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Opa! Honors College hosts Greek cultural dinner

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

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 student 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. It's gotten to the point where students volunteer, they come forward and say can I share my culture which is really great," Roberts said.

The Honors College is in the process of having the cultural dinner twice a semester due to students enjoying it so much.

Anastasia Mastro, a sophomore at Duquesne, loved participating in the Greek dinner. Coming from a background

see GREEK— page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Remembering the 20th Anniversary of 9/11



Hundreds of flags were placed on the lawn outside of College Hall in commemoration of 9/11.

KELLEN STEPLER | FEATURE EDITOR

Gumberg Library presents 9/11 exhibit

EMILY AMBERY
staff writer

This past weekend marked the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States. To recognize the 20th anniversary, Gumberg Library is currently hosting a free, educational 9/11 Memorial and Museum exhibit highlighting personal stories of witnesses and survivors.

The exhibit is located on the fourth Popular Reading Room and is open to visitors through Monday, Sept 27.

The exhibit, Sept 11, 2001: The Day that Changed the World, consists of 14 posters which includes archival photographs and images of artifacts from the 9/11 Memorial and Museum's permanent collection.

"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 pan-

els 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 Sznajder, 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 LLC while intoxicated, hitting his head and cutting his ear. DUPS transported the individual to Mercy Hospital for evaluation.

Sun. Sept. 12 - A citation was issued to a driver after a student reported to DUPS that a note had been left on her car in reference to a witness observing a vehicle back into hers before fleeing the scene.

Sun. Sept. 12 - Three male students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after DUPS received a dispatch call and responded to the scene where the males were identified and caught smoking marijuana on the city steps.

Sun. Sept. 12 - Three male students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after being monitored on security cameras smoking marijuana on the Bluff Street city steps.



Kaitlin Dodd led students in a traditional Greek Dance on Tuesday. Students held hands as they danced in a circle, giving the steps their best effort. RIO SCARCELLI | STAFF WRITER

Greek students share their culture through food

see GREEK — page 1

filled with Greek heritage, it reminded her of her roots.

"I love knowing other people are Greek around me, when you are Greek you have a lot of Greek pride. I know specifically the islands I'm from, and it's making that connection to other people that we all have a cultural origin together," Mastros said.

Students got to learn more about Greek culture when a Power Point slide was given by the host, Kaitlin Dodd. The Power Point described different customs such as traditional wear, origins of

her family, Greek dancing and food. At one point during the evening, students participated in a traditional Greek dance.

Dodd, a senior at Duquesne, led the Greek dinner and spoke about her family customs. She was excited to talk about what being Greek meant to her.

"Sharing my culture is everything, I'm obsessed with being Greek. I love my family's history and culture so it feels so special to share that with the people I love, especially with so many friends tonight," Dodd said.

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

HARLEY VARAVETTE
staff writer

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 hi-

bachi, 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



Sinkers and Suds serves up sweet treats to the student body. HARLEY VARAVETTE | STAFF WRITER



Students line up eagerly as they wait for Nakama's infamous hibachi food. HARLEY VARAVETTE | STAFF WRITER

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 Damm, 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 it 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."

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. It's 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 becoming a senator. As a SAL, students can serve office hours and join committees.

Once they have attended two consecutive meetings and served

four 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 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 the school. Senators can also come from certain aspects of student life, Greek Life and various



KAILEY LOVE | PHOTO EDITOR

The SGA connects students to university administration to solve student concerns

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 of 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 sena-

tor 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.

POLICE BRIEFS

Mon. Sept. 13 - A student was accompanied by a resident director to report an assault that took place between two roommates. Residence Life is separating the roommates. The victim did not want action taken by the police. The perpetrator is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Tues. Sept. 14 - A vehicle was struck on the passenger side bumper while parked on Seitz Street near the Mary Papert School of Music.

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 Editor-in-Chief Colleen Hammond at hammond@duq.edu

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If you're interested, email thedukeduq@gmail.com or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

Student Government Association FY22 Budget

Budget provided by the Student Government Association

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.

Account Title	FY22
Office Supplies	5,500
Xerox/Copying	850
Facilities Mgmt	1,600
SGA Awards	1,500
Loop Bus Apporpriation	32,000
Conference Expense	7,000
Voicemail/Telephone	140
Administrative Expense	700
Night of Lights	4,000
Tabling	400
Study Break	1,500
Marketing	600
Senate Contingency	600 FY21 FY20
TOTAL	56,390

Budgeted Amount 57,604.53 46,464 51,589

Remaining Amount 1,214.53 5,133 1,175

DU football earns historic win over Ohio U

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

Less than 30 years ago, Duquesne was a Division III 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 an 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 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’s opening week, the Dukes entered the matchup with the Bobcats as a 28.5-point underdog.

Saturday’s contest couldn’t have started much worse for Duquesne. The Dukes’ opening kickoff was returned 83 yards by Ohio’s DeMontre 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 Bruzdewicz 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 Wykeen Gill to keep the drive alive. Bruzdewicz 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 on offense,” Schmitt said postgame. “He took it and did a really good job.”

On the first possession following Bruzdewicz’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’Shaan Allison in the end zone and force a safety, cutting the score to 13-8.

Bruzdewicz added his third field goal of the first half with less than a minute left in the second quarter. Despite having three drives stall out in the red zone, the Dukes entered the locker room at halftime trailing just 13-11.

Perhaps this was due — at least in part — to the Dukes’ defense, which kept the Bobcats off the scoreboard in the second and third quarters, allowing a combined total of just 81 yards across the two quarters.

On the Dukes’ opening drive of the third quarter, it seemed as if the offense was again going to fall just short of a six-point score.

On fourth-and-inches, Perrantes bucked the trend. He dove over a line of bodies and into the end zone to give the Dukes their first touchdown of the game (and the season). The score also gave Duquesne an 18-13 lead that it wouldn’t relinquish.

Duquesne was able to stave off the pressure that comes when traveling to an FBS stadium by completely controlling the game. Ohio controlled possession for less than 18 minutes of the game, while Duquesne held the ball for over 41 minutes.

A strong performance by the Duquesne offensive line enabled a running attack led by Garrett Owens and Billy Lucas. While splitting carries, the pair of running backs combined for 159 yards and provided a strong security blanket for an inexperienced quarterback in Perrantes.

“I wouldn’t be here without them [Owens and Lucas],” Perrantes said postgame. “They couldn’t stop us in the trenches.”

Duquesne’s composure was also evidenced by its ability to abstain from taking penalties. The Dukes only lost 42 yards to penalties, while Ohio was flagged 12 times for 112 yards.

A three-yard touchdown catch from Joey Isabella early in the fourth quarter gave Duquesne a 25-13 lead. Bobcats quarterback Kurtis Rourke responded with a two-yard rushing score just four minutes later to bring the score to 25-20.

Bruzdewicz added his fourth field goal of the day with just under three minutes remaining in the game, a 27-yard kick that would ultimately prove to be the game-winner.

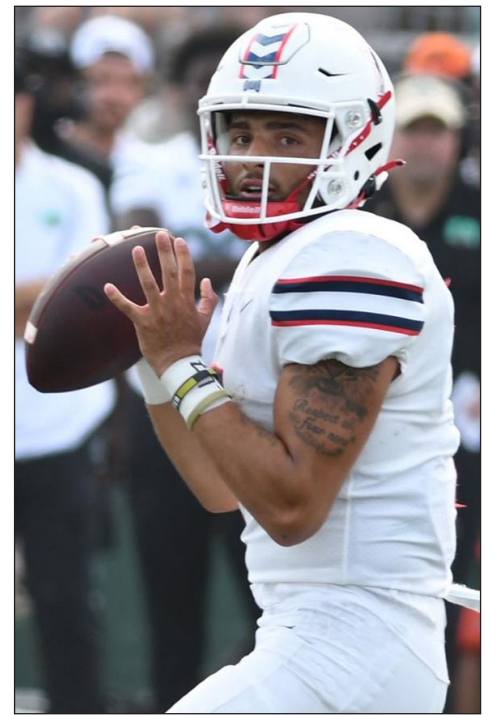
After Ohio’s Ty Walton caught a three-yard touchdown pass from Rourke with nine seconds left on the scoreboard, the Bobcats trailed by two points (28-26) and

only had one option to try to force overtime: attempt a game-tying two-point conversion. Rourke’s attempt was just barely overthrown and fell incomplete.

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.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Darius Perrantes accounted for two touchdowns in Duquesne’s 28-26 win over Ohio on Sept. 11.

Austin leaves DU MBB program after two seasons

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 Vukovcan of Pittsburgh Sports Now. Per Vukovcan, Austin is 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. An illness prevented Austin from playing in a Feb. 16 road contest against Fordham.

Perhaps Austin’s most emotional — and 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.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
After two seasons with the Duquesne men’s basketball program, Maceo Austin — pictured here during a game against La Salle on Feb. 2, 2020, at PPG Paints Arena — recently left the team.

transferred to Kent State and Western Michigan, respectively, during last season.

Chad Baker (San Diego State), Tavian Dunn-Martin (Florida Gulf Coast) and Mar-

cus Weathers (Southern Methodist) have also found new homes since season’s end.

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

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 prob-

ways 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 about more than 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 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.



LUKE HENNE / SPORTS EDITOR

Citi Field - filled to capacity on Sept. 11 - was the backdrop for a game between the New York Yankees and New York Mets. On that night, however, fans gathered to celebrate something bigger than baseball.

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

ably 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 al-



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Baseball icons like pitcher Bob Feller honorably served the United States during World War II.

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 35-33 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. 5) 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 midway point of A-10 action, consecutive road contests against VCU (Feb. 5) and Dayton (Feb. 9) will provide a formidable challenge for Duquesne.

A back-to-back set of games at Rhode Island



LUKE HENNE / SPORTS EDITOR

After playing just two games in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse at the tail end of last season, the Duquesne men's basketball team will play nine conference games in the venue this season, beginning on Jan. 2.

(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

CAPRI & RIO SCARCELLI
a&e editor and staff writer

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 though!"

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 to a vaccination status of 85 per-

cent, the efforts are still being put out to maintain social distancing and uphold the county mandates regarding Covid-19.

“Hopefully the spring semester will be a time of greater normalcy enabling you to fully enjoy the festivities surrounding St. Patrick’s Day on its true day in March,” Frizzell said.

Frizzell wanted to remind the student body that there will be safer alternatives to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade occurring on campus grounds. He sent a list of activities occurring this weekend:

Friday, September 17

- \$2 Grilled Cheese night, 8:30 p.m., Towers Lobby
- Disney Bingo, Union Ballroom at 9 p.m. Come join DPC for a night of Disney-themed (not EPIC) Bingo. We'll have some great prizes, gift cards and more! As this will be a smaller night of bingo, attendance is limited to 300 students. Tickets are available in 305 Union.

Saturday, September 18

- Panera Breakfast, 9 a.m., Vickroy Lobby
- Food Fest & Painting, 11 a.m., Towers MPR
- Summer Send Off, Union Nite Spot, 12-2 p.m. Join the Center for Student Involvement for food,

games, crafts and prizes in the Nite Spot.

- South Side Goat Fest: Saturday, Sept. 18 from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. The event takes place at the South Side Park. For more information and details, please visit the following link: <https://www.goatfest-pgh.com>

Volunteers are needed for the South Side Goat Fest on Saturday, Sept. 18 for the following shifts:

- 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (14 students)
- 12 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (8 students)
- 4-7 p.m. (12 students)

Breakdown Volunteers needed Sept. 20, 9-1 p.m. For information regarding volunteering, please contact pustorinoa@duq.edu

- Popcorn and Pool, 3:00 p.m., Des Places Lobby
- Shakes & Movies, 3:30 p.m., Assumption, 1st Floor Lounge
- Men's Soccer vs. George Washington, Rooney Field, 7:00pm, Cheer on your Duquesne Dukes as they take on the George Washington Colonials.

Sunday, September 19

- Women's Soccer vs. Massachusetts, Rooney Field, 1 p.m., Cheer on your Duquesne Dukes as they take on the University of Massachusetts Minutewomen.

WEEK'S EVENTS

Paint N' Sip Night
Sept. 16 @ 7 p.m.

Go to Towers MPR for canvas-painting, mocktails and more! Presented by Ebony Women: Women for Social Change.

Movie Night
Sept. 16 @ 7 p.m.

Enjoy a cozy movie night in the Africa Room with Disney's *Soul*, free Chick-fil-a and a raffle!

Chicken & Waffles Night!
Sept. 16 @ 9 p.m.

Stop by the NiteSpot for some more free food!

DPC DUNite: Disney Bingo
Sept. 17 @ 9 p.m.

Go to Union 305 to snatch your tickets for this Disney-themed bingo in the ballroom! Gift cards, prizes and more will be available to winners. Attendance limited to 300 students.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Make space

Make space for peace. For days that replace a slow drag with upbeat excitement.

Days where you sit outside just a little bit longer to soak in the last bit of September's warmth.

Days where you'd rather lay in bed, but you get invited to brunch, or a game night, or some adventure in the city you otherwise wouldn't go on.

Make space for happiness and cherish it: even when the workload is hard and the nights are long.

You never know what bit of joy you can find in a day by simply relishing in it a little more.

Make space for your happiness, for it is your health, too.

— Capri Scarcelli

HOROSCOPES

Aquarius

Anonymous commenter apologizes for previous horoscope grammar :(

Pisces

Anyone hit my line on @duquesnemissedconnections?

Aries

Creepy Jesus says hello... ;)

Taurus

When you're 74, will you refer to yourself as "Bingo Babe?"

Gemini

OMG Pisces I'm shy!

Cancer

But do you know how to make an - actual - main character playlist?

Leo

Go on and step! Into the spotlight!

Virgo

Happy birthday Virgo! #virgo

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

What happened to goldfish-fun.com :(

Capricorn

Giving the online pdf to your class but then losing access #fail.

Pittsburgh Irish Festival welcomes day of culture

CAPRI SCARCELLI &
MARY LIZ FLAVIN

a&e editor and news editor

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.

his craft for over forty years, passing his knowledge down to his son. He enjoys sharing his talents with others through the craftsmanship of woodworking.

Malaki Inks, a cook from McCarrick’s, said he has come to the festival with his family for the past five years to set up a booth. Additionally, McCarrick’s has been a part of Pittsburgh’s Irish Festival since the very beginning, according to Inks.

McCarrick’s carries classic Irish cuisine: including shepherd’s pie; a mashed potato dish with ground beef, peas and carrots; Dublin coddle, an alternate mashed potato combo topped with sausage and onions; ham and cabbage; Irish sausage and more.

“Coming down means a lot. 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.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Cushla Srour (left) and Maurine Reich (right) refer to themselves as the Celtic GOATS: Greatest Of All Time.

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 joked 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.

There were smaller tents that provided traditional instruments and styles for visitors who wanted to join along as well, or simply relax to the calming floutists, harp-players and pianists play pieces from their childhood.

Cushla Srour, who performed on a traditional Irish flute and piano, and Maurine Reich, who played the violin, welcomed

guests into their tent with the soft lull of Irish tunes. Together, they have been running the tent 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 by the 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,” Scour 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 they do behind the scenes.

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



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Festival goers were lined up excitedly try the various traditional Irish dishes.

That’s why I do it, people enjoy looking and talking about it. It becomes a center piece of conversation,” Machaux said.

Machaux has been working at

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

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"Success is not
final; failure
is not fatal:
it is the courage
to continue that
counts."

WINSTON CHURCHILL

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

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The harsh reality of "reality" TV



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

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

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 stardom 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 thinks, "I'll never get the bad 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 overtaken 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" has 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 couples off the island. It's fast-paced, drama-filled and raunchy.

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



ZOE STRATOS

opinions editor

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 wellbeing. And I think it's just a matter of time before something really serious happens. And we've already seen things," she said.

According to a 2019 report done by *The Sun*, a British newspaper, since 1986, there have been 38 reality TV star suicides.

And the internet isn't helping, either. Despite the clear mental health struggles of participants, the vitriol of online abuse has yet to cease.

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.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Making the case against conference realignment

Picture a landscape in which schools located in Provo, Utah, and Cincinnati, Ohio annually compete against one another. Doesn't that seem like a logistical and financial nightmare?

You don't have to picture that anymore. It's becoming a reality.

This past weekend, the Big 12 Conference extended its invitation for Brigham Young, Central Florida, Cincinnati and Houston to join the conference in 2023.

The upside? It boils down to financial gain.

Look at the Big Ten Conference's 2014 realignment. They poached two schools (Maryland and Rutgers) surrounded by big television markets (Washington and New York) in order to secure more viewership and, accordingly, more money.

It's a two-way street, however.

In recent memory, Brigham Young has played football as an FBS Independent (they don't belong to a conference and can schedule anyone they choose), while the school's other programs compete in the West Coast Conference.

Why float around as a school without an identity when you could join a bigger conference, secure a television deal and get more eyes on your university?

Schools in the Pittsburgh region have shown that conference realignment is a recipe for inevitable disaster.

As members of the Big East Conference, Pittsburgh and West Virginia competed on an annual basis, creating one of NCAA Division I's fiercest rivalries.

But, when the conference reached its expiration date in 2013, Pittsburgh left for the Atlantic Coast Conference, while West Virginia jumped ship and joined the Big 12 a year earlier.

For Pittsburgh, the results have been lackluster.

The football team has not won more than eight games in a season and is 2-4 in bowl games. The men's basketball program has made the NCAA Tournament just twice, while also suffering a miserable 0-18 conference record during the 2017-18 season.

The average fan doesn't care about a game against current conference companions like Georgia Tech or Wake Forest like they would about a game against a bitter Big East rival like Cincinnati or West Virginia. As a result, attendance at both football and basketball games has suffered.

The newest member of the realignment party in Pittsburgh came at Robert Morris, who joined the Horizon League in 2020 after nearly 40 years spent in the Northeast Conference.

Robert Morris, who had a strong recruiting base in the New York region, now has no solid base to work with. In 2020-21, the Colonials' men's basketball team played to a 4-15 record.

Even Duquesne tested its waters with realignment, joining the Horizon (then known as the Midwestern Collegiate Conference) for one season in 1992-93. After just one season, the Dukes returned to the Atlantic 10 Conference.

On the surface, conference realignment looks great. Schools have the chance to form an identity, get recognition and reap financial benefits.

However, it's imperative to be cautious of the particular consequences. If a school is not, they might just end up mired in annual mediocrity.

Save the political activism for the experts, not celebrities

SARAH DUJORDAN
staff columnist

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 climate that we are in right now almost makes politics inescapable. It is not a bad thing to be informed, but who are the ones 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 uneducated should not be preaching.

TikTok star Charli D'Amelio was under fire this past summer regarding her lack of content stating her political 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 in 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 still campaigned as a candidate. While West only qualified for ballot access in 12 states, he still received 60,000 votes.

The 2020 election was personal for many. It was also a close call when it came to the ballot numbers. Many online joked about how they voted for Kanye, or were going to. Politics are starting to become



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

In the 2020 election, Kanye West received 60,000 votes across 12 states.

a celebrity's playground — and that's the issue.

Celebrities posting a political graphic to their Instagram is one thing, but I am not sure if I want mainstream celebrities deciding on if we should go to war or not.

Personally speaking, we should keep "traditional" politics to those who have dedicated their lives to it, though, still holding them accountable for their wrongdoings and being careful to not turn politicians into celebrities.

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 prize. 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.

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 that someone who is young, healthy and not at risk could experience the virus without any significant symptoms, there is something else to be said about the spread of the virus.

Just because a healthy person can survive the virus does not 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 are put into 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, but 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.

If someone gets a vaccine, they will likely experience soreness, fever, headaches and fatigue for one to two days after receiving it.

The potential symptoms from Covid-19 are worse than any known symptoms of any of the vaccines.

Since the vaccines were emergency approved, there have not been any serious side effects seen on a statistically significant basis that would be cause for concern. Some people may have 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 higher (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 side effects that 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



PAIGE DZWONCHYK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CVS Pharmacy locations across the nation are offering free Covid-19 vaccines.

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 anti-

bodies 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.



GIVE ME A RING

Father-daughter duo develop song-to-text app for smartphone users

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

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 sent 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 some 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.

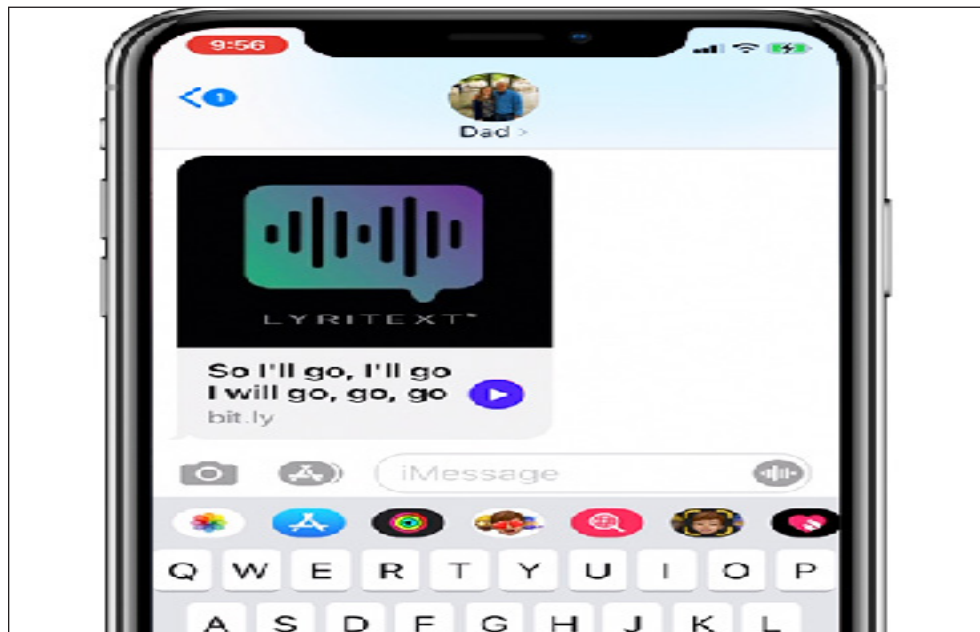
To celebrate the launch of their app, the Gardners are taking their next move to the media as they begin to promote their work.

"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



Duquesne student Addie Gardner, right, stands with her dad, Adam Gardner, left. The pair developed the app Lyritext, which sends song clips as text messages.



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

IMAGES COURTESY OF ADDIE GARDNER AND LYRITEXT

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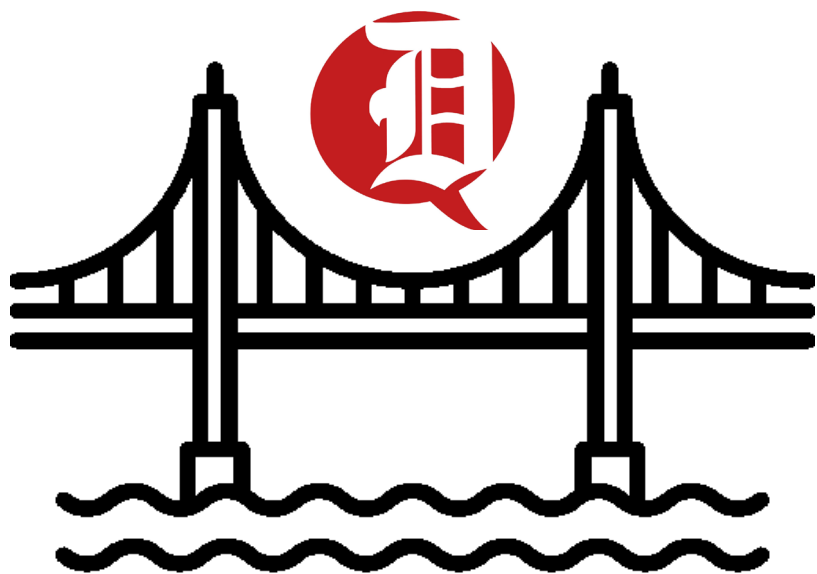
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