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 Cristiano Salinas sought to challenge the notion of Duquesne’s usage of the term “Latinx” with his Zoom-seminar titled “What is Latinx? Who is Latin?”

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 if it does not strictly identify with the pronouns Latino/a.

While the goal of this word was to raise awareness for non-cisgendered 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, I did not even know what it was. It then became my goal to dissect the term Latinx in a way to educate the uninform people who 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 nouns. He shared many anecdotes himself as a Latino with he/him pronouns.

COURTESY OF PAIGE RUNCO

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.

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 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 of the impact he’s had on every- one he’s met,” Gamble said.

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**Homecoming 2021: A star-studded return**

**Mary Liz Flavin & Colleen Hammond**

**The duquesne duke**

A jazz 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 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 weekend on Friday, Sept. 24 with a campus tour for the classes of 1970, 1971 and the Golden Dukes followed by a Wednesday class for the 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 been inducted into the 50th “golden” anniversary since their graduation. At the celebration each graduate received a 50 year pin from a former member of the class.

“I think everyone was eager to have some normalcy in terms of attending in-person events after being so distant from one another 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 people of Duquesne and described it 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 stopped 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.

A line with the theme of the pursuit of learning and constant exploration, Gormley was later joined on stage by literary preservationist, renowned costumer 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 there that really support me,” Nixon said.

As Allen put it, “I kind of lit a flame that exploded.” Nixon said.

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At the conclusion of the proceedings, Alton “Warren” Moore took the stage and sang a stirring rendition of *The Fame* that put a jazzy spin on Fred Rogers’ cherished song.

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**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 identity.

History has lent itself to poor representation of the Hispanic community by means of boiling down their culture. Salinas recounts 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.

“No one is 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 facts 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 strike 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 becoming a bolted-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 Latinx/o/a community wanted to push the development of the term “Latinx” 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.
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 turn-around,” 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 having 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, 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 a turn-around.

With the larger location, the center is able to hold more students and faculty at once: rotation for 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 been a really quick turn around,” Hay said. “It’s not like I had a month to prepare.”

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.

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 vaccinations 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/

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.

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 years 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 Dibeneditto, a freshman from Pittsburgh, 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 you if 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.

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, Medication Therapy Management and Wellness visits, as well as guidance for interviews.

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.

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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.
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 Dragons managed a mere total of 13 yards in the first half, La Salle showed very few signs of a hangover in its 56-7 victory over Virginia University of Lynchburg on Saturday afternoon at Rooney Field.

The Dukes’ 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.

“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.

DU men’s soccer down 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.

A short time later, in the 10th minute, the Explorers swarmed by a new round of defenders. They could only make it a couple yards before being swarmed by a new round of defenders. Perrantes locked in. He completed six passes in 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.

“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.
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.

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.

These cities — determined to market entertainment and tourism — watched as their MiLB teams as a primary source of economic activity. Smaller-market cities that sit just outside of the Major League Baseball market will end up suffering as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Smaller-market cities that sit just outside of the Major League Baseball market will end up suffering as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Erie SeaWolves outfielder Riley Greene waits fans at Canal Park in Akron, Ohio, celebrate following Akron RubberDucks' victory as they face the Bowie Baysox. Demonstrating 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.

Luke Henne | Sports Editor

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 MiLB 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 Akron RubberDucks have become one of Fort Wayne’s biggest attractions.

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

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Luke Henne | Sports Editor
Duquesne choral department performs with a fresh breath

Andrew Kamis
staff writer

Clear some time this Saturday night and ‘Just Breathe,’ with the Duquesne Choral 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, Carol Daley, will conduct the Voices of Spirit and Pappert Chorale this Saturday, Oct. 2 at 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 just had to be honest about, 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 Katarina 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 ‘high zone’ and that masks would not make a difference.

“Just Breathe,” and will consist of many meaningful and evoking songs focused on the concepts of resilience and hope. 

There was a warm sense of community between, they rearranged the symphony’s overall theme of ‘high zone’ and that masks would not make a difference.

For every performance of their repertoire during the concert, audience members are required to wear masks and social distance.

“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 actually to 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 hopes that she is able to feel herself and the whole choir become more confident with the music after practicing. 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.”

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

CAPRI’S KIND WORDS

Take the time you need

It’s midterm season. It’s fall season. It’s “I don’t have time to take care of myself so I’m just going to push forward.”

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’s more than valid to feel through this time.

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
Dear Evan Hansen movie adaptation talks on mental health

Zoe Stratton 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 over Hansen’s self-written letter that the family believes Evan to be the note after the altercation. Connor’s parents (Amy Adams of social media.

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 achievers like Alana, as well as social outcasts like Connor, all struggle in their own way. We even tap into the parental side of struggle, substance abuse and even suicide,” Koplewicz said.

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, down-right 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' 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 Psycho Beach 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 slashers 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 crowd. 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, costumeing 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 Jeffery 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,” Jeffery 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.

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

Dresses and drowning in Iron Dome tears

N early a week after Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez strutted down the Met Gala red carpet in a white gown emblazoned with the words “Tax the Rich” and red down her back, she made headlines once again weeping on the House Floor after voting 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 consequential changes to 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 emotionally 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. "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. @TheDuquesneDuke

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Contact email: theduqduke@gmail.com

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 funding 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 any 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.

Women’s basketball is going "mad" this year

2022 will finally see the first official branding of "March Madness"? According to 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, 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 noted, “The NCAA sold the rights to its women’s tournament, which generates $195 million, and $90 million of its other sports championships to ESPN for $300 million over 14 years.” One recently discovered the women’s championship gain national television coverage. ESPN was not obligated to air any of its women’s games 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 $8.9 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 men’s 2019 collegiate basketball tournaments earned $1.05 billion in revenue. According to Investopedia, a professional investment and financial advisory 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 this move comes in response to a report by Kaplan Heater & 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 NCAA women’s bracket. Becker & Fink’s report came as a result of the outrage from players and fans.

Women have finally gained a “win” in equality with the official NCAA “March Madness” branding. With the sales 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.
The Haitian refugee crisis is a humanitarian one

Mia Lubrani
staff columnist

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

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.

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.

“Cmon, 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, Tuber, MeloCat, in his “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 stability.

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 study abroad 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, 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 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.
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 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 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 high school, 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 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 color.”

Dobbins gives the club’s ideas for murals to Linda Donavan, 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.

“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.”

Although the Chalk Mural Club is just 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.