowed students to write, direct and perform a show from scratch within that small window of time.

However, due to the rules and regulations of the pandemic, “Play-in-a-Day” had some modifications to adhere to.

According to Justin Sines, technical director and graduate student in fine arts and media, the easiest way to compensate was to move their show to a streamable format, opting for short, comedic skits instead. Students were grouped together in Zoom breakout rooms, wherein they were given prompts to narrow down their scripts and use their creative liberty from there.



COURTESY OF RED MASQUERS

Red Masquers members come together to watch their finished product.

storm. Rehearsal took place at 11 a.m. the next morning, and recordings were to be submitted by 6 p.m, with help from music technology and media students to edit as they saw fit.

The event was then live streamed via Zoom at 8 p.m. on Saturday, according to Red Masquers president Heather Umbel, a senior theater arts major.

“It was even more fun than in the past... although we make a much greater show when it’s not over Zoom, I feel like I really connected with the people in my group and there wasn’t that extra pressure on us... so I think from

easily because you’re all just sitting in front of your webcams and you can’t really interact with each other, so that was a little interesting how we would interact while being in very different locations.”

Olivia Scherrer, secretary and junior early childhood education major, said that utilizing the different types of mediums to their advantage with the live readings, pre-recorded skits, and radio shows “gave a more diverse way of looking [at theatre].”

“Something that I learned was how to work with technology... you’re staring at the screen and that’s all you can get, there’s no left or right [audience] to look at, and it just gave me a new perspective on how I need to perform and emote, because when you’re on camera you see all of that whereas when you’re on stage you may not even know,” Scherrer said. “There are always going to be mishaps when you do a show, but luckily this time it was merely virtual.”

According to Sines, “Play-In-A-Day” came to fruition in 2016. Being that there were students interested in doing a 24-hour playfest, Sines took it upon himself to travel to Chicago and par-

ticipate in one of these festivals to see what it was like. From there, the format was brought to Red Masquers and they have been putting on the performances since.

“If there is ever something you’re interested in trying, we will try our best to make it happen; we enjoy the theater that you enjoy doing,” Sines said.

With the pandemic, Sines said that the experience was “all new” and “a trial and error,” though experimenting with it could allow for more virtual plays to premiere throughout the semester, making it more widespread to give back to the community.

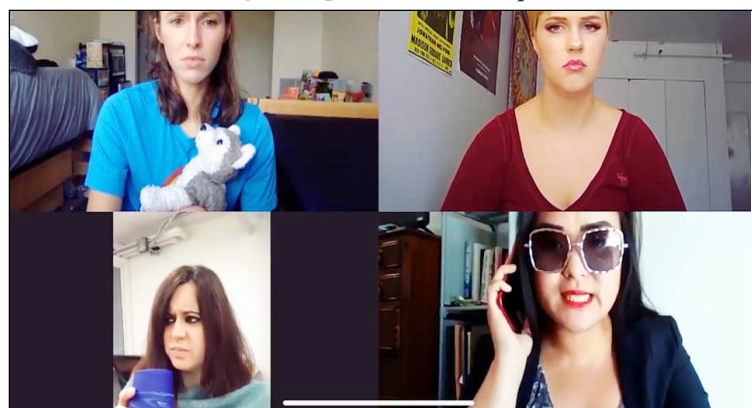
“As of now, theatre and art in general is not readily available,” Sines said. “It’s really nice to have that outlet again, and we wanted as much participation as possible.”

According to Umbel, students can expect to see more short skits along Academic Walk called guerilla theater, which will give students both on-stage and off-stage opportunities to “learn something new.”

Sines agreed, saying that there will be more radio shows, skits, and “Play-in-a-Day” events to come.

“It was just so nice to see so many people together at one time on a Zoom call seeing what we put together ... the support that the university and Pittsburgh theatre community has given us really allow us to create this art together,” Sines said.

For those interested in joining, students can contact the Red Masquers at redmasquers@duq.edu or on Facebook and Twitter @redmasquers.



COURTESY OF RED MASQUERS

Red Masquers adapt to performing virtually.

## WEEK’S EVENTS

Tie Dye Night  
September 4, @ 9 p.m.

Join DPC on Mellon Patio for free t-shirts to tie dye (or bring your own)!  
Be sure to wear your mask.

DPC Film Series:  
The Lion King  
Sept. 5 @ 9 p.m.

Enjoy an outdoor showing of Disney’s live action *The Lion King* on College Hall Lawn! Limited to 50 people.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

Mulan  
Friday, September 4th

Coming to Disney+ is the new live action *Mulan*, which is streamable for \$29.99, which includes a Disney+ subscription with purchases.

I’m Thinking of Ending Things  
Friday, September 4th

An upcoming Netflix original, this film is about a young woman who takes a road trip with her new boyfriend, though finds she may not be as in love as she thought.

## MICRO REVIEW

Bowls To-Go

Located on A-Walk by College Hall, Bowls To-Go offers a quick, healthy entree for your busier schedules. For \$6, students can get an on-the-go bowl with your choice of drink. This week, I had lo mein, chicken and vegetables with general tsos sauce.

Not only is Bowls To-Go time-efficient, tasty and inexpensive, but I also had leftovers for the next day!

If you are looking for a change of pace or something to grab after a long class, I highly suggest checking out this awesome food tent.

—Capri Scarcelli



COURTESY OF RED MASQUERS

Despite the pandemic, the show must go on.

“We took what some would see as a disadvantage and used it to our benefit,” Sines said. “We tried to use things that were current and make light of them to help blow some steam off, subjects like working from home, Zoom meeting difficulty, and more ... the performances were all up to the actors and the groups working together.”

These pre-recorded acts started their process at 6 p.m. on Thursday, where the students divided up and began to brain-

a social point within our organization it was incredibly eye-opening for me,” Umbel said.

Some challenges arose that the Red Masquers were not used to, but adapting virtually helped to build that sense of community, according to Umbel.

“It was very open-ended on the part that we wanted to give people the opportunity of creative freedom, but it made it more difficult to establish roles,” Umbel said. “There also wasn’t really a way to stage the play



# Chadwick Boseman's death leaves saddening mark

(AP) — Kobe Bryant. Rep. John Lewis. And now, Chadwick Boseman.

So far, 2020 has been marred with bad news and tragedy with the deaths of several popular Black icons including Bryant, Lewis and recently Boseman, who died Friday. All three were viewed as leaders in their respective fields of sports, politics and film — places where people, particularly in the Black community, have often looked for inspiration during a year of racial tension and protests against the police brutality of unarmed Black people.

But for many, the loss of another major figure such as Boseman is taking a toll. The actor, who starred in the blockbuster superhero Marvel film “Black Panther,” shockingly died at the age of 43 in his home in Los Angeles after he privately battled colon cancer for four years.

“These are pillars in our community,” Rev. Al Sharpton said. “In times of instability, you depend on pillars. It’s bad enough when there’s a storm outside and you hear the lightning and thunder. It gets worse when the pillars that you’re building and standing on (are) shaking. It’s like they’re chipping away at our foundation. The very building is shaking down, because the things that undergird and protect us from the storms are being removed.”

Sharpton called Boseman an important pillar that humanized several Black historical trailblazers in his roles — including color-line breaking baseball star Jackie Robinson, legendary singer James

Brown and the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Boseman’s family said he endured “countless surgeries and chemotherapy” while portraying King T’Challa of Wakanda in the Oscar-nominated “Black Panther,” a film that proved a person of color could lead in a successful superhero film.

“For him to pass at this time when we are disproportionately affected by COVID and have all of these attacks by law enforcement, and him being the symbol bringing us to Wakanda, it’s just a blow,” Sharpton said. “To hear that our superhero who projected a positive light was now gone, it was a gut blow.”

Boseman was elevated to a stage that many Black actors don’t get the chance to occupy, said Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James. And his ability to be “transcendent” on that stage brought a comic book character to life for many in the Black community.

“Even though we knew that it was like a fictional story, it actually felt real. It actually felt like we finally had our Black superhero and nobody could touch us. So to lose that, it’s sad in our community,” James said, lamenting on the loss of “the Black Panther and the Black Mamba in the same year.”

In January, Bryant died in a helicopter crash involving eight others including his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna. Lewis died in July after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year.

Other notable deaths this year include



actress Naya Rivera, civil rights leader C.T. Vivian, music executive Andre Harrell and Hall of Fame Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson, who was the first Black coach to lead a team to an NCAA championship and prioritized academics to his athletes.

“The year 2020 has been up and down for everybody,” Milwaukee Bucks player Giannis Antetokounmpo said, adding that Boseman left “so much behind.”

“It’s a lot to unpack,” said Oklahoma City Thunder guard Chris Paul. “Chadwick was a special guy. I think everyone took it hard, especially the Black community. That was one of our black superheroes. I think ‘Black Panther’ was something so powerful, for myself along with my kids to see a superhero that looks like them and the way that he played it with such class and elegance. That was tough.”

Activist Martin Luther King III called Boseman’s death another “great loss.” But he encourages people not to lose hope

even in a year of tumult.


“We could easily say ‘Oh my God. This is the most terrible year that existed.’ But I choose not to say that,” said the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. “Our ancestors had to go through so, so much. And yet, we’re still here. We are nowhere where we need to be, but we are always making progress and moving ahead.”

Gil Robertson, the co-founder and president of the African American Film Critics Association, said Black people are at a critical crossroads of their survival in America.

“We’re getting it from all sides of the fort,” Robertson said. “We’re losing these strong men. These men who operated with a level of integrity. A level of authenticity. I find all of this alarming. I hope that our community can really come together. ... Not just for one cause. Just to make a consistent effort to rehabilitate our community.”


## HOROSCOPES

**Libra**  
(September 23 - October 22)



Libra, you’re not in the mood to compromise.  
Don’t lie, you want aux.

**Scorpio**  
(October 23-November 22)



You’re doing fine, why are you reading this?  
P.S. don’t be shy, give Virgo credit today.

**Sagittarius**  
(November 23-December 22)




Patience! You can’t “manifest” your way out of an empty bank account.

**Capricorn**  
(December 23-January 19)




Tell a dad joke today.  
At least Aries will find you funny.

**Aquarius**  
(January 20-February 18)



You’re like a little caterpillar stuck in a cocoon!  
Things are changing, be ready!

**Pisces**  
(February 19-March 20)




PISCES! Decode puzzles, not people!

**Aries**  
(March 21-April 19)



You have been elected as the mom friend today.  
Congratulations!

**Taurus**  
(April 20-May 20)




Taurus, you’re scared of something today. I’d tell you but I don’t know either.

**Gemini**  
(May 21-June 20)




You have an audience, so make them laugh ;)

**Cancer**  
(June 21-July 22)



Knock knock! Open up!  
It’s time to start that thing you don’t feel like doing!

**Leo**  
(July 23-August 22)



Oh Leo, you’re blushing just reading this!

**Virgo**  
(August 23-September 22)



You’re oddly optimistic.  
Actually, good for you.



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## International Students Disappointed with Duquesne's Reaction

ICE — from page 3

event that it withstood challenge," Welsch said.

Unlike other international students, Janyapanich felt that Duquesne — particularly the International Admissions staff — responded well to the policy changes and made international students feel protected.

"They've been really supportive," Janyapanich said. "I know that they want us international students who got accepted into Duquesne to come here and experience a college life here."

Despite the overturning of this regulation, this exchange has affected the way Higgins-Brake and other international students view administration and their place on Duquesne's campus moving forward.

"Duquesne's silence on this was very saddening and disheartening," Higgins-Brake said.

Features editor Katia Faroun contributed reporting.

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## This Week's Weather

### Thursday

79°



Humid;  
Occasional  
rain

### Friday

77°



Pleasant and  
less humid;  
partly sunny

### Saturday

78°



Mostly  
sunny and  
nice

### Sunday

81°



Clouds  
rolling in

### Monday

81°



Clouds and  
sunshine;  
possible  
p.m. storm

### Tuesday

78°



Pleasant;  
intervals of  
clouds and  
sun

### Wednesday

78°



Cloudy;  
rain possible

Courtesy of AccuWeather



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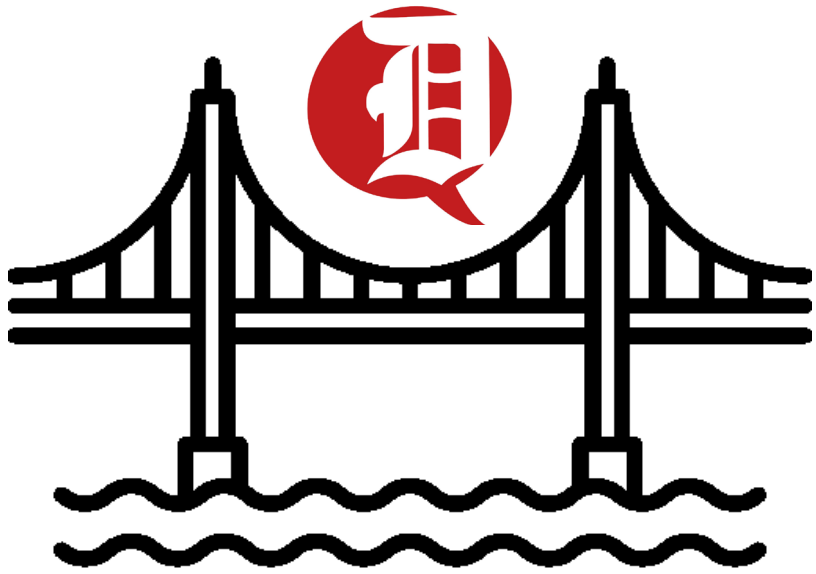


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