Officially launched in Fall 2021, the Bridges Common Learning Experience takes the place of UCOR general education classes. This new general education program will make up a third of a Duquesne student’s undergraduate curriculum.

What is Bridges?

After a three-year revision process, Bridges hopes to provide “a foundation for success post-graduation with skills that are in-demand by employers,” according to its website.

“Through the Bridges Curriculum, Duquesne students build knowledge and skills to become life-long, agile learners, succeed professionally, act ethically and contribute to the common good,” the website said.

According to Darlene Weaver, associate provost of academic affairs, the university worked “very hard” to provide a seamless transition from UCOR to Bridges.

Typically when a bridge opens, drivers and travelers of an area rejoice; and the new Bridges Curriculum launch at Duquesne has some students feeling the same way.

Previously, Duquesne hosted events and “Design Days” inviting students, faculty and staff to outline and explore the new position students, faculty and staff to events and “Design Days” inviting students, faculty and staff to outline and explore the new position

“The idea for the broadcast center has been a dream of President Gormley’s, our Dean Kris Blair and Chair Jim Vota for a long time. I am grateful that President Gormley is committed to our program, it’s quality and national visibility,” Maue said.

Renovation plans began in 2019 for the College Hall TV studio and radio station to bring them up to world class standards where later the plan to build a brand new studio came into being. The renovations of the new facility will be finished sometime in October.

The studio is split into two rooms, the control room and the main room. The control room is located behind the main room and is full of state-of-the-art equipment including a Tricaster, soundboard, 4k monitors, remote controlled cameras and desktop monitors for editing.

The main room will have a glass exterior and house a reporter’s desk, several monitors, teleprompters, an area for guest speakers and interviewees to sit and two mounted ceiling cameras that will be automated by the control room.

Joseph Philippi, chief studio engineer student for Duquesne Student Television (DSTV) and Duquesne Student Radio (DSR), is excited about the types of technology that will be included in the broadcast center.

“It is completely state of the art, some of the highest technologies in the world that you can get right now. We have a tricaster, but what’s amazing about this one is we are one of the select few in the entire world that has access to a tricaster like this,” Philippi said.

Only a few TV stations and sports stadiums have access to this specific model, according to Philippi.

The Tricaster is a TV studio in a computer designed and built by Newtek. It holds various command that help operate the technology in the studio with the press of a button.

“The studio is meant to mimic professional studios that students will be utilizing in the real world.

Another interesting feature is that the center will be completely Zoom compatible. Students can have a call halfway across the world and channel it directly to the studio with no post-production needed.

One of the aspirations of the broadcast studio is for students in all the clubs around campus to be interviewed and talk about their club. This studio was designed not only for the purpose of getting important messages broadcast such as a statement from the President, but it is also for students to share their interests and experiences with one another.

Maue and Philippi hope to eventually implement a segment where once a month students from an organization on campus share their experiences and talk about what they are a part of. Students will be able to sign up when they would like to be featured in the studio.

Kyle Stiver, a sophomore arts in music major, can’t wait to participate in the new broadcast center. He hopes to get involved and create his own radio show.

“I will for sure be getting my hands into some projects involving reporting behind the desk and also be involved with the radio this year. I hope to
Students get real experience with new studio

The control room is located behind the main room and is full of state-of-the-art equipment including a Tricaster, soundboard, 4k monitors, remote controlled cameras and desktop monitors for editing.

see STUDIO — page 1

be able to interview amazing people and artists and get a sense of where I want to be as I am working on my own career as an artist,” Stiver said.

Students like Stiver will be able to pursue projects with the help of the studio. They will be learning vital skills that are relevant in the industry today.

According to Maue, another way students can get involved is through the new Content Creation Practicum that focuses on students learning the facility, the technology, and the skills required to tell a compelling story through digital media.

Students can always learn more by joining DSTV and DSR. Located at the bottom of College Hall, on the first floor, students can visit the Duquesne media studio and radio studio where they can learn about the inner workings of media technology and apply it to jobs that will be offered in the new broadcast center.

Contact Joseph Phillippi for a tech seminar. Office hours are 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday.
Duquesne Bridges courses bridges the gap in learning

see BRIDGES — page 1

abilities the Bridges courses could reach. This “degree of collabora-
tion and collegiality throughout the process” – which involved hun-
dreds of students, faculty, and staff – and “the exciting new courses fac-
ulty are developing” is the high-
light of the Bridges curriculum so far, Weaver said.

According to its website, the Bridges curriculum includes four inte-
grated components: On-Ramp (which occurred in July), Founda-
tions, Structures and Pathways.

Foundations courses include Information Literacy, First Year Writing, Essential Questions and Introduction to Ethical Reasoning.

Structures include six competen-
cies: Communication and Creative Expression, Quantitative and Sci-
entific Reasoning, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Ethical Reasoning and Moral Responsi-
bility, Social and Historical Rea-
sioning and Cultural Fluency and Responsiveness Mission and Heri-
tage Writing Enrichment. Students must take one class in each of the
competencies.

Structures also include “Catholic Intellectual Tradition” – a theology and philosophy course – and “writing
enrichment” – three “W,” writ-
ing-focused courses, at least one in a student’s major.

Pathways courses include an Ex-
periential Learning Opportunity and a Capstone Experience.

‘Better than UCOR’

Weaver said that there have been “no challenges” with the imple-
mation of Bridges this semester.

Implementing a new curricu-
lum is a complex undertaking be-
cause it impacts every single un-
dergraduate degree, but the high
degree of collaboration and the
wide range of participation in the
process allowed us to make the transition as smooth as possible,” she
said. “We’ll continue to moni-
tor the implementation so we can
respond promptly if issues arise.”

Compared to its predecessor, Weaver said that the new program
emphasizes skills that employers
seek, provides students in many programs with more flexibility in
choosing courses, integrates expe-
riential learning opportunities and
is friendly to transfer credits.

By design, Bridges compe-
tency courses are “broader” than
UCOR Theme Areas, according to
Duquesne’s website. Any Theme
Area courses a student might have
already taken – Creative Arts, Faith
and Reason, Global Diversity and
Social Justice requirements – will
count toward Bridges.

For current students, prior coursework will count toward
Bridges requirements. Current stu-
dents need not take the Essential Questions seminar or Intro to Ethi-
cal Reasoning, and students who
duentered Duquesne in Fall 2020
will complete the Experimental Learn-
ing and Capstone requirements.

Students who entered prior to Fall
2020 will not be required to com-
te those requirements through
Bridges.

“We worked very hard on the
transition so that students who en-
tered Duquesne under the UCOR
would only benefit from the tran-
sition to Bridges,” Weaver said.

Students respond

“I’ve heard positive things from
faculty and students, especially
regarding the new Essential Ques-
tions seminars that many first year
students are taking,” Weaver said.

“Faculty are doing such creative
work in those classes. Students
are pleased on how Bridges cre-
ates space to explore additional
credentials like minors and second
majors.”

Freshman business student Ash-
lyn Lavelle said that for so far in
the semester, she has no complaints
about the new curriculum. The Bridges courses she is currently
taking are Intro to Ethical Reason-
ing and Research and Information
Skills.

“So far, I really enjoy both of
these classes,” Lavelle said. “Ethi-
cal Reasoning gives me a little bit
of a break to my schedule since it is
slightly unrelated to my major, and
Research and Information Skills
has covered some of my other
classes where I’ve needed to do
research for projects.”

She said that both of those class
es will benefit her education.

Freshman Ella Erickson echoed
those sentiments, noting that her
two Bridges courses this semester,
Research and Information Skills
and Writing and Analysis, are
teaching her information she will
need to be satisfied with her
double major in international busi-
ness and marketing.

“She had taught me important
skills that will be able to be applied to future
courses,” Elliott said. “With Writ-
ing & Analysis, I feel as though I’m
constructing good notating skills
as well as how to properly format
essays. With Research & Informa-
tion Skills, I’m learning how to find
good, credible sources with specific
information that can be applied to
a problem topic and how to differ-
entiate between quality and poor
sources.”

However, Elliott did note that
the courses are not challenging him
as much as he’d like.

“That extra push may make these
classes even more meaningful
for students because it would help
them adjust to the rigor of a
college course even better,” Elliott
said. “Overall, I am satisfied with
the current Bridges curriculum, however I feel there are still some
issues that are to be resolved.”

Lending a green thumb to our neighbors in Uptown

KELLEN STAPLER
features editor

While most Duquesne stu-
dents were sleeping in Satu-
rday morning, or partying at
the fall downtown St. Patrick’s
Day parade and students in
Duquesne’s Evergreen Club
were picking up trash and oth-
er litter around town.

Working in tandem with Am-
ply Church in Pittsburgh’s Up-
town neighborhood, four stu-
dents in Duquesne’s Evergreen
Club attended the trash clean-up
event Saturday morning at the
church. According to Evergreen
Club president Tess Aumuller,
the students were directed to a
location where no one was
cleaning yet, and they began to
pick up trash in that area.

“There was a designated place
to put our trash when the bag
was full and we could start a new
bag,” Aumuller said.

The group worked for about
two hours. Saturday happened
to be the city of Pittsburgh’s
“Garbage Olympics” event – a
city-wide affair where neigh-
borhoods compete to pick up
the most trash and litter off of
Pittsburgh’s streets.

“It was good to be out in the
community again and cleaning
it little by little,” Evergreen Club
member Emmala Le said. “It was
a very sunny and hot morning,
but it was still a good time.”

Both Le and Aumuller said that
clear-up” in the local commu-
nity, like Saturday’s event, have
been an important aspect of
the club – and that it’s great to be
back now that Covid-19 restric-
tions are slightly lifted.

“I enjoyed getting out of our
‘Duquesne Bubble’ and inter-
acting with the community like
we did before Covid because it is
such a beneficial and interes-
ting thing to be a part of,”
Aumuller said.

One of the things Le said she
learned was that cigarette fil-
ters are the number one plastic
pollutant in the United States,
as the group saw and picked
many of them up that morning.

“I enjoyed being outside and
walking around Uptown to pick
up trash with the Evergreen
club,” Le said. “The most diffi-
cult thing was probably know-
ing that we couldn’t pick up ev-
ery little piece of trash on the
streets and sidewalks.”

Aumuller said that the group
has more cleanups orga-
nized in the future. They
also plan to host their two
major events, Waste is Wack
and a Spring Cleanup, in the
spring semester.

“Evergreen is always welcom-
ing new and old members, our
goal is to host more events than
meetings and we would love for
students to help us decide what
card of events we should cre-
ate,” Le said.

Duquesne junior Emmala Le, pictured above, picks up trash in Pittsburgh’s Uptown neighborhood Saturday morning. Le is a member of Duquesne’s Evergreen Club, which participated in a Community Clean Up Day Saturday, September 18.

“Through the Bridges Curriculum, Duquesne students build knowledge and skills to become life-long, agile learners and suc-
cceed professionally,” Duquesne’s website said.

Paige Downesby | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
**DU women’s soccer falls in A-10 opener**

**Brentaro Yamane**
staff writer

The Duquesne women’s soccer team fell in overtime against Massachusetts, 2-1, Sunday afternoon at Rooney Field, suffering a heartbreaking defeat to the Minutewomen in what was each team’s Atlantic 10 Conference opener.

Just over nine minutes into the overtime period, Massachusetts’ Mia Carazza had possession of the ball on the right side of the field, close to the net. She passed the ball toward the center of the goal in hopes that one of her teammates would receive the pass. Duquesne’s Karley Steiner was there to interfere and head the pass attempt. Instead of the header going out of bounds, it went high in the air and behind Duquesne goalkeeper Megan Virgin into the net, helping Massachusetts secure the victory.

After losing their first two games of the season on the road against Penn State and Boston College, the Minutewomen have proceeded to either win or draw seven consecutive games.

The Dukes led at halftime, 1-0, after Emma Bundy scored her team-leading fourth goal of the season in the game’s third minute. The Dukes were able to preserve that lead for the duration of the first half.

Massachusetts got more second-half chances, outshooting Duquesne by an 8-5 mark in the second frame. While they were getting more chances to shoot the ball, they were also playing undisciplined. The Minutewomen committed eight fouls, compared to just two fouls committed by the Dukes.

At the start of the second half, Massachusetts’ Chandler Pedolzky was able to split in between Duquesne’s Bailey Farbaugh and Mackenzie Leeder to track down a long pass from teammate Karina Groff. As Pedolzky gained possession of the ball and ran toward the net, Virgin dove in front of her to try to make the save, but Pedolzky was able to get around Virgin and shoot the ball into the empty net, evening the score in the game’s 50th minute.

The goal was Pedolzky’s fourth of the season. She played a season-high 94 minutes in the win. There was no scoring for the rest of the second half, which ultimately forced the game into overtime. Shortly after, Duquesne’s self-inflicted error led directly to a Minute- women victory.

For Massachusetts, the magic number against Duquesne seems to be two. During their current four-game winning streak against the Dukes, the Minutewomen have scored two goals in each victory.

Duquesne is now just 5-16-1 all-time against Massachusetts, having not defeated the Minutewomen since Oct. 22, 2015.

The Dukes will have a chance to respond and secure their first A-10 victory of the season when they take on Saint Louis this Thursday, Sept. 23, at Rooney Field.

In three meetings with Saint Louis during the spring campaign, the Dukes went winless, being outscored by the Billikens by a combined tally of 7-0.

Duquesne has not defeated Saint Louis since Sept. 24, 2017, having dropped five consecutive matchups against the Billikens.

After the meeting with Saint Louis, the road doesn’t get any easier for Duquesne. Following Thursday’s home game, the Dukes are scheduled to play three of their next four games away from the confines of Rooney Field.

**DU volleyball splits final pair of non-conference games**

**Luke Henne**
sports editor

In what was its final non-conference tune-up before diving into Atlantic 10 Conference competition, the Duquesne women’s volleyball team went 1-1 during its trip to Kent, Ohio, for the Kent State Invitational this past weekend.

On Friday, the Dukes were defeated by Youngstown State in four sets, as the Penguins averaged their Aug. 27 loss to Duquesne in an emphatic manner. In its three winning sets, Youngstown State outscored Duquesne by marks of 25-20, 25-17 and 25-14.

The win was the Penguins’ first over the Dukes since they beat Duquesne in three sets at the A.J. Palumbo Center on Sept. 1, 2018.

For the Dukes, Morgan Kelly recorded 17 kills and seven digs, while Summer Slade posted nine kills and 10 digs. Camille Spencer also accounted for 19 of the team’s 38 digs.

After what was the team’s third consecutive loss, Duquesne was desperate for a victory on Saturday in a true road match against Kent State.

After falling behind 2-1 through three sets, the Dukes responded with a 25-21 fourth-set victory to force a final set. The Dukes claimed the final frame by a mark of 16-14, securing their first victory over the Golden Flashes since Sept. 17, 2010.

Hailey Poling posted 30 assists and 18 digs in the win. Poling was one of three Dukes to post 13-plus digs. Slade and Kelly each recorded 14 kills in the victory.

After a non-conference slate in which Duquesne went 5-6, the Dukes will begin to shift their focus to the A-10 portion of their schedule.

This coming weekend, a two-game trip will set the tone for Duquesne’s conference slate of games.

The Dukes will play on back-to-back days at George Mason (Sept. 24) and George Washington (Sept. 25).

Since George Mason’s entrance into the A-10 prior to the 2013 campaign, the Dukes have won eight of their 10 meetings with the Patriots, including a season sweep in 2019.

On the other hand, George Washington has been able to cause more problems for Duquesne. The Colonials have won three of their last four matches against the Dukes, including two three-set victories in 2019.

During the spring campaign, Duquesne did not play either opponent, as the conference was split into two geographical pods.

Duquesne’s pod consisted of Davidson, Dayton, Saint Louis, VCU and itself.

Following the road contests on consecutive days, the Dukes will be the beneficiaries of a home-heavy schedule.

After returning from the two-game trip, the Dukes are scheduled to play six of their next seven contests at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.
**DU men’s soccer defeats GW, falls at MSU**

The Duquesne men’s soccer team was able to break even during this past week’s pair of games against George Washington and Michigan State.

The Dukes opened Atlantic 10 Conference action with a 3-1 victory over the Colonials Saturday evening. On Tuesday night, the Dukes fell to the Spartans, 1-0, in a non-conference contest.

Duquesne’s performance in the first 20 minutes of Saturday’s game was less than ideal, leaving Head Coach Chase Brooks little to be satisfied with.

The team opened in a 4-4-2 formation, with forward Maxi Hopfer and midfielder Logan Muck playing up top for the majority of the night. The defenders and midfielders seemed disconnected from their two strikers, and they failed to move the ball out of their own end as a result.

The Colonials threatened offensively for minutes on end. The ice finally broke in the 15th minute, when George Washington midfielder Demi Amigun collected a loose ball and shot it beyond the outstretched gloves of Duquesne goalkeeper Domenic Nascimbeni and into the back of the net. After 20 minutes, George Washington had posted four shots and been awarded three corner kicks. In the same time frame, Duquesne had one shot and no corners.

Around that point, the Dukes woke up and immediately began to hit their stride. The back line was able to move the ball up field to the midfielders, who would relay passes to the pair of scoring threats in Muck and Hopfer.

In the 33rd minute, Hopfer went on a 40-yard dash down the left side, beating defenders and defenders and closing in before his angle ran out and his shot on goal was saved.

However, the Dukes kept up the pressure and put a shot on the crossbar before Muck collected a rebound and worked it around Colonials goalkeeper Justin Grady to bring the score to 2-1.

The second half brought similar success for the Dukes. What looked like Hail Mary passes in the first half became an effective strategy, forcing the Colonials to backpedal as the attacking Dukes collected the ball and charged toward the net.

In the game’s 49th minute, Duquesne worked some nifty passes around the George Washington box before a loose ball found the right foot of midfielder Ryan Goodhew. He launched a powerful shot that nestled into the net’s top right corner and gave the Dukes a 2-1 lead — a lead they wouldn’t surrender.

While they didn’t dominate in time of possession, the Dukes made much better use of their opportunities. Duquesne was able to put seven shots on goal, compared to just three by George Washington.

Forward Zach Mowka added an insurance marker in the 71st minute. The Dukes were able to stave off any final attack from the Colonials and hold on for a two-goal victory.

In Tuesday evening’s road loss at Michigan State, Duquesne was not able to generate much offensively. Despite putting up a tough fight against a Big Ten Conference opponent, the Spartans were ready for battle.

In the 16th minute, Michigan State forward Faraa Mutatuu approached the six-yard box and headed home a direct kick for what would turn out to be the game’s only goal.

From that point on, the Dukes were able to keep pace offensively with the Spartans. Both teams finished the night with three shots on goal.

When their backs were against the wall, the Dukes kept their offense alive, recording four shots in the final 10 minutes.

However, none of their attacks were creating the same level of danger as they had in the victory over George Washington. The quick-strike transitions struggled to beat a more formidable defense, and their effects were largely mitigated.

In addition to the meeting with Michigan State, Duquesne’s gauntlet of a non-conference schedule also provided challenges against power-conference programs like Pittsburgh and Kentucky.

With the exception of a home non-conference contest against Wright State on Oct. 26, the Dukes’ remaining schedule consists entirely of A-10 opponents.

With one conference victory already secured, Duquesne will return to A-10 competition this coming Saturday when it welcomes La Salle to Rooney Field.

The Dukes have won three of their last four matchups against the Explorers.

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**College Football AP Top 25 Poll — Week 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Prev. Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>This Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. Southern Miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 at Vanderbilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. Colorado State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Penn State</td>
<td>11-0</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. Villanova</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7.   | Texas A&M    | 7-0           | W3     | 9/25 vs. 16 Arkansas*
| 8.   | Cincinnati   | 8-3           | W2     | 9-0 |
| 9.   | Clemson      | 6-1           | W2     | 9/25 at NC State |
| 10.  | Ohio State   | 8-2           | W1     | 9/25 vs. Akron |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Prev. Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
<th>This Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>11-2</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>9/25 vs. Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>12-3</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. 48 Wisconsin*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
<td>17-3</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>BYU</td>
<td>23-3</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>9/25 vs. South Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16.  | Arkansas       | 26-3          | W3     | 9/25 vs. 7 Texas A&M*
| 17.  | Coastal Carolina | 23-3     | W3     | 9/25 vs. Massachusetts |
| 18.  | Wisconsin      | 28-4          | W2     | 9/19 vs. 14 Notre Dame* |

**Rankings**

1. Alabama
2. Georgia
3. Oklahoma
4. Iowa
5. Penn State
6. Texas A&M
7. Cincinnati
8. Clemson
9. Ohio State
10. Florida

**Streaks**

- W3: Winning 3 consecutive games
- L1: Losing 1 game

**Conference Games**

- Alabama vs. Southern Miss
- Georgia vs. Vanderbilt
- Oklahoma vs. West Virginia
- Iowa vs. Colorado State
- Penn State vs. Villanova
- Texas A&M vs. Arkansas*
- Cincinnati vs. 9-0
- Clemson vs. NC State
- Ohio State vs. Akron
- Florida vs. Tennessee
- Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin*
- Ole Miss vs. 9-0
- Iowa State vs. Baylor
- BYU vs. South Florida
- Arkansas vs. 7 Texas A&M*
- Coastal Carolina vs. Massachusetts
- Wisconsin vs. 14 Notre Dame*
- Michigan vs. Rutgers
- Michigan State vs. Nebraska

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*Neutral Site Games*

- Texas A&M and Arkansas will play at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.
- Notre Dame and Wisconsin will play at Soldier Field in Chicago.
- North Carolina and Georgia Tech will play at Mercedez-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.
Dear Harris Theater, welcome back to the silver screen

Colleen Hammond
editor-in-chief

After shutting its doors for nearly a year and a half, the Harris Theater is finally welcoming movie-goers back to the silver screen starting Sept. 23.

Originally opened in 1905, the Harris Theater has been a long-time staple in the Pittsburgh cinema scene. While it held a brief stint as a pornographic movie theater in the 1960s, it was eventually converted into an “art cinema” house, frequently featuring indie and off-beat films many deemed too artistic for the mainstream.

Currently, the space is owned and operated by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

“The definitive cinema of choice for filmmakers and film lovers alike, the historic Harris Theater is an intimate, single-screen theater dedicated to the art of independent film,” said Rebecca Hansborough, digital engagement and communications manager for the Cultural Trust.

In line with the rest of the Cultural Trust, the Harris Theater is just one of several venues across the city ready to welcome back guests.

To kick off their re-opening, the Harris will be hosting screenings of the new musical film Dear Evan Hansen from Sept. 23 through Oct. 14. There will be one showing at 8 p.m. every Monday through Thursday, as well as two shows at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Friday through Sunday.

“Dear Evan Hansen is the breathtaking, generation-defining Broadway phenomenon that now becomes a soaring cinematic event as Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award winner Ben Platt reprises his role as an anxious, isolated high schooler aching for understanding and belonging amid the chaos and cruelty of the social-media age,” Hansborough said.

The Harris will be abiding by the Cultural Trust’s Covid-19 protocols and guidelines.

As such, “All individuals entering a Cultural District venue must be vaccinated with exceptions for children under the age of 12 and people with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination. Guests who fall into one of these exception categories must provide proof of a negative Covid-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time, or a negative Covid-19 antigen test taken within 24 hours of the performance start time,” the Cultural Trust’s official guidelines state.

In addition, guests will be required to wear masks throughout their visit — with the exception of when they are eating.

Concessions are available, and the theater now operates as a BYOB venue, according to Hansborough.

Tickets are available on the Cultural Trust’s website for $11 per person.

“We are excited for the return of programming at the Harris and for our patrons to see the exciting renovations we have made to the historic space,” said Joseph Morrison, Harris Theater venue manager. “What better way to welcome back theater goers than with this film!”
In a sea of fans jumping and moshing — sharing sweat for the first time since the pandemic started — Patent Pending finished their opening song, chanting “the roof is on fire.” Joe Ragosta looked out at the crowd with tears in his eyes: “To be here, to see this and to feel this.”

The lead singer shook his head, choked up, as the crowd cheered him on.

On Friday afternoon at Washington Wild Things Park, the Four Chord Music Festival returned for its 7th iteration after being postponed two times — once in 2020 and again earlier in the summer of 2021 because of Covid-19.

After all this time, fans, artists and vendors filled the stadium to celebrate Pittsburgh’s punk rock, alternative and emo scene.

With two stages, fittingly named the Revival stage and the Born Dead stage, the festival had performances by a large variety of artists, including Rise Against and The Used as headliners.

The venues also had performances by State Champs, Mayday Parade, The Menzingers — and Pittsburgh based bands — Eternal Boy and Look Out Loretta, among many others on both stages.

The venue also was an upgrade from the previous 6th iteration of the festival, moving from Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh out to the Wild Things Park in Washington.

The larger field size allowed for more space for the merchandise booths and food stands that were available. The stadium was also operating its regular concession stands during the event.

Fans crowded the back of the stadium to grab a bite and quench their thirst in the 80+ degree heat.

But none of the show was possible without the help of Eternal Boy’s frontman, Rishi Bahl, a Pittsburgh native and Duquesne graduate.

Starting as a passion project in 2014 to merge the local scene with the national scene, Bahl, 35, was aiming to give a bigger stage for bands often passed up when tours came through Pittsburgh.

With Warped Tour coming to a close — and a finite number of festivals in the scene to begin with — Four Chord became a staple.

“The cool thing about Four Chord is that it’s not like Lollapalooza in the sense where there’s not 100,000 people at the festival and there’s never going to be. It’s going to be a 10,000 person festival where you can still see and touch and feel — I mean metaphorically — bands,” Bahl said. “It’s been able to grow, but it’s also been able to stay in the same kind of attainable realm that people will want to see in club shows.”

Since its origin, bands like Patent Pending, Look Out Loretta and Keep Flying — all Bahl self-proclaims as his close friends — play at the festival, which originally was located in the Strip District. But it all starts now with the headline.

Originally, the Four Chord festival secured Blink-182 as the main event until their bassist, Mark Hoppus, announced his battle with cancer.

Being that Bahl’s ultimate goal was to score a Blink-182 headline, he was devastated but understood that Hoppus’s situation was much more important.

“I was contemplating just scrapping the show and giving everybody a refund. I was saying ‘there’s too much going on, there’s no way that this can be a success now.’ And then I had a conversation with one of the agents from one of the other bands who I’ve got a good relationship with and he was like ‘yo obviously it sucks about Blink but there are other options,’” Bahl said.

Soon enough — with a few date changes — Bahl was able to get in contact with Rise Against to perform as the headliner in between dates for their Nowhere Generation tour, and the festival ended up being a huge success.

And as Ragosta began the last song of Patent Pending’s set, the crowd joined in singing the anthem “Punk Rock Songs,” leaving their souls on stage for the love of the scene.

“You see that sense of community, and that is what Four Chord means to me. It’s all about community. It’s all about keeping something that is sacred like our music scene in the forefront of people’s minds, even if it is for one 12 hour day,” Bahl said.

Zoe Stratos & Jacob Yanosick

opinions editor & staff writer

Four Chord Festival goes 'wild' in Washington for its 7th year

Fans crowd surf during State Champs at Four Chord Music Festival in Washington, PA.

Derek Sanders, frontman of Mayday Parade, sings on the Revival stage.

Derek Sanders, frontman of Mayday Parade, sings on the Revival stage.

Tim McIlrath, frontman of Rise Against, sings on the Revival stage as the headliner for Four Chord Festival.

Jacob Yanosick | A&E Staff Writer

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Teaching Critical Race Theory to our youth

A high school social studies classroom touts the successes of our nation: On the walls are paintings of George Washington and all of the presidents who came thereafter, an American flag flying high in the corner and copies of the preamble to the Constitution reading our unalienable rights as U.S. citizens: “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

But what these classrooms, now more than ever, are failing to include are the tragedies of our nation. Our mistakes as a country, our failings in the war of justice, are emblazoned on the walls of the classroom.

As young K-12 students, we all learned of the successes of abolition and the Civil War, and later of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement. But how many schools left out the Birmingham Church Bombing, the murder of Emmett Till?

Many even leave out ways to combat the horrors of our history, and the current events and causations for the origins of Critical Race Theory (CRT) — even spawning legislation in eight states that prohibits the teaching of CRT.

The most recent came earlier this month, as Texas lawmakers passed a bill Sept. 1 that limits teaching racism and sexism in the context of lessons. Other states include Idaho, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, Arizona and South Carolina.

Even schools in the Pittsburgh region have been taking action against teaching CRT in the classroom.

But the biggest issue is that many people have taken the meaning of CRT to extremes, without even knowing its purpose in the first place.

Opponents fear that CRT blames all white people for being oppressors, while classifying all Black people as oppressed victims. However, these are exaggerations of the theoretical framework. CRT doesn’t attribute racism to white people as individuals or even to the entire group of people — or any other racial group for that matter. In layman’s terms, Critical Race Theory states that U.S. social institutions — for example: the criminal justice system, education system and healthcare system — are emblems of racism.

That’s what the classrooms, now more than ever, are failing to include are the tragedies of our nation. Our mistakes as a country, our failings in the war of justice, are emblazoned on the walls of the classroom.

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of The Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of The Duke, but rather the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

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Teaching Critical Race Theory to our youth

With the simple tap of a phone, it’s never been easier to order groceries, find a carpool, adopt a pet, or find an apartment, browse for new cars, buy a new wardrobe — or even develop a serious gambling addiction.

With sites like FanDuel and DraftKings, nearly anyone can quickly and easily place monetary bets on a wide range of sports, now including new and innovative forms of online sports betting. Advertisers for these companies claim that “anyone can win” and “play free for millions.”

While these offers sound incredibly enticing, the unvarnished accessibility of these apps, coupled with their intentionally addictive design has opened up a slew of problems for users.

In 2018, the Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, a piece of legislation that was designed to grant federal regulation over online sports betting. Now, as a result, each individual state has crafted its own version of sports betting and how it fits into the world of high-stakes, legal gambling. In Pennsylvania, online sports betting is perfectly legal.

Long story short: Sports betting is addictive. Studies have shown it can have the same devastating effects on a person’s livelihood.

In a 2015 investigation conducted by McKinsey & Co., the risk to reward ratio for daily fantasy sports (DFS) in one MLB season was analyzed. The most notable findings included a staggering statistic quickly disproving the “anyone can win” mantra.

“In the first half of the 2015 MLB season, 0.1% of DFS player profits were won by just 1.5% of players.”

Although these numbers show that only the top 1% of players can realistically win, the emphasis in advertising the thrill of winning easily hooks users, with many often not realizing the actual, real money they have spent betting.

In the same way that casino chips can disassociate players from how much money they are gambling with, sports betting apps use numbers, graphics and icons to separate the user from the notion that they are spending their actual, real money.

On top of this, the American Psychiatric Association says that youth gambling rates are on the rise with 10-15% of young people (ages 14-21) having significant gambling problems. Experts also say this estimate is likely too low since many young people feel they can’t ask for help when a gambling problem spirals out of control.

The pervasiveness and intuitive design of fantasy and other sports betting apps have made it easier than ever for young people to become gambling, raising the chances they will become addicted.

With the deck clearly stacked against users, it’s best to cut the losses and step away from online sports betting.
OPINIONS

Missing from the conversation: More than Gabby

COLLEEN HAMMOND
editor-in-chief

Her warm smile touched the hearts of thousands as her blonde hair and sparkling blue eyes flashed across news screens around the country. The final days of Gabby Petito as she traversed across Wyoming with her fiance Brian Laundrie have been the subject of social media craze and dozens of candlelight vigils. This week, when Petito’s body was found in a camping area of Grand Teton National Park, a national sense of mourning and outrage simmered. As is often the case with crimes like this, water-cooler talk shifts to that of tragedy and the horrors of seeing a woman — so young and full of life — suddenly stripped of her future.

There is a general feeling of sadness and fear, leaving many questioning. “How could this happen? How could this have been prevented?”

And while the conversations around domestic violence, police intervention and the looming threat of harassment and abuse thoroughly of women face everyday are incredibly necessary and valuable, they only seem to come up when a white woman is the victim.

According to a survey done in January by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center at the University of Wyoming, 105 Indigenous people were the victims of homicide between 2000 and 2020. Even though Indigenous people make up only 3% of Wyoming’s population, they account for 21% of all homicide victims.

This same report showed that the homicide rate for Indigenous people was 26.8 per 100,000 — eight times higher than that of white people in the state.

This disparity is mirrored by the level of media coverage given to the crimes. Only 30% of Indigenous homicide victims in Wyoming received any newspaper coverage, according to the study, as compared to 51% of white homicide victims. In further findings, this comprehensive study also showed that Indigenous victims were more likely to be described with negative words if they were given any coverage.

A victim is a victim — regardless of their skin color, social status, occupation, race, sexuality or ethnicity. No person deserves to have their life taken from them, and to cast Indigenous victims in a negative light suggests that they caused their own violent deaths.

The name Gabby Petito has been echoed across the nation this week, mostly in messages of support and outcry at the slow wheels of justice in this case. While this reaction is positive — as people should be outraged by this crime — the societal upset cannot only rear its head when the victim is white.

This country is facing an epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous people, and legislators need to step up to defend the native inhabitants of this country.

The struggles of Indigenous and other minority communities need to be recognized and specially catered to with protective legislation such as Savanna’s Act, an expansive law passed in October that provides law enforcement with special training in working with Indigenous communities.

It will also “develop regionally appropriate guidelines for response to cases of missing or murdered Native Americans” — but only if it is enforced. The widespread terror of missing and murdered Indigenous people need to be a priority for law enforcement as this legislation is rolled out nationally.

The anger and heartache felt through the death of Gabby Petito cannot end with the images of her smiling face on programs like Dateline and a slew of true crime podcasts. With this horrific act of unspeakable violence, the spotlight must be widened to show the true impact of murder on all communities across the country.

As we mourn the loss of a young, full life taken too soon, let us light a candle for all of those forgotten before her.

Tech to trash: The wastefulness of new technology

ANDREW CUMMINGS
multimedia editor

When the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X released in November 2020, gamers were excited to get their hands on the new consoles. However, due to a global computer microchip shortage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, these new consoles have been very difficult to purchase.

I know people that have spent hours in online queues trying to order a new console, only to be notified that the website is sold out.

The race to buy the new gaming consoles brings up a bigger question — one that goes beyond gaming and questions an overall trend in technology culture — why is there always such a high consumer demand for new tech products?

Every time a new tech product releases, it seems like people are quick to purchase it. Look at the iPhone 12, which launched in October 2020. According to Counterpoint Research, by the end of June 2021, the iPhone 12 sold over 100 million units.

On the first day of pre-orders, the iPhone 12 sold twice as many units as the iPhone 11 when it launched, as reported by the United Press International.

On The Verge’s website, they reported that the PlayStation 5 has sold over 10 million units as of July 2021, which makes it the fastest-selling Sony console.

Both of the examples listed so far lack what I would consider to be any significant upgrades or differences from their predecessors.

Some of the main differences between the iPhone 12 and the iPhone 11 are an improved camera and an improved battery, as well as adding 5G cellular connectivity. This is a far cry from the iPhone 6, which increased the four inch screen size of the iPhone 5 to 4.7 inches, or the 5.5 inch “Plus” model. Nonetheless, new iPhones sell millions of units every year.

Compared to the PlayStation 4, some of the new PlayStation 5 features include faster loading times, the ability to play games at a 4K resolution and adaptive triggers on the controller.

All of these features are cool, but why should someone spend $400 to $500 on a new console if their PlayStation 4 still works well? PlayStation advocates would likely say to play the new games, but very few have been released so far. And, if people wait to buy the PlayStation 5, it will likely come down in price.

iPhones and PlayStations are two popular examples of new tech products, but they speak to a larger idea of people always wanting the latest technology, regardless of how well their current devices function.

Companies like Apple have been accused of practicing planned obsolescence, which is a policy of artificially shortening a product’s lifespan so that consumers will buy the next product sooner.

For iPhones, this means slowing down performance on older models. Apple’s rationale is that older batteries do not work efficiently with newer software. This practice might partially explain the fast turn-over rates for these devices.

It is important to think about what happens to old technology when it is replaced. With electronic devices, there is an estimated 50 tons of e-waste created around the world. Half of it consisted of devices like smartphones, according to The Guardian. This is a lot of waste that is being generated entirely by technology.

Whether it be because of planned obsolescence or simply wanting faster and more efficient technology, this trend of making powerful and expensive consumer devices that are destined to become obsolete within a few years of their release is wasteful.

People should carefully consider if they actually need new technology, or if they are just buying it because it is the popular thing to do.
WANTED: Dead or Alive

Ecology club competes in spotted lanternfly roundup

Remembering the stink bug invasion that began in 2011 in North America is easy to do when it comes to how quickly the invasive species spread in the country. As of right now, a similar spread is happening with an invasive species known as the spotted lanternfly around the eastern coast of the United States.

The spotted lanternfly was first spotted in Pennsylvania was in Berks County in 2014. For faculty advisor of the Duquesne Ecology Club Brady Porter, it was no surprise that the insects would be making the spread that they are today, so much so that the lanternfly has made its way to campus as of Sept. 14.

"It has been on my radar for the past five years or so as something that could arrive at any time. It has been in Allegheny County for a few years now, however this is the first time I’ve seen it anywhere around Duquesne Campus," Porter said.

This is an insect in the order hemiptera, which translates to ‘true bug.’ A true bug has a piercing, sucking mouth part. They either specialize in sucking on plants or animals. This particular insect is a plant hopper similar to aphids or cicadas. Their mouth is used to suck the sap of plants and they seem to be most attracted to a plant called the tree-of-heaven.

Porter explained that trees-of-heaven are invasive species stemming from southeast Asia. They became the host plant for the spotted lanternflies, which was initially a good idea to curb the tree-of-heaven’s population.

Eventually, however, their spread transitioned to over 70 different species of plants crucial to commercial business including grapevines, vineyards and Maple trees, among other hardwood trees.

"This is the time of year whenever the males are in flight. By being flighted, they can locate from one tree to another to disperse eggs at a rapid pace, he said. Over the winter, they will cultivate in the form of a brown smudge that is not largely perceivable to the human eye. A lot of times, they get transported to mulch, dirt or even vehicles," he said.

"There are around 60 counties actually under an ecological quarantine in attempts to stop the population spread," he said.

Regardless, it has already spread to the remainder of eastern Pennsylvania and created a belt around the middle. Right now, they have gone as far as Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kansas, West Virginia and Ohio.

For Porter and the Ecology Club, a kind of spread such as this was important to raise awareness especially in lieu of spotting their first bug on campus.

"My first sightings of the bug occurred on campus last week (Sept. 14). I was able to preserve a few of the bugs to properly examine them. That gave me the idea of creating an activity to say, ‘let’s promote awareness for the lanternfly and see how many we truly have on campus.’ I wanted to get collections of as many as we could and make it a sort of incentivized contest. Every one preserved is one less that can reproduce. I feel by doing this it will certainly knock down the population on campus at least slightly," Porter said.

The bugs, Porter speculated, are beautiful in nature. Unlike an invasive species like stink bugs that acted as more of a nuisance to people around them, the Spotted Lanternflies do not pose any innate threat to human beings. Because of this, their population was able to persist and spread as long as it did.

"Generally, they go on without people being aware of them, and I think that is why we are trying to promote awareness. Getting people out to see these things can allow individuals to keep an eye out for them. If we can do that, we can make efforts to find localized places to eradicate the eggs and preserve nature within campus," he said.

It is because of this that the Ecology Club will put their plans into action with their contest intended to keep the Duquesne population density at bay.

"We have sent out a contest to the Ecology Club members and people of any major to give them an understanding of our personal environment. This specific mission has been displayed throughout Mellon Hall monitors and posters in various locations," Porter said.

"In order to participate, you get a tube located outside of room 233 of Mellon Hall filled with preservatives that can be taken out for up to two weeks."

"This Friday, Sept. 24, you can count the amount of bugs you have captured in your tubes. The person with the highest number of bugs gets a prize that is conveniently a battery-powered lantern," he continued.

Though the competition ends this Friday, the effort can still be maintained for students across campus as long as they like. The efforts made, no matter how small, are something Porter and the Ecology Club hope to instill within Duquesne students.

"I think now that the bugs have been established in the county, we are probably going to have to deal with them long-term. Still, we do not have to put up with huge populations on Duquesne’s campus damaging the trees and crops in our area," Porter said.

"I am also a part of the Duquesne Community Garden that is maintained by the Laval House that I help the ecology club keep track of. There are so many examples of topographical things like that in which we want to strive to keep their beauty."
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