The Legend of GameStop

GameStop future remains grim as trading frenzy winds down

THE DUQUESNE DUKE
Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Dukes christen new Fieldhouse with home victory

Adam Lindner
sports editor

Duquesne waited a long time for this day to come.

Of course, construction began on the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse — Duquesne University’s gleaming new arena — in March 2019. The school’s basketball and volleyball teams went without a home venue for the entirety of the 2019-20 season, hosting “home” games at nearby locales including PPG Paints Arena, Robert Morris University, La Roche University and various area high schools.

After all, the Copper Fieldhouse — located on the site of the old A.J. Palumbo Center — was originally slated to open in time for the teams’ prospective 2020-21 seasons. One year away from campus in exchange for a revitalized gym seemed like a fair trade for all parties involved.

The Fieldhouse’s construction coincided with a major retooling of Duquesne’s athletic brand, complete with a new typeface, logo and color scheme (welcome to the club, electric blue). Excitement was mounting on the Bluff as it related to university athletics.

Enter: Global pandemic.

COVID-19’s proliferation in March 2020 halted everything at once, sending college students across the country home. The plug was pulled on collegiate athletics, cancelling March Madness and stopping spring sports just as they began. Arena construction, naturally, was put on hold.

The building’s assembly resumed in May following a nearly two-month-long hiatus, but even then, the construction team faced logistical challenges once it returned to work.

For the longest time, the Fieldhouse appeared to be seemingly half-done, leaving the project — and, by extension, the school’s teams — in limbo.

Accordingly, the men’s and women’s basketball teams would eventually embark on their second-straight seasons as nomads, opting for neutral-sites or road games when not hosting makeshift “home” contests.

The women’s volleyball team, which typically competes during fall, beat Dayton, 69-64, in its first game on campus since March 9, 2019. The game, broadcast nationally on ESPN2, saw Duquesne best a Flyers program that doesn’t often beat. Freshman forward Chad Baker nailed a 3-pointer 41 seconds into the game, notching the Dukes’ first-ever home victory.

Then, the construction team faced logistical challenges once it returned to work.

The Fieldhouse — named after 1950 Duquesne graduate Chuck Dixon Line and to be drafted into the NBA — officially opened Feb. 2, when the men’s basketball team beat Dayton, 69-64, in its first game on campus since March 9, 2019. The game, broadcast nationally on ESPN2, saw Duquesne best a Flyers program that doesn’t often beat. Freshman forward Chad Baker nailed a 3-pointer 41 seconds into the game, notching the Fieldhouse’s first-ever home victory.

Fifty students were permitted to attend Tuesday’s grand opening, plus some players’ families and friends. In all, 212 people attended the arena’s long-awaited christening.

The truth, though? The truth is Duquesne waited a hell of a lot longer than 22 months...
Lucas Traverse, as remembered by his childhood best friend

When Hastings and his circle of friends did not hear from Traverse for several hours on Saturday, the group began to fear something had happened to their friend. Hastings recalled the moment another friend called him and said “We found out the worst.”

Although Hastings was deeply saddened by the loss of his friend, he expressed a need to help the Traverse family in any way possible. As a result, Hastings started a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money for funeral arrangements for the Traverse family.

“Whether there is a funeral or not, there will be a cost to burying your son,” Hastings said. “It’s just not fair to the family.”

Since launching the campaign on Saturday, Hastings has raised nearly $30,000, almost triple his initial goal of $10,000. And donations continue to pour in. Hastings noted that Duquesne’s Greek Life community has been among the most generous and supportive during this difficult time.

“It just shows you how much he was loved,” Hastings said.

Duquesne mourns the loss of Lucas Traverse, a sophomore business student, after he died suddenly on Saturday morning.

The mass will be limited to family and fellow fraternity members. However, students and faculty may attend the mass and prayer service virtually.

“Thank you for all the donations and support. It’s all for his family. And please just keep praying for them,” Hastings said in gratitude to the Duquesne community.

In addition to Traverse’s on-campus memorial, his family will also receive friends and family this coming Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until his funeral service at noon in St. Jude Church in his hometown of Chalfont, PA.

“It’s just not going to be the same, all of us — together — and he’s not going to be there with us,” Hastings said.

Lucas Traverse Fund. The money raised will go to funeral arrangements for the family.

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 hammondcl@duq.edu
An inside look at new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse

The new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse is fully renovated with new amenities including a state-of-the-art jumbotron, 3,500 new seats and a weight room.

Students cheered on the Dukes in their first game at the new Fieldhouse against Dayton, (mostly) masked up and socially distant.

Duquesne’s men’s basketball team beat Dayton (69-64), a strong start to their pandemic season in a new home arena.

The new fieldhouse remains mostly empty as COVID-19 restriction still prevent large, in-person gatherings such as live sporting events.

Virtual Greek Life recruitment takes campus by storm

Zoe Stratos
staff writer

With over 30 active sororities and fraternities on campus, and over half of the student population involved in one or more of them, Greek Life is an influential aspect of the student experience at Duquesne — even with COVID-19 still dominating American lives.

The Office of Greek Life had its hands full thus far planning out spring recruitment following COVID-19 protocols, as the university put new policies in place to ensure a safe process for all organizations — social and professional.

“In November 2020, a new policy was implemented at the university that transitioned all student programs to a virtual format,” said Rebecca Jamrozik Mickler, Director of Greek Life, Honor Societies and Professional Organizations. “As part of that policy to ensure everybody’s safety, we are keeping our recruitment efforts virtual for the time being. To me, the most important thing is to keep the integrity of the current hygiene academic format intact, and if that means recruitment events are virtual, then that’s what we will continue to do.”

Within the Office of Greek Life are the four Greek Councils and their member organizations, including the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Professional Fraternity Council (PFC) and the Panhellenic Council. These councils work hand in hand with the Office of Greek Life to continue fairness, successes and safety during the pandemic-style recruitment.

And with this pandemic-style recruitment, these organizations are coming up with ideas for virtual events while still fostering a sense of brother/sisterhood for new members.

“COVID has made the recruitment process more creative,” said Bailey Prebish, IFC president and member of Sigma Nu fraternity. “Many of them are extremely creative from Zoom hangouts, to giving virtual tours through their chapter’s respective wing on campus. One fraternity used their recruitment budget to order food and deliver it to each and every potential new member’s residence.”

The creativity does not stop there, either, as according to NPHC president Kayla White, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority has self-care nights and constant check-ins. Natalie Klek, IFC President, also points out that Lambda Kappa Sigma sorority uses a platform for new member education called “Ice Breakers.”

Known for their ability to cultivate friendships through events and philanthropy, two social sororities and fraternities did their best to make recruitment as fun as possible in a time where in-person events were not a viable option.

Incoming Membership Vice President Delaney Dooley, of Gamma Phi Beta talked about the struggles and successes she had during the spring recruitment process.

“I think we’ve done a good job being as personable as possible, although the online format comes with positives and negatives for both parties,” Dooley said. “We took advantage of screen sharing. We talk a lot about our philanthropy and sisterhood and about events that we’ve held online. It’s not great to tell them how many great things to do in-person, so we stress the fun online events like playing Kahoots that quiz you on our sisters. We want to be engaging but also COVID-19 safe.

Even with the protocols and policies in place, turnout for recruitment was fairly consistent, with only a slight drop in student interest. But the chapters were prepared, as new forms of advertising through heavy social media presence came to the forefront of recruitment.

Head of Recruitment Justin Prechold, of Tau Kappa Epsilon, emphasized the importance of advertising and cultivating a bond through online events.

“We’re big on brotherhood, so we try to hammer that home to potential. We tell them right off the bat that it’s not going to be the same, but the positives outweigh negatives,” Prechold said. “My responsibility was to create events and take the initiative to get the word out about us. We hung up posters in freshman hallways — with permission of course — and also talked to kids on social media. I was always handing out phone numbers.”

And with this effort from all of the social sororities and fraternities on campus, spring recruitment continued to occur as usual, but with an edited style.

“Even during this time I encourage everyone to step out of the box — clubs, professional frats, Greek Life, etc. — because the experience is like no other,” Dooley said. “Finding your fit and sharing these experiences with your friends is so fun. I want everyone to have the experiences I’ve had.”
Perseverance in the face of a pandemic

As we all brace and continue to mask ourselves for the daily hurdles of life, what occupies your attention through the lens of the day is quite different than what you were preoccupied with in September of 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic shook all Americans to their core as everyday routines were abruptly changed around the country.

This brought forth the need for people to look intrinsically and adapt in order to better understand themselves in the midst of these harsh realities and societal challenges. The lockdown humbled many of us. It pushed those who wanted to strive towards self-sufficiency to do so in an independent way.

For those who wanted to work on their physique, the gyms became unavailable which led to a need to discover other alternatives. Those who wanted to continue practicing mindfulness to nourish the mind, body, and soul had to do so in creative ways.

From ordering dumbbells online and working out in the garage, to virtual yoga classes and scheduled meditation times, there is overwhelming evidence that Americans rose to the challenge even as the world crumbled around them. Although this may be true, I continue to hear chatter from those around me — family, friends, and constituents — that the pandemic has had such a dreadful and life changing impact on their lives. I would like to shine the light on an alternate perspective of COVID-19 — one that most appear to be overlooking.

Pisk Lee, a senior psychology and international relations double-major at Duquesne, spoke candidly about his time exploring both his mental and physical development over the course of this global pandemic. “The pandemic, for myself, habituated a lot of during the most tumultuous of times is actually proving to be beneficial in the long term, as it allows one to become better acquainted with or for her inner self. There is no questioning that this pandemic affected some of us far worse than others. Many of us know of a friend or family member who lost someone close to them over the course of this unprecedented time. However, acknowledging all of the grief and tumultuousness of these past 12-months-or-so, the drastic changes to each of our personal little worlds can be seen through a lens of appreciation.

Indeedly, I am indeed attempting to breed some optimism as, quite frankly, I’ve grown tired of the negativity and repetitive mindsets that come with the change while lifting the veil on an alternate perspective of COVID-19 are widely-prevalent challenges related to COVID-19 are widely-prevalent and should not be taken lightly. I’m in no way under-mining the serious implications of the pandemic on our global society.

That being said, I am also of the opinion that we must embrace change with a positive mindset and excessive enthusiasm. If we fail to do so, then we will surely live a life of fear and misery. It is time to acknowledge that humankind has been prevailing since our incep-tion. We must not be bound down by our current predicament but rather adapt to the change while lifting up others. Negativity is not the answer.

Staff Editorial

Black history should be celebrated longer than a month

Comedian Chris Rock frequently pokes fun at the notion of February as Black History Month — the coldest, shortest month of the year. And he isn’t wrong. All too often, the American school system chooses to only educate students on the heroes of the Black community, who helped to shape our nation, as a novelty lesson for a few short weeks in February.

While Black History Month has opened the door to difficult con-versations about race in schools and taught students about pillars in the Black community, this simply isn’t enough.

In a year marked by civil unrest and a global cry for racial reckoning, every aspect of society is being called into ques-tion to ensure it is equitable and fair. Isn’t it time we reevaluate the historical narratives taught in our schools?

Although it is incredibly important to honor, remember and celebrate Black History Month, it cannot be the only exposure students have to the Black community.

Growing up in a predominantly white area, it was custom to learn about MLK and Rosa Park during February, but teachers were unwilling to discuss harder topics like the legacy of Malcolm X and the Tulsa Race Massacre come March.

We need to address the lack of diversity in the American education system at every level, starting with a highly-white-washed curriculum.

By and large, students in public schools across the country read novels and textbooks written by white authors. Yes, Huckleberry Finn can be one way to start a conversation about race in the classroom. But if the intention is a holistic educational experience with honest depictions of American life, Maya Angelou’s I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings or Toni Morrison’s Beloved give a much more honest look at life for Black women than any novels by their white counterparts.

While initiatives like the New York Time’s 1619 Project, an education system that places slavery and the Black experience at the forefront of the narrative of American history, are a great, they often can be viewed as too ambitious for school districts to adopt. As a result, schools continue to regale Black history to the backburner.

Black history is at the heart of American history. The Black experience is essential to the American experience. And we cannot overlook it — no matter how uncomfortable these lessons might be.

Ignoring the difficult and painful past, as many textbooks written by Black Americans only perpetuates the notion that racism is a thing of the past. As this year clearly showed us, it is unfortunately alive and well at home and across the globe.

Our greatest weapon in the war against racism and injustice is educa-tion. And we cannot continue to ignore it’s role in developing strong, citizens who seek justice.

Learning about the Black community and Black history cannot be exiled to a single month — especially not the coldest, shortest one.
Calls for the removal of Marjorie Taylor Greene are well-justified

ALYSE KAMINSKI  
staff columnist

There has already been so much drama in politics this year and it is only February. Between the insurrection at the Capitol and subsequent impeachment, it’s hard to even imagine what all is in store for 2021. And with so-called leaders like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, I just know we are in for one crazy term.

To recap, Rep. Greene hails from Georgia, representing the 14th District which covers Rome, Calhoun and Dalton. She was the lady at the impeachment debate wearing the “CENSORED” mask while on national television. It is not surprising that a Republican with such strong and far-right views was elected in this district. However, that does not stop her behavior, past and present.

Recently, a video of Rep. Greene harassing and following David Hogg, a survivor of the Parkland shooting and common sense gun law advocate, has surfaced. In an interview in 2019, she also called him an idiot, according to NBC News.

It is as though she fails to recognize the trauma that David Hogg and his fellow classmates endured the day 17 of their peers and school faculty were murdered. Rep. Greene, an elected official sworn to protect her constituents, shows absolutely no empathy to a person about 25 years her junior who experienced the unthinkable.

Not only that, but Rep. Greene has supported the execution of Democrats through social media posts advocating for such violence. According to a CNN report, she liked a post essentially saying that “a bullet to the head” would be the quickest form of removing Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, from office. I cannot fathom what would happen to any Democrat if they liked such a post referring to a Republican.

Rep. Greene also said on Facebook Live that Pelosi was responsible for treason and should be punished by death. Those words came out of her mouth. News has additionally surfaced that Greene has shown support for baseless conspiracy theories from Q-Anon. I personally saw one she liked where Jewish people were being accused of controlling space to start the wildfires last year.

Between all of this, and the time in 2018 when she said Reps. Omar and Tlaib are part of a “Muslim invasion on our government,” I am at a loss. It is genuinely hard to come up with the words to describe all of this. It is such insanity.

What feels even more insane is that I am siding with Rep. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) on this one. He said it better than I can – Rep. Greene is a cancer to the Republican Party. This woman, and all like her, represent the worst in us as Americans. She represents those who believe everything they see on Facebook. Those who don’t do research. Those who go to church on Sunday to worship our Lord, but then will turn around and push lies about their Muslim brothers and sisters.

Her lack of empathy and ability to tolerate in any elected office. I am in full support of all efforts to have her removed from her committee assignments, especially if she will really be working on education. Anyone who harasses a student who survived a school shooting should not be making decisions regarding anyone’s education.

Yes, Rep. Greene and her like-minded colleagues represent something truly broken in America. Let her be a reminder of a few things. First, the danger in electing anyone who uses Facebook as their main source of information. And second, that if we all were just a little more empathetic, we would not be so deeply entrenched in the disaster that is America right now.
**Mystery behind Fisher Hall's name reels in students**

**Emily Ambery**

staff writer

Fisher Hall, soon to be home to a consolidated School of Nursing, was purchased by the university in 1959 from the Fisher Scientific Company.

For several years, the building has housed a variety of offices and programs. The layout of Fisher is known for being confusing, according to Tom White, the university archivist.

"Fisher Hall is actually five smaller buildings with a common façade," White explained.

The history of Fisher is much more recent than some other buildings on campus.

College Hall, which is home to the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts, is named after Duquesne's ninth president, Fr. Henry Joseph McAnulty, who was president from 1930 to 1980. McAnulty was monumental in fundraising for the university and carrying out his predecessor's Master Plan. It is the oldest school at the university.

"Three of our academic buildings used to be parking garages," White said. "The Mary Pappert School of Music, The McAnulty College of Liberal Arts and Gumberg Library."

Archbishop J.F. Regis Canevin was Bishop of Pittsburgh during the time when Duquesne was growing. Canevin helped secure funding for expansion and supported Duquesne and the Pittsburgh community immeasurably. The completed Canevin Hall was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1923.

Rockwell Hall is named after Colonel Willard F. Rockwell. An alumnus, former chairman of the President's Advisory Board and fundraiser for Duquesne, he gave $226,000 to the Duquesne building fund. In return for his generosity, Rockwell Hall was dedicated on Nov. 16, 1938.

In 1964, the Richard King Mellon Foundation gifted $2 million dollars for the science hall. Father McAnulty, president at the time, asked if it could be named "Richard King Mellon Hall," and it took six months for General Richard King Mellon to consent. The Mellon Hall of Science was completed and dedicated in 1968.

"The frame actually collapsed during construction because it wasn't fully tightened," John G. Rangos Sr. was a member of the Duquesne's board of directors, and was president and CEO of Chambers Development Co. when he gave the university $2 million to convert and equip a health science building.

The John G. Rangos Sr. School of Health Sciences was completed and dedicated on Oct. 18, 1991.

"The bricks for Old Main were made by Spiritan priests and brothers in a brickyard that once occupied the site of Rangos," White said.

The Bayer Corporation donated $2 million to the university for a school of Natural and Environmental Sciences, to be matched by Duquesne in return for the school to be named the Bayer Learning Center.

The School of Nursing will fully transition into Fisher Hall by the end of 2021.


duq hosts events celebrating Black History Month

Gillian Fitzgerald

staff writer

With January over, Black History Month has begun and Duquesne's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), along with faculty and student organizations, will be hosting events throughout the next four weeks to engage the entire community in discussions and programs.

Over Zoom, Duquesne's Black Student Union (BSU) kicked off the month with "On My Block," an event intended for students to get to know one another, discuss the meaning of home and welcome them to the university.

Their upcoming events include a Trivia Night that will take place over Zoom on Feb. 9 to test students' knowledge of Black history. Students are encouraged to come prepared to win great prizes for the first, second and third place winners.

BSU will also hold an event titled "Hip-Hop Music Culture Discussion" on Feb. 16, along with a viewing of Disney's new movie Soul — Pixar’s first with a Black lead character — on Feb. 26.

Throughout the month, Duquesne faculty and staff will also be holding several events for students, such as "What’s the Word Wednesday:" a weekly discussion on current events, trends and Black culture. Other events include "Structural Racism and Health Equity" hosted by the Center for African Studies on Feb. 18, a discussion on "Critical Race Theory — From Theory to Practice" by the Center for Student Wellbeing on Feb. 23 and Dr. Alydia Thomas’ "Colorism Conversation" on Feb. 25.

Other organizations on campus will also host events like yoga, a pageant and a service event during the month. Students can see a full list of events for BHM on Duquesne’s website under the Diversity and Inclusion page, along with involved organizations’ social media to find out where and when the events take place.

The origin of Black History Month can be credited to Carter G. Woodson — a Black historian and scholar and the second Black man to earn a Ph.D from Harvard University — and The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a Historically Black College.

A member of the fraternity, John H. Burnell, was inspired by an address Woodson gave at the Fraternity’s Ninth Annual Conclave in 1920 to create a program that stressed Black history. What began as Negro History and Literature Week by the fraternity was transformed by Woodson into what is now internationally known and has been celebrated as BHM since 1976.

BHM takes place in February, as chosen by Woodson, because it was Negro History Week in the 1920s, it was celebrated to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14).

The programs scheduled during BHM are designed to give students opportunities to learn, listen and be involved in conversations and activities that specialize in Black history in the U.S. By participating in programs focused on BHM, students are able to celebrate the historic accomplishments of Black Americans, educate themselves on the nation’s history and apply what they learn to today’s work towards equity and racial justice.
Men's hoops team dominant in arena-opening W

COOPER — from page 1

for the Fieldhouse’s completion. Even before plans for the Fieldhouse were announced in late 2018, change was needed in order for Duquesne to consistently compete at the highest level. It was evident.

But we weren’t going to win with the old building. We weren’t,” Athletic Director Dave Harper told reporters earlier this week.

The new barn — one that Harp called “transformative” and men’s hoops coach Keith Dambrot donned the “perfect building for Duquesne” — came complete with many of the amenities found at high-major venues, including:

1. Two high-definition Daktronics video boards, one of which is gnomes
2. Six suites and 55 club-level seats, both of which appear to be professional-grade
3. Enhanced concession areas (Harper said construction contractor F.J. Dick joked that Duquesne might have built the largest bar in Pittsburgh)
4. A modernized, booming sound system
5. Four “fan corners” with impeccable sightlines
6. Large windows on the building’s exterior, allowing for phenomenal views of Pittsburgh’s skyline

The men’s hoops team inaugurated its new building admirably on Tuesday, earning a wire-to-wire victory over last season’s conference champions.

The contest’s final tally insinuated that the game was closer than it truly was. Duquesne led by as many as 22 points in the game’s second half and was never seriously threatened by Dayton’s attempt to come back.

Admittedly, it was a lot to take in.

Patrons of the former Palumbo Center, which opened in 1988, will remember many things about the Dukes’ old digs. Chief among them, perhaps, is the losing legacy Duquesne left in the building.

Since the Palumbo Center’s erection, Duquesne’s men’s team hasn’t won an NCAA Tournament game since 1992, when Dambrot was 19-years-old and Norm Nixon was still a Duk.

Things are different now.

For the first time in a long time, Duquesne can say the same.

“The wrap on Duquesne in the past has been, They’ve never won, they can’t win, they haven’t been to the NCAA Tournament in 1,000 years. Coaches get fired, there’s no commitment from the school,” Dambrot said.

“If you don’t commit, you can’t win. You can’t consistently sustain anything,” he continued. “People can think it’s the coach, but it’s not the coach when you lose for as many years as Duquesne lost. They’ve had some good coaches here. They just didn’t have enough in the program.”

Freshman guard Mike Bkeliaja defends Dayton star Jalen Crutcher on Feb. 2.

DUQ VB coach excited for 2021 season

Brentaro Yamane

Steve Opperman is a competitor and wants to win as many matches as possible.

This season will be Opperman’s 23rd year as the head coach of Duquesne’s women’s volleyball team. Before the 2019 season, his Dukes team had made the Atlantic 10 tournament for nine straight years. However, in the 2019 season, the Dukes faced injuries and finished the year with a 10-17 overall record (and a 4-10 conference mark), resulting in the end of their nine-year A-10 tournament appearance streak. For Opperman, knowing that his team could not reach the A-10 tournament was definitely frustrating, and he is doing whatever he can to get the Dukes back to contention again.

“Obviously, when your season doesn’t go like it’s supposed to, I think you always want to bounce back with a winning record. I think our kids did some nice things, even though we didn’t have a winning record in 2019,” Opperman said, who played collegiate volleyball at Ohio State. “The freshmen took it hard when they realized that we were not going to make the A-10 tournament. They felt like they let the team down.”

This season, Duquesne will only play 10 games, with all of their matches set for conference play against either Davidson, VCU, Dayton or Saint Louis. For the Dukes, it has been tough to get everyone together for full-team practices due to COVID-19 protocols, but all of the players have been doing their best to train. The Dukes did not have a full-team practice with all of their players until Jan. 21.

With the way the team has been practicing, Opperman has liked the improvement he has seen from the group.

“We had a great training block in the fall,” Opperman said. “I think we’re starting to be a better ball control team than we were in the fall of 2019 because of the younger kids growing up and maturing, so it has sharpened just a bit. On an attacking standpoint, we’ve cleaned some things up in that area. I think the biggest improvement that I hope will translate on the floor is our blocking.”

The Dukes lost three seniors from last season in Kaitlyn Knurek, Dani Suiter and Liz Wayne. They all brought leadership, but the fact that Suiter and Wayne missed some games last season due to illness and injuries gave some of the younger players more experience.

Going into this season, Opperman thinks everyone on the team has grown into their roles. He thinks all of his players are doing a good job of what him and staff are asking them to do. Some of the players that stick out on the team are Morgan Kelly (sophomore) and Ego Onu (redshirt junior).

“Morgan is really starting to come into her own. She is a kid that our opponents will be eying on the future,” Opperman said. “Ego is quiet and has done some nice things in the past. She is really starting to understand how good of a player that she can be, and she is providing that on the floor. She wants to know what she needs to see VOLLEYBALL — page 8

Duquesne football to return March 7 vs. Sacred Heart

Following a postponed fall season, the Duquesne football team is set to play a four-game Northeast Conference-only schedule beginning on March 7 versus Sacred Heart.

The Dukes will play host twice at Rooney Field — against Sacred Heart and then versus Long Island on March 21 — and will travel for two road games (at Wagner March 14 and Bryant March 28).

All games will be played on Sundays. Game times have not yet been announced.

The NEC decided to postpone all fall sports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; now, virtually all of the conference’s teams are set for an abbreviated spring season.

St. Francis (Pa.) and Central Connecticut State have each opted out of competition, leaving six teams to fight for the NEC title. In addition to Duquesne and its four 2021 opponents, Merrimack rounds out the conference’s field for the coming season.

Robert Morris, located in nearby Moon Township and a longtime member of the NEC, joined the Horizon League in most sports in 2020. The Colonials’ football team now competes in the Big South Conference (the Horizon League doesn’t sponsor football).

This season will be the first since 2002 that won’t see Duquesne play Robert Morris on the gridiron.

The four-game NEC slate precedes a conference championship game between the league’s top two teams. The NEC does not usually have football championship games — typically, the team with the best regular-season record is named the league’s champion — meaning the upcoming season all the more unique.

The date for the title game hasn’t yet been determined, but the match will be played some time in April. The league’s champion, per usual, will be granted an automatic bid into the FCS playoffs.

The FCS Playoff selection show is set for Sunday, April 18, while the FCS playoffs are scheduled to begin Saturday, April 24.

The Dukes are set to begin spring practice this weekend, per a program press release.

— Sports Editor Adam Lindner
**DU volleyball team set to return following postponed season**

By Jacob Herda

For the first time in Opperman's coaching career, the Dukes will be able to play in their new arena. For them, being displaced from their home court has been one of the greatest challenges they have faced. However, the team is excited to return to the court and put on a show for their fans.

**Hedga: Super Bowl LV rife with stars, storylines**

By Jacob Herda

The Kansas City Chiefs will face off against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Super Bowl LV on Feb. 7. The game promises to be one of the most exciting in recent memory, with both teams boasting star players and a wealth of storylines.

**8 THE DUQUESNE DUKE**
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Virtual jazz sessions bring new sound to campus**

**Emma Polen**

**staff writer**

Get ready to groove to some jazz from across the ages! Thomas Wendt, a professor at Duquesne’s school of music, is now sharing his expansive collection of jazz records and related knowledge, and everyone with a Duquesne email is invited to his listening sessions. His premiere Zoom this past Friday, Jan. 29, was based on the works of the musician Roy Eldridge. Wendt discovered his passion for jazz as a drummer. He said he started listening to jazz in order to better his own rhythm section skills.

“As a musician, you’re always trying to grow and become better,” Wendt said.

Wendt hopes to encourage this same growth in Duquesne students, especially those interested in jazz music, with his Zoom sessions.

“The best way to [get closer to music] is to listen,” Wendt said. “By learning to listen in a critical, focused way, you can gain a much greater understanding of the music. And, it’s also fun.”

Last week’s jazz listening session started with an introduction on Roy Eldridge, who was a jazz trumpeter from Pittsburgh. His debut album was published in the 1930s, but he was a popular player until his death in 1989. Eldridge played a major part in transforming the jazz trumpet from the style of Louis Armstrong to how it is heard in more modern jazz.

The first piece Wendt played on his record player for listeners was “(Lookie, lookie, lookie) Here Comes Cookie,” a trumpet feature that proves how talented Eldridge was even at the beginning of his career in the mid-1930s. From there, Wendt introduced his audience to a number of other works featuring Eldridge. These included tracks that Eldridge played alongside popular jazz players Oscar Peterson, Quincy Jones and Dizzy Gillespie.

The first piece was “What a Little Moonlight Can Do,” which Eldridge performed with well-known singer Billie Holiday. It was an upbeat tune that made Wendt just want to stomp my foot. Its jazzy groove and forward motion made it a very easy addition to my favorites on Spotify. The piece that I thought was the most memorable was “Rap Your Troubles In Dreams” by the Newport Rebels featuring Roy Eldridge. The song itself is pretty laid back, but it has a surprisingly impactful message. The record was recorded in protest to big record companies commercializing jazz in the 60’s.

In addition to playing a multitude of records for his audience, Wendt included helpful context for each of the pieces. For example, he explained that string orchestras became a popular addition to jazz music in the 1940s, and then proved that Roy Eldridge could always fix his trumpet part seamlessly into the sound of the song with the track “Bass and Street Blues” with Spencer Williams.

As apparent to anyone who was on the Zoom last Friday, Wendt is an avid record collector. He has shelves of record disks from assorted periods of music, proving that he takes the whole “listening” aspect of learning music seriously.

Wendt says he has had success finding records across Pittsburgh at places like Ryon’s Records, The Attic Records and The Government Center. Although last week was solely focused on Roy Eldridge’s career, Wendt had no shortage of records to play, and he filled almost the whole two hours of the Zoom session with Eldridge’s fantastic recordings.

Wendt encourages music students to join his Friday Zooms, but all Duquesne students are welcome. I would suggest joining at least once, if only to see Wendt’s impressive collection of records.

Tune in next Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. to enjoy the music of Dexter Gordon, a phenomenal jazz tenor saxophonist. In the weeks to come, Wendt will be featuring other jazz musicians from Pittsburgh and other jazz groups from history in future Zoom sessions.

---

**Lizzie Sharp**

**staff writer**

Senior music technology and vocal performance major, Vinny Marchi, is no stranger to the phenomenon of social media breeding opportunities for aspiring musicians. He currently boasts over 400 thousand followers on the social media platform TikTok, and this number only seems to be growing.

Before his TikTok career, as long as he can remember, Marchi was singing anywhere and everywhere he could. Although, it was not until college that he realized he had a gift for opera, specifically falsetto.

“I just stuck, and I loved it,” Marchi said. He now considers himself an undercatenor, a classical male singing part.

Marchi started uploading his TikTok account in May 2020. He initially began posting for fun during quarantine lockdown, but it eventually gained traction with people all over the world.

His recent TikTok fame came when he uploaded a video singing a version of the “Habanera,” originally composed by Georges Bizet, that currently has 6.5 million views. From that point on, he began gaining a large following, and the number of views on his videos increased.

“It was absolutely insane,” Marchi said about his videos accumulating so many views. He went from having 100 thousand to 200 thousand followers in the span of two days, due to the overwhelming support he has gained.

“It is just a fun thing to do, but something that could also further my music career,” Marchi said. “When I hit 10,000 followers in the summer, I realized it could be used as a stepping stone to the next big thing… I made a classical album with some original songs, but mostly classical.

Marchi tries to not categorize himself into a particular genre. “I want to create a lot of different kinds of music,” he said.

But, with opera being the most popular of his videos while gaining the most traction with his audience, this is a niche he continues to pursue.

“As more and more people started listening to my music, it occurred to me that it was a good time to release and make more,” Marchi said.

He recently released a single, “Lullaby for the Anxious,” on all streaming platforms. He writes and produces all of his own music and is planning on releasing a new single in the coming weeks.

“The track ‘Lullaby for the Anxious’ has been overwhelmingly positive,” Marchi said.

He was able to promote this track using his new social media following. The track now has over 30 thousand streams on Spotify.

“Social media has disrupted the whole music industry as much as any other industry,” Marchi explained.

“It is possible to be all you need… it is possible to be all you need… it is possible to be all you need…”

Marchi has many goals for his future career, but for now, TikTok has been a way to release meaningful content to viewers. He tries to post on TikTok every day since his video went viral.

The advice Marchi would give to people wanting to get started on social media is to post consistently and take pride in the work that they do.

“Try to look at content objectively from the eyes of someone that is just stumbling on your feed…and think ‘I’m proud of the thing I’m creating,’” Marchi explained.

Marchi can be found on TikTok and Instagram where he goes viral on TikTok for operatic pieces and solo work.

**Jazz musician Roy Eldridge was featured in last week’s virtual record-listening.**

**Vinny Marchi goes viral on TikTok for operatic pieces and solo work.**
The pink guitar and microphone pured only with the painted nails really matched his energy, while the low-cut, all-white suit complemented his tattoos. For those who are not as familiar with MGK and his style, he truly represented his most authentic self on that stage and seemed to really enjoy the night with the cast and crew.

As Krasinski gave closing remarks and the ending cadence carried on in the background, MGK and Davidson took a tumbler off the stage, which was, indeed, caught on camera. It was an impromptu, spazzed out moment, but it brought a final round of laughter to the audience as the credits rolled.

The next episode of SNL will air on Feb. 6, hosted by Dan Levy with a guest performance by indie artist Phoebe Bridgers.

Bachelor series features first Black bachelor

Alyse Kaminski
staff writer

Ah, Bachelor Mondays. Sitting down for two hours of my day, watching TV producers manipulate people for the whole world to see and becoming emotionally invested in all of it.

I began watching all of the shows in the Bachelor franchise during Jojo Fletcher’s run as the Bachelorette. Since then, I have not seen a single person of color be the Bachelor or Bachelorette and I began watching years ago. Rachel Lindsay was the first and only Bachelorette of color, but I hadn’t even seen the show when she was on it. I know how the shows in The Bachelor universe, but why are they so bad when it comes to representation?

There have been 25 seasons of The Bachelor, and Matt James is the first Black Bachelor we have seen. It’s a win for representation, honestly. And let me be frank – the producers only chose to do so now in the wake of the George Floyd protests. I loved watching the shows in The Bachelor universe, but why are they so bad when it comes to representation?

In an article on Medium, writer Helen Kim Ho writes that tokenism is a common practice in the workplace often. She reveals, “Tokenism achieves the same while giving those in power the appearance of being non-racist and even champions of diversity because they recruit and use POC as racialized props.”

Note how this season of The Bachelor just might be the most diverse we have seen yet in terms of the contestants, I’m falling in love with every single season. Had this summer not unfolded the way it did, I am skeptical as to whether or not the franchise would have had a Black Bachelorette and Bachelor this time around.

Also note that there have been more conversations surrounding race since Tayshia and Matt become the leads. Now this is an aspect I am happy to see. I feel like there is a group of people who watch The Bachelor franchise and are likely oblivious to conversations around race. I am glad that Tayshia, Matt and the contestants on the seasons are willing to have raw conversations about this. It brings awareness to the topic and just feels more real, rather than the usual conversations that go something like, “How do you feel about us?” “I feel great.” And then they kiss. Of course it is great to see more representation in the franchise. I am just saying that it took way too long and that it is most likely only happening because the fanbase started getting antsy about it a few years ago and it all came to a head this summer during the protests. And let me just say on a lighter note that Matt is a great Bachelor. He is caring and conscious of the girls feelings. There are rarely times in other seasons of The Bachelor when the man asks a girl struggling, “What can I do for you to make it easier?” This is so opposed to how in other seasons of Bachelor series the Bachelor is more interested in getting the girl to keep her feelings. There are rarely times in other seasons of The Bachelor when the man asks a girl struggling, “What can I do for you to make it easier?”

Matt James makes history as first Black bachelor in over 25 seasons.
Anyone can become addicted. Anyone.

If you or someone you know is struggling with an addiction, reach out.

You matter.

PA Resources

- PAstop.org
- Text “PA” to 741-741
- Get Help Now: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Duquesne Resources

- DU Cares: gittinsd@duq.edu
- Counseling & Wellbeing Center: 412-396-6204
- Health Services: 412-396-1650
- Campus Ministry: 412-396-6020

If you or someone you know is struggling with an addiction, reach out. You matter.

PA Resources

- PAstop.org
- Text “PA” to 741-741
- Get Help Now: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Duquesne Resources

- DU Cares: gittinsd@duq.edu
- Counseling & Wellbeing Center: 412-396-6204
- Health Services: 412-396-1650
- Campus Ministry: 412-396-6020

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

Follow us on Instagram
@TheDuquesneDuke

Visit our website at
duqsm.com

The Duquesne Duke
supports local businesses

The Duquesne Duke
supports local businesses

LISTEN LIVE 24/7
DUQSM.COM/WDSR