



An inside look at Duq's Quarantine Hotel

ZOE STRATOS

staff writer

As the second wave of COVID-19 begins to sweep the country, more and more concerns are being raised about the potential for an outbreak on Duquesne's campus.

Part of Duquesne University's mission to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to place these contact traced students in quarantine, and the university had to look off campus for help.

On Duquesne's COVID-19 information website, readers can find a daily report of cases by isolation and quarantine status: one of which is "Currently in Quarantine Hotel, today" with a number listed below.

This quarantine hotel, the Holiday Inn Express, can be found right off of the 10th Street Bridge in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood, and started housing contact-traced students back on August 24.

Currently, the hotel is unavailable to the public, as their booking website is closed off for the entire month of October and November; moreover, calls to the hotel to book a reservation only result in a "we're booked for that weekend."

Within the hotel's closed doors are 59 quarantined students (at the time of publication) as well as hotel staff and Duquesne staff. Duquesne staff members declined an interview, saying they "are not disclosing any information as of now."

However, Duquesne's Vice President for Marketing and Communications, Gabriel Welsh, explained that the staff working at the hotel is assigned through Residence Life: a Resident Director and Assistant Resident Director. Along with these professionals picked because they "understand the specific needs and conditions of student life," the hotel's manager, cleaning staff, and desk staff all still work at the hotel.

Shawn Jones, a junior and offensive lineman for Duquesne's football team, departed for the hotel on Oct. 3 along with other players who live on campus, after cases began popping up within the team.

"We found out from our coaches," Jones said. "There were ru-



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The Holiday Inn Express just off the 10th St. Bridge is now home to Duquesne students who are required to quarantine due to potential exposure to COVID-19.

mors that kids had COVID, and people kept disappearing from lifts. Then we were told to quarantine in our rooms."

Currently, students who test positive for COVID-19 on campus are required to isolate in distinct rooms on an isolation wing. The fifth floor of Towers is being used for this purpose. At the time of publication, the Towers isolation wing housed 10 students.

But the on-campus quarantine rooms didn't last long: after Jones was given a rapid test and confirmed negative, he was sent to the Holiday Inn Express by shuttle. Jones was given enough time to pack school supplies, as well as two weeks worth of clothes before taking off.

Students are assigned a room, and cleaning supplies are placed in each room for the students to use. The hotel staff does not clean the student rooms. Students are also able to do laundry in the hotel's laundry room.

Since students are confirmed negative through the rapid test, they are able to leave rooms and go to the lobby to grab breakfast, lunch and dinner — provided by Parkhurst.

"We also get an hour per day to go outside and maybe go get some food. We have a 10 p.m. curfew, so we're not allowed to leave after then," Jones said.

"I have other friends here, and we're allowed to have quick visits; obviously socially distanced and with masks on."

But with only a rapid test and no official lab results, the accuracy of the tests can easily be called into question.

Despite Jones's positive outlook on the experience, sophomore RJ Enders felt very differently.

About two weeks ago, Enders' friend, who asked not to be named, felt sick, left Duquesne's campus and ended up testing positive while at home the very next day. Shortly after testing positive, she contacted students she had in-person contact with, making them aware of her diagnosis.

"I was actually kind of terrified," Enders said. "I had been around my grandparents the following day without knowing she had it yet. I was really scared for them because you hear a bunch of horror stories."

But after talking to one of Duquesne's contact tracers, Enders felt a bit more comfortable with his incoming rapid test results, but not what was to come after.

"It was kind of a blind experience. I was on the phone that entire day, and it was hard to find answers as to what was going to happen," Enders said. "I kept talking to Health Services,

asking them questions. I mean, we didn't even know where we were actually going. We didn't know the difference between isolation in the hotel and isolation in Towers. I didn't even know what I needed; did I need towels for the shower? Did I need a pillow? It was kind of a guessing game; they weren't as prepared as I thought."

After staying in the hotel for 11 days, Enders had to call Health Services and was asked a series of questions regarding his health while in the hotel, including whether or not he was showing symptoms or felt sick during his stay. After questioning, the health professional sent a clearance letter to Residence Life, and to Enders' health portal.

This past Sunday, Enders packed up his things and headed back to his dorm on Duquesne's campus.

"I understand where they're coming from, but then again I felt it was almost pointless the way they handled it," Enders said. "As for students, make sure to listen to the protocols that are in place right now, because going to the hotel is not a fun experience. You want to hang out with your friends and go to classes, so just listen to the guidelines."

Spring 2021 calendar announced

COLLEEN HAMMOND

news editor

After a semester full of uncertainties, there are even more changes in the horizon for the Duquesne community.

On Monday, Duquesne University administration announced new adjustments to the Spring 2021 semester schedule. This comes less than a week after an incorrect schedule was posted to the university website by mistake last Wednesday, an error that caused confusion and speculation among students and faculty.

While the semester was initially supposed to begin on Jan. 7, 2021, the new start date has been pushed back to January 21.

"In moving the date forward, the university seeks to ensure that students have time to spend with family and friends over the holiday break and then are able to quarantine at home as a safety measure prior to arriving at Duquesne," said the unsigned announcement sent to students.

However, the announcement did not specify if students will be required to complete a standard 14-day quarantine before returning to campus or how they will enforce such a policy, should one be instituted.

In addition, the university has chosen to eliminate spring break for the coming semester "in order to prevent potential spread of the coronavirus due to travel typically associated with breaks," said the statement.

"The measures described above are being taken to optimize safety and ensure the ability for students to make academic progress despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic," said the statement.

The university's new selling point on this plan, which was not mentioned in the early draft posted by mistake, mentioned new "Virtual J-terms." These online, crash style, non-credit courses will be available from Jan. 7-20

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Autumn leaves bring fall fun to campus
Pumpkin patches, flower shows, "Among Us" and more

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POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported for Oct. 5 to Oct. 12:

On Oct. 6, Duquesne public safety discovered two vehicles parked in the lower surface Forbes Ave. parking lot with broken windows.

On Oct. 8, there was damage to an unattended vehicle in Locust Garage.

On Oct. 9, a resident student was found to be in possession of alcohol, marijuana and a fake ID card inside Towers. The student is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct and was issued a PA non-traffic citation for possession of a fake ID.

Crime Alert

In light of a recent series of vehicle break-ins on campus, Duquesne's department of public safety sent a mass email to all students Oct. 6 on tips to deter further break-ins.

- Remove everything of value from your car, including change in your console.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Lock the doors in your vehicle at all times.
- If you see something suspicious, call DuPo (412) 396-2677 or 9-1-1 immediately. Provide your location, a description of the perpetrator and a description of what you observed.

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EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!
The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Colleen Hammond at hammondcd@duq.edu

Ken Gormley publicly responds to Black Student Union's demands



COLLEEN HAMMOND
news editor

Last Thursday, almost three months after the Duquesne's Black Student Union published a list of formal demands, President Ken Gormley issued a response in the form of an open letter to BSU emailed to all students.

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

"I've found it to be a useful complement to the issues on which my leadership team already has been focused, and it has helped us sharpen our sense of direction," Gormley said in his letter.

Members of the BSU crafted this extensive 12 page document that outlines "a series of action plans designed to enhance and establish a more diverse and inclusive atmosphere for all students, more specifically the Black students, at Duquesne University."

Gormley then outlined some of the many steps Duquesne is taking as a university community to combat racism and make campus a more equitable space for all students, including the university's first "Action Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."

"The action plan's task forces will involve a broad swath of university faculty, staff and students as well as any necessary and relevant outside expertise to help Duquesne confront racism, discrimination and any other kinds of racial inequalities in our community," Gormley said.

Gormley noted in previous statements that he and his administrative team approached crafting this "action plan" in a similar manner to how they approached the "Master Plan" that outlined new protocols for students for the fall 2020 semester.

In addition to the action plan, Gormley instituted the President's Advisory Council for Diversity and Inclusion back in 2018. Despite the university's best efforts, members of BSU, and their accompanying organizations, felt this still was not enough to ensure the safety, equity and equality of all students.

In his letter, Gormley addressed these areas of needed improvement, specifically in BSU's desire for increased accountability for students, faculty and staff who commit acts of racism, including less recognizable micro-aggressions.

"The action plan approach itself sets an expectation for accountabil-

ity. It will produce a public plan and statement of our intent, and the work we'll undertake will identify how such accountability is developed and achieved," Gormley said.

In their initial statement, BSU demanded university administration create an anonymous system for reporting acts of racism and discrimination on campus. Although Gormley stated his intention for increased accountability, he did not specify if this is a change the university will be adopting and implementing.

"We currently are reviewing the disciplinary processes and procedures for discrimination as well as options for our reporting system. However, while accountability and reporting are important, the system must also make it possible for educational and restorative work to occur," Gormley said.

Additionally, Gormley announced the introduction of the "Bias Response Team," (BRT) a non-conduct based campus team that will address a number of the demands in the BSU's letter.

While many of BSU requests were not directly addressed, Gormley reaffirmed campus's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Hearing or reading about students being routinely excluded from activities, bearing the impact of insensitive or hostile acts and communications, or feeling their organizations are viewed as secondary or 'lesser than' others is a clear indicator that our communications and practices need to improve," Gormley said.

Update: Duq's newest college

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

In a season of cancellations and postponements, Duquesne's new College of Osteopathic Medicine remains on track to open in 2024 at 1323 Forbes Ave.

Duquesne provost David Dausey, along with founding dean of the College of Medicine John M. Kauffman Jr., held an update of the college's progress on Friday, Oct. 9. The college will be Duquesne's first new college in over 20 years, and the first Catholic medical school in Pennsylvania.

"Duquesne sets a high bar to begin with, and we expect the School of Medicine to be no different," Kauffman said.

"The school is currently in applicant status — the first stage in the journey to become fully accredited," Kauffman said. "The earliest they can enter the next phase, candidate status, is the summer of 2021. Summer 2023 is the earliest they can enter pre-accreditation status."

Dausey said that the College of Medicine "fits squarely" with Duquesne's mission statement and the idea to educate the body, mind and spirit. It also allows Duquesne to expand their work in urban and rural underserved areas and communities throughout western Pennsylvania. The focus, he said, will be on recruiting a diverse, inclusive student body.

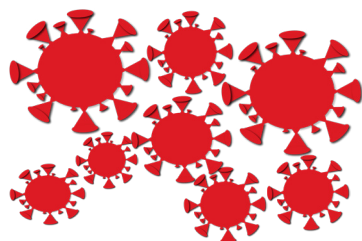
"The opportunity of being in an urban setting is very exciting for me," Kauffman said. "I was in a rural setting in North Carolina and we did a lot of work with migrant farmworkers, but I'm very excited at this time to really be working in urban and rural areas."

A New Castle native, Kauffman said that the college will matriculate its first class of 75 students in August 2024; with 112 students the next year, 150 students the next two years and then 162 students in the fifth year.

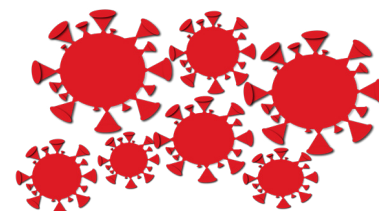
He also went through the blueprint of the 80,000 square-foot building — with more than 12,000 square feet of classroom space, and more than 20,000 square feet of space for anatomy labs, simulation exam rooms and virtual reality studios.

"We've also spent a lot of time focusing on helping marginalized populations and particularly those that lack access to care, and our goal is to train students who are going to be servant leaders in the field of health care," Dausey said. "We want to extend that to medicine, and we also want to add medicine to interprofessional training that we do here at Duquesne, so that we can augment our interprofessional training opportunities."

COVID-19 Update: Almost 100 students quarantined at home



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



Duquesne COVID-19 Data

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: **61**
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: **47**
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: **46**
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: **106**
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for covid-19 (reported to DU HR): **0**
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for covid-19 (reported to DU HR): **4**



Scan here for latest Covid Data

Date	Lab Confirmed Cases Today	Suspected Cases Today	Currently Isolated on Campus Today	Currently Isolated at Home Today	Currently Quarantined in Hotel Today	Currently Quarantined at Home Today
10/13/2020	6	0	10	20	59	96

Duq Writing Center begins mentoring Hill District students

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Duquesne's University Writing Center is still working to improve students' writing — this time, it's just that the students are 15 years younger.

In a new initiative, the University Writing Center has partnered with the Center for Community Engaged Teaching and Research (CETR) and the English department to offer writing

"At their age, they're growing writers," said Jim Purdy, director of the University Writing Center. "It's an area we haven't worked with, and it's fun to see the things they are doing. Getting to work with this population is fun, and we're taking the work of the Writing Center into the community."

Purdy said that there are about 15-20 students in the Smile Cohort, and Duquesne students work with about three or four students per session. They work with the

with other literary activities, such as spoken word poetry and rap.

A project that's been years in the making, Purdy noted that the initiative gives Duquesne students an opportunity to apply what they're learning, and to be part of what it means to be living the Duquesne mission.

"It's important for the community to see what Duquesne is doing," Purdy said. "It shows how students in the Hill District and Duquesne students can benefit from each other, and shows that the work we do not only benefits Duquesne students, but also the community. They have something to offer Duquesne, as well."

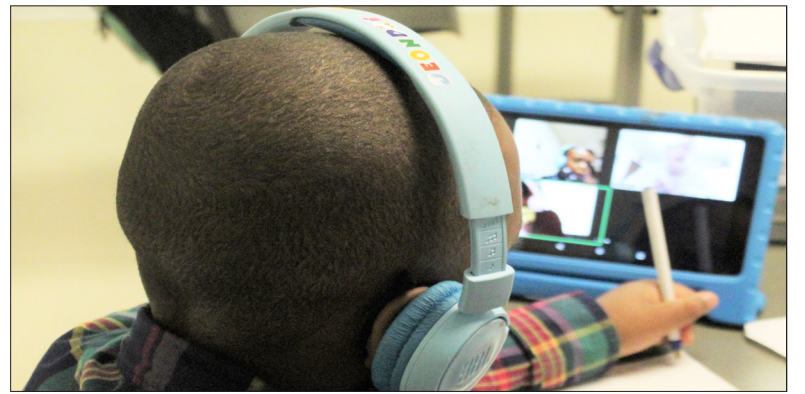
Kihei Staruch-Paikai, a senior English major and intern at the Writing Center, said that while the cohort's age obviously sets them apart from college students, everyone has "the capacity to grow as learners and writers."

"I learn just as much from these students as they do from me," Staruch-Paikai said. "We shouldn't ever underestimate the wisdom that comes from young minds."

For Writing Center consultant and Duquesne graduate student Megan Williams, the opportunity provided her with two things that she wanted — a job, and the chance to get involved in the community.

"It's an enjoyable job," Williams said. "It's providing us a really good experience that we weren't thinking of going in. We help them with self-expression, spoken expression, literary skills and words to express yourself clearly — it's invaluable."

As someone who has done work in a college writing center before, Williams said that it's unique for



TAKARA CANTY / ACH ART DIRECTOR

Students work with their mentors virtually to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

a writing center to branch out into the community. She said that it's a great way to be more in touch with the community she lives in.

Staruch-Paikai noted that as Duquesne students, they are part of the Pittsburgh community and therefore, have a responsibility to care for it and nurture it.

"At Duquesne, we have the necessary resources to uplift others within the community," Staruch-Paikai said. "It's time that we use them. There is strength in community building, and when we band together, goals become that much more possible to achieve."

Currently on Zoom, Staruch-Paikai noted some difficulties using the virtual platform to connect with students.

"I've grown accustomed to Zoom, but I believe that sessions are more meaningful in person," Staruch-Paikai said. "With online learning platforms come technical difficulties, and I've sure gotten used to those too. A lag in WiFi can last for two seconds, or the entire duration of a session. It's certainly inconvenient, especially when in the middle of

an assignment. However, it's all a part of the process."

The virtual nature of the sessions, along with the age group of the cohort, are what Purdy calls "fun chaos."

"They have a lot of energy, and a lot to say," Purdy said. "It's fun hearing their excitement."

For Writing Center students, the new initiative shows the value of collaboration, as a real-world example and to "put theory into practice." After the pandemic, the Community Writing Center will take over a space in the Kauffman building, near campus.

Building a rapport with the community and opening up to new perspectives is something Staruch-Paikai wouldn't trade for anything else.

"The best part about this job is being able to work with such outstanding students," Staruch-Paikai said. "Their creativity and ways of thinking outside of the box are inspiring. Building rapport with these students is the best feeling in the world."



TAKARA CANTY / ACH ART DIRECTOR

Employees at Duquesne's Writing Center are working with students in the Hill District to mentor them and improve their writing skills.

instruction, tutoring and workshops with ACH Clear Pathways, an arts non-profit located in the Hill District.

Five Duquesne students work as consultants and interns, and have already engaged in virtual sessions with students in the Smile Cohort, an after-school program for kids ages 5-8. They meet Monday through Friday in the afternoon as part of the cohort's after-school programming.

cohort to improve their performance in school English language arts, to tell stories and to become confident communicators.

"Our goal is to develop programming to work with students in different ACH [Clear Pathways] cohorts to develop writers," Purdy said.

The students are creating "All About Me" creative writing books to showcase at the ACH Clear Pathways showcase in the fall, along

Music Therapy students seek to ease stress through new relaxation group

ELIZABETH SHARP
staff writer

Mary Pratt and Sophia Spaulding, seniors at Duquesne, have been hosting a Music Relaxation Group throughout this semester. Both students are music therapy majors studying in the Mary Pappert School of Music.

Pratt and Spaulding are running the group for a course both are taking, Community Engaged Practicum. The program they have created puts the concepts being learned throughout the course into practice.

"Given COVID, we wanted to have a group that is accessible to people on campus as a way for them to relax given our current environment," Spaulding said. The pair aimed to create a program that was beneficial for students on campus.

In past weeks, the group has proven to be successful in achieving its goals and bringing students together despite the obvious disconnect that could have occurred this year.

"We plan each session to do a certain kind of music activity, depending on what we think the need

might be for the clients that week," Pratt said.

If the clients return from session to session, Pratt and Spaulding will build on their work from the previous sessions and incorporate new ideas.

The program can build on itself this way, but is also able to explore new ideas, and is able to cater to all clients as it promotes a space for self-expression, stress release, self-care and relaxation.

Each session is run using a specific music based activity. It includes composition work that students can work as a group to develop using online programs.

In this case, students brought works that were meaningful to them to the session and incorporated them into a collaborative group piece that reflects everyone's thoughts and personal contributions.

The group uses the innovative resources available to them, such as online music programs, which aid in many aspects of their work.

"In the coming weeks, we are planning to bring in a song and do

a song discussion on it and listen to a cover and compare the two," Pratt and Spaulding said.

Using activities like this one, the group can focus on certain aspects of music therapy that can be beneficial in day-to-day life.

Music-assisted relaxation is also explored during the program.

"The clients go into a meditative or relaxed state while being guided by facilitators to become more aware of the body and how it interacts with the music," Pratt said.

Students are able to work interactively and bring their own ideas to these sessions. The focus is to make sure clients are learning and collaborating throughout sessions.

Three different sections are being run this semester, one being solely Duquesne students. The pair also work with LGBTQ+ groups in the area to expand the music relaxation group beyond Duquesne.

Pratt and Spaulding explained some of the other groups they are working with in the area as well.

"Clients that we are working with now are LGBTQ+ youth that have

survived intimate partner violence ... the program focuses on trust and building positive relationships through music therapy and focuses on community engagement in the group which is something that would be beneficial for them."

The program specific to Duquesne is open to students of all years and majors.

In addition to making a difference on campus, the pair aims to help people in the surrounding areas through their knowledge of music therapy.

The music relaxation group is being run entirely through Zoom for the remainder of the semester.

Three out of the six sessions have already been conducted. The remainder will be held Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and Nov. 16.

It is still undecided whether the group will continue next semester; however, there has been discussion due to the positive response surrounding the program. Even if COVID-19 related stress continues into the spring semester, music therapy will always be a valuable asset for students.

Spring 2021 changes

from SPRING—page 1

for Duquesne students and their families free of charge.

"The Virtual J-Term lets us reward students for the hard work they did to keep the campus safe during the fall semester," said Provost David Dausey. "Having the opportunity to take a quick course on a subject that seems interesting can help get students ready for their return and enrich their overall experience."

The "J-term" course subjects vary greatly from "Harry Potter and the Christian Intellectual Tradition" to "Female Artists in Rome: Lavinia Fontana, Artemisia Gentileschi, Angelika Kaufmann, Harriet Hosmer and Edmonia Lewis." Fourteen courses are currently slated to be offered as part of the new virtual J-term.

Students who live on campus will begin their move-in just as the J-term is concluding on Sunday, Jan. 17. More information on new move-in schedules and protocols will become available in the coming weeks.

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Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

Contact

email theduqueduke@gmail.com

OPINIONS

Are fair trade products actually a fair deal for the people who produce them?

From avocados and bananas to cocoa and coffee beans, the fair trade market continues to experience substantial growth as an increasing number of consumers search for ways to support the hardworking families who struggle to make ends meet in underdeveloped countries.

The Fair Trade initiative is a global movement with the mission of eliminating poverty by ensuring that farmers and labourers across the world receive fair and just prices for the goods they produce.

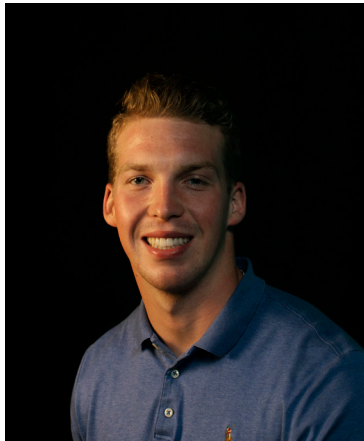
By establishing a price floor and premium for products, producers receive stable flows of income that were otherwise unknown, as well as additional funds that can be invested to grow operations. In addition, a fair trade certification provides unprecedented access to international markets, and in turn, the ability to reach a wider range of consumers.

At first glance, the concept of fair trade appears to be a feasible method for improving the lives of poverty-stricken farmers. However, the theory is flawed as the truth of the matter is that they do not realize much, if any, of the intended transfer of wealth.

The rationale is rather simple: For the system to function properly, two equally important events must occur. First, individuals must be willing to incur a higher price

for the goods. Secondly, the price premium must find its way to the desired party — the farmers and workers scrambling to put food on the table.

According to the study “Fair Trade and Free Entry: Can a Disequilibrium Market Serve as a Development Tool?,” the unfortunate reality is that, on average, only



NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

20% of consumers are willing to pay the price premium. In addition, even when consumers choose to incur the additional expense, producers receive only 5¢ to 10¢ of every \$1.

This phenomenon is attributable to the hefty cost that small scale producers must bear to have their products stamped with the Fair Trade label. Lasting between six and nine months, the rigorous certification process inflicts considerable finan-

cial strain as total returns from selling certified goods diminish quickly.

What's more, due to the lack of regulation and control concerning the amount of certified output, these returns are further diminished by the enabling of arbitrage that arises from the costly over-certification of supply.

As a result, with the accumulation of unexpected costs nullifying any increase in sales, there is no real incentive to become free trade certified, especially considering that doing so can potentially lead to a decline in revenues and profits — the exact opposite of the stable income that was promised.

In fact, within the past decade, numerous farmers and low income producers reported that they actually received a higher percentage of profit from selling products that are not fair trade certified.

The overwhelming evidence clearly indicates that achieving fair trade status does not guarantee an equitable playing field for those in impoverished communities and tribes — people who are also deserving of a sustainable way of life.

For those seeking to make a difference by supporting marginalized farmers and workers in developing areas of the world, it is more important than ever to research the fair trade products that you purchase to ensure the premium price is benefiting those individuals it was intended to support.

Letter to the Editor: New Title IX Regulations

Recently, The Duke published an article notifying the campus about the new Department of Education (“DoE”) Title IX regulations. The article identified questions and concerns about these regulations which this letter is intended to address.

The university responded to these new regulations by publishing TAP No. 61: Interim Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment. Although the regulations include a new definition of sexual harassment, DoE guidance allows universities to address conduct that does not meet this definition through another university policy.

The university, therefore, will continue to address conduct that violates other university policies, even if it falls outside of the definition of Title IX sexual harassment. More specifically, the university will

continue to address reported non-Title IX sexual misconduct through TAP 31.

Additionally, Title IX's jurisdiction for addressing Title IX sexual harassment includes some off-campus locations. More information can be found in TAP 61.

Second, there are safeguards available during a Title IX investigation under TAP 61. Supportive measures, which are intended to ensure continued access to education, are available to complainants and respondents throughout the Title IX process.

Complainants may access supportive measures whether or not they choose to pursue a formal complaint. Examples include a change in class schedule or housing, mutual no-contact orders, or connection with resources.

Additionally, there are rules that must be followed throughout the Title IX process under TAP 61, such as rules regarding hearing decorum and questioning by the other party's advisor. Finally, retaliation of any kind violates university policy and is not tolerated.

I encourage any university student who has feedback or questions about the regulations or policy to contact me directly, and to attend a webinar I am hosting on Oct. 26 about TAP 61. Members of the campus community can also visit the Title IX website, du.edu/titleix, for more details.

Sincerely,
Lee K. Robbins
Title IX Coordinator &
Director of Sexual Misconduct
Prevention and Response
Office of Legal Affairs

STAFF EDITORIAL

Americans ditch Columbus Day for Indigenous People's Day

In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue; and in 1493, Columbus enslaved and tortured an entire indigenous population. It doesn't quite fit the rhyme scheme, but it does more accurately depict the legacy of long-celebrated explorer Christopher Columbus — the namesake of Columbus Day.

This past Monday, federal offices throughout the United States were closed in recognition of Columbus Day. Celebrated each year on the second Monday of October, Columbus Day was first recognized as a national holiday by FDR in 1937. In recent years, the holiday has received well-deserved pushback for celebrating a historical figure who represents the colonization and oppression of various indigenous populations.

Over the past five years especially, many U.S. cities and states have chosen to instead celebrate Indigenous People's Day during the second week of October. This switch seeks to honor the population of people whom Columbus brutally ruled over after he accidentally happened upon the New World.

Some political figures, however, continue to support the celebration of Columbus in the U.S. by protecting his statues and monuments, as well as the federal holiday. This year, President Trump released a White House proclamation in commemoration of the holiday stating, “Sadly, in recent years, radical activists have sought to undermine Christopher Columbus' legacy.”

Perhaps President Trump has confused the educated historians who are reminding the American people of Columbus' verifiable actions for uninformed radical activists. The reality is, the great discoverer of the New World never even set foot on the land we now know to be the United States. So why are we so set on this man getting a national holiday? Further, the islands which he did successfully sail to, he didn't discover — he colonized, ultimately leading the way for the colonization and gruesome oppression which occurred in the U.S.

Maintaining Columbus Day as a national holiday elevates Columbus to the level of MLK and other esteemed American figures who receive an entire day dedicated to their memory each year.

Recognizing Indigenous People's Day as a national holiday instead could represent an important step forward by the American government and people in honoring our indigenous population. The oppression and injustices facing America's native population have continued long beyond Columbus' era. Still today, Native Americans have the highest poverty and unemployment rates of any demographic in the U.S. Additionally, they face grave healthcare and education disparities, holding the lowest high school graduation rate and the highest infant mortality rate.

While replacing Columbus Day with the celebration of Indigenous People's Day won't solve any of these long-standing economic and social inequalities, it may help to draw attention to the more than 5 million historically mistreated Americans; not to mention how it would help end the unreasonable celebration of Christopher Columbus.

The future of independent pharmacy hangs in the balance within the U.S.

MOHAMMAD SAJJAD
staff columnist

There was a time when independent pharmacies outnumbered their chain competitors. It's difficult to imagine, considering that in Oakland alone, there is a CVS and Rite Aid within blocks of each other.

We have all been to a chain pharmacy at one point, whether it's been to pick up a prescription or simply find a late-night snack when no other store was open. But when was the last time we've gone to an independent pharmacy?

Due to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and a lack of regulation regarding their practice, the opportunity to visit an independent pharmacy may be diminishing. In order for independent pharmacies to continue to thrive, there needs to be more regulation in terms of how they are reimbursed for their services, an issue that is currently being reviewed by the Supreme Court in *Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association*.

Unfortunately, the number of independent pharmacies in the United States has been declining.

According to the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Digest, the number of independent pharmacies in the U.S. has decreased by almost 1,200 stores between 2011 and 2017. While it's difficult to speak for all pharmacies, a major source of concern are reimbursement rates from PBMs.

PBMs are administrators hired on behalf of insurance companies that are responsible for determining how much money a pharmacy will receive for filling a prescription. For an independent pharmacy owner, the aim is to make a profit by receiving more money than what they purchase their drugs for.

Unfortunately, there has not been much regulation when it comes to PBM practice, leading them to reimburse pharmacies at a much lower rate. This can lead to a loss of profit, which can be detrimental to independent pharmacies considering that a vast majority of their revenue comes from filling prescriptions.

What is particularly frustrating is that PBMs will take money back from pharmacies weeks after a point of sale without them

knowing. PBMs claim that this is to lower drug costs and any fees charged after a point of sale are based on a pharmacy's performance, which includes how adherent their patients are to their medications. However, pharmacies still experience a loss of profit even if their patients are adherent to their medications.

States have attempted to pass legislation to regulate PBM practice. For example, Arkansas passed a law in 2015 that prohibited PBMs from reimbursing pharmacies at a rate lower than what they purchase drugs for. PBMs have argued that states do not have the right to regulate business reimbursements, even if it does lead to a loss of profit, according to federal law.

This conflict has resulted in *Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association*. On Oct. 6, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the case. Within the next year, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not states have the right to regulate PBM practice.

This case is crucial in determining the future of independent pharmacies in the United States. If the Supreme Court



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Locally-owned pharmacies struggle to make ends meet as chain competition grows.

rules in favor of PBMs, independent pharmacies run the risk of being run out of business by unethical business practices.

Not only will this affect pharmacy owners, but it will also affect existing and potential customers. Patients who pick up their prescriptions at independent pharmacies know that customer service and personal touch is what sets these stores apart from chain pharmacies. Oftentimes, staff at independent pharmacies know their customers by name and are able to provide a wide variety of services given their flexibility.

In addition, it's been shown that independent pharmacies have shorter wait times than their chain counterparts. Even if patients aren't able to come to the store to pick up their medications, independent pharmacies often offer same-day delivery, a service that has existed at many stores prior to COVID-19.

While the future of independent pharmacy is still up in the air, please consider taking your business to a locally-owned pharmacy next time you need to pick up a medication. Their personal touch can make all the difference.

Amy Coney Barrett is not the replacement Americans desperately need

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

This year has been all too much for me. Between the pandemic and the upcoming election, I feel constantly anxious. Then a few weeks ago, one of my personal heroes, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, passed away and the GOP didn't even let the country mourn before deciding to rush through a Supreme Court nomination. 2020 needs to relax.

Before diving into the discussion of Amy Coney Barrett, I think it is worth noting how remarkable Ginsburg was. Her work in the 1970s to fight against gender discrimination gave women freedoms that are taken for granted today, like being able to serve on a jury.

Sure, it doesn't sound fun to have jury duty, but there was a time when women weren't allowed to partake in the civil duty to determine a defendant guilty or not guilty. If you're looking to learn more about Ginsburg, I recommend watching "RBG," an in-depth documentary about her life. It is available on Hulu.

As we all know, President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to replace Ginsburg.

There's a lot to unpack about this situation, so it's difficult to determine where to start. Perhaps the Republican hypocrisy of confirming a judge during an election year is a good place to begin.

In 2016, when Antonin Scalia died, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell struck down the nomination, stating that a new Supreme Court justice should not be nominated during an election year.

Senator Lindsey Graham was another advocate for waiting for the new president. He said, "I want you to use my words against me. If there's a Republican president in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said, 'Let the next president, whoever it might be, make that nomination. And you could use my words against me, and you'd be absolutely right.'"

Isn't it crazy how America is in a situation where we can use Graham's words against him, but the confirmation hearings for Amy Coney Barrett are happening as I write this?

The 2016 GOP leaders are right — it is wrong to confirm a new judge in an election year. America picks a president every four years, and that president has the power to nominate judges — judges who serve a lifelong term.

The confirmation of any judge is not a two- or four-year commitment, it lasts for generations. And if the American people are due to pick a new president, then the American people are the ones selecting the fate of the court.

Another thing that is driving me mad is Barrett's record. While she and RBG are both highly successful women with three names, that is their only similarity.

While RBG fought continuously for gender equality and reproductive freedom for women, ACB will work to take those protections away. And I'm not trying to be dramatic or fear mongering. Barrett, in 2006, wrote that she would like to see "an end to the barbaric legacy of *Roe v. Wade*."

Now, you may not agree with *Roe v. Wade*, or maybe you do — that's up to you to decide. But it set a precedent that gives wom-



COURTESY OF BUSINESS INSIDER

Following Ginsburg's death, many question the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett.

en autonomy over their bodies, and that's important to a lot of Americans. Most Americans are actually opposed to overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Not only this, but she is against the Affordable Care Act, which is an issue relevant to college students. If ObamaCare goes away, anyone under the age of 26 will no longer be able to stay on their parents' health insurance. I know very well that I cannot afford to pay for my own health insurance, so I am quite worried about this one.

She also sided against a Black employee who was transferred to another location through what appeared to be segregation by race.

Amy Coney Barrett is dangerous. She is an abomination to Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy. And the fact that as I am writing this, she is in the process of a confirmation hearing proves that the Republicans only have one thing in mind — their own interests. Don't be fooled by President Trump's nomination of a woman. Just being a woman does not mean Barrett supports women's interests.

If they cared about upholding the precedent they claimed to have set in 2016, there would be no hearing happening right now. If they cared about us, they would be working on another Covid relief bill. I reject this nomination.

Duquesne community shares lessons learned from pandemic

PEYTON HARRIS
staff writer

One thing I think many of us can agree on: the week of March 12, 2020, was life-changing. Quite suddenly, our lives went from carefree to cautious, lively to chaotic. As students and educators, many changes and sacrifices had to be made to ensure we were able to continue our work as best we could, but it was trying at times. One thing I've learned in my first few weeks as a student at Duquesne is that Dukes are resilient. Many of us have come out of quarantine and the recent events of this year stronger.

Following a recent effort by NEXTPittsburgh, I reached out to members of the Duquesne community to see what lessons they have learned and want to share with the community.

"I have learned that making music together is even more fragile and precious than we ever thought possible. It has been so painful to realize that the singing voice, our most innate instrument of expression, can be a spreader of this horrible virus. We have discovered new ways to sing together that no one could have imagined a year ago ... We sing on despite all of the incredible challenges we face."

- Caron Daley
Director of Choral Activities
School of Music



COURTESY OF NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER

"Because of its pace and isolation, 2020 has made me 'feel' every emotion with an intensity that the constant movement of pre-COVID-19 did not afford. The double pandemic, COVID-19 and racial injustice, that is impacting my life and the lives of so many others is a constant reminder of the importance of self-care, relationships and love. None of the important work can be done effectively without these things."

- Gretchen Givens Generett
Interim Dean
School of Education

"This year required us to meet and overcome bigger challenges than ever before, for which there is no play book ... I'm very proud to see the incredible teamwork and determination of our faculty and staff, who continue to create a productive environment in which our students can pursue their edu-

cation and their college experience. And I'm especially proud of our students, who have risen to the challenge and proven that they can navigate changes and inconvenience to remain safely on campus, putting the collective wellbeing of the Duquesne community first in every way as they address this global pandemic. That will be one of the great, inspirational stories when future generations look back on this moment in Duquesne's history."

- Ken Gormley
President
Duquesne University



COURTESY OF KARINA CUTRONA

"The most important thing I have learned throughout the course of this pandemic is self-reliance. You can have all the friends you want, yet at the end of the day, you're the person who knows yourself best. You know what is good for you and what isn't, and being there for yourself is always the healthiest option to live your happiest life,

no matter what challenges life throws at you."

- Karina Cutrona
Freshman psychology major

"Leading, working and interacting with compassion and empathy, as well as being both adaptable and tenacious, have become more important than ever. For the enrollment management team, reinventing traditions via technology, changing some of the things we do to maintain our sense of community virtually, recognizing each other's efforts and celebrating the wins as we work to enroll the next class at Duquesne are all things we have embraced during this time."

- Joel Bauman
Senior Vice President for Enrollment
Management

"Always take advantage of an opportunity presented to you ... Sometimes we are presented opportunities and we may dismiss them thinking they don't apply, or now is not the right time. Last fall when I enrolled in the faculty teaching online course, I was very busy with data collection of my faculty development grant and did not need the extra work of being a student in an online course. However, I thought now or never and began the course. It was the best decision. I was ready when the university

made the decision to transition all online in March 2020. My lesson learned: Always take advantages of opportunities that present."

- Pamela C. Spigelmyer
Assistant Professor of Nursing



COURTESY OF KATIE CARMICHAEL

"What I've learned from being in this pandemic is to take nothing for granted. Time spent with family, friends, classmates, teachers, etc. should be something that is cherished, not overlooked. This pandemic has taken a toll on many people's mental health, and I believe it has shown how important it is to reach out, ask for help and receive support from those around you. Even in a dark and depressing time, it's important to put yourself and your health first and do what you can to not let something, such as a pandemic, bring you down."

- Katie Carmichael
Freshman nursing major

SACNAS at Duquesne dedicated to diversity, equity in STEM

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

The message of diversity and inclusion is important at Duquesne, and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) is no exception.

SACNAS is a national organization dedicated to inclusion, diversity and equity by fostering the success of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in STEM.

Established in 1973, SACNAS has been working all over the nation to diversify the science work force. Now, with over 115 school and professional chapters, SACNAS's outreach has grown, and has its own chapter at Duquesne.



COURTESY OF SACNAS

The club has over 115 chapters across the country.

SACNAS supports the undergraduate level and beyond by helping college students and professionals in attaining advanced degrees, careers and positions of leadership in STEM.

"We wanted to bring their mission of reaching true diversity into the Duquesne campus," Sara Hernandez, president of the Duquesne chapter of SACNAS, said. "We also wanted to create a space for our members to feel supported and guided throughout their time here in Duquesne."

The SACNAS organization emphasizes "untapped potential," and offers opportunities, networks and connections for the Latino and Native American community to build a workforce in STEM that is innovative, powerful and inclusive.

"The end goal is to encourage members to let their voice be heard, as our different backgrounds provide new perspectives and ideas that enhance our desired professional careers and our immediate environment," Hernandez said.

SACNAS at Duquesne promotes professional and personal growth within the ethnic minorities on campus.

"My favorite thing about SACNAS is the close-knit community we have created," Mariana Pacheco, community service chair for the Duquesne Chapter of SACNAS, said. "As student minorities, it is comforting to have a sense of belonging on campus while being far away from home. Having a strong support system is important for your career as a student."

To encourage professional and personal growth, SACNAS at Duquesne offers many cultural events, invites guest speakers and en-



COURTESY OF SARA HERNANDEZ

SACNAS members attend events and join other nonprofit organizations in community service work.

courages engagement in community service with nonprofits that have similar missions as the club.

SACNAS at Duquesne has also collaborated with the Brother's Brother organization, where the two organizations worked together to package medical supplies for disaster relief to communities in need.

In previous years, SACNAS at Duquesne has hosted a Salsa Night, where it brings in professional salsa dancers from the Pittsburgh community to teach students the basic steps, and then spend the rest of the night dancing with the students.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, SACNAS at Duquesne has created alternative virtual events, like the Virtual Cooking class with

member and cook, Felipe Crespo, where he will be teaching the club how to make a classic Puerto Rican dish: Arroz con Gandules. The event will be held this Saturday, Oct. 17.

SACNAS at Duquesne has worked hard to support and encourage the Latino and Native American community in STEM to achieve their goals.

"SACNAS has provided me with a group of people that strive to perform their best academically and professionally, while motivating others to do their best as well. I truly hope SACNAS continues to grow on campus so everyone can have access to our resources and opportunities," Pacheco said.

For more information about SACNAS, visit <https://www.sacnas.org/>

Bucco broadcaster Wehner talks baseball, life

LUKE HENNE
staff writer

John Wehner, a current broadcaster and long-tenured member of the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, has seen just about everything, but even he couldn't prepare for a season like 2020.

Throughout the course of the truncated 60-game regular season, all 30 Major League Baseball teams played games without spectators as a precaution against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The impact of no fans in the stands was certainly felt by the players, but also by Wehner and his fellow colleagues at AT&T SportsNet Pittsburgh.

"Doing the games was different. We did not get to travel for road games, but at home, you kind of got used to it," Wehner said. "The [artificial] crowd noise was a big factor that helped a lot, although sometimes there was cheering when there shouldn't [have been]. It was just different to not have fans and to not have contact with the players."

During the shortened season, in an effort to speed up the duration of games, the league implemented temporary rules, such as both the American League and National League using a designated hitter, while also having a runner start each extra inning on second base.

Wehner — as traditional as they come — was not a fan of the former of those modifications.

"I do not like the DH. I like the strategy in the game. I was a bench player. With having a DH, you basically take away at-bats from your bench players and you don't need a bench unless someone gets hurt," he explained.

However, Wehner ended up being more welcoming to the latter rule.

"I didn't think I'd like the runner on second in extra innings, but I thought it was interesting and pretty neat. Obviously, it shortens the games," Wehner said.

"You don't play 15-, 16- or 17-inning games anymore. You're not at the ballpark for seven hours. I don't know if it'll stick around, but I liked it."

Now 53, Wehner grew up in Pittsburgh, graduating from Carrick High School, located just seven miles from PNC Park. After playing college baseball in the Big Ten at Indiana University, Wehner was drafted by the Pirates in 1988. He got the chance to play for his hometown team from 1991 to 1996, and again from 1999-2001.

The hard-nosed utility player was overjoyed by the opportunity to represent the team he grew up cheering for on a daily basis.

"I used to go down to Three Rivers Stadium often, and my dream, from the time I was little, was to play in the major leagues. To be able to sign with them, go through the minor leagues and to get that call-up was incredible," Wehner said.

His on-field career was certainly littered with unforgettable memories.

"From hitting the last home run at Three Rivers to making the final out at Three Rivers, it's all just insane to me. It's incredible that

a guy from Carrick could spend so many years with one organization," he remarked. "It's not something I ever thought could happen, and it's certainly something I don't take for granted. I'm incredibly grateful."

Sandwiched in between Wehner's two stints with the Pirates was a two-year detour (1997 and 1998) to Miami for a ride with former Pirates manager Jim Leyland and the then-Florida Marlins. In the first of Wehner's two years with the Marlins in '97, the franchise won its first World Series title, defeating the Cleveland Indians in seven games.

One small step on the path to the Marlins' victory stands out in Wehner's mind.

"For [Jim] to give me the opportunity to come down there and be a part of that was incredible. Beating the [Atlanta] Braves in a series was huge," Wehner recalled. "You don't forget that because of what the Braves had done to the Pirates [in 1992], and there were so many former Pirates on the team."

The impact of forever being known as a world champion has stuck with Wehner.

"To be able to be a part of win-

ning a World Series is almost hard to explain. To be able to celebrate the fact that you are the best team was really cool. There's a lot of great players who have never won a World Series, so for me to say I have a World Series ring is really neat," Wehner said.

Since 2005, Wehner has worked as a color commentator for the Pirates. As grateful as he is for his time with the franchise as a player, he may be even more grateful for the chance to be a broadcaster for the team.

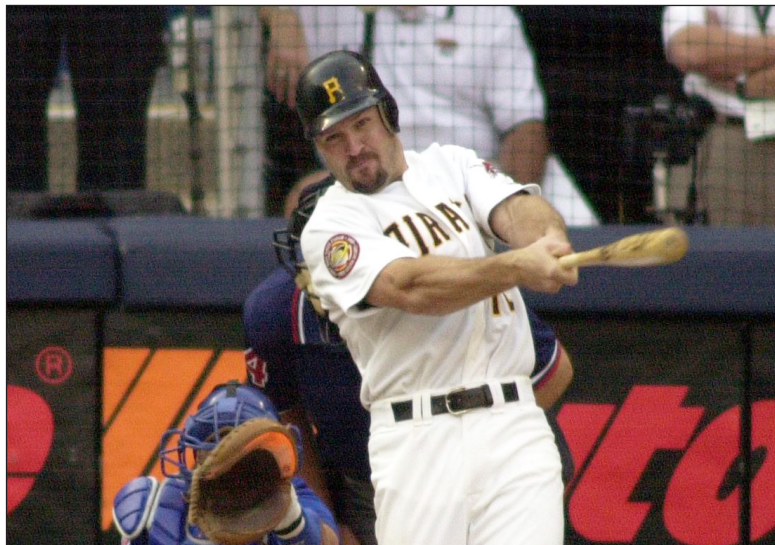
"I don't know what's more far-fetched and ridiculous: Making it to the major leagues as a player from Carrick or being a broadcaster from Carrick. I have the bad Pittsburghese; it would only work here in Pittsburgh," Wehner said, laughing.

Like many Pittsburghers, Wehner has seen the franchise suffer through many painful seasons, while also witnessing some triumph along the way. As a broadcaster, one September night will always be ingrained in Wehner's mind.

"When we finally made it to the postseason again, in 2013, it was something else. I remember being with [play-by-play partner] Greg Brown," Wehner said. "Being able to celebrate that win [at Wrigley Field against the Chicago Cubs] was incredible. It was certainly a long journey."

In parts of 11 seasons at the big-league level, Wehner batted .249 with four home runs and 54 runs batted in. Despite all the adversity he faced along the way, he persisted and persevered, never failing to forget the work ethic that helped to build his success en route to a professional career.

"The odds are stacked against you. You've got to work hard and play the game the right way. You've got to want to go to practice. For me, it was never an option to do anything but to continue to practice and play the game with respect, sportsmanship and fundamentals," Wehner said.



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Pittsburgh native and former Bucco, John Wehner, has been a color commentator for Pirates games since 2005. He won a World Series with the Marlins in 1997.

Alabama football coach Nick Saban tests positive for COVID-19 ahead of showdown with No. 3 Georgia

AP — Alabama coach Nick Saban and athletic director Greg Byrne have tested positive for COVID-19, four days before the Southeastern Conference's biggest regular-season showdown.

Both said their tests Wednesday morning came back positive, but Saban said he didn't have any symptoms by late afternoon. The second-ranked Crimson Tide is set to face No. 3 Georgia on Saturday, and may be without their iconic 68-year-old coach.

"I immediately left work and isolated at home," Saban said. He remained scheduled to talk to the media Wednesday evening.

Saban said he informed the team via a Zoom session at 2 p.m. Wednesday and that offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian will oversee game preparations while he works from home.

This Week in Sports History: Black Power salute at 1968 Olympics

On **Oct. 16, 1968**, at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Tommie Smith and John Carlos — two African-American track & field athletes — each raised black-gloved fists while on the podium during the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner, making for one of the most memorable civil rights demonstrations — and awe-inspiring images — in Olympic history. Smith and Carlos had won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter event, respectively, with Smith setting a new world record with a time of 19.83 seconds.

Australian silver medalist Peter Norman stood throughout the demonstration's duration, wearing a human rights badge in solidarity with Smith and Carlos.

The salute would ultimately lead to the suspension of Smith and Carlos from the United States' Olympic team and to the end of Norman's tenure with the Australian team, as well as intense ostracization and criticism for each party upon their returns from the Games.

At Norman's funeral in 2006, Smith and Carlos — who'd remained in contact with Norman over the years — acted as pallbearers.

— Sports Editor Adam Lindner

NCAA Football AP Top 25 — Week 7

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Week
1.	Clemson (59)	3-0	4-0	W4	at Georgia Tech
2.	Alabama (2)	3-0	3-0	W3	vs. 3 Georgia
3.	Georgia (1)	3-0	3-0	W3	at 2 Alabama
4.	Notre Dame	2-0	3-0	W3	vs. Louisville
5.	North Carolina	3-0	3-0	W3	at Florida State
6.	Ohio State	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Big Ten play begins Oct. 24</i>
7.	Oklahoma State	2-0	3-0	W3	at Baylor (<i>postponed</i>)
8.	Cincinnati	1-0	3-0	W3	at Tulsa
9.	Penn State	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Big Ten play begins Oct. 24</i>
10.	Florida	2-1	2-1	L1	vs. LSU (<i>postponed</i>)

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Week
11.	Texas A&M	2-1	2-1	W1	at Mississippi State
12.	Oregon	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Pac-12 play begins Nov. 6</i>
13.	Miami	2-1	3-1	L1	vs. Pittsburgh
14.	BYU	n/a	4-0	W4	at Houston
15.	Auburn	2-1	2-1	W1	at South Carolina
16.	Wisconsin	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Big Ten play begins Oct. 24</i>
17.	SMU	1-0	4-0	W4	at Tulane
18.	Tennessee	2-1	2-1	L1	vs. Kentucky
19.	Michigan	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Big Ten play begins Oct. 24</i>
20.	Iowa State	3-0	3-1	W3	<i>Bye</i>

Note: No. 7 Oklahoma State was scheduled to play at Baylor on Oct. 17, but the game has since been postponed for a later date. Baylor decided to postpone the game after 32 of its personnel tested positive for COVID-19.

Likewise, No. 10 Florida has postponed its Week 7 matchup, as well, tentatively pushing its game against LSU back to Dec. 12. The move was made in response to a virus outbreak in UF's locker room.

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	This Week
21.	Louisiana*	2-1	3-1	L1	vs. Coastal Carolina (<i>loss</i>)
22.	Kansas State	3-0	3-1	W3	<i>Bye</i>
23.	Virginia Tech	2-1	2-1	L1	vs. Boston College
24.	Minnesota	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Big Ten play begins Oct. 24</i>
25.	USC	0-0	0-0	n/a	<i>Pac-12 play begins Nov. 6</i>

Note: Louisiana, who was undefeated and ranked No. 21 when the Associated Press released its Week 7 FBS Top 25 rankings, lost its game against Coastal Carolina on Oct. 14, 30-27.

Louisiana's conference and overall records, as well as its win/loss streak, have been adjusted in this table to reflect its Week 7 loss.

Hebda: Lakers' title cements LeBron as king of generation

JACOB HEBDA
staff writer

The Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Miami Heat to win the 2020 NBA championship on Oct. 11. Los Angeles finally put away the pesky Heat in Game 6 with a dominating performance.

It is the 17th championship in franchise history for the Lakers. Like every other year, this title is meaningful. This is the end goal for every organization, and it ultimately defines our perceptions of who is great and who is merely good.

For example, this win forever alters the legacy of future Hall of Famer Anthony Davis. New Head Coach Frank Vogel, predicted by many to be fired by now, proved those doubters wrong. Veterans like Dwight Howard and Rajon Rondo, who looked to be on the cusp of retirement, augmented their resumes in impressive fashion.

Even the losers are impacted for the better. Jimmy Butler proved he can play with the best, Erik Spoelstra likely cemented his case for Springfield and the legend of Pat Riley grew.

But let's be honest. This title is about LeBron James. For the fourth time in his career, James is an NBA champion and Finals MVP.

He might not have always been the best player on the court, but he was by far the most important part of this Lakers effort.

Without LeBron, the Lakers are probably still seeking a free agent to reverse their losing ways. Vogel is still considered a decent

coach, but the elite tier remains distant. Davis could be anywhere, including still stuck in New Orleans.

It was LeBron who changed the trajectory of their respective careers.

For the sake of brevity and avoidance of redundancy, I won't spend much wordage discussing the stats supporting his greatness. But given their impressive nature, they deserve some acknowledgement.

James is easily the all-time playoff points leader. He ranks second in assists and sixth in rebounds.

Michael Jordan, for perspective, doesn't even crack the top ten for rebounds or assists.

LeBron is sandwiched between Steph Curry and Ray Allen, often considered the two greatest shooters ever, as second on the all-time three-pointers made list.

He is the consummate basketball player. Nobody in this century has displayed the absolute skill and versatility that he has.

The elephant in the room, no doubt, is Jordan. The comparison between him and James is inherently flawed, but it is worth briefly entertaining.

The aforementioned playoff statistics show a jarring difference in James' favor, but he has played 81 more postseason games than Jordan.

Jordan played for his original franchise during his golden years. Jordan's Chicago Bulls won trades, drafted well and maintained a high level of consistency for an entire decade.

LeBron was drafted to a subpar Cava-

liers organization and took them as far as he could, but eventually realized winning a title required him leaving town.

These comparisons are the tip of the iceberg, but what they show, if nothing else, is that it's an imperfect comparison between him and Jordan.

And when having these kinds of conversations, there really isn't such a thing as a perfect comparison.

Legends like Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain played in less talented eras. The first time Magic Johnson and Larry Bird experienced the three-point line was their rookie year. The physicality (or dirty play, whichever term you prefer) permitted dur-

ing Jordan's career has largely been phased out of the game.

Just look at this year. Three months in a bubble has never been a requirement to win it all.

Even if you watched every one of the greats play, I suspect you aren't entirely sure how to fairly compare them.

But there's this. As Myron Medcalf of ESPN pointed out during James' most recent Finals run with the Cavaliers, he will always be known to a certain generation — my generation — as the greatest player they ever watched.

If that's his legacy when it's all said and done (and that appears to be a good ways away still), chalk that up as another victory in the already illustrious career of LeBron James.



AP PHOTO

A suspended-in-air James cocks back a thunderous dunk during the Lakers' decisive Game 6 victory.

NCAA will vote in January to change NIL, transfer rules

AP — A set of proposals to permit NCAA athletes to earn money from endorsements and sponsorships deals will go up for vote in January, the last step for the association to change its rules but not the last word on how name, image and likeness compensation will work.

One year after the NCAA's Board of Governors directed membership at each of division of the association to come up with plans to allow athletes to cash in on their fame, the Division I Council on Wednesday approved a proposal that took shape in April.

The council also approved a proposal that would permit all NCAA athletes to transfer one time without having to sit out a season of competition. Currently, football, basketball, baseball and hockey players must sit out a year after they transfer as an undergraduate. Athletes in other sports have already had access to a one-time exception.

Both proposals will go to membership for comment and feedback. barring something unforeseen, they return to the Division I Council — which has representatives from all 32 D-I conferences — for a final vote in January.

"While there has been a lot of surveying of the membership to date, getting proposals in the system has a way of sparking additional conversation and we're hoping there will be some refinement over the next three months," said Grace Calhoun, the athletic director at Penn and council chairwoman.

If the proposals pass, which is also likely, they would go into effect for the 2021-

22 school year.

For name, image and likeness rules, though, there is still work to be done by lawmakers in Washington. The NCAA has asked for help from Congress in the form of a federal law that would set rules for NIL compensation, override a growing number of states laws that have pressured the NCAA to take action and protect the association from legal attacks.

"We have acknowledged from the early days if this that the membership of the

NCAA can't do this alone," Calhoun said.

Lawmakers from both political parties have said they plan after the election to introduce bills related to college sports, though some are looking beyond name, image and likeness to broader reforms.

The NCAA's proposal will allow athletes to use their names, images and likenesses to promote their own products and services or those of a third-party. An athlete could become a paid spokesperson for local business or earn money as a social media influencer.

The proposal also calls for athletes to be permitted to make money for personal appearances and autograph signings.

Athletes would also be granted access to agents for "professional advice and marketing assistance."

There are some limitations. Under the proposal, athletes are not permitted to use their school's logos or marks. Schools are prohibited from being involved in any deals made by athletes.

The NCAA would like to use a third-party vendor as a clearinghouse for athletes to disclose any personal business deals and determine fair-market value. Calhoun said the NCAA has made requests for proposals to several firms to manage an NIL clearinghouse.

Other action by the Division I Council included:

- Extending eligibility for winter sport athletes, giving them all an extra year because of disruptions to their seasons caused by COVID-19. That decision falls in line with similar ones made in April for spring sport athletes who had much of their seasons wiped out at the start of the pandemic and for fall sport athletes whose season's have been delayed or altered because of COVID-19.

- Approving a recommendation by the football oversight committee to waive bowl eligibility requirements for this season.

- Introduced legislation for the allocation of championship resources.

- Supported the expansion of the men's and women's basketball selection committees.



AP PHOTO

The NCAA will vote in January on name, image and likeness (NIL) and transfer rules. DU men's basketball coach Keith Dambrot told *The Duke* in 2017 that, if transfer rules were altered, "I think you'd see mid-major schools — the ones who spend a lot of time and effort in developing players — basically being poached, for a lack of a better word, by Power 5 programs."

Off-campus fall activities provide students a "patch" of fun

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Enjoying the fall season is still achievable, even during a pandemic.

Various off-campus activities are available in the Pittsburgh area that are safe, fun and welcoming to college students who are trying to find a sense of normalcy, despite restrictions set with the coronavirus.

To enjoy the crisp autumn air and to find a change of scenery, Duquesne students have ventured to Soergel's Orchards in Wexford, which is 20 minutes away from campus.

According to their website, Soergel's traditional fall festival has been modified to accommodate CDC guidelines, leaving the pumpkin patch, farmer's market and apple picking open to customers looking to take home some farm-fresh goods; not to mention, taking fall-festive pictures while they're at it. Attendance is limited and masks are required, but this trip could mean socially-distanced fun with friends.

Sophomore nursing major Cecelia Stroemple said she appreciated being able to go off campus and enjoy "a beautiful fall day with friends."

"We went through a corn maze and picked some pumpkins afterward from the field, then we went to buy some apple cider and treats," Stroemple said. "Overall a great experience where we could still socially distance our-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

To paint or to carve? Soergel's pumpkin patch offers a sweet taste of autumn.

selves from other people."

According to Stroemple, students who "want to do something different" should consider getting away from the stress of school to "relax and enjoy the outdoors with close friends."

Soergel's, for one, offers just that.

Though weather-dependent, Soergel's farm is open 12-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10-5:30 p.m. Saturday to Sunday.

Along with this, Phipps Conservatory in Oakland has opened their fall flower show, "The Poetry of Nature," to the public. For a discounted \$17.95 admission, students can walk through the autumn-themed exhibits that show off a vibrant array of gardens.

Employees ensure regular sanitization and regulated attendance to prohibit the spread of germs. Specific policies regarding mask-wearing and social-distancing can be found on their website: www.

[www.">www.">www.](http://www.)

According to Phipps' website, this exhibition is open for three weeks only – from Oct. 10 to Nov. 1.

Tickets are available for online purchase to limit foot traffic, with visitation welcomed from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

However, if you're looking for a relaxed, inexpensive day, Schenley Park is right next door to Phipps in Oakland. Schenley has various trails and walkways that lead to beautiful fall foliage, which could call for a perfect fall picnic date.

Frick Park in Squirrel Hill also offers an escape from city life and a quick glimpse of nature, perfect for bike-riding.

Healthy Bike Ride Sharing Stations are available throughout the Pittsburgh area, where students can rent a bike for an allotted amount of time and drop it off at a station closest to their destination. Prices will fluctuate

depending on the amount of time it is being rented for at a rate of \$2 per 30 minutes of riding.

You could make a pit-stop at Blue Slide Park, the namesake of late hip-hop/rap artist Mac Miller's hit single, is a picturesque playground

After a nice walk in the park, Squirrel Hill has various cultural restaurants on Forbes Avenue. for a quick bite to eat.

Where does the fun end? The last week of October into the first week of November, the North Side is hosting Pittsburgh's Monster Pumpkins Festival, including all sorts of pumpkin-related treats, a pumpkin pie eating contest, pumpkin sculptures and more, according to "Visit Pittsburgh."

With October in full-swing, off-campus autumn activities are endless.

Make the most of the fall season by remembering to be safe and to keep those around you safe.



COURTESY OF CECELIA STROEMPLE

Roommates Cecelia Stroemple (left) and Grace Lishing (right) pose with their prized pumpkins.

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC Epic Bingo Part II
Oct. 16 @ 3p.m.

Grab your personal bingo card at the Information Desk in the Union and join this second edition of virtual bingo via Zoom while supplies last!

Red Masquers "Hiatus" play
Oct. 15 @ 8:30 p.m. & Oct. 16 @ 9 p.m.

Join Red Masquers on College Hall Lawn for a brand new guerilla show written by sophomore theatre arts and marketing major Anita Parrott.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Wildflowers & All the Rest
Tom Petty
Friday, Oct. 16

A long anticipated extended edition of Petty's 1994 album is available in box set for listeners.

The Trial of the Chicago 7
Friday, Oct. 16

A new Netflix original. Based on a true story, a peaceful protest of 1968 goes ar-y when police and the National Guard violently crash the Democratic National Convention. Featuring Ben Stiller, Steven Spielberg and more. Rated R.

MICRO REVIEW

Dining Hours on Campus

Being a student with a stacked schedule, I have little time in the day to grab a bite to eat.

The hours of Duquesne's dining centers, mainly Hogan, are difficult to make, being that the "spoon and fork" section closes down as soon as I get out of class.

This leaves me few dining options on campus, either wasting my Flex at Starbucks or the market, or eating grilled chicken snack wraps for the fifth day in a row (can't complain too much there, but some variety would be nice).

Lunch is unachievable for me, and I'm sure other students feel the same.

Extending hours would be beneficial for students and staff alike.

—Capri Scarcelli

♍ **Virgo**

Your mask perfectly compliments your smile :)

♎ **Libra**

Love will blossom between you and your COVID nose-swab nurse.

♏ **Scorpio**

Shoot your shot in the private zoom chat. Go on don't be shy.

♐ **Sagittarius**

Is he really cute or have you just been starved for attention since March?

♑ **Capricorn**

Wearing a mask was the best fashion choice you've made since 2014.

♒ **Aquarius**

Flirting with your professor over zoom isn't easy but I believe in you.

♓ **Pisces**

Is it time to dye your hair again? Or maybe BANGS!

♈ **Aries**
(March 21-April 19)

Terrible news: your application for transfer to Halloweentown University has once again been denied.

♉ **Taurus**

Grab your longboard gallon of cranberry juice: we have places to be!

♊ **Gemini**
(May 21-June 20)

Pause. Take a moment to admire the beauty of changing leaves and remember... we are all going to die.

♋ **Cancer**
(June 21-July 22)

Stay positive! Look at the squirrels, they seem to be doing okay.

♌ **Leo**
(July 23-August 22)

Be sure to remove your mask before drinking coffee, it works better that way.

Multiplayer game *Among Us* tests perception and patience

KELSEY BURTNER &
KELLEN STEPLER

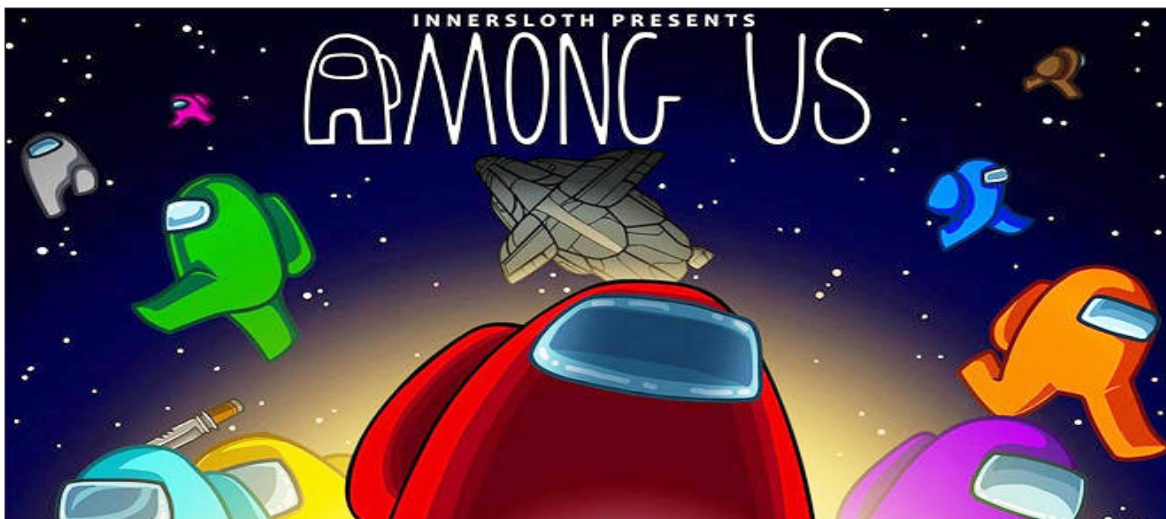
layout editor & editor in chief

With the current state of the world, many people are looking for ways to pass the time indoors while still staying connected with friends. As a result, online multiplayer gaming is on the rise. One such game that has skyrocketed in popularity over the last month is *Among Us*.

Among Us is a multiplayer game consisting of four to 10 players, released initially in 2018. One to three players are randomly selected to be “impostors,” while the rest play as “crewmates.” The game takes place on one of three maps: a spaceship, known as The Skeld, a headquarters building known as Mira HQ, or a planet base known as Polus.

The objective of the game is simple: As a crewmate, the player must complete tasks throughout the map while the impostor has to kill off the members of the crew until the number of impostors present in the game outnumbers the number of crewmates.

This game tests a player’s deduction as well as their deception, as an important aspect of the game is determining who the impostor is, and then to vote them out of the game. When a body is discovered or someone is suspected of being the impostor, a player can call a meeting in the group chat to discuss who the group should ultimately vote out as the impostor. If they vote correctly and the



COURTESY OF POP BUZZ

Through dedication and teamwork, players must find the impostor that lurks “among” them.

impostor or impostors are ejected, the game ends, and the crew wins. If not, the round continues.

Despite being released in 2018, it wasn’t until this summer that the game launched into popularity. While popular in the United States, the game has also grown in Mexico, Brazil and South Korea. Quarantine contributed to the boost in interest to the game — with the New York Times writing an article, “With Nowhere to Go, Teens Flock to *Among Us*.”

The game was downloaded nearly 42 million times on Steam in the first half of September, and nearly 84 million times on iOS and Android.

Among Us is also incredibly accessible to users across different platforms, adding to its overall popularity. The game can be played on Windows, iOS and Android devices. This cross-compatibility

allows gamers to play with others regardless of the device they are using, and on top of this, the mobile versions are free to download while the PC version is only

five dollars.

This multiplayer online game has allowed for connections to be formed and strengthened even in the midst of a global pandemic.



COURTESY OF INDIAN EXPRESS

Conspiring in group chats, crewmates vote the scapegoat out.

Virtual Humanities Festival kicks off important conversation

KATIA FAROUN
features editor

In March, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust had its presenters all lined up for the year’s humanities festival — unbeknownst to them, seven months ahead of schedule.

Now in October, the Pittsburgh Humanities Festival is finally taking place, free to viewers and all online.

The festival brings together internationally-renowned academics and artists to host intimate conversations on important topics — or “smart talk about stuff that matters.”

Previously scheduled for March 2020 and postponed due to the pandemic, the festival began hosting events at the start of October that deal with topics such as healthcare, incarceration, technology and art.

Dubbed Pittsburgh Humanities Festival @ Home, the free, month-long event is a virtual reboot of the “Core Conversations” event planned originally for the spring. The festival is put on by both the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and the Humanities Center

at Carnegie Mellon University, and has been a part of the Cultural Trust for the past five years.

Events so far have discussed life sentences, BIPOC representation in dance and speaking up about sensitive topics in a news-saturated time.

Robert Wideman, a returning citizen who spent 44 years in prison, discussed the challenges he’s faced while reintegrating into society. Pittsburgh dancer Staycee Pearl opened a conversation on the experiences of being a Black woman in the dance industry, and a panel including Abby Rickin-Marks, an education activist, and Zion Ross, a member of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent’s Student Advisory council, talked about equity, diversity and inclusion and the challenges faced by teens when discussing these passions.

Each of the festival’s events feature a live Q&A, offering viewers a chance to contribute to the conversations. The events are livestreamed on Cultural Trust’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

The Pittsburgh Humanities Festival has two more events scheduled:

“Everyone Wants to Get to Heaven but Nobody Wants to Die”

Jonathan D. Moreno

Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

Moreno was deemed “the most quietly interesting bioethicist of our time” by the American Journal of Bioethics.

Moreno is a professor of medical ethics, philosophy and sociology at University of Pennsylvania. This event will touch on the fact that Americans pay more for healthcare, yet have the lowest life expectancy and highest infant mortality rates of any affluent nation. It analyzes the problem of Americans wanting to know everything about the medical field, yet not wanting to know its limits. Moreno will discuss his book of the same name, which urges Americans to be more honest about healthcare.

Public Open Call: Don’t Google This — Offline Curiosity in an Online World

Boaz Frankel

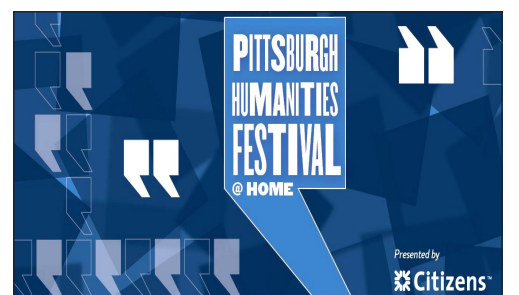
Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.

The Public Open Call provides those interested in being a part of the festival the chance to present alongside the rest of

the speakers. Frankel, a filmmaker, writer and talk show host who recently moved to Pittsburgh, will be discussing humanity’s natural curiosity and how it changes from an online to an offline setting.

With the creation of Google and the access to information quite literally at the world’s fingertips, Frankel will analyze the science behind curiosity and what happens when individuals decide to pursue it without the help of the Internet.

Visit the Pittsburgh Cultural Trusts’ website to access the links to each event. Registration is not required.



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

The Pittsburgh Humanities festival offers an open space for open conversation.



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THE DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE THANKS DU STUDENTS *for keeping campus safe!*

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JOIN US FOR A TREAT!

Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 2:00-4:00PM
A-Walk (by Towers) &
Locust Garage Entrance (Locust Street)