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Masses attend Mass of the Holy Spirit

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

For the first time, The Mass of the Holy Spirit took place at the UPMC Cooper Field House on Sunday, August 22nd, where Duquesne staff and students alike celebrated the coming of the new school year.

In previous years, the mass was held in either the chapel, Palumbo Center or the Convention Center. This year, students, families and faculty members flooded the bleachers and the main floor of the new Field House as they took their seats. Above the jumbotron that showcased the podium where Bishop David Allen Zubik along with other members of Duquesne campus ministry were standing, were students from the Mary Pappert School of Music who played various songs that accompanied the mass.

The Rev. Bill Christy, head of campus ministry, notes how there will be a few alterations necessary after the changes in the location of the mass.

"We are adjusting to the new space, this is the first time the mass was in the Cooper Field House. We are probably going to make adjustments as we are still growing with the space," said Christy.

In addition a large majority of the students who attended were student athletes. All athletics programs were invited to join the

see MASS— page 2

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Construction done by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority continue tearing up 5th Avenue in order to replace the water main and the water line.

Construction continues from campus to city

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

As the 2021 fall semester begins for Duquesne students, so does construction. All throughout the summer and going into the first few weeks of school, both the campus' Facilities Management Department and the City of Pittsburgh have been working to improve the sustainability and quality of life for students, city dwellers and commuters.

On campus, many projects are nearing completion, including Rockwell Hall's ventilation, sprinkler and fire safety renovations, as well as Mellon Hall's improved "super lab."

Spearheaded by Facilities Management project managers, Greg Fuhrman and Katrina Barnett, the Rockwell projects are expected to wrap up by the end of the week, with minor disruptions to classes.

Due to equipment delays because of the pandemic, the projects took longer than expected, according to Fuhrman.

In Rockwell Hall, renovations

were brought to all floors of the building, starting with a new HVAC and sprinkler system on the third floor. Work was also done on the sub-basement floor, adding a better sprinkler system, new lighting and bathrooms — which were not available before.

Managed by Fuhrman, floors one through ten received major ventilation upgrades.

"There was an air handling unit up on the tenth floor that furnishes outside air to that whole section of the building, and that was an old 1950's vintage unit that was well beyond its useful life. We replaced that with a new unit that is much more energy efficient," said Fuhrman.

The new unit has a more equitable heat exchange: this means that heating and cooling air exhausted from the building will be exchanged for fresh air from outside.

With concerns from Covid-19, Facilities Management also installed Ultra Violet lighting to locate and destroy pathogens that get through filters.

Another project managed by Fuhrman includes Mellon Hall's super lab.

Expected to be done early next week, the lab is being renovated into a more collaborative model for health and science majors to accommodate both lecturing and lab procedures. When finished, the lab will allow for working pods of four to six students instead of an assembly line type of design.

Most students can see the work from outside the building on the A-walk side, as workers have been tearing down the ceiling to rework plumbing for the lab, and putting up a new reinforced ceiling.

For those living in Towers, some may have noticed a new computer lab renovated over the summer.

"CTS had a request to upgrade that room; they were concerned about the general dreariness of it and also security because it's a windowless room. They wanted to open it up a little by creating a window between the computer lab and the lobby area," said Fuhrman.

Along with new furniture, the flooring, wiring and lighting of the room was replaced to help spruce up the atmosphere. According to Fuhrman, feedback from students and staff has been positive.

On the negative side of all the construction, students are not pleased with the road construction and closures happening while entering and exiting campus on Forbes and Fifth Avenue.

In advance of the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit project, a \$14 million Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority project to replace two miles of water lines began May 3 — and the area under construction currently disrupts commuter student and staff traffic throughout the school day.

"With everyone starting school and being in person again, it's causing more problems. People are late to classes from the traffic. I have all 8 a.m. classes so it isn't too bad then, but when I leave to go home in the South Side, it has taken me 45 minutes

see BUILD— page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Thursday, Aug. 19 - Two students report that an older black male walked across Assumption Commons to the front of St. Ann Hall and removed a bicycle from the bike rack. The male rode away in the direction of Stevenson Street.

Saturday Aug. 21 - A student reported that someone scratched the word die on the front door of her room inside an LLC.

Sunday Aug. 22- DUPS dispatched to St Ann Hall for an odor of marijuana inside room 408 E. Four Duquesne University resident male students were inside the room and two vape pens with THC were confiscated during an administrative search. All four students referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Monday, Aug 23 - Duquesne University student was in possession of a false identification card.

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 hammond@cduq.edu

Rough roads ahead for commuter students

from BUILD—page 1

to drive out of the parking garage and get to the Birmingham Bridge,” said Ryan Berger, a senior nursing major.

The work is being done in preparation for the bus system’s \$230 million project, which will create exclusive bus lanes between Oakland and Downtown.

For the PWSA, the project is anticipated to be completed by May 2022. So far, the water company has finished 60% of the water main installation, with only approximately 10% of the service line replaced.

“We want to remove and replace aging infrastructure ahead of their project as we do not want to disrupt the Port Authority’s work in the future due to an emergency repair. This is also an opportunity to find and replace any lead service lines that are attached to the old water main and replace them with a non-lead material,” said Mora McLaughlin, the construction communications project manager for PWSA.

Along with the PWSA’s efforts to stop issues before the BRT project, other utility companies

such as Duquesne Light and Peoples Gas have joined in to replace underground infrastructure.

Looking into the future, water main construction on Forbes Avenue from Diamond Street to Pride Street is nearly complete. Work will continue at the intersection on Stevenson Street for a little longer. No official timeline was given.

On Fifth Avenue, the PWSA is installing the new water main from Washington Place to Sixth Avenue, which will then move into connecting it to the system and replacing the lines. This process is expected to last another several weeks.

For commuter students and staff, construction on Forbes Avenue from Chatham Square to Birmingham Bridge will be in effect on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Work from Chatham Square to Diamond Street will occur at night on weekdays from 8 p.m. - 6 a.m.

All work on Fifth Avenue will be done from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Going into the weekend, work will continue by the Birmingham



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR
Construction workers block off the area to make sure cars don't get in the way of their work area.

Bridge on Wyandotte and Moultrie Streets, but the PWSA is working with the city to accommodate community events.

“We’ll restore any excavated areas, sidewalk or street, with temporary restoration that will be smooth enough for pedestrians and cars. The final road restoration will be completed as part of the future Port Authority project,” said McLaughlin.

But don’t get too comfortable when the PWSA finishes their construction next year, because the BRT project will begin soon after.

Stay up to date on more campus construction alerts and road closures, check out duqsm.com

Singing the praises of a new year, new space

from MASS—page 1

Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Emily O’Donnell, a sophomore lacrosse player, felt happy and ready to start the year right at Duquesne after attending the mass.

“I thought the mass was a great experience and it was great seeing most of the athletic teams together. It affected me by making me happy and feeling ready to start the year here at Duquesne with a spiritual outlook which was refreshing,” said O’Donnell.

Another student, Tony Caribino shared that same sentiment.

Caribino assisted in the mass as an usher. His duties included handing out programs, interacting with mass participants and directing them to receive communion. He found that Bishop Zubik’s homily had a profound impact on him. The content of the homily dealt with various questions that students had coming into the fall semester.

“I was surprised by the Bishop’s homily because a lot of the questions he posed were ones that I had been reflecting on for the weeks leading up to my move back to campus,” said Caribino.

Bishop Zubik’s homily compared the questions that stu-

dents ask themselves such as will all my friends still be my friends, will I be able to handle my studies, will I fit in, to the questions people ask themselves about their faith.

Zubik also mentioned the seal of Duquesne and underneath is an inscription that says *spiritus est qui vivificat* which translates to it is the spirit who gives life.

The mass continued on with the communion followed by more singing until the mass slowly came to the end. Before it came to a close, President Ken Gormley gave a small speech welcoming students into the new school year.

“As we forge forward with patience, resilience, we remain committed to the health, safety, and well being of each member of this duquesne committee. We remain unfettered in our spiritual mission that Bishop Zubik talked about just as we have through nearly a century and a half through wars, unrest, and other earlier pandemic,” said Gormley.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR
Students, families and staff get file into the UPMC Cooper Field House to begin the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

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Information on Information Systems

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

The Association for Information Systems at Duquesne, (AIS), is all about connecting students with network opportunities through meetings, networking events and fundraisers. Duquesne's chapter is a part of a larger organization that provides students from all over with information about the business world and how to get in contact with those who can help them with their future careers.

Previously, AIS was known as the Duquesne Association for Information Technology, DAIT. In 2013, the group was re-named the Association for Information Systems at Duquesne. Students took the initiative to both change the name and make it a chapter of the international organization, The Association for Information systems.

Roberto Laporte, President of the Association for Information Systems, encourages all students to join the association not only to gain benefits such as acquiring an added skill set, the ability to provide insightful feedback, becoming a highly valued employee, and learning programs that will aid them in the future, but it also helps in getting connected to other students with the same interest.

"It is beneficial from a social aspect but also a networking perspective, opening the doors to opportunity and connecting with industry relevant employers," Laporte said.

A future goal for the organization is to build onto it and have it become a part of the business school in hopes that students can take a deeper look at what it is all about. According to Laporte, a lot of work has gone into this process

in hopes of making it easier for those who want to learn more about the software and programs that are utilized.

AIS is made up of six officers, president Roberto Laporte, senior vice president Megan Ashlinman, treasurer Marc Pelkinton, secretary Jake Reily, vice president of social events Rachel O'Neill, and vice president of technology Akanksha Evatt. It is also made up of two faculty advisors, Jacqueline Pike and Pinar Ozturk, both of whom are Information Systems and Technology professors in the School of Business at Duquesne, and also student members.

The association is completely student-run and has monthly meetings followed by one big event each semester. During these big speed networking events, alumni and their fellow co-workers come back to interact with students and help them learn what it takes to be successful in the real world.

"When I took over in 2013, my goal was to say that all of it was student run and I'm happy to say that it is. It's what makes them so successful. I wanted to give them that opportunity for a learning experience," Pike said.

AIS won the Outstanding Fundraising and Fiscal Responsibility Award for the 2019-2020 school year. Part of the organization's responsibilities is that the students have to publish a report that includes their professional business events, programs, and fundraising activities. It is something they prepare all year until the finalized report is submitted in May.

They are evaluated not only on the meetings and events they hold and how the report is presented, but also on their fiscal responsibility and manage-



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The school of business promotes the Association for Information Systems and the Information and Technology major gets an update..

ment of organization income and spending.

The first meeting for AIS will be held on September 9th and the organization will have a table at the upcoming student expo.

In addition, the Department for Information Systems and Technology located in the Palumbo Donahue School of Business, recently revised the information systems management major. The new name of the major is information systems and technology and it includes two tracks; data analytics and digital business technology. Students who are in this major are encouraged to pick one of the two tracks, in some cases they choose both.

Information systems facilitates the storage and retrieval of data to provide and enforce structure in order to convey context in various relationships.

It is recommended that students in the business school take these courses regardless of their major or minor because it gives them a background in technology

usage as well as an understanding in how to analyze the data that businesses have acquired. It gives students a more in depth knowledge of the process.

According to Pike, information systems and technology is business at its core. The major is a blend of three things: people, business processes, and technology. Students are the bridge between people that need technology to accomplish something and the people who understand the technology.

Marketing major Abby Mele agrees that information systems and technology is an important component in the core curriculum as an understanding of technology as well as data analysis is essential to succeed.

"I think basic ISM courses are necessary even for me because in the business world it does not matter what you're doing you cannot escape analyzing data," Mele said.

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Port Authority now has mobile apps

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

There's no need to frantically dig through wallets and purses when boarding a Port Authority bus anymore; two mobile apps are now available to pay bus fees when traveling across the city.

On Aug. 16, the Port Authority announced the launch of the first phase of a new mobile ticketing system with the help of their international partner, Masabi LLC. The Port Authority received 11 proposals from mobile ticketing vendors in November 2018.

Contracted in 2019, Masabi brought their technology in the form of an app called "Transit."

We work hard to make riding public transit as simple and stress-free as possible," chief business officer at Transit, David Block-Schachter, said in a news release. "Port Authority

passengers rely on Transit to plan their next trip and track their ride in real time. Adding the ability to buy fares gives riders everything they need in one app."

Masabi has implemented mobile ticketing programs in more than 50 cities across the United States and Canada, including New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Denver, Cincinnati, Las Vegas and Oakland.

According to the Port Authority, more than one in three Pittsburgh riders use the app to plan their trips.

Although planning for a mobile ticketing system began before the onset of the pandemic, touchless payment options became a necessity during a time when social distancing was a top priority for everyone.

The system allows riders to pay the fare with a debit or credit

card and scan their device to validate. The system is now available on Port Authority's fleet of more than 700 buses, and will be available at the Monongahela and Duquesne inclines. For now, it will not be available for light rail system users.

From the Transit app comes another option and partner called the "Ready2Ride" app from the Port Authority. Mobile payments can be made using either app.

"Convenient, expedient and low-touch ticketing is vital for public transit," Brian Zanghi, CEO at Masabi. "Following a successful pilot in early 2021, we are delighted to begin the full rollout of the ready to ride app."

The Port Authority agrees with Masabi's mission.

"Paying your transit fare should be fast, easy, and convenient. The adoption of mobile

ticketing technology represents a big leap forward for Port Authority and another step in the right direction for our region," said Port Authority CEO, Katharine Kelleman, in a press release.

Mobile ticket pricing will match Port Authority's current fare structure and will be updated when the recently adopted fare structure goes into effect in early 2022. Another aspect will allow customers without smartphones or bank accounts to use cash to buy their fares at a wide variety of retail locations

Until then, the apps are available for use across the city. Both are free and available in the App Store and the Google Play Store. They can also be downloaded at www.portauthority.org/gomobile. Instructions on how to use each app are also available on the website.

DU football set for early-season tests

Jerry Schmitt's Dukes are set to take on two FBS opponents, including a Power 5 clash with TCU, to kick off its 2021 campaign. The early-season schedule is set to prepare Duquesne for its NEC slate following a title-game loss to Sacred Heart during last spring's truncated season.

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

After finishing in the top three of the Northeast Conference standings every year since 2015, the Duquesne football team might have a subtle edge over conference foes this season. Why?

Dukes to get familiar with top-tier competition. In 2018, Duquesne also played two road games against FBS opponents: Massachusetts and Hawaii. The Dukes lost by scores of 63-15 and 42-21, respectively, but won the NEC regular-season title and advanced to the second round of the FCS Playoffs.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

DU is set to face two FBS opponents on the road — TCU and Ohio — to kick off its 2021 campaign.

For the Dukes, the season starts with back-to-back matchups with Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents. Duquesne will travel to Fort Worth, Texas, to meet TCU on Sept. 4 before heading to Athens, Ohio, for a date with Ohio on Sept. 11.

Should anyone expect Duquesne to win either of these games? Probably not.

Per ESPN's Football Power Index, the Dukes have just a 4.8% chance to knock off the Bobcats in their second game. In their opening game, Duquesne is given just a 0.5% chance to knock off the Big 12 Conference stalwart.

So, what can a smaller, FCS-level program like Duquesne gain from games like these?

For starters, it provides a great opportunity for rostered players to get noticed and get more exposure than they typically would.

The games will be streamed on both ESPN+ and ESPN3. The popular streaming services, coupled with larger viewing audiences, serve as portals that will allow Duquesne players to be recognized more easily if they were to have a notable game.

It also provides a chance for the

While Duquesne would certainly not be expected to win, under most circumstances, against an FBS opponent, playing such quality opponents might be the key ingredient that puts them over the rest of the NEC at season's end.

It is worth noting that the Dukes are not alone in this type of scheduling. Central Connecticut, who won the 2019 NEC regular-season title, will get a similar opportunity when they head south to battle Atlantic Coast Conference member Miami (Fl.) on Sept. 25.

This isn't something Duquesne is planning on doing for just this season. Between 2022 and 2026, the team is currently scheduled to take on six more FBS opponents: Air Force, Coastal Carolina, Florida State, Hawaii, Toledo and West Virginia.

All of these games, as expected, are scheduled to take place away from Rooney Field. Why would Duquesne want to frequently travel great distances to play road games, games in which they are almost always the overwhelming underdog?

Duquesne is participating in what are commonly referred to as "guarantee games." This is a game in which a

higher-level program signs a contract with a smaller-level program, guaranteeing to pay them a certain amount of money to play the game. The amount is expected to cover the costs for hotels, food and travel during the trip.

Combine that monetary gain with the opportunity to grow the recognition of one's players and program, and many athletic directors agree to schedule guarantee games for their school.

Jerry Kutz of The Osceola, a website dedicated to covering Florida State athletics, examined the logic behind Duquesne and Florida State agreeing to play each other during the 2022 season in a Feb. 2021 article.

Kutz notes that Florida State will pay \$400,000 to host the Dukes. While that might not seem like much when one considers the costs necessary to accommodate hotel rooms, food and travel costs for an entire football roster, playing multiple games of similar fashion annually over a multiple-year period should provide Duquesne with a financial boost.

Additionally, while guarantee games are typically guaranteed to be a win for the team paying a large sum of money, this isn't always the case. Perhaps the most notable example of this came in 2007, when fifth-ranked Michigan paid \$400,000 to host Appalachian State, the top-ranked FCS school in the country.

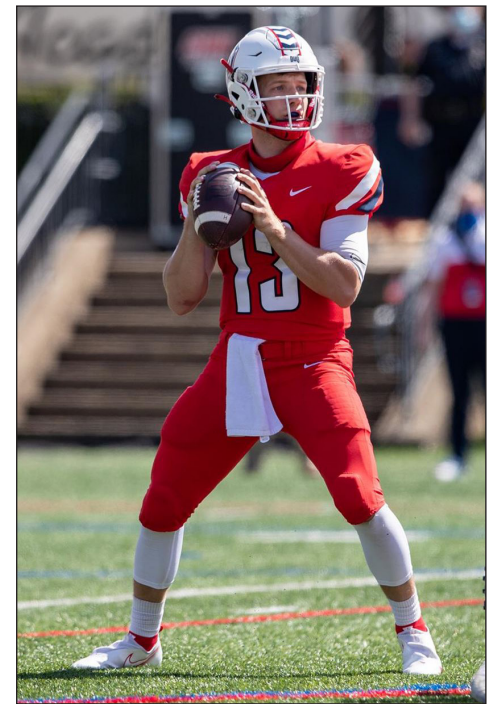
Appalachian State stunned Michigan in a 34-32 victory, and this win had a direct effect on the growth of the school's national recognition. The school transitioned to the FBS level in 2014.

While these games often have a similar outcome, cases like Appala-

chian State will always exist.

In all likelihood, Duquesne will start the season with two consecutive losses. That's just the nature of the beast.

At the end of the day, however, the games still need to be played. The possibility of catching either TCU or



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Joe Mischler is set to be under center for the Dukes after a breakout campaign in the spring.

Ohio, if not both, on a bad day will still exist. The opportunities sit right in front of the Dukes.

Regardless of the final scores, Duquesne will come out on top financially, in addition to having multiple chances to grow their program and player exposure on a larger scale.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

In its last matchup with an FBS opponent, Duquesne was defeated by Hawaii, 42-21, on Sept. 22, 2018. Duquesne jumped out to a 14-0 lead behind two early Daniel Parr touchdown passes.

Polanco remains with Pirates after brief waiver stint

BRENTARO YAMANE
staff writer

Shortly after Gregory Polanco went 1-for-3 in Sunday's road loss against the St. Louis Cardinals, the Pittsburgh Pirates wasted no time in putting him on outright waivers.

Despite the quick swing of events on Sunday, Polanco had not yet been claimed by first pitch on Monday, so he remained in the team's starting lineup for a home contest with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Polanco went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts in the Pirates' 6-5 victory.

Come Tuesday, Polanco had officially cleared waivers and remained on the team's active roster. All 29 other teams had a chance to claim Polanco, but none did.

He did not start in Tuesday's 4-2 victory, but came off the bench as a pinch hitter. He registered a single in his only plate appearance.

At season's end, the ball is in the court of general manager Ben Cherington, who has the opportunity to exercise or decline Polanco's team option for the 2022 season, thus determining whether Polanco will remain with the franchise where he's spent all eight years of his big-league career.

This was a floater move by the Pirates. They reportedly wanted to give Polanco the opportunity to be claimed by a post-season contender prior to the Aug. 31 roster deadline. After Aug. 31, players can be acquired by teams via the waiver wire, but are ineligible to be added to the team's postseason roster come October.

Simultaneously, the Pirates were trying to shed the remainder of Polanco's owed salary (about \$2.1 million) for this season by allowing a team who would claim him to take on that salary.

They were unsuccessful in facilitating such a move, as no team felt it necessary to take a chance on a 29-year-old outfielder with a .199 batting average and a well-documented injury history.

In just the past four years, Polanco has suffered from setbacks such a dislocated shoulder, a left hamstring strain and even a positive Covid test during the 2020 season. Regardless of these ailments, in addition to his struggle to produce at a consistent pace, Polanco has always managed to come back and have an upbeat attitude, showcasing his authentic love for the game.

There was lots of hype surrounding Polanco when he made his MLB debut in 2014. He recorded a hit in his first game and produced a five-hit game (including a go-ahead, extra-inning home run) in just his first week in the big leagues.

Struggles became apparent within his first few months, however, and he was optioned to the minor leagues to straighten things out. He played well enough to make it back to the major league roster by season's end, but was not the starter in right field when the Pirates were defeated by the San Francisco Giants in the 2014 NL Wild Card Game.

Since then, Polanco has failed to simultaneously stay healthy and be a constant offensive threat. His best season came in 2018, when he hit 23 home runs and recorded 81 RBIs. However, on Sept. 7, Polanco dove into second base and dislocated his shoulder, forcing him to miss the remainder of that season and a good chunk of the 2019 campaign.

Things have never truly been the same.

In just 157 at-bats across a truncated 2020 season, Polanco struck out 65 times, while registering just 13 extra-base hits.

Entering play on Wednesday, Polanco

had just 65 hits across 326 at-bats in 2021. By comparison, he's struck out 101 times.

Several ex-Pirates, including Gerrit Cole, Starling Marte and Tyler Glasnow, have recently enjoyed successful campaigns in other teams' uniforms; it's not a regular occurrence for a Pirate to spend their entire career with the franchise. Polanco is the only player that remains on the roster from the 2015 team, the last team to make it to the postseason.

In just six years, the franchise has had that much roster overhaul. In all likelihood, Polanco may be one of the next moves in the aforementioned overhaul that is still ongoing.

While anything is possible, placing Polanco on waivers is a crystal-clear signal that the Pirates are just about ready to

move on from him. Newer players and prospects are becoming ready to fill the void 'El Coffee' is leaving behind after nearly a decade's worth of inconsistency.

With outfield prospects like Hoy Park, Matthew Fraizer, Travis Swaggerty and Hudson Head on the way, Polanco's opportunities are dwindling by the day.

With a little over a month of games yet to be played, the Pirates can use the remainder of the schedule to test out players — like Polanco — to see if they have any value for the franchise moving forward as the team prepares to enter its next era of contention.

Alas, it seems as if Polanco's chance to prove himself in Pittsburgh will be nearing its inevitable end within the coming weeks.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Pirates outfielder Gregory Polanco has had another tough season, hitting under .200 entering play on Wednesday. He went unclaimed after being placed on outright waivers on Sunday.

DU women's soccer starts season with two-goal victory

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

After a spring 2021 campaign that saw the Duquesne women's soccer team win just one of its first seven games, it was essential to start the fall season on the right note.

The Dukes did just that, besting Saint Francis (Pa.) by a 3-1 score in a non-conference meeting at Rooney Field on Sunday afternoon.

The win marked Duquesne's first in a season-opening game since 2015, when they defeated crosstown rival Robert Morris.

Emma Bundy, who scored once during last season's freshman campaign, got the scoring started for Duquesne in the 21st minute. Karley Steinhilber added to the Dukes' lead with a 39th-minute tally, scoring the eventual game-winning goal in her first contest at the collegiate level.

Hannah Nguyen, who was held off the scoresheet despite playing in all nine games last season, assisted on both first-half goals.

Coming off of an 8-0 loss at Clemson on Aug. 19, Saint Francis was able to keep Sunday's contest close despite trailing by two at the break.

Less than a minute into the second frame, Danielle Goedhart scored to cut Duquesne's lead in half. The swing of momentum did not

last long, however.

SFU's Lauren Pyle committed a foul in the 63rd minute, leading to a penalty kick and what would turn out to be the game's final goal from Duquesne's Ashley Rodriguez.

Despite the scorching heat, five of the Dukes' 10 starters locked in and played all 90 minutes.

Goalkeeper Megan Virgin, who ranked third in the Atlantic 10 Conference with 5.10 saves per game last season, made three saves in the win.

Did You Know?

Sunday's clash with Saint Francis (Pa.) marked the 10th all-time meeting between the two programs at Rooney Field. Duquesne boasts a 9-1 record in those matchups.

With the victory, Duquesne snapped its streak of five straight season-opening losses, while also extending its winning streak over Saint Francis to six games.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Members of the DU women's soccer team celebrate following a goal during its season-opening victory over Saint Francis on Sunday. The 3-1 win marked the first in a season opener for the Dukes since 2015.

Duquesne outshot Saint Francis by a 19-6 mark (12-4 in shots on goal). Jaimi Araujo led the Dukes with seven shots (five on goal).

The Dukes will seek to start this season the

same way they ended last season: by winning two consecutive games. They'll get the chance to achieve that feat when they host Valparaiso at Rooney Field Friday evening.

6 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"Picklesburgh" traditional festival celebrates food, fun

EMMA POLEN
layout editor

A giant Heinz pickle balloon floats proudly over the pickle celebration, an apparent symbol of the event's beginnings.

This past week, Aug. 20-22, the Andy Warhol Bridge hosted one of Pittsburgh's most iconic city events: Picklesburgh.

Picklesburgh began in 2015, but the Pittsburgh community has been serving the world pickles for much longer. H.J. Heinz began his business in canned goods in the 1860s. Since then, Heinz' products have expanded. However, Pittsburghers never forgot where it all started. The three-day-long pickle celebration takes place just down the street from the old Heinz factory-turned-museum.

Kylie Nucitelli, a second-year Physicians' Assistant student,



EMMA POLEN | LAYOUT EDITOR

Sophomore Allison Covert poses with her pickle balloon on Southside's 10th street bridge.



EMMA POLEN | LAYOUT EDITOR

Filled with vendors and various food options, the Andy Warhol Bridge on the North Shore offered an array of options for a city-centric experience.

attended Picklesburgh for the first time this year. This event can be intense for some newcomers, but Nucitelli said, "If that is what the Pittsburgh vibe is then I am absolutely in love with it."

Nucitelli is not originally from the Pittsburgh area. Picklesburgh was truly her first impression of the Pittsburgh community since her freshman year was restricted by Covid-19. Really, nothing says "Pittsburgh community" like a pickle festival.

"I love how it was a unique way to bring the community together over something as random as pickles," Nucitelli said.

As random as pickles may be, the creativity of Picklesburgh has twice earned it the title of "#1 Specialty Food Festival in the Country" by USA Today readers in its six-year past.

Some Pittsburghers, like Duquesne secondary education sophomore Nina Merkle, attend Pickleburgh without a passionate devotion for pickles. Another perk of this food festival is that it does not only serve pickled deli-

cacies, but also a variety of other cultural foods from city vendors.

Merkle's favorite food at the festival was Polish vendor Gosia's Pierogies. Each order had the option to mix and match among a variety of flavors, including sauerkraut and bacon potato. In addition to pierogies, festival-goers could also head to a candy booth, two fudge booths and cultural food booths that smelled delicious (and not pickle-y).

After trying the food, visitors could head to one of the pickle merchandise booths where they may purchase pickle earrings, socks, stickers, magnets or their very own pickle balloon. Live music performed by local bands provided additional entertainment. Every Picklesburgh celebration also features free Heinz pickle pins, which serve as perfect mini mementos of this strangely rewarding day in the high heat of August.

Another popular part of Picklesburgh is their selection of pickle-themed beverages. At Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop, peo-

ple could purchase a bright green cream soda for only a few dollars. Goodlander Cocktail Brewery served up dill pickle hard lemonade, raspberry shrub, and one cocktail that boasted an array of rainbow pickles. Wigle Whiskey also made an appearance with fan-favorite Eau de Pickle spirit.

Xzavier Sciarretta, a freshman pharmacy student, was actually disappointed he could not participate more in the taste-testing and booth-hopping involved in Picklesburgh: "I couldn't do a lot of it since I'm not 21."

While there are plenty of booths to visit for the younger Picklesburgh-goers, pickle-based alcoholic beverages are definitely a main attraction for older visitors.

With the giant pickle flying high over the Andy Warhol Bridge, it was hard to ignore Pittsburgh's history last weekend. With a community rooted strongly in their unique and subjectively delicious tradition, Pittsburgh shares its pickle pride with newcomers and native city-dwellers alike.

New Benedum vaccination policy marks start of season

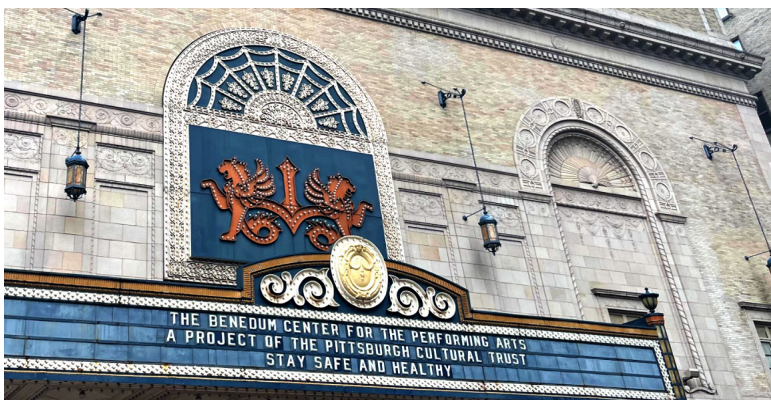
RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

This summer began Pittsburgh's cultural reawakening as performing arts centers hosted outdoor shows and events following CDC guidelines. Pittsburgh Cultural Trusts' new plan is to take the entertainment back onto the stage for the 2021-22 season.

"I felt like not having that same cultural experience when coming to Pittsburgh was a detriment," said sophomore music education major Abby Hill. "Part of looking at schools was the excitement of the area around me to be able to see shows and other performances, so I felt like I missed out during that time."

Many people, including Hill, found alternatives to seeing a typical show such as concerts in the park or limited-performer acts.

Venues within the Pittsburgh Cultural District are taking the charge to protect their cast, crew and audience through their new vaccination policy. According to their website, occurring



EMMA POLEN | LAYOUT EDITOR

The Benedum makes up for lost time with new policies to ensure the safety of their audience.

Sept. 17 through at least Nov. 30, the Benedum will be requiring proof of the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson full vaccine coverage for show-goers above the age of 12.

Exceptions to this rule are limited to those under 12-years-old, those with medical conditions or religious/philosophical beliefs contradictory to receiving vaccination. Instead, these members must show either a negative Covid-19 antigen test 24 hours before a performance or a Covid-19 PCR test 72

hours before.

For quality assurance, guests above the age of 18 must provide a valid photo ID with individuals below 18 using school or government issued photo IDs. All of this documentation is required to have access to the Benedum alone.

Masks are entirely dependent on Allegheny County's transmission rate. If the area is considered to be in a "substantial" or "high" transmission rate masks are to be worn by all audience members.

"With the catch 72-hour testing for

non-vaccinated audiences, that plus masks makes me feel I have enough of a safety net to be comfortable going," Hill said.

While the corporation and consumers do their part in keeping Pittsburgh safe, the Benedum has been modified in its own way to provide a healthy environment. It has implemented contactless ticketing, new HVAC air systems and is even the first performing arts center in Pennsylvania to receive Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) Star Facility Accreditation for intensive cleaning.

All of these measures have been put in place to bring back a normalcy to the culture of performance.

Up next for the Benedum is the tour of Broadway's *The Band's Visit* starting Oct. 28.

"I am so happy to hear that this vaccination policy has rolled out so soon, especially given that some theatres are not having indoor seasons or even a season at all," Hill stated. "All of these precautions make me feel safe and excited to experience the culture Pittsburgh has to offer."

WEEK'S EVENTS

DPC DUNite:
Make Your Own Milkshake
Aug. 26 @ 9 p.m.

Join DPC in the Nltespot for a milkshake bar! While supplies last.

Red Masquers
Play in a Day
Aug. 27-28

Interested in writing, acting, directing or stage crew? Join Duquesne's drama club Red Masquers for a 24-hour play written, rehearsed and performed all in one day, run by students! Email redmasquers@gmail.com ASAP to get involved.

DPC DUNite:
Welcome Back Picnic!
Aug. 27 @ 12 p.m.

Are you a commuter student? Join DPC in the Nltespot for picnic foods, ice cream and more for a warm welcome to Duquesne's campus!

DPC DUNite:
Creating Stress Balls
Aug. 30 @ 9 p.m.

Join DPC with a DIY craft night for a nice de-stresser.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

First week jitters

Hello hello! I am so proud of you for making it through your first week back on campus!

For those of you who have not experienced a full semester here, there is truly such a warm, welcoming environment here at Duquesne.

I cannot express the pure joy I felt being able to see the liveliness of this campus return to its natural state, not to mention every face I passed being a friendly and eager one.

Professors are ready to start anew, faculty is excited to lend a hand and your peers are more than ready to share these experiences with you.

Take a deep breath; great things begin now.
- Capri Scarcelli

Lorde's "Solar Power" shines light on self-growth

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Oh my Lorde: Lorde is back and better than ever.

For the first time in four years, Lorde gave herself the "green light" for producing new music since her 2017 studio release, *Melodrama*. Away from media and Earth's dark corners, the New Zealand pop singer tucked herself away in her home town to find solace in self-love, in peace and in song.

Thus came three sunshine-y singles to hold us over for the August 20 release of *Solar Power* — a compilation of pure happiness we have never seen before from her typically raw, emotional storytelling.

Since Lorde is always taking her fans through a road of social commentary and dotes of adversity, it only makes sense to lighten the tone and show her growth over the years.

That means the best way to do this is to go track-by-track.

The first song, "The Path," actually sets the scene for the entirety of the album, starting with a low hum and quiet harmonies that meld into a bigger picture, like light creeping through a window. Crooning "teen millionaire having nightmares from the camera flash" to "now if you're looking for a savior, well that's not me," Lorde highlights her past as a kind of pain she couldn't always push away. Though partway through, she ushers in the phrase "let's hope the sun will show us the path," as a way of reconciling with her past and pushing forward in a new breath and a new light.

With that, the singer transitions into her second track — the album's namesake and corresponding first single, "Solar Power." This song took to social media kindly, becoming a quaint summer anthem for many as well as a trend on TikTok. This beachy, free-loving, hippie-dippie piece seemed to illuminate a care-free world that Lorde has welcomed us too, dipping our toes to bathing in sunlight. Whereas in the first track she alludes to her stage name not meaning the Christian Lord, she owns it in this song, singing "I'm kind of like a prettier Jesus." She even nods to her disappearance from the spotlight, saying "and I throw my cellular device in the water/Can you reach me? No, you can't." This attitude and change of perspective shows her audience that it's okay to take a step back from reality



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Past the coming-of-age narrative, pop sensation Lorde brings a new uplifting drive to her music.

and account for your well-being, even if it seems like the world is calling your name. (Plus it has an awesome beat drop, so what more could you want?)

The third track, "California," gives listeners more background on what fame looks like on-screen and how that translated for Lorde in real life. The first line "Once upon a time in Hollywood when Carole called my name/I stood up, the room exploded/and I knew that's it, I'll never be the same," was an allusion to her first Grammy award in 2014 presented by Carole King — a surreal moment for the artist. From that point forth, however, Hollywood didn't appear as shiny as it once seemed. The steady backbeat and breathy vocals carry the story to the end quite rhythmically until it fades out to "It's all just a dream... I wanna wake up."

"Stoned at the Nail Salon" is another single released over the summer that had fans pleasantly surprised with a more mellow tone. This song goes through a series of existential crises revolving around the coming-of-age troubles such as love and loss, aging beauty and, of course, change. The song feels like a modern lament in waltz time, as she cries "cause all of the songs you loved at sixteen you grow out of," drawing to her hit single, "Royals,"

that many teenagers grew up with and moved on from. This song is a way of telling her past self that she is okay exactly where she is, and that there is nothing to be afraid of.

"Fallen Fruit" is very similar-sounding, starting off the bat with a lovely harmony line powering through with only a simple strumming to back it. Kicking in with the instrumentals about halfway through, it reminded me of something off of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band: very psychedelic-sounding with an ethereal feel. Lorde sticks to her theme of using nature as a crutch for this album, while also tying the biblical allusion to the temptation of fame and fortune for a young, aspiring artist.

The sixth track, "Secrets from a Girl (Who's Seen it All)," seems like a song that will eventually end up on the radio. It's very laid-back with a steady percussion, catering to a matured audience who has been through the teenage nightmare and has lived to tell the tale. The song has a very hopeful tone, ending with a monologue of advice to her younger self and her fans. According to an interview with Spotify, this song was inspired by one of her earlier works, "Ribbs," where she then took those two power chords and switched them

around for the answers to the questions she asked herself as a young girl. This song is very cute and inspiring; it definitely exemplifies growth.

Transitioning to more of a ballad, "The Man with the Axe" is more somber than the other ones on this album, but according to Spotify Storyline, Lorde said that it's "one of [her] favorites." This song gives a fairytale feel to some of the misconceptions we have about love when we are young, and how badly it hurts when it is taken away for the first time. It's simplistic, but haunting like an old ghost story kept in the family.

"Dominoes" seems to bring the album out of the shadows again. Very light-hearted, Lorde sings of an ex-boyfriend who once treated her poorly, but is now doing better elsewhere for his new lover. Accepting her past, she sings "must feel good to be Mr. Start Again," keeping the narrative short and sweet to move on to brighter things. It feels like an "oh okay whatever" kind of acceptance rather than wallowing in pity as her younger artistry has shown. This song in itself shows how much she has grown over the years more than anything.

"Big Star" is also a shorter piece, singing of the promises she was given

as a young artist and how that turned out for her. "I used to love the party, now I'm not alright," she sings about her rise in stardom and the challenges faced with that. This re-evaluation is a part of life, and she accepts that by the end of the song.

"Leader of a New Regime," on the other hand, seems to bring everything back to that summer narrative that she began with. This seems to bring the narrative back to present time and beyond reflection. I think harmonically this is quite unique, with a tiny piano trill that playfully toys with the guitar strumming. (Which, by the way, is a perfect transition not only in the song itself, but collectively in the album to show the passing of time and the need to move on from past tribulations).

The next song, "Mood Ring," was another single released before the album dropped — and it is one of my favorites. It reminds me of that point in your life when you realize "so what now?" This song sort of dabbles in different modalities of self-care and spirituality that Lorde has experimented with in the past year or so, and her journey with that along the way. She jokes to herself "don't you think the early 2000s were so far away?" reminiscing on a time where life didn't require so much intentional time set aside for wellness and well-being. It's fun, experimental and really seems like a piece that speaks to current day with an older-generational sound.

Last, we have "Oceanic Feeling," which is a 6:31 piece in contrast with her staple of short-timed songs. This song felt like a lullaby, approaching a new chapter and a new sense of calm for the life ahead. It seems to stand in solidarity with her past and our experiences as well, moving forward slowly but surely. It's a final breath, a journey coming to an end, but not completely as she turns to the future and wonders what her own daughter may be like. You can feel some of that old tension slip away in this song with that comforting reassurance: "I know you're scared, well so was I." It's a great song to put the windows down and drive away with; a song where we can move with the tides together."

Lorde's story resonates with me more than I could imagine; we all carry our humanity differently, after all.

You can stream Lorde's *Solar Power* on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and other corresponding services.

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio

Well isn't that just the cherry on top?

Pisces

Existentialism is your everyday thing, huh?

Cancer

Want to... share a grilled chicken snack wrap with me?

Sagittarius

She is beauty, she is grace, she is a sagittarius (that's it).

Aries

Tree hugger? More like car hugger. No seriously why is he hugging my car at a red light.

Leo

You are the plant mom. I can see it.

Capricorn

Don't sit in the bathroom stall for too long on break...

Taurus

I know what you're thinking, but DON'T SPOIL IT!

Virgo

Driving with the windows down in downtown construction is self-care.

Aquarius

Go ahead, buy that Old Navy skeleton onesie for the Phoebe concert. You're totally stable.

Gemini

Yes, they did remember when you walked into the wrong class

Libra

Manifest it. No wait not that.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“If you haven’t the
strength to impose
your own terms
upon life, then you
must accept the
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T.S. ELIOT

You just read | Now tweet
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Corrections/clarifications

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“Big Brother” 23: the Cookout doesn’t deserve the hate

There’s been a lot of buzz in the reality TV world surrounding season 23 of “Big Brother” as an all Black alliance, dubbed the Cookout, is controlling the game for the first time in the show’s history.

Twenty-one years ago, CBS launched the summer hit reality TV show where 16 houseguests are put into a house and cut off from the outside world. There are no TVs, newspapers, radio, Internet or phones. Other than conversations with the show’s host, Julie Chen, and interviews with production in the diary room, the houseguests only interact with each other.

Here’s the catch: they are recorded visually and audibly the entire time for the world to watch. But the premise is simple.

Each week, someone becomes Head of Household (HOH) and nominates two houseguests to be evicted. The remaining houseguests vote on eviction, though competitions allow houseguests to survive their potential evictions and receive rewards.

Over the years, the show has become a staple in the reality TV genre, but is also famous for a lack of diversity in casting — and going as far as casting racist individuals.

Finally, in season 23, we’re seeing an unprecedented six Black houseguests, and one of Asian and one of Hispanic descent.

Half of the cast are people of color this season.

In the show’s 22 completed seasons, the winners of “Big Brother” are most often white men, winning 14 times. The second-most winning group are white women, at five wins. An Asian woman has won twice and a Latino man once.

Due to the 24/7 live surveillance on the house, many acts of bigotry and racism have been caught on camera by these winners and other houseguests, but never brought to the edited shows, nor commented on in the live finale. This leaves a large chunk of viewers out of the loop on what’s really happening in the house, if they don’t watch the live feeds.

That being said, “Big Brother” was hit with its first major accusation of racism during season 21, when fans heard houseguests using racial slurs on the live feeds — which, of course, didn’t make it onto the show. Usually the comments slide by, but the severity and consistency of these acts called for action to be taken by production.

The problems commenced in the first episode, even before comments were made.

During a twist, houseguest, and winner of season 21, Jackson Michie, nominated three — rather than the usual two — houseguests for eviction. All three were racial minorities, and all three were evicted within the next few episodes.

After the Black Lives Matter movement came to the forefront of media attention in 2020, CBS announced in November 2020 that shows, “Survivor,” “Love Island” and “Big Brother” will include at least 50% people of color, including both cast and production, starting in 2021.

And “Big Brother” delivered on that forefront for season 23.

Immediately, the six Black houseguests realized the posi-

other houseguest claimed, “the proof is in the pudding,” while another houseguest added, “the rice pudding,” — followed by laughter from those involved.

Chen brought these instances up during the live finale where she questioned whether the winner’s, and other houseguests, actions were based on the other houseguest’s minority status. Michie offered an apology, while still denying the allegations.

The Cookout, on the other hand, is propagating a season that truly represents the original purpose of reality TV: let’s put these people with different backgrounds in a house together and see how they interact.

Naturally, they migrated to-



ZOE STRATOS

opinions editor

tion they were in and formed the Cookout alliance, saying they were doing it for “the culture.”

They all voiced that this situation may never happen again on the show, and they have to take advantage of finally crowning a Black winner. The fan reaction was a mixed bag.

Unhappy fans immediately took to social media to call out the alliance, which consists of Xavier Prather, Tiffany Mitchell, Kyland Young, Azah Awsum, Derek Frazier and Hannah Chaddha, accusing them of being racist for targeting the white houseguests.

But the problem these fans are ignoring is that in the show’s 22 seasons, white alliances have done the same to the minority groups, while also making micro-aggressions toward them.

Bangladeshi-American houseguest, Ovi Kabir, was described as a “brown flame.” Chinese-American houseguest, Isabella Wang, became paranoid, so an-

ward each other in a trust and protection sense, though they still cultivated close friendships with white and other POC houseguests, which resulted in one of the most likable and friendly casts we’ve seen in a while.

Additionally, the feed watchers haven’t tweeted or posted one instance of racially charged insults coming from the Black houseguests.

The Cookout doesn’t actively hate the white houseguests, they’re performing a mission that they say is “bigger than themselves.” They formed their alliance based on trust, not hate.

Due to those close bonds they’ve made with houseguests not in the alliance, they’ve received their trust and have been able to control the game from behind the scenes without ever giving a hint to their mission or the alliance itself.

So far, all non-Black HOH’s have targeted other non-Black houseguests, with three evic-

tions. The same goes for the Black HOH’s, which also account for three evictions.

As of Aug. 25, the fourth non-Black HOH is also targeting a non-Black houseguest, which means that the Cookout spearheaded just under half of the non-Black evictions thus far.

One of the most interesting pieces in this puzzle is the lack of regard for past alliances — in any modern reality TV show — built on race, or even sex.

In the 22 seasons of the show, there have been 21 all white alliances that have not only steamrolled the competition, but typically targeted the usual one or two POC houseguests first. Hence Michie’s three nominations week one.

The Cookout is only the second explicit Black alliance, the previous consisted of Da’Vonne Rogers and Bayleigh Dayton in season 22 called Black Girl Magic.

On the other side of the coin, supporters of the Cookout are confused at this sudden callout of racism when all white alliances have done it for years. Some are looking to all men and all women alliances as well, with the lack of callouts for sexism in those cases.

“Isn’t it funny how no one says that all women’s alliances are sexist? They make fun of women’s alliances for being historically weak at this game but they don’t come out with the same vitriol that some of these [fans] are giving to the Cookout,” a Reddit user said.

Seeing that the Cookout isn’t exactly steamrolling the rest of the houseguests, it’s really their gameplay that should be rewarded, with the mission always in the back of their minds.

They’ve allowed the non-black houseguests to come for one another, while only hinting at protecting fellow members during nominations for eviction. They’ve won under half of the HOH competitions, yet still have all survived the chopping block to this point.

Overall, this season is a refreshing change for “Big Brother,” not only because of its range of cast diversity, but the way they all get along, regardless of race. Having this moment for the Black community is important and calling it racist is only exposing the ignorance of past seasons.

Right now, it’s looking like we’re going to see our first Black winner of “Big Brother,” so why wouldn’t they take advantage of something that may not happen again in future seasons?

From the Editor-in-Chief: Write like you're not afraid

COLLEEN HAMMOND
editor-in-chief

The unforgettable shriek of metal on metal as my mother set up the mattress in the pullout couch. The set of faded beige and green patterned sheets being pulled out of the linen closet in the hallway. My silky Disney princess nightgown. These were the hallmarks of the introduction to my love for telling stories.

Growing up, bedtime during visits to my grandmother's house was one of the most special times of the year. She would tuck my sister and me into bed on the squeaky couch mattress that had clearly seen better days. My sister would fall asleep almost instantly.

And as my grandmother — “Nanny” as we called her — would pull the covers up under my chin, I would pose my most important request of the evening:

“Nanny, can you tell me a story?”

In the earliest years, she would look to an assortment of books and toys my mother had expertly packed for the trip as a remedy. But I was insistent.

“Nanny, tell me stories from your mouth,” I begged in my excited bedtime whisper.

Very quickly, she learned the rules of engagement. I wanted her to tell me a story she had

crafted of her own vivid imagination. And being the generous woman she was, she obliged the demands of a rather forthright four-year-old.

My grandmother told the most fantastic stories — all original concoctions — complete with plot twists, character voices and even the occasional limerick. She transported me to faraway kingdoms and lulled me to sleep in the same breath.

Among my family, we've come to the general consensus that Nanny was the first person to nurture my love for stories.

As I grew older, Nanny's beloved bedtime stories turned into frequent phone calls and letters — often sent to me while I was away at summer camp — detailing her many late-age adventures.

She told me all about the chipmunks who lived under the patio that she left red grapes out for so she could watch them puff up their cheeks; how the tree I used to climb in her front yard was blooming; and (my personal favorite) how her and her best friend Bernice accidentally ordered 80 chicken nuggets in the McDonald's drive-thru.

When my grandmother passed away just weeks before I started college, I had a very child-like fear that the story



COURTESY OF COLLEEN HAMMOND

Back in 2017, I visited the master storyteller herself, the late Patricia Hughes (right). This was on my way home from my first visit to Duquesne, and I spent most of the afternoon showing her pictures of campus.

had ended. As many of us have learned over the past year and a half, death can be an unexpected period at the end of a sentence we thought was just beginning.

While it's been over three years since her death, I still find myself looking for a card in her scrawled cursive handwriting in the mail on my birthday every year.

But that's the power of a great storyteller.

For years, I thought she told

me these stories as a form of entertainment, but in actuality, she was preparing me for the life she saw ahead of me.

For her, it was always about more than the stories: it was about the connection she made with me and the bond it forged between us.

In telling me her stories, she taught me storytelling is more than a simple relaying of events. It is about listening and being present for those who have something they need to say.

And I'd like to think it's why I'm here now, pursuing a career in journalism.

As a reporter, it's my job — above all else — to listen. I once heard that Mother Theresa of Calcutta used to describe herself as a “pencil in the hands of God.” I'm far from a Mother Theresa figure, but I think I'm a set of ears for the people in this community. I am one person, and I am far too small to fix all the daunting problems we face today in the world.

But I can listen.

This campus is filled to the brim with stories that reveal the intricate complexities of our community. And I am honored that I get to be the one to hear and tell those stories.

As someone who has felt

voiceless before, I want *The Duke* to continue its tradition of giving those in our community who feel unseen and unheard the platform they need.

It is in telling our stories, honestly and truthfully, that we preserve our connection with humanity.

I realize that most of us feel we don't have any stories to tell from our time in the pandemic. We sat at home. We attended Zoom meetings. We worked. We struggled. We slept. And we did it all again the next day. We lived in some variation of a hellish *Groundhog's Day* time loop.

Now, as we enter the next phase of the pandemic time warp, we have a rare opportunity to use our collective stories as a way to heal each other from the hardships we have collectively endured since the world shut down.

The best advice I've ever heard about storytelling came from the great playwright, director, screenwriter and actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

“Write like you're not afraid,” Waller-Bridge said at the end of her book *Fleabag: The Scriptures*. And I intend to do so.

So this year, please, tell me a story.



COURTESY OF COLLEEN HAMMOND

On my eighth birthday, my grandmother drove up from Ohio to my parents' home in Michigan to celebrate. Image featuring my missing two front teeth.



CHESS KNIGHTS

Club uses chess to bridge cultural and generational divides

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

In chess, a knight moves two spaces in one direction and one space in another — creating a pattern that no other piece can replicate.

At Duquesne University, a new chess club called "Chess Nights" partners chess players of all ages and abilities to create memories and stories — that no one else can replicate.

Chess Nights will start on Tuesday, Sept. 7th from 7 - 9 p.m. in room 119 of the Student Union and will continue every first and third Tuesday of each month thereafter. This community building effort is sponsored by the House of Life, the Elsinore-Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice (EBTT), the Pittsburgh Police Department and Duquesne's Sociology Club.

"The goal of our community Chess Nights is to bridge cultural and generational divides by using chess as a dialogue," said Dee Hubay, organizer and member of Chess Nights. "It brings together those from various backgrounds and ages for one common activity."

The House of Life is a non-profit organization owned and operated by citizens returning from incarceration to help with re-entry adjustments and challenges. In this context, returned citizens refers to individuals who are returning or reentering society after incarceration.

The EBTT is a part of the House of Life which uses the success stories of its members to understand why they succeeded and how their journey can assist others

who are re-entering society. The Think Tank includes returning citizens, students and faculty from various disciplines and universities, activists, artists, political leaders, police as well as prison and justice system employees and continues to meet weekly on campus at Duquesne.

"Chess is a beautiful game where individuals can meet over the board regardless of age or socio-economic background and engage in competition on a level playing field," said Peter Booth, another organizer in the committee for Chess Nights at Duquesne. "It is important for us as students to be aware of our impact on the larger community that we inhabit and make sure that we can take part in some positive engagement in that space."

When Hubay began working with the EBTT and returned citizens, she met 70-year-old Charlie Lewis. While working together, Lewis, of Carrick, taught her how to play chess. Lewis was unjustly sentenced to 30-71 years in prison for a non-violent first major offense.

After 18 years, his sentencing was overturned after he proved a constitutional violation and was released from prison in 2004.

"Charlie later overturned his sentencing via a handwritten motion he had written 17 years prior, spending a total of 18 years incarcerated before proving a constitutional violation and being released," Hubay said.

It was in prison that Lewis learned how to play chess. "Then we started getting together a couple times each month to play and I invited a couple other friends to learn, and eventually realized this is something everyone might love," Hubay said.

Hubay started getting together with friends informally to play chess with returned citizens, and they brought the idea for official chess nights to the Think Tank. She received support to create an event for all to learn and play chess.

"Chess is a fun way to bring people of all backgrounds together for a common and neutral cause," Hubay said. "It opens the door for discussion and allows seemingly unrelated groups of people to find common ground."

Looking forward, Hubay and the Think Tank wish to launch additional initiatives that address problems and issues with reentry after incarceration.

"In the future, we hope to launch more initiatives such as community cooking and different community-based actions that will address the key problems and challenges with reentry after incarceration," Hubay said. "Chess Nights are targeted at helping returned citizens find acceptance and friendship in the community, whereas other initiatives can address other needs, such as learning to cook."

Chess Nights are part of a larger "Building Bridges" initiative to create intergenerational communication and social and community connectedness. Building Bridges aims to facilitate the process of reentry, transition and self sufficiency for returned citizens.

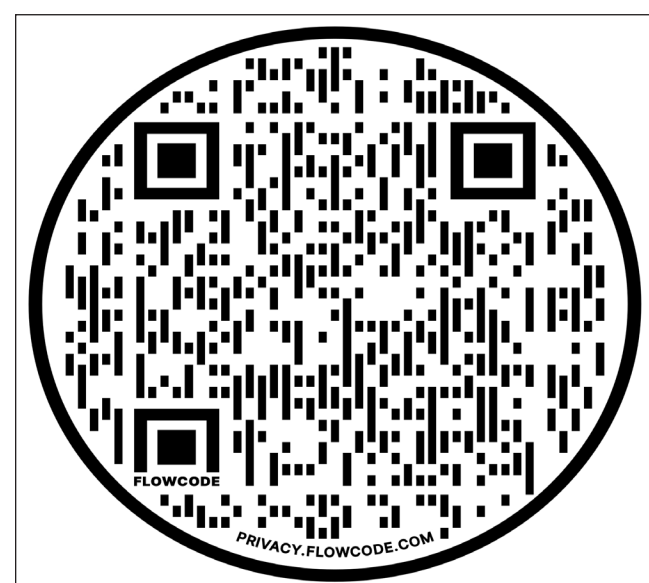
"We believe that it is imperative to recognize that Duquesne University, being a campus in the middle of a diverse and dynamic city, is only a small part in our greater conurbation and we hope to connect with the people around us in a meaningful and positive way," Booth said.



Members of Chess Nights take a break from the board game and enjoy pizza.



Two members of the club, Chess Nights, ponder their next move.



Scan the above code to register for more information regarding Chess Nights.

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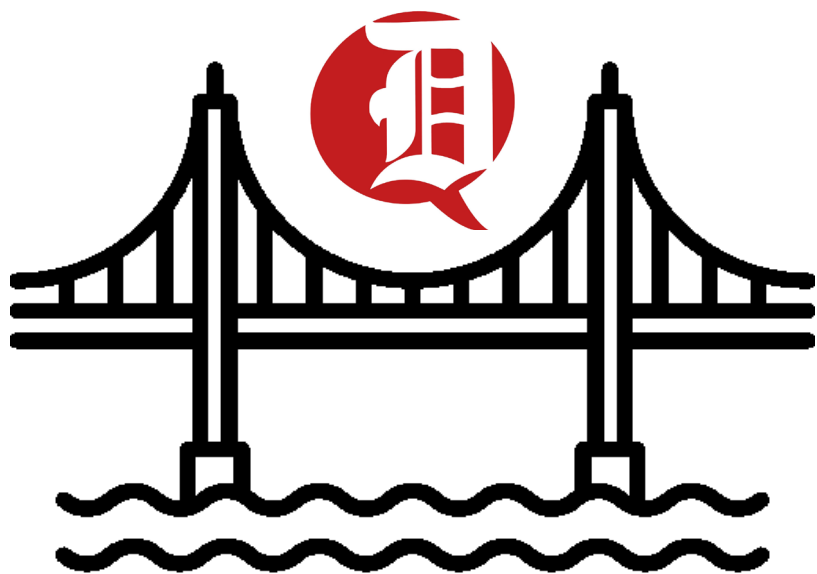
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