



THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Dannielle Brown, Duquesne University reach settlement

St. Martin's Makeover: renovating one of DU's oldest dorms

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
staff writer

St. Martin Residence Hall will be undergoing renovation beginning in May of this year.

Since the 1960s, St. Martin has been a residence hall for the students of Duquesne. With the building in need of an update, Duquesne has partnered with the Radnor Property Group as well as the Harrison Street investment management firm to accomplish this task.

Currently, Martin's holds 485 residents — the majority of them being freshmen, with 20 of them being upper-class students.

Chloe Brendle, a sophomore at Duquesne University, reflected on her time living in Martin's her freshman year.

"It was OK. I was on the highest floor, so it was kinda sad I didn't have an elevator to go all the way up there. I had to climb down the one flight of stairs and then hop on the elevator," Brendle said.

Brendle is under the opinion that Martin's was not the ideal place to live. In addition to the elevator issue, Brendle says that the bathroom situation wasn't good either; there were dim lights in the showers and "you kinda just sat there." Thankfully with the new renovation, all of these problems



ALEX LAFONTAINE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This mural honoring the late Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown sits underneath an overpass on Fifth Avenue, just blocks away from Brottier Hall, where JB fell to his death on Oct. 4, 2018. The mural has also served as the site of some of Dannielle Brown's protests.

COLLEEN HAMMOND
news editor

After over two and a half years since her son's death, Dannielle Brown has reached an agreement with Duquesne University.

According to Brown's lawyers and Duquesne Media and Communications Manager Rose Ravasio, "The terms of the settlement agreement are not being disclosed."

Brown, the mother of late Duquesne student Marquis Jaylen "JB" Brown, has been in a virtual deadlock with university administration since JB tragically fell to his death from the 16th floor of Brottier Hall on Oct. 4, 2018. It was JB's 21st birthday.

"Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers will forever be with the Brown Family," said Duquesne University President Ken Gormley. "JB remains an important member of the Duquesne University community. The University will

continue to take a proactive approach to cultivating a safe and socially conscious environment for our students."

Although Brown had not spoken to university officials in some time, this past July, she abruptly moved from her native Washington, D.C. and took up residence on Freedom Corner in the Hill District where she began a hunger strike. At the beginning of her hunger strike, Brown issued a series of demands to university administration.

"1) An independent investigation with full access to information and resources.

2) Body cameras for all university police.

3) Mandatory certification training in mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation for police and first responders," read a sign at Brown's protest site.

Brown repeatedly stated that she would not end her hunger strike until all her demands had been met, stating — both in per-

son and on social media — "You came for the wrong mother, until my last breath."

On Sept. 25, Duquesne announced they had purchased body cameras for all 40 Duquesne Police officers. In addition, the university also stated they were investing in enhanced de-escalation training measures.

However, despite these efforts, Brown continued her hunger strike until March 11 — her 50th birthday. In total, Brown stated she was on a hunger strike for 237 days.

At the conclusion of her hunger strike, she hosted a small, outdoor gathering at the place where it all began — Freedom Corner. There she announced the launch of the Marquis Jaylen Brown Foundation, an organization with a major focus on campus police reform across the country.

"I am so excited to team up with Duquesne (maybe) and universities around the world," Brown said in a March 13 social

media post. "This is an excellent organization for mother's voices and student social activism to be channeled in a collective front where all parties are involved in a healthy, holistic approach to changing the climate of injustices on college campuses, collegiate communities and systems."

"In bringing this case to a close, Dannielle Brown will now devote her focus and energy to a broader mission of achieving social justice through the Marquis Jaylen Brown Foundation," said attorneys Paul Jubas and Max Petrunya.

Reflecting on the experience, Brown said she visited the memorial bench dedicated to her son, facing the Duquesne football field where he once played.

"As the tears rolled down my eyes, I took a deep breath and exhaled," Brown said via social media. "The sun hit my face and I felt the warmth of your spirit JB, shouting, 'Well done mother.'"

POLICE BRIEFS

Here are the crimes reported from **April 5 to April 12.**

On **April 5**, a fire alarm was activated in Duquesne Towers. The cause for the alarm was that someone discharged a fire extinguisher causing the smoke detectors to activate. It is unknown at this time who discharged the extinguisher.

On **April 7**, a commuter student reported a “road rage” incident where an unknown male exited his vehicle and punched the hood of the commuter’s car, which resulted in damage.

Also on **April 7**, a student reported a theft from her dorm room. The student reported receiving threats from her roommate’s boyfriend over the Easter holiday period while at home.

On **April 10**, a student contacted Pittsburgh Police, Zone 2, to file a report regarding fraudulent charges on her credit card. Zone 2 police referred the student back to Duquesne Police. A DU police officer met the student in the lobby of Brottier Hall and a report was taken. The student contacted the credit card company and she will not be responsible for the credit card charges.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA



EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

Even in a pandemic, Duq boasts record freshmen application rates

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

While some colleges and universities are facing a decrease in admissions, Duquesne University is experiencing just the opposite.

Duquesne drew a record amount of freshman applications – more than 10,100, to be exact – for the upcoming fall semester. The university admitted 8,400 freshmen and 230 transfer students, and is expecting between 1,193 and 1,248 freshmen, about 150 transfer students and 979 new graduated students, according to Joel Bauman, senior vice president for enrollment management.

“As a philosophy, we seek intellectually motivated and academically curious individuals with leadership potential, students who have records of personal growth and community service who will thrive in our classrooms and bring vibrancy to our campus,” Bauman said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bauman said that the biggest change this year was test-optional admission. For fall 2021 to fall 2022 freshman applicants, all majors are offering a test-optional opportunity.

61% of the incoming class utilized the test-optional process, and Bauman said that the university will most likely maintain it for all programs at least until fall 2022.

“[D]epending on the academic success of the students enrolled



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and a decline in college applications across the country, Duquesne has received a record number of applications. More than 10,000 students applied for admission in the upcoming semester.

“While also adapting the on-campus experience to follow all CDC and Health department guidelines,” he said. “We also created a fully online virtual opportunity to directly meet with counselors and instituted a ‘live chat’ feature for the admissions and financial aid office.”

Nearly 40% of the incoming class comes from outside the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which Bauman attributed to Duquesne’s “national and international footprint and presence.”

“Legacy communities and alumni around the country and world are proud of their education and help promote through vigorous word of mouth,” Bauman said.

1,627 applicants were from Allegheny County, and Bauman

one another, faculty, professionals and in communities here.”

Despite the uncertainty of the past year, Bauman said that the focus has still remained on students.

“Everyone in the Duquesne community rallied. The fact that students and faculty still participated in as much of a residential experience and as impactful and supportive a year bodes well for the future of Duquesne and of those students who will graduate and pursue yet bigger goals,” Bauman said.



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

A record number of freshmen applications have been received. This comes just as Duquesne is set to begin a full year construction on St. Martin’s, a freshmen dorm.

and future testing limitations, it will be reviewed then for future years,” he said.

In addition to moving to an admissions process that was test-optional, Bauman said that the biggest challenge was the restriction of on-campus visits and interacting in-person with students, families and faculty members.

“Staff and schools and faculty moved to a mostly virtual experience

said that local high schools are still the largest source of students that select Duquesne.

“Our reputation is rock solid for having caring faculty who engage with students, walking beside them as they discover who they are and expand their horizons,” he said. “As a residential campus with a location with easy access to all areas of the city, students know they can make connections and learn together with

Student COVID-19 Relief Funds

KELLEN STEPLER & KATIA FAROUN
the duquesne duke

In a message sent to all students Wednesday afternoon, Duquesne President Ken Gormley announced that the university will be distributing funds to every student to provide assistance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The university received roughly \$14 million as part of the American Rescue Plan act of 2021 – the most recent stimulus package provided by the federal government. The funds were provided to the university in order to help them cover costs incurred by the pandemic and to provide aid to students in need of additional assistance.

So far, the university has distributed funds to students with qualifying financial needs twice. However, the university will now be including every student in their distribution of these funds, including international students and students without financial aid.

Full-time students who have already received aid from Duquesne with funds from the stimulus package will receive an additional check of \$1,250. All other full-time students will receive \$1,000, and part-time students will receive \$500.

“We have prudently managed our funds this year, and our students and their families have been nothing short of fabulous in helping us complete this academic year safely and productively,” Gormley said in an email addressed to all students on Wednesday. “For that reason, I’m proud to provide this much-needed help, because we are all a family at Duquesne.”

The grants will be posted to students’ accounts on Monday, April 19, and physical checks will start being distributed to students on Thursday, April 22. Students can also opt to have their grants direct-deposited by enrolling before April 18.

Junior pharmacy major Lia Ferraccio said that the email provided “very exciting news that is just the morale boost [she] needed.”

“Free money from Duquesne? Unheard of,” Ferraccio said. “Finally getting something more than just a couple wellness days in return for all the hard work we put in.”

Crime Brief:

COLLEEN HAMMOND
news editor

On Tuesday at roughly 10:50 p.m., Pittsburgh Zone 2 Police responded to a Shotspotter alert on the 1400 block of Fifth Avenue, according to the Pittsburgh Public Safety Office.

Upon arrival, the officers discovered a male victim who had been shot in the leg, but was awake and alert. He was then transported to a local hospital and was in stable condition.

Police were unable to locate the shooter, who “fled in an unknown direction,” according to the Public Safety Office.

Duquesne students received an emergency alert notifying them of the incident at 11:24 p.m. Students were instructed in the alert to “avoid the area” of the shooting, particularly outside the Aces/Deuces bar on Fifth Avenue.

The emergency statement from Duquesne Police Chief Thomas Hart said, “This is not Duquesne University related.”

Pittsburgh Police continue to investigate the incident.

A look at the upcoming renovations in St. Martin's

from MARTIN— page 1

will be solved.

With the update, Martin's will be able to hold 536 students, 323 of those being upper-year and graduate students. The rooms will be molded into mostly single occupancy suite-style units with a few double occupancy rooms as well. Each room will contain a refrigerator, small cooktop, microwave, bed, desk and an adjoining bathroom connecting two units together.

Duquesne's partnership with the Radnor Property Group be-

gan in mid- to late 2017 when the request for the proposal of Brottier Hall was put in place. Once the construction of Brottier was finished, the proposal for Martin's renovation was next on the table.

Tim Gigliotti, managing director for the Radnor Property Group, shared more about the renovation process and what Duquesne can anticipate from it.

"If you look at the suite-style arrangement offered at Vickroy and Des Places, they are very nice suites. Then you look at the jump from those to traditional apartments and Brottier — there's sort

of a step missing in between. St. Martin's seeks to fill that void," Gigliotti said.

The Radnor Group is taking a whole new approach to the traditional dormitory-style living. The majority of the rooms will be single suite-style living with a connecting bathroom. This eliminates the communal bathroom entirely. But that begs the question: What do we do with those spaces now that they have no use? Each of those areas on every floor will be converted to either a kitchen, a study area or a gaming lounge.

"We would like to encourage people to cross collaborate among the different floors. We want to encourage people to go up and down the building," Gigliotti said.

According to Gigliotti, each designated area will go in order of kitchen, study and gaming lounge by floor as you work your way up the building. The idea behind this is to bring together residents by placing different community-style living areas on every floor. Each area will have its own unique set up; for example, no two gaming areas will be alike. One may have a pool table while the other has skee-ball, which allows for a greater variation.

Originally the renovation was



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The current, dorm-style rooms of Martin's will be updated to accommodate more students in new, suite-style rooms. The renovations are made possible through Duquesne's ongoing partnership with the Radnor Property Group. Renovations should be finished by fall 2022.

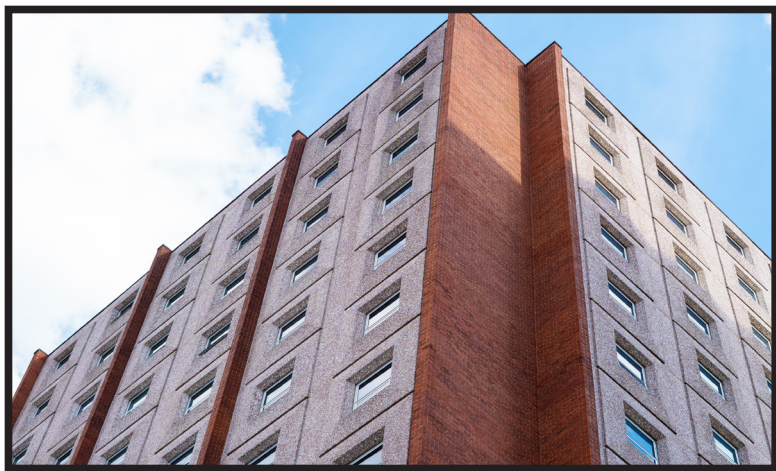
supposed to start last summer, but due to COVID-19, the project was postponed for a year. Now with COVID looking better than it has in the past, renovation will commence in May. Martins will be closed for one academic school year and will open in the fall of 2022.

Gigliotti says that the construction should not interfere with the normal day-to-day routine of students during the school year. The majority of the "loud work" will take place over the summer break. In addition,

the sidewalks around the building will be open and will not interfere with the daily workings of Assumption Hall or Towers.

Joshua Branker, a sophomore and current RA at Martin's, is excited to hear about the renovation at Martins and can't wait to see how things turn out.

"I would say that sounds amazing; it's the type of things that we need for our building. I'm very excited and would like to go there one day. Sign me up," Branker said.



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

For the past six decades, St. Martin Hall has remained relatively the same. Now, after much planning and deliberation, the Radnor Property Group will begin renovations in May. The dorm will remain closed for one year and reopen at the beginning of the fall 2022 semester.

Student orgs tackle Sexual Assault Awareness Month

BAYLEE MARTIN
staff writer

This month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), and Duquesne will be taking all of April to educate the community on the realities of sexual assault and violence, while providing resources for students aimed at preventing and eliminating this overarching issue.

The university's Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) organization has been combating and raising awareness concerning the issue of sexual assault within their three main areas of outreach: activism and action, advocacy and awareness, according to SASV Vice President Deidra Hubay.

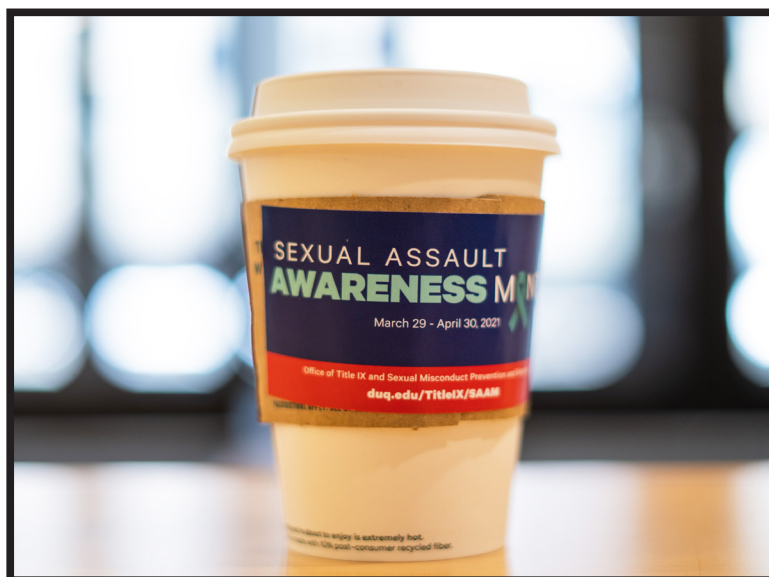
"It is our mission to promote ideas of safe and inclusion in campus practices, support and empower survivors of sexual assault, bring awareness to students, faculty, staff and other campus members through activism in action," Hubay said. "We partner with outside community organizations such as the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) to help us, and the Title IX coordinator provides necessary resources for support and recovery after trauma."

Vanessa Llewellyn, the President of SASV, said that actions being taken by SASV include "Round Table Talks" as an open forum for students to end the shame-stigma, hosting a clothing drive for PAAR and "Denim Day" on April 28.

Sexual assault and violence are no stranger to college campuses across the nation, and Duquesne is no exception. Each week of April, new topics and programs have been presented to students with important resources that can be accessed with both in-person and online options.

Beginning the week of March 29, the Title IX team has been highlighting a different topic concerning sexual assault over the month's five-week time span.

Week one (March 29-April 2) focused on resources and reporting options from Title IX Coordinator and Director of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Alicia Simpson. Simpson spoke on Monday, March 29 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Union Fountain. Any violations to the university's TAP No. 61 Interim Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment and non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct under TAP 31 can be reported to Simpson at (412) 396-2560 or by her email, simp-



GRIFFIN SENDEK | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

As organizations across campus engage in dialogues about the realities of sexual assault and sexual violence, the cups at the Starbucks in the Student Union feature a message highlighting Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

sona8@duq.edu, or on the University's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Anonymous Reporting Form.

Week two (April 5-April 9) involved bystander intervention to teach students about "recognizing a potentially harmful situation or interaction and choosing to respond in a way that could positively influence the outcome," according to the office of Title IX and Sexual Miscon-

duct Prevention and Response. On April 6 at 8 p.m., Pittsburgh Action Against Rape hosted a virtual bystander intervention workshop via Zoom to help the university convey this message.

This week (April 12-16) marks the third week of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, with the main focus being consent. Next week (April 19-23) will focus on healthy relationships and online safety, and the final week (April

26-30) will wrap up the entire month with resources and ways to continue learning.

Although Hubay said that Duquesne's efforts have put the university at the lowest rates of sexual violence out of any major Pittsburgh university, Llewellyn acknowledges there is still work to be done.

"Duquesne has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, which means if you're found guilty of it, you're gone, no questions asked," Llewellyn said. "We do not have this in place for rape. To say that we don't have zero tolerance for rape is to say that we have some amount of tolerance for rape. And that's not okay with us here at SASV."

Any students interested in joining SASV or are in need of resources can send a request on CampusLink or email Vanessa or Deidra at llewellynv@duq.edu and hubay@duq.edu.

Additional resources for those experiencing sexual violence can be found at the National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800)-656-4673

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Kellen Stepler
managing editor Colleen Hammond
news editor Colleen Hammond
opinions editor Noah Wilbur
features editor Katia Faroun
a&e editor Capri Scarcelli
sports editor Adam Lindner
layout editor Kelsey Burtner
multimedia editor Griffin Sendek

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward
ad manager Carissa Haslam
email us: theduquduke@gmail.com



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

With the vaccine rollout in America heating up, the future of sports is beginning to look far more bright.

The future of sports in a world without the coronavirus

Last March, sports enthusiasts, as well as the players themselves, were in utter disbelief as sporting events across the globe came to a halt after the emergence of COVID-19 and its ensuing spread. The ambiguity surrounding the pandemic brought forth a number of questions concerning the future of sports, and whether or not we would ever return to a time when attending a baseball game with friends and family is considered “normal.”

From sports venues turning into breeding grounds for the virus, to the inherent health-related risks posed not only to the players and their families but also to the coaches, the overwhelming evidence clearly indicated that the coronavirus pandemic might change the face of the sports world for years to come.

However, in recent weeks, it has become apparent that this might not be the case with athletic leagues — collegiate and professional — seemingly putting those questions to rest by opening their stadiums and arenas to fans in what many would consider to be a timely manner.

As state and local governments continue to lift social restrictions, many restaurants and bars are permitting 75% capacity while employees slowly filter back into their workplaces and return to a “normal” day-to-day schedule. Most importantly, sports clubs are once again allowing fans to enter their facilities to watch as their favorite teams put on a show.

For example, nearly two weeks ago, the Texas Rang-

ers hosted a baseball game at full capacity — the first sports event in the U.S. in over a year to include more than 40,000 fans in one place, at one time. It is apparent, at least in Texas, that people are prepared to sit next to strangers in a public setting without a mask.

Not to mention, the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Football League (NFL) each recently announced their intentions to authorize full capacity attendance at arenas and stadiums in the near future, with colleges and even some high schools following their lead. In fact, just last month, the Minnesota Vi-



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

kings announced its ongoing intent to host football games at full capacity this fall during the 2021 season.

In light of the above evidence, it appears that the short-term outlook for the sports world is grossly optimistic as social restrictions are reversed around the country, and people — both young and old — search for fun activities to enjoy with

family and friends.

Admittedly, the recent resurgence of sporting events in America is primarily attributable to rising comfort levels among fans resulting from the widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccinations. With more and more Americans receiving their vaccine every passing day, whether it be the first or second dose, the environments within the stadiums and arenas across the country simultaneously grow safer each day as well.

Despite this positive and encouraging outlook I've just described, according to recent data, the truth of the matter is that the majority of Americans still do not feel comfortable attending a sports event, even more so when it is located inside an enclosed venue.

As reported by data analytics firm Morning Consult in March of this year, only 32% of U.S. adults are willing to attend an outdoor sporting event, with a meager 22% expressing interest in attending an indoor event.

Be that as it may, given the current rate of the vaccine rollout in the country, I am of the opinion that the sports world is on its way to returning to some form of normalcy in the coming months. With fans eager to support their teams in person and athletes even more enthusiastic to no longer stare at a sea of cardboard cutouts, there is not any obstacle mighty enough to stop the greatest comeback of all time.

My advice? Go get vaccinated! I cannot say it loudly enough...

STAFF
EDITORIAL

What's the point of Wellness Day?

With April 15 marking Duquesne's second 'Wellness Day,' many students on campus still feel obliged to hunker down in their dorms or in the library to catch up on unfinished work.

The purpose of this day was initially to let students catch their breaths, being that the shortened spring semester left students, faculty and staff without a proper spring break. With the semester droning on without a pause, this leads many students to burnout.

Now with a day or two of rest, the blueprint was for students to find time for activities they may otherwise not have time for with jam-packed schedules of classes, schoolwork and extracurriculars.

But how are students expected to take a day off when they are also expected to meet deadlines in a timely manner?

Even with food trucks, free prizes and music on A-Walk, not all professors are encouraging their students to take a break. In fact, some are begrudgingly giving the class period up and assigning outside work to make up for the time lost.

With this added pressure, students feel even more pressured than before, feeling as though 'Wellness Day' has become a day to crank out assignments rather than making the most of the day.

For those inside today worrying about their workload, the activities, food and fun will be mostly over by the time the sun sets, making an accomplished day feel like a day wasted, or an opportunity missed.

Even with assignments due at midnight, the day feels shorter when trying to cram in some fun while still getting the work done.

It may even feel like an added pressure, like you have to participate in all of the events occurring on campus when everyone else is, too.

Not to mention, sometimes we seem to forget that acts of self-care aren't always about running around on city adventures when time allows. Sometimes it's taking longer showers, listening to music that brings you joy, having positive self-talk and organizing yourself and your surroundings for a more cleansing, healthy environment.

It seems almost contradictory for Duquesne to be encouraging students to enjoy the day for what it's worth, but not allotting time for students to stick to the syllabus.

The School of Pharmacy, for one, still had classes on this day, while the School of Music still had to tend to their private lessons and upcoming assignments.

It's hard enough playing catch-up, and even harder when there's guilt behind it. Though a kind gesture with the fruitful opportunities provided on this day, we must remind ourselves that no one should feel as though their work comes before their well-being, or that the two intertwine.

“We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.”

MAYA ANGELOU

You just read | Now tweet
our thoughts. | us yours.

@TheDuquesneDuke

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email: theduquduke@gmail.com

President Biden's bold climate initiative is exactly what the US needs

ZOE STRATOS
staff columnist

During the 2020 election, President Biden and former President Donald Trump focused their campaigns heavily on how to combat COVID-19 and relief efforts for those affected by it. While COVID-19 has taken a toll on the American spirit, climate change is still an ever growing threat, and the Biden Administration has a lot of work to do to combat it.

Spanning back to the 2016 election, the Trump administration seemingly overhauled the Obama Administration's steps toward reversing climate change, with a high focus on the oil and coal industries.

Being a businessman, Trump focused much of his campaign on economic prosperity, but with that, climate change initiatives came to a screeching halt. During his four years in office, many things had changed, including the following according to the National Geographic:

In February 2017, the U.S. Senate named Scott Pruitt as the head of the United States Environmental Protection Agency — who previously sued the EPA over its regulations and, most notably, the Clean Power Plan. The administration then signed an

executive order that began to reverse the Clean Power Plan.

Most notably in June 2017, Trump pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement, a pact of 194 countries that promised to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Other setbacks included Trump's proposal to roll back the Endangered Species Act and weaken fuel economy rules in 2018, and two executive orders to allow companies to build oil and gas pipelines in 2019.

Upon Biden's entrance into office, the first week offered new executive orders to combat climate change.

On his official website, Biden outlines the importance of the Green New Deal framework. Similarly to Trump, Biden acknowledges the connection between economy and environment, but looks at it in a different light.

One of the biggest highlights of Biden's \$2 trillion plan is for the U.S. to reach a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050, but achieving this feat is difficult.

Originally, Biden's climate plan was underwhelming for not only scientists and environmentalists, but for everyday people invested in the fight against climate change. The biggest difference between the two is the cost. The original plan called for an in-

vestment of \$1.7 trillion over the course of 10 years, while the new plan costs \$300 billion more — with a shorter time span.

To acquire the funds necessary to combat climate change, Biden plans to raise the corporate income tax rate, and promises to not raise taxes for low income households.

This is where controversy comes in. Hailed by economists and climate change experts alike, a tax on carbon would be the most efficient way to raise money for the agenda, though most households would not be exempt from it. Though with a carbon tax, it would cut down on after-tax incomes on carbon-based services such as gas.

Moreover, there would be a fee on imports from countries without a carbon tax, which would rally other countries in joining the initiative.

Without a carbon tax, as Biden plans to move forward with, only regulations and executive orders can put a curb on carbon emissions. The issue with regulation is that it can be easily reversed or worked around, as we've seen from the last few presidencies.

Essentially, regulation is not optimal in a long term investment like net-zero carbon emissions within the next 20 or so years. Biden won't be in charge that long.



COURTESY OF FLICKR

Unlike his predecessor, President Biden is focused on tackling the climate crisis.

Though another part of Biden's plan connects the dots between economy and environment: U.S. infrastructure.

The plan proposes to create millions of union jobs to make transportation of goods and people faster — and less expensive. Part of this will be to transform the energy sources that power public transportation, while also providing public transportation for thousands of Americans across the U.S. by 2030.

"It's not a plan that tinkers around the edges," Biden said

on March 31 at a union training center in Pittsburgh. "It's a once-in-a-generation investment in America."

Moreover, the infrastructure plan would create up to 20,000 miles of rebuilt roads and eliminate lead pipes from water supplies, all the while creating clean energy and providing jobs for millions of Americans.

Although ambitious, the Biden climate initiative is possible with the right investments and support from the American people.

You should get the COVID-19 vaccine at the earliest opportunity

ALEXANDER WOLFE
staff columnist

Before you turn on the caps lock and come for me with pitchforks, the question of whether or not to get the vaccine shouldn't be one of microchips, side-effects or politics (good grief), but rather one of, frankly, who needs it more.

In the long run, as many people who are able to receive the vaccine should do so, in spite of the notably harsh side effects spanning the initial 48 hours of inoculation. I say that as someone who received his first dose of the Moderna vaccine, and the body ache and nausea are certainly enough to take someone out of commission for a day.

Yet those vaccine conscious among you might justifiably ponder if I fall into an at-risk category or am an essential worker, of which I am neither.

So was it right for me to "jump the line" and race to the Hill District's Central Baptist Church last week along with dozens of other Duquesne students? Even accounting for the equity concerns — of which there are many — it was ultimately, selfishly and unselfishly, the right choice, and I would encourage others given the opportunity to receive the vaccine to do so as well.

By now, many high-risk and essential service personnel have

had the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Nearly 40% of the entire country has received at least one dose of some COVID-19 vaccine, and most states are not scheduled to truly open vaccinations to the general public until April 19.

Furthermore, the inspiring rate of vaccine production and distribution has allowed for traditionally marginalized — and usually high-risk or essential — communities to receive targeted shipments, the Hill District being a prime example.

Yet if polling is to be believed, nearly a third of the Hill District's Black residents are highly unlikely to make plans to get vaccinated (these numbers fluctuate wildly across different polls from 25%-75%, but 33% seemed to be the most supported). Other polls find vaccine apprehension is less about race and more about education. One NBC poll found similar rates of skepticism among white and Black Americans, while the Marine Corps released information estimating that 40% of Marines offered the vaccine had declined, albeit some citing these similar equity concerns.

Despite this, you'd be right to presume that somewhere close to your local vaccination site, there is someone who needs that vaccine more than you, or that the United States should be sending more doses of vaccines overseas to

countries that have thus far been unable to procure them.

Yet the time table driving vaccine production, delivery and use forces us to remove this neediness criterion from our decision-making. Individuals choosing not to receive a vaccine cannot at this point be forced to do so, and the short shelf life of these vaccines, in addition to the private and social benefits of inoculation, demands we use as many vaccines as possible as soon as possible.

As someone returning from China in December, where the CDC has determined COVID-19 had been spreading quietly since September, the thought that I could have unknowingly been an asymptomatic host upon my December return is not exactly a comforting thought. I assume the same goes for the thousands of individuals who lost family members in the post-holiday death spikes after attending family gatherings while positive, consciously or otherwise.

While we are first responsible for protecting ourselves, the pandemic has taught us that we can be equally responsible for protecting our loved ones. This is the essence of our collective responsibility to vaccinate — that we have to be prepared to take any opportunity to keep those around us safe.

If Duquesne students and organizers administering vaccines



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Not only is the vaccine safe, but it is also necessary to wake up from this nightmare.

at Central Baptist Church hadn't informed Duquesne of the extra doses received, it's entirely possible many individuals who received the vaccine may have been stricken with the virus. While we enter into an optimistic period for those willing to receive the vaccine, we should remember that receiving the vaccine is both an unselfish act to protect others, but primarily a selfish act to protect yourself, and that is OK. At a surface level, it keeps a hospital bed open, while more broadly, each person vaccinated is another step toward returning to some sense of normalcy.

As of April 13, the PA Depart-

ment of Health announced that every Pennsylvanian over 18 is eligible to receive the vaccine. So, do not hesitate to find a vaccine appointment. Nearly 3.5 million vaccines are being administered every day — about 1% of the country — so there will be ample opportunities to get vaccinated in the coming weeks.

Rather than be tied down by the idea that you shouldn't yet receive a dose, value your newfound freedom — responsibly because vaccinated individuals can still spread the virus — and look around you to help and encourage the significant portion of Americans still cautious about receiving a vaccine.

Open house shows off ODI's new space to Duq community

KATIA FAROUN
features editor

Duquesne's Office of Diversity and Inclusion got an upgrade, set with a new space, new offices and a new name. The new Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion — previously the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) — marked its official grand opening on Tuesday with an afternoon open house. The event welcomed members of the Duquesne community to tour the new space, learn about the center's programs and activities and meet the staff and students involved in the center.

Now located in Room 302 of the Student Union, the center is now in a more central, active location and has more space than it did in its previous office on the first floor.

The center's move to the third floor was key for better engagement with students, according to Anthony Kane, director of diversity and inclusion at Duquesne.

"It was important for us to be in a spot where students could be with us and engage with us," Kane said.

The third floor of the Union is the "hub of student activities," according to Kane, which allows students to have easier access to the center and makes the center more visible for students who might be in need of its resources.

"Most students make their way

to the third floor of the Union at some point in the day," Kane said, and this new location for the center will allow it to be more engaged with the student population.

Besides bringing a change of space, the center's upgrade also comes with a re-commitment to diversity at Duquesne, focusing on all students with diverse backgrounds.

"We want to expand our outreach to support all students of diverse populations," Kane said.

This commitment is important to Duquesne students, including Mercedes Williams, a senior multiplatform journalism major who has witnessed the center's changes over her more than 10 years at the university.

"I hope it remains a community for students of all descents," Williams said.

The family-oriented, community aspect of the center is what Jean Cherilus, a university advancement associate at Duquesne, hopes to continue to see through the center's changes.

"I hope it continues to be like a safe space for students of color," Cherilus said.

Although the grand opening just took place this week, the new center has been in the works since the summer as part of Duquesne's commitment to creating a more inclusive environment on campus. The center's staff began moving into their new



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

Anthony Kane (center) discusses the center's new office space, located in Room 302 of the Union, during Tuesday's open house.

offices in mid-March.

In a campus-wide email sent March 15, President Ken Gormley notified the Duquesne community of the new center, saying that its creation is part of Duquesne's Action Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

"The new Center will build on the legacy of ODI's student-facing programming to expand its focus on excellence into classroom environments, community engagement and preparation for professional success," Gormley wrote.

The idea for creating a new space

for the center came from a conversation with Duquesne's Black Student Union, where members recommended creating "a centrally located space where students from diverse populations could gather and support one another," according to the e-mail.

The new location and the opportunities it brings to the center will allow its staff to provide Duquesne students with the engagement, care and resources they need — something that students, like Williams, have already benefited from.

"I hope it continues to deposit strength in students of colors' lives, as it has in mine," Williams said.



Duq seniors talk post-grad plans in a COVID world

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

As commencement events begin and Duquesne prepares for safe and socially distant ceremonies to celebrate this year's graduates, Duquesne seniors have been preparing throughout the COVID-19 school year for their plans after graduation.

Duquesne is planning a two-part approach to commencement. The events will include a virtual commencement ceremony for all graduates, featuring student speakers, remarks from the deans and slides that recognize students and their accomplishments. It will also hold a variety of smaller, in-person, individual degree recognition ceremonies and observances.

While COVID-19 has affected graduation proceedings, it has also affected the process of looking for jobs, graduate school and other post-grad endeavors this year. The uncertainty of the pandemic and vaccination rates has made this process especially unique for this year's seniors.

"I was ready to jump into the 'real world' and look for job openings abroad, but COVID has made that dream a little hard to complete," said senior Spanish major Mady Simmers. "I was not expecting to complete my last year of undergrad the way that I have and was expecting to have a plan all figured out, but because of COVID, there have been many bumps in the road."

With the loss of many jobs at the beginning of the pandemic and the transition to remote positions, the job search and interview process for this year's graduates has looked different.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

While the pandemic has posed unique challenges for graduating seniors, it has also reaffirmed their goals.

"Looking for a job has been very stressful. Finding a job in the middle of a pandemic is not an easy task," Simmers said. "It is a really interesting dynamic to wear pajama pants and a dressy top and jacket while interviewing for a job."

Along with the changing dynamics of the job search, seniors planning on pursuing a graduate degree have faced obstacles as well.

"Getting into grad school was already going to be hard for me, and finding a job has just been harder than expected — way harder," said senior biology and psychology major Lauren Coccozza. "There's just a larger pool of competi-

tive applicants to look at now, and there are not a lot of jobs available."

For many, COVID-19 may not have changed plans, but it has made them harder to accomplish.

"Fortunately, COVID didn't change my plans too much," said senior biomedical engineering major Tori Kocsis. "I knew I wanted to apply for the Master's in Biomedical Engineering program at Duquesne, which I got accepted into this past month."

For Kocsis, the pandemic has helped her realize what she wants to do with her degree and obtaining her master's.

"The one thing that this pandemic helped me realize is that I want to apply for M.D./Ph.D. programs during the 2022 application cycle," Kocsis said. "My passion for research as well as my love for learning science and medicine has led me to wanting to pursue this dual degree."

For senior nursing major Saige McLusky, COVID-19 has not influenced her post-graduation decision, but has solidified her plans to stay in Pittsburgh and start traveling when it is safe.

"Ever since I started school, I planned on staying in Pittsburgh for a year or two for experience locally until I was ready to start travelling," McLusky said. "My decision to stay definitely is the safest option for me regarding COVID-19 and the smartest option for me regarding my career as a new nurse."

Seniors are hopeful that with the end of the pandemic in sight, travelling outside of Duquesne and hometowns will provide new opportunities.

"I'm excited to see where exactly life takes me," Coccozza said. "We've been refined to staying in the same place, like staying in Pittsburgh or staying at home, and we can't really travel, so now I'm excited to just see where I end up."

While there is a lot of uncertainty about the future of the pandemic, Duquesne graduates are hopeful and looking forward to the future.

"Even though COVID was a gigantic bump in the road, I am excited to use the skills and the work ethic that I have gained during my upcoming job opportunities," Simmers said. "I think that if I learned anything through COVID, it is that we all rely on one another."

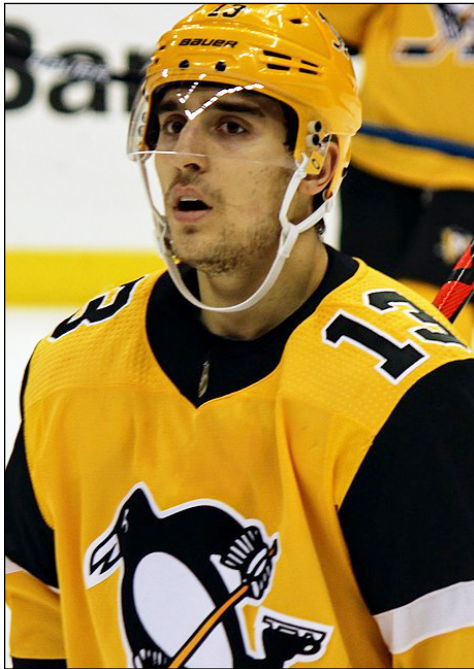
Inaction a good sign as Penguins chase third Cup since '16

LUKE B. HENNE

asst. sports editor

Think back to the Pittsburgh Penguins' back-to-back Stanley Cup runs of 2016 and 2017. Former general manager Jim Rutherford acquired players like Carl Hagelin, Justin Schultz and Ron Hainsey.

These weren't exactly household names, but they were depth players that did their jobs and contributed to the team's historical milestone, as Pittsburgh was the first team to win back-to-back titles since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Brandon Tanev, pictured above, will likely miss the rest of the regular season with an injury.

Now, think about the times in which the Penguins made some of the league's biggest splashes at the league's trade deadline. Recall Jarome Iginla and Brenden Morrow in 2013, Derick Brassard in 2018 and even Marian Hossa back in 2008.

With these moves, the Penguins won the deadline, but no Stanley Cups. That's not to suggest that there is a direct correlation between splash moves and postseason failure. But think about it.

Iginla and Morrow joined a team that went a perfect 15-0-0 in the month of March and finished the shortened 2013 season with a 36-12-0 record, the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Why mess with such chemistry, especially when both players joined new teams at season's end?

Brassard joined a 2017-18 squad that won eight of 12 games in the month of February. Brassard scored just 12 goals in 54 games across parts of two seasons before being traded out of Pittsburgh less than a year after being acquired.

Again, why mess with such chemistry, especially for a team trying to win its third consecutive Stanley Cup?

Ron Hextall, the team's newly-appointed general manager, made the right call by not making splash moves at this year's trade deadline.

The only new Penguin will be Jeff Carter, a two-time Stanley Cup champion with 19 points in 40 games with the Los Angeles Kings this season. All it cost the Penguins were two future mid-round draft picks. Not too bad.

Carter brings experience and leadership to the team, but he will know his role. He

won't have to handle the type of expectations that Hossa, Iginla, Morrow and Brassard did. He'll likely be a bottom-six forward and nothing more.

Adding a guy like the 36-year-old Carter not only brings experience, but it brings much-needed depth. The team is currently without forwards Evgeni Malkin, Kasper Kapanen and Brandon Tanev, all who are dealing with longer-term injuries.

Despite the injuries to key players, the Penguins haven't missed a beat. Since the start of March, the team has gone 16-5-1, all but solidifying a spot in the Stanley Cup Playoffs for a league-best 15th consecutive season.

Entering Thursday, the Penguins are an overall 27-13-2 with 56 points. They are currently in third place in the league's Mass-Mutual East Division, trailing Washington by four points and the Islanders by two.

In eight meetings with the Islanders this season, the Penguins won six. If the current standings hold, the two teams will meet up in the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the second time in three seasons. New York swept Pittsburgh in the 2019 Eastern Conference Quarterfinals.

In six battles with the Capitals this year, the Penguins were victorious on four occasions. The two teams will play a pivotal two-game set in Washington, D.C., on April 29 and May 1.

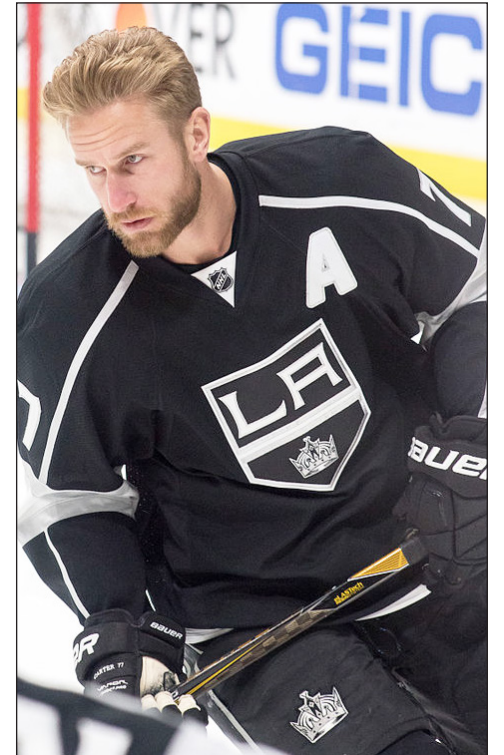
Given this, it's clear that the Penguins have had and can continue to have success against their two biggest threats in the East Division.

By steering clear from the league's biggest trade bait — like Buffalo's Taylor Hall or St. Louis' Mike Hoffman — Hextall

made the right call.

If there's anything the team has learned in the success it's had over the past 10 to 15 years, it's that the Stanley Cup isn't won at the deadline. It's won when a team can capture lightning in a bottle at exactly the right time.

If the past 23 games are any predictor, the Penguins may be capturing that lightning once again.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jeff Carter, acquired by Pittsburgh prior to the NHL's trade deadline, figures to add veteran experience to a loaded group of Penguins forwards.

DU football team drops league title game to Sacred Heart

ADAM LINDNER

sports editor

The Duquesne football team entered Sunday's NEC championship game with an undefeated season and postseason dreams on its mind.

It left with a sour taste in its mouth.

"Obviously, not the way we wanted to end things, but you've got to give credit to Sacred Heart — they came out and played at a really high level today," Duquesne quarterback Joe Mischler said postgame. "At the end of the day, we didn't play well



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

A Duquesne wide receiver leaps to make a catch against Sacred Heart at Rooney Field.

enough to win."

The Dukes might not have played well enough to win, but they were damn close.

Trailing 34-27 in overtime, Mischler was mere yards from the end zone before a Pioneer's defender punched the ball out of the quarterback's hands. Sacred Heart recovered Mischler's fumble in the end zone, ending Duquesne's season and extending its own campaign in the process.

"We'd love to go back and change some things, but we can't," Mischler said. "We've just got to live with it. That's life and part of the game."

The game was an entertaining, back-and-forth affair — Duquesne Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said postgame he imagined it was an "exciting game to watch" — that saw the Dukes play their first overtime period since a double-overtime loss at Wagner on Oct. 31, 2009.

Duquesne and Sacred Heart combined for 843 yards of total offense and 39 first downs on the afternoon. The Pioneers did most of their damage via their ground game while the Dukes' Mischler threw for 335 total yards.

Trailing 27-13 entering the fourth quarter, Duquesne scored 14 unanswered points in the final 15 minutes of regulation to force overtime.

"I challenged them a little bit [at the beginning of the fourth quarter]," Schmitt said. "That's not us, 13 points in three quarters. We're a better football team than that. We made some mistakes, we made some red zone mistakes."

"They stepped up and made some plays."

A 35-yard Joey Isabella touchdown catch with 4:18 remaining in regulation capped a five-play, 98-yard Duquesne drive and knotted the score at 27-27.

Duquesne elected to defend first during the extra period and had Sacred Heart within one play of a turnover-on-downs before Pioneer quarterback Marquez McCray found Naseim Brantly for a 29-yard score.

The Dukes then managed to move the ball to within the Pioneers' five-yard line before Mischler's game-deciding fumble.

Schmitt said the decision to keep the ball in Mischler's hands will be one of the many things he regrets as he looks back on Duquesne's defeat.

"We had that play a couple plays earlier — we had the exact look we needed on that where he probably walks in [to the end zone]. I think we called a different play there. ... That will be one of the many regrets when I watch the film of decisions that I made."

"But no. [Mischler] is a winner. He

knows. He's going to learn from it. He did a lot of great things for us, and he's going to continue to do great things," Schmitt said.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne freshman wide receiver Joey Isabella runs with the ball during the NEC title game.



2020-21 *Duke* Awards



The Duke recognizes remarkable Duquesne players, coaches and teams for their successes over the past year.

Men's Team of the Year: *Football*

In an abbreviated regular season, the Duquesne football team went a perfect 4-0, defeating Northeast Conference opponents by an average margin of 12 points. Victories over Sacred Heart, Wagner, Long Island and Bryant propelled Duquesne into the STATS FCS Top 25 poll heading into the inaugural NEC Championship. Quarterback Joe Mischler led the way with a conference-high 1,241 total yards of offense. The running back duo of Garrett Owens and Billy Lucas combined for 708 yards and seven touchdowns. Wide receiver Cyrus Holder averaged 98.2 yards/game, good for best in the conference among pass catchers. The Dukes fell just short of earning the conference's automatic bid into the FCS Playoffs following a 34-27 overtime loss against Sacred Heart on April 11.

Women's Team of the Year: *Bowling*

The bowling team's NCAA tournament appearance earlier this month made the program just the fifth in Duquesne history to appear in an NCAA Championship bracket (alongside men's and women's basketball, volleyball and women's soccer). Founded in 2016, the program's rapid rise to relevance has made it one of the more dominant teams on campus. Despite a second-day elimination at the hands of No. 13 Sacred Heart, the Dukes managed to finish inside the Top 12 at the NCAA tournament in North Kansas City, Mo., last week. Duquesne is set to compete at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships/Intercollegiate Team Championships on Friday in Dayton, Ohio.

Male Athlete of the Year: *Marcus Weathers*

It would be negligent to discount Weathers' impact on the men's basketball team's recent resurgence under Keith Dambrot. The 6-foot-5 forward led the team in scoring in each of the past two seasons and recently became the first DU men's basketball player to earn back-to-back all-conference honors since Damian Saunders in 2010 and '11. Weathers began his collegiate career at Miami (Ohio) in 2016 alongside his twin brother, Michael, before transferring to Duquesne in the spring of 2017. Michael spent time at Oklahoma State and Texas Southern, respectively, following his time as a RedHawk, and led Texas Southern to the NCAA tournament last month. The twins recently announced their intentions to reunite for their last seasons of collegiate eligibility at Southern Methodist University.



Pictured above: Megan McConnell (left) and Rilee Bradshaw (right). — COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Women's Athlete of the Year: *Olivia Farwell*

Farwell, the most decorated bowler in Duquesne program history, helped lead the Dukes to their first-ever NCAA tournament appearance this season. Farwell entered her senior season as a three-time All-American, putting her in the company of a select group of legendary DU athletes including Korie Hlede, Dick Ricketts, Sihugo Green and Christian Kuntz.

Senior Athlete of the Year: *Rilee Bradshaw*

Bradshaw continues to impress as a veteran for the women's lacrosse team. The graduate student from Middletown, Md., has scored 23 goals through the team's first six games, helping Duquesne win four of its first six contests. Bradshaw is peppering opposing goalkeepers, recording a team-high 53 shots. She scored six goals on two separate occasions and posted a season-high seven points in an emphatic 22-6 victory over Kent State on March 16. Her success has the Dukes on track to finish above .500 in Atlantic 10 Conference play for the first time since 2016.

Newcomer of the Year: *Megan McConnell*

McConnell, a hometown product and graduate of Chartiers Valley High School, shined in her first year with the women's basketball team. The freshman guard averaged 7.5 points/game, scoring a season-high 18 points in a Jan. 10 contest against Richmond. McConnell shot 79.4% from the free-throw line and posted a solid 2.12:1 assist-to-turnover ratio. The sister of former Duquesne men's basketball star and current Indiana Pacers point guard T.J. McConnell played a team-high 459 minutes during the truncated 16-game season. She made 19 3-point field goals, trailing only fellow freshman guard Tess Myers (25) for most on the team.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne senior Allison Hresko bowls during the Dukes' NCAA Regionals showing in Kansas City.

Most Improved Team: *Women's Lacrosse*

Under third-year head coach Corinne Desrosiers, the Duquesne women's lacrosse team continues to make significant improvements. Desrosiers was hired following a 2018 season in which the Dukes went 4-12 and lost seven of nine conference games. The Dukes made strides in 2019, finishing with a 9-8 record and a 4-5 conference record. The 2020 season saw Duquesne go 3-3, going out on a high-note by thoroughly beating Akron by a 25-2 score in a March 11 victory prior to the rest of the season being canceled due to COVID-19. The team continues to trend upward, currently sitting at 4-2 (3-2 in A-10 play) with three games remaining.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Top: Several members of the Duquesne defense tackle a Sacred Heart player during a 2021 game at Rooney Field.

Bottom: Marcus Weathers, pictured during a Feb. 27 game against Rhode Island, is *The Duke's* 2020-21 Male Athlete of the Year.

Music school provides music to the ear during COVID

EMMA POLEN
staff writer

COVID-19 changed a lot about how musicians are able to perform. Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music, with the help of its supportive staff and driven student body, has continued to share music with the world in creative ways.

Music is both a very personal and very public experience, and musicians are innovating new techniques for reaching people on both levels.

With the pandemic, the "personal" experience of music was easy to achieve in confinement. However, the "shared" part was more difficult, as recital halls across the world closed their doors to performers.

Em Yurelich, a junior music education major with a focus in voice, used the challenges of the pandemic to share music differently than she has in the past.

Yurelich took advantage of restrictions and chose a smaller recital space. This was both for her own musical preferences and for the safety of all in attendance.

"I chose to keep a much smaller audience," Yurelich said. "I opted, as many did, to host a Zoom meeting for others to join in who were not a part of the physical audience."

Every music student, excluding music therapy majors, have to perform at least one recital as part of their mandatory coursework.

One requirement for these recitals is an "audience." Under normal circumstances, a music student would have ample space to invite people to come listen in-person in one of Mary Pappert's recital halls.

However, COVID-19 restricts the maximum capacity of the recital spaces, and the biggest recital hall can only hold a maximum of 30 people.

The "audience" requirement gives Duquesne music students the unique opportunity to still have in-person audience members that many off-campus venues do not have.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Despite year-long COVID restrictions, Mary Pappert School of Music continues to showcase students' musical talent.

The move to primarily virtual sharing of music actually allowed a wider audience a glimpse of the music happening in Mary Pappert.

Steve Groves is the Mary Pappert School of Music director of music engagement, events and marketing. Last December, he was also in charge of editing the music school's annual Christmas at Duquesne concert. The concert was composed of 13 ensembles. This year, the performances were released completely virtually and posted on the Mary Pappert YouTube channel during December.

"We had over 14,000 combined views on all those videos during the course of the month, which is a pretty amazing feat for not having done anything like that before that time," Groves said.

No Duquesne concert hall could hold that many people, which means the recordings reached the ears of many more audience members than they could have with completely in-person viewing.

Restrictive, smaller recital events did not release the stress of live performance, though. Students are still

expected to put a tremendous effort into preparation for their student recital.

The pandemic cut many events from the school calendar this past year, but it did not affect the incredible number of hours students spent practicing the pieces they performed at their student recital.

Garret Hoffman, a junior music education and voice major, had his junior recital this year.

"In a certain sense, I've been practicing for [the student recital] the entire time I've been at Duquesne," Hoffman said.

The repertoire is a selection of songs he has performed over the course of his lessons here at Duquesne since fall of freshman year.

No music student wants to miss out on their junior recital, even if it comes with extra pressure.

"While it's stressful to put together and prepare, it's definitely well worth the effort — especially nowadays, when live musical experiences are so limited and rare," Hoffman said.

Hoffman said he truly sees the

value of sharing live music during the pandemic.

"In spite of the restrictions, in a weird way, I probably appreciated it more than I would have under normal circumstances," he said.

Groves said that sharing music is such an important part of our lives.

"We all interact with music in some way, literally every day," Groves said.

Even if COVID-19 restrictions are not yet loosening for events like music students' recitals, performances will carry on in the music school. This is good news for both the community of musicians here at Duquesne as well as the wider music-enthusiast community who appreciate listening to their content.

Those who wish to view select student recitals can do so on the music school's YouTube channel, Mary Pappert School of Music.

If you want to see what the Mary Pappert School of Music is currently working on, check out their YouTube and their social media. (Twitter: @MPSOM, Instagram: @marypappertsom, Facebook: @mpsom).

WEEK'S EVENTS

[Mass Exodus: Catholic Disaffiliation in America](#)
Friday, April 16 @ 2 p.m.

How did American Catholicism, so strong for so long, get to this point — and what does the future hold?

[Return to AfroWorld](#)
Saturday, April 17 @ 4 p.m.

Join the African Student Union on Zoom for Return to AfroWorld! Zoom link can be found on CampusLink.

UPCOMING RELEASES

[Vanquish](#)
Friday, April 16

Starring Morgan Freeman and Ruby Rose, a retired cop threatens to hold a drug dealer's daughter hostage in order to do his bidding.

[Purge: The Poison](#)
Marina
Wednesday, April 14

Singer-songwriter Marina Diamandis puts out two new singles that could potentially allude to a new album.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

[Take it Easy](#)

As the semester comes to a close, mental health is one of the most important matters to tend to.

With an overload of schoolwork, studying, and cramming in some last few happy moments before heading home, remember that it's okay to put yourself first and communicate your needs.

It's okay to make time for yourself: to take care, to rest, and to grow a little more each day into the person you aspire to be.

It takes persistence, it takes patience, and it takes positive self-talk to achieve what you desire.

Make your surroundings encouraging and welcoming for yourself and for others. Remember your impact, too.

— Capri Scarcelli

HOROSCOPES



Aquarius

Not a journalism major trying to get into an education class....



Pisces

Do your homework from the Home Depot kitchen display section.



Aries

Never trust a bunny.



Taurus

If you're gonna play piano, at least play rag!



Gemini

Have you ever considered being a nomad?



Cancer

I'm a Goofy Goober:



Leo

If you learn ballet I will pay your hospital bill.



Virgo

Hot girls get the vaccine (and get ice cream afterward)



Libra

It's raining it's pouring, your zoom class is boring!



Scorpio

Don't overreact babe, as ABBA says, that's the name of the game!



Sagittarius

Rock!



Capricorn

Chuck E. Cheese pizza for sale!

Taylor Swift's re-recordings bring nostalgia to fans

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

It's not often that you get to experience an album for the first time all over again.

For many of us, we were merely 8 years old when country-turned-pop star Taylor Swift released her critically-acclaimed studio album *Fearless* (2008), leaving daydreaming girls in awe and wonder of what their teenage years would hold.

At 20, I am listening to Swift's remastered *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* with a nostalgic heart — not only for the girl who had a whole coming-of-age story ahead of her, but for the girl who lived through the love, strength and hurt that she sings of.

I am listening to myself grow up.

On April 9, Swift released the complete set of re-recorded tracks along with six never-before-heard



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

Taylor Swift re-visits her old music in new fashion.

songs from the vault. In a contract with previous music manager Scooter Braun, Swift's first six studio albums were sold between Ithaca Holdings LLC and Big Machine Records for over \$300 million. In retaliation, Swift decided to completely renew her music to get the records under her name again.

With a new vocal maturity, added instrumentation and featured harmony lines, Swift's songs hold a whole new quality, creating a collective piece that doesn't necessarily aim to replicate the original, but rather enhance its aura.

Thanks to Swift's genius story-telling in her lyricism, the album reads like a book in true *Fearless* fashion.

The first track of the same name has a familiar feel to its original rendition. "Fearless" is almost a more subtle version of its first recording, her voice guiding with grace instead of force. Her crystal clear tone and slight twang really makes the album start off with a purity that has aged well.

With "Fifteen," however, I felt myself melt back into my high-spirited high school experience, so full of hope for the world ahead and anticipatory of every up and down that would shape me into who I am today. This song was different when I was age 8 — romanticizing football games, the prom, driving in a car with a boy I could call mine. And at age 15, the song felt like I was sure of the life I was leading. How about at 20? With airy vocals and a softer tone, this piece feels more like a dreamscape, a stream of memories that seem to whisk past us before we realize they're gone. The line, "wish you could go back and tell yourself what you know now," seems to resonate more now than ever before.

The same emotions held strong with "You Belong With Me," a song I belted in the car for 10 years straight thinking it was written for me. Now

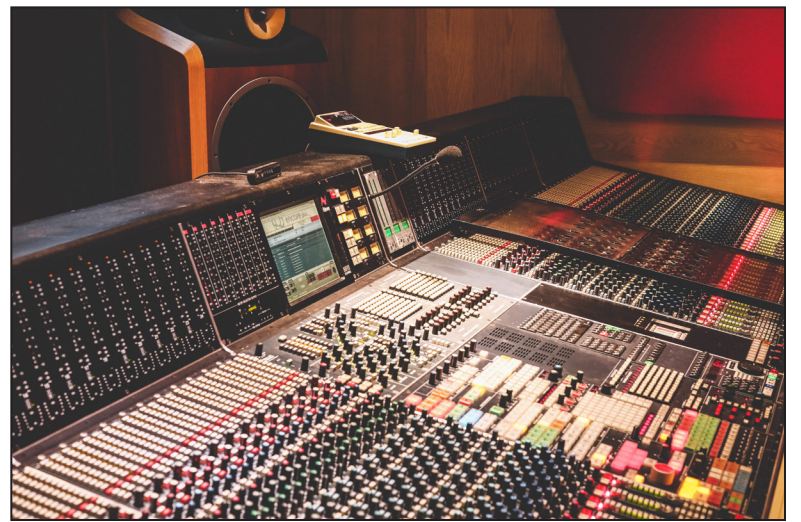
with more intensity and a powerhouse of a harmony line, this song seems more like a goal than a wish. It made love seem achievable rather than a faraway fairytale. I appreciated the ambience, the re-telling of the girl who doesn't see her worth but knows it is there, somewhere. "Why can't you see?" isn't rhetorical anymore, and I swear you can feel that in this version.

I've even found that there are songs I can connect more with than when I was younger. The new "You're Not Sorry" is bold, front and center. Dynamically, it's perfect. There is more growth in vocality as the violin is brought to more of a droning simmer, making Swift's mix/chest voice the focal point. I've never felt the story of this song as strongly because I didn't know what it was like to be heartbroken and have to be forgiving. I didn't know what heartbreak was at all. This hit differently, and I appreciate the song in a whole new light.

Even the piano version of "Forever & Always" seemed to change the whole meaning for me. It made the song seem like something that would belong to her newer works: wistful, perhaps even stoic in a way that seems to resemble her recently-produced long pond studio sessions. The acoustics lightly ricochet, just like our tears at this point.

Of course, the march forward was driven by "The Way I Loved You." There was so much articulation in her tone quality, riffing and background percussion that the piece itself felt theatrical. You could visualize the melodrama of young love, and you could visualize those heightened emotions as if you are experiencing them in the present. This recording was an invitation to the risks we take for the ones we care for, and it felt like those efforts have been worth it all along.

And what about the songs "from



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

The first in its series, Taylor Swift will be re-recording her discography from 2008-2014.

the vault?"

"We Were Happy" struck a chord for me in particular because it was very unlike her older works — it reminded me of her pieces from *Folklore* and *Evermore*, a crooning sadness of appreciating what you had where you left it. I think this song proves not only her maturity as an artist, but as a person. It shocked me that she wasn't allowed to include this in the original make of *Fearless* because it was "too sappy." I think Swift has always been self-aware and honest with her emotions, which is admirable and should be celebrated.

"Mr. Perfectly Fine," however, showed that classic sassy Taylor we all know and love. This piece was removed from the original cut because of how blatantly obvious it was about pop singer Joe Jonas, a former boyfriend of Swift. This track gained traction on social media because of the reminiscent drama between Jonas and Swift, something pop culture clung to for quite some time in 2008. Re-surfacing this romance, even Jonas' wife Sophie Turner wrote on Twitter that "it's not NOT a bop."

"You All Over Me," however, came

out as a single previously to the full release of Taylor's version. Featuring Maren Morris, this piece was polite, somber and had an airy chorus that felt new and familiar all at once. It reminds me of a slow dance at a country wedding, in an ironic sense. Or a transitional period of moving on in hopes of finding your self-identity, but you just aren't there yet. There's a lulling ache to it that urges me to put it on repeat, rehashing memories I didn't even know I had in the first place.

At last, "Bye Bye Baby" feels like a cohesive finale to the album. This piece shows a begrudging effort of letting go, relapsing through the last moments of joy through the relationship. The subtle echo of the background vocals mimic the flush of memories rushing past her, removing herself from the narrative no matter how tightly she held onto the relationship she conceptualized. I could feel her past pain, though the song trickles out with so much hope.

If you have not listened to *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*, you can do so by streaming it on Spotify, Apple Music or other participating services.

The Duquesne Duke gives Taylor's

Dolly Parton documentary celebrates her successes

BRAYLYN BRUNO

staff writer

On April 7, Netflix released *Dolly Parton: A MusiCares Tribute*, more than two years after the filming of the show.

The special documentary was released to celebrate Dolly Parton being named MusiCares' Person of the Year. This honor celebrates artists who are talented musicians and have a dedication to philanthropy, and is deemed one of music's most prestigious honors.

The award celebrates people who have shown generosity and given back to the community, and Parton is the living embodiment of this ideal candidate. Most recently, Parton was in the news for her \$1 million contribution towards COVID-19 vaccine efforts.

Parton has penned over 3,000 songs and won 10 Grammy Awards throughout her career.

Her background allows audi-

ences to authentically connect with her songs, as songs such as "Coat of Many Colors," "Jolene," "9 to 5" and others express themes of poverty, heartbreak and the working class. Parton's storytelling hits close to home for many and makes her a truly unique artist.

The documentary is joyous and celebratory, as the world had not yet had its spirits dampened by the pandemic at the time of its filming. This upbeat spirit allows for a nice change of pace from today's entertainment, as we see real people coming together with a reason to celebrate.

Little Big Town hosted the event and introduced standout artists such as Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry and Shawn Mendes. The night was full of performances from artists who came together to offer their own renditions of some of Parton's greatest hits.

The kickoff to the show began with Mendes and Cyrus, Parton's goddaughter, singing Parton's classic song "Islands in the Stream,"

accompanied by Mark Ronson on the guitar.

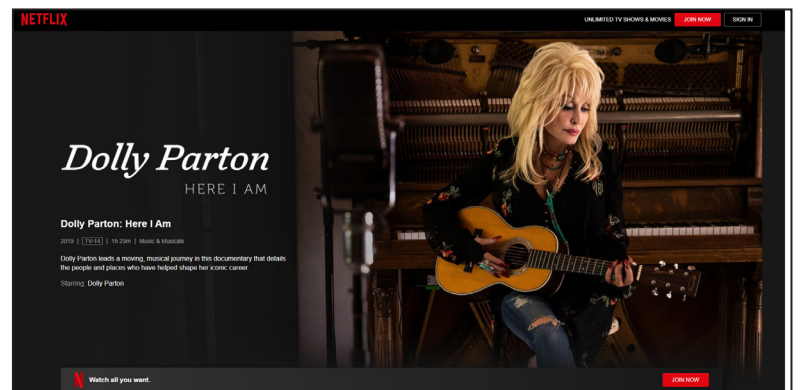
This performance was one of the strongest of the night, with the artists' voices accompanying each other perfectly.

Cyrus showed her excitement and her relationship to Parton as she waved at the honoree from the stage.

Another standout performance of the night came from Yolanda Adams. Adams' rendition of "I Will Always Love You" gave justice to Parton's biggest hit ever. Adams' high notes were a highlight of the night, and her performance itself made the short documentary worth watching.

Some performances were certainly stronger than others, but the diversity of artists chosen to perform will appeal to Dolly fans of all ages.

Of course the best part of the show was when Parton herself took the stage. The artist opted to sing "Coat of Many Colors," a song that represents her journey in life. The song is rich in meaning, as Parton sings



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Special guests commemorate Dolly Parton's current legacy with a virtual concert.

about how she's rich even though her family had no money while she was growing up.

This song choice spoke towards Parton's character and perfectly captured the reason why she was chosen to receive this high honor of MusiCares Person of the Year.

The documentary definitely achieves its objective of honoring Parton through the expression of music.

However, in order to enjoy this documentary, Dolly lovers must be open to different interpretations of her music.

The majority of the show is performance-based, so aside from a few brief scenes speaking about Parton's philanthropy achievements, not much is spoken about Parton's life.

If you are looking for a short concert to virtually tune into while sitting at home, add this one to your list.

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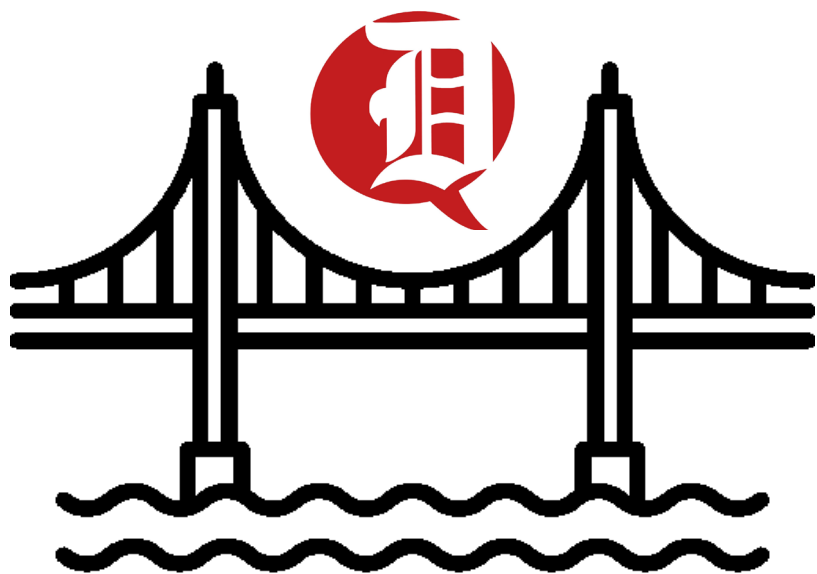
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