Hundreds of pharmacy students trained to administer COVID-19 vaccines

KELLEN STEPLER & ZOE STRATOS
editor-in-chief & staff writer

Levi DeBlase knew that as a pharmacist, giving vaccines was in the job description.

He didn’t realize that he would be administering life-saving vaccines to combat a pandemic — all as a student pharmacist.

DeBlase is currently one of 322 Duquesne pharmacy students that have completed the pharmacy-based immunization training certificate. By Jan. 29, 115 additional pharmacy students will have been trained to give the vaccine, according to pharmacy professor Tiffany Hatcher.

“Typically, we provide the training to students during their second professional year of pharmacy school; however, this year we have added new opportunities for first-year professional students to be trained,” Hatcher said.

Duquesne pharmacy students have been able to step up and fill the role of vaccine administrators through the immunization certificate. According to the Pennsylvania Department of State, pharmacy interns who have completed required education and are under strict supervision of a licensed pharmacist who holds an “active authorization to administer injectable medications,” are now able to temporarily administer COVID-19 vaccinations to people ages 18 and up.

Previously, in Pennsylvania, student pharmacists and interns were not allowed to vaccinate as an intern until December. On Dec. 14, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a waiver allowing supervised students and interns to administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

“Because of COVID-19, we’re getting this opportunity that we wouldn’t normally get,” DeBlase, a fifth-year pharmacy student, said.

It’s a “once in a lifetime” opportunity, Hatcher said, for student pharmacists to support the community in the midst of a pandemic, and to practice at the top of their pharmacy intern license.

“Students will have gained valuable experience under the supervision of a pharmacist providing vaccinations,” Hatcher said.

Additionally, students will have meaningful patient care experiences that will allow them to grow into a compassionate, caring, clinically-confident professional.”

Duquesne’s School of Pharmacy regularly provides vaccination courses, but the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the program to go to online learning.

“Initially, we were unsure as to how the training process would work virtually; however, it has been a great success,” Hatcher said. “For students, it allows for them to be able to start the didactic portion of the content without having to be on campus.”

Some objectives of the training, Hatcher noted, were to educate patients about the benefits of vaccines — and dispel myths — and to safely administer vaccines to patients via subcutaneous, intramuscular, intranasal and intradermal routes.

“Training is split up into two parts and the APHA [American Pharmacist Association] uses this training for pharmacists in any state,” said Natalie Klek, a professional first-year pharmacy student. “First, you do 12 hours of self-study, you know, reading how and when to give the vaccine. The second is a live eight-hour class where they repeat what you learned in self-study and then learn to do it.”

Klek explained that “the first is two practice shots are intramuscular — the normal flu shot — and one subcutaneous — the chicken part of the arm.”

Shortly after Klek’s certification, she began to administer vaccines at clinics in the area organized through an independent pharmacy. Other pharmacy students are eager to get out into the field and begin administering, like professional year two pharmacy student, Maci Egger.

“We all are willing to give our time and we’re looking forward to doing it,” Egger said. “Not only are we helping the community, but we’re also getting practice for the future that we normally wouldn’t get.”

David Rogers, a fifth-year pharmacy student, has participated in clinics since early January, and said he plans on doing it as much as he can.

“It’s an experience and a practice that you wouldn’t normally have,” Rogers said. “It’s a great opportunity to give back to people.”

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, 770,065 doses of the vaccine have been administered statewide through Jan. 26.

Being able to help administer the vaccine, according to pharmacy student Julian Kleberg, was historic. Kleberg volunteered at a clinic in Peters Township last weekend.

see COVID — page 3
POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from Jan. 18 to Jan. 25, 2021.

On Jan. 18, Duquesne police responded to a call regarding a small amount of marijuana found by resident staff inside a Towers dorm room. Duquesne police arrived on scene and confiscated the contraband items. The person in the room was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

On Jan. 21, Duquesne police received a call from a male, who stated that a student would be returning to campus with a bomb. Through a preliminary investigation, Duquesne police were able to confirm the identity of the student and identify the male caller was. The student was contacted and is safe. The student was not a participant in the threat, and the threat was false. This case is under investigation with possible charges being made at a later date.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

Last semester, Duquesne reported 205 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cumulative over time, and 55 suspected cases of COVID-19 cumulative over time. 140 students were isolated on campus over time, and there were 257 students quarantined on campus over time.

- Total Confirmed Cases Over Time: 205
- Total Suspected Cases Over Time: 55
- Total Students Isolated on Campus Over Time: 140
- Total Students Quarantined on Campus Over Time: 257

JOIN THE DUKE!

If you’re interested, emailthed@duq.edu or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

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 hammondc@duq.edu

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: SHANK SHOULD BE REINSTATED AS A DUQUESNE PROFESSOR

Kellen Stepler
editor-in-chief

Duquesne University’s Grievance Committee for Faculty (UGCF) recommended that Gary Shank, the education professor who was fired for using an expletive racial slur in a class lecture during the fall semester, should be restored as a faculty member of the university.

Shank had filed a grievance with the UGCF on Nov. 5. He was terminated from Duquesne Oct. 7.

In a report filed Jan. 14 provided to The Duke by Shank’s attorney, Warner Mariani, the UGCF found that while Shank “exercised extremely poor judgment in his decision to use the N-word rather than an abstraction,” the termination of his tenure and firing were not warranted.

“While Dr. Shank’s use of the N-word was misguided, it was not malicious,” the report said.

According to Mariani, the report was sent to Duquesne last Friday, and cited the university handbook which states that President Ken Gormley has 15 working days to decide the case.

Mariani also provided a document setting Shank’s position to the UGCF’s findings. Shank said “Disagreement with a professor’s style and method of teaching cannot serve as grounds for ‘serious misconduct’ in violation of TAP 55.”

UGCF’s report also said that Duquesne did not violate Shank’s academic freedom, as the university does not subscribe to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) guidelines on academic freedom.

In October 2020, the AAUP wrote a letter to Gormley demanding Shank be reinstated at the university.

Shank wrote that if Duquesne does not subscribe to the AAUP guidelines on academic freedom, then the use of the N-word is a violation of TAP 55, then Duquesne needs to immediately prohibit the use of the N-word “for whatever reason it may be used.”

“For that matter, the university should ban any word that possibly could violate TAP 55,” the report said.

Shank also provided du process to Shank prior to his suspension. Shank has faced an uphill battle for reinstatement. He has consistently defended his use of the word for pedagogical reasons and upheld his need for academic freedom.

That while the UGCF report gives the “appropriate recommendation” that he restored as a faculty member, he is “concerned that the [UGCF] recommends that I be sanctioned and also takes a rather restrictive view of the meaning of Academic Freedom on Duquesne University’s campus.”

“Furthermore, I feel it necessary to take exception to several of the Report’s Findings in order to make my position clear that sanctions are not called for here, and that an expansive view of Academic Freedom must be asserted not only for me, but the rest of the University’s faculty,” Shank wrote.

Shank’s case has been heard by Duquesne’s Grievance Committee who recommended that he be reinstated. President Gormley has the final say on the matter, and his decision must be made by Feb. 5.

READ MORE OF THE DUKE’S EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE ON GARY SHANK

Shank’s case has been heard by Duquesne’s Grievance Committee who recommended that he be reinstated. President Gormley has the final say on the matter, and his decision must be made by Feb. 5.
Duquesne awaits vaccine doses, but distribution infrastructure is already in place

"It was a really good experience," Kleberg said. "The people I vaccinated were really appreciative — some people were crying. It's good to be a part of history."

Pennsylvania is currently in phase 1A of the vaccine rollout: vaccinating those most high-risk of illness, such as health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities, people age 65 and older and those with high-risk conditions.

During the week of Jan. 17, clinical students and faculty were able to receive the first round of vaccinations in the Power Center Ballroom.

Hosted by the Center for Pharmacy Care, certified student pharmacists were able to volunteer to either administer vaccines or help with other tasks like screening, according to a Facebook post by professional year 2 pharmacy student, Katie Grenell. Duquesne received 700 doses of the vaccine: 350 for clinical students and faculty at Duquesne and 350 for clinical students and faculty at CCAC, according Vice President for Marketing and Communications, Gabriel Welsch. The second round of vaccinations are soon to follow once the health department sends out the vaccine.

"It's a pretty exciting and rewarding experience," Amy Patel said. "I've grown as a person and as a pharmacy student."

Until the vaccine is released by the state to Duquesne, regular testing for all present on campus will be the norm. For the foreseeable future, all students, staff and faculty who come to campus will have to be tested frequently in the theater.

"We have all of the capabilities we need at Duquesne to receive, store and administer the vaccine," Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam said in a press release. "We ask for patience, as the amount of the vaccine in Pennsylvania and the nation is limited. We want to ensure that the vaccine is provided in a way that is ethical, equitable and efficient, which is why we are taking a phased approach. This way we can make sure the most vulnerable residents can get vaccina..."
Corporations are to blame for the world’s climate emergency

Noah Wilbur
Opinions Editor

Within the past decade, concerns about climate change have grown significantly as an ever-increasing number of scientists and world leaders continue to raise the alarm about the harmful consequences associated with a warming climate.

From rising temperatures and extreme weather changes to higher seas levels and glacial retreat, the overwhelming evidence clearly indicates that climate change is a very real and formidable threat to our global society.

We know the threat is real. So, we must ask ourselves: who is to blame for our current predicament? Only by identifying the root of the problem can we begin to develop a solution.

Despite a deluge of flashy “green” marketing campaigns, corporations are responsible for a considerable portion of the environmental changes occurring over the past century. As surprising as it may seem, the 3,000 largest companies in the world generate a trillion worth of environmental damage each year.

Airing from their constant exploitation of natural resources and other natural offerings, corporate entities are historically one of the largest contributors to climate change around the globe.

According to the 2017 CDP Carbon Majors Report, a mere 100 firms were accountable for more than 70% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions since 1988. The report also discovered that “Over half of global industrial emissions have been driven by a handful of very large emitting companies.”

Concerned with increasing profits and improving brand reputation, corporations are particularly receptive to changes and trends in consumer behavior. Big business is historically known for bowing down to the public and changing its ways in the wake of consumer pressure.

In turn, everyday people – like you and I – hold the power to actualize true change by driving sustainability in the business community.

Let’s look at some examples. In 2015, Tyson Foods – the largest producer of poultry in the U.S. – began removing human antibiotics from its products. Another example is PepsiCo’s 2015 announcement that it will no longer use the artificial sweetener aspartame in its Diet Pepsi. In both cases, two large firms buckled under pressure in response to fierce public outcry.

With an intense focus on the top and bottom-lines, businesses are vulnerable to changes in consumer behavior. Therefore, fearful of losing existing or potential customers, individuals can compel companies to do good through straightforward compliance by making an effort to only purchase eco-friendly products and services.

Corporations possess the resources and influence necessary to achieve global sustainability. Thus, to create a greener corporate landscape, we must become “conscious consumers” by changing our shopping behavior and purchasing products and services from those who incorporate sustainable principles and values into daily operations.

As the climate emergency threatens the future of humanity, it is imperative that consumers young and old use their purchasing power to press the business leaders in our communities into committing to environmental reform.

Without swift action and global collaboration, the planet will continue to suffer from the actions of the world’s largest public and private entities.

Noah Wilbur
Opinions Editor

damage to the environment, utilities, basic materials, consumer goods, and industrials all rank ahead of the oil and gas sector.

Armed with this knowledge, what actions can we take to urge corporations to end their destructiveness?

With the planet on the brink of devastation, consumers must pressure major corporations and multinationals to implement sustainable practices, policies and production methods to reduce their environmental impact.

Concerned primarily with increasing profits and improving brand reputation, corporations are particularly receptive to changes and trends in consumer behavior. Big business is historically known for bowing down to the public and changing its ways in the wake of consumer pressure.

In turn, everyday people – like you and I – hold the power to actualize true change by driving sustainability in the business community.

Let’s look at some examples. In 2015, Tyson Foods – the largest producer of poultry in the U.S. – began removing human antibiotics from its products. Another example is PepsiCo’s 2015 announcement that it will no longer use the artificial sweetener aspartame in its Diet Pepsi. In both cases, two large firms buckled under pressure in response to fierce public outcry.

With an intense focus on the top and bottom-lines, businesses are vulnerable to changes in consumer behavior. Therefore, fearful of losing existing or potential customers, individuals can compel companies to do good through straightforward compliance by making an effort to only purchase eco-friendly products and services.

Corporations possess the resources and influence necessary to achieve global sustainability. Thus, to create a greener corporate landscape, we must become “conscious consumers” by changing our shopping behavior and purchasing products and services from those who incorporate sustainable principles and values into daily operations.

As the climate emergency threatens the future of humanity, it is imperative that consumers young and old use their purchasing power to press the business leaders in our communities into committing to environmental reform.

Without swift action and global collaboration, the planet will continue to suffer from the actions of the world’s largest public and private entities.

Noah Wilbur
Opinions Editor

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 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 Duke, but rather are the opinions of the columnists themselves.

Letters policy
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to The Duke office at 135 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications
Readers should report any story or production error to The Duke. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print in the following edition.

Contact
Email theduqduke@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor:
Concerns about Brottier COVID policy

I am extremely concerned about the COVID-19 situation in Brottier Hall. I live here and when I moved in, they did not ask me to provide proof of a negative test even though it was posted on the door that it was required and was also required to attend anywhere on campus – even off campus activities affiliated with the university.

Also, somebody on my floor recently tested positive and Brottier did not inform me nor anybody else on the floor or in the building. When I emailed [Brottier Hall’s Resident Director] Nick DuBois, he responded with, “we do not inform residents of positive cases” which is extremely irresponsible, considering other on campus housing is required to report. I had to find out from the person who had COVID-19 themselves, and had I not talked to them, very possibly could’ve been in contact with somebody who tested positive.

When I asked them about this policy, they said that they could do it because they require those who test positive to be isolated in the building, or at home. The person who I contacted that had COVID-19 said that there were no precautions in the building put in place to make sure that he did not break quarantine and expose other residents, other than not being able to swipe back into Brottier if he leaves.

Theoretically, somebody could contract COVID-19, choose not to quarantine, and infect unknowing residents because nobody is informed of the presence of positive tests.

I understand that since they are an independent apartment building they can choose their policies and do not have to adhere to Duquesne’s COVID-19 rules, but Brottier is still a part of Duquesne’s campus considering that they are staffed by Duquesne’s RHA staff (RA’s, RD’s, etc).

Best,
Caroline Nolf
Senior, middle years education major

‘It is always the simple that produces the marvelous.’
Amelia Barr

Staff Editorial
‘Get our city out of your mouth’

On his first day in office, President Joe Biden signed 17 executive orders to rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement – including a letter that states the country’s intent to re-join the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2017, President Trump notified the United Nations that the U.S. would be withdrawing from the accords, removing the country from a list of near- every nation that has reduced greenhouse-gas-emitting emissions. On Nov. 4 – the day after Election Day – the U.S. formally withdrew from the agreement, and will officially rejoin less than four months later.

While Biden has received widespread support for his immediate decision, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has voiced his disagreement – and brought Pittsburgh into it. The day of the inauguration, Cruz tweeted that Biden’s decision to rejoin the accords “indicates he’s more interested in the views of the citizens of Paris than in the citizens of Pittsburgh.” A day later, he shared an image of a free bumper sticker with the words “Pittsburgh > Paris” – in Pittsburgh’s famous black and gold colors.

It seems like Cruz’s new campaign strategy is to replace facts with something much more-spicy, hypocrisy.

While Cruz might not realize that the Paris Climate Agreement has nothing to do with Paris – besides being the location the accords were signed – he must also be forgetting the vote he cast a few weeks ago disputing the election results in Pennsylvania.

Cruz’s intent to disrupt one of the core processes of democracy contradicts whatever loyalty he claims to Pittsburgh and strips him of any remaining respectability. He may think he has to “stand up” for it. That vote he cast in the Senate chamber is a slap in the face to Yinzers who made the decision to participate in the electoral process and vote in November.

Moreover, Cruz has no factual basis to his assertion that Pittsburgh will suffer when the U.S. rejoins the agreement. As Mayor Bill Peduto stated in a response to Cruz, “there are more jobs in the renewable/green industries in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh) than oil, gas & coal industries combined.” Peduto has since reaffirmed his pledge to keep the commitments of the agreement and reduce the city’s emissions.

Cruz has no reason to imply that rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement will take away American jobs and harm Pittsburgh’s blue collar workers. Sustainable industries offer no fewer jobs than the fossil fuel industry, and provide jobs that preserve Earth’s quickly-dwindling natural resources.

The residents of Pittsburgh and Par- is — and all the cities of the almost 200 countries that signed the agreement — benefit from an atmosphere to breathe Earth’s air and drink Earth’s water. A threat to global climate is a threat to everyone’s climate, and by committing to the promises outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement, the U.S. joins the pledge for a better future for both Pittsburgh and Paris.

Editorial Board
Kellen Stepler, Managing Editor
Colleen Hammond, News Editor
Noah Wilbur, Features Editor
Capri Scarcelli, Copy Editor
Adam Lindner, Copy Editor
Katelyn Barter, Multimedia Editor
Griffin Sandek, Administrative Staff
Paula Reed Wiant, Ad Manager
Carissa Haslam, Social Media Manager
Erin Carbone
Email us: theduqduke@gmail.com
**Live in the moment rather than capturing it**

Katia Faroun  
features editor

Though it’s in the name, a photographer’s goal should not be to photo-op. Merriam-Webster defines “behold” as to gaze upon, usually something of impressive beauty. Multiple religions place an emphasis on beholding the glory of nature. The Judeo-Christian worldview encourages believers to see God’s presence in nature and to respect it as part of his creation. Aesthetic philosophers, such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, view nature as a basis to analyze judgments of beauty. In the metaphysical realm, nature is revered and respected as at least complex and at most holy.

I have never been slow to walk away, already scheduling somehow not as striking as it and face an exhausted scene. I look out of the viewfinder, shifting to get the perfect minutes clicking open the shut at sunset or deep blue oceans. Landscapes — ones of majesty and splendor, experiencing countless stunning experiences, is revered and respected as at the metaphysical realm, nature is incorporated both economic and political opposition and the national hope that life will return to normal at some point this year.

With that in mind, I’m opening my first column this year by looking at China in a new light, with much more cynicism than in previous years given the events of the past year in particular. Frequent readers of this column, or those who know me on campus, may know of a particular obsession I have with studying China, and for the past seven semesters I’ve written columns for The Duke, I have never been slow to criticize China, especially in contrast to the previous American administration.

The current genocide of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang and systemic crackdown on democratic activists in Hong Kong are the true face of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and American leaders need to study China a past because the country is run by communists must wake up to the Chinese government’s true authoritarian nature. A splendid national railway system and a daily reminder of the national commitment to upholding a socialist vision does not account for the fact that the Chinese people do not control the means of production. It’s a sub-contracted communism whereby the people may hold national asset portfolios rather than the national assets themselves. The total control of large-scale national assets and suppression of both minority and political opposition is the true face of fascism as it exists.

I don’t doubt the reasoning behind the CCP’s genocides — to establish an utterly secure and ethnically homogenous land for its transcontinental railroad to Istanbul, Moscow and the rest of Europe — but that can be an excuse of policy of extermination. Forced sterilization, torture, family separation and detention are only one step away from large-scale executions. The Chinese Communist Party incorporates both economic and political opposition and the national hope that life will return to normal at some point this year.

With that in mind, I’m opening my first column this year by looking at China in a new light, with much more cynicism than in previous years given the events of the past year in particular. Frequent readers of this column, or those who know me on campus, may know of a particular obsession I have with studying China, and for the past seven semesters I’ve written columns for The Duke, I have never been slow to criticize China, especially in contrast to the previous American administration.

The current genocide of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang and systemic crackdown on democratic activists in Hong Kong are the true face of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and American leaders need to study China a past because the country is run by communists must wake up to the Chinese government’s true authoritarian nature. A splendid national railway system and a daily reminder of the national commitment to upholding a socialist vision does not account for the fact that the Chinese people do not control the means of production. It’s a sub-contracted communism whereby the people may hold national asset portfolios rather than the national assets themselves. The total control of large-scale national assets and suppression of both minority and political opposition is the true face of fascism as it exists.

I don’t doubt the reasoning behind the CCP’s genocides — to establish an utterly secure and ethnically homogenous land for its transcontinental railroad to Istanbul, Moscow and the rest of Europe — but that can be an excuse of policy of extermination. Forced sterilization, torture, family separation and detention are only one step away from large-scale executions.


**The Chinese Communist Party embodies aggression and tyranny**

Alex Wolfe  
staff columnist

Starting the new year with a fresh, clean start is always a good idea, but I believe it’s extremely important this year. We have a new American president, a new party in total control of the federal government and the national hope that life will return to normal at some point this year.

With that in mind, I’m opening my first column this year by looking at China in a new light, with much more cynicism than in previous years given the events of the past year in particular. Frequent readers of this column, or those who know me on campus, may know of a particular obsession I have with studying China, and for the past seven semesters I’ve written columns for The Duke, I have never been slow to criticize China, especially in contrast to the previous American administration.

The current genocide of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang and systemic crackdown on democratic activists in Hong Kong are the true face of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and American leaders need to study China a past because the country is run by communists must wake up to the Chinese government’s true authoritarian nature. A splendid national railway system and a daily reminder of the national commitment to upholding a socialist vision does not account for the fact that the Chinese people do not control the means of production. It’s a sub-contracted communism whereby the people may hold national asset portfolios rather than the national assets themselves. The total control of large-scale national assets and suppression of both minority and political opposition is the true face of fascism as it exists.

I don’t doubt the reasoning behind the CCP’s genocides — to establish an utterly secure and ethnically homogenous land for its transcontinental railroad to Istanbul, Moscow and the rest of Europe — but that can be an excuse of policy of extermination. Forced sterilization, torture, family separation and detention are only one step away from large-scale executions. The Chinese Communist Party embodies aggression and tyranny. The Chinese Communist Party embodies aggression and tyranny.

**The Chinese Communist Party embodies aggression and tyranny**
features

Presentation reminds students of the real MLK

Gillian Fitzgerald staff writer

R acism. Say it, name it and call it what it is.

In celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., keynote speaker Charles McKinney presented “Martin Tried to Tell Us: Confronting King as the Prophet of Chaos over Community.” The presentation discussed the discrepancy between all that King fought for and what he’s remembered for today.

McKinney is the Neville Frierson Bryan Chair of African Studies and Associate Professor at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. He is a renowned Civil Rights Scholar who has numerous distinguished publications, and came to talk to students, faculty and professors about a simple, yet important question: “What would happen if we listened to Dr. King’s words?”

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion held several events last week honoring King’s legacy on racism, discrimination and poverty in the U.S. It ended the week on Friday with McKinney’s presentation.

In the wake of the riot in the nation’s Capitol building at the beginning of January, King’s words could have been written yesterday. They apply to American society just as much today as they did 50 years ago, as seen in King’s book “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”

“...A minority of whites who genuinely want authentic equality...are balanced at the other end of the pole by the unregenerate segregationists who have declared that democracy is not worth having if it involves equality,” wrote King in the book.

Yet, when the monument to violence by white extremists occurred just three weeks ago, McKinney noticed that King’s words were nowhere on television networks or connected to this insurrection. He urged the audience to think about why there is a disconnect between King and these violent images, and why King is only brought up when people are perpetrating violence.

“There’s a reason why we don’t grapple with the real King,” McKinney said. “We don’t think of King in truly, authentically expansive ways...we don’t think of King in all of his prodigious work and the way they touched on every aspect of American society.”

When people talk about King—most only honoring him once a year—who are they referencing? Unfortunately, it’s usually what social activist Julian Bond referred to as the “master narrative” that surrounds the Civil Rights Movement in our country: Once King led the protest movement, backed by the “sympathetic government.” America understood discrimination was wrong and instantly changed—it was a victory for our great country.

“It’s the history we’ve taught versus the history we should know,” said Anthony Kane, the director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Duquesne.

King’s monument in Washington D.C. itself has 14 of his own quotes written on it—yet not one of them contains the words racism, segregation or racial inequality.

The master narrative avoids the actual substance of King and refuses to call what he fought what it really is: racism. McKinney explained that not only is this narrative ignorantly racist, it is perpetuated even further when it is made gendered, classist and heteronormative—all while lacking accountability in society.

“So much of our current day...is our discomfort and inability to see people humanity is violating,” McKinney said. “We battle against evil content, but there are no evil doers: misogyny without misogynists, racism but no racists, homophobia but there’s no homophobes.”

This mindset and mindset often motivates the way America goes about interacting with the rest of the world as well. However, it brands it with the notion that our country’s actions are always right, ignoring its history of violence and poverty both inside and outside its borders.

McKinney went on to explain how this toxicity is revealed in militarism, as seen at the Capitol last month and in the way we engage in war. It results in racism and poverty going unchecked, as many people are “violently opposed to the construction of a multiracial democracy” in a nation that “manipulates the poor,” as King said.

King not only fought for a nation of equality, but also for war to stop. “Immoral behavior erodes our moral fabric when we don’t ask hard questions about the way we move in the world,” McKinney said.

The presentation discussed how King’s anti-poverty and multi-racial movement is the narrative the U.S. needs as it continues to go through another political and human rights crisis, due to the fact that Americans didn’t actually or fully listen to King in the past. It also spoke on the United States’ deep-rooted issues and educated the Duquesne community on the real purpose behind King’s words, along with how the country is reliving a time where people are choosing chaos over community.

McKinney claimed that Americans are in a position where they must continue King’s work, and he advised students to build their community, engage in freedom dreams and be bold and unrepentant in telling the truth: Call racism what it is and figure out what that looks like on campus.

“Be prepared, willing and able to engage in dialogues, meetings, and workshops...and be prepared to engage in sit ins and non-violent direct action activities when folks aren’t hearing you,” McKinney said.

“Have all channels open, and then move forward in confidence that you all are engaged in what Martin King called ‘the beautiful struggle to make a new world.’”

J-Term in review: Student reflects on semester like no other

Kellen Stepler editor-in-chief

Duquesne students began spring semester classes Thursday, Jan. 21, but Allison Mackenzie started taking classes offered by the university two weeks earlier.

That’s because the second-year law student decided to participate in Duquesne’s online J-Term. Geared for enrichment purposes only, and for no credit, 19 free asynchronous courses were available to students interested from Jan. 7 to Jan. 20.

The university originally planned for the first day of the spring semester to begin Jan. 7, but delayed the start by two weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Virtual J-Term lets us reward students for the hard work they did to keep the campus safe during the fall semester,” university Provost David Dausey said in an email to all students in October, announcing Duquesne’s first-ever J-Term along with the spring schedule. “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.”

Mackenzie said that as a law student, the non-graded J-Term courses were more “low-key” than her law classes. She took three of the J-Term classes — Divine Comedy: Theology through Stand-Up; He Called Me a Mud-Blood; Exploring Racism and Classism in Harry Potter; and Presidential Honeymoons: The First 100 Days of Administration.

“Those were the ones that sparked my interest,” Mackenzie said.

With an undergraduate degree in political science from Duquesne, Mackenzie said that the Presidential Honeymoon course was her favorite of the three. For someone who has been enrolled at Duquesne for five years, the J-Term was a “way different experience” compared to typical fall and spring semester courses.

“The biggest difference is flexibility — the J-Term was for learning purposes only,” she said. “Semester courses are not as flexible; like dead lines, for example.”

For someone who never took a J-Term before, Mackenzie said that she would do it again.

“It’s great for Duquesne to offer,” Mackenzie said. “I appreciate that they recognized that COVID-19 changed how people are learning. If someone had an open mind and wanted to learn more, I definitely recommend.”

Duquesne professor Kathleen Roberts taught the J-Term course New Year, New World: 14 Day Challenge. With the longer break between the fall and spring semesters, Roberts said that by January, she’d be missing her students a lot, and her favorite part of her job was interacting with students.

“Most typical new year’s resolutions are self-serving, and that’s one of the reasons why they don’t work,” Roberts said. “I wanted to change ‘new year, new me’ to ‘new year, new world’ — that if we make changes this year, they should benefit others.”

Roberts said that the changes are easy to make because there are so many resources out there to make the change last as a lifelong habit.

“The open flow of ideas was similar to a seminar class, but maybe it was also heightened by the short and intense nature of the class,” Roberts said.

If Duquesne offers a J-Term course in the future, Roberts recommended that other professors sign up to teach a class.

“I hope there will be more courses like this, beyond J-Term, that Duquesne could open up to our alumni and members of the community,” Roberts said. “It’s exciting to think of a university as a place for lifelong learning, as leaders in the intellectual life of the community.”

Graphic Sendek / Multimedia Editor

Second-year law student Allison Mackenzie appreciated how “low-key” her three J-Term courses were.
Duquesne guard Tavian Dunn-Martin draws contact on his way to the rim during Duquesne’s 86-62 win at Fordham on Jan. 27. Dunn-Martin, who’s been thrust into the starting point guard role following the departure of Sincere Carrey, finished the Fordham game with eight points and seven assists. Head Coach Keith Dambrot said following the game that Dunn-Martin has been dealing with back discomfort recently, and that the point guard will play better once he’s completely healthy again.

Duquesne freshman wing Toby Okani drives toward the rim during a Jan. 9 home victory over Fordham. Courtesy of Duquesne Athletics

Adam Lindner sports editor

Following a disappointing letdown against St. Bonaventure over the weekend, the Duquesne men’s basketball team throttled Fordham on Wednesday evening en route to its largest margin of victory ever in an Atlantic 10 road game.

The Dukes (5-6, 4-5 A-10) hit a season-high 14 3-pointers and shot 50% from the floor against the Rams (1-8, 1-8), who struggled in their first game following the departure of coach Jeff Neubauer.

Freshman Chad Baker scored a career-high 23 points and frontcourt duo Marcus Weathers and Mike Bekelja each posted double-doubles, propelling a Duquesne team that led by as many as 35 points in the 86-62 thrashing.

The victory was Duquesne’s most complete of the campaign — a welcomed reprieve for a team that has struggled to score the ball this season. The Dukes entered Wednesday’s matchup as the conference’s second-lowest scoring team, ahead of only yearly Fordham. Seven 3-pointers from Baker and two each from Weathers, Tyson Acuff and Mike Bekelja helped Duquesne build a lead that would put the game out of reach by halftime.

Baker, a 6-foot-7 freshman from the Dominican Republic, enjoyed quite the 21st birthday on Wednesday evening. The freshman wing hit 7-of-11 of his 3-point attempts against the Rams — becoming the third freshman in DU history to hit seven or more 3-pointers in a game — before coach Keith Dambrot serenaded him in the locker room after the game with his very own rendition of ‘Happy Birthday’.

Despite Baker’s prolific shooting performance, Dambrot insisted Baker is still underachieving and won’t begin to realize his full potential until he starts to take more pride in the little things.

“He’s just scratching the surface,” Dambrot said postgame. “He’s a guy that should be the best defender, should be the best passer, should be the best ball-handler, should be the best shooter. And as crazy as it sounds, he’s underachieving.

“I have high expectations for talented people. ... When he finally decides he’s going to work at this game and put everything he has into it, you’ll see something even better than this. He’s got good instincts, and he’s confident as hell.”

Baker, who left his native Dominican Republic for the United States prior to his junior year of high school, said he’s grateful for Dambrot’s criticisms.

“When I first got to Duquesne, [Dambrot] literally told me this: ‘Do you want to be great? I’m like, ‘Coach, I left everything back home.’ ‘If you want to be great, you’ll see something even better than this. He’s got good instincts, and he’s confident as hell.’ Baker, who left his native Dominican Republic for the United States prior to his junior year of high school, said he’s grateful for Dambrot’s criticisms.

At any rate, Baker’s recent emergence as a scoring threat has been a positive development for the Dukes, who have struggled offensively since the departures of three starters (guards Sincere Carrey and Lamar Norman Jr. entered the transfer portal; wing Macao Austin stepped away from the program for personal reasons and hasn’t played since Jan. 5).

Fellow freshmen Acuff and Bekelja — both of which have struggled to impact campus — made strides against the Rams, scoring 11 and six points, respectively. Acuff, a stocky point guard, looked comfortable with the ball in his hands against Fordham, a positive development for a team suddenly dire need of playmakers. Bekelja, who started for the first time in his collegiate career on Wednesday, added six rebounds in his 27 minutes of action.

It was the stellar play of Weathers and Hughes, though, that may be the game’s foremost takeaway. The veteran tandem combined for 32 points and 23 boards on Wednesday, marking the first time since a Nov. 15, 2019, win over Lipscomb that both forwards posted double-doubles.

COVID-19-related postponements and cancelations have proved to be detrimental for Duquesne’s conditioning efforts, with Dambrot stating on numerous occasions that his team was not where it needed to be conditioning-wise. Weathers, who spent the summer away from Pittsburgh to tend to family matters, was one of those most affected by the pandemic’s ramifications. Only now is the slashing forward beginning to look like his customary self.

“His strong play as of late — the center averaged 14.6 points on 70% shooting in the three games prior to Wednesday’s shellacking — coupled with Weathers’ promising outing in the Bronx should bode well for the Ducks, who are now set for a Saturday showdown against conference cellar-dweller Saint Joseph’s (1-13, 0-8).

“We have to use [this win] to catapult into becoming a better team, a more consistent team,” Dambrot said. “A team that starts to believe in themselves a little bit. I mean, obviously we had to have some self-doubt — me included.

“We’re playing a bunch of guys that haven’t played,” the fourth-year coach continued. “The thing I did know is [we can play] with everybody in the league. I know we’re competitive. It’s just — I didn’t know if we could win consistently. You just don’t know until you make strides.

“Now, I really believe if everything goes right, if we can show some maturity, we grow up, we can do some good things.”

Men’s hoops team hits 14 treys, annihilates Fordham

Duquesne freshman wing Toby Okani drives toward the rim during a Jan. 9 home victory over Fordham. Courtesy of Duquesne Athletics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Basketball A-10 Standings</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>Next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>St. Bonaventure</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>W6</td>
<td>1/30 vs. George Mason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>10-3</td>
<td>W4</td>
<td>2/7 at Richmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>10-4</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/29 at George Washington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>2/3 vs. Fordham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>VCU</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/30 vs. La Salle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>9-4</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/30 vs. Rhode Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>9-8</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>1/30 at Dayton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>George Mason</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>8-6</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>1/30 at St. Bonaventure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>G. Washington</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>2/2 vs. St. Louis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/30 vs. Saint Joseph’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>La Salle</td>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>1/30 vs VCU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Fordham</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>L6</td>
<td>1/30 at UMass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>22 Saint Louis</td>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>4-13</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>1/29 at Richmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Saint Joseph’s</td>
<td>6-14</td>
<td>4-13</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>1/30 at Duquesne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Basketball A-10 Standings</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>Next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>W5</td>
<td>1/31 at St. Bonaventure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>UMass</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>10-3</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>1/29 vs. Saint Joseph’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Fordham</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>8-3</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>1/30 vs. Davidson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>8-4</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>1/30 at G. Washington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>1/29 vs. La Salle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>VCU</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>7-7</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/29 at George Mason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Saint Joseph’s</td>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/29 at UMass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>1/30 vs Fordham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>La Salle</td>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>8-7</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>1/30 at Rhode Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>W1</td>
<td>1/30 at St. Bonaventure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>L6</td>
<td>4/7 vs. St. Bonaventure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>St. Bonaventure</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>1/29 vs. Saint Louis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>G. Washington</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>L3</td>
<td>1/29 vs. Richmond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>George Mason</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>L7</td>
<td>1/29 vs. VCU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pirates commit offseason to acquiring young talent

Luke Henne
staff writer

In just over a year on the job, Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Ben Cherington’s flurry of transactions have made it clear that the franchise is headed in one direction: Rebuild mode.

While the notion of rebuilding has become far too commonplace among Pirates fans, it is a direction in which Cherington and his bosses have deemed to be necessary. Following a 2019 season in which the Pirates endured a 6-25 stretch from mid-July to mid-August and ultimately played to an ugly 60-95 record (leading to the departure of long-time manager Clint Hurdle) and general manager Neal Huntington), Cherington was tasked with changing the team’s identity from one that endured annual mediocrity to one that would be atrocious for a few years but could restock its farm system in a way that would set the franchise up for the future. In January 2020, the three-time World Series champion executive dealt center fielder Starling Marte — the team’s longest tenured player at that point — to the Arizona Diamondbacks in exchange for shortstop Llover Peguero and pitcher Brennan Malone. Both prospects rank in the top 10 of the Pirates’ prospect system, according to MLB.com.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Cherington used the 2020 MLB Draft in June to select middle infielder Nick Gonzales with the draft’s seventh overall selection. Without playing a game since the end of his collegiate career in March 2020 at New Mexico State University, Gonzales has already ascended to the top spot of the Pirates’ MLB.com prospect list.

In an abbreviated 60-game 2020 campaign, the Pirates won just 19 games, earning the league’s worst record and guaranteeing the opportunity to select phenom pitcher Kumar Rocker of Vanderbilt University with the first overall selection in the 2021 MLB Draft. Adding Rocker to a farm system that is still in development, improvements should certainly help to expedite the process of returning postseason-caliber baseball to PNC Park.

Cherington was also able to use the 2020 season to evaluate his roster and determine which players would be kept and which would be moved on from. While it is easy to see young stars like third baseman Ke’Bryan Hayes — who hit .376 and five home runs upon being promoted in early September — will be in it for the long haul, Cherington’s actions have made it clear that he is committed to retooling the club wherever he sees fit.

The always-busy Cherington used the final weeks of his first season to grab some low-risk, high-reward type of talent, claiming outfielder Anthony Alford and pitcher Carson Fulmer off waivers. Alford had a .241/.359/.436 slash line in four runs in five games with Pittsburgh prior to a right elbow fracture ending his season. Fulmer did not pitch at all for the Pirates, but does have a versatile enough arm to be a possible candidate to pursue other teams signaled Cherington’s commitment to building a competitive roster in a way he sees fit, undoing some mistakes made by Huntington at any and every avenue possible.

Near October’s end, Cherington took the opportunity to pounce on some much-needed catching depth, claiming Michael Perez off waivers from the Tampa Bay Rays. Perez — who drove in runs in just 84 at-bats in 2020 — will likely get the immediate opportunity to serve as the back-up to Jacob Stallings.

With approximately two months to go before the start of the 2021 regular season, very few players left on the major league roster will be off the table. Second baseman Adam Frazier was very likely to be traded entering this offseason, and the recent signing of Wilmer Difo — another middle infielder for the Nationals — only reinforces that possibility. It is not always popular to deal away fan favorites left and right, but in doing so, Cherington has made it clear that in order to compete in today’s Major League Baseball, the Pittsburgh Pirates will need to commit a few years to reestablishing a farm system rich with talent that can eventually produce at the major league level.

January 28, 2021

SPOKES

Luke Henne: Cherish Roethlisberger if he returns to play in 2021-22

Jacob Hebda: Cherish Roethlisberger if he returns to play in 2021-22

The Steelers look elite at various points in the season, but the path to repair is unclear.

An already vapid backfield projects to lose both of its key players in 2021, with the future of the league.

If Roethlisberger returns, the Steelers would save money, but it also damps post-season aspirations. They would still owe him $2.25 million, too.

The remaining roster features a decent array of talent, particularly on defense. Mainstays T.J. Watt, Minkah Fitzpatrick and Cameron Heyward will lead what should be a stingy group.

Offensively, the receiving duo of Diontae Johnson and Chase Claypool is a bright spot. Beyond those two though, the prospects are questionable.

A once-dominant offensive line has finally succumbed to age. Former All-Pro Maurkice Pouncey and David DeCastro, as well as Alejandro Villanueva, would return.

An already vapid backfield projects to lose its top runner this offseason, James Conner.

The offensive line and run game are the only units not in particularly good shape, but the path to repair is unclear.

Pittsburgh can draft linemen or a new running back, but there is no guarantee of immediate contribution. Adding impactful veterans via free agency is highly improbable given the cap situation. A trade would cost Pittsburgh a key player for next year or a draft pick for an eventual rebuild.

No clear solution exists, which is why it will be months before a plan truly comes into fruition.

The Roethlisberger Era could be barreling toward an ignominious conclusion, but the Steelers still have a puncher’s chance next year. Their fate next season is anyone’s guess.

Perhaps the best strategy, then, is for observers to simply appreciate what should be Roethlisberger’s last playoff push.

Few franchises are ever graced with a quarterback as accomplished as the two-time Super Bowl-winning Roethlisberger. The list of active quarterbacks with two championship wins is brief: Brady, Roethlisberger and, if he beats Tampa on Feb. 7, Mahomes. It may be decades before another quarterback of Roethlisberger’s talent arrives in Pittsburgh.

Ben may not be the same player he once was, but he’s good enough to give his team a chance. With the clock ticking on this golden era, we should enjoy the final ride before Roethlisberger finally hangs up his cleats.
PSO musicians persevere in the midst of pandemic

OLIVIA BURK
staff writer

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced many arts venues into lockdown, concert halls around the nation went silent. Jim Rodgers, principal contrabassistoonist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, recalled March 13, 2020 as the day everything changed. “We were told to go home and that we were going to be initiating lockdown,” Rodgers said.

With rising fears of the spread of COVID-19, the PSO was not the only group to halt its plans. Rachel Stegeman, a Pittsburgh-based violinist, was normally involved in multiple ensembles throughout the year. Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, where Stegeman serves as a concertmaster, was the last ensemble she rehearsed with before the shutdown in March.

“We did the whole rehearsal, and at the very last second, the board came on stage and said, ‘we can’t have the concert,’” Stegeman said. Despite the abrupt end to the season, she described feeling a sense of closure.

“That dress rehearsal really felt like a concert somehow. It felt like something more than just exceptional energy and passion,” Stegeman said.

Once the nation traded suits for sweatpants and the workday commute for instant Zoom meetings, the classical music world began to adapt in its own way.

The musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra released online content throughout the onset of the pandemic: “We actually realized that we could still connect with our audiences and with the community through video and social media,” Rodgers said.

According to Rodgers, “Sunday Night Live concerts” featured different individual musicians each week. The “Practice! Practice! Practice!” segment provided guidance for young musicians. “Bright Spots” were videos of short pieces recorded by musicians who then passed their personal connection to the music.

An ongoing video series, “Front Row,” features small groups of PSO musicians playing in Heinz Hall as well as other well-known local backdrops.

Social distancing, mask wearing, and self-assessments of health were required for the PSO musicians to return to work.

Both Rodgers and PSO second/utility trombone James Hancock emphasized the importance of safety for everyone, while also acknowledging the danger of COVID-19 to wind and brass players, who are especially vulnerable to respiratory health for their careers.

Beyond their online presence, some PSO musicians participated in local “porch concerts” for limited audiences, according to Rodgers. He participated in a few of the weekly Sunday concerts in the Highland Park neighborhood. “I remember we played our first piece, and I heard applause. And I almost started crying because I thought I heard live applause since the middle of March,” Rodgers said.

PSO cellist Karina Shivone performed as part of a socially-distanced and masked string quartet for a drive-in concert in Homestead. The performance included several movements from Mozart string quartets. A large screen projected the live performance, and the audio was accessible to audience members in their cars via radio, according to Shivone.

The Pittsburgh Opera put together a production of Mozart’s “Così fan tutte” with a modified ensemble size and run time for a limited audience.

Charles Stegeman, violinist and husband to Rachel Stegeman, is the concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Orchestras. Rachel is the assistant/associate concertmaster for both groups.

Charles Stegeman said that the normal orchestra size for a production of “Così fan tutte” is about 35 to 35 players. The Pittsburgh Opera’s performances cut that number to 13. The audience appeared to be around 30 people in total, according to Stegeman. The production took place at the opera company’s building in the Strip District.

According to Charles Stegeman, instrumentalists who could not wear masks due to the technicalities of their respective instruments were spaced 10 feet apart from each other, with plastic sheets to catch any droplets. The string and percussion sections were also separated from the winds and brass.

Vocalists wore specialized masks. “I almost started crying because I heard applause since the middle of March,” Rodgers said. PSO musicians persevere in the midst of pandemic.

“No one on that stage knows the amount of work that went into it,” Charles Stegeman said. “I do definitely worry about the safety of our musicians without pay. However, there is still hope for other orchestras who are pulling through with the support of donors and subscribers.”

“I’m kind of an eternal optimist. I believe that when things do have the chance to bounce back, they’re going to bounce back incredibly strongly,” said Rodgers.

Shivone mentioned that her music-making used to feel more secluded. “It was a great opportunity to not be when, and I already feel behind on assignments – and it’s barely the second week of school.”

Some professors are quite diligent when it comes to updating their syllabi or reminding students of upcoming due dates, but some are not. And it’s getting quite confusing already in this lovely spring semester.

In my opinion, the extended winter break is partially to blame, as I have not opened my laptop in almost two months. I can only handle so much Zoom fatigue to process what comes next, not to mention the bags under my eyes, but I guess I’ll find out the hard way sooner or later.”

—Capri Scarcelli

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK’S EVENTS

COVID-19 Mask Distribution
Jan. 29, @ 9 a.m.
Go to the Office of Commuter Affairs (room 112 in the Union building) for a chance to grab a free mask!

DPC DUNies: Philly Pretzel Factory
Jan. 29, @ 9 p.m.
Stop by the Union NiteSpot for some free soft pretzels!

UPCOMING RELEASES

American rock band Weezer is set to release their 14th studio album, allegedly about being “isolated, alienated and sealed.”

The Little Things
Friday Jan. 29th
Directed by John Lee Hancock and featuring stars such as Denzel Washington, Rami Malek and Jared Leto, this film features an officer on the hunt for two serial killers.

CAPRI’S COMPLAINTS

Newsgas: Online learning still sucks
This is not new information, but I cannot keep up with HyFLP!

I feel like I never know where I’m supposed to be when, and I already feel behind on assignments – and it’s barely the second week of school.

Some professors are quite diligent when it comes to updating their syllabi or reminding students of upcoming due dates, but some... are not. And it’s getting quite confusing already in this lovely spring semester.

I think the extended winter break is partially to blame, as I have not opened my laptop in almost two months. I can only handle so much Zoom fatigue to process what comes next, not to mention the bags under my eyes, but I guess I’ll find out the hard way sooner or later.”

—Capri Scarcelli
Sabrina Carpenter's 'Skin' faces backlash from fans

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

The HSMTMTS’s krewebirds stilled drama in the pop world with their alleged breakup.

WandaVision introduces a pop of color to the series

WandaVision episode three “Now In Color” sheds the black and white and plunges itself into a vibrant technicolor display, replicating the look and feel of 1970s sitcoms. “Now In Color” is filled to the brim with playful gags and charming character moments centered around Wanda’s (Elizabeth Olsen) inexplicable, unnaturally quickly progressing pregnancy.

In terms of delivering answers to any questions posed by the previous two episodes or substantial progression of the plot, this chapter of WandaVision continues to be skimpy.

A third of the way through this nine-episode series, and there is still little clue of where this show is headed. The best moments the series has to offer are the brief glimpses into the world outside this fantasy land of classic television, and the glimpse “Now In Color” delivers is the best of the show so far.

The playful antics and class of the sitcom tropes with a superpowered twist are still lovely to behold; Paul Bettany continues to be immaculately charming in the role of Vision.

The fact that WandaVision is light on the overarching mystery and heavy on the laughtrackable moments is not necessarily a bad thing. Had the show been conceived purely as married life sitcom — no ambiguity, no intrigue, no real impact on the MCU, WandaVision would still be enjoyable and well worth the watch.

Without the hindsight of where the rest of the series will go, this episode is difficult to gauge — if “Now In Color” was the beginning of something new or just more of the same, remains to be seen.

Opposed to Netflix’s binge model, the weekly release Disney has implemented for its shows is excellent for maintaining hype, keeping its series in constant conversation. For WandaVision, with its trend of slow burns and subtle hints, it’s unclear if the weekly episode releases were the best choice. This week’s entire week for 25 minutes of content, with only five of those precious minutes worth of significant story progression, makes for a slightly underwhelming viewing.

The last five minutes are some of the best yet, they left me wanting more, but the show is dampened by the brevity and knowledge of waiting through an entire week and more sitcom antics before receiving any worthwhile plot details.

The mysteries of the show have been building for three episodes now, and the expectations for a worthwhile payoff continue to rise.

The show has teased just enough to keep viewers coming back for the next installment, but hopefully the next episode will provide some much needed answers.

Episode four of WandaVision will premiere on Jan. 29 only on Disney+.

January 28, 2021

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
CONSIDER THIS:

It is illegal to consume, purchase, possess or transport alcohol if you are under the age of 21 in PA (section 6308 of PA crimes code). It is illegal to carry or attempt to use ID that falsely claims you are over the age of 21 to obtain alcohol (section 6310.3 of PA crimes code)

- 1st Offense is a $500.00 fine if issued a State Citation
- PLUS possible additional sanctions by the University, including possible fines
  - First Violation: $100
  - Second Violation $150
  - Third Violation: $200

The risks are real for illegal and or excessive alcohol consumption

Learn more about the risks at: duq.edu/ducares; tw: @DU_Cares or email questions to: Dr. Dan Gittins; gittinsd@duq.edu

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the PA Liquor Control Board. The opinions and statements expressed in the advertisement do not necessarily represent the views of the PA Liquor Control Board.
The Duquesne Duke supports local businesses

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

Contact Carissa Haslam at duqdukeads@gmail.com

Become a nurse in as little as 12 months.

CHANGE YOUR FUTURE.

Attend a Virtual Second Degree BSN Information Session.

Wednesday | 10 a.m. - Noon
Feb. 10
Feb. 24

duq.edu/second-degree-info

Get Updates INSTANTLY

Facebook
The Duquesne Duke

Instagram
@TheDuquesneDuke

Twitter
@TheDuquesneDuke
@TDD_Sports

Online at
www.duqsm.com

Follow THE DUKE on Social Media

COMIC ARTIST Needed for THE DUKE

Visit us at the newsroom in 113 College Hall or email us at steplerk@duq.edu

Your Ad Here

Contact Carissa Haslam at duqdukeads@gmail.com