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African American Read-In held at Duquesne

BAYLEE MARTIN
staff writer

As the nation's first and oldest literacy initiative dedicated to diversity in literature, the National African American Read-In has become a traditional part of Black History Month after its establishment in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, Duquesne University held its third annual African American Read-In in celebration of Black History Month. Although the event could not be held in person this year as it has been in the past, its impact was not diminished.

The Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center's Pennsylvania Acts 101 Program and the Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs sponsored the event virtually via Zoom under the coordination of Judith Griggs and Josefine Rizzo. April Wade, assistant director for the Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center and the Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs, hosted the event.

Wade used the words of Jerrie Cobb Scott, the founder of the African American Read-In.

"The purpose of an African American Read-In is to get young people engaged," Wade said. "It is important for all of us to see ourselves in books. Black students need to know that some of the characters are

see READ— page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Staycation Celebration



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In what would have been Spring Break in a traditional year, Residence Life and Freshmen Development hosted a live music event; music was provided by student bands who performed on Assumption Commons. It drew in a large group of students who stayed to sit and chat by a bonfire while enjoying some original music.

DU to begin administering COVID-19 vaccines

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

On March 3, Duquesne University sent an email to all students announcing that the Pennsylvania Department of Health [DOH] has approved administration of the COVID-19 vaccine on campus for employees and students in the near future.

"The university has been in constant contact with county and state health officials about every aspect of COVID-19 issues, from early safety measures and alerts right up through current conversations about vaccines," said Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Gabriel Welsch. "We have described our readiness and our wish to do our part for the effort by providing the vaccine efficiently within our

community, and we are pleased that the state has agreed, in principle, to activate our provider."

The news first came to the university on Friday, Feb. 26, and since then, the Duquesne University COVID-19 Master Planning Team has been working hard to prepare.

Led by the Center for Pharmacy Care and under the supervision of Health Services Medical Director, Dr. Paul Larson, the vaccine will be distributed in the Power Center ballrooms.

"Both Student Health Services and Center for Pharmacy Care (CPC) have been preparing for months for vaccine distribution at Duquesne University," Larson said. "CPC staff, under the direction of Dr. Libby Bunk, have provided invaluable support to the Allegheny County Health Department in their community

vaccine programs and Duquesne has hosted previous vaccine clinics provided by the ACHD. Although we submitted our application prior to Thanksgiving, we were surprised to learn last Thursday that our vaccine provider agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Health had been authorized."

Vaccine supplies have been limited across the state, and requests for supplies for distribution aren't assured in other regional health systems, but Larson and the rest of CPC and Health Services are hopeful that supplies will begin rolling in soon.

Since the vaccine plans are in the beginning stages, the university does not know which type of vaccine they will be receiving, nor when distribution will begin, but DOH guidelines have given

the university a place to start.

"We are not aware if other regional institutions have been authorized to request vaccines and would caution that vaccine distribution cannot be guaranteed until supplies are received at Duquesne University," Larson said. "Thereafter, Duquesne University is fully equipped with storage, space and staff to begin vaccinating eligible faculty, staff and students, and will continue to do so as long as supplies are received."

According to the Pennsylvania DOH website, vaccine distribution is still in the 1A phase, which includes long-term care facility residents, healthcare personnel, persons 65 and older and persons 16-64 with high risk conditions. Because initial supplies are limited, the vaccine will be distributed to Pennsylvanians in

see COVID— page 3

POLICE BRIEFS

According to Duquesne's Department of Public Safety, there are no daily crime logs to report from this past week.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

The new dashboard features campus COVID-19 data along with information from Allegheny County.

The campus data dashboard breaks down COVID-19 cases, tests, isolation and quarantine spaces and vaccination information.

As of Feb. 25, there were two positive tests at Duquesne, and 1,706 tests conducted.



SCAN HERE FOR
COVID-19 DATA

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EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

De-escalation training enhanced for DU Police; Brown's attorneys hopeful for resolution soon

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Paul Jubas and Max Petrunya, the attorneys for Dannielle Brown, released a statement Sunday confirming that in November, Duquesne turned over its public safety files and video camera footage from her son's death, and that the university has purchased body-worn cameras for its public safety officers in October.

The statement came after Brown was admitted to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital after suffering complications from her hunger strike Thursday, Feb. 25. It was day 236 of her hunger strike. She posted on Twitter that she was discharged from the hospital March 1.

In their statement, Jubas and Petrunya also wrote that Duquesne's Office of Public Safety has enhanced their de-escalation training for its officers.

"The university has worked collaboratively with us, as attorneys for Ms. Brown, for the last few months," the statement from Brown's attorneys read. "The university agreed to mediation of all issues. Because that process was delayed due to COVID, the university agreed to engage in negotiations with us to resolve this matter. Those discus-

sions have been ongoing for the past few weeks. Duquesne has been acting in good faith and we are hopeful of reaching a resolution soon."

Brown, mother of Duquesne student-athlete Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown who died in 2018 after falling from a Brottier Hall window, began her hunger strike July 4 in Freedom Corner in the Hill District. She presented three demands for Duquesne: an independent investigation of her son's death, mental health de-escalation training and body cameras for university police.

Tom Hart, chief of police and director of public safety, said that Duquesne University Public Safety (DUPS) "conduct[s] training for all officers, security guards and police communication officers at least every three years on this subject, and will continue with this current year 2021 as well," Hart said.

"Beginning in 2017 through the present, DUPS has sent officers to a week-long training course provided by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Health Department, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), to better help officers understand and respond to people that are in a mental health crisis," Hart said. "Due to COVID restrictions this year,



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne's Public Safety officers have enhanced their de-escalation training, one of Dannielle Brown's three demands for the university.

this 'live' interactive course was no longer offered to our officers, but it is our intention to continue this training once 'live' courses will again be offered."

In January, Hart said that a police supervisor received training for verbal de-escalation, which taught the supervisor "to be an instructor, providing this valuable material to our entire department in the near future."

In the same month, several officers were sent to MPOETC training classes titled "Tactical

Communications: The Art of De-Escalation" and "Perception of Danger: Threat Identification and Response."

Hart also said that in April, the UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital, Senior Crisis Trainer-Crisis Training Institute will present a course titled Comprehensive Crisis Management, which will help employees to assess whether a potentially dangerous situation is developing and how to prevent a crisis.

Celebrating African-American literary works

from READ— page 1

African Americans just like some of them are. Seeing ourselves in books is important because it encourages us to read in a different way, and it encourages us to write more."

Everyone was encouraged to attend — including faculty, students and guests — to listen to their fellow community members read, sing and perform different forms of art created by African Americans.

At 6 p.m., when participants had joined online from their respec-

tive areas, the event began with an invocation prayer led by Campus Minister Linda Donovan, where she said that "we should welcome all people in the church, not send them away," in a prayer from the Rev. Augustine Tolton.

It is tradition in African American history to sing the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" because of the song's depiction of hope passed on through generations, and "to lift African Americans from centuries of dehumanization, neglect and abuse," Wade said.

Candance Burgess, a recent graduate of Duquesne who is now pursuing a master's degree in music performance at the Mary Pappert School of Music, did the honors of singing this sacred and traditional song that is the official song of the NAACP, and is also considered "the Black national anthem." She also sang "Holdfast Dreams" by Florence Price.

Where there would normally be an invitation to sing along had the event been held in person, participants muted their microphones and joined Burgess in song silently.

The readings of various poems and stories by several African American authors and creators — including Kenneth P., Misty Copeland, Christopher Myers, Tracy Jennings and even some works produced by staff members themselves — were read aloud with passion and drive behind every word.

This passion specifically transferred to one segment of the evening centered around Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown and his mother, Dannielle Brown, presented by Fawn Walker-Montgomery.

Walker-Montgomery — the co-founder and executive director of Take Action Mon Valley, former candidate for mayor in McKeesport and past candidate for state representative in the 35th district — was

the first African American to run for a state seat in the Mon Valley.

She read two poems: the first, "Sixteen Stories" by Tracy Jennings, was meant to be told from the point-of-view of the late Jaylen to his mother. The second, "The Demands Unmet," was written by Brown. This piece about Brown's struggles with the loss of her son and her journey for justice evoked the most emotion out of the audience.

Tears were apparent, as many people had to turn their cameras off to collect themselves, including the host and coordinators of the event, after a video was played of Brown discussing the loss of her son.

Although the topics of hardship and struggle were discussed, and more poems were read by Dessie Bey, KL Brewer, and Lorraine Cross, the event closed out with several uplifting songs played by "Funky Fly Project," a band composed of Duquesne undergraduate students and community members.

Two hours and over 10 performances later, the third annual African American Read-In came to an inspiring close.

"Everyone deserves sanctuary — a place to go where you are safe," said Griggs quoting Nikki Giovanni. "Art offers sanctuary to everyone willing to."



COURTESY OF JOSEPHINE RIZZO

This year's African American Read-In was held virtually due to the pandemic.

Duquesne to offer June study abroad program

ELIZABETH SHARP
staff writer

This summer, the Center for Global and Cultural Engagement will be opening a new program to students who were unable to study abroad during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters.

The "Junemester" is similar to the usual "Maymester," but will occur a month later due to COVID-19 restrictions and to ensure the safety of students.

The university had previously shut down fall and spring semesters abroad due to a ban on international travel, and to keep students and staff safe. The pandemic impacted most aspects of study abroad programs, so it seemed a simpler choice to move many Maymasters to the spring of 2022.

Duquesne usually boasts over 30 summer study abroad programs. However, many usual summer programs will not be occurring in 2021 due to the pandemic.

As of Feb. 26, the Dublin Junemester was canceled due to Ireland's COVID-19 restrictions.

However, Junesters in Rome and Belize are still currently scheduled between June 1 and July 11, 2021. The first two weeks of classes will be completed through online instruction to prepare students for their experience abroad while also ensuring



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

A study abroad program in June, dubbed a "Junemester," is now being offered by the Center for Global Engagement.

all COVID-19 protocols are followed.

It is Duquesne's 20th year on their Italian campus in Rome.

"Partnerships there are very strong," said Danielle Genemore, associate director in the study abroad office at Duquesne.

Because of this, the Center of Global and Cultural Engagement has been working closely with this campus in order to ensure a safe Junemester and upcoming Fall 2021 semester abroad.

Joe DeCrosta, the executive director and senior international officer at Duquesne at the Center for Global Engagement, also explained more of the situa-

tion in Italy.

"There is good news coming out of Italy. The staff on that campus is already getting vaccinated ... we plan to have students there for the fall 2021 semester," DeCrosta said.

The vaccination rollout is being monitored closely in order to ensure the safety of these programs going forward.

In order to keep students safe and healthy, the Center for Global and Cultural Engagement is following the COVID-19 situation in each country as they try to ensure that students are still getting an international experience as part of their college cur-

riculum.

DeCrosta described a "shift in the paradigm" as he predicts the program structure may evolve in many positive ways moving forward.

The Center for Global and Cultural Engagement has discovered new ways of offering instruction and has been able to overcome challenges during the pandemic.

"We have learned lessons from this crisis, and students should feel confident and safe about choosing to go abroad in the future," DeCrosta said.

As of now, fall semester study abroad plans are still moving

forward as DeCrosta and Genemore are both hopeful that the international COVID-19 situation will improve as vaccination rollout continues globally.

"It is a constant moving discussion as we plan for the fall. Staff abroad is confident that things will be different by the end of summer," Genemore said.

The pair remain optimistic as many students look for that opportunity of international study as a key part of their college experience in the future.

"Our job is to give students global education and gain cultural competencies," Genemore said.

"We are excited about the future of the program and are already seeing much interest [from students]," DeCrosta said.

The Center for Global and Cultural Engagement is following updates coming out of all its locations abroad. The center has had to make tough decisions this past year that vary from program to program due to how the U.S. and each host country has responded to the pandemic.

They are also working with other Pittsburgh area universities and other professional organizations around the globe, and take under advisement how other students and universities plan to operate their study abroad programs moving forward.

Vaccine administration to begin on DU's campus

from COVID— page 1

in four phases.

As most of the university's population does not meet these requirements, a survey will first be going out to all university employees asking several questions to determine whether or not they meet the criteria for phase 1A.

"Those students who are working in clinical settings already have been identified as 1A," Welsh said. "If we receive sufficient

supplies to pursue 1B vaccination, we will follow with a student survey."

Vaccine registration for both employees and students will work similar to COVID-19 testing registration. Using the SONA software, Duquesne will be able to schedule and track those in the first group until they all receive the vaccine.

Distribution to the first group will depend on the amount of vaccine given to the

university by the state health department, but will start immediately. Those included in this group should note that although they will be registered for a certain date, they may not receive the vaccine that day due to the supply given. As a result, scheduled appointments will be postponed to the following week.

Overall, Duquesne is unsure of when distribution will go out to the general student population, and will be in contact with state officials until the time comes. University officials may also eventually open distribution to the public, depending on how health officials integrate them into plans.

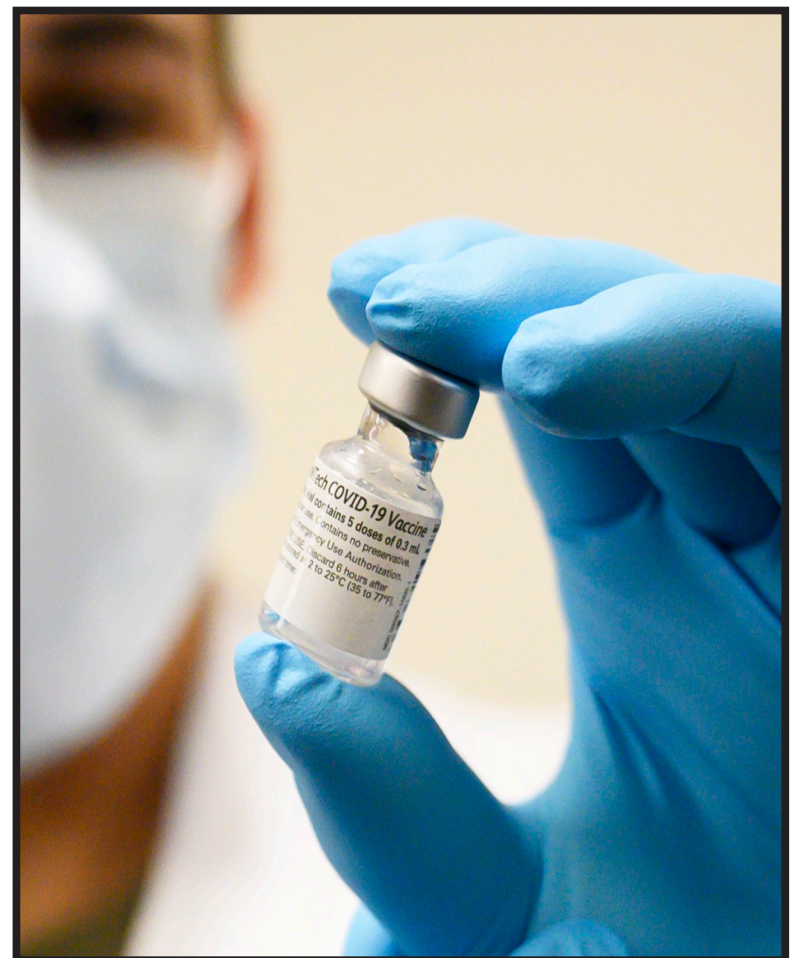
"Duquesne officials remain in constant contact with state and local officials, and we work to stay responsive so we can meet changing plans and conditions," Welsh said. "It is difficult to predict in such a rapidly evolving environment."

The communications department is working on additions to the COVID-19 news and updates page, including an updated FAQ that provides additional information given in the email sent out on March 3.



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Paul Larson, a professor in Duquesne's school of pharmacy, will supervise the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine on Duquesne's campus.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has approved Duquesne University to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

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"The best way to
get started is to quit
talking and begin
doing."

WALT DISNEY

You just read | Now tweet
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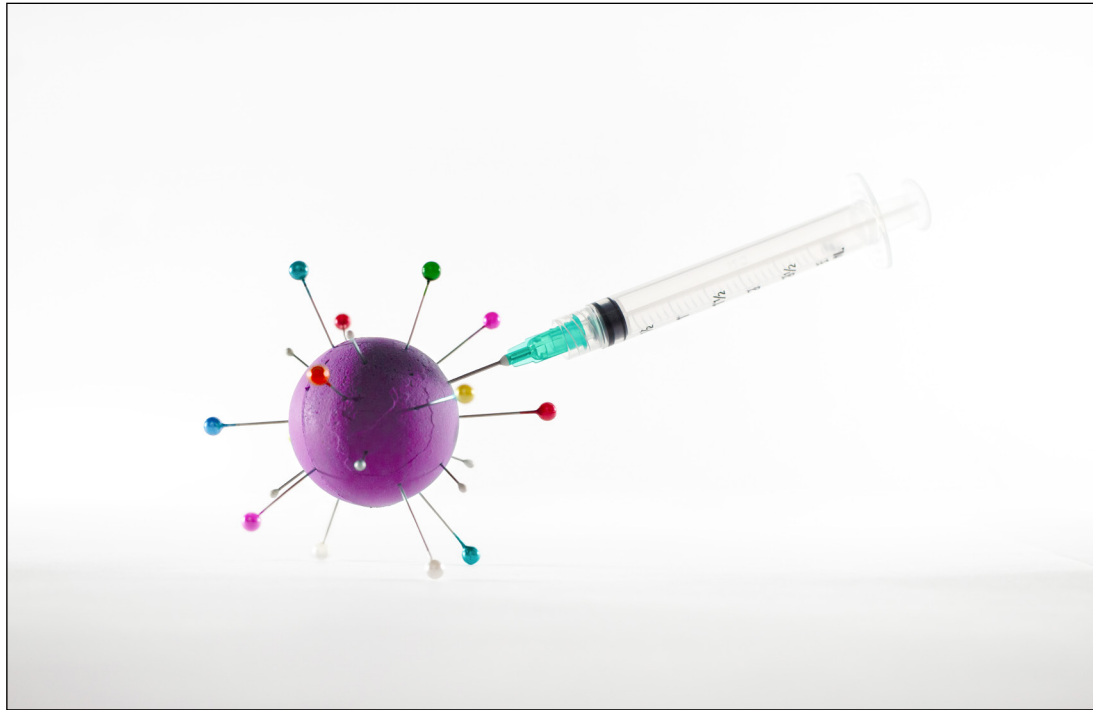
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COURTESY OF FLICKR

Most economists and policy makers believe widespread vaccination is the only path to a full economic recovery.

The economic fallout from COVID-19 is likely to have lasting consequences

From thousands of business closures and record-breaking unemployment, to a historic nosedive in the financial markets and trillions in economic stimulus, the overwhelming evidence clearly confirms our worst fears that the pandemic has indeed wreaked havoc on our globalized economy.

This unfortunate reality is attributable to the worldwide lockdowns and social restrictions forcing businesses to close their doors, with consumers unable to spend money at major retailers, local restaurants and mom-and-pop shops. Emerging and developed economies have both struggled since then to deal with an unprecedented collapse in consumer demand and capital investment.

For example, in 2020, countries around the world experienced record-breaking contractions in GDP due to the government-mandated lockdowns. Even with global output expected to rebound by 4% in 2021, financial analysts and economists still project it to remain well below pre-pandemic projections for the foreseeable future.

International trade was also adversely impacted as countries were forced to either halt or considerably scale back exports and imports for nearly two months. In its Global Trade Outlook report from February, data analytics firm HIS Markit estimated that global trade contracted by 11.2% year-over-year in 2020, with a significant portion of gains achieved over the last decade eliminated.

Most importantly, the coronavirus set in motion a slowly unfolding international jobs crisis by exacerbating unem-

ployment in countries across the globe. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, COVID-19's immediate impact on the global labor markets was nearly 10 times worse compared to the short-term effects of the 2008 financial crisis. With the global workforce now exposed to short-term vulnerability, the recent downward trend of unemployment rates can reverse at seemingly any moment if economic conditions once again turn sour.



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

With an unprecedented plunge in global GDP, considerable disruptions to international trade and a rapid surge in unemployment, it is safe to say that our international economy was ill-prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude.

Despite the gloomy picture the above evidence undeniably paints, this information still fails to accurately present the true consequences of COVID-19 on the worldwide economy.

Regardless of a quick recovery, the pandemic is still headed down the path of reversing all progress made within the

last 30 years in resolving the global poverty crisis and reducing inequality. According to The World Bank, poverty is expected to increase by 119 million people in 2020 — the first significant increase in more than 20 years. What's more, COVID-induced poverty is projected to further rise by more than 140 million in 2021.

Put simply, the immense effort and capital put forth by governments, businesses, non-profits and everyday people to increase international living standards and equality is soon to be eradicated. An unmistakable indication that the pandemic will have a greater impact on impoverished and destitute countries capable of lasting for generations.

In light of the above evidence, it is clear that the pandemic has damaged the global economy on a scale not seen since the Great Depression. Be that as it may, the lasting impact of COVID-19 on the global economy is still very unclear — to say the least.

Even with economies slowly reigniting, the truth of the matter is that countless unknowns still exist as researchers, economists and financial analysts continue to struggle to provide a future outlook that isn't riddled with extreme uncertainty.

As questions arise over whether or not pandemic-induced changes in consumer behavior will be enduring themes coupled with the emergence of new coronavirus variants, national and local officials across the globe must be particularly cautious and sensible with future policy to guide us along this windy path to a full recovery. The future truly hangs in the balance.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

COVID Update: Caution and vigilance are still necessary

To the surprise and mixed reactions of many, on March 1 Governor Tom Wolf announced revisions to certain parts of the COVID-19 mitigation order pertaining to gatherings.

He also lifted out-of-state travel bans, essentially beginning the reopening process for Pennsylvania after months of shutdowns.

"Pennsylvania is taking a measured approach to revising or lifting mitigation orders," Wolf said in response to his new plan. "The reason we are seeing cases drop can be attributed, in part, to people following the mitigation efforts we have in place. Mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene are making a difference and need to continue even as we see more and more people fully vaccinated."

According to the Governor's official website, the revised mitigation restrictions will include revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor events to allow for 15% of maximum occupancy, revised maximum occupancy limits for outdoor events to allow for 20% of maximum occupancy and elimination of out-of-state travel restrictions. These new maximum occupancy restrictions will include staff as well as other people in attendance.

There has also been talk of lifting the remaining mitigation orders on restaurants and bars. According to a recent press conference held the day after the restrictions on occupancy and travel were lightened, Wolf announced an idea to allocate \$145 million in grants for restaurants, bars and hotels in Pennsylvania. Starting March 15, Wolf says that owners of such places will be allowed to apply at the county level for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance.

Organizations like the Pittsburgh Penguins were quick to jump on the new occupancy rules, announcing that fans could start attending games as soon as March 2. Other organizations are not far behind. These new changes mean business for venues that rely on audiences for revenue.

Social distancing, masks and hand hygiene will still be enforced and these new revisions still require for people to stay six feet apart from one another, but this is a start toward a potential full reopening so long as cases in Pennsylvania continue to drop and vaccine distribution is able to rise.

While this may seem like great news, the CDC advises now that each state should continue to be cautious as new cases of new variants continue to appear with experts predicting a fourth surge of the virus on the horizon. They caution that now is not the time to introduce "expansive loosening of mitigation efforts known to put people more at risk."

It is imperative that we continue with our cautious measures and proceed carefully as the state moves to reopen. Cases are still unacceptably high and with the slower speed of vaccine distribution in Pennsylvania, the majority is not yet completely vaccinated. Continuing to adhere to mask mandates and social distancing will help the cases drop and prepare us for the potential fourth wave. Being excited about this hope at normalcy is normal and expected, but we are not out of the woods just yet.

Following Syria strike, some senators look to restrict executive powers

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

The fallout after President Biden's first true use of force, an airstrike in Syria targeting Iranian proxy forces, has been muted in strange ways. We all know by now that domestic politics are just as relevant to military success as proper tactical and operational execution, and the new administration's charted course to mitigate any legislative or popular protest seems to indicate its overestimation of public awareness.

Not to say that the public should ignore airstrikes — 24 militants were killed in the bombing in addition to an American private contractor — but the most notable reaction to the bombings came after a man called into Texas AM radio to decry Biden's attacks on patriotic militias.

Astounding confusions with right-wing American militia groups aside, the House of Representatives issued no official statement of support or rebuke, Pelosi cracked the whip, while the 50-50 senate has been quiet as well.

Yet some Democratic sena-

tors find themselves in a perplexing position, with the traditionally anti-war views of the Democratic base generally at odds with any move to strike against militants abroad.

Tim Kaine (D-VA) released a statement on Tuesday saying he would introduce a bill to limit presidential war powers while updating the 1974 War Powers Act. As a powerful member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Kaine's words carry weight, particularly his complaints regarding the lack of notification or consultation with relevant elected officials.

Yet I believe the center cannot hold, by which I mean that a frail impetus for a policy debate is unlikely to result in the type of comprehensive bipartisan push necessary to properly reign in presidential authority.

The strike itself was relatively small, conducted in the interest of preserving the interests of America, or at least its allies, in the region. The point of the strike wasn't to eliminate the infrastructure supporting terrorist operations, although that was an added bonus, but rather to send a message to Iran and

other nations questioning the foreign policy philosophy of the new administration.

Running counter to all things Trump, President Biden's attempts to draw contrast between himself and the former president was clearly successful, but this success emboldened trace elements of insurgent forces, particularly with state backing.

I see this airstrike as the small-scale alternative to the Sulemani bombing raid, an attack that sends a clear message to Iran without further vilifying the U.S. to Iranian citizens. A targeted airstrike against proxy forces should not garner Congressional legislation, despite the necessity of that legislation.

Context is everything in politics, and those senators supporting legislation to restrict presidential war powers as a reaction to what has become at this point a standard operational tool are clearly oblivious to the context.

Even if the technical Democratic majority was willing to bring a war powers proposal to a vote, it's unlikely to find much support among traditionally hawkish Republicans.



COURTESY OF FLICKR

The recent Syria strike has led some senators to question presidential authority.

The U.S. is slowly reducing its Middle Eastern footprint, and no resolution is necessary to disrupt the Biden administration's existing plans to broadly withdraw from Afghanistan and other conflict zones.

Similar demonstrations may occur within the next few months targeting North Korea, Pakistan or even China. A show of force at the beginning of each new American presidency has become somewhat of a rite of passage for 21st

century presidents, and Biden has thus far chosen to continue the pattern. Presidential powers are like tools: Some may hinder more than others, but it's usually better to have more than less.

The Armed Services Committee should certainly be better informed, but within that context the question must be asked: Would Tim Kaine care about the strikes if he'd gotten a text beforehand?

Zoom fatigue: College students face yet another threat to mental health

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

I'll be honest — it's been hard to start the month of March without thinking of the way things were this time last year. Last year, at the end of February, I went on a little spring break trip to Washington, D.C. with two of my sorority sisters and COVID-19 was something we didn't think would send us home from school when we got back.

I wish I was still galavanting around D.C. with my friends, excited to go back to school and live on the sorority wing and finish out the semester. Instead, for the last year most of us have been at home, learning through Zoom.

For this school year it was a no brainer whether or not I was going to come back in person. I personally wasn't comfortable with the idea of living in a dorm amongst many other people. My mom has underlying health issues and my dad is a little bit older. No way was I sacrificing being able to

see them to have a communal bathroom.

Participating in class via Zoom has its pros and cons. I can tune into class from the comfort of my own bed, with my two cats snuggling by my side and a snack nearby at all times. But in the age of hybrid classrooms, there is no doubt that the online learners have it harder.

Sometimes I can't hear my professor because the microphone, for a reason unbeknownst to me, is settled in the back of the class instead of the front. Sometimes I find myself looking at myself on the camera more than I am paying attention to the lecture. Not to mention, the general feeling of being disconnected from my classmates and friends.

I know choosing Zoom University was my choice, but I miss how things were. I am sick of Zoom meetings.

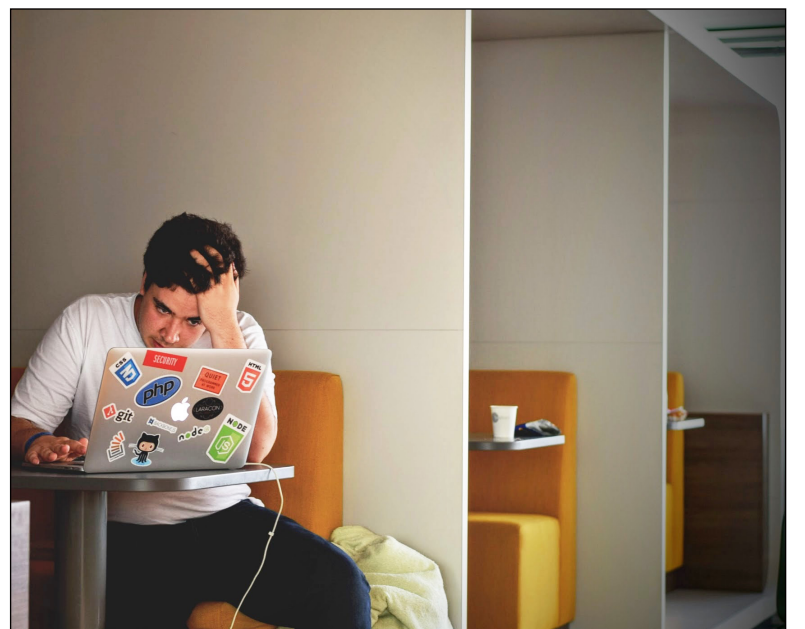
At least I know I am not alone in this. A new study from Stanford shows that

Zoom fatigue is real. People are sick of living like this. And rightfully so a year in. One thing the study found is that looking at yourself in the camera constantly has fatiguing effects, as well as having to work harder to send and receive communicative signals.

That, combined with the stress of being a college senior right now, is tough. Between worrying about the pandemic job market and aching to do work in person, I am quite nervous. I don't know that I would succeed in a position that is remote.

My Zoom fatigue manifests itself into what could come off as laziness, but in reality, I'm just kind of depressed. It's hard to get yourself to be productive when your bed is suddenly the same as what used to be the library for you. Seniors like me are worrying that this will be what the workforce is like.

Instead of meetings in person, getting to know new coworkers by going to the bar after work



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

A new study from Stanford confirms that Zoom fatigue is both very real and costly.

and being out of the house, those entering the real world this year might be doing so through Zoom. It's just not the same.

Throughout all of this, I'm trying to stay optimistic, but obviously it can be hard. For any seniors, or anyone in general struggling to deal with the stress of all this, I think it's important to remember there

is a light at the end of the tunnel. As cliché as it sounds, it's true, especially with the vaccine being out.

There will be a day when we can learn all together in the classroom again and you can do something that used to be simple, like giving a loved one a hug. We will graduate from Zoom University at some point.

DUKE SERIES: MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Passion for *pollo*: Chef brings Peru to Pittsburgh

GILLIAN FITZGERALD
staff writer

"I always wanted to be a chef."

Shelbin Santos, originally from Cusco, Peru, began her life in Pittsburgh working in the corporate business world — but she never saw herself spending life behind a computer. It didn't give her the thrill she gets from her true passion: cooking. She wanted more.

Santos immigrated to the United States not knowing English and with only a little money to her name. And in 2007, she followed her dream by opening her own restaurant, Chicken Latino.

"My goal was always to do something that I truly love and that I'd be happy doing because that was going to be for the rest of my life," Santos said.

Chicken Latino was the very first restaurant to open in Pittsburgh serving authentic Peruvian food, and is currently located at 2100 Broadway Ave. in Beechview along the T route south of the city. Santos was inspired by the lack of Peruvian food in the city and aims to share her culture through her food and her language.

Santos began cooking when she was very young and remembers always wanting to help in the kitchen. Her love for cooking connects her with the love she has for her family, and also to the fresh ingredients that were always home-grown in Peru. She tries to reflect that in her restaurant in Pittsburgh.

On her website, Santos talks about giving each of her customers a taste of the Peruvian experience, which to her means the home cooking she was taught by her mom and grandmother. However, it also means the atmosphere of her restaurant.

"Everything in the restaurant — the decor, the ambience, the music — will make you feel like you're in Peru," Santos said. "And if you want to go the whole way, you can order in Spanish and practice your language."

This experience is something she hopes all her customers are able to enjoy, especially the growing Latino population in Pittsburgh.

When she first moved here, Santos rarely came across people who spoke Spanish. But now, the increasing Latino community in the city has created opportunities for her to get to know so many families who have moved here for work and opportunities. She loves



COURTESY OF CHICKEN LATINO

Shelbin Santos (right), pictured with her mother, Rosario, who taught her to cook.

meeting other people who come to Pittsburgh from South and Central America, especially when they are able to enjoy her food.

However, Santos also faces the challenges that come along with being the owner of a small business in the city, especially in a pandemic when Chicken Latino moved locations.

Back in June last year, Santos moved her restaurant from the Strip District to her current Beechview location. It was difficult to do when no moving companies were doing business, and she had to lay off most of her staff because she couldn't afford to keep them during the pandemic when restaurants had to rely on takeout only to make money.

"It was the most stressful time in my life — from March when the pandemic started until June," Santos said. "Thank God we're getting back to normalcy now slowly ... I brought back half of my team. Business is not as strong as we'd like it, but we're hanging in there."

In this new world where everyone's learned to live with the pandemic, restaurants and businesses have been forced to find a new normal as well. After completing their move, Chicken Latino had to learn to adapt with new technology and no touch payments, focusing the restaurant on DoorDash delivery, and they had to establish a new customer base in a brand-new neighborhood.

"We had to relearn the layout of the business and just be open minded on the new ways how to get the food to our customers," Santos said.

While dealing with all of these challenges, the stress of payments and loans was also a heavy burden. Cooking all day and being up all night filling out applications, Santos had to juggle the complex workings of government loans — most of which wouldn't reward anything in the end.

After struggling to find a source of help, Santos went to the Urban Redevelopment Authority in July and received aid from the organization: a loan that helped her with moving expenses, permits, new furniture and other activities. The temporary cash flow has helped Chicken Latino slowly recuperate, which Santos is thankful for, as she knows other businesses didn't receive help and had to close.

"It was a nightmare going through those applications, and after all that work they would tell you they ran out of funds, that they don't have any more money," Santos said. "Things are not great but at least I'm open, and I'm just blessed that I still have a business running because so many of my friends closed their businesses."

Despite the challenges, Santos' hard work, adaptability and positive attitude continues to pay off, and she is looking forward to the future at their new location. She has begun creating new customer relationships with surrounding residential neighbors and also sees old faces of customers who have followed Chicken Latino — and their famous Peruvian marinated chicken, Pollo a la Brasa — to their new location.



COURTESY OF CHICKEN LATINO

Chicken Latino serves authentic Peruvian food, such as Pollo a la Brasa.

And not only is Santos there for her customers, she has also been working with organizations in the area during the pandemic.

"We work with organizations like Casa San Jose to provide lunches and affordable meals so we can distribute to hungry people as well," she said.

Casa San Jose is a nonprofit resource center for Latino immigrants in the Pittsburgh community, and Chicken Latino is proud to help out the Latino community during this tough year.

Santos has impacted the community around her just as much as it has impacted her. As an immigrant, she followed her dream and hasn't looked back since because she loves what she does, even when there are hard times like the pandemic.

She didn't ever want to live wondering "what if?," so Santos gave her business everything she had and worked extremely hard to get where she is today.

"If you're an immigrant, when you have a dream, you just have to push hard for it," Santos said. "I'm living proof that the American Dream works ... If you really put your love and your passion into whatever business you want to do, it works. You just have to put a lot of work and a lot of effort to make it work, and at least I know that I'm never going to live with regrets, because the worst thing that a person can have is 'what if.'"

Not only has she given Pittsburgh a taste of the Peruvian experience, but she also successfully and continuously lives out her dream every single day — and encourages every person and immigrant to do the same.

"Don't ever be afraid," Santos said. "The worst thing that could happen is that it doesn't work and then you start over again with something else."

Campus Pet Pals: Eramis

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

2-month-old Eramis loves meeting new people.

If you are sitting in the lounge area of the Union and you feel a furry friend at your feet, make sure to say hi, because it might be one of our campus pet pals, Eramis. Eramis is a friendly 2-month-old corgi who lives on campus with her owner, biochemistry major Edgar Rodo Chavez.

Eramis' day starts with playtime and some breakfast followed by a nap. By mid-morning she is ready to go for her morning 20-30 minute walk before her scheduled lunch and, of course, more playtime and a post-lunch nap. In the evening and nighttime, Chavez likes to take her on the longest walk of the day, about an hour or so, to ensure she sleeps through the night.

Eramis' favorite activity is meeting new people on the Bluff.

"She willfully, and oftentimes overwhelmingly, chooses to run towards people in the hopes of making new friends," Chavez said. "She is friendly to a fault, to the point where if she fixated on someone while walking and that person doesn't acknowledge her, she will be visibly taken aback. I would even say that she gets sad whenever she doesn't get to interact with other people."

Eramis has taken full advantage of campus life and meeting new people.

"Sometimes she deliberately sits on busy walkways, waiting for people to come over and greet her," Chavez said.

After finishing walks outside, Eramis loves to greet friends in the Union lounge. She goes to each table ready to introduce herself. She understands the stress of college life and knows the value of a puppy break.

Along with meeting new people, Eramis

DU MBB prepares for Spiders in A-10 tournament

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Keith Dambrot, in his fourth season at the helm of the Duquesne men's basketball program, has seemingly seen it all. He helped mold LeBron James, who's already among basketball's most esteemed figures ever, during the NBA legend's formative years in Akron, Ohio. He led the Akron Zips to 305 wins, three NCAA tournaments and four NITs during his 13-year tenure at the university. He's coached both with and against an extended list of vaunted basketball minds, current Texas coach Shaka Smart being his most notable protege. The list goes on and on.

Wait — actually, scratch that.

As it turns out, nobody could have truly prepared themselves for the havoc COVID-19 wreaked on our world. Especially not someone in Dambrot's position, who's been tasked with leading a Division I basketball program during an unprecedented time in our history. Living, in and of itself, is hard enough during a global pandemic; coaching a team full of young people to do practically anything right now is damn near unimaginable.

The virus' proliferation began right around this time last year. It's the reason Dambrot is in his fourth season on the Bluff, yet the Dukes are preparing to play only their third Atlantic 10 tournament game under Dambrot's guidance.

It's not that the Dukes missed the A-10 tourney during Dambrot's tenure. Each of the conference's 14 teams make the bracket each year, with its bottom four seeds playing in a colloquial first-round "pillow fight," and its top four teams receiving double-byes.

Rather, Duquesne faltered in its opening matchups in 2018 and '19, losing to Richmond and Saint Joseph's, respectively. The Dukes' 2020 tourney opener was set to be Dambrot's third conference tournament appearance with Duquesne and, by all indications, his first win — last season's team found itself seeded sixth and slotted to open play against last-place Fordham before the A-10 scrapped its tournament because of COVID-19.

Fordham had beaten No. 11 George Washington in the league's pillow fight the day before in what would eventually be the bracket's final contest. Before UMass and VCU could tip off at 12 p.m. March 12, the league announced it was canceling the remainder of its tourney.

Yesterday, No. 13 Saint Joseph's beat La Salle and GW topped bottom-seeded Ford-

ham, setting the stage for a Thursday full of second-round games. The No. 9 Dukes will kick off the slate with an 11 a.m. showdown against Richmond.

Well, that's the plan, at least.

Barring any unforeseen COVID-19-protocol-related hiccups between press time and 11 a.m., Duquesne will be playing tournament basketball for the first time since March 14, 2019. The Dukes' Thursday opponent is a familiar foe: Richmond bested Duquesne, 79-72, Feb. 20 in Richmond.

The No. 8 Spiders, the preseason conference favorite, enjoyed a decent non-conference showing but only managed to post a 6-5 mark in A-10 play. Richmond has stumbled down the stretch, dropping its final two games to the likes of Saint Louis and Saint Joe's.

The Dukes and Spiders have both endured multiple COVID-19 shutdowns this season, with neither team playing particularly well following virus-induced pauses (Duquesne and Richmond are a combined 1-3 in games played directly following program pauses, the only win being the Dukes' Jan. 2 triumph at GW).

Duquesne has seen serious mid-season roster turnover while, to a lesser extent, Richmond has dealt with departures of its own. Both teams have had to manage injuries and conditioning problems, too — Richmond guard Nick Sherod missed the season due to a preseason knee injury and center Grant Golden's broken finger is a major topic of discussion entering Thursday's matchup.

It's been a wild, wacky, ridiculous season — one that's seen Duquesne experience the highest of highs (the Dukes opened their newly-renovated arena by beating Dayton on ESPN2) and the lowest of lows (news of star guard Sincere Carry's departure from the team came Jan. 9; Duquesne was already sitting at 1-2 in-conference at the time).

How did we get here?

Who: Given everything Duquesne's regular season saw, it can largely be marked as a satisfactory showing. If the A-10 was a class, the Dukes would be getting a C+ for their efforts.

Carry's departure — which came four days after Lamar Norman Jr. announced his intentions to transfer Jan. 5 — coincided with news that Maceo Austin would be stepping away from the team for personal reasons (Austin has since rejoined the team). The guard trio's respective departures left Duquesne, in the midst of its A-10 slate, with a massive hole in its backcourt — Carry



COURTESY DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne center Michael Hughes dunks the basketball against the Richmond Spiders Saturday, Feb. 20 in a 79-72 loss at Richmond. The Dukes are hoping to reverse that result Thursday when they take on the Spiders in the second round of the Atlantic 10 tournament.

was one of the team's foremost stars and led the team in assists by a wide margin; Norman and Austin provided much-needed floor spacing for the Dukes.

In their stead, freshmen Chad Baker, Toby Okani, Tyson Acuff and Mike Bekelja have enjoyed augmented roles, as has senior point guard Tavian Dunn-Martin. Dunn-Martin, who's been tasked as a spark-plug scorer off the bench in years past, is now serving as the team's lead playmaker. Austin has since rejoined the fold and is still reacclimating himself physically.

The Dukes' frontcourt, though, has been what's allowed Duquesne to muscle its way to a .500 record despite its mid-season roster attrition. Namely, Marcus Weathers and Michael Hughes have been terrific — the tandem accounts for nearly 40% of the team's scoring average, spearheaded by Weathers' 16.1 average. Weathers embraced an ever larger role in the offense following the aforementioned losses, and following early-season conditioning issues, the forward appears to be playing his best basketball at the right time: He posted a gaudy career-high 28 points and a career-high-tying 14 rebounds in the regular season finale against Rhode Island Feb. 27.

Freshman big Andre Harris has also impressed this season, flashing glimpses of his potential and giving Dambrot an impactful frontcourt option off the bench.

What: Well, it's an 11 a.m. matchup against a solid Richmond squad.

But the Dukes are hoping this is the beginning of a four-game run to the A-10 title, which would be the program's first since 1977. If Duquesne gets by Richmond, a quarterfinal date with top-seeded St. Bonaventure awaits.

The road to Dayton — where the league's championship game will be played March 14 — will be a bumpy one.

When: For the first time since 2019.

With the 2020 tournament serving as an extreme aberration (and opportunity missed), Duquesne is still 0-2 in the conference tournament under Dambrot. Assuredly, Dambrot does not want to enter Year 5 on the job still winless in the conference tournament.

For more reasons than a few, a win over Richmond on Thursday would be ginormous for Duquesne.

Where: Richmond, but the game against the Spiders will be played at VCU's Siegel Center.

The tournament is being co-hosted by the A-10's two Richmond campuses, with games being played at both the Siegel Center and UR's Robins Center from March 3-6.

The conference's championship game will then be held March 14 at Dayton's UD Arena.

Why: Why is the A-10 playing its tournament in two separate locations? Good question. Beats me.

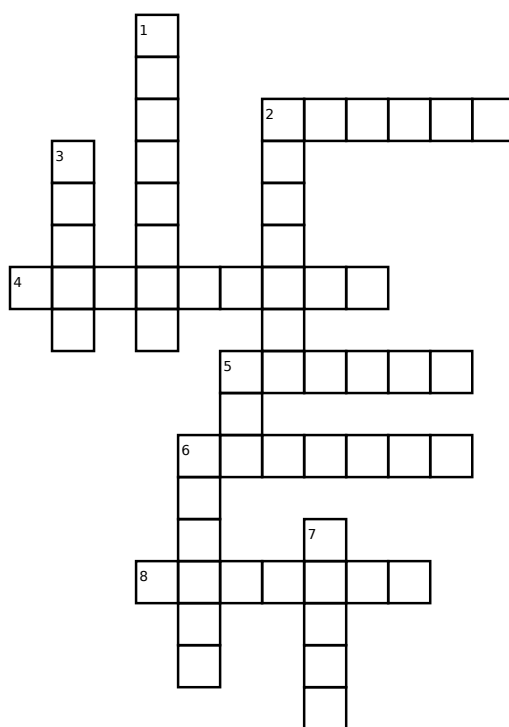
Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	St. Bonaventure	11-4	13-4	L1	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/5
2.	VCU	10-4	17-6	L1	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/5
3.	Davidson	7-4	12-7	W1	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/5
4.	St. Louis	6-4	13-5	W2	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/5
5.	UMass	6-4	7-6	L2	3/4 vs. St. Joseph's
6.	George Mason	8-6	12-8	W4	3/4 vs. G. Washington
7.	Dayton	9-7	13-8	W1	3/4 vs. Rhode Island
8.	Richmond	6-5	13-7	L2	3/4 vs. Duquesne
9.	Duquesne	7-7	8-8	W1	3/4 vs. Richmond
10.	Rhode Island	7-10	10-14	L2	3/4 vs. Dayton
11.	G. Washington	3-5	5-11	W1	3/4 vs. George Mason
12.	La Salle	6-11	9-16	L2	Lost in A10 tournament
13.	St. Joseph's	3-9	5-14	W4	3/4 vs. UMass
14.	Fordham	2-11	2-12	L3	Lost in A10 tournament

Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	12-1	13-2	W1	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/12
2.	Fordham	8-2	11-3	W5	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/12
3.	Saint Louis	9-3	11-3	W7	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/12
4.	Rhode Island	11-4	11-7	W3	Qtrfnl. Game on 3/12
5.	VCU	10-5	12-10	L1	2nd Rd. on 3/11
6.	Richmond	9-6	12-8	L2	2nd Rd. on 3/11
7.	UMass	7-5	11-6	W1	3/10 vs. St. Joseph's
8.	La Salle	7-10	11-13	W1	3/10 vs. Duquesne
9.	Duquesne	4-7	5-10	L1	3/10 vs. La Salle
10.	St. Joseph's	5-9	7-9	W2	3/10 vs. UMass
11.	G. Washington	5-9	8-12	W4	3/10 vs. George Mason
12.	Davidson	5-10	8-13	L2	3/10 vs. St. Bonaventure
13.	St. Bonaventure	5-12	6-14	L2	3/10 vs. Davidson
14.	George Mason	0-14	3-18	L14	3/10 vs. G. Washington

Duquesne Football Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. The surname of a former Duquesne star that is related to Steeler star Ryan Shazier
2. Duquesne faced this FBS opponent in 2014 for its first FBS matchup since entering the FCS ranks in 1993
3. The last name of a Duquesne running back that won the Jerry Rice Award in 2016
5. The Dukes are set to open their 2021 fall schedule at this Big 12 school
6. Duquesne is 0-3 against this NEC team in the teams' last three meetings
7. Last name of former Duke who is currently under contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers

Across:

2. Surname of former Duquesne defensive back that is the last Duke to play in the NFL (Hint: He last played in 2011 for the New England Patriots)
4. This NEC team is the only team that Duquesne will not play during its four-game NEC-only spring season
5. Duquesne beat this CAA team in 2018 for its first-ever victory in the FCS playoffs
6. Last name of QB who finished his Duquesne career No. 1 in passing yards in Northeast Conference history
8. The surname of the former Duquesne coach that is No. 2 all-time in program victories, now trailing current coach Jerry Schmitt (Hint: This person coaches at Albany now)

Pittsburgh teaching artist expands cultural horizons

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor



Brittany Trotter, an adjunct professor at Duquesne, has joined with Black teaching artists in the Pittsburgh area to implement Unisound, a music program and database targeted to young, aspiring Black performers interested in having a personal instructor with a similar background.

Moving from Mississippi and getting her doctoral degree at West Virginia University, Trotter has become involved in various projects to “give a voice at the table” for diversity and representation in local arts and music programs.

Running from the end of February to early August, Unisound’s Black teaching-in-residence program (BATR) specifically aims to provide opportunities for younger students of various backgrounds to find instructors in the area that meet their needs, giving a wider array of teaching artists to choose from.

“When I was younger, I didn’t really see that many Black flute players, and if I had an opportunity to study with one, that would’ve been amazing and very eye-opening for my experience,” Trotter said.

Trotter’s role through Unisound allows her to attend board meetings and help manage the decision process of the BATR program’s devel-

opment, considering all students and teaching artists’ perspectives along the way. Getting its start in the Pittsburgh, Beaver, Armstrong and Westmoreland areas, Trotter said she can see this expanding beyond the city.

“There is such a vast, amazing music population in Pittsburgh that I feel like most college students are not aware of,” Trotter said. “Having this BTAR program is really putting music and arts programs into the foreground in Pittsburgh because it is such a huge cultural hub.”

According to Trotter, this program was inspired by the increased artistry at the beginning of the pandemic, encouraging local music programs to improve for the better.

For instance, Trotter said that the practice books used for private lessons are often outdated, using classical pieces that younger students may not recognize. To counter this, Trotter is working on a method book that incorporates Black contemporary artists such as Lizzo and Beyoncé in order to connect with her students on a more personal level while also helping them develop their tonality.

“A lot of the method books have folk tunes. Even today a lot of these kids haven’t heard [songs such as] ‘Battle Hymn of the Republic,’ since cartoons infuse contemporary music instead of classical music nowadays,” Trotter said. “I want to create a method book that would incorporate popular tunes that my students listen to that will help them develop their tone, and these contemporary artists help facet that tone.”

Through the development of this program, BTAR members will be presenting their residency to a panel in order to cultivate their ideas. Trotter herself will focus on



COURTESY OF BRITTANY TROTTER

Brittany Trotter dedicates her love for music by making it more accessible for all.

“musical hybridity,” which focuses on “the multi-genre bending of music throughout time,” such as infusing elements of hip-hop into classical music. Much of this is taught in her course at Duquesne: History in Hip-Hop.

In this class, Trotter focuses on the genre’s development, not only in music, but in the culture that surrounds it. Incorporating this into her BTAR project, Trotter emphasizes the impact hip-hop has made on popular music as we know it today, “bring[ing] so much youth” back to an interest in performing.

Fusing two genres together, Trotter said she has experimented with electric flute, beat-boxing and melodies, which help to implement strategies notorious for one genre while placing it in another.

Aside from instructing the History in Hip-Hop course at

Duquesne, Trotter also teaches flute and woodwinds at Dickinson College, West Virginia Wesleyan College and Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, while also giving private flute lessons; her students range from 5 to 67-years-old.

In spare time, Trotter has also partnered with Umeja Flute Institute, a professional performance group of Black flute players. This program started after the death of George Floyd, made to “make a positive impact from the tragedy.” Trotter said the program seeks to provide master classes for artists of African descent, “giving opportunities [the students] may not have.”

There will be a virtual concert available for viewers at umeja.com; donations are welcome.

Students can learn more about Unisound and the impact of BTAR at unisound.us/btar.

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC: Super Trivia Night!
Friday March 5 @ 9 p.m.

Email dpc@edu to try your hand at virtual trivia! Prizes available for first, second and third-place winners.

DPC Film Series:
Wonder Woman 1984
Friday March 5 @ 7 p.m.

Join DPC in room 105 of College Hall for a showing of *Wonder Woman 1984*! Limited to 25 students.

UPCOMING RELEASES

"Hold On"
Justin Bieber
Friday, March 5

Pop artist Justin Bieber is set to release a new single, which could lead into an upcoming album.

Raya and the Last Dragon
Friday, March 5

Streaming on Disney+ and coming to theaters, this new Disney princess movie is about Raya, a girl who must find the last living dragon to save the land.

CAPRI'S COMPLAINTS

Give me a break.

One mental health day isn't going to cut it.

As midterms are closing in and the Zoom fatigue settles, I feel trapped – and I'm sure a lot of other students feel it, too.

I appreciate that Duquesne has sprinkled in some cozy activities throughout the week to imitate a "staycation" feel, but they are still difficult to attend when assignments seem to pile up without any sign of stopping.

Also, these events are usually in the latter half of the week. What about on the weekends? There aren't as many of those, and I feel like that could draw a safe crowd.

I personally have long weekends, and I keep spending all of my money going on little lunch dates when I can be painting canvases or getting free mocktails and sweet snacks on a Saturday!

I hope I can go and enjoy it without getting stuck at my desk for hours on end trying to crank out work.
— Capri Scarcelli

Golden Globes persist with a Zoom twist

RIO SCARCELLI

staff writer

Though it is not the first to do so, The 78th Annual Golden Globes took to a virtual setting with a twist: co-hosting from two different locations. With Tina Fey stationed at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, and Amy Poehler at the Rainbow Room in Manhattan, the two made their attempts at being the first hosts of an award show from across the country.

Fey and Pohler could have been together for the show since they were recently vaccinated; however, the bit became more of a social commentary on the fragmented feeling that COVID-19 has left the country with over the past year.

Hosting from coast to coast brought the opportunity for presenters in the New York and California area to contribute to and diversify their typical attendance.

Instead of the usual celebrities and press that would be seen amongst the audience, Fey and Pohler were accom-

panied by first-responders in limited capacity. Aside from few in-person guests such as Kenan Thompson and Maya Rudolph, the show made it a point to celebrate the hard work of those distributing the vaccine across America.

This was also paid done with a comedy-sketch that featured many of the first-responders as well as presenters and recipients of the night including Andrew Ranells, Don Cheadle and Lin Manuel-Miranda. Many of the jokes based revolved around COVID-19 and some of the virtual setbacks they would be experiencing that night.

As with any virtual award ceremony within the past year, the show did not come without technical difficulties. It only took the first acceptance speech of the night for things to go awry. When receiving the award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Any Motion Picture, Daniel Kaluuya was interrupted mid-speech to announce that there were technical difficulties in attempts to proceed past him.

Regardless, Kaluuya yelled, “You’re

doing me dirty!” before continuing the rest of his speech.

Because the award nominees were all on Zoom, a unique part of the show was featuring all of the upcoming nominees of the next category on screen before cutting to commercial. This made for many attempts of awkward small-talk, candid expressions and pet cameos.

Most notably, Dan Levy, creator of “Schitt’s Creek,” was seen exclaiming, “Oh my God, are we on?”

As it was harder to generate a laugh without a boasting audience to feed off of, Pohler transferred from punchline to skit as Thompson and Rudolph came to the stage to accept the award for Least Original Song for a Telefilm, Dramadey or Comma. With Thompson both kissing Pohler and speaking French during his acceptance speech, the Saturday Night Live reunion came as a pleasant surprise to its fans.

Jokes aside, many of the speeches came as a call-to-action for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

to include more diversity within their team of journalists as well as Black inclusion within award nominations.

More heartfelt moments were shared as 98-year-old Norman Lear accepted the third ever Carol Burnett Award of Television Excellence. With the first recipient being Burnett herself and the second Ellen DeGeneres, Lear accepted the honor with a tug of the ear similar to how Burnett would end many of her comedy sketches on her own show.

People were moved by the post-humorous award given to Chadwick Boseman as Best Actor for his performance in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.” His wife, Taylor Simone Ledward, accepted the award in his stead. She lamented much of what she felt he would say and ended the speech with a message to him.

“And I don’t have his words, but we have to take a moment to celebrate those we love. So thank you HFPA for this opportunity to do exactly that. And, hun, you keep ‘em coming. Thank you,” Simone Ledward said.

Local band brings new vibe to Duquesne

EMMA POLEN
staff writer

Less than a month old and already producing music, FlowKids is a Duquesne student-made band that skillfully combines a multitude of musical genres. The group performed at *The Duke's* musician showcase on Feb. 20, rocking their unique vibe.

The main “vibe,” or music genre, of FlowKids is a mix between jazz, hip-hop, indie and oldies-feel. All four players bring a personal musical approach that contributes to the group’s variety.

Alex Perez is FlowKids’ trumpeter. The sophomore performance major’s trumpet playing is influenced by jazz musicians as well as rock groups like 90s rock band Cake.

Ben “Benny” Grossman is a freshman music student who integrates hip-hop into FlowKids’ music. Grossman is the group’s rap vocalist, and is known for his ability to write entire verses in a single morning.

Sophomore music education student Maria Constantine is the band’s singer and songwriter. While Constantine explains she is relatively new to singing in a band, especially jazz singing, she is actively listening to other vocalists like Nora Jones to help her own performance.

Spencer McNeill is responsible for initially mixing FlowKids’ beats, while also putting his skills to the test on keyboard. McNeill is a junior music education major who is constantly using his own experience with music technology



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

FlowKids newly released music is enriched with variety.

to create meaningful music with his peers. Fellow band member Ben Grossman calls McNeill the “Wizard of Oz on the computer.” McNeill said he draws inspiration from MF Doom, 9th Wonder, OJ Dilla, and Flamingosis.

While some artists stick to one genre and only cater to that specific audience, Grossman said

that FlowKids decided to choose a blend.

“I think when you combine multiple genres and styles that people love, you can touch more people,” Grossman said.

Besides the musicians themselves, the group achieves their unique sound using various recording techniques. The “vintage feel,”

as McNeill describes it, is a result of careful attention taken throughout the production process.

The group plays and records with old microphones, including one from the 1950s — that looks like it could have belonged to someone like Elvis Presley — and two others from the 60s and 70s.

The musician showcase on Saturday, Feb. 20 marked FlowKids’ first live performance, as well as their first performance with a live rhythm section. Emiliano Siegert-Wilkinson, bassist, and Joe Walsh, drummer, are both freshman music students here at Duquesne who got involved with FlowKids just over two weeks ago.

The four original band members agreed that Siegert-Wilkinson and Walsh are what give FlowKids a unique edge that other amateur bands do not have: a live backing track.

“Blurred Vision,” the band’s first song together, premiered on Spotify this Valentine’s Day. It combines the players’ different musical talents and backgrounds and it’s evident that careful consideration is put into the production process.

McNeill made an effort to incorporate “cool sounds that you would not necessarily hear on the radio.” He included a vinyl crackle and jazz chords, and also added a sample of birds outside his apartment to achieve what he called an “organic vibe.”

Typically, FlowKids’ music-writing process begins with a mix created by McNeill, followed by lyric-writing. Constantine comes up with a “hook,” or the riff in a

song that catches a listener’s attention. Grossman works on the rap vocals to fit the beat and then Perez plays trumpet over top both vocalists.

The process sounds pretty simple, and for “Blurred Vision,” it was. Within 24 hours, Constantine and Grossman both wrote and recorded the entire song’s lyrics. Soon after, Perez added in trumpet and the tune was finished.

Compared to other bands which group members have performed with in the past, FlowKids said they believe the band has unique potential. For McNeill, it’s the “vibe” of the group that makes them different. This “vibe” has gained the group over 2,004 monthly Spotify listeners and a diverse musical audience.

Unlike other groups he and the others have worked with, McNeill says that what makes FlowKids special is the “rapid fire releases.”

“I’ve never been in a band that writes this quick,” McNeill said.

McNeill hinted that the band already has around five new songs they have been working on since the release of “Blurred Vision” less than a month ago.

Next for FlowKids is the release of “Remember,” which they performed at Saturday’s recording session; it is yet to be released publicly. Later down the line when the pandemic is over, the group hopes to perform in live shows.

You can listen to FlowKids on Spotify and follow their Instagram, @the.flowkids, to stay up-to-date on their newest content.

Heavy metal group releases new sound

JOHN CANTWELL
staff writer

Throughout the independent music community of Pittsburgh, music group Shin Guard has been known as a screamo staple that provides some of the most creative, chaotic and visceral sounds that the heavy music community has to offer. Now, under the guise of Hazing Over, the band has reemerged with a new lineup and deathcore sound that is sure to crush your skull in half.

The band released their new four-song EP *Pestilence* on February 19, and although the album is only 10 minutes in length, the group has showcased that they are even more of a force to be reckoned with — they’re here to reign hell.

The guitars are tuned lower, Jake Yencik has stepped down from bass duties and is now the full-time vocalist and the sound is raw.

The opening and title track, “Pestilence,” subtly opens with feverish string bend until it builds up to a blistering drop that is sure to make moshers pleased once shows

return. The riffs on this track are so technically creative, yet are reminiscent of early 2000s hardcore such as Converge and Botch, and even modern bands like Code Orange and Vein.

Yencik’s vocals have improved immensely since Shin Guard (and his solo project Blood Menace), showcasing a variety of gutturals, false chords and mids that will garnish approval from hardcore metal fans.

Not only the vocals, but the overall instrumentals are infinitely more intriguing and hard-hitting, which is conveyed on the second track “Sty.” With blistering drum compositions by Ryan Yester, the song immediately conjures a sense of discombobulation, which is then emphasized by the mathy cacophony, and the anti-cop narrative that engulfs the track into an anti-authority anthem.

“Jock” was the first single they released under the name Hazing Over, and it is still one of the highlights on the EP. Nostalgic and ambient synthesizers kick off the track, almost giving the listener a sense of comfort and bliss until it quickly becomes distorted with

Yencik’s high-pitched shrieks. The versatility that Yencik displays with his vocals in this track is astounding, especially with the explosive, mosh-inducing breakdown at the climax of the track.

The final and closing song of the EP is “Ungodly,” and it is by far the most melodic, yet complex creation on the record. Beginning with an upbeat musical composition which will be sure to get crowd-goers jumping at performances, the song quickly ventures into the sporadic and chaotic traits that were sprinkled throughout the rest of the EP.

The almost “breakcore” type synths reappear before they eventually fade into another pummeling breakdown, followed by the nihilistic and apathetic lyrics which display a disregard for conformity and everyday life. The overall vibe and tone of the track makes it even more enjoyable to put on when you are just having a bad day and need to release some pent-up aggression.

Within *Pestilence*, Hazing Over has showcased that this is only the beginning, and they are ready to take over. Although the days of

Shin Guard are now long gone, the group’s new sound is sure to leave a mark on the hardcore/deathcore scene, taking inspiration from a

multitude of similar bands, yet spinning their own creative twist on the genre that keeps their sound exciting, fresh and face-melting.



COURTESY OF @HAZINGOVER

Loud and proud, music group Hazing Over introduces their new EP.

Campus Pet Profile

from PET PALS— page 6

loves walking around campus with Chavez. She has a few favorite spots.

"She loves to frolic around the field right in front of Brottier hall," Chavez said. "But I would say that her favorite spot is just outside the library."

Eramis is currently teething and loves to nibble on everything. At her favorite spot just outside the library "lies a patch of cushiony greenery — there she adores to run around and, more or less, nibble everything. I'm talking branches, leaves, stems, sometimes rocks," Chavez said.

Eramis enjoys playing with everything from plushies and balls to branches and wood. A few of her favorites at the mo-

ment are a yellow plastic hippopotamus, a llama stuffed animal and guinea pig plushie.

One of Eramis' quirks is that she likes to have her teeth brushed.

"At first she was weirded out by it, but little by little I think she came to like it," Chavez said. "Now, I leave her toothbrush on the floor by her bowls; whenever she picks it up, I brush her teeth. She is a pretty smart puppy and does her best to communicate her needs."

Although Eramis is a friendly puppy and loves new friends, she prefers to be pet with permission, and students should confirm with Chavez or whoever's with her before interacting with Eramis — or with any other campus pet pal.



COURTESY OF EDGAR CHAVEZ

Eramis bathes in the sun along the Allegheny River at Point State Park.

Now Hiring

DU Quark is currently interviewing for a new Editor-in-Chief for Fall 2021.

Duquesne University's student-run scientific journal, **The D.U. Quark**, is seeking an Editor-in-Chief beginning in Fall 2021. Responsibilities include setting the agenda for the journal and identifying opportunities for the journal to engage with the community. The Editor also receives and reviews all submissions to the journal and facilitates the peer-review process. Candidates should be organized, collaborative, and enthusiastic about science communication. Please visit www.duquark.com to look at student work that has been published in the journal. The position is paid in the form of credits. Undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines are welcome to apply. Send your resume and cover letter to the faculty advisor, Dr. Kristin Klucsevsek (klucsevsekk@duq.edu), by March 10th, 2021. Interviews will take place Friday March 26th.

Law grads place sixth

STAFF REPORT

Duquesne University's School of Law was recently recognized among the top law schools in the country in terms of "bar-passage metrics," according to a recent study conducted by Jeffrey S. Kinsler.

Kinsler, who is the founding dean of Belmont University College of Law, placed Duquesne sixth among 187 law schools assessed between 2015-19.

The study assessed top law schools in the country whose graduates outperform peer schools in terms of bar-passage metrics. According to the American Bar Association, bar-passage rates are "the single best outcome measure...in assessing whether a law school is maintaining a 'rigorous program of legal education.'"

In a press release, Duquesne School of Law Dean April Barton said, "Our alumni, faculty-scholars, staff and students all en-

gage in a coordinated and systematic effort to deliver on our promise to produce prepared and professionally confident lawyers who will go on to become ethical leaders in our justice system.

"This public recognition of our hard work is appreciated, but we know these results are emblematic of our commitment to fulfill our mission of serving God by serving our students."

According to the Duquesne Law website, the two-year ultimate bar-pass rate in 2016 was 96.72%, and the two-year ultimate bar pass rate in 2017 was 93.16%.

Other law schools identified in the study include Florida International University, Texas A&M, Georgia State, Texas Tech and the University of South Carolina, among others in the Top 15.

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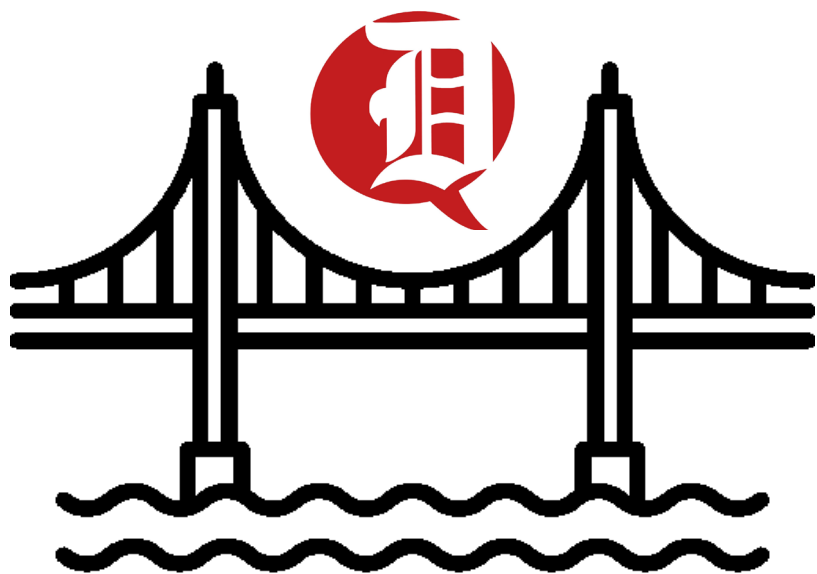
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