Duquesne County issues stay-at-home advisory for residents

Kellen Stepler
editor-in-chief

Duquesne University began offering free COVID-19 take-home test kits to all students. The kits are provided by Everlywell and give students the opportunity to administer a COVID-19 test to themselves before or after leaving campus.

On Nov. 16, Duquesne University began offering free COVID-19 take-home test kits to all students. The kits are provided by Everlywell and give students the opportunity to administer a COVID-19 test to themselves before or after leaving campus.

The announcement notes that if a student will be driving home with someone who picks them up, the test should be taken in advance so that the student has enough time to get the results before they leave.

On the other hand, if a student is driving home themselves and they are able to self-quarantine until they get their test results, the test will be “more meaningful” if the student takes it as soon as they get home.

“Remember that the test shows only whether or not the virus is present at the moment it is administered. If you are taking the test prior to departure, take great care to limit your contact with others,” the email said.

The take-home tests are available from Thursday, Nov. 19 to Sunday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Students can administer the test in their residence by following the instructions in the kit. Duquesne will provide a receptacle where students can drop off their completed samples, and the university will ship the samples for free. The receptacle is located in the Towers Multipurpose Room, during the same hours when the test is provided.

“In addition to testing, the best way to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus to others is to wind down and limit contact with others for 14 days before you travel, and most especially for the days after you take the test,” the email said.

Those who have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms should not access testing through this method — rather, they should call Duquesne Health Services for instruction.

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Term in review: Students reflect on semester like no other

Zoe Stratton
staff writer

The fall 2020 condensed semester amid the COVID-19 pandemic is coming to a close as Thanksgiving break and finals week approach for college students across the nation. As Duquesne students gear up for their departure from campus on Nov. 23, they’ve begun to reflect on this unprecedented time.

Starting back in the spring 2020 semester, students were sent home wondering how the next semester would play out. The university sent out a statement on June 24 announcing it would be reopening for fall 2020 — with a few changes to the average school year.

With the help of surveys sent out to faculty, staff, students and parents, the university came to decide they would implement a hybrid/blended model to accommodate students wanting to return to in-person classes and students wanting to take classes online.

Moreover, Living Learning Centers were opened; however, they were de-densified and operated with new protocols that complied with CDC recommendations.

Along with this, on-campus clubs and organizations have been largely unable to meet in person besides those given permission from the university to meet in a de-densified form. Similarly, many professors chose to run classes completely online.

One of the most affected areas of study was Duquesne’s nursing program. In the nursing program, students must register a certain amount of clinical hours, allowing them to adequately prepare themselves for a nursing job in the future.

“Ever since the initial outbreak, and now the resurgence of people needs for health care.”

see COUNTY — page 3

see TERM — page 2

November 19, 2020
Volume 103
Number 13
www.duqsm.com
Students reflect on semester’s unique events due to pandemic

Students reflect on semester’s unique events due to pandemic

**From Term — page 1**

COVID-19 Update: Over 200 students quarantined at home

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<th>Suspected Cases Today</th>
<th>Currently Isolated on Campus Today</th>
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**Duquesne COVID-19 Data**

- Total number of confirmed cumulative cases: 272
- Total number of suspected cumulative cases: 48
- Total number of students isolated on campus over time: 136
- Total number of students quarantined on campus over time: 251
- Total number of employees currently under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): 11
- Total cumulative number of employees under isolation for COVID-19 (reported to DU HR): 7

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

The first 3,000 students will receive a free t-shirt celebrating the end of the semester.
County stay-at-home advisory issued

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Duquesne students and staff gathered on Rooney Field for the second “Prayer for Unity” event on Monday night.

University chaplain Rev. Bill Christy opened the session, offering “to have this time of prayer before we go on Thanksgiving break.”

After a prayer, Christy read a passage of the Bible from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians, where Paul talks about putting on humility, kindness and perfection. He also talked about people’s baptism, and putting on their baptismal robes.

“We were called for this day of prayer, I thought, uniforms,” Christy said. “We put on our uniforms, we put on our equipment, we prepare ourselves. And what a perfect image for athletes in prayer. You prepare what you put on. And then you perform.”

The community prepares for the celebration of Thanksgiving, Christy asked the attendees to put on a spirit of gratitude and a spirit of thanksgiving, just as athletes do when they put on equipment and uniforms.

Anthony Kane, director of Duquesne’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, had a simple message of encouragement for everyone: to be kind.

“Be kind to one another,” Kane said. “Be kind to those whom you may be departing from for a few weeks. Be kind to the people in your life who you may feel have not necessarily supported you as much as you need it, but most importantly, be kind to yourself.”

He noted the unprecedented nature that 2020 has brought.

“We could not have prepared for the challenges that this year has presented to us,” Kane said. “So I ask you to be kind to yourself if you reflect on what challenges you’ve faced this year. Be kind to yourself as you reflect to what opportunities you have in the days ahead to transform and find new ways to work in the festivities; this included hot chocolate and apple cider, cranberry glazed chicken, red roasted potatoes, steamed vegetables and pumpkin cream cheese rolls. This was on a first-time, first-service basis, as supplies were limited.

After this event, we first had to communicate with Parkhurst catering, David Fortunato from Parkhurst was extremely helpful with assisting us to curate our own special Fall Festival menu; he and his chef came up with some great food and drink options to fit our theme,” Becker said. “We also consulted the Office of Residence Life to figure out how many students were living in each building, so we could order and package Thanksgiving meals.

Griffin Sendek / Multimedia Editor

Parkhurst’s David Fortunato and junior finance major Zach Babbitt handed out food.

“Originaly, the Fall Festival was going to be a singular event held on A-Walk. We had to modify our plans by moving this singular event to eight different locations...” Becker said. “We were able to individually-wrap and pre-package all of the food... so individuals could take it to their rooms and eat with their ‘pod’ members... we also made our activities completely virtually.”

According to Campus Link, a free, on-the-go meal was provided through Parkhurst starting at 5 p.m. to ring Thanksgiving, so it gave students a moment of fun and a break from the circumstances, and it provided a moment of fun and a break from the marathon of this semester.”

“Especially during [this time], where many students are feeling tired and run down from the marathon of the semester. According to Crawford, this Fall Festival combines the ‘Night of Lights’ and ‘Fall into Finals’ into one event, offering the same transition into our new virtual finals week, too.

“You can reveal your knowledge to the world today we wanted to hold a fun, safe event for students to participate in prior to heading home for break,” Gans said.

“With all finals being administered remotely this year, SGA has once again pivoted to ensure that we are supporting our students’ mental health by giving them a fun break over the finals season,” Crawford said.

“I think it was nice that the SGA held an event to close out the semester,” Dodd said. “They did a great job considering the circumstances [of the pandemic], and I appreciate the effort they’ve gone through this semester to create programs like this for us.”

“All things we can do for our students that provides them with a moment of fun and a break from school is always a good event,” Crawford said. “Especially during [this time], where many students are feeling tired and run down from the marathon of this semester.”

Over break, students can participate in virtual yoga sessions, according to Crawford. Approaching the spring 2020 semester, she said that SGA is working on more fun events for students to look forward to.

“I wanted to share my gratitude to all of the people who made Fall Festival happen...especially considering this was the first event of its kind...Although this wasn’t as elaborate a send-off as our usual ‘Night of Lights’ event, I think that this was as enjoyable of an event that could be held given the circumstances, and it provided a bit of joy for students as they start to head home for Thanksgiving,” Becker said. “I know that this is an extremely stressful time, so I hope that we were able to create a more positive atmosphere for everyone.”

To stay in the loop, check out @duqspa on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for more upcoming campus events.

See PRAYER — page 11
There is a light at the end of the tunnel

In early January, the first reports emerged of a new virus originating from a seafood wholesale market in Wuhan — the capital of China's Hubei province.

Initially classified as a cluster of pneumonia cases, it was unknown at the time that this virus would cause an upheaval of our everyday routines while having an everlasting impact on life as we know it. 55.6 million cases, 1.34 million deaths and more than $9 trillion in economic stimulus globally, the evidence clearly indicates that our interconnected society was ill-prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude — even one many consider to be not as deadly as what could’ve been.

From stay-at-home orders and restricted employment, to widespread school closings and mask mandates, COVID-19 is shifting traditional human attitudes on personal sanitation as we all pay closer attention to individual health.

A year later and it still appears that no end is in sight while coronavirus cases and hospitalizations continue to climb at a record-breaking pace around the globe.

In the U.S. alone, new daily cases are shattering records seemingly every other day with an all-time high of more than 170,000 taking place last Friday, Nov. 13 – do you feel the irony?

This meteoric rise is not only a result of the ongoing pandemic but the inability to contain the spread of the virus, thanks to a growing number of citizens ignoring social restrictions and instead heading to the closest pub to enjoy a chilled ale.

In view of the preceding evidence, you may feel that mandatory mask wearing and constant hand sanitizer use is looking — more than ever — like reality for the foreseeable future.

Although the notion of anything positive sounds rather foreign at this moment, I can assure you there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Two American pharmaceutical companies made headlines in the past two weeks by announcing the success of their COVID-19 vaccines in Stage 3 of human trials.

Pfizer and Moderna both must overcome logistical nightmares as they search for the most efficient method to produce and, most importantly, distribute millions of vaccines in a way that ensures the most vulnerable receive support first.

Pfizer faces the greatest challenge stemming from the fact that their vaccine requires a storage temperature of minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit, raising further concerns on large-scale distribution as the vaccination would need to be stored in supercooled containers during shipment.

Nevertheless, with the assistance of Operation Warp Speed, early estimates from the federal government suggest there is a glimmer of hope a vaccine could be available in limited use even before the end of December.

The majority of medical and supply chain experts believe a vaccine — whether from Pfizer or Moderna — is likely to be widely available in the U.S. around the third quarter of 2021.

I would like to publicly thank and congratulate Pfizer and Moderna for taking initiative in response to the most severe public health crisis in human history and develop the first viable vaccine to SARS-CoV-2.

The hard work and dedication of the scientists, doctors, administrators and everyone involved is an excellent testimony that when we join together for a common purpose, we can absolutely overcome any obstacle.

Recent vaccine developments bring hope that the end of the coronavirus pandemic is near.

Shirley Chisholm

If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

NOAH WILBUR

opinions editor

end of the tunnel

America requires a second lockdown to contain COVID-19

There are moments from this last summer of quarantine that no one wants to repeat. The world had its fill of sourdough starters, Zoom happy hours, toilet paper shortages and horrible celebrity renditions of John Lennon’s “Imagine.” However, when it comes to a deadly virus that already killed 250,000 Americans and continues to rip its way through the country, doing nothing and comfortable isn’t always an option.

The U.S. needs to enter another widespread lockdown.

There are many arguments against lockdown-like restrictions, but it’s the one thing that could effectively slow the virus’ spread, keep hospitals from being overwhelmed and help save thousands of lives.

Another lockdown is by far not an easy decision. It will reignite problems that the first wave of stay-at-home orders caused — widespread loss of employment, immense financial insecurity, introduce more stress to family and relationship dynamics and push the ongoing mental health crisis closer to a breaking point. It’s less than ideal — but in this unprecedented year, what has been?

When COVID-19 daily cases are shattering record after record, it’s proof that what the country is doing isn’t enough, and the virus is winning.

A large scale lockdown will have negative consequences, but it’s a sacrifice that may be necessary in order to subdue the outbreak in the U.S. just enough to get the spread under control.

The news released about the promising COVID-19 vaccine results are an incredible glimmer of hope that we might one day see an end to this situation that’s fundamentally changed every part of our lives. Though nice to hear, it doesn’t do anything to stop the spread. This virus is still on the path to take the lives of thousands more.

Hopeful first initial test results are a long way from approval and widespread distribution. If we’re lucky, and everything goes perfectly, a vaccine could be available by the spring of 2021, at the earliest. This planet has made it through both the fall and winter.

All around the country, coronavirus cases are continuing to rise as the cold weather sets in and the holiday season approaches.

The virus spreads most easily indoors and as the cold weather sets in, the number of outdoor gatherings will quickly lessen. Paired with holiday celebrations that have the potential to become super spreader events infecting entire families, this may be a very deadly winter.

Another huge spike in the number of coronavirus cases around the country is very likely to come in the next few months. There’s one huge advantage a second wave of lockdown restrictions will have over the first, and that’s experience. Back in March, the world was tossed into a dizzying scramble to try and adapt society to new never-before-seen rules, and it was messy.

By now, the reality of the situation has set in and whether people take it seriously or not, everyone — for the most part — has seen the rules, and it was messy. While strict stay-at-home restrictions won’t be popular among many, the country went through it once — it can do it again.

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of The Duquesne Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of The Duquesne Duke, but rather are the opinions of the columnists themselves.

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Contact

email: theduqduke@gmail.com
The future of the Republican party in a world without Donald Trump

SIMON JARONSKI
staff columnist

With the 2020 election in the rearview mirror, a few key lessons have become apparent for both parties. For Democrats, there was a major letdown: Their previously attractive electoral prospects were quickly perforated, and progressive hopes for at least the next two years were dashed along with them. Despite Donald Trump’s oast from the White House, the party massively underperformed down-ballot. Visions of a Democratic-led Senate and an expansive House majority quickly dissipated as the GOP held onto a number of vulnerable seats, and even strengthened their minority in the House.

On the Republican side, one thing is now clearer than ever: the Trumpian brand of politics is here to stay. Despite a significant loss in the popular vote, 73 million Americans voted for Donald Trump. Now, the question is, does this trend say about the state of the GOP and our country as a whole?

In the first days of John McCain, Mitt Romney and Jeb Bush, the terrain of the GOP’s possible electorate has been altered immeasurably as a result of Trumpism, and will demand candidates to compete in the same vein. Joe Biden’s margins of victory in 2020 are not enough to indicate a clear repudiation of Donald Trump.

So, who are the likely frontrunners for the Republican nomination in 2024? There are a few logical successors to the MAGA empire, but we would be remiss if we did not first attend to the most obvious one: Trump himself. If he decides to run again in 2024, it is entirely implausible that Trump will run again in 2024; in fact, he is rumored to be considering it already. Whether or not this second bid will be a major publicity stunt meant to maintain relevance, or a legitimate attempt to reclaim the throne, will have to be revealed in time.

In Trump’s mind, the wound of a Biden victory is still smarting, but four years’ worth of contemplation at the White House might make sense that Don Jr. gets the nod.

He will inherit the playbook his father built; the playbook that created an army of evangelical liberals on Twitter, decrying the “Lamestream Media” and displaying a lack of regard for political etiquette.

Having his appeal to swing voters and independents might be lacking. Regardless, Ivanka and Eric probably do not have what it takes to steer the SS Trump, so be on the lookout for a potential Don Jr. ticket.

The second obvious choice would be Vice President Mike Pence. His popularity with Evangelical Christian voters cannot be denied, but whether his persona can appeal to that substantial portion of the red-blooded electorate in the same manner as Trump is hard to tell. It is difficult to imagine this demographic voting for anyone else, but turnout level will ultimately be the key factor.

His even keel demeanor might swing back independent-leaning Republicans and suburbanites who have been alienated by Trump, which will be a crucial task for Republicans moving forward. Keep an eye out for a Kamala Harris and Mike Pence rematch in 2024.

If the Trump heir apparent is not directly connected to the bloodline, then several other viable candidates would still be available. What about Ted Cruz, the current junior Senator from Texas, and Trump’s one-time debate sparring partner turned ardent supporter?

Cruz adds a level of Ivy-league elitism that was a traditional Trumpian crusade, and would surely have immense popularity with the conservative base given his devotion to Constitutionalism, a tough stance on abortion, a hawkish foreign policy toward China and a famed 21-hour filibuster involving Dr. Seuss are all highlights on a long list of accomplishments.

In the same mold as Cruz, we have Senators Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), both young, ambitious legislators who have stood out as respectable purveyors of Trump populism in an era marked otherwise by a lack of civility and bi-partisanship.

Marco Rubio (R-Fl.) already had a respectable showing in the 2016 primaries and is itching to run again. To reiterate, it remains to be seen if the same voters will be attracted to this diluted Trumpism, which is ultimately what this specific group of candidates will attempt to create. In other words, they will seek “Trumpism sans Trump.”

For the sake of brevity, it will be impossible to cover every possible contender. Moderate GOP Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland is rumored to be mulling over a possible bid for the White House, as are Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley. The field could be as numerous and diverse as 2016, with some interesting intra-party dynamics likely to play out.

For down-ballot races, expect to see a bevvy of MAGA-espousing right-wing fringe candidates seeking to make primary elections a living hell for the last bastion of the old-world GOP. Q-Anon believers have already slipped through the cracks (e.g. Marjorie Taylor Greene in Georgia), and more will soon follow.

So, what are the big takeaways here? Trumpism is unlikely to disappear anytime soon, and a sclerotic Republican majority (dependent on the Georgia runoffs) in the Senate will most likely attempt to stymie the Biden administration’s progressive agenda.

Perhaps the dynamics of Trump’s base and media apparatus will have changed by the time the next presidential election rolls around, but the existence of 73 million Trump voters will not. Both parties need to adjust their strategies going forward: The GOP needs to determine whether or not it values a continuation of Trumpism, a modification of it or a total cleansing, and the Democrats need to decipher what went wrong, and how they can win back disaffected voters.

MOHAMMAD SALJAJ
staff columnist

The COVID-19 pandemic has overshadowed the world’s mind in 2020. Not only has the pandemic changed the way we operate on a daily basis, but it also served as a focal point in this year’s election.

The work does not end here. The GOP needs to determine what went wrong, and how they can make it difficult for those who overdose to receive life-saving treatment. If someone is isolated from others, how are they expected to be saved if no one is nearby? In addition, in-person clinical treatment has been hindered since the start of the pandemic. Not only clinics were overwhelmed with a rising number of COVID-19 cases, but people who are battling addiction may be apprehensive to visit a clinic out of fear of catching the virus. After all, they may be more susceptible to the virus given that opioid use is linked to respiratory disorders.

All stakeholders, public and private organizations have been working hard to ensure that people battling opioid use disorder are receiving the care they need. For example, state and federal agencies have eased regulations that limit the distribution of controlled substances that treat addiction. Patients can receive more medications at a time to reduce their trips to the pharmacy.

In addition, the use of telehealth has been increasing across the United States and may be increasing access to care. People battling opioid addiction are able to receive therapy and the behavioral treatment they deserve without having to worry about how they will get to their appointment.

The GOP’s future is uncertain after Donald Trump lost the 2020 election. The terrain of the GOP’s possible electorate has been altered immeasurably as a result of Trumpism, and will demand candidates to compete in the same vein. Joe Biden’s margins of victory in 2020 are not enough to indicate a clear repudiation of Donald Trump.
Despite changes, prospective students 'more energetic' than before

Gillian Fitzgerald staff writer

Each college student has the not-so-long-ago memo- ries of senior year of high school when they were ready to start their new lives in a world of freedom and opportunities (and, of course, parties).

And then there was the other side of things where those students actually had to work to get there. As a high school senior, the most pressing thing on one's mind is usually college — and apparently, a pandemic.

Choosing a college is an important decision in a teenager's life. It can impact their career, long-time friends, where they live and, more importantly, where they go after college.

Put all that pressure on top of a pandemic — no wonder they're stressed out.

Many colleges in the area, unlike Duquesne, don’t have in-person tour groups anymore due to COVID-19. This presents unique challenges to potential students, who must make decisions about which school they see being their home for four years or more.

Sara Mitchell, a prospective Duquesne student and high school senior from Washington, PA, has been subject to this and is trying to go about the college application process as best she can during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Most schools aren’t doing in-person tours, so it’s hard to tell what a college is actually like when it’s all virtual,” because they just show all the good parts,” Mitchell said.

Attending high school that is still doing in-person classes five days a week, she hopes to be physically at school for college, as well, rather than all online — a setting many universities have opted toward this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to those applying to schools, as CDC guidelines discourage gatherings, including for SAT and ACT testing. Although test scores for schools have been more lenient because of this, Mitchell explained that schools now rely on a student’s GPA to gauge what kind of student they are, which creates more competition.

While Mitchell still plans on attending college, she has been specifically looking at places closer to home, as many rising college freshmen have been.

According to a poll done by Third Way and New America, the pandemic has tremendously impacted the way high school seniors think about college and decisions on enrolling. Of the 221 high schoolers polled, 41% of students said they are applying to schools closer to home due to COVID-19. Furthermore, 32% say COVID-19 has made them less likely to go to college, and 70% of them say higher education is not worth the costs to students anymore.

Junior Duquesne tour guide Aly Huth has been showing students around for almost two years, and she’s been able to see first hand the challenges potential students face as they look to commit to college during a pandemic, along with how things have changed in her job.

“It’s definitely different... it’s usually very usual but those vital cues are not longer there because we can’t bring them inside buildings,” Huth said.

Normally, students are able to see classrooms, the Power Center, dining halls and the Student Union. But during the pandemic, tours are done almost completely outdoors — the only place they are allowed to see inside is the model dorm room.

This poses a challenge for Huth’s job in getting students to see what it’s like to live at Duquesne without being able to fully experience that while touring.

“I have to get people to understand what it’s like to be on campus during COVID and before COVID because, obviously, that’s what we’re working towards, getting campus back to the way it was beforehand,” Huth said. “So, you kind of have to give them a taste of what campus is like in both settings.”

Despite this change, Huth says prospective students are more energetic and enthusiastic than ever before. Because such few schools allow visits, being able to have an in-person tour is a different perspective for prospective students.

For high school students, a memorable part of the college application process is getting a glimpse into university life through tours and meetings with current students. But when a global pandemic threatens college lives everywhere, that also means it threatens high school seniors who are hoping to be the next-up freshmen.

As Huth tells those incoming students, what’s important is that they remember that they made a choice and didn’t go to the school where they feel they fit best, especially with the effects of a global pandemic.

They’re the ones who are going to be spending the four years there,” Huth says. “So I always tell them, as much as I would like that decision to be my choice because this is where I found my home, it’s more important for them to find their home.”

Panel discusses importance of mental health for athletes

Emily Amberly staff writer

In collegiate sports, open communication about mental health is not widely practiced. In an effort to change that, Duquesne hosted a panel on breaking down the stigma of mental health and wellness.

On Monday, Nov. 16, Duquesne Athletics and Counseling Services held a panel on Hilinski’s Hope Foundation (H3H), an organization that promotes awareness and education of mental health and wellness for student athletes. The foundation’s mission is to educate, advocate and eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness, while funding programs that provide student-athletes with the tools and resources that support their mental health and wellness.

Kym and Mark Hilinski, founders of Hilinski’s Hope, gave a presentation on their story and the foundation’s mission. The panel was moderated by Associate Athletic Director John Henderson, Associate Head Athletic Trainer Jessica Johns and Ian Edwards, assistant vice president for Student Wellbeing.

Panelists also shared the resources available for Duquesne students regarding mental health and wellbeing. In addition to individual services, Counseling Services provides group sessions for students who may be struggling emotionally due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the events surrounding the death of George Floyd. Counseling Services also holds stress management, grief and anxiety workshops.

Duquesne’s Student Wellbeing Club promotes a culture of support to encourage conversations about mental health and wellness.

“The [Hilinski’s Hope] presentation will transform the way you think about mental health,” Edwards said. “Don’t be afraid to start a conversation about mental health; consider this a place where you were meant to be.”

Edwards emphasized that the Hilinski’s Hope presentation will be an experience through which everyone learns and grows. He issued a challenge for the audience, encouraging them to “allow this experience to transform you, and text or call someone you know and tell them about this presentation.”

The conversation turned to Mark Hilinski, who told the story of his son, Tyler, who committed suicide on Jan. 16, 2018. The second of Mark and Kym’s three sons, Tyler was a talented and dedicated student athlete and a kind, genuine young man. He described how Tyler gave no indication he was contemplating suicide and usually kept his feelings to himself.

Mark explained that football is only one place to start destigmatizing conversations about mental health. While the presentation’s main focus was football, it did not exclude other sports and activities.

But football is what the Hilinski family knows and loves.

“If you’re struggling and don’t know how to reach out for help, use Tyler’s story to break the ice about what you are going through,” Kym said.

Kym continued the discussion with a presentation on H3H and its mission.

Kym explained the importance of treating mental health in sports the same way as a cold, a sprained ankle or a torn ACL.

The Hilinski’s Hope Foundation is fighting to eradicate the “just play, don’t talk” culture apparent in many collegiate sports teams. While this culture may give way to success on the field, it often fails to foster an environment for athletes where they feel comfortable opening up and reaching out for help with mental health. Wellness is not worth the costs to students anymore.

The university’s Office of Admissions is located in Old Main, where campus tours start.

The University of Duquesne is located in Squirrel Hill, with the student body residing on campus in Old Main and other residence halls. The university’s Counseling Services by calling 412-396-6204 or visiting their website at www.duq.edu/counseling.

Students can contact the university’s Counseling Services by calling 412-396-6204 or visiting their website at www.duq.edu/counseling.

Those experiencing a mental health crisis, who know someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis or who want more information on mental health can call the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) National Helpline at 1-800-950-NAMI or the Text 988 at 747-747. More information on Hilinski’s Hope Foundation can be found on their website at www.hilinskihope.org.
Maceo Austin an integral piece in Duquesne’s future

Prior to Keith Dambrot’s arrival, Duquesne was deemed a dead program. However, the former Akron coach quickly provided reason for optimism. In his first two years, the results were surprisingly strong. He inherited a team coming off a 10-22 season. Dambrot lost some of the best players from that roster, but still improved, coaching the Dukes to a 16-16 record. In his second year, Duquesne took another leap, finishing 19-13 and sixth in the Atlantic 10.

Despite that early success, Dambrot made it clear he wanted to take the program to the next level, claiming NCAA Tournament qualification as his top priority. Enter Maceo Austin, one of Duquesne’s most prized recruits ever. The 6-foot-5 sophomore won four Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) championships in high school with Kennedy Catholic, then chose Duquesne over other finalists VCU, Penn State and Northwestern.

Who better than Austin to help Duquesne take that next step? His winning pedigree has no doubt been a boon for the program. In his first season, Austin proved to be a key contributor, averaging about seven points and four rebounds a game.

As Duquesne got off to a 10-0 start, the freshman played particularly well. He averaged 9.4 points per game in his first 15 outings.

However, it proved to be a challenging year both on and off the court.

As the year progressed, Austin’s performance slowed. His points per game dropped to 4.4 over his final 14 before the season abruptly concluded. Notably, tragedy struck Austin and his family in January as he suffered the loss of his sister.

Now in his sophomore season, Austin, much like his team, will be trying to go from good to great.

According to him, it boils down to “making more open shots” and “physical strength.” “It’s just a matter of knocking down shots and getting stronger,” Austin said. If anyone believes in Austin’s ability, it’s Dambrot. Count the Duquesne coach among his biggest supporters.

In January, he told reporters, “When we go bad, he’s the one to rally them. He’s never in a bad mood. He’s like an old soul. He’s one of my favorite guys that I’ve had.”

That’s high praise considering the plethora of players Dambrot has coached in his three decades of college experience.

According to Austin, the feeling is mutual. “He just tells you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear. ... That’s one of the most important things.”

The Dukes hope the relationship will help push the program to heights not seen since the 1970s. The goal remains breaking the program’s losing streak — 168 games to be exact. The Dukes narrowly won, 71-69.

As of now, the Dukes are slated to kick off their season on Nov. 30. They’ll be traveling to Louisville to partake in the Wade Houston Tipoff Classic. Their first opponent will be the Arkansa-Little Rock Trojans. They’ll round out the event with games against UNC Greensboro and Winthrop.

Austin says the Dukes are ready to take the court again.

“Since they cancelled the season last year, we’ve been wanting to get back out there and play,” Austin said.

The players aren’t the only group excited for the season. Fans are eager too, as Duquesne was recently selected to finish fifth in the Atlantic 10. It’s their highest preseason conference ranking since 2010.

Impressive as it may be, Austin thinks the Dukes can achieve even more.

He expressed confidence in his team, saying, “We feel like we can win the A-10.”

Fans hope Austin’s optimism rings true come March, but there is still plenty of basketball to be played.

But one thing’s for sure: If they achieve that feat, Maceo Austin will be a big reason why.

On This Day in Sports History ...

On Nov. 20, 2016, the Duquesne men’s basketball team fell to No. 2 Kentucky at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky. The Wildcats, then led by Head Coach John Calipari, fell to the Wildcats, 93-59.

Kentucky was led by future NBA stars DeAaron Fox and Bam Adebayo, while Duquesne’s roster boasted the likes of Emile Blackman and Tarin Smith, plus freshmen Mike Lewis II and Isiaha Mike.

The contest against the No. 2 Wildcats was the last time Duquesne faced a ranked non-conference opponent.

See more on Duquesne University at DuquesneAthletics.com

Maceo Austin flies through the air during a 2019 contest at La Roche.
Duquesne will tentatively begin its season in Pittsburgh for back-to-back home games against the Davidson Wildcats (Jan. 5) and Fordham Rams (Jan. 9).

Perhaps the toughest stretch Duquesne will face throughout all of conference play comes in the form of three consecutive games against some of the conference’s most successful programs.

On Jan. 13, the Dukes will travel to Dayton for a meeting with the Flyers, who finished last season with a remarkable 29-2 record and a perfect 18-0 mark in conference play. This game is followed by a Jan. 16 clash with rival St. Bonaventure in Olean, New York.

For more Duquesne basketball-focused content, please visit The Duke online at www.duqsm.com.
Johnny Depp faces repercussions after losing libel case

RIO SCARCELLI  |  staff writer

A life in the spotlight does not come without controversy: this is no exception for high-profile celebrity Johnny Depp. After a five-month long libel trial, the actor lost his case against ex-wife Amber Heard — all because of a 2018 newspaper article. Under a ruling of 14 allegations of physical assault against Depp, the courts found the article’s usage of the term ‘wife beater’ to be substantially true.

Libel trials refer to the defamation of an individual through public slandering. In this case, Depp used a 2018 article written by The Sun titled “GONE POTTY: How can JK Rowling be ‘genuinely happy’ casting wife beater Johnny Depp in the new Fantastic Beasts film?” The use of the term ‘wife beater’ was held viable in the courts to be tried in London. This saw Depp and Heard’s first meeting since their divorce in May 2016.

The trial required both Depp and Heard to appear in court for 16 days as they examined the evidence of the assault allegations. Judge Justice Nicol released a §58-paragraph ruling on Nov. 2, 2020 in The Sun’s favor. This was not the only loss that Depp received as, days later, Warner Bros. released a statement on the matter. “We thank Johnny for his work on the films to date. ‘Fantastic Beasts 3’ is currently in production, and the role of Gellert Grindelwald will be recast.”

As a prominent actor from the past three decades, Depp made himself known for roles in movies spanning from “Edward Scissorhands” to “Pirates of the Caribbean.” His name is no stranger to the film industry, so the news that Depp would lose his role in the next Harry Potter film took fans by surprise.

Inspired by the #MeToo movement, a feminist action against unspoken male abuse, many cases regarding physical assault have been brought to the public eye causing large corporations to take action immediately. Sydney Spears, a freshman forensic science major, said, “The way viewers perceive (physical assault cases) and their want to speak out against them can go as far as people not supporting the company that supports an alleged abuser. Scandals like Depp’s would take a while for a company’s reputation to go back to normal.”

Regardless of Depp’s resignation to the role, he still obtained $10 million per his contract.

Amber Heard has become a large controversy in media regarding Depp’s verdict.

Although there was no monetary loss, his reputation was lost to the libel case. This was something Depp implied, that would last him far longer than a loss of millions ever would.

“We women on average are more likely to be abused in relation-ships than men, and since Heard had been the initial person to cite abuse in the relationship, it did not seem all that ‘outlandish,’” said junior political science major Jess Schmitz. “At that time when stories about Harvey Weinstein and Charlie Rose were starting to make headlines, it made sense that those allegations were made against Depp.”

Many fans took to looking into the Depp and Heard case after the verdict, and this resurfaced evidence of phone calls between the two from their divorce in 2016. According to the leaked evidence, Heard admitted to throwing a vodka bottle at him unprompted, which sliced off the tip of his finger, landing him in the hospital to contract MRSA as a result. Upon Depp asking if Heard believes that she is an abuser herself, her response was that she was “a 115-pound woman.”

After stating that no one would believe Depp because he was a man, Heard said, “No one is going to believe that I am in a fight club or that I used makeup and hair to create fake bruising.” Because Depp never brought these claims to the public himself, many fans felt it was implied that Heard’s statements of defense were pre-conceived notions set to corroborate Depp.

“The Nov. 2 ruling was not the end of the case, however, as Depp made plans to appeal the case within U.S. courts in the near future. Reactions to the verdict of the case only asserted this. Whereas the 2016 court case was met with criticism against him, the revival of their phone call garnered enough publicity to do the opposite.

Schmitz said she believes that phone calls play a great role in Depp’s appeal as they were not used in the libel case to begin with. “It is going to be hard to turn that tide back in his favor, especially since there isn’t nearly as much media coverage on it,” Schmitz said. “Regardless, I think the [MeToo movement] and its values will eventually and should be working on his image.”

With many phone calls and internal evidence that have Heard admitting to physically assaulting Depp, a large turn-around is surfacing not only for the case, but also the movement itself. As most of the allegations of assault are against men, this case is becoming popular enough to broaden the perspective that stands behind abuse.”

“This case is changing around the way that people, more often than not, view men as abusers,” Spears said. “While people know that women can be indicted for this too, it truly opens eyes as people get to see that come into fruition with this case.”

In lieu of the public’s reaction, fans have been petitioning to have Heard removed from the cast of “Aquaman 2″, which is filming in 2021. Regardless of the support gathered to get her resignation, Warner Bros. stated it would be against her contract to do so.

Schmitz said she feels as though the same treatment should be given to Heard if she had abuse allegations against her. “I highly encourage people to stay and not support her career, just as was done to Kevin Spacey, Harvey Weinstein and other abusers in the industry,” Schmitz said.

With more interviews being conducted on the daily for the upcoming appeal, the final verdict of the case is still unknown. Until then, fans and the public alike are taking note from Depp and Heard in how allegations can damage someone’s career. The demand for thorough assessments of allegations may be enough of a push to give Depp justice.

COURTESY OF PHOTO

Renowned actor Johnny Depp faces defamation in terms of abuse allegations, posing as a detriment to his career.

WEEK’S EVENTS

Cocoa and Cookies with DUASL Club
Nov. 19, 9 p.m.

Stop by the Union NiteSpot with Duquesne’s ASL club for sweet treats, sign language and Bingo! Email duasil@dqu.edu to sign up: 25 slots are available.

Socially Distanced Ballroom Lesson
Nov. 19, 6 p.m.

Go to Rockwell Hall for a lesson in rhythmic dance! Email claunH4@dqu.edu for details.

UPCOMING RELEASES

Plastic Hearts
Miley Cyrus
Friday, Nov. 27

Cyrus’ seventh studio album rocks on with both covers from Metallica and original works inspired by the era.

The Croods: A New Age
Wednesday, Nov. 25

The Croods are back, but this time with competition. The Beltman’s home to prove that they are “better” and “more evolved.”

CAPRI’S COMPLAINTS

Wear Your Masks

Masks Are So Cool.

You can match them to your outfits, keep your face warm in the winter, hide acne, cover your mouth when you yawn - you could start a whole collection of them!

Do your part.
It’s up to us.

Think: is the risk really worth another lockdown?

Be smart and be safe on this much-needed break.

-Capri Scarcelli
A Q&A with Carrie Teresa on Black Celebrity Journalism

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Marcela Mack
staff contributor

Duquesne student Marcela Mack recently sat down with Carrie Teresa, the author of “Looking at the Stars: Black Celebrity Journalism in Jim Crow’s America.” The book, and the conversation below, is an insightful and informative look at the Black press dating back to times of segregation without the efforts of the mainsteam press.

The conversation with Teresa has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Carrie Teresa: I had never learned about Black press journalism, so I had no idea that newspapers like the Pittsburgh Courier existed. I knew of the abolitionist press pre-Civil War, but I didn’t know that these newspapers extended beyond the end of the Civil War to have those kinds of readships that they had. I was so enamored with the editorial style and the approach to reporting and the investigative work that these newspapers did. That semester, as I was studying the Black press and trying to figure out exactly what I wanted to do with it, my husband, who is a huge sports fan, convinced me that we should watch the six-hour documentary on Jack Johnson.

Unforgivable Blackness is a Ken Burns PBS documentary that I had absolutely no interest in watching, because I am not interested in sports. On a rainy Saturday night, I finally decided to convince me that we should do this and watch it, because he knew I was interested and had always been interested in African-American culture, and the cause for civil rights. That was something I had always carried with me, and was probably why I fell so in love with the Black press. We sat down and watched the documentary, and I fully expected to lose interest at some point. But it translated to today’s social media age of journalism.

Carrie Teresa: What kind of impact do you think that the representation of Black celebrities has on the history of celebrity journalism as a whole?

Teresa: Because of Black press coverage of Black celebrities, celebrity journalism as a whole has a long way to go largely because of that newsroom diversity issue. From what my students have reported, and from what I see them share on Facebook and Instagram, I know that the Internet has opened up spaces for diverse voices to share experiences that otherwise wouldn’t be available through the mainstream press gatekeepers.

Carrie Teresa: There’s less maybe of a question than there would be of, “why is this person talking? They don’t know what they’re talking about. They don’t belong in this conversation.”

Teresa: How can the early days, all the way from the Jim Crow era of celebrity Black journalism, translate to today’s social media age of journalism?

Teresa: Can you tell me, it still thinks that the mainstream press has a long way to go largely because of that newsroom diversity issue. From what my students have reported, and from what I see them share on Facebook and Instagram, I know that the Internet has opened up spaces for diverse voices to share experiences that otherwise wouldn’t be available through the mainstream press.

Carrie Teresa: I’m thinking that’s a really positive thing. I see students tweet stuff and share stuff from things like the shade room and other sources that seems to be this kind of collection of exclusively online sources that are grassroots in nature, that people gravitate towards for this coverage. I think that’s a marvelous thing.
Prayer for Unity

Christian Fellowship in the spring, told a story of himself in 2006, outside Vickroy Hall during his sophomore year, where he felt overwhelmed and angry — reflective of the cold, dark weather outside.

“The year had been pretty hard already,” Chase said. “I really felt like I had no direction. I didn’t know why I was in the major I was in. I had a pretty significant relationship that was obviously approaching an endpoint, and on top of that, I had finals next week.”

He said that an older and wiser man outside of Vickroy Hall gave him advice “that he won’t ever forget.”

“The older and wiser man said to me, ‘Peter, you have to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.’” Chase said.

2020 has been that kind of a year, Chase said, and asked the attendees if they were experiencing peace.

“Thankfulness, as it turns out, is the key to peace,” Chase said. “Thankfulness is actually … one of the few things designed to get you through those challenges.”

He cited clinical trials out of University of California Berkeley that suggest the practice of gratitude increases happiness, lessens the chances of depression and alters the way an individual’s brain processes data.

“Literally, your body was made to practice thankfulness. Like the muscles of your body are made to be trained to perform in the world through exercise and become stronger and accomplish great feats,” he said.

“Thankfulness is a muscle made to perform and be exercised, and by using it, the world accomplishes great feats.”

Chase encouraged everyone to practice an attitude of gratitude, “as silly as the rhyme is.”

The Prayer for Unity service is a series of monthly prayers for unity sponsored by Duquesne’s athletic department. Christian hopes that December’s service will be broadcast on YouTube.

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