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# Deeper look into Latinx title

RIO SCARCELLI  
staff writer

Since Sept. 15, Duquesne University has been celebrating Latinx & Hispanic History Month by having various dance classes, speakers and other festivities spread throughout campus. On Sept. 23, speaker Cristobal Salinas sought to challenge the notion of Duquesne's usage of the term "Latinx" with his Zoom-seminar titled "What is Latinx? Who is Latinx?"

Latinx is a word that has been around in North America since 2004 and has made a recent resurgence in usage since 2019. Many activists felt it was appropriate to make Latinx a commonplace word that could advocate for representation of the Hispanic community this way if it does not did strictly identify with the pronouns Latino/a.

While the goal of this word was to raise awareness for non-cis-gendered people in the Hispanic population, the idea was turned on its head with the research presented by Salinas, stating only 3% of Hispanics even use the word in the first place.

"The reason that I began to do this research was because American people began calling me Latinx whenever only 25% of the Hispanic population even knew what the word was," Salinas said. "As a researcher even, I did not even know what it was. It then became my life goal to dissect the term Latinx in a way to educate the uninformed people that were potentially misgendering a majority of the population."

Salinas said that he identified himself as a Latino with he/him pronouns. He shared many anecdotes from his own encounters being called

# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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## Remembering Thomas Jahanian: "He really touched everything and everyone with so much love"

COLLEEN HAMMOND  
editor-in-chief

For students like Paige Runco and Jack Harper, it is almost impossible to imagine a world without the boyish smile and floppy brown hair of Thomas Jahanian. But in the blink of an eye, those warm and kind features they had grown to love suddenly vanished — this time forever.

A wave of grief washed over the pair this week as reports of the tragic loss of Jahanian reached their friend group.

On Saturday afternoon, Pittsburgh River Rescue responded to a call from a bystander in the area surrounding the 10th Street Bridge for a man who had been seen going underwater just before 1:45 p.m. He died at UPMC Mercy Hospital after being retrieved from the water, according to the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety.

The man was later identified as Jahanian, 28, a part-time Duquesne student and the son of Carnegie Mellon University President Farnam Jahanian.

"The Jahanian family expresses immense gratitude toward the bystander who saw him in need of assistance while swimming and immediately called 911, in addition to the rescue teams on the scene and the medical professionals at the hospital," said Shilpa Bakre, a Carnegie Mellon's spokes person in a news statement.

Bakre said the family has asked for privacy as they mourn the sudden and heartbreaking loss of their son.



Thomas Jahanian plays guitar with his roommate Jack Harper in their shared apartment in the South Side Flats.

Despite the heartache, Jahanian's closest friends remain adamant about sharing the unerasable impact he had on their lives.

"Thomas was the kindest, most intelligent, most selfless person I have ever met, and he will be missed dearly," said student Emily Gamble. "He never had a bad word to say about anyone, and was always the first person to help others."

This desire to help is what bonded Jahanian and Gamble in the first place. Noticing that Gamble was struggling in a class they had together, Jahanian reached out to assist in understanding the material. Since then, the two had been close friends, frequently spending time together as they continued on their

academic journeys.

Gamble spoke fondly of Jahanian, noting his unwavering generosity of spirit and constant consideration for others. Last week, as Gamble prepared to give a large presentation for one of her classes, Jahanian went out of his way to get her a cup of coffee and split a sandwich with her, having anticipated that she had been too busy and anxious to eat.

"Every single day he put time and effort into trying to make my life easier, no matter what he was dealing with," Gamble said.

And Gamble was not alone in this observation. Duquesne alumni and close friend of Jahanian, Jacob Joyce, remembers him as a bright light in his life.

"Talking with Thomas was like discovering that you had a deep spiritual connection with someone whom you never met but always knew," Joyce said.

Over the past year, Joyce and Jahanian's friendship blossomed so much so, that Joyce has been asked to speak at Jahanian's private memorial on Saturday.

"Thomas is the human encapsulation of love, and I am so lucky to have been able to call him a friend and a brother," said Harper, one of Jahanian's roommates.

"He took us on the most magical journey being his friend and blessed the world with his wonder, wisdom and of course his contagious sense of humor that filled everyone's soul just



COURTESY OF EMILY GAMBLE



COURTESY OF EMILY GAMBLE

(From left to right) Sean McGabe, Jack Harper, Paige Runco and Thomas Jahanian seen together laughing and "goofing around," a common event, according to Gamble.

being in the same room with him," friend and roommate Runco said.

Jahanian's wide variety of skills and talents seeped through into everything he did, his friends said.

Harper remembers him as a wildly talented musician, saying "his songs will play in my soul for the rest of my life."

"Whether it was musical, philosophical, or something just completely odd that had no rhyme or reason, he loved and lived to always be there to take us on that journey of what could be and why," Runco said. "Together we continue to spread his ever-evolving love, humor and wonder — something words cannot describe."

There will be a memorial mass offered for Jahanian on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 9 p.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. The Rev. John Sawicki will be presiding, and there will be a reception immediately after in the Bayer Rotunda, according to an email sent to her students by Therese Bonin.

"He will live on through his legacy of the impact he's had on everyone he's met," Gamble said.

Despite the sorrow Jahanian's death has brought to his friends and family, Harper, Runco, Gamble and Joyce are confident that Jahanian's loving spirit will remain with them well into the future.

"He really touched everything and everyone with so much love," Runco said.



## POLICE BRIEFS

**Tues. Sept. 21** - It was discovered that a student did possess a false identification card via a lost and found report. That student was issued a non-traffic citation for possession of a false ID card.

**Tues. Sept. 21** - It was discovered that a student did possess a false identification card via a lost and found report at Fischer Hall. That student was issued a non-traffic citation for possession of a false ID card.

**Tues. Sept. 21** - DU Student reporting another DU Student posted him on his Snapchat Story in his dorm room wearing only his underwear and a sweatshirt in Assumption Hall. This remains an active case.

**Sat. Sept. 25** - A student's vehicle was struck on the left rear fender by an unknown driver while in the Locust Garage. There was minor damage to the vehicle and it is drivable.

**Sun. Sept. 26** - Duquesne University Police received a call regarding a suspicious male who followed a group of female students into Rockwell Hall. When Duquesne University Officers made contact with the male, the male took off running. The male led officers on a foot and vehicle chase through campus. The male was apprehended on Locust Street next to The School of Music. The male was taken to the Allegheny County Jail. David Sebastain Rubio of Broken Arrow, Ohio was arrested and faces charges of criminal trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

## 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

## COVID-19

## NUMBERS

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COVID-19 DATA



# Homecoming 2021: A star-studded return

MARY LIZ FLAVIN &  
COLLEEN HAMMOND  
the duquesne duke

A jazzy rendition of Fred Rogers' "Won't You Be My Neighbor" gently bubbled throughout the room as spectators took their seats in the new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, excitedly awaiting a glimpse of the star-studded line-up for the grand finale event of Homecoming Week 2021.

On Saturday night, the Fieldhouse was transformed from center court to center stage as Duquesne welcomed celebrities, dignitaries, donors, community members, alumni, family and students for "An Evening with the Stars," a highly anticipated ending to the first in-person homecoming since 2019.

Homecoming kicked off the week-end on Friday, Sept 24 with a campus tour for the classes of 1970, 1971 and the Golden Dukes followed by a Welcome Mass and a Golden Dukes Luncheon in the Duquesne Union Ballroom. Alumni from these classes were invited to attend a special celebration where members of the 50th Reunion classes were inducted as Golden Dukes.

The Golden Dukes are any graduates of Duquesne who have reached their 50th "golden" anniversary since their graduation. At the celebration each graduate received a 50 year pin from a former member of the Golden Dukes.

"I think everyone was eager to have some normalcy in terms of attending in-person events after being so distant from others throughout the pandemic, so we had a really successful turnout of alumni and students throughout the week," Mary Wattick, Student Alumni Association Advisor, said.

After a praise-filled introduction by Assistant Vice President of Alumni Engagement Sarah Sperry, University President Ken Gormley took to the stage and said how thrilled he was to host this performance. He welcomed the audience to what he described as the "first major event," at the new Fieldhouse.

"How do you like it?" Gormley said, gesturing his arms to illustrate the magnitude of the room.

After his remarks, Gormley sat downstage in a large, plus chair, as alumna Michael Warren stepped out



UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse during "An Evening with the Stars."  
ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

on the stage and belted out his rendition of Lionel Richie's hit song, "All Night Long."

Blue and white lights swirled in rhythm to the celebratory lyrics as Warren's powerhouse vocals immediately drew the audience in.

After the song, Gormley was joined in this onstage reading nook by multi-award-winning star, actor, director, mother, philanthropist and choreographer Debbie Allen and her husband, Duke men's basketball legend Norm Nixon. The three laughed and joked about the early days of Allen and Nixon's relationship while filming *The Fish that Saved Pittsburgh* in the late 70s.

"It happened on the dance floor, really," Allen said, noting the start of her love for Nixon.

Allen's comments would prove to be emblematic of her life's work, as she discussed at length all her achievements that happened — at least in part — on the dance floor. *The Fame* and *Grey's Anatomy* star has been heavily recognized in recent years for her philanthropic work, primarily through her and Nixon's work to found the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, a non-profit dance, voice and acting training center designed for young people of minority descent.

From Gormley's questioning, it became clear that the lessons Nixon learned at Duquesne went far beyond the classroom.

"I had people here that really supported me," Nixon said.

As Allen put it, "I kind of lit a flame that people fanned to help me go further."

Both Allen and Nixon said they

viewed themselves as life-long learners, and it is that desire for knowledge and wisdom that still ties them to institutions like Duquesne.

"I've always been training this whole time," Allen said. "I'm still a student at this ripe age."

In line with the theme of the pursuit of learning and constant exploration, Gormley was later joined on stage by literary preservationist, renowned costume designer and widow of the late August Wilson, Constanza Romero Wilson, and Broadway actor, Stephen McKinley Henderson.

Also included in the evening was an in-depth discussion on the works of time-honored Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson. In their conversation, Gormley, Romero Wilson and Henderson spoke of the unique tie between August Wilson, the steel city and its proximity to Duquesne's storied history.

"I think Pittsburgh was the universe in which he wrote," Romero Wilson said.

In this final celebration of returning to one's roots this Homecoming week, Romero Wilson's words reminded the crowd of the rich history of Duquesne and the city it calls home. She even recited an unpublished poem by her late husband, remarking on the vast city of bridges, as she accepted her honorary degree from Gormley.

"Whatever it was he was writing about," Romero Wilson said. "Pittsburgh was the platform. It was his world."

# Latinx: An honest discussion on the word

see Latinx— page 1

Latinx alongside many of his colleagues. The common ground in all of their stories was that they felt they were being stripped of their gender and own unique identities.

History has lent itself to poor representation of the Hispanic community by means of boiling down their culture. Salinas recounted that there are over 21 Spanish-speaking countries considered to be a part of the Hispanic population. Up until the 1970s, each one of these countries were referred to by Americans as having a Mexican ethnic background regardless of their unique geographic location and language differences.

Though strides have been made since then within the United States

to properly represent Hispanic peoples, the term Latinx stood as a reminder to the population of their "Mexicanized" identity.

"Some people are entirely fine with the terminology, and others are not," Salinas said. "Others say things like 'Do not call me Latinx because it is a reminder of how my ancestors were enslaved and undermined.'"

There are many facets and arguments as to why the term Latinx should and should not be used. Salinas wanted to capitalize on the point that it should not be used as a term for those who do not ask, otherwise it would be considered a strive for performative activism.

Latinx was a term solely created for those who do not immediately identify as a Latino/a. Regardless, it is a term that did not take into account non-

binary populations, pangender and transitioning individuals. It strives for inclusivity but ended up becoming a boiled-down term to suffice for an entire culture and identity.

Salinas wanted to emphasize that the term Latinx is approved by some Hispanic communities and all it takes is to ask the question. To be informed is one of the most important things someone can do to be inclusive.

Members of the Latin\*/o/a community wanted to push the development of the term "Latin\*" which possesses symbols that can be found in all Spanish speaking countries, identifies with any non-cis terminology that people wish to associate with and acts as a reclamation for the Hispanic people of a pronoun that they fully, universally accept.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### It's official: Gormley is here to stay

COLLEEN HAMMOND  
editor-in-chief

On Saturday, Duquesne Board Chair John C. McGinley made the first public announcement that President Ken Gormley's contract has been extended for an additional five years.

Gormley's extension means he will continue to serve as Duquesne's 13th president through the 2026-2027 academic year.

Among reasons for the renewal, McGinley cited the opening of the new UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, the creation of the new School of Osteopathic Medicine and Gormley's handling of the Covid-19 crisis.

"It is hard to enumerate how much Ken Gormley has accomplished," McGinley said.

These sentiments were echoed by Assistant Vice President of Alumni Engagement Sarah Sperry during her opening remarks at "An Evening with the Stars" on Saturday.

Sperry noted that Gormley's efforts have caused fundraising to "reach new heights," under his direction. According to McGinley, Gormley has raised more than \$162 million since the beginning of his tenure as president — more than any other similar period in Duquesne's history — both McGinley and Sperry said.

In his announcement, McGinley further praised Gormley's recent initiatives to increase diversity, inclusion and inclusion across campus.

Gormley has been part of Duquesne's faculty since 1994, when he began teaching in the Law School after teaching at the University of Pittsburgh and privately practicing law. Before his appointment as president, Gormley was the Dean of the Law School.

"I'm doubly honored now that the board has given me more time to keep moving Duquesne forward," Gormley said. "They have shown unwavering support for me, my leadership team and for all of us at Duquesne for what we've done and for the bold aspirations we have for our students."

## TRAFFIC ALERT

Magee Street at the intersection with Forbes Avenue will be closed between 6 p.m. and 4 a.m. beginning tonight, Sept. 29, to connect a new water service line. The project is scheduled to be completed within five working days, according to an official Duquesne communication.



# Opening up: Duq Pharmacy gets new home

**ZOE STRATOS**  
opinions editor

There is no typical day at the Duquesne Center for Pharmacy Care for resident pharmacists like Rachel Hay. Some days are filled with vaccine appointments; some days are full of clinical appointments for faculty; some days are dedicated to working with current pharmacy students on rotation.

One of the most important days recently was dedicated to moving the entire center out of the Student Union.

Earlier this month, the university made the decision to move the Center for Pharmacy Care from the second floor of the Student Union to the Muldoon Building on Fifth Avenue with no time to waste.

"It was a really quick turnaround," Hay, 25, said. "I first heard about it in the middle of August. And then within a couple of weeks, the day after Labor Day, we were moved in. I helped with moving boxes and packing and trying to figure out where stuff was going to be. It was a little challenging because we went from having one exam room and one office to now hav-

Wellness Visits and Point-of-Care testing, were available at both of the locations.

But the Union location proved to be too small for appointments, and with Covid-19 in the mix, the Muldoon Building became the home for testing and clinical services once again. Still yet, the Hill District location receives and fills student prescriptions and delivers them to campus.

"Another big reason we moved is because, once the school year started, they wanted the Center for Pharmacy Care to start offering employees Covid testing," Hay said. "That would have been basically impossible in our old building because we only had one exam room, and we were supposed to be giving vaccines and doing visits on top of that."

With the larger location, the center is able to hold more students and faculty at once: rotation experience for pharmacy students, appointments for students in need of vaccines and faculty in need of appointments on Duquesne's health insurance.

"I graduated in April, so it's



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Services and locations changed from the Muldoon Building to the Duquesne University Pharmacy in the Hill District. Services offered at the Muldoon Building include vaccinations, Medical Therapy Management and Wellness visits.

as well as guidance for interviews," Jurczyk said.

Although she was not part of the rotation in the Union, Jurczyk is impressed with the amount of space she and three other students have been able to work with.

With the addition of more student involvement, the building also allows for more cooperative work between employees at the center, too.

Before, offices were spread out across campus, according to Hay, but with the whole building now belonging to pharmacy faculty, employees are able to walk upstairs to the offices to ask questions or receive feedback from administration.

"Something else that has changed, because we have a bigger space, is we're able to have TA's (teaching assistants) come and they've been super helpful," Hay said. "They're basically like a receptionist: they greet patients, they give them consent forms, they get the insurance and they enter the insurance into the computer for us. That's such a huge weight off of our shoulders."

With the new help from the TAs, residents like Hay are able to focus on examinations in the

building's four exam rooms, while they handle the front work.

For students and faculty looking to receive services from the Center for Pharmacy Care, their hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The center is closed on the weekends.

Elizabeth Bunk, manager for pharmacy center care, Could not be reached for comment.



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Above is a photo of the Center for Pharmacy Care located on the second floor of the Union. There is a sign with the new locations as well as a QR code for students to scan. In 2016 services and the location changed from the Muldoon Building to the Duquesne University Pharmacy in the Hill District and a second location on the second floor of the Union Building.

ing a full building."

Over the years, there has been a few changes and moves within the Center for Pharmacy Care. Back in 2009, the Muldoon Building was announced as the new location for services, according to a news release from the university.

In 2016, services and the location changed from the Muldoon Building to the Duquesne University Pharmacy in the Hill District, and a second location on the second floor of the Union building.

All clinical services offered at the Muldoon Building location, including vaccinations, the Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Waived Co-Pay Program, Know Your Numbers,

kind of fun to work with students. I feel like I'm able to relate with them well because I was just in their shoes, less than a year ago," Hay said.

Hay's favorite part of her residency has been working with the rotation students doing topic discussions and helping with vaccines. One of those students is Emily Jurczyk, professional year four pharmacy student.

"[The resident pharmacists] are all great. They were so welcoming from the start and have helped integrate us into all of the services they provide through the Center for Pharmacy Care. They have also given us helpful advice for studying for the NAPLEX



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Above is the waiting room in the Muldoon Building. The larger location is able to hold more students and faculty during rotation experience and is able to hold more students and faculty during their appointments.

## Don't fall under the weather this flu season

**ANDREW CUMMINGS**  
multimedia editor

It is that time of year again, the time to get a flu shot. Duquesne University is now offering flu vaccines through the Center for Pharmacy Care.

Anyone is eligible to receive a shot, whether or not they are associated with Duquesne.

There are walk-in clinics available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through Nov. 12 at various locations across campus. Exact times and locations can be found at: <https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/pharmacy/centers-and-programs/pharmacy-care/fight-the-flu-at-du>.

In addition to the walk-in clinics, individual appointments can be made at the Center for Pharmacy Care by calling 412-396-2155 or emailing [cpc@duq.edu](mailto:cpc@duq.edu). The Center for Pharmacy Care has moved locations from the Union to the Muldoon Building, which is located at the corner of Chatham Square and Fifth Avenue.

According to Elizabeth Bunk, a pharmacist and a manager of the Center for Pharmacy Care, there is a lot of concern for flu season this year. Because people were quarantined last year, there was not much of a flu season to speak of. This makes this year's flu season harder to predict.

"The flu shot is really helpful... to reduce flu illnesses. We do see a large incidence of flu across campus and in students" Bunk said.

Lucas Dibenedetti, a freshman nursing major who received a flu shot, said "I believe in vaccines...everyone in my dorm has been sick over the past couple of weeks so I want to be protected from that."

For anyone concerned with getting sick from a flu shot, Bunk said:

"The flu shot actually doesn't make you sick. The way it works is...it sometimes can cause an activation in your immune system that might make you not feel good because your immune system is working really hard to make antibodies and protect you for if you were to be infected by the flu, but you're not actually sick or have the flu from it."

The vaccine is free with most insurance companies, so it is recommended that people bring an insurance card to the appointment. If someone does not have insurance or if the vaccine is not covered, there is a fee of \$35.

The flu shots are being administered by Duquesne pharmacists and pharmacy students. In addition to the flu shot, the Center for Pharmacy Care is also administering Covid-19 vaccines at all of the walk-in clinics. Recipients can get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, as well as a booster shot if they are eligible.



# DU football dominates VU-Lynchburg in home opener

SPENCER THOMAS  
staff writer

Taking the field for the first time following arguably its biggest win in program history, the Duquesne football team showed very few signs of a hangover in its 56-7 victory over Virginia University of Lynchburg on Saturday afternoon at Rooney Field.

After throwing an interception on the first play from scrimmage, quarterback Darius Perrantes locked in. He completed six passes for 78 yards before exiting the game near the end of the second quarter, just as Head Coach Jerry Schmitt began removing starters.

The Dukes' defensive line dominated for

a good majority of the afternoon. They applied pressure in the Dragons' backfield on seemingly every single play, preventing Virginia-Lynchburg quarterback Darius Sample from getting the ball down the field in any capacity.

It seemed that the only times Virginia-Lynchburg gained any yards were in the rare instances when they made a Duquesne defender miss in the backfield. Even then, they could only make it a couple yards before being swarmed by a new round of defenders.

The Dragons managed a mere total of 13 rushing yards on 29 attempts, good enough for an average of just 0.4 yards per carry.

Their best opportunity of the day came

off of the early interception, when they started their drive on the Duquesne 21-yard line. After three plays and several penalties, they were punting, as they had been backed up 19 yards from where the drive originally started.

For Virginia-Lynchburg, passing the ball proved to be equally as difficult. Sample completed just six passes and was intercepted twice. The first of his two interceptions was an early backbreaker, as Duquesne defensive back Spencer DeMedal picked off a screen pass and returned it 29 yards for a touchdown.

The Dukes' offensive attack was heavily characterized by the ground game, with running back Garrett Owens getting the bulk of the touches. He ran wild on the Dragons, averaging 12 yards per carry en route to rushing for a total of 108 yards and a touchdown.

In the second half, JaMario Clements kept up the energy, rushing for 58 yards and reaching the end zone once.

Duquesne's offensive line proved to be just as successful as its defensive counterpart. The line consistently provided a clean pocket for Perrantes, while also allowing Owens to break free and rush for a 55-yard score early in the second quarter.

"The offensive line always does a great job," Owens told *The Duke* following the victory. "It was awesome to see all the running backs get in and make great plays".

The victory — Duquesne's 14th straight win in a home opener — helped the Dukes move to 2-1 on the season.

Despite the team's first victory coming over an FBS opponent in Ohio, Owens believes that every win is equally as important.

"There was a lot to build off of. But it's just like any other week," Owens said.

"Get in the film room, critique all the little things we need to improve and carry it on into the next [game]."

Following the win, Duquesne will now turn its focus toward Northeast Conference action.

The Dukes will travel to North Andover, Mass., where they'll take on Merrimack this Saturday afternoon.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Fans and cheerleaders celebrate as Duquesne's Spencer DeMedal returns an interception for a touchdown during the Dukes' 56-7 victory over Virginia University of Lynchburg on Saturday.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's Garrett Owens rushed for 108 yards and a touchdown in the victory. The 108 yards are Owens' most in a game since joining the Dukes.

# DU men's soccer downs La Salle in A-10 clash

BRENTARO YAMANE  
staff writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team took care of business on Saturday evening, defeating La Salle, 3-0, in an Atlantic 10 Conference meeting at Rooney Field.

Offensively, the Dukes wasted no time putting a stranglehold on the game, with all three of their goals coming in the game's first half.

In the second minute of the game, after receiving a pass from Ryan Landry, Maxi Hopper shot the ball into the top left corner of the net to give Duquesne a 1-0 lead.

So far this season, Hopper's impact on the team has been apparent, as he leads the team in both points (18) and shots (31).

Shortly after, in the fifth minute, Explorers goalkeeper Carlos Mora kicked the ball in an attempt to clear it from his goal area. He didn't clear it far enough, and Nate Dragisich was there to take possession. He shot the ball over the outstretched arms of a diving Mora to give the Dukes a 2-0 advantage.

Dragisich recorded both a goal and an assist in the victory.

In the 39th minute, after Logan Muck's shot was stopped by a diving Mora, Hopper happened to be in the right place at the right time.

He grabbed the rebound and shot the ball into an empty net to record his second goal of the game (seventh of the season). Landry was credited with an assist on Hopper's second goal.

In just nine games played this season, Hopper has now posted two goals in a game on three separate occasions (also on Aug. 29 vs. Saint Francis (Pa.) and on Sept. 15 vs. Canisius).

In the first half, Duquesne outshot La Salle by a 13-11 mark. Despite trailing by three goals at the half, La Salle showed very few signs of aggression in the second half. The Dukes outshot the Explorers 10-4 in the final frame, ultimately outshooting La Salle by a 23-15 tally over the course of the entire contest.

Duquesne goalkeeper Domenic Nascimben — who made five saves in the victory — recorded his second shutout of the season. The shutout was the fifth of his career since joining the Dukes prior to the 2018 campaign.

With the win, the Dukes have now won four of their last five matchups against the Explorers.

Duquesne remains undefeated at home on the season, winning each of its first five games at Rooney Field. Three of the team's final seven games will be played at home.

Entering the weekend, the Dukes (2-0-0) are joined by Saint Louis (2-0-0) and St. Bo-



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne's Ryan Landry battles for possession during a 3-0 victory over La Salle on Saturday evening. Landry — a native of nearby Glenshaw, Pa. — has started in all nine of the Dukes' games this season.

naventure (1-0-0) as the only teams that remain undefeated in A-10 competition.

Duquesne will now hit the road for three consecutive A-10 contests against Davidson

(Oct. 2), VCU (Oct. 6) and Saint Joseph's (Oct. 16). The Dukes will not return home until Oct. 20, when they are scheduled to square off with St. Bonaventure.



# Minor League Baseball: A small city's heartbeat

*Minor League Baseball franchises have become a staple of small-market cities across the entire United States. After the 2020 season was canceled, it was imperative for MiLB franchises to see fans return to their stadiums during the 2021 campaign.*

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

On Friday evening, Cleveland Indians prospect Bo Naylor recorded a walk-off single to help the Akron RubberDucks erase a five-run, eighth-inning deficit en route to defeating the Bowie Baysox and winning the 2021 AA Northeast League title.

Nearly 3,500 spectators (myself included) gathered at Canal Park in Akron, Ohio, to watch the come-from-behind victory. The game was a celebration of the entire season, a season that cities with Minor League Baseball teams so desperately needed.

After the entire 2020 MiLB season was canceled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, smaller-market cities across the country suffered economic turmoil.

Forty of the 160 cities with MiLB teams lost their affiliation with Major League Baseball teams and were forced to either join non-affiliated leagues or cease operations entirely.

If a team in a city the size of Akron or Altoona, Pa., no longer possesses the designation of being affiliated with a Major League Baseball club, they're bound to endure hardships.

These cities — determined to market their MiLB teams as a primary source of entertainment and tourism — watched as their stadium gates remained locked for an entire season.

Hunter Sosenheimer is a broadcaster and videographer for Summit City Sports, a company based in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Sosenheimer has grown up as a fan of the Fort Wayne TinCaps (formerly the Fort Wayne Wizards), an MiLB team based in the city since 1999. He affirmed the importance of the TinCaps franchise to the over-



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Fans at Canal Park in Akron, Ohio, celebrate following Akron RubberDucks outfielder Will Brennan's game-tying home run in Friday's contest against the Bowie Baysox. Despite trailing 5-0 heading into the bottom of the eighth inning, the RubberDucks scored six runs in the final two frames, capped off by a walk-off single from Bo Naylor in the bottom of the ninth inning. The victory helped the RubberDucks secure their first league championship since 2016.

all recognition of the city.

"Having a minor league team in your city just creates joy," Sosenheimer said. "The TinCaps are a summer go-to, with them being rated among the top things to do in the summer in Fort Wayne. Us not having them in the city would make for a boring summer."

Sosenheimer raises a good point. These

cities would struggle immensely without MiLB teams.

What would have been a better entertainment alternative for those in Akron on Friday evening? Go to a local high school football game? Eat at a local diner?

These cities so desperately crave MiLB teams. Imagine how much more likely a novice fan is to attend a game if they know that they're going to watch the top prospects for an MLB team like the New York Yankees or Boston Red Sox.

"You see guys like Fernando Tatis Jr. and Corey Kluber play in Fort Wayne and then get to see the impact they're making in the big leagues," Sosenheimer said. "It's super cool to see those guys on TV now and say you watched them once play in your hometown."

Teams in MiLB cities also possess the unique ability to name their franchise by using historical aspects of the city or region. The RubberDucks' name pays homage to the city's key role in the rubber industry. The Altoona Curve franchise draws its name from the Horseshoe Curve, a historical railroad curve that sits just outside of the city. The TinCaps' name is a tribute to Johnny Appleseed, who spent the final years of his life in Fort Wayne.

Are there less-than-ideal aspects associated with games in MiLB stadiums? Absolutely.

I don't think a single fan would lose sleep at night if every strikeout or foul ball at Canal Park weren't sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Akron General or Luigi's Pizza (local establishments), respectively.

However, in order for these franchises to

survive, this is an essential course of action.

While the city needs an MiLB team to boost its local economy, the team needs to market itself and partner with local advertisers whenever and wherever possible.

Fans from Akron and abroad remained in the stadium for nearly an hour after Naylor's game-winning hit to watch a fireworks show, while also watching their team celebrate a championship. They deserved every single minute of that celebration.

Cities like Akron and Fort Wayne don't get noticed all that often. They're not "major-league" cities. More often than not, they're a means to an end in the baseball world.

After capacity limitations were officially lifted in cities like Fort Wayne during the 2021 season, people like Sosenheimer could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

"As the season went on, more and more fans were able to come out to games," Sosenheimer said. "You could just tell it meant a lot to the full-time staff. That's what it's all about."

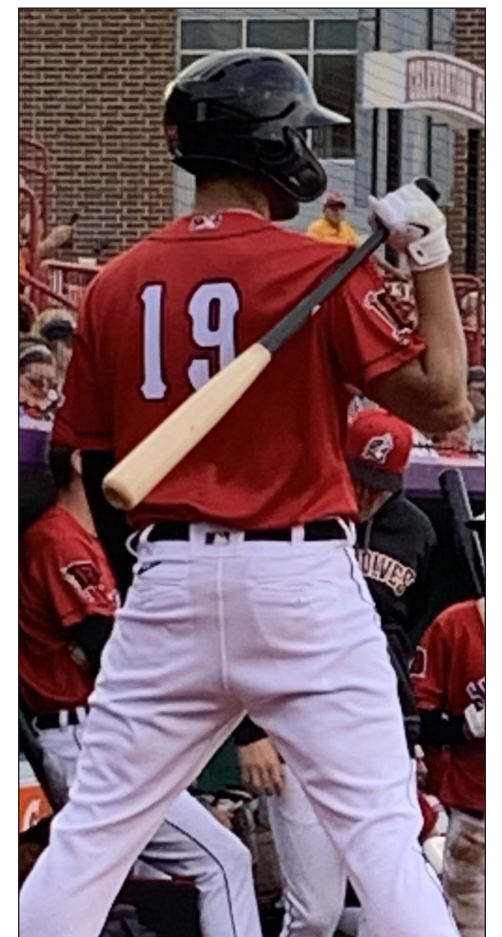
These cities have withstood the economic uncertainty induced by Covid-19, and they once again have the chance to reap the benefits of fielding an MiLB team in their particular city.

After last season, the benefits need to be reaped as often as possible. If not, a city might be at risk of losing its team altogether.



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Fans watch as the Fort Wayne TinCaps bat against the Great Lakes Loons during a June 29 game at Parkview Field in Fort Wayne, Ind. The TinCaps have become one of Fort Wayne's biggest attractions.



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

Erie SeaWolves outfielder Riley Greene waits to bat during a game at UPMC Park in Erie, Pa.



## Duquesne choral department performs with a fresh breath

ANDREW KAMIS  
staff writer

Clear some time this Saturday night and 'Just Breathe,' with the Duquesne Choir Department's first performance after an 18-month hiatus. After a long wait caused by the pandemic, students will be able to attend this year's autumn choir concert live and in-person.

The Director of Choral Activities, Caron Daley, will conduct the Voices of Spirit and Pappert Chorale this Saturday, Oct. 2 @ 7:30 p.m. Daley stated various influences that led to the creation of this concert, such as the murder of George Floyd, disease transmission and the idea of breathing as a whole.

"The inspiration came to me this summer, I think, maybe first and foremost inspired by the idea of [how] breathing transmits disease—and in singing, we breathe. We have to breathe to sing and that's something that we felt that we haven't been able to do because we've been wearing masks," Daley said.

The concert itself is named "Just Breathe," and will consist of many meaningful and evoking songs focused on the concepts of resilience and hope. There is even a featured piece titled "A Path To Hope" from Canadian composer Katerina Gimon. Gimon's song was written during the pandemic and consists of only body percussion during its entire first movement. Daley is enthusiastic for Saturday's audience to hear the piece because it ties in with the concert's overall theme of breathing and the performers' inability to sing within this past year. In correspondence with the powerful music highlighted, Daley said she



COURTESY OF CARON DALEY

Duquesne's Voices of Spirit rehearses outdoors for their upcoming concert.

believes that Saturday's performance is going to be a part of an "impactful event."

In addition to the music, Daley referred to the choir as a diverse community where they are able to take all of their musical talents and outside experiences and bring those aspects together to give life to their music. Quite often, students will be paired up with other students from different classes and majors.

Students do not have to be enrolled in the Mary Pappert School of Music to be a part of the choir, according to Daley.

"You start out with people kind of not knowing the music, not knowing each other, and you end up with a group of people who are deeply bonded to one another and very connected to the music," Daley said.

Daley elaborated by explaining that it would not be possible to have a choir with a single person and that every member has their own role in making the concert a success.

"There's this collected thing that

happens when all these individuals share their music with one another, and it elevates, and it's much greater in a way than the group of individuals would be on their own," Daley said.

Similarly, Lindsay Vernon, a member of the Pappert Chorale, specifically stated that she likes the sense of community within the choir as well.

"I was surprised at how much I liked it in the end, and it definitely helps if you're looking to improve your musicianship or [if] you're just curious about what it's like to sing in a group," Vernon said.

Nonetheless, this year's concert will differ from previous performances as choir members are still facing challenges from the pandemic. For instance, the Pappert Chorale was divided into smaller sections so that there are not too many performers singing at one time.

Senior Music Education major, Laura Tamenne, is another member of the Pappert Chorale who said they have struggled with new accommodations from the pandemic.

"We have to wear a mask for the concert, which makes it a little harder to get good breaths and good breath support while you are singing," Tamenne said.

Daley also mentioned the difficulty of having to wear a mask while performing, saying that it is "fatiguing" for the singers to sing with a mask on.

Despite the changes set in stone for this concert, Tamenne is looking forward to the first live performance she has had in years.

"I think it's gonna feel really good to actually have people to perform to because last semester we made Zoom performances—we would all record separate videos of ourselves and then mash them all together. We didn't actually perform together," Tamenne said.

While many students like Vernon enjoy the association between their fellow choir members, Tamenne appreciates the feeling of accomplishment after each rehearsal. Tamenne announced that she is able to feel herself and the whole choir become more confident with the music after practicing it. She also said that it is "more fun to perform" when there is higher assurance in what she is singing.

The Pappert Chorale and Voices of Spirit choirs are very excited to once again share their vocal talents this upcoming Saturday, Oct. 2 at the Trinity Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh. Tickets will be sold outside of the main entrance for \$10 in cash with an expected showtime of 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\* Editors Note: Members of 'The Duke's' Editorial staff are involved in Duquesne's Pappert Chorale. \*\*\*

## WEEK'S EVENTS

Assumption Hall Dodgeball Tournament:  
Sept. 30 @ 7 p.m.

Stop by the 3rd floor of the Power Center for a freshman-led dodgeball tournament!

Heritage Week 2021: Succulent Painting  
Sept. 30 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot for a chance to paint your own potted plant! Supplies limited.

Food Truck Fridays  
Oct. 1 @ 11 a.m.

You know the drill! Take a stroll down A-Walk for free food and fun!

Duquesne's Birthday  
Oct. 1 @ 1 p.m.

Check out A-Walk for some sweet treats to celebrate another Duquesne anniversary!

DPC DUNite: Trick-or-Treat  
Oct. 1 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot for trick-or-treating around campus, plus a scavenger hunt!

## CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Take the time you need

It's midterm season. It's flu season. It's "I don't have time to take care of myself so I'm just going to push forward," season.

Here's the trick though: you do have time.

There's no rule against taking a nap. Or treating yourself to a meal you're craving. Or going on a walk to soak up the last bits of the warming sun. Self-care isn't a project, but it can feel like one!

This time of year is quite draining, and it is more than valid to feel through this period before jumping right in.

Write about it. Talk about it. Break your schedule into pieces you can manage for your health and well-being.

I'm sure, if you were asked, you would drop anything for a friend in need.

So why can't you do that for you?

- Capri Scarcelli

## Pittsburgh Symphony tunes in with live audience

RIO SCARCELLI  
staff writer

This past weekend, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra kicked off its opening night with the ensemble's first indoor performance since March 12, 2020. Many festivals and pop-up concerts have been held outside through the Summer Symphony program. The orchestra and conductor had a heartfelt opening to celebrate their 50th anniversary of playing at Heinz Hall.

In working with BNY Mellon and Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Manfred Honneck, PSO's conductor, was happy to announce that he hopes for the remainder of the 2021-22 season indoors.

"I am thrilled to be back here at Heinz Hall with my Pittsburgh musical family, to share the orchestra's passionate commitment to prepare and to perform fantastic music," Honneck said. "These are truly great musicians who play from

their hearts with power, sensitivity and clarity each and every time they take the stage."

In accordance with the new mandates put in place, the lines were out the door with people having their vaccination card and license at the ready. All audience members were properly masked, and there was an abundance of disposables for people who did not have them.

For every performance of their Sept. 24-26 showings, there was an announcement through the orchestra hall saying that the Covid-19 cases were considered in a CDC "high zone" and that masks would be required for the remainder of their performance.

The debut repertoire for the night began with John Stafford Smith's orchestration of "The Star Spangled Banner" and closed with a symphonic favorite: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F minor. In between, they rearranged the stage to showcase soloist Hélène Grimaud's performance of Ravel's



RIO SCARCELLI | A&E STAFF WRITER

Audiences gather for a long-lasting standing ovation at the Heinz Hall auditorium.

Concerto in G major for Piano and Orchestra.

The house was packed from the orchestra to the mezzanine, and the conclusion of every song brought about a standing ovation. At the end of the night, the audience brought an enormous applause that lasted 10 minutes within the hall.

There was a warm sense of com-

munity between the performers and the audience, as both Honneck and the instrumentalists were seen tearing up between pieces.

After the success of that night, there seemed to be a hope in the room that the rest of the season would be just as lively with the excitement for indoor music being brought to the stage.



## Dear Evan Hansen movie adaptation talks on mental health

ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

This past week, the highly acclaimed, award-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen* premiered in movie theaters across the country with an important message, but a misfire in the package.

Among the recent wave of musical-turned-movies like *In the Heights* and the forthcoming Steven Spielberg adaptation of *West Side Story*, *Dear Evan Hansen* is heavier, current and chock-full of triggering topics.

Scripted by Tony Award-winning author Steven Levenson and directed by Stephen Chbosky, the story follows the life of Evan Hansen, played by Ben Platt in his reprised role from the original Broadway cast. The seventeen-year-old Hansen is entering his senior year of high school, attempting to overcome his social anxiety and depression, when suddenly, another student, Connor Murphy (Colton Ryan), died by suicide.

The last interaction Evan had with Connor was after signing the cast on his arm: an argument broke out between the two over Hansen's self-written letter (the title's namesake). But, it is believed to be Connor's suicide note to Evan, since he pocketed the note after the altercation.

Grief stricken, the Murphy family believes Evan to be Connor's only friend, when really they hardly talked to one another. Soon, Evan is caught in a web of lies surrounding his relationship with Connor — and the lies are only complicated by the presence of social media.

Connor's parents (Amy Adams and Danny Pino) welcome this guest into their lives, and Evan

doesn't stop them, going to great lengths to prove their "friendship" through song, while crushing on their daughter Zoe (Kaityln Dever) and figuring out how to come out of his shell: Until he's caught.

There's a lot to be said about the film when it comes to such a "taboo" subject — good and bad. So let's tap, tap, tap into the glass that is *Dear Evan Hansen*.

In a recent article published on *Nbcnews*, Dr. Harold S. Koplewicz, president and medical director of the Child Mind Institute, wrote a review of the film, praising the fundamental honesty of the film in the context of conversations surrounding suicide.

"Its primary message — that mental health disorders are real, common and treatable — will likely be a lifesaver for countless young people. Millions of kids in this country who are struggling with their mental health don't get identified or treated, increasing the risk of later depression, school failure, substance abuse and even suicide," Koplewicz said.

Especially in the new film-only song, "The Anonymous Ones," sung by class president, Alana Beck (Amandla Stenberg), we get to see that people undiagnosed or untreated exist in the mental health realm, too. Everyone has something, and everyone needs support.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2019 Leading Cause of Death reports, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States, claiming the lives of over 47,500 people.

It was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34, the target audience of the film.

We can see that high achiev-



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

The Harris will be hosting screenings of the new musical film *Dear Evan Hansen* from Sept. 23 through Oct. 14.

ers like Alana, as well as social outcasts like Connor, all struggle in their own way. We even tap into the parental side of struggle, when Evan's single mother, Heidi (Julianne Moore), reveals her struggles after Evan's dad left the family during the song "So Big / So Small."

With that being said, many have criticized the film for its lackluster redemption for Evan, and the overall package of how he dealt with Connor's suicide.

The film weaves a precarious case of empathy for our main character, while constantly reminding us that our suicide victim really didn't have much of a personality — until minutes from

the end, it's revealed that Connor was a real human being with real feelings and real struggles.

The biggest issue is the lack of regard for the victim of the story. Not only is Connor sacrificed, but Evan profits off of his death — selfishly and unnecessarily — for the betterment of his own mental health. Evan finally has friends, recognition, support... but at what cost?

Even his own sister, Zoe, eventually becomes tired of the support group made in honor of her brother, and solely wants to focus on her high school romance with Evan.

"Mental illness is a plot device for most of the story, plain and simple. Evan's anxiety and

depression are used as excuses for the manipulative, lying, downright selfish behavior he exhibits throughout. He has numerous chances to set the record straight but chooses not to because he just can't resist the attention," Amanda Prahl wrote in a review on Popsugar.

The moral of the film here is controversial. On one hand, it's important to spread awareness and educate our youth on suicide prevention, especially in a social media driven world. On the other hand, using mental health struggles, as Evan did, as an excuse to manipulate the ones around you isn't what we want to teach our youth.

## 'Psycho Beach Party' tech week prepares for production

CAPRI SCARCELLI  
a&e editor

Get crazy! Get 'psycho!' Red Masquers' *Psycho Beach Party* is coming to a stage near you (Genesius Theater, of course).

Running from Oct. 7-23 Thursdays-Sundays, the 'Psychotic' cast and crew is delighted to present their first mainstage production since Covid-19.

Written by Charles Busch, *Psycho Beach Party* (2000) is a comedic nod to psychodramas,

beachy vibes and slasher films — all joked about in the title itself.

Featuring sophomore Susan Betten as leading character "Chicklet," the play follows a young teen who more than anything wants to fit in with the surfer crew. However, interspersed with breakdowns and blackouts, many of the supporting characters inquire whether she is to blame for the mysterious murders on Malibu Beach.

Excitedly preparing for their debut, the Red Masquers have

posted snippets of surprises on their TikTok: @redmasquers.

On the account, the actors give a sneak-peak at the casting, costuming and overall energy of the show.

"This show is a campy, beachy, 'Rocky-Horror-Picture-Show'-esque satire, and it's absolutely the most ridiculous hour and a half of my entire theater career," Betten said. "Playing 'Chicklet' and doing the costume design of the show has been the most exciting experience I've had in my 10 years of theater, hands down."

Director Jill Jeffrey said the cast has been "amazing to work with," especially with the turning point of the "Covid-hiatus" the Genesius theater experienced.

"I am so excited to be a part of this season on the Genesius stage," Jeffrey said. "'Psycho Beach Party' is fun and weird and filled with 'what just happened' moments everywhere in almost every scene. Audiences should come prepared to be part of the show."

Premiering 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays,

*Psycho Beach Party* brings forth an interactive element to the theater that the audience has missed out on during the pandemic. In addition to their regularly scheduled showings, a special-edition midnight showing will be held Oct. 9., with a possible second midnight showing on Oct. 16th.

Tickets will be available at the door and for online purchase, free for Duquesne students.



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“Happiness can be  
found even in the  
darkest of times, if one  
only remembers to  
turn on the light.”

ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

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

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

*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 are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

### Letters policy

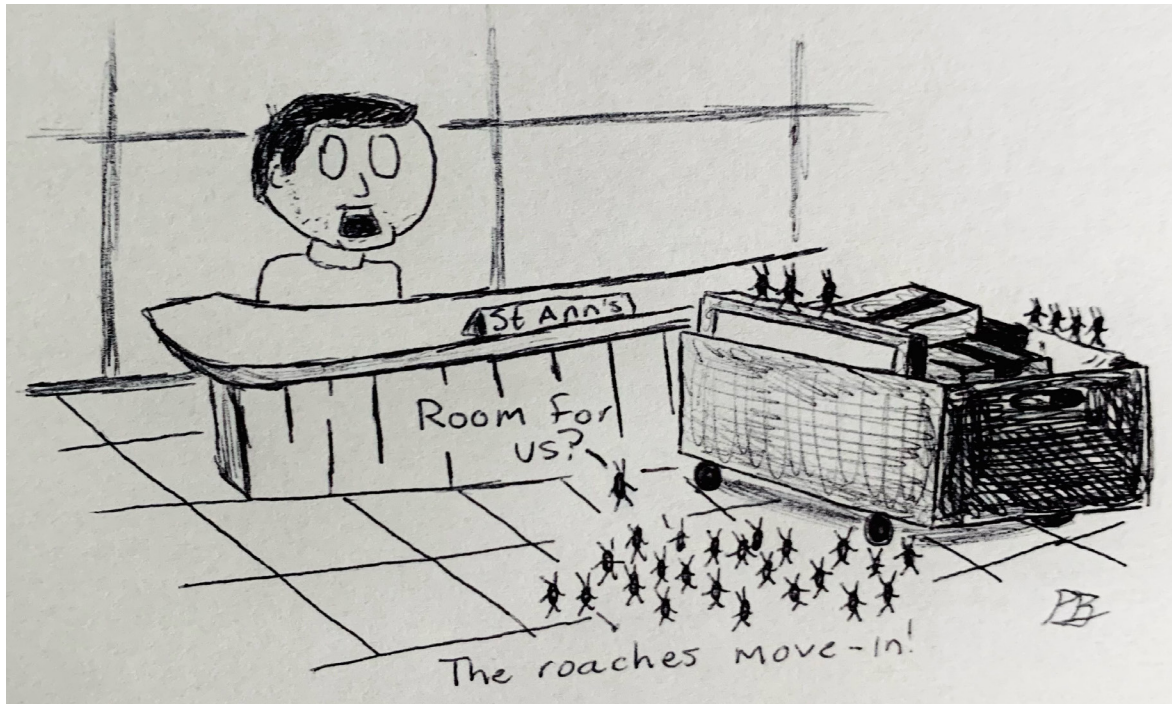
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

### Corrections/clarifications

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

### Contact

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PETER BOETTGER | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

## Dresses and drowning in Iron Dome tears

Nearly a week after Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez strutted down the Met Gala red carpet in a white gown emblazoned with the words “Tax the Rich” in red down her back, she made headlines once again weeping on the House Floor after voting took place to fund the Israeli Iron Dome.

The New York Democratic representative caused another round of controversy with her last-minute decision to vote “present” — or take no official position — on a bill providing \$1 billion in new funding for the missile defense system.

But while the debate about the dress was mostly a pop culture stunt with inconsequential changes to Ocasio-Cortez’s politics, this vote — or lack thereof — called for backlash from both the right and the left. It leaves the future open as to what Ocasio-Cortez’s political identity truly is; It causes mistrust.

On Sept. 23, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Iron Dome missile defense system bill.

The bipartisan support in Congress was proven, as the vote was 420 to nine to help Israel replace missile interceptors used during the missile conflict with the Palestinians in May. But this also exposed divisions among Democrats over U.S. policy toward one of its closest allies.

In the political world, leaders are forced to make difficult and often emotional decisions when it comes to America’s involvement in other countries, but taking no stance is arguably worse than picking a side.

Ocasio-Cortez’s decision is one of cowardice.

The performative act isn’t garnering any support from hard-stuck Israeli supporters; it merely undermines Ocasio-Cortez’s ability to pick a side, and vote emo-

tionally rather than politically.

On the left, Ocasio-Cortez’s act opens up the possibility of a divide between her and the left-wing “squad.”

In the debate surrounding the vote, members of the squad, such as Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., denounced the idea of the Iron Dome funding due to Israel’s mistreatment of Palestinians, claiming that America must keep consistency on human rights matters. Most of the squad, other progressives and one Republican voted against the bill.

Previously outspoken about her support for Palestine, Ocasio-Cortez called out Joe Biden during the heightened time of the conflict in Gaza in May.



ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

Speaking on the House Floor on May 13, she said: “The president and many other figures this week stated that Israel has a right to defend itself, and this is a sentiment that’s echoed across this body. But do Palestinians have a right to survive? Do we believe that? And if so, we have a responsibility to that.”

Earlier last week, Ocasio-Cortez, along with other House progressives, argued to exclude Iron Dome fund-

ing from an emergency spending bill package. But when the Iron Dome stand-alone bill came along, she declined to take a position.

So where do you really stand, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez?

The representative released a lengthy statement Sept. 24 regarding her “present” vote, with little explanation as to why she decided to vote that way.

Some of the note reads as follows:

“First, let me begin with why I believe this bill should have been opposed: contrary to popular narrative, this bill was not for all U.S. funding of the Iron Dome, and opposing it would not defund U.S. financing of the system in any way, shape or form...” Ocasio-Cortez wrote.

The statement continued, “...I believe strongly that Congress should take greater scrutiny with all military funding across the world. I also believe that, for far too long, the U.S. has handed unconditional aid to the Israeli government while doing nothing to address or raise the persistent human rights abuses against the Palestinian people...”

She talks throughout the apology about why the vote should have been opposed and why it shouldn’t have happened so quickly in the first place — but never explained her rationale. It’s political fodder for those easy to forgive and forget, but we must hold her accountable for staying silent on an issue supposedly close to her heart.

The statement would’ve been effective had she been truly transparent about the vote, more so than her so-called “support” for Palestinians. That’s all we really ask for as citizens: transparency from our political leaders, and an idea of where they stand on hot button issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — even if they don’t know themselves.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Women’s basketball is going “mad” this year

2022 will finally see the first official branding of “March Madness” for collegiate women’s basketball in NCAA history.

There are multiple reasons that the women’s basketball tournaments might not be included under the same official branding as the men’s games in years past, but none are proven to be the single source of the discrimination.

In a statement to *The Wall Street Journal* in March 2021, the NCAA said, “When the current version of the March Madness logos and branding were developed five years ago, women’s basketball leadership at that time chose to pursue their own brand identity.”

Furthermore, ESPN has owned the rights to the NCAA women’s tournament for many years. In an article this past March, *The Wall Street Journal* said, “The NCAA sold the rights to its women’s tournament, which launched in 1982, and many of its other sports championships to ESPN for \$500 million over 14 years.”

Only recently did the women’s championship gain national television coverage. ESPN was not obligated to add “March Madness” to any of its women’s game live streams.

On the other side of the debate is how men’s games have fared using the NCAA “March Madness” branding in the past. A survey done in 2019 by the American Gaming Association (AGA), found that 47 million Americans wagered an estimated \$8.5 billion on the tournament.

“In addition to those filling out brackets,” said the AGA, “18 million more Americans will place \$3.9 billion in bets at a sportsbook, online, with a bookie or with a friend.”

The NCAA’s 2020 financial statement proved that the men’s 2019 collegiate basketball tournaments earned \$1.05 billion in revenue. According to Investopedia, a professional investment and financial advising site, this represents over 90% of the NCAA’s total revenue.

With the pandemic putting strains on athletic programs around the country, the NCAA faced various hardships. For the first time in its 81-years running, March Madness was canceled in 2020. However, adding a women’s bracket may make up for lost revenue by supplying additional streams of cash through TV coverage, in-person ticket sales and betting.

While this decision seems to be economically rational, *USA Today* says that it comes in response to a report by Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP, a law firm which specializes in employment and discrimination matters.

Social media users may remember Sedona Prine’s post this past August, who shared the reality of inequities between the training and promotional opportunities offered to the men’s and women’s teams. Hecker & Fink’s report came as a result of the outrage from players and fans alike.

Women have finally gained a “win” in equality with the official NCAA “March Madness” branding.

With the incredible revenue from the men’s March Madness bracket, and the proliferation of legalized online sports gambling sites, this decision seems not just promising, but unquestionably rational.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**RENE BALDERAS**  
law student

Dear Editor,

This letter is addressing an issue touched on by Sarah Dujordan in Volume 105 of this paper in the article titled “Save the political activism for the experts...”.

Here, the author describes a persistent, and now, pervasive emergence of “celebrities” and their growing influence in US politics.

The author refers to Ronald Reagan, Donald Trump and Kayne West as examples of this trend, and concludes that “traditional politics [should be left] to those who have dedicated their lives to it...”.

I am extremely fearful that the gravity of the issue being rightfully raised in the article is not being completely understood.

The paradigm shifting advent of the internet and of social media is still developing those new symbols, and values that will redefine EVERY aspect of our being.

No place is too sacred, no mind too impenetrable to alone restrain the totalitarian character of these new systems of communication. The difference between Reagan and Trump, has nothing to do with the substance or content of their messages, but with the structures of communication and class that created them.

Between both Presidents is an apocalyptic qualitative difference.

In the recent California recall election a 29-year-old youtuber received 9.8% of the vote. This news should be mobilizing all of what’s left of civil society in this country to attempt to reform how the internet is governed.

The mill gave us the lord, the radio gave us fascism, television gave us Trump and now YouTube has through capital incantation summoned a political force that is still in a stage of development where its influence can be regulated.

Allowing YouTubers to grow in prominence, for many, represents a natural progression of the development of market and political forces. History should push us to correct this fatal miscalculation.

## EDITORIAL

Above is a letter to the editor sent by Duquesne law student, Rene Balderas, in response to staff columnist, Sarah Dujordan’s article entitled “Save the political activism for the experts.”

All letters to the editor are not reflections of the Duke staff’s opinions.



## The Haitian refugee crisis is a humanitarian one

**MIA LUBRANI**  
staff columnist

A viral video of U.S. border patrol on horseback attempting to corral Haitian refugees away from the U.S. has shined a light on the dehumanizing situation at the U.S.-Mexico border growing more chaotic every day.

Stemming from the video, there have been recent efforts to expel the immigrants by border patrol. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* says 15,000 people were living under a bridge between Del Rio, Texas, and Mexico’s Ciudad Acuña nearly two weeks ago.

Del Rio is suffering from the influx of people trying to seek asylum from Mexico, and the majority of the displaced people have endured long journeys from Haiti, Chile, Brazil and Colombia. These people are refugees — people who cannot go back to their origin country due to a fear of persecution.

Before the recent refugee crisis began, Haitian refugees were displaced after an earthquake in 2010, impacting their economic stability and quality of life. After the earthquake, many citizens fled to neighboring countries. Eager to help their allies, the countries opened their borders.

A majority of the displaced persons stayed in their locations throughout the Trump administration, as they had strengthened constraints on refugee laws and standards in the U.S.

Moreover, the assassination of Jovenel Moise, Haiti’s president, on July 7 shook Haiti’s political climate and safety. On top of the

fact that more than half of Haiti’s population is living below the poverty line, the political administration was left unstable, and citizens were stranded with living on less than \$2 per day, according to *The Borgan Project*.

The unprecedented migration that occurred over the past few months has led to a group of refugees waiting for permission into the border. America was aware of the influx before it occurred, but when thousands started arriving, the border was forced to shut.

Due to the U.N. agreement, America would have to grant refugees asylum if they have provable fear. Right now, natural disasters do not qualify under Article 1 of the Convention Relating to Status of Refugees.

Moreover, refugees often seek safety because of natural disasters ruining economic sustainability in first world countries. All eyes across the globe are on the U.S. because of the mistreatment of families at the border, and the Department of Homeland Security is attempting to use a pandemic related authority to exile refugees from staying at the border.

The U.S. does not seem inclined to open the borders to thousands of Haitian refugees, after President Joe Biden granted 90,000 Afghan refugees Temporary Protection Status, as well as to Haitians already in the U.S., not those at the border.

Viewers are worried that this is a human rights issue, and the treatment of the refugees is more animalistic than American ideal-



COURTESY OF PIXNIO  
The 2010 earthquake in Haiti displaced thousands of families. Many fled to surrounding countries.

ogy promotes.

Some people think it is hypocritical to be the “land of the free” and the “melting pot” when the government doesn’t show empathy to immigrants. Others argue that there is a system in place for a reason, and Haitians cannot be an exception.

Haitian refugees should be treated as humans; They are fleeing from dire situations. As a first world country, citizens don’t recognize the fear for safety and desperation for peace that displaced families face.

The U.S. should be attempting to process the refugees, administer vaccines, all while showing empathy for fellow humans. Although governments have to be practical, there is a certain respect a country should uphold when dealing with groups of displaced persons who are in fear of their lives if turned away.

The Haitian refugee crisis is increasingly unstable, and a growing issue as the Biden administration continues to respond to the influx of asylum seekers at the U.S. border. Recently, the 15,000 people, with 60% being family units, have been sent back to Haiti.

Some of these people have not lived in Haiti for years, and they will be reintegrated into a dangerous and poverty stricken climate. *The LA Times* writes that Biden is embarrassed by the inhumane treatment, yet they were sent back.

The Haitian immigration crisis has been ongoing since 2010 and will not stop until someone helps the displaced persons find a safe home. And those refugees forced back into an unknown and dangerous system must somehow find peace in an unstable world.

## Globalized knowledge: The world is more than America

**CHRISTIANA CATES**  
staff columnist

Travel YouTubers have been a beacon of light for cultural exploration around the globe, but it was one travel video from Hong Kong, and a sentence that impacted me as an American.

“C’mon, Americans are not the only people that speak English in this world, think bigger. This world is not America and the rest of the world, we have the other countries, remember?” said YouTuber, MeloCat, in her “Cart Noodles Hong Kong” video.

MeloCat is a Hong Kong based YouTuber who grew up in Canada and is bilingual in Chinese and English. Her channel predominantly features travel and lifestyle videos.

The words she spoke struck a chord and spoke truth to something I have thought most of my life: multiculturalism and exploration are key in terms of global unity.

Generally, when Americans are asked about other countries, languages and asked to pronounce foreign names, we often do not know the answer. But when other people from other countries

are asked the same questions, it seems they have more knowledge on a global scale.

One way to solve this problem — to encourage thinking from a global perspective — is to alter the curriculum in our schools, starting to learn a language in our primary schools rather than secondary.

Furthermore, incorporating core history courses: a curriculum track about other countries or continents, as well as American history still being a choice.

On our college campuses and during our high school years, encouraging exchange programs or having more study abroad awareness could also prove to be influential on our understanding of other cultures.

Having these as a part of our school years can integrate global ideas more naturally, and normalize our awareness of the surrounding world.

A newspaper publication based in Hong Kong, known as the *South China Morning Post*, stated that “with a daily routine of dual-language immersion [at school], the young learners recognize the ‘second language’ as a way of life instead of a subject.”

The article written by the SCMP



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH  
Increasing knowledge of the world boosts a student’s ability to connect with others.

also stated that people who are multilingual display an intellectual advantage in many areas: problem-solving, decision making, logic and memory.

Socially, we can provide more comfortable environments for multilingual exchange students.

Furthermore, thinking outside of the box and thinking of the world can be useful when learning a new

language or about a new culture. It can help with studying abroad, or even a move abroad where communication and reading terminology is essential to your time spent there.

Seeing and recognizing the benefits of multiculturalism can prove to be an asset to yourself and the people who surround you. The world is more than just America, after all.



# Chalk it Up: club creates murals through chalk

EMILY AMBERY  
staff writer

Most students walking on A-Walk look up in admiration of downtown Pittsburgh's skyline.

But perhaps they should start to look down, and focus on the elaborate chalk artwork on the bricks and pavement below them, created by Duquesne's Chalk Mural Club.

The murals, started popping up on A-Walk last school year. The club is sponsored by Campus Ministry, but is currently in the process of becoming an official Duquesne club.

The club was started in 2020 by Duquesne alumni Wyatt Haversack. Haversack, who graduated with a degree in Advertising and Public Relations, said he got the idea to create chalk murals after thinking about how he could contribute to World Kindness Day.

"Initially, my vision was to assemble

a big smile. Smaller murals take about a half hour to complete. Larger murals can take anywhere from one to two hours from start to finish.

The club is just getting started and is looking for student artists to help create colorful images and kind words all throughout campus. The club's current president is Duncan Dobbins, a graduate pharmacy student.

Dobbins has drawn all of the murals himself this year.

Dobbins described always having a passion for art. He explained getting his "art fix" by creating visual abstracts and concepts for members of his lab. In highschool, he drew on the chalkboards all the time so when asked to help design and draw chalk murals at Duquesne, he jumped at the opportunity.

"When we get new members, anyone would be free to lead their own projects as long as we have approval for the location; we want it to be something where



COURTESY OF DUNCAN DOBBINS

Duquesne's Chalk Mural Club, led by pharmacy graduate student Duncan Dobbins, is looking for new members to help draw chalk murals on A-Walk.

multiple groups of people to cover the entire campus with positive quotes and images, but scaled the idea down to just one mural at a time," Haversack said.

Each mural features a positive message to give Duquesne students encouragement on their way to class.

Some rainbow-colored positive messages featured were "Take a deep breath, feel the serenity" "Be brave" and "Be kind."

"Working with my mural team members to create our 'Smile is the Universal Welcome' mural was a ton of fun, with people stopping by to check out what we were doing and contributing to the mural," Haversack said. "I love bringing people together to foster a creative and welcoming environment."

The Smile is a Universal Welcome mural depicted a brightly colored globe without its Covid-19 mask on to reveal

people can volunteer and help each other create cool projects on campus when they can," Dobbins said. "You don't have to be an expert artist, you just have to like to color."

Dobbins gives the club's ideas for murals to Linda Donovan, campus minister, who gets the designs and locations approved.

Whether you consider yourself an artist or just like to color, the club offers an outlet for all to draw and enjoy weather and dry pavement while it lasts. The chalk is provided by Campus Ministry.

"The theme to a lot of the work we have done so far has been about spreading positive messages," Dobbins said. "Many of our projects have been with campus ministry and we just wanted to put something fun under the feet of Duquesne students."

Although the Chalk Mural Club is just



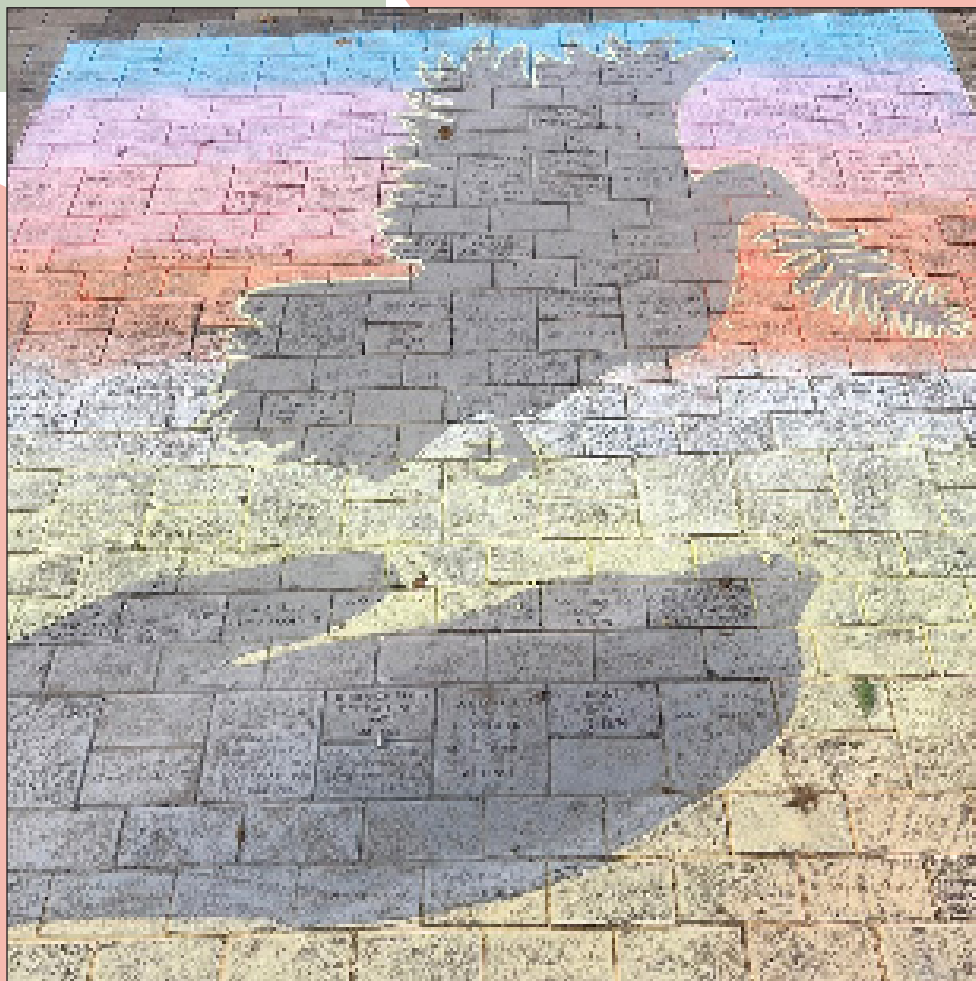
COURTESY OF DUNCAN DOBBINS

One of the chalk drawings created by Duquesne's Chalk Mural Club. The club is looking for new members, and students interested in joining can email Duncan Dobbins at [dobbinsd@duq.edu](mailto:dobbinsd@duq.edu).

getting started, it has big plans for the future. The club is looking to expand into fundraising and making chalk murals as an inclusive event.

"Our basic principles are to make a club where we can spread positive messages with something fun and easy like chalk," Dobbins said. "When we become official and have more members, I hope to host some events outside at Duquesne and fundraise for good causes."

**Students interested in joining the Chalk Mural Club should email [dobbinsd@duq.edu](mailto:dobbinsd@duq.edu).**



COURTESY OF DUNCAN DOBBINS

Duquesne's Chalk Mural Club, led by pharmacy graduate student Duncan Dobbins, is looking for new members to help draw chalk murals on A-Walk.



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