Colleen Hammond
news editor

On many college campuses across the country who chose to open their doors this fall, the close-living quarters of the residence halls has allowed for the rapid spread of COVID-19, leading many to subsequently close their doors.

To prevent that scenario on Duquesne’s campus, all resident students are required to receive a COVID-19 test.

“[For all students living in a residence hall on the Duquesne campus, testing will be required for campus residents. Those who refuse to be tested will have to leave their campus residence],” said Gabriel Welsch, vice president of marketing and communications at Duquesne.

Last week Duquesne reported 13 new cases of COVID-19, a noticeable increase from other weeks.

“Because the increase in numbers was different from the trend we had been observing, out of an abundance of caution the university is enhancing its testing, per its plan,” Welsch said.

He was also quick to assure that “individual results are kept confidential and results are only reported in total numbers.” Students’ private, medical information and test results will be kept secure and only the numerical data of cases, as well as the distinction between “student” and “employee” will be reported to the university and necessary health officials.

The new testing requirement has been well received by students and Residence Life employees alike, but many have begun to question why this did not occur sooner.

Karli Sutton, a senior biomedical engineering student and resident assistant in Assumption noted that she feels Duquesne waited too long to test all students.

“I think you should have been tested when you got your key,” Sutton said.

Sutton was not alone in her belief, as freshman and Assumption resident Zoe Ellis agreed with the sentiment.

“I think it’s something they should have done before we all moved in,” Ellis said.

Ellis and Sutton shared their fear and apprehension of returning to in-person classes and campus life, given the risks of contracting COVID-19.

“I definitely questioned how long we would be here,” Sutton said.

Despite wanting the testing to have occurred earlier, they both noted that they are pleased the university is doing it now and are pleasantly surprised with how the semester has panned out.

“I’m surprised at how well it’s gone,” Ellis said.

While her first semester of college has not quite gone as Ellis expected, she noted that she feels safe living in the dorms and thinks the majority of her fellow residents are abiding by the university’s new COVID-19 protocols and rules.

“My residents have been very, very good,” Sutton said. “I can’t say the same for all residents.”

This was echoed by Sutton’s co-worker, fellow Assumption resident assistant, junior Steven Loebig.

While Loebig stated that the majority of his residents have been abiding by the safety precautions, he noted the presence of a few “smug” residents who feel they can skirt the mask mandates while on the floor.

“The only thing I’m asking is that you wear a mask when you leave your room,” Loebig said.

Loebig, who also works in a local nursing home, has already been testing on three separate occasions since the pandemic broke out in early March. His frequent testing is a result of his work and a need to protect the residents of the nursing home.

As a veteran COVID-19 test recipient, Loebig assured students that the test is not painful, only slightly uncomfortable.

“You feel it for a second, and then you’re done and you’re fine,” Loebig said.

He noted that there is nothing to fear in the test, and that getting tested is for the general health and safety of the community.

“This is a good thing the campus is doing,” Loebig said.

However, many fear that these efforts are too little, too late on the part of the university.

“I think there was a false sense of confidence,” Sutton said. “It’s definitely here.”

In September, to combat the spread of COVID-19, the university conducted “random testing” for students, staff and faculty.

“The university conducted COVID-19 tests for 724 randomly selected students and employees who are regularly physically present on campus this fall. The results of this testing are as follows: 719 tests were tested by Quest. 719 tests were negative,” said a statement sent to students signed by Provost David Dausey and senior vice president of student life Doug Frizzell.

Despite none of the random tests coming back positive, student fears over COVID-19 on campus have not been entirely quelled.

“Unless they got really, really lucky with the testing, it (zero positive cases) seems unlikely,” Sutton said.

She also noted that six of her 25 residents have returned home for the remainder of the semester out of fear of contracting the virus.

“I can’t control what they do outside the building,” Loebig said.

“It isn’t a matter of if people get it, it’s when.”

The spread of COVID-19 has been a staple of discussion on campus as students, faculty and staff adapt to the new and ever-evolving rules and restrictions.

“I think any student who comes to campus should get tested,” Sutton said.

While the official plans for testing commuter students have not been released yet, Welsch stated that they plan to test all students who spend time on campus.

“Plans for students living off-campus but attending in-person classes will be communicated soon,” Welsch said.

Shank receives termination letter

Gary Shank, the Duquesne professor who was placed on paid leave Sept. 11 after using a racial epithet in a lecture, received a termination letter Wednesday, Oct. 7 from university provost David Dausey.

In the letter, Dausey writes that he reviewed the report written by school of education dean Gretchen Generett and that, consistent to section 9.2 of the Duquesne faculty handbook, his “employment at Duquesne University is terminated for serious misconduct.”

“Pursuant to Section 9.2 and Section 10 of the Faculty Handbook, you have the right to appeal this decision by filing a grievance within 30 days from the receipt of this letter with the University Grievance Committee for Faculty,” Dausey wrote.

“We have 30 days to grieve the termination and certainly will do so,” Shank’s attorney, Warner Mariani, wrote in an email to The Duke. In a Sept. 9 Zoom lecture to his Educational Psychology class, Shank used the N-word repeatedly and gave his students permission to use the word. A video clip of the lecture circulated on Twitter on Sept. 11, leading him to be placed on administrative leave.

Titled “Dismissal,” section 9.2 in the Duquesne faculty handbook says that, “[F]aculty members may be dismissed and, where relevant, their tenure forfeited for reasons of serious misconduct or professional incompetence.”

Serious misconduct, according to the faculty handbook, includes failures to adhere to the university’s mission statement, conduct involving moral turpitude, observe university policies addressing discrimination and sexual harassment, treat colleagues, staff, students or administrators fairly, honestly and with respect.

**see COVID — page 2**

**see SHANK — page 2**
Duquesne requires all resident students to get tested for COVID-19

Plans to test all on campus faculty and staff have not been communicated yet, leaving some students frustrated. “It feels like there’s a bit of a double standard,” Sutton said. Sutton noted that she has seen staff and faculty disobeying mask mandates or not wearing their masks properly in recent weeks. She feels staff and faculty are not reprimanded in the same way students are — that students face tougher consequences for dis-obeying the COVID-19 restrictions than Duquesne employees.

Although plans for commuters and Duquesne employees are still up in the air, resident students can schedule their test for a half hour time slot online. All resident students should have received an email from the university with a link to schedule a time to get tested.

“The University is working on a process for test scheduling that will accommodate a degree of flexibility should an individual miss a test time, though we are encouraging people to select their time carefully and make every effort to keep that time,” Welsch said.

Ellis stated she found the system intuitive and that a wide variety of time slots were available.

“It was very easy,” Ellis said. Welsch has stated that students who refuse to comply with the testing will be asked to leave. Loebig encourages students to schedule a test, keep their time slot and abide by all COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

“It’s not for you, it’s for the safety of everyone else on campus,” Loebig said.

Duquesne COVID-19 Data

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: 38
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: 47
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: 33
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: 75
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for covid-19 (reported to DU HR): 1
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for covid-19 (reported to DU HR): 5

Students will be tested in outdoor tents, where transmission is less likely.

In the coming weeks, all resident students will be tested for COVID-19 in one of these outdoor tents on the lawn of Assumption Hall.

Campus COVID-19 Data: Case increase in students sparks concern

More information on COVID-19 prevention and treatment can be found at duq.edu/covid or at cdc.gov.

Scan here for latest Covid Data

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Lab Confirmed Cases Today</th>
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This council, although established in 2018, has garnered new attention and importance to the campus community as a result of Duquesne’s Black Student Union, in accordance with nearly a dozen other minority organizations, issuing a formal list of demands to university administration calling for increased initiatives to make Duquesne’s campus more inclusive and equitable.

Dannielle Brown, mother of late Duquesne student, Marquys Jaylen “JB” Brown, was also present at the prayer service. Once she arrived, she was greeted by Gormley and led to the stands with the other speakers at the event where she was allowed to remain for the majority of the ceremony.

Sunday marked the two year anniversary of her son’s death. Brown was allowed to make a statement as a true symbol of solidarity on campus. Brown called for unity of Duquesne’s students, administration and staff. She noted that despite her disagreements with administration over her proposed demands and three-month long hunger strike, she wants campus to be a united community. She stated she is continuing her fight “for you students” and expressed her and her late son’s love for Duquesne. She even affectionately referred to Gormley as “Ken Ken.”

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After Brown’s statement and a subsequent prayer by a guest deacon from the diocese of Pittsburgh as well as Brantley’s encourage to make Duquesne a more diverse place, Brown was escorted from the stands and directed to JB’s memorial bench near the entrance to Rooney Field.

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Professor Gary Shank receives termination letter after using racial slur

and to maintain the standards of professional conduct written in Duquesne administrative policies or the faculty handbook.

It also notes that professional incompetence includes the repeated and unreasonable failure to meet classes on time and as scheduled, failure to respond to students’ requests for appointments and assistance, failure to comply with faculty deadlines, failure to attend meetings to committees to which they belong and submitting reports and grades, and failure to meet the university’s expectations for teaching, scholarship, and service.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), filed a complaint to Robert King, the assistant secretary at the office of postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, writing that, “Duquesne’s departure from promises of freedom of expression is most recently illustrated by its unjustifiable punishment of faculty member Gary Shank, who has relied on Duquesne’s promises of free expression and academic freedom throughout his 23-year teaching career at the university.”

The non-profit organization whose mission “is to defend and sustain the individual rights of students and faculty members at America’s colleges and universities,” is calling on the Department of Education “to investigate Duquesne for substantial misrepresentations of its educational program.”

FIRE’s letter, dated Oct. 2, notes that it “is not the first time Duquesne has imperiled its constituents’ expressive rights,” citing Duquesne’s impeding of the use of the term “gender neutral” in the gender neutral fashion show held in fall 2019. Duquesne called the incident a “miscommunication” after receiving backlash.

Enclosed in FIRE’s letter are excerpts to “relevant” Duquesne policies, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, Standard II and previous correspondence between FIRE and Duquesne. FIRE wrote a letter to Duquesne Sept. 16 for university officials to immediately reinstate Shank and recommit to their promises of academic freedom.

In response to Duquesne’s termination of Shank, Alex Morey, a representative for FIRE, said, “By firing Gary Shank for discussing a tough topic in his class, Duquesne betrays any commitment it purports to have to academic freedom, which protects the rights of faculty to choose whether and how to approach difficult subjects. Duquesne students and faculty will rationally choose to say nothing rather than say something that others might find controversial, as their university won’t bother to defend their rights. That’s an unacceptable result at an educational institution of any caliber.”

Duquesne spokeswoman Emily Stock said that the university would not comment “on the personnel matter,” but did say that they are taking Shank’s in-class conduct on Sept. 9 seriously.

“Duquesne University is deeply committed to providing a campus and learning experience that is respectful, safe and inclusive for all members of the Duquesne community,” Stock wrote in an email.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) also demanded Shank’s reinstatement, writing a letter to Duquesne president Ken Gormley on Sept. 27.

Dannielle Brown speaks at “Prayer for Unity”

On the evening of Sunday, Oct. 4, students, faculty, staff and invited guests gathered on a rain-soaked Rooney Field to participate in a group “Prayer for Unity.”

The 20-minute ceremony, led by Duquesne chaplain the Rev. Bill Christy, featured opening remarks by Duquesne President Ken Gormley, readings from scripture and statements on diversity and inclusion from Sherene Brantley, associate athletic director and chair of the President’s Advisory Council for Diversity and Inclusion.

The Rev. Bill Christy blesses the memorial bench of JB Brown while standing next to JB’s mother, Dannielle Brown, to commemorate the second anniversary of his death.

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**OPINIONS**

**STAFF EDITORIAL**

**President Trump paints a rosier picture of the coronavirus**

Nothing screams “apocalyptic” like the president of the U.S. declaring the world’s most deadly transmittable disease of our time. Worst of all, he is downplaying it.

President Donald Trump tested positive for coronavirus on Friday, Oct. 2, where he was swiftly transferred to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and treated with intensive care. How intensive? Five doses of dexamethasone daily, remdesivir, monoclonal antibody therapy and various over-the-counter drugs such as famotidine, melatonin and aspirin.

This cocktail of steroids is directly prescribed for “severe and critical illness,” especially in terms of dangerously low blood oxygen levels, according to the World Health Organization.

According to BBC, Trump has allegedly recovered in a record-breaking three days; however, what is not being taken into account is the extensive medical attention he has received for the average American would not be as fortunate to have.

These medications are only readily available for strenuous circumstances as classified by the FDA, wherein no medication has been fully approved, according to Coronavirus Today.

Not to mention, health insurance can only cover so much.

Dr. Sean Conley, who treated Trump in Walter Reed, told Associated Press that the president has found himself in “uncharted territory,” as his treatment is purely experimental.

It’s easy for our president to tweet, “Don’t be afraid of Covid. Don’t let it dominate your life,” when prominence of power ensures your safety and wellbeing.

We have various heart-wrenching stories of elderly men and women dying alone in hospital beds, a fate that Trump is mitigating for the sake of his campaign.

This isn’t a matter of reassurance — this is a matter of influence.

With the election less than a month away, the thought of a presidential candidate passing away before voting day is an undeniably frightening Albeit, this nationwide panic has almost immediately subsided now that Trump has announced his return to the White House. What he has not yet announced, however, is his true health status.

On Twitter, Trump’s series of messages were misleading; he had many American citizens believing he has COVID-19. It is an unfortunate yet uncommon miracle case. Trump’s health specialists actually revealed that he not only is still contagious, but also has symptoms that have not yet alleviated, revealed that he not only is still contagious, but also has symptoms that have not yet alleviated.

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Pat Toomey announces retirement, what’s next for Republicans?

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) shocked Pennsylvania Democrats salivating at the sight of the newly created two Democratic senators and as a rare seat with a legitimate chance to swing the Senate for at least six years. Democrats have reason to be optimistic. Joe Biden maintains a 4-6 point lead over Donald Trump in Pennsylvania, and in 2018, redistricted congressional districts empowere Democratic capture of two additional House seats. So with two years to prepare, assuming we survive the upcoming election, Democrats will be the ones preparing to reclaim the seat.

The Pennsylvania Democratic party is home to many politicians with a growing national profile and the popularity to offer a strong candidacy for the vacancy. Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, the former Mayor of Braddock, has thus far evaded any significant loss of popularity from his association with Governor Tom Wolf, and Fetterman’s populist, approachable persona is likely to be appealing to Trump voters. With the constant evolution of Pennsylvania politics, Sean Parnell, the candidate currently challenging Conor Lamb’s historic upset in 2017 and high profile status as a blue-dog moderate Demo- crat in Congress makes him a clear candidate as well.

Moderate on policy, very much walking in the line of Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Representative Lamb’s state-wide name recognition could potentially catapult him into the state Democratic party’s crosshairs as a challenger to the Toomey seat.

Other high profile Pennsylvania Democrats may consider a run, although recent senatorial races have often featured political outsiders. Attorney General Josh Shapiro is arguably the state’s most popular political figure, although insiders say he may be a candidate for Attorney General in a Joe Biden administration.

The conundrum facing state Republicans is much different. Trump’s Republican party finds itself odd with politicians like Toomey, despite their similarities on policy. Trump has called Toomey a RINO (Republican In Name Only) in the past, despite the fact that in his nine years as Pennsylvania’s junior senator, he has only voted against his party 7.1% of the time, accord- ing to the Represent Project by ProPublica.

Few Pennsylvania Republicans have found solace in the national Republican party, save a select few who lack po- litical experience in Pennsylvania politics. Sean Parnell, the candidate currently challenging Conor Lamb’s seat in the 17th district, spoke at the Republican National Convention, and regularly appears on Fox News to promote his books and as a supporter of President Trump. Before his retirement in 2020, Mike Turzai, the former long-time speaker of the House was a strong Republican power player, although his traditional Republican stance was at-odds with some Trump voters.

Many Republicans running for Congress this election cycle are young, charismatic and outspoken in their support of President Trump. These candidates may be a new genera- tion of Pennsylvania Republicans, although few have been able to break through into the national consciousness.

The Pennsylvania Republi- can party has been blindsid- ed by Trump. I would argue that Trump’s 2016 victory in Pennsylvania came with only lip service from the state party, despite the state’s impor- tance as a swing state in the electoral college.

In addition to the governorship, key mayors are Demo- crats, prohibiting Republicans from making waves in state politics as anything other than upstart minority challengers. Many Republican challengers are activists as much as they are candidates, similar to progres- sive democrats running against their moderate counterparts or against long-time Republican officeholders.

Most importantly, this is all speculation. It’s entirely plausible that the Republi- can party rises like a phoenix from the ashes of Trump and reclam the Pennsylvania governorship in 2023. A Republi- can-controlled Pennsylvania changes the field for a 2022 senate race, and Demo- cratic politicians may fall out of relevance.

Today’s Republican party is as volatile a political party as has been seen in American his- tory, so there’s no telling what will happen in the foreseeable future.

State Republicans need to plan now to successfully anoint Senator Toomey’s suc- cessor, because the Senate is just as politically impactful as the Presidency.

The young vote plays a crucial role in the highly contested 2020 election

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

The 2020 presidential election is approaching fast with Election Day Nov. 3: a little less than a month away. As college students, we have the right to vote, and we should exercise that right when it’s due. With the constant evolution of our political climate and an upcoming election that is arguably one of the most important in history, we must step forward as young voters and vote for our leader — no matter what party we align with.

Political activism among youth is at an all-time high, mainly because of the CO- VID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter move- ment. Generation Z and millenials are taking to the streets to advocate for what they believe in, but advocating isn’t going to elect the leader you ultimately want in office — only your vote.

From this, a common miscon- ception believed by the young vote population emerges: “My vote won’t matter.” However, that thought process could not be more wrong.

From this idea, a mob mental- ity emerges in the minds of these new voters that they cannot sway an election, when in reality, the young vote matters the most. The young vote — including people of the ages 18-29 — make up a little over 16% of the current U.S. popu- lation, so every vote counts.

To get an idea of the impor- tance of this vote, we have to look at President Barack Obama’s win over Sen. John McCain in the 2008 presidential election. Up until the 2008 election, party affiliation among the youth had al- most been split evenly, and young voter turnout was low. This all changed when President Obama took a different approach to campaigning; fo- cusing on the youth.

At the end of the election, it was clear that the young vote is part of what put President Obama into office. According to a Pew Research study, 66% of those in the young voter category voted for him — a massive shift from that almost 50-50 split across party lines.

On top of this massive shift, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total young voter turnout was a staggering 51%: one of highest turnouts ever. After all of this progress toward a higher young voter turnout, the lack of participa- tion remains despite knowing the young vote matters. The turnout hasn’t been where candidates need to be within the last few years.

The young vote dipped in the 2012 presidential election, with a modest 45% turnout. After that, the 2016 presiden- tial election rose slightly to 46.1% turnout.

Knowing all of this data, the young vote really can change the course of an election, whether through voting or choosing not to; however, it’s better to participate and have your voice heard. No one else is going to vote in the interest of young voters, except young people themselves. After all, this 18-29 age range will be the most affected by government elections within the near and far off future.

The key for young voters is to keep up to date on current events and all presidential candidates, regardless of party affiliation. It’s crucial to keep note of where politicians stand on environmental issues, college tuition issues, healthcare issues — the list goes on, as it mostly affects this young voter category. It’s better to vote for who you want in office now, than to wait until it’s too late to change policy.

With all of this in mind, voting is easier than ever before through the mail-in system, and online voter registration is available in Pennsylvania. The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 19, and the dead- line to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Oct. 27. However, to ensure a spot in this year’s election, registration should be done as soon as possible, the deadline is fast approaching.

In a country all about the freedom to elect our officials, it’s time for the young vote to take the majority and make a statement — rather than just preaching.

With election day quickly approaching, young voters are headed to the ballot box.

With election day quickly approaching, young voters are headed to the ballots.
Jazz Poetry Month closes out with lullaby for Emmet Till

Emily Ambrey
Staff Writer

September is popularly recognized as the beginning of fall, football and pumpkin spice latte season, but it also begins City of Asylum’s Jazz Poetry Month. City of Asylum held the 16th installment of September to celebrate these two arts for 16 years, but this year it looked a little different. City of Asylum provided all their concerts and poetry readings virtually.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, the City of Asylum held its last virtual program of Jazz Poetry Month which featured a reading of “Tallahatchie Lullabye, Baby” — a lullaby to Emmett Till by poet Douglas Kearney. The event also included four nationally recognized jazz artists’ responses to the poem. City of Asylum is an organization created to build a more just community by protecting and celebrating freedom of expression. It provides sanctuary to literary writers exiled under threat of persecution so they can continue to write and are not silenced.

To begin the event, poet and University of Pittsburgh professor dawn lundary Martin stated the significance of September at City of Asylum in Pittsburgh as a month to celebrate jazz and poetry. “At its core, jazz poetry is about the exchange of languages and ideas. It’s a celebration of the freedom of expression and the power of one’s voice,” Martin said.

Martin further explained the importance of freedom of expression and how it is constantly threatened all around the world. The event featured Sonali Samarasasinghe, a Sri Lankan diplomat, writer, lawyer, human rights activist and former investigative journalist who now lives in Manhattan. Samarasasinghe shared her story of being targeted by authorities for her newspaper’s open criticism of government corruption, and how it made it a point to dare to fly her country.

Despite the challenges Samarasasinghe faced, she encouraged the audience to think of extolled writers’ stories as ones of hope. “If we keep shipping away at the behemoth that is impunity and prejudice and hatred, we can achieve something. We can heal and reclaim what has been lost in our writing, our music and our creative expression,” Samarasasinghe said.

After Samarasasinghe’s message, Abby Lembuers, the director of programs at City of Asylum welcomed the audience to the last event of the jazz poetry month-long celebration. Lembuers highlighted Terrence Hayes, former MacArthur fellow and longtime friend of City of Asylum, who chose the poem for the night’s event. Hayes reflected on the poem chosen for the night, “Tallahatchie Lullabye, Baby,” before author Douglas Kearney began the reading.

Kearney wrote the poem in 2004, and noted that while it was timely then, it was even more timely now after the murder of George Floyd and the George Floyd protests. “I wanted to talk about it without necessarily showing the violence,” Kearney said.

Kearney expanded that framing the poem as a lullaby made the audience that Emmett Till was 14 years old when he was murdered. The event then featured multiple interpretations and readings of “Tallahatchie Lullabye, Baby” to spread awareness and foster a conversation about the longstanding issues of systemic social injustice and racial inequality. The four compositions and performances were by Phearoe ak-Laff, Dee, Orrin Evans and Nicole Mitchell.

Phearoe ak-Laff is a drummer and award-winning composer, who has worked with musicians across the world. His international travels are influential in his music. Dee Alexander is a gifted and widely-known vocalist and pianist from Chicago. She has experience performing in every genre, but has a strong passion for exploring jazz and poetry on stage.

Kearney’s poem provided all their concerts and outlets, like writing, poetry, art and music to fight injustice in the U.S. and around the world.

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The Jazz Poetry Month at City of Asylum held its last virtual program of September at City of Asylum in Pittsburgh as a month to celebrate jazz and poetry. City of Asylum provides its audiences with various events that encourage them to learn about poetry and music. By spotlighting a collection of poems on a jazz backdrop and its many pervasive forms still relevant today, this event called attention to important current events like the Black Lives Matter movement. This event encouraged using creative outlets, like writing, poetry, art and music to fight injustice in the U.S. and around the world.

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DU football team secures another recruit

Brentano Yamane
staff writer

Duquesne's football team has continued to impressively recruit lately, recently securing a verbal commitment from Jaheim Williams, a running back and line- backer at Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie, Pa.

Williams is currently a senior at Cathedral Prep and is making a big name for himself at the school in the process. He verbally committed to Duquesne on Sept. 28.

Fortunately for him, he is able to have a senior year of high school football, as many prep football players across the country are unable to compete due to the COVID-19 virus. Some players' seasons are canceled, others' seasons are postponed.

Since Williams was a little kid, he fell in love with the sport of football. When he started watching professional football on television, he knew he wanted to be just like the athletes on the screen.

"I knew I wanted to play football since I was a little kid when I would watch the big boys on television," Williams said. "I told my mom and dad I wanted to be just like them playing in the NFL. Since then, I have just been in love with the game, grinding day in and day out.

Many kids' dreams include playing football, eventually working their way into the spotlight. However, Williams' love of the game has motivated him to help his family in the future. Essentially, he puts his family first, even before himself.

"I do this for my family; I'm not going to get into it, but no one knows what my family has and still goes through. I have to make it. It's my only choice," Williams said. "I'm tired of my parents working day in and day out just to go to sleep and do it all over again.

"My high school number is 29 because I have two parents and nine siblings. I play football for them; that's what really got me into the game of football. It's not all about Jaheim Williams — it's about the Williams'. Remember that.

In high school, Williams has won two district championships (2018, 2016), and one state championship (19). Duquesne specifically recruited him as a linebacker. Give Duquesne coaches Kory Gribbin and Scott Farison credit for Williams' commitment, as they were vital in his recruitment.

Williams has played a huge role on Cathedral Preparatory's defense so far this season; it's a huge reason why the Ramblers have been so good, beating a 3-1 record so far this season.

Williams stands at 6-foot-1 and weighs in at 215 pounds. During his sophomore year in 2018, he recorded 97 tackles, then upped his total to 140 tackles during his junior year in 2019. The fact that he is naturally bigger gave him the confidence to know that he can play at the college level — if he put his mind to it.

"When I was in ninth grade, everyone would comment on how bigger I was than everyone and how talented I was. Then, in my sophomore year, I started playing varsity. It really opened my eyes that, at this pace, if I keep growing and grinding and putting work in, I could play at the Division I level. It was always a dream of mine," Williams said.

Clarion University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Lake Erie College, University of Virginia's College at Wise and Notre Dame College were some of the other schools that Williams was interested in attending. Duquesne was the only NCAA Division I school that offered Williams, and he took the offer in a heartbeat. He said he's happy with his decision to commit to Duquesne.

"I was always told, 'Go where you are wanted, not where you want to go.' Duquesne's coaching staff showed me and my family true care, and they showed that they actually wanted me," Williams said. "Coach Gribbin would text me daily — he'd check in on me randomly to see how I was doing, and it's the little things like those that made my decision.

Currently, Billy Lucas, Jaelen Carson and Collin Johnson all played for the Falcons that season. Kenny Dupree, a linebacker for the team, also committed to the Dukes, giving DU yet another Cathedral Prep product on its roster.

NCAA Football AP Top 25 — Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>This Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Clemson (52)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>vs. 7 Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Alabama (8)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>at Ole Miss</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>vs. 11 Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>at 15 Texas A&amp;M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>vs. Florida State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W5</td>
<td>Big Ten play Aug 31 Oct 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>at 1 Clemson</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>vs. 19 Virginia Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Penn State</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W5</td>
<td>Big Ten play Aug 31 Oct 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Oklahoma State</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Bye</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Bye</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W5</td>
<td>Pac-12 play Aug 29 Nov 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>vs. Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W5</td>
<td>vs. Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>BYU</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>vs. Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>Big Ten play Aug 31 Oct 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>vs. Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>SMU</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>at 8 North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>W6</td>
<td>Big Ten play Aug 31 Oct 24</td>
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On this Day in Sports History:

On Oct. 11, 1992, two-sport star Deion Sanders played in an afternoon game with the NFL's Falcons against the Dolphins in Miami. Shortly thereafter, he famously flew to Pittsburgh to partake in the Braves’ NLCS contest against the Pirates. Sanders played for the Falcons that afternoon, but did not see the field for the Braves.
The bubble is the real MVP of this NBA season

AP — This season, a year that was longer than a year and difficult in almost every imaginable way, is nearing an end; the Los Angeles Lakers have a 2-1 lead in the NBA Finals over the Miami Heat, with a potential title-clinch game in Game 5 coming Friday night.

“The job’s not done,” Lakers forward Lake James said.

He’s right, on many levels. The NBA came here to crown a champion; that hasn’t happened yet. Players came here to use their platform to fight against racial inequality and voter suppression; those efforts continue. And the coronavirus pandemic rages on; no end in sight there, either.

Outside the bubble, problems reign. Inside the bubble, things are not perfect. It has not been easy. Often, it was not fun. But it worked.

“I wanted everybody to have perspective on how difficult this is, how extraordinary of an experience all of this is,” Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, “Being part of our bubble, being here for 80-plus days, surviving all of it and earning the right to compete for an NBA title.”

When the Lakers got to Lake Buena Vista, there were 22 teams in the bubble. More than 1,300 people in all, teams living in three different hotels, crossing paths at times. Social distance guidelines and protocols are followed and people are tested daily.

Though there is no retreating to familiar surroundings to escape setbacks, failures on the court or to go recharge their batteries, players are able to talk about their top priority: social justice. They talk about affecting change. White players talk about why it matters; Black players do the same, some at every opportunity.

Only two teams remain, and they’re still talking about the same thing. Heat All-Star Bam Adebayo ends every media session the same way: “Black Lives Matter, people.” He says it because he believes America still needs that reminder.

“What’s important to our players is important to us, but it wasn’t just our players,” Silver said. “The players know, and the NBA community knows, there is a long history in this league of fighting for social justice, for racial equality. And it seemed appropriate.

They put Black Lives Matter on the courts. They put it on jerseys. When players felt the message wasn’t getting through, they shut down play — stopping for three days during the playoffs. Some players were willing to go home to make the ultimate statement. Things nearly came apart in a three-hour meeting.

“I will go to my grave not forgetting a single second of that meeting with the players,” National Basketball Players Association executive director Michele Roberts said. “Watching them and their passion, not simply ‘here’s an excuse to go home because no one was loving the bubble,’ but their passion and desire to talk about whether or not they were doing the right thing, how they could do something. They wanted to roar and they wanted to know if they were roaring from the right mountain.”

They feel they have made some progress.

Key word: some. Most of the league’s eligible players are now registered to vote; that was far from being the case three months ago. More than half of the league’s arenas are going to be voting sites or were involved in the process through registration drives.

“For many of these players, this is the most amount of time that they’ve ever not played organized basketball,” NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum said as the season was restarting. “Then to come back into camp, to play in this environment that no one has ever done before, and then to go out, play with no fans, live fans, in the arena, the champion will be a true champion because they will have had to overcome so much adversity to get to that finish line.”

Still, many unknowns remain.

The coronavirus led to a 4 1/2-month hiatus and disrupted this season, cost the league and its players hundreds of millions of dollars and cost plenty who work in and around the NBA jobs. Make no mistake, there will be fingerprints of the virus on next season in countless ways as well.

The demand-for-change messaging will continue. The league will continue to chart its own course and where it happens. The league wants to be in arenas again, with fans, though nobody knows if that’ll happen.

Another bubble remains a possibility in some shape or form.

But for now, laud this NBA bubble before it closes. It did its job. It saved the season.

Trade action heats up at NHL draft ahead of free agency

AP — Two Stanley Cup-winning players got traded, a few others got new contracts and almost 200 prospects got to virtually — live their dreams by having their names called on the second day of the NHL draft.

It took over seven hours to complete rounds 2-7 Wednesday at the draft held online from 31 teams’ draft rooms to the league’s central registry and a TV studio in New Jersey where a few drafted on with no need for general managers, scouts and coaches to catch a flight home, but that didn’t tamper the excitement of young players finding out where they’re going or stop the movement of established NHL players with free agency looming Friday.

Some creativity was needed to manage the flat, $80.5 million salary cap, which is becoming the theme of the 2020 offseason.

“Making a trade as you can see is pretty easy: There’s a lot of them, a lot of jockeying up and down for positions,” Nashville Predators general manager Peter Laviolette said. “There’s a lot of movement and people trading up for maybe a guy they like,” said New York Rangers general manager Jeff Gorton, who traded 2017 seventh overall pick Lias Andersson to Los Angeles for a second-rounder. “If you’re looking at some of the deals that are happening, money is almost a part of every deal here. You’re not seeing too many hockey deals straight up.”

Trade action started early with the Pittsburgh Penguins dealing goaltender Matt Murray to the Ottawa Senators and the Nashville Predators continuing to shed salary by sending center Nick Bonino to the Minnesota Wild.

“You just know on days like these if you get a phone call from your GM, it’s usually a trade,” Bonino said. “We got a spam call that woke me up around 7 a.m. and it obviously wasn’t (Penguins general manager) David Poile. My wife slept through it and then we were up at 9:30 a.m. and got the call from David and knew right away. It’s weird how it works out.

Murray and Bonino became the third and fourth members of Pittsburgh’s 2016 and 2017 back-to-back championship teams to be traded in the past few weeks. The Penguins previously traded winger Patric Hornqvist to Florida, and Chicago traded defenseman Olli Maatta to Los Angeles.

Vegas goalie Marc-Andre Fleury could make it five after the Golden Knights committed long-term to Robin Lehner. Vegas is looking to trade the 35-year-old and even sweeten the deal with a pick but has to deal with an overflowing goalie market.

Several netminders will be available in free agency, including 2018 Cup champion Braden Holtby and longtime face of the New York Rangers Henrik Lundqvist. General manager Brian MacLellan said the Washington Capitals are a “solid candidate” to sign Lundqvist, who at 38 is still trying to win the Cup for the first time.

Pittsburgh got a second-round pick and forward prospect Jonathan Gruden for Murray, who split time with Fleury on two Cup runs and was in net for each clincher. Murray, 26, helped the Penguins win the Cup in 2016 and 2017, but they committed to Tristan Jarry, signing him to a $10.5 million, three-year-deal after his All-Star season.

The Penguins used the second overall pick they got from Ottawa to select Finnish goalie Joel Blomqvist, one of hundreds of prospects who had to find out they were drafted by phone and do video interviews since they couldn’t walk on stage in Montreal.

“This wasn’t exactly what I dreamed of as a kid,” said Sam Colangelo, the Anaheim Ducks prospect drafted 86th overall.

The Golden Knights re-signed a surprise key player, giving Chandler Stephenson $11 million over the next four seasons, according to a person with knowledge of the move. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

Colangelo, the fourth rounder from Northeastern University, said “I dreamed of walking up on stage and walking down to get my jersey from someone there. But doing it on Zoom was incredible.”

Colangelo and the others drafted in rounds 2-7 Wednesday had to wait, unlike No. 1 pick Alexis Lafreniere, who put on a blue Rangers jersey Tuesday night.

Bonino and new Predators forward Luke Kunin will be swapping jerseys after the trade that continues the Wild’s makeover. Minnesota got second- and third-round picks (37th and 70th overall) and sent a fourth (101st) to Nashville to take on the remainder of Bonino’s contract. He’s owed $4.1 million next season, while Kunin is a restricted free agent.

“Luke Kunin is a solid, young, up-and-coming player that future ahead of him,” Poile said. “He is a (2016) first-round pick with good pedigree that can play both center and on the wing, in all situations, including on the penalty kill and the power play.”

He will also come cheaper than Bonino, a big deal with many teams looking to clear money and space under the cap.

Nashville also put forward Kyle Turris and defenseman Steven Santini on waivers. Turris had four years and $24 million left on his contract, so he’ll return $2 million against the salary cap this season. The Capitals signed center Max Domi to a $10.6 million, two-year deal after acquirng him and a third-round pick from Montreal for winger Josh Anderson in the only trade of established NHL players made on Tuesday, the first day of the draft.

“Both we are going into a situation where we’re wanted,” Domi said, “and all really a player can ask for is that.”

October 8, 2020

SPOR T S
Local artist Caleb LaDuke launches second EP release "R"

Talent is teeming in Pittsburgh; with the steady rise of independent artistry in the music industry, 25-year-old Indie/Hip-Hop artist Caleb LaDuke holds nothing back for his second EP release entitled R.

Graduating from Geneva College in 2018, the Pittsburgh-native singer moved to Nashville to pursue his love for music, soon given the opportunity to perform his work.

His first EP release, GIRLS, became streamable to the public in June with over 70,000 streams. LaDuke said that the tone of this EP was “tough” compared to R, with this EP putting a heavier emphasis on healing and redemption.

“This EP release [R] means a lot more to me,” LaDuke said. “This one is about my ex-girlfriend’s daughter, and how I’m healing from the relationship and finding peace from God. I think here I’m more true to who I am because I wear my heart on my sleeve, and I want the audience to take from this experience and see my journey.”

Showcasing his sensitive side, LaDuke said R is “a chance for the audience to get to know (him) better.”

According to LaDuke, his passion for music was sparked by a simple guitar riff he overheard in his dad’s studio when he was just 12-years-old. LaDuke said he loved the sound, and wanted to learn more about music, eventually building a love for it as he became more invested.

By the age of 15, LaDuke found himself writing and performing his own work, inspired heavily by R&B and eventually working his way into rap and now a “dark Hip-Hop base.”

With the help of artist manager Samantha Funderlich and producers SEJOHFROG and Chris Binsfeld, LaDuke was able to develop his sound and furthermore grow as a person and an artist in the industry.

“Life experience affects the quality of music,” LaDuke said. “It takes discomfort to get to where you need to be.”

In the early stages of an independent artist’s career, a challenge faced when expanding your platform, according to LaDuke, is constant comparison.

“Seeing where other artists are will hold you back and discourage you, thinking you won’t get as far as them. It takes patience and harnessing that creativity to let the music unfold,” LaDuke said.

With the help of Funderlich, LaDuke was able to become more “business-minded” in his career, taking his status and musicianship to the next level.

“I hope for [R] to get big, it could be the launching point.” LaDuke said. “I am blessed and honored to have this opportunity; I hope this EP impacts and helps people, and that they have their own experience with some good music.”

R will be available to stream on Spotify Oct. 14. More information on LaDuke’s musical journey can be found on his website: www.calebладuke.com

LaDuke’s tracks can be played on repeat through streaming services.

WEEK’S EVENTS

DPC Insomnia Cookies
Oct. 3, @ 6 p.m.
Stop by Melon Patio for free Insomnia Cookies! Supplies limited!

Virtual Cooking Series: LLC
Oct. 3 @ 6 p.m.
Enjoy a how-to virtual cooking guide! Grab your pre-packaged cooking kit for $5 at Towers Campus Market.

Preregister to reserve your spot!

UPCOMING RELEASES

The War with Grandpa
Friday, Oct 8
Starring Robert DiNero, Rob Riggle and Uma Thurman, a young boy named Peter finds that he now has to share a bedroom with his crazy grandpa— and he’s not happy about it.

Gimme Some Truth
Friday, Oct 9
John Lennon’s beloved solo works remixed from scratch, available on all streaming platforms.

BREAKING:

Eddie Van Halen dead at 65

On Tues. Oct. 6, rock band Van Halen namesake, lead guitarist and songwriter Eddie Van Halen passed away at age 65 after a grueling battle with throat cancer.

Known for his wicked instrumental solos, pouring his soul into riffs, licks and runs on the guitar, Eddie Van Halen changed the game for the genre from 1972 and on, inspiring artists for years to come in an effort to match his fervent energy.

Daring tracks such as “Runnin with the Devil,” “Hot for Teacher” and “Beautiful Girls” set a new groove for rock and roll, with Eddie’s talent brimming from the core.

Van Halen will always have a special place in the heart of rock for his impact and immense love for making music an art of expression.
New Netflix show "Ratched" tries its hand at backstory

COLLEEN HAMMOND
managing editor

J ust in time for the Halloween season, Netflix's newest attempt at a horror series, Ratched, is available to stream. Ratched is the latest creation from the mind of gay television icon Ryan Murphy. Murphy, a six-time Emmy winner, is the creative mind behind some of the most groundbreaking television of the past decade. His vast credits include Glee, American Horror Story, The People vs. OJ Simpson, The Assassination of Gianna Versace, Pose and The Politician.

Back in 2018, Murphy scored a $300 million five-year deal with Netflix that included the production of at least 10 projects, including four TV shows, three movies and three documentaries. Ratched is just the newest show to be born out of this landmark deal.

Ratched, starring Sarah Paulson, puts a glamorous, campy spin on the origin story of Ken Kesey's infamous antagonist from One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Nurse Mildred Ratched. Nurse Ratched, known for her icy demeanor and authoritarian tactics in Kesey's novel and the subsequent film of the same title, takes on a very different form under Murphy's production guidance.

This new show paints the iconic character as an "angel of mercy" rather than a harbinger of domination and control. While she is despised in original text, her companions in the new show fall heir to her charm, wit and impeccable style.

Paulson's portrayal of Nurse Ratched is a sight to behold. Although the show greatly varies from previous renditions of the character, Paulson breathes new life into the role with a span and class. Her biting sarcasm buried behind a facade of gentility makes her performance thrilling for the audience. Murphy brings a new life to a character often seen as one-sided, and it is fair to say she carries the show on her heavily padded shoulders. Paulson is just one of several actors in the show who are frequently cast in Murphy's projects. Her presence in the show helps give it that classic touch.

As with everything Murphy does, this show is highly stylized. As a director and producer, Murphy has an extremely specific aesthetic, and it is so recognizable that any viewer of his work could easily pick it out in a crowd. Murphy is known for shows that hyper-romanticize an era. Ratched is no exception.

Set in California in the late 1940s, Murphy takes his affinity for bright colors, Hollywood glamour and the soapy drama of The Politician, the stylized gore and violence of American Horror Story, the overt homosexual themes from Pose and the apos glamour of Hollywood.

Unfortunately, audiences have seen Murphy do all this before. It is merely a repetition and rebranding of his past successes. For a director and producer known for pushing boundaries and taking risks, Ratched falls flat and greatly disappoints.

Aside from Paulson's acting, there are few redeeming qualities of the show. The writing is lazy and has obvious plot holes. The characters do very little to grow or develop, with many contradicting themselves over and over. The relationships across the board are flat and lack dimensionality and chemistry.

Despite these glaring flaws, there is one truly brilliant scene in the show. Set in children's puppet theatre, the scene tells the story of Nurse Ratched's troubled childhood through some truly terrifying marionettes. This bizarre puppet show from hell is narrated by a ghastly pale carnival barker. The scene is haunting, skin-crawlingly creepy and altogether fabulous.

Had Murphy matched this energy throughout the rest of the show, Ratched would have been significantly more successful.

Overall, Ratched fails to excite. It is the perfect show to half-watch while folding laundry, but it is not worth eight episodes of intense binge-watching.

Sherlock Holmes spin-off tells story from new perspective

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

Enola Holmes, Netflix's latest spin on a Sherlock Holmes tale, is a fun, heart-felt ride all the way through. While still an important part in the story, Sherlock, played by Henry Cavill, is not main the focus. Millie Bobby Brown, most famous for her performance of Eleven in Stranger Things, plays the titular role: Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes' teenage sister, Enola.

The Victorian-era mystery kicks off when Enola's mother (Helena Bonham Carter) goes missing overnight, leaving behind a careful trail of clues only Enola could follow. Rather than following the commands of her older brother Mycroft (Sam Claflin) and attending finishing school, Enola runs away to find her mother in London. On the journey, through tragic happenstance, she meets the charming young Lord Tewkesbury (Louis Partridge). The two form an immediate and enduring bond.

The insightful storyline of finding the mother soon plays second fiddle as the mystery surrounding Tewkesbury and the menacing murderer — played by the always intimidating Burn Gorman — that's out for Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch's portrayals. Cavill's commanding presence and lovable charm draws enough attention without resorting to the boastful one-upmanship present in other depictions of the character.

A standout performance in the film is from one of the least known names in the entire cast. Louis Partridge, playing the role of Tewkesbury, has an incredible amount of chemistry with Brown. Witnessing them become immediately entranced with each other is thoroughly enjoyable to see.

Enola Holmes is a film that knows exactly what it is, and doesn't overreach or overstay its welcome. From the very beginning the film establishes itself as a fun coming of age adventure full of young love, intense action and solving mysteries, and that's precisely what Bradbeer delivers.

The film has its flaws, but it's clear the creators weren't seeking to win any academy awards. As the plotline involving the mother and her band of women's suffragettes unfurls, several of the elements either become thin or are dropped entirely. In most cases this would have been a serious story issue, but somehow Enola Holmes manages to walk across the plotholes unscathed.

There's something refreshing about a film that isn't attempting to change the game, but simply be an enjoyable two hours of leisure. Enola Holmes is a perfect example of easy comfort movie — it's entertaining and cute without a need for major emotional investment. Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes is both lovely and enticing. With the incredible positive critical reception the film has received, audiences are likely to see more from Enola's story.

October 8, 2020

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Duquesne holds disinformation symposium

The virtual event included experts discussing misinformation, disinformation and technology.

KELLEN STEPLER, editor-in-chief

With information changing rapidly, and our world shifting more virtual, it’s only fitting for Duquesne’s Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law to hold a symposium via Zoom discussing disinformation, disinformation and technology.

The inaugural symposium, held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, featured speakers from Duquesne, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Seattle University and Santa Clara University, who shared expertise on ethical challenges and solutions involving disinformation and misinformation.

Brian Green, the director of technology ethics at Santa Clara University, defined misinformation as false information that may or may not be intentionally deceptive; and disinformation as false information that is intentionally deceptive, in his keynote speech entitled “Building Communities of Trust.”

“Disinformation intentionally misleads people in order to lead them into error,” Green said. “It has a harmful element to it; you’re trying to harm people ultimately.”

Green said that it destroys trust and groups and weakens target groups in power competitions. Unlike disinformation, misinformation can be unintentional, and cannot split communities apart, he said.

“After the purpose of misinformation is a bit of an odd questions because in one sense, it’s like asking the purpose of a piece of trash in the information ecosystem: where truth ought to be prized, misinformation ought to be tossed out,” Green said.

One way to stay vigilant of misinformation and disinformation, Green said, is to have real relationships and experiences with people. “Try not to spend more time online than in real life,” he said.

Kathleen Carley, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said that disinformation has always been with us, and that the concept of disinformation has many faces.

“Computers are neither the problem nor the solution in this case – people are the problem,” Carley said.

She cited data that reports that 77% of the time, people in the U.S. are re-broadcasting messages by others in the U.S. spreading disinformation, and 80% of messages reweeting disinformation sites are from bots. In social media, Carley said that there are three concepts to understand disinformation: super-spreaders, super-friends and echo chambers.

Carley said that disinformation starts with a controversial issue, and bots and trolls are embedded on both sides. They foster fear with disinformation that feeds worry and send messages with URLs to disinformation sites. Like the Re-open America rallies in April in May, they call for protests, and spread disinformation about key leaders on the opposing side.

As citizens, our role in combating disinformation is to call it out and not to spread it, Carley said.

The symposium touched on disinformation’s impact on politics, media, COVID-19 and economics. David Dariks, a professor at CMU and Michael Colaresi, a professor at Pitt, discussed the political dimensions of disinformation, and the real-world consequences it has on political discourse.

Beth Hoffman, a professor at Pitt, noted that we are fighting an infodemic as well as a pandemic. An infodemic, she said, is a rapid and far reaching spread of both accurate and inaccurate information. She noted the Pandemic video with discredited doctor Judy Mikovitz went viral this spring and was shared by many people who do not normally share conspiracy theories still shared it.

Pamela Walck, a journalism professor at Duquesne, compared media coverage from the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 and the COVID-19 pandemic today. Newspapers at the time of the Spanish flu epidemic were not writing about hoaxes, but instead had advertisements hawked as “sure-cures” for the flu, and “advertorials” – advertisements disguised as news articles.

The solution to misinformation, according to Walck, is to arm ourselves with media literacy knowledge, be aware of our own biases, be skeptical of information before sharing and be part of the solution.

Michael Quinn, the dean of the college of science and engineering at Seattle University, along with Jane Moriaty, a law professor at Duquesne, noted the economics and ethics of misinformation. Quinn noted that responsible information consumption consists of understanding the information flow and confirmation bias.

People should skeptically judge news, he said, and question the authority of the author, the reliability and verifiability of the content, the soundness of the argument and the affiliation of the site.

To conclude the symposium, Duquesne President Ken Gormley said the event was a “thought provoking afternoon.”

“We’re so honored to have been able to collaborate with truly some of the most elite institutions, academic centers dealing with technology and ethics in the United States at CMU, Pitt, Santa Clara and Seattle, and thanks finally to a wonderful audience who joined us virtually and stuck with it for the afternoon,” Gormley said. “We hope that next time we’ll be able to gather here in person in Pittsburgh on our beautiful Duquesne University campus.

In an email Gormley sent to all students on Oct. 5, he said that this event was the first of three in three weeks to engage our entire campus community in an ethical kind of thinking. The second event, titled “The Rooney Rule and What’s Next: Equity and Access in Athletics and Beyond” will take place on Thursday, Oct. 15 and the third event, “Politics, Contentious Elections and Civil Discourse,” will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21 on Zoom. The events are free, but registration is required.
You can register to vote now using your campus address.

You can vote early.

You can vote by mail.

You can vote on Election Day.

Go to voteamerica.com/students