Students all over campus celebrated Greek culture on Tuesday by enjoying traditional food, learning about customs and participating in a dance.

On Sept 14, the Honors College hosted a Greek cultural dinner in the Towers multipurpose room.

Dr. Kathleen Roberts, the Director of the University Honors College, has been a part of the tradition for over 10 years. Before this year, only once a year students share their culture and heritage through food and festivities much like the Greek cultural dinner.

"Sometimes we reach out to different international student groups, we've had a Caribbean dinner in the past. One of our very first ones was a dinner with our students from South Korea.

"Coming from a background participating in the Greek dinner.

"We need to separate the two)

"September 11th had such a broad-reaching impact certainly for people that experienced it, but also for people who were not born yet, as well," said university archivist Thomas White. "(The Poster Exhibit) gives everyone a sense of the day and its importance, especially because 20 years later we are still dealing with the fallout. It changed everything from the way Americans lived their lives to foreign policy."

"The exhibition also explores the different aspects of the 9/11 attacks and their enduring impact today. Some of the posters discuss the immediate aftermath of the attack such as, recovery efforts, emergency response, mourning and solidarity. Other posters entitled "20 Years Later" examine the long term consequences of the attack, such as remembrance, rebuilding, health effects and the global war on terror."

"The specific stories about the individual people, as most panels highlight a person or artifact, are really meaningful and interesting," White said.

"The poster exhibition was developed by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. Located at the site where the Twin Towers once stood, the museum's goal is to educate people on the history of the 9/11 attacks and 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The Museum documents survivors' stories, artifacts from the recovery efforts and the aftermath of the attack."

"The 9/11 memorial museum had this free exhibit and with our resources, we were able to download and print the posters and share them with students and faculty," White said. "The text and the panels were created for the anniversary and are basically the same ones you would see at the museum in New York, just without the actual artifacts."

"The exhibit is really educational and presents perspectives and stories that I had never heard before," Lucy Barber, sophomore Occupational Therapy major, said. "It illustrates how even though this happened 20 years ago, it is still impacting our culture today."

Up Next in the Popular Reading Room:
Decipher Victory: An exhibit from the Republic of Poland

On Oct 1 from 7 - 9 p.m., Dr. Roman Smajder, Professor of Mathematics and Graduate Program Coordinator in Applied and Computational Mathematics at Bowie State University will give the main presentation on, "The Role of the Poles in Breaking the Enigma Code."

From Oct 4 through 15, Gumberg Library will open an Enigma Exhibit in the Popular Reading Room. The exhibit will spotlight early Polish successes in breaking the Enigma code, the German Military's encoded strategic messages. It will also highlight the strong British-Polish collaboration before and during World War II (WWII).

"Coming in October, we will exhibit one of the WWII enigma machines from the Polish Embassy, that they used to decode the Nazi secret communications," Thomas White, university archivist, said. "We will have an exhibit here in the library and a speaker who will feature the Polish perspective on the Enigma code."
**Police Briefs**

**Tues. Sept. 7** - A citation was issued to a driver after a university employee reported them leaving the Locust Garage after hitting an unattended vehicle.

**Wed. Sept. 8** - A student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after a resident director in Vickroy Hall confiscated drug paraphernalia. Later, DUPS took possession and disposed of what was discovered as marijuana.

**Thurs. Sept. 9** - An underage female student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after she was found intoxicated in the Rooney Field Beard Press Box. The student was checked by medics before returning to her room.

**Fri. Sept. 10** - A Pennsylvania Non-Traffic citation was issued to a student after an assistant resident director at St. Ann found a fraudulent driver’s license and their debit card outside of the building.

**Sat. Sept. 11** - An underage resident student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after they were reported to be intoxicated outside of Vickroy Hall. The student was transported to UPMC Mercy Hospital by medics.

**Sun. Sept. 12** - An underage resident student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after he fell inside St. Ann Hall while intoxicated, hitting his head and cutting his ear. DUPS transported the individual to Mercy Hospital for evaluation.

**Greek students share their culture through food**

In addition to sharing customs Dodd’s parents, Michael and Dina Dodd, aided the dinner by preparing traditional Greek food. Dishes such as keftedes (deep fried beef meatballs), gemista (baked tomatoes stuffed with a rice filling), pastitsio (Greek lasagna) and spanakopita (spinach pie with eggs and feta cheese) lined the food tables. For dessert, kourabiedes (Greek wedding cookies), portokalopita (orange cake) and koulourakia (shortbread cookies) were set out. A reek orange soda called Loux was also portioned out for students to try.

Dina Dodd was happy to share her cooking with the students of Duquesne.

“I really love it, it makes me really happy to see kids enjoying our culture. I’m just happy to see everyone enjoying it. So many kids came up to me and thanked me, telling me how nice everything is and how good the food tastes. That’s what every Greek mom wants to hear,” Dodd said.

As the dinner ended many students left the MPR room filled with Greek food and an appreciation for Greek culture.

**Driving up an appetite; food trucks on A-Walk**

The inviting aromas of crepes, funnel cakes and hibachi filled the air on A-Walk Friday, Sept. 10, as Duquesne held its first Food Truck Friday series from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Duquesne plans to host this event every Friday at the same time and location.

This week, the three food trucks that attended the event were Nakama, which serves hibachi, Sinkers and Suds, featuring coffee and donuts and PGH Crepes, which fittingly serves crepes and funnel cake. Duquesne hopes to have two to four food trucks each Friday.

The trucks were lined up behind the student union and served hundreds of students.

“The food trucks reminded me of a fair with all the options,” said Madison Otto, a freshman pharmacy major. “I would probably come back if it was offered again.”

Students like Madi Kaiser, a junior sociology major, came hungry after their classes for a bite.

“I enjoyed it, it was very unique with lots of variety,” Kaiser said.

“I really liked the Sinkers and Suds truck and I would love to see more unique trucks in the future.”

Among the three trucks, Nakama was the most popular with the longest line of students stretching over 90 feet long.

“This was a really nice break from the normal food on campus,” said Julia Dam, a freshman pharmacy major. “I would come back every other week it is available, and more food truck options would be great to create less lines.”

“It was good food with good quality, and was better than expected,” said Nick Patt, a junior cybersecurity studies major.

“It was nice to change up which was a pleasant surprise with the options. If I could improve one thing it would be the ability to pay with flex pay, and if that were the case I would come back most of the time.”

**News**

HARLEY VARAVETTE | STAFF WRITER

Sinkers and Suds serves up sweet treats to the student body.
SGA seeks students and spreads the word

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

Students gathered together in the School of Law, excited to address new concerns that arise from the student body.

Sunday September 12, the Student Government Association held their second meeting for the 2021-2022 school year.

The SGA is a student-led governing body at Duquesne University. Its objective is to bring attention to problems and changes that students want addressed to offices on campus that can help enact change. These changes can range from directly voicing concerns to offices on campus or connecting students to offices in question.

Alanna Battle, a new member of SGA, is looking forward to what SGA has to offer. “I’ve always been interested in student government. You get a better understanding of all the activities that are happening in a broader sense on campus,” Battle said.

There are a few ways students can get directly involved. They can either attend a senate meeting and become a Senator-at-Large (SAL) or they can work their way into a Senator-at-Large (SAL) or Senate Contingency (SAC) position.

As a SAL, students can serve office hours and join committees. Once they have attended two office hours, they can petition to become a senator. As a senator, they are required to serve on two committees and serve one office hour a week.

There is one Senate seat for every two 200 students in each of the following schools: School of Business, School of Health Science, College of Liberal Arts, School of Education, School of Pharmacy, School of Law, School of Nursing, School of Natural and Environmental Science and the School of Music.

The Standing Committees include Communications and Public Relations, Finance, Government Operations, Organization Oversight, Student Life and the Diversity, Inclusion, and Identity Committee.

The SGA allows students to meet with University administrators to discuss and give feedback on upcoming changes to the university. This way, students can make sure that new rules that come out benefit them in the long run according to Jessica Schmitz, president of the Student Government Association.

Two representatives from each academic school are in the senate, but the number of representatives varies based on the number of students in each school. Senators can also come from perspectives of student life, Greek Life and various organizations to gain a wider perspective of student concerns and needs on campus.

Schmitz finds that having representatives from different academic areas they are able to tackle more issues with a broader perspective.

“By having representatives from different academic areas of interest, we are able to address a wider range of student needs. If we only had liberal arts and business senators, we’d only have a very limited scope of what needs to be addressed on campus,” Schmitz said.

According to Schmitz, 90% of the time students can relay their concern to any member of the SGA including a senator or an executive. Most student life concerns are brought to the student life committee’s and the Vice President of Student Life’s attention, and they proceed to meet with the corresponding office they need.

The SGA works with university administration to find a solution to tackle university-wide issues.

“It’s important for students to remember that we hear their concerns,” Schmitz said.

Students can get involved by attending an SGA meeting every other Sunday. Meeting times are posted on the SGA Instagram account or students can add their email to the SGA Campus Link.

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Student Government Association FY22 Budget

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<tr>
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<th>FY22</th>
<th>Budgeted Amount</th>
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The numbers listed represent the amount of money allotted to each expense. The budget shows how SGA will allocate their money for the whole year as well as how they will spend funding on campus. This was approved during the course of SGA’s last meeting on Sunday Sept 12.

Budgeted Amount: 57,604.53
Remaining Amount: 1,214.53
**DU football earns historic win over Ohio U**

**SPENCER THOMAS**  
staff writer

Less than 30 years ago, Duquesne was a Division I program, the lowest rung on NCAA’s college football ladder.

Even current Head Coach Jerry Schmitt – an assistant coach at the school in the early 1990s – “couldn’t even imagine” being in a position to play a FBS-level program, let alone defeat one.

But this past Saturday, despite the expectations of many in the college football world, the Dukes stormed into Peden Stadium in Athens, Ohio, and defeated the Ohio Bobcats, 28-26.

The win was the first overtime win for Duquesne over an FBS program since it joined the FCS ranks in 1993. It was also the first time that a member of the Northeast Conference has ever defeated an FBS-level school.

After a 42-point loss at TCU in the season opener, the Dukes entered the matchup with the Bobcats as a 28.3-point underdog.

Saturday’s contest couldn’t have started much worse for Duquesne. The Dukes’ opening kickoff was returned 85 yards by Ohio’s De’Montre Tuggle for a touchdown, giving the Bobcats the lead just 13 seconds into the game.

However, Ohio kicker Stephen Johnson failed to convert the extra point, and this miscue would come back to haunt the Bobcats.

That could have been it. The Dukes could have resigned themselves to another FBS loss, especially after losing starting quarterback Joe Mischler to injury in the TCU contest.

Backup quarterback Darius Perrantes had other plans. The transfer from Rhode Island came out strong in his first start at Duquesne, completing all four of his pass attempts on the opening drive. Duquesne got on the board with a 23-yard field goal from Brian Brzudewicz to trim Ohio’s lead to 6-3.

Ohio struck back quickly, finding the end zone in just three plays to extend its lead to 13-3. However, Duquesne’s offense remained undeterred.

Perrantes responded by leading a 15-play drive, which included a fourth-down conversion where he used his legs to roll right and complete a pass to wide receiver Wykeem Gill to keep the drive alive. Brzudewicz would tack on three more points with a 38-yard field goal to make the score 13-6.

“They embraced him [Perrantes] as our leader,” said Head Coach Keith Dambrot. “He took it and did a really good job.”

On the first possession following Brzudewicz’s second field goal, the Dukes’ defense locked in, swarming the Ohio backfield and recording two tackles for loss.

As the first quarter clock was expiring, the Bobcats were forced to work with a short field following a long punt. Duquesne defensive linemen A.J. Ackerman and Maxi Hradecny combined to trap Ohio running back O’Shaun Allinson in the end zone and force a safety, cutting the score to 13-8.

Brzudewicz added his third field goal of the night, increasing the lead to 16-3. The Bobcats did not score again until the final minute of the first half on a 23-yard touchdown pass from Rourke with nine seconds left on the scoreboard, the game-winner.

After Duquesne secured Ohio’s onside kick attempt, Perrantes was able to take a knee and officially clinch the historic victory.

“We just had to believe in ourselves and believe in our coaching,” Perrantes said. “I knew we would get it done.”

After a scheduled bye week, the Dukes will return to action on Sept. 25, when they host Virginia University of Lynchburg in their home opener at Rooney Field.

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

With less than two months remaining until the start of the college basketball season, the Duquesne men’s basketball program has lost another key member of its roster.

After two seasons, Maceo Austin recently left the team, according to Mike Yukow of Pittsburgh Sports Now. Per 247Sports. Austin was still enrolled at the university.

Austin was a highly-coveted prospect coming out of high school, per 247Sports. He chose to play for Head Coach Keith Dambrot and Duquesne despite being offered a scholarship from power-conference programs such as Northwestern, Penn State, Pittsburgh and Virginia.

The native of nearby Sharon, Pa., played in 29 of the Dukes’ 30 games (starting on those 29 occasions) during the 2019-20 season that was cut short by the outbreak of Covid-19. Illness prevented Austin from playing in a Feb. 16 road contest against Fordham.

Perhaps Austin’s most emotional – and most memorable – game during his Duquesne tenure came in a Jan. 15, 2020, home game against Fordham. Despite losing his sister just days earlier, Austin chose to play in the game.

He scored six points and added three assists in the Dukes’ overtime victory over the Rams, helping Duquesne earn its fifth consecutive win to begin Atlantic 10 Conference play.

During his first year at Duquesne, Austin scored in double figures eight times, ultimately averaging seven points per game.

Austin was absent for a portion of the 2020-21 season due to personal reasons, missing each of the Dukes’ eight games between Jan. 5 and Feb. 20.

Arguably his best performance of the shortened season came on Jan. 3, when he scored 11 points, dished out two assists and grabbed three rebounds in a loss at George Washington.

Austin ended up playing in just nine of Duquesne’s 18 contests during his second season, averaging 2.9 points and 3.0 rebounds per game.

Across his two seasons with the Dukes, Austin averaged 6.0 points, 3.7 rebounds and 1.4 assists per game.

Austin joins a handful of well-known names who have either stepped away or transferred from the program since the beginning of last season.

Sincere Carry and Lamar Norman Jr. transferred to Kent State and Western Michigan, respectively, during the off-season.

Chad Baker (San Diego State), Tavian Dunn-Martin (Florida Gulf Coast) and Marcus Weathers (Southern Methodist) have also followed in their coaching.

Duquesne begins its 2021-22 season on Nov. 9, when it welcomes Rider to town.
**Henne: Baseball is America’s great unifying source**

**Luke Henne**  
**sports editor**

I’ve been to nearly 400 Major League Baseball games in my life, and I knew from the outset that the one I attended this past Saturday would top them all.

On Sept. 11, the New York Yankees and New York Mets squared off in the second of a three-game series in the Queens borough of New York. More importantly, the city’s premier baseball teams were meeting on what was the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that left a permanent wound not only in the fabric of the city, but on the entire United States.

As the pregame festivities and tributes ensued, there were no chants intended to degrade one team or favor another. All that could be heard in Citi Field included frequent “USA! USA!” chants and a harmonious rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

I watched grown adults – fans of both teams – sobbing as the scoreboard showed a replay of former Mets catcher Mike Piazza’s game-winning home run in the first baseball game played in the city following the attacks.

As someone from Pittsburgh, I will probably never understand the significance of Piazza’s home run and that game to natives of the city.

However, in my time around baseball, I’ve come to learn that the sport almost always finds a way to unite individuals rather than divide them. Saturday night only reaffirmed this belief.

I did not hear one ounce of discussion about the issues that existed in society outside the confines of Citi Field. Rather, I saw fans of opposing teams locking arms, waving American flags and absorbing the memory being created in front of their eyes.

With the Yankees and Mets both making a late-season push for a playoff berth, it felt like many in attendance were indifferent to what the game’s outcome – an 8-7 Yankees victory – would eventually be.

As long as the game was played, the night could be deemed a victory.

A similar tribute was held here in Pittsburgh prior to Saturday’s contest between the Washington Nationals and Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park. Victims of the tragedies that also occurred 20 years prior at The Pentagon in Washington and in a field in Shanksville, Pa., were remembered.

Kudos to the MLB for scheduling these sets of teams to play one another during what was an emotional weekend throughout the entire nation.

By doing so, they could show that these games were more about just box scores. These games were meant to serve as a symbol of how baseball brings this country together.

Baseball has always been there when this country desperately needed it.

During World War II, icons like Boston Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams and Cleveland Indians pitcher Bob Feller left the land Indians pitcher Bob Feller left the sport they loved in order to help serve the country they loved.

In 2020, after American society had been drastically impacted by both the Covid-19 pandemic and racial turmoil, baseball was the first sport to return to competition.

Players used their platforms to help in the fight against both of these issues during a time where attention and affection were so desperately needed.

When society comes calling, baseball has and will always be there to answer the call.

If I didn’t already know that before, Saturday’s trip to New York made it abundantly clear.

**DU men’s basketball unveils A-10 slate of games**

**Brentaro Yamane**  
**staff writer**

In accordance with the Atlantic 10 Conference, the Duquesne men’s basketball program released its 2021-22 conference schedule of games this past week.

Per usual, nine of Duquesne’s 18 conference games will be played in Pittsburgh. It will be the first time since the 2018-19 campaign that the Dukes’ entire home schedule will be played at an on-campus location.

Last season, the team finished 500 (7-7) in conference play. In three of the seven losses, Duquesne led at halftime (home versus Davidson and St. Bonaventure; on the road versus Dayton). Closing out pivotal conference games against top-tier teams is something that could be an essential ingredient for success this season.

Head Coach Keith Dambrot is entering his fifth year at the helm, having guided the program to a 35-53 record against A-10 competition during his tenure. Since he took over prior to the 2017-18 season, Duquesne has not finished higher than sixth in the conference’s regular-season standings.

The Dukes begin conference play on Dec. 30, when they travel to Davidson, N.C., to take on the Davidson Wildcats.

Duquesne fans will get their first taste of conference action at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse when George Mason (Jan. 2) and George Washington (Jan. 3) come to town.

The Dukes are also set to host a handful of nationally televised contests during A-10 play.

Defending conference champion St. Bonaventure will come to town on Jan. 21 for a Friday night game that is set to air on ESPN2. Duels with Dayton on Jan. 15 (NBC Universal) and Fordham on Feb. 12 (CBS Sports Network) will also showcase Duquesne’s renovated arena in front of a national audience.

Other home opponents include Saint Louis (Jan. 29), Richmond (Feb.1), Davidson (Feb. 23) and La Salle (March 5).

The away portion of the Dukes’ conference schedule consists of three two-game road trips. Following the back-to-back contests against George Mason and George Washington, the Dukes will pair a trip to Massachusetts (Jan. 8) with a game at Fordham (Jan. 12).

Near the midpoint of A-10 action, consecutive road contests against VCU (Feb. 5) and Dayton (Feb. 9) will provide a formidably challenge for Duquesne.

A back-to-back set of games at Rhode Island (Feb. 26) and at George Washington (March 2) – coupled by games at Saint Joseph’s (Jan. 26) and St. Bonaventure (Feb. 19) – helps round out Duquesne’s road slate of conference games.

Following the conclusion of the regular season, the Dukes will head to Capital One Arena in Washington for the Atlantic 10 Men’s Basketball Championship in early March.
**Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day Parade makes early return**

To commemorate the time lost with quarantining and social-distancing, Pittsburgh Irish folk were more than ready to start anew with a “half-way there” celebration of St. Patrick’s Day — in the middle of September.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, the well-acclaimed St. Patty’s Parade will occur as normal, starting their parade route by the Greyhound station and ending at Stanwix Street. Floats will not be included this time around, but typical parade-goers will be more than welcome to follow the usual route.

"I don’t really get it. St. Patty’s isn’t in September, and the vibes just aren’t right," senior education major Jocelyn Jorinscay said. "I kind of want to go through!"

Starting the day off with 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Church on 17th street, the service will let out into the 10 a.m. parade. Participants and passersby will be “strongly encouraged” to wear their masks as per CDC policy, according to the Pittsburgh St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee and Irish Society for Education and Charity Inc.

Parade chairman J. Mac McCafferty said in an interview with the Pittsburgh Magazine that they are “looking forward to an entertaining parade” to celebrate the much-anticipated March celebration.

To keep with tradition, the committee said that the traditional St. Patrick’s Day Parade would still be held on March 12 at 10 a.m.

Pittsburgh Public Safety Director Wendell Hissrich sent out a letter addressed to area college students. He advised for the students’ safety to be conscious of wearing masks, social distancing and avoiding underage drinking.

“The City of Pittsburgh values students as members of our community, and as such we seek your partnership to make Pittsburgh safe this day and every day. It is our hope that you enjoy the festivities and celebrate responsibly,” Hissrich said.

Still, Duquesne Vice President Douglas Frizzell issued a statement to the student body recommending they refrain from going to the September event.

“We have come so far as a community that no one wants to experience a setback returning to the Covid-19 guidelines of last academic year," he said.

While the campus has gotten back into the 10 a.m. with your matcha. But do you know how to make an - actual - main character playlist?

**HOROSCOPES**

- **Aquarius**
  Anonymous commenter apologizes for previous horoscope grammar. :-(

- **Gemini**
  OMG Pisces I’m shy!

- **Libra**
  Yes Libra, you are mysterious walking to your 9 a.m. with your matcha.

- **Pisces**
  Anyone hit my line on @duquesnesmissedconnections?

- **Scorpio**
  Scorpio has tension...... but with whom?

- **Sagittarius**
  What happened to goldfish-run.com :(

- **Capricorn**
  Giving the online pdf to your class but then losing access #fail.
Machaux has been working at the "luck o' the Irish" was certainly present last weekend, Sept. 10-12 at Pittsburgh's annual Irish Festival in the Lots at Sandcastle — celebrating their 30-year-anniversary.

Brimming with life, the festival brought about an unmatched sense of community that showed how important it is to share alike the culture and customs of one's heritage. From woodwork and kilts to potatoes and jigs, the music, food, atmosphere and nostalgia kept a hot summer's day feeling like a blissful storybook tale.

With tents lining the perimeter of the lot, food vendors, craftsmen and musicians alike were able to share their specialties with the growing crowds.

Richard Machaux and his son Ben Machaux have been showcasing their woodworking talents at the fair for seven years. Their products range from walking sticks to charcuterie boards, carved mantle pieces to Santa Clauses.

"I love doing what I do. I make characters and they are a lot of fun to have and it's fun to do. We offer a lot, a lot more than food, so just having people here to enjoy makes it really fun," Inks said.

Neighboring food booths also offered an array of appetizers, alcoholic beverages and desserts. If not sitting outside at the many benches lined in the middle of the lot, visitors took their food to the main stage tent, where Sunday's entertainment schedule was jam-packed with activities.

The day started as visitors were welcomed with Irish Mass led by the Rev. Sean Hogan, followed by pipes and drums, poetry, a lecture on the origin of Irish names, as well as guest performances by The Bow Tides and The Screaming Orphans: Irish musicians who have now performed for the first time since the start of Covid-19.

This Irish rock band said they were elated to be back performing, with some of the set being performed for the first time in front of an audience. The Screaming Orphans played a select number of songs off of their album released during the pandemic, where they jokingly said that most of the creativity for it came from their childhood bedroom at their parents' house. The band members, who are all sisters, said it was a pleasure to perform for an audience that cares about their heritage as much as they do.

One of their hit singles, "Every Woman Gardens," can be streamed on Spotify. Many kind notes and signatures could be found by flipping through the pages, as there was so much love and support throughout.

The Screaming Orphans performed for seven years. "It's not about the music but it really is. The music is the glue that binds the relationships of the people you meet through music. You're bonded, your music, your passion is the music," Srour said.

Both Srour and Reich find it that it is the little moments that they share with the people who stop by to listen or perform that makes what they do so special.

"We want you here to spread your joy," Srour said.

Inks said the book is an act of appreciation for the festival coordinators and all the people they met. Reich explained that the book is an act of appreciation for the festival coordinators and all the people who have helped.

Harry Thomas, a 6-year-old Irish dancer, said he was not able to perform his routine the way he had before due to the pandemic, where he joked that he probably needs to re-learn, but that the festival allowed him to perform again.

"It's not about the music but it really is. The music is the glue that binds the relationships of the people you meet through music. You're bonded, your music, your passion is the music," Srour said.

Both Srour and Reich find that it is the little moments that they share with the people who stop by to listen or perform that makes what they do so special.

"We want you here to spread your joy," Srour said.

Inside the tent, a book was laid out for festival goers to write their stories and experiences from the day, and what the fair meant to them. Reich explained that the book is an act of appreciation for the festival coordinators and all the people who have helped.

Many kind notes and signatures could be found by flipping through the pages, as there was so much love and support throughout.

Alivia Moore, a 12-year-old Irish dancer, said she was excited to immerse herself back into her heritage with the help of Pittsburgh's Irish Festival. Moving from New Jersey, Moore said she wanted to find a place where she could get back into dancing while appreciating the culture.

"I had just moved here, so we came to [the Irish festival] to hear the bagpipes and get me back into Irish dance, where I can hopefully find a [dance] school to re-join and get into a groove again," Moore said. "I like learning all of the dances, it just makes me happy and it is very peaceful and calming to me to hear Irish music."

Moore said she was also able to enjoy the axe-throwing, and was even able to perform for the instrumentalists who played as her background.

"I liked dancing [for an audience], it brought back some steps that I probably need to re-learn," Moore said. "I love being able to say I'm Irish, saying that I can Irish dance... it's a really cool thing."

The Pittsburgh Irish Festival allows people from all over Pittsburgh to share in their Irish heritage. For some it is a way to connect to old roots through music, crafts and food, while for others it is a great way to learn more about Irish culture. Regardless, the festival is a great way to create unforgettable memories and experiences.
**The harsh reality of “reality” TV**

Whether a fan of reality TV or not, we all can agree that it’s one of the most chaotic genres of television out there. Its continual rise in popularity has spawned a million different versions for our viewing pleasure: dating, competition, food and even hidden cameras.

There’s nothing quite like the standoff that comes from being on a reality TV show. They’re held to a different standard than your typical celebrity — because they represent how people act in real life... right? The basis of a reality TV star’s fame comes at the mercy of producers. On most of these shows, it portrays something almost unrealistic about these everyday people.

After months of filming, the viewer only sees a few hours of what they said or did, rather than the complete course of their time on the show. It’s not always accurate, but the innocent eyes of a new participant think they’ve “got the low edit,” after signing away their life to the show and on a stack of paperwork.

No shame. I’m a huge reality TV fan, especially in the competition genre with shows like “Survivor” and “The Challenge.” But especially now, in the world overrun by social media, we have to take into account that these are real people. I realize — and many others have to jump on this bandwagon — that the mental state of these participants needs to be at the forefront of our minds. These people, more often than not, come out with a myriad of mental health issues that go unchecked.

Think about it: They’re sent away to a location surrounded by cameras constantly and, more often than not, they have no contact with people outside of the production and cast during filming. It’s absolutely nothing like reality.

The harsh “reality” here is that regular people aren’t prepared for TV. And there’s no way to be prepared for it, even if they’re signing up out of their own volition. For example, the popular British based reality TV show, “Love Island” had three suicides within its seven seasons, including the show’s former host, Caroline Flack, in 2020.

“Love Island” is a dating reality show where 12 singles live in a secluded island villa for six weeks to find a partner. Each week, the participants “couple up” and the British public votes their least favorite couple off the island. It’s fast-paced, drama-filled and raunchy.

Season two’s Sophie Grabon in 2018 and season four’s Mike Thalasassis in 2019 also took their own lives. Their deaths sparked a debate about the ethics of reality TV, one that is being revisited constantly.

According to a 2019 report done by The Sun, since 1986, 38 reality TV stars worldwide have committed suicide.

The issue with these shows is that, even though some conduct mental health screenings prior to filming, the on-going support after the show is less than desirable. And if it wasn’t obvious, most independent therapists and psychologists can’t really understand the one-of-a-kind experience.

One participant on “The Challenge,” Sarah Rice, has been outspoken on the various mental health issues experienced on the show. Upon retiring after nine seasons, she dedicated her career path to helping these individuals.

“After 10 years on reality TV, I retired & pursued a masters in therapy. While in my program I researched the effects of reality TV on its participants. I found rates of suicide that were significantly higher than the general population, and many experienced ongoing identity issues. The lack of aftercare motivated me to go into the field of mental health to provide the therapy needed for this specific population,” Rice wrote in a tweet.

Rice also has spoken with the Challenge Mania podcast about the mental struggles she dealt with after her seasons. And she believes MTV should be paying for free therapy after the show because of the impact.

“They have paramedics there for medical reasons to make sure nobody gets hurt in that way and to protect them in that way; they have a legal team there to make sure nobody gets hurt in that way; they don’t have anybody there to look out for their mental health or mental well-being,” Rice said.

And I think it’s just a matter of time before something really serious happens. And we’ve already seen the mental state of these individuals.

There’s no denying that the conditions of reality TV make it hard for the general public to find empathy. We judge them for their blatant chase for stardom — but their participation doesn’t mean they deserve to suffer for their villainized edit, nor does it lessen the mental health toll of them as individuals.

Our invalidation for their experience only worsens the toll, and our constant judgment puts them into a smaller bubble than they’re already in. We need to give them a podium to speak and be heard, but also provide support for these people who are, in reality, just like us.
Celebrities and politics: two words I am sure George Washington thought he would never hear in the same sentence. Contrary, Ronald Reagan, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Donald Trump were once mainstream celebrities that broke into the political sphere.

While it is comical to see names like Kanye West, Harambe and Oprah on the voting ballots and talking about running for president, where does the line blur between the two?

Activism and politics are huge motivators behind Gen Z’s legacy. Coining terms like “woke” and “cancel culture,” this generation has the answers constantly at their fingertips. The idea is that we are in right now almost makes politics inescapable. It is not a bad thing to be informed, but where are the lines we should really be listening to?

Influencers, actors and musicians are mainly at the forefront of those being ridiculed when speaking about politics. Ariana Grande had voter registration tables at her concerts, encouraging her fans to get politically involved. In 2018, Taylor Swift broke her silence about politics, resulting in 65,000 people registering to vote in a 24-hour period. All the while, Harry Styles waves pride flags and #BlackLivesMatter flags on stage at his concerts.

On top of that, we just had 18-year-old Olivia Rodrigo speak at the White House about vaccinations. With celebrities having the platform that they do, doesn’t it make it necessary for them to speak out?

These are all tactics helping the greater good and it is vital to take a stand, but we have to realize that those uneeducated should not be preaching. TikTok star Charli D’Amelio was under fire this past summer regarding her lack of concrete stance toward the Black Lives Matter movement. After some time, she did a live stream speaking about racism and injustice in America.

The idea was there, but should we as a society really be putting all this pressure on a 17-year-old privileged white girl to speak on the Black experience in America? I think not.

In the end, “cancel culture” never seeks to actually solve the issues. We dislike and ridicule the person for weeks and then once it blows over, they continue to reclaim their fame. Just take a look at David Dobrik.

Multiple women came forward saying that they were sexually assaulted by a member of Dobrik’s “Vlog Squad.” It later came out that there was video evidence posted on his channel. Despite this, according to YouTube, Dobrik’s last upload was watched by 6.8 million people.

When you support someone the way you do, you — as a fan — want to make sure they support you right back as a human being. Yet, here is where we circle back to people like Kanye West.

This past election, he announced his run for president. He held minimal rallies, but should keep “traditional” political and local candidates, and then so be it, but focusing on national and local candidates, and elections are what inflict tangible change every day.

By recognizing the difference between trend and activism, that is where we can differentiate the blurred line. Politics are always going to be a sensitive topic to discuss, and while our generation is on the uprise in positive impact and change, the eyes have to be kept on the price. Real change is what we want to see in the end.

If celebrities help us get there, then so be it, but focusing on national and local candidates, and elections are what inflict tangible change every day.

Save the political activism for the experts, not celebrities

A shot in the right direction: the case for vaccines

Andrew Cummings
multimedia editor

Should I get a vaccine? This has been the most pressing question for everyone amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. I think that people should choose to get vaccinated.

The first point to address is for people who aren’t in a risk group and think they’re healthy enough to weather Covid-19 without a vaccine. While it is possible for someone who is young, healthy and not at risk could experience the virus without any significant symptoms, there is so much else to be said about the spread of the virus.

Just because a healthy person can recover doesn’t necessarily mean that someone they may pass it to will have the same experience.

For example, some people have risk factors that make them significantly more susceptible to Covid-19, whether it be due to age or an underlying condition. Some people are also not able to take the vaccine, and put the position of trying to avoid the virus if they do not want to risk experiencing serious symptoms.

Even though it is still possible to transmit Covid-19 with a vaccine, the CDC says that there is a reduced risk of “spreading the virus that causes Covid-19” than if someone is unvaccinated.

Another important point is the potential risk of vaccines. The primary vaccines (Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna) were initially authorized for emergency use by the FDA — rather than a full approval. This caused doubt for many, because there was anxiety that the Covid-19 vaccines were not tested as thoroughly as other vaccines that have full FDA approval.

The first thing that is important to realize is that for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the mRNA science that they are based on is not new. According to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, there is research going back to the 1980s on mRNA. The vaccines that are being used to treat the virus are tailored to treat this specific disease, and the fundamental science that they are based on is not new.

Some people are worried about potential side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine. Because they were all under emergency authorization, are they still safe to use?

For anyone with this mindset, they should compare the known side effects of Covid-19 with those of the vaccines. According to the CDC, if someone contracts the virus, there is a chance of them developing various long-term symptoms. Some of these symptoms include difficulty breathing, sleep problems, muscle pain and difficulty thinking or concentrating.

Several people have had an allergic reaction, but this is not new for vaccines. Some people have developed blood clots, but the chances of getting blood clots from Covid-19 are still lower (according to a study published in the British Medical Journal). We do not know for certain the long-term side effects of Covid-19 vaccines, but we do already know that there are some dangerous long-term symptoms that can come from Covid-19.

So the question essentially boils down to: should I take the vaccine that does not have any known widespread long-term symptoms, or risk getting Covid-19, which is known to have significant immediate and long-term symptoms? If enough people get vaccinated, the human population should reach herd immunity. This means that enough people will either be vaccinated or have developed the antibodies from having Covid-19 to slow the spread and threat to the public.

But until this happens, Covid-19 will remain an ever-present risk in the world and on our campus.

In the 2020 election, Kanye West received 60,000 votes across 12 states.
Father-daughter duo develop song-to-text app for smartphone users

By Rio Scarcelli

Phones are always developing new ways to react to media. Whether it is in the form of emojis, photos or videos, the online world has become a game of showing how you feel without using your words.

What if instead we used…lyrics? Junior Duquesne nursing major Addie Gardner and her father, Adam, asked if they could use song lyrics in place of text messages.

“We started this actually six years ago in 2015. I was in the eighth grade, and I remember playing these games with my dad in the car where we would trick each other into talking about a certain song or song title. We really started listening to lyrics a lot more than we did,” Addie Gardner said. “When my neighbor went me a text to invite me over, Men at Work’s ‘Who Could it Be’ was playing. The lyric that was playing at the time was ‘stay away, don’t you invade my home!’ My dad immediately said ‘too bad you couldn’t send that text to her.’ From there, we both had the same idea to ask ‘what if we could?’”

Officially released on the app store Sept. 1, Lyritext is a texting app found on a phone’s “Widgets app” that can send clips of songs to enhance everyday conversation. In order to have the ability to create an entire app for people to use, a lot of time and work went into the production and creative process. After some workshopping, the duo was able to come up with the name Lyritext by combining both of the things they set out to do in the app. The ideas came along more quickly as they spent more time together discussing ideas in the car.

“We both contributed in different ways. My dad was always more experienced in the business access of development, so he was the ‘go and get it done’ man. I was very involved with the visual conceptualization of the app and its functionality on phones in the app store,” Gardner said.

To bring the idea into fruition, the team felt that they had to make sure that their idea was original and not already secured by another company.

“In 2015, we did not want to initially do anything without a patent. My dad is an entrepreneur and so he was very familiar with the business,” Gardner said. “It took about two years to secure the patent and make sure that there was not another app like this in existence. When we started pitching the idea to people, we were more often than not told that it was not possible. The music licensing would be way too expensive to go through.”

Lyritext had a hard time taking off. Concerned about licensing costs and feasibility of downloading many songs in one space, the Gardner team continued to get rejections from developers. Regardless, a development-team called Naux decided to take on the challenge of making this app a reality in 2020.

“There were definitely times where I felt like Lyritext was not going to happen,” Gardner said. “Regardless, my dad went from developer to developer to try to make our dream come true for us. I remember seeing the first beta version of our app that was downloadable on phones, I said, ‘OK, this is really going on.’”

After what seemed like so many dead ends, a woman from California referred them to a company called Song Clip. Their goal was to look for ways to make song licensing easier for smaller companies and developers. With a glimmer of hope, the Gardners forged an agreement with the company within 18 months.

“We have 100,000 songs that we are able to pull from Lyritext right now, and Song Clips is trying to work on securing the licensing for many more. The fun part of all of this is that there is constantly new music coming out. There is an endless opportunity with new data and songs to experiment with,” Gardner said.

With the app now available to download on the App Store and Google Play, Gardner went into detail on creating song clips to send through text.

“When you pull up the app on your phone, you can search for certain keywords like ideas, emotions and greetings. It is a lot more searchable to use one or two words as opposed to whole song titles. If you click on it, it makes an attachment for you in your text message and the clip is sent,” she said.

On the development team’s side, the group needed to find a way to keep up with licensing costs. The Gardners felt they had a smart solution with combining an idea that was important to them.

“We do not believe in taking people’s personal information and selling it to ads. The best way for us to bypass it is by making a $2.99 monthly-subscription rate. This not only helped us with ensuring people’s security when going into the app, but also to keep up with the fees of licensing and making sure that the songs are accessible to everyone who uses Lyritext,” Gardner said.

To celebrate the launch of their app, the Gardners are taking their next move to the media as they begin to promote their work.

“We have been able to get a lot of traction from interviewing with The Trib and Pittsburgh Magazine. What has been most helpful to us is that Song Clip is writing a press release that they are spreading to all of their contacts within the music industry,” Gardner said. “We are very excited to have the app, but now our next step is getting the word out.”

Instagram & Facebook: @lyritext_official

Lyritext, created by Duquesne junior Addie Gardner and her father, Adam, used song lyrics in place of text messages.