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Look local and support small business

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

In the shadow of national chains and big box stores are small businesses, tucked away in shopping plazas and strip malls. While these businesses face pressure from outside competition as well as the growing market and demand from online shopping, they can become easily overlooked. However, small businesses offer more interpersonal connections as well as products from local vendors that people can't find anywhere else.

Rue Boutique, a lifestyle boutique with high end, high quality products, works with clients to shape their wardrobe, as well as promote sustainable products. In addition they do homestyling and private events. This past Friday they celebrated their 5 year anniversary.

Kristen Celly, store manager, said that one of the main differences between working at a small business versus a larger corporation is the ability to get involved with a lot of projects.

"You can be a part of everything rather than just having one particular job. You have to wear a lot of different hats. If something needs to get done, then you still have to be able to do it - which can get kind of tricky for some people but it can also be rewarding," Celly said.

At the core of Rue Boutique's values is sustainability and community. With products such as clothing, jewelry and home decor that range on the more expensive side, the boutique looks at customers' investment in long lasting products.

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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Scholastic Book Fair brings nostalgia back to campus

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

With rows of books for kids of all ages and tables lined with erasers, pens and other fun desk supplies, the Scholastic Book Fair provides an unforgettable experience. Many college kids were brought back to their elementary school days when walking through the second floor of the Union. There, the Scholastic Book Fair is set up for everyone on campus to enjoy.

Cameron Busch, a senior business major, stopped by the fair to take a look at some of the Lego books displayed.

"I'm a kid at heart, so of course it's the Lego section. It looks like they have a really wide selection here, and it seems to be at a relatively nice price," Busch said.

According to the Scholastic Book Fair website, the book fair is "a magical and unforgettable experience where all kids can become readers." Scholastic is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books with 115,000 schools, 3.8 million educators, 54 million students and 78 million parents and caregivers domestically.

Students of all ages can participate in the fair. Danielle Henzler, director of the Curriculum Center located on the fifth



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Senior business major Cameron Busch looks at the various Lego themed books. Over in this corner, many children's books can be seen as well as a table full of journals, pencil toppers, pens, erasers and other activity-style books.

floor of the Gumberg Library, has been running the book fair at Duquesne for 20 years.

"I love that excitement, it's everyone who comes through. Book fairs were a positive experience for everyone whether you were or weren't a reader. My purpose in doing this is to get books into people's hands, whether that be your siblings or yourself or adults on campus shopping for their children," Henzler said.

Henzler's experience in the Curriculum Center as well as her background in literature based instruction allows her to help recommend the right book to people looking for a good read.

In order to set up a book fair, the school has to set it up through Scholastic, according to Henzler. Scholastic supplies and delivers books and other fun supplies, including a register that records how much of a certain product is sold, to the university for them to sell. All of the remaining books get sent back after the fair has concluded.

Easy reads such as "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" and "Clifford the Big Red Dog" are present. Other classics like "Captain Underpants" and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" can be seen featured here as well. For college students looking for a more advanced read, "Turtles All the Way Down" by John Green and "On the Come Up" by Angie Thomas have been the best sellers so far.

Kylie Rosenberger, a Duquesne student, said she came to the bookfair to get something for her niece and nephew.

"My niece is six and my nephew is five. She is really good at reading and likes all the knick-knacks they have here, too. I'm looking mainly for things to get her started reading longer books,"

The fair has a wide selection for younger readers. Samantha Wilhelm, a senior middle school

education major, also came to the fair in search of books for younger kids.

"I'm just looking for books to add to my library for when I have a classroom. One I saw was "OCD Daniel", this one is about a kid who is on the football team and he's different from everyone else so he hides his quirks," Wilhelm said. "I haven't read it yet, but I think it will be one that will bring students together and realize that everyone's different, and we can accept those differences."

For those who feel like reading isn't for them, Henzler said otherwise.

"There's a book out there for everybody," Henzler said.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Danielle Henzler rings up Duquesne student Kylie Rosenberger as she buys books for her niece and nephew. Henzler has been working the Scholastic Book Fair for 20 years. This year she is excited to help readers of all ages.

The Holiday Book Sale will continue through Saturday, Dec. 4th. On Thursday from 10 a.m to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday until 1 p.m.

40th Annual Christmas Ball - Tickets Now Available

For 40 years, the Christmas Ball has been a Duquesne University tradition. On Friday, Dec. 3, join the Duquesne Program Council at the Omni William Penn Hotel for this semi-formal holiday event. The cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of 10 - includes transportation, dinner and dancing. Tickets are available in the Center for Student Involvement (305 Union).



Grandma's Banana Nut Bread

- 2 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. shortening
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 c. mashed bananas
- 3 c. flour
- 1 1/4 c. butter-milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts (optional)

Put in two 9x5 inch loaf pans and bake for 45 to 50 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool for 10 minutes and then remove from pan.

Small business engage with community

MARY LIZ FLAVIN

news editor

see **BUSINESS** — page 1

"Unfortunately fast fashion is all we can afford sometimes, but it's better to invest in something that will last you longer. We value being a part of the small business world here in Pittsburgh and the community in the sense of welcoming our customers and forming relationships with them," Celly said.

Rue Boutique is not the only store focused on community. Style Encore, an independent women's resale store and trademark of the Winmark Corporation, focuses on creating a good environment for customers and workers alike.

Jenna Geisler, manager of Style Encore, has been working with the store for nearly six years. She said the job allows her to be close-knit to the high-school girls and other women she works with, and it reminds her of her past experiences.

"It's definitely a family atmosphere, not like the store at the mall or something at the corporate level. It's really been a core thing in my life since I was younger so it's cool to see the younger girls here since I'm one of the older people here and can mentor the younger girls," Geisler said.

Small businesses like Style Encore allow opportunities for people in the community to get to know one another who might have not gotten that chance. Students from the Hampton, Shaler and North Hills area are able to work at Style Encore as well as their sister stores Plato's Closet and Once Upon a Child.

As a resale store, customers looking to sell their clothing get paid cash right then and there according to Geisler. Encore pays anywhere from 30 to 40% on regular clothing items and up to 50% for higher value items such as purses and Louis Vuitton articles. In addition, all products in the store are 50 to



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Style Encore offers everyday discounts ranging between 50 to 90%. For customers looking to sell their apparel, Style Encore pays cash on the spot. They pay 30 to 40% on personal items and 50% for higher end items such as purses and bags.

90% off normal mall and retail store prices.

Geisler said that even with the money you save, it goes a long way, more-so than it would in a corporate atmosphere.

"Especially now-a-days with everything that is going on in the world, supporting small and local, it's like you want to do a little bit more now. Seeing our regulars coming back in from us being closed is amazing, and you really feel like you have a purpose and can reach more people. Even though you are considered a small business, you can still do big things," Geisler said.

For those looking to show off their Pittsburgh pride, Shop412 is a local apparel store that aims to represent the city as well as takes on projects that help make the community a better place.

Store owner, Aaron Kinkela, started Shop412 with his brother Christian Kinkela to create a brand that celebrates Pittsburgh's emerging generation of creators and athletes where "in Pittsburgh, Hometown is Hero."

"Day to day small business is small business - not always fun

but you know that is what we believe, this is what we do and live for. We've been here for 13 to 14 years. It's cool to see the city change over time and coming up and seeing what the youth are up to," Kinkela said

Shop412 not only sells sweat-shirts, t-shirts, hats and other apparel items but they also take part in 412 projects where the company works alongside the fire department, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Pittsburgh Penguins, artists such as Lupe Fiasco and others to create custom gear as well as give back.

Their most recent project 412 X The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy celebrates the conservancy's 25th anniversary. According to the Shop412 website, a portion of the proceeds will support planting trees for the non-profit organization. With a purchase of one of the items deemed with the Pittsburgh Parks logo the customer receives a grow-your-own Blue Spruce tree kit, gardening gloves included.

"Honestly it's about community and giving back, it's a place to generate new, fun ideas. It's a retail store first and foremost but it's also a brand that's a part of the community," Kinkela said.



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

According to Rue Boutique's mission statement, they believe in the power of ambiance and esthetics. The way they dress and decorate their space is an expression of who they are. It impacts their mood, energy and connection with others

POLICE BRIEFS

Thurs. Nov. 18 - Officers received a call for an "aggressive panhandler" in the Forbes Avenue Surface Lot.

Thurs. Nov 18. - An altercation occurred in St. Anne Hall between two resident students, and the victim refused medical care. One student was issued a non-traffic citation for disorderly conduct, and the incident was referred to the office of student conduct.

Sat. Nov. 20 - Residence Life conducted administrative searches of the LLCs. They recovered two fake drivers licenses for Des Places and one from St. Ann Hall. The rooms were unoccupied. A non-traffic citation was issued.

Sat. Nov. 20 - A resident student was in possession of a false identification card and alcohol. He was under the age of 21 and was issued a non-traffic citation.

Sun. Nov. 21 - An officer discovered that a glass door on the Van Kaam Building had been damaged by a rock. No cameras were in the area of the door that had been damaged. The facility employees cleaned the glass and resecured the door.

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 hammondcc@duq.edu.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

SCAN HERE FOR COVID-19 DATA



MBB falters down stretch, loses to Bowling Green

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

Despite holding the lead for less than six minutes in the entire game, Bowling Green closed out Wednesday night's meeting with Duquesne on a 12-0 scoring run to down the Dukes 78-70 at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The loss was Duquesne's fifth in eight games to start the campaign. The eight-point defeat also snapped the Dukes' brief two-game winning streak.

With just under three minutes to go, Duquesne led 70-66, but would be kept off the scoreboard for the remainder of the contest.

Bowling Green saw four of its players score in double figures, as Joe Reece and Kaden Metheny each recorded 15 points for the Falcons. Samari Curtis scored 14 points, while Daewon Plowden added 13 points of his own.

For Duquesne, 50 of its 70 points came from three players. Leon Ayers III scored a game-high 20 points, while Kevin Easley Jr. provided 18 points. Tre Williams also posted 12 points.

Head Coach Keith Dambrot was candid in describing his team's late-game performance, citing this reality as a predominant theme early on in the season.

"This is the fourth game we've been in that we just didn't make plays when it mattered," Dambrot said. "We made no defensive plays and no offensive plays."

Despite such dominance over the Falcons, out of the Mid-American Conference, during his prolonged tenure at Akron, Dambrot's team came up short this time.

"Am I frustrated? My record against Bowling Green in my time at Akron was 25-2," Dambrot said. "That's a game we gotta

win. We led the whole way. [In] the last four minutes, we did nothing."

Williams explained that, as a team with so much roster turnover, the Dukes' cohesion still doesn't seem to be in place.

"It's something we've got to get more comfortable with quickly," Williams said. "We have to just know that we can trust everybody on the floor."

Dambrot, no fan of moral victories, is still trying to use his slate of non-conference games as a way of evaluating what the best rotations are for his team moving forward.

"We've shown we can play close, and that we're competitive, but we haven't shown that we can win," Dambrot said. "We've got to make some changes in order to try to win. Good teams go for the throat when you have chances. In the first eight games of the year, we've screwed up three, at least."

Dambrot also said that his team was physically outmatched at points, evidenced by Bowling Green's 49-39 advantage in total rebounds.

"They probably out-toughed us on the boards, too," Dambrot said. "Part of that is tiredness."

Ayers attributed the loss to a lack of mental composure.

"I think all of it is really mental at the end," Ayers said. "It's a discipline thing, locking in when it actually matters in the last four matters because we're 0-4 when we get in close games with teams."

Ayers knows that if the first eight games have taught him anything, it's that games that come down to the final minutes aren't going away anytime soon.

"We just have to watch film, know what we're doing wrong, and try to fix it for those next games," Ayers said. "There's gonna be way more close games that we're gonna

have to execute on. We just have to learn from it and move on."

For the tide to turn, Dambrot echoed Ayers' remarks about mental strength.

"I don't know what to tell them, other than [they've] got to change [their] mindset," Dambrot said. "It's a mental toughness deal and a physical toughness deal. A lot of it's mindset. Simple."

Duquesne will embark on a two-game roadtrip. The Dukes will play at Marshall

in Huntington, W.Va., on Saturday before heading to Chicago for a matchup with DePaul on Tuesday.

Saturday's game will mark the Dukes' third all-time meeting with the Thundering Herd. Duquesne bested Marshall in a home game in 2018-19 before falling in a neutral-site game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland the following season.

Tuesday's game will be the first-ever game between the Dukes and Blue Demons.



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

Despite a game-high 20 points from Leon Ayers III, Duquesne blew a late lead to Bowling Green in an eight-point loss on Wednesday. It was Ayers' third-consecutive game with at least 20 points.

WBB slides past Canisius for third-straight win

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

Precious Johnson and Fatou Pouye each netted 19 points to help Duquesne put away Canisius 69-60 at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Wednesday afternoon.

The Dukes opened with a flying start, leading 21-12 after the first quarter. The 21 points in the opening frame tied Duquesne's second-highest scoring period in a quarter all season.

The defense stiffened toward the end of the first as well, forcing a series of turnovers that translated to made shots on the other end. Duquesne closed the second quarter on an 11-2 run and took a 39-23 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Dukes' offense had great success moving the ball around in the first half, recording 14 assists. On the flipside, the Golden Griffins were able to muster just four assists in the first two quarters.

Duquesne finished the game with 20 assists, with 10 of them coming from Megan McConnell, who finished just one point shy of a double-double.

Johnson made eight of her nine field-goal

attempts. Her performance was punctuated by a three-point play with just over a minute remaining in the third quarter, when she drew the foul and made the basket from the post position, the spot on the floor where she generated most of her scoring throughout the day.

Head Coach Dan Burt was not surprised by the sophomore's season high in scoring.

"I'm not going to give her a cupcake," Burt said. "There's no celebration there. I thought she played a great game today. But she did exactly what she's expected to do."

Burt emphasized Duquesne's dramatic height advantage over Canisius, which was ultimately put to good use. The Dukes finished the game with a 37-27 advantage on the boards.

The victory also saw the first basket of Halle Bovell's return to the court after two years sidelined by injury. She hit a 3-pointer with 2:37 left in the first half, marking the first points she'd scored in 998 days.

It was a special moment for her, one that many experts were skeptical would even happen, with Burt referring to her even being on the court as a "miracle".

While expressing her gratitude for the mo-

ment, Bovell also said that she expects it to be one she continues to replicate throughout the campaign.

"Hopefully, I'll have some more in the next game and just kind of string it along," Bovell said. "It's been a long journey, but I love basketball, I love Duquesne, and I love my teammates. I just want to go out there and help our team win."

Despite the 16-point advantage at halftime, the Dukes left the door open for the Golden Griffins to make a comeback. Canisius' offense found greater success against Duquesne in the second half. The Golden Griffins shot 44% from the field in the third quarter, while also hitting five threes in the final frame.

Burt expressed his frustration with the lackluster second-half performance, while making sure to note that his players were holding themselves accountable.

"I walked back into a locker room that made me feel really good," Burt said. "It was dead silent. People were not happy. That's the way it needs to be. We'll take the win, but our performance was not up to the standard it needs to be."

"If we're going to be a good basketball pro-

gram and reach our goals, it is going to be with people that are ultra-competitive."

Duquesne will look for its fourth consecutive win on Sunday, when it hosts Temple.



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

For the fourth time this season, Fatou Pouye scored in double figures in Wednesday's win.

Club plans to get students amped on history

EMILY AMBERY

staff writer

A group of Duquesne students are ready to take history outside of learning facts in a textbook and lectures, and have created a new history club on the Bluff.

The co-creators of the Duquesne History club are junior English and History major, Tommy DeMauro; junior History major, political science and Spanish minor, Thadeus Benson and sophomore political science, sociology and philosophy major Jason Minicozzi.

DeMauro and Benson originally came up with the idea for the club.

"We believed that there is a general consensus that people enjoy history, and they just don't know it yet," DeMauro said. "The goal of the Duquesne History club is to get non-history and history majors to come together and bond over the fact that they like history through different events."

"I joined [Tommy] because he asked me to, and it is hard to say no to such a pretty face," Benson said.

The club plans to have themed meetings based on a certain decade, film or music genre, cultures and food genre. For example, if the club were to hold a "60's themed" meeting, students would be able to enjoy food, music and Jeopardy from the 60s.

"I was a transfer [to Duquesne] in the middle of Covid, and this is my first semester actually on campus, and it would be really nice to get to know other people on

campus," Benson said.

The club held their first interest meeting on Nov. 18 to discuss potential activities and gain more information about what students are looking to do in the club.

The Duquesne History Club will hold an additional interest meeting in mid-January to ensure all those who wish to join the club are able to. This meeting will also share the plans for the spring semester dates and events.

"It will be a positive way of getting different majors and different types of people together," DeMauro said. "We want to be a club started by students for students and we understand the value of communication and consistency."

The Duquesne History Club also plans to expand its social media presence to make meetings and information accessible to all members.

The club wants to create fun ways to learn about history for people who do not necessarily have an interest in sitting in a history lecture. The club hopes to host field trips to history museums and other historical sites, as well as events that engage learning about history in an exciting way.

"Our main themes are about movies, music and more pop culture rather than just saying facts at you like, 'The Civil War happened in these years and we're talking about this battle today,'" DeMauro said.

The club is open to all Duquesne students and DeMauro emphasized that majors from all schools are welcome and encouraged to join.



COURTESY DUQUESNE HISTORY CLUB

People enjoy history, but sometimes, they don't always know it, according to Duquesne History Club co-creator Tommy DeMauro.

"[The Duquesne History Club] will bring Duquesne companionship among all" Minicozzi said. "[The club] is looking for a sense of camaraderie among students with active and consistent meetings for the

members."

Students interested in joining the Duquesne History Club can email demaurot@duq.edu for more information.

Freshmen reflect on first taste of college life

NICHOLAS ZOTOS

staff writer

With the semester coming to a close, freshmen across Duquesne's campus have successfully braved their first full semester of college. The frustrations and dreams of the first semester of college are winding down, and now many have fully embraced what it means to be a Duquesne student.

After an unconventional senior year of



COURTESY MARISSA KOEHNLEIN

Marissa Koehnlein is a freshman health sciences major at Duquesne.

high school, freshmen nationwide have had to adjust to college life through the pandemic.

"All of my professors at Duquesne have been super supportive during the pandemic," said Jake Mazurkiewicz, a data science major. "I feel as if not much has changed because of the guidance I have received. Also, I enjoy how Duquesne encourages us to be mindful of other people's health while we are enrolled in class."

"It makes adjusting a lot easier," he said.

Freshman Sydney Mundok, a health sciences major, said there are so many things she enjoys about Duquesne — including its "small campus vibe" and the ability to walk down A-Walk and see her friends. However, one of the things she dislikes is how quiet the campus gets on weekends.

"I dislike how so many people go home," she said.

Adjusting to college — something that can be tricky for first-year students, even without the pandemic — was something the university did well, said Jennifer

Herron, a psychology major.

"Duquesne was very open and allowed me to adjust well during the pandemic," she said. "I was also really surprised by how welcoming everyone was within my major and how quickly I made new friends."

Herron also said she liked that her professors were willing to help. The theme of professors and staff being helpful was one that echoed across all schools and disciplines.

"I think the biology department at Duquesne is amazing. I love how supportive the professors are, especially in helping during labs. I also like how as freshmen we are able to conduct research through the Bayer School," said Maria Werner, a biology major.

But, first-year students did take note of some pet-peeves they have with Duquesne: mainly the elevator speed.

"While I do enjoy the fact that they have a club lacrosse team and a comprehensive food service that fits my needs, there are so many things that can be changed about Duquesne," said health sciences major Marissa Koehnlein. "The



COURTESY MARIA WERNER

Maria Werner is a freshman biology major at Duquesne.

elevators in Towers should be faster. During weekdays I feel everyone is late to class because of them. Also the library should open up earlier on the weekend."

The story continues for Duke's Kellen Stepler

KELLEN STEPLER
features editor

It's hard to find the words to adequately sum up my last semester here on the Bluff.

As summer was wrapping up and I was getting ready to start my last semester at Duquesne, I knew it would be a little tough. I wanted to make sure I lived in the moment, cherished every little opportunity I could and have fun along the way.

I can very confidently say that I have accomplished that goal.

I've packed my days with activities that

I'm so tired and easily fall asleep at the end of the day. I've been able to hang out with some of my best friends – and make some new ones – that will last for life. I've had so many great experiences through my internship, job and everything else that comes up that I'll always remember.

I know what you're thinking: "Didn't the time go by so fast?"

And here's my answer:

"No, not really."

But that's a good thing. I don't mean that negatively.

I think that routines go fast. Doing the same thing over and over goes fast.

I didn't do that, though. The stories I've written for The Duke, and other publications, have opened my worldview so much, and have exposed me to different perspectives and ideas that have not only made me a better journalist, but a better person.

That's one of the greatest things about journalism, in my opinion – doing and learning something new every single day.

Sometimes it's learning about a fencing team at a local high school.

Sometimes, it's about a man throwing a pumpkin at a woman who parked outside of his house.

Sometimes, it's about the history and community at a 300-year-old church.

And sometimes, it's driving on a backroad through cornfields going to the 'Ninja barn' to interview two ex-Amish American Ninja Warriors – yes, you read that correctly.

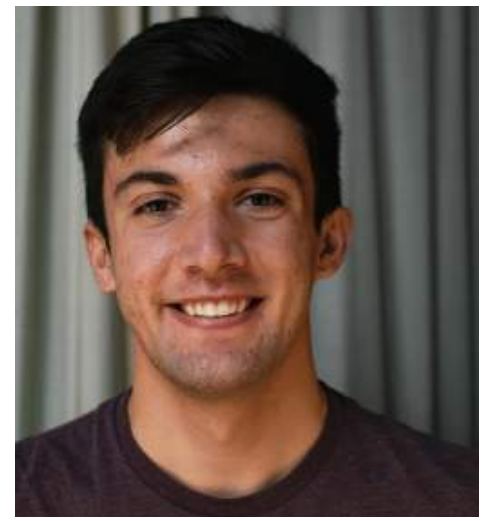
(Did I mention I had a journalism internship in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania?)

There's an old adage that goes, knowledge is power; but I think that it's the unknown sometimes that creates intrigue and keeps us invested. That's what gives us a goal; something to work toward. If we achieve the unknown easily, then what's there to accomplish?

What got a mother and her daughters into a career of school counseling?

What got a group of men to start a mentoring program for high school boys, with the goal of changing the negative narrative for African-American youth?

What got a group of college students to create projects to improve mental health and well-being at their campuses?



GRIFFIN SENDEK

In journalism – and in life – we never lose that sense of wonder. Seize the opportunities you earn, live in the moment and chances are worth taking.

What I've noticed in the last semester is that there's all but one thing that's unlimited: and that's time. In the grand scheme of things, time is constant, rolling society along.

I guess one thing I've also learned is to not think you're "above" anything. Without getting philosophical, I think everything in life has a purpose, or a reason. We might not know it – heck, we might not ever figure it out – but it's important to be courteous and conscientious along the way of whatever it is we are doing.

The next step of my career is being a reporter in the Old Dominion, and I'll be ready for it, thanks to the excellent people that have helped me along the way and the wonderful opportunities I have had.



KATIA FAROUN

On a Duke production night my sophomore year, I read an e-mail from my phone to my editor at the time, Hallie Lauer. This fall, Lauer and I work together at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Aquarius

You are the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree! (in a good way)

Pisces

Friends call me Snow Meiser...

Aries

Friends call me Heat Meiser...

Taurus

You are my Yuletide carol.

Gemini

Who is this person, and why do I know them?

Cancer

You have the consistency of a glass of Eggnog.

Leo

Your favorite color crayon shows your *true* personality

Virgo

Here we go again :)

Libra

Stink...

Scorpio

Stank...

Sagittarius

STUNK!

Capricorn

Party Rock Anthem (Christmas Edition)

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"I never thought it was
such a bad little tree.
It's not bad at all, really.
Maybe it just needs
a little love."

LINUS, "A CHARLIE
BROWN CHRISTMAS"

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

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

email: theduquduke@gmail.com



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

Farewell Duq: My last trip to Starbucks

There's no sweet aroma of baked goods or pungent smells of brewing coffee, but the Starbucks on Duquesne University's campus draws the most exhausting line. The line represents a multitude of things.

For me, my presence in the line everyday Monday through Thursday is a privilege. That line represents the courage to go back to school at 33 years old, the fear of walking around campus in person for the first time since May 2010, and the audacity to see this undergraduate journey until the end. It is all a privilege.

Not to be taken for granted, the Starbucks is more than just your local college coffee den. It is a place of refuge when the school day is complete, a comfort between classes and a melting pot for people who would not typically cross paths.

Graduation is days away and I'm wondering what that last trip to the campus Starbucks will look like.

I assume it will look like my other 64 trips.

I get the usual—a small cappuccino with six white sugars and a trenta mango dragon fruit lemonade with 14 pumps of classic syrup.

(I know that's a lot of sugar for one sitting, but it's my fuel for the day.)

The routine is so predictable that the barista with dreadlocks and the welcoming smile proceeds to write "Mercedes" on the cup be-

fore I finish my order. I can expect for my name to be spelled wrong every time, but his intentions outweigh the misspelling.



MERCEDES WILLIAMS

staff columnist

Ironically, I don't know his name because he refuses to wear his name tag.

His dark tinted prescription glasses tell me that he's nobody to play with. So, that makes me that much more inquisitive. I want to know why he's so rebellious on this Catholic campus. But then I remember how I have always felt so out of place here, and quickly sympathize with his mutiny.

That's right, no-name barista! You don't have to wear that name tag.

He is consistent, too. He

never misses a day of work. My order is always correct. Most importantly, I feel like he sees me. Being noticed is so important in a sea of thousands of students. When it feels like Duquesne is passing the buck or running a graduation factory, it feels good to be recognized by the local barista.

Maybe on my last trip I will muster up the courage to ask him his name and thank him for the friendly daily banter. Maybe I'll tip him, not too much because I'm still a college student but not too little because I don't want to offend him.

When I am walking across the stage on Dec. 17, 2021, teetering the fence about dropping a class, dominating the group projects and stressing over final exams will be the last of my worries. My reflections will be positive—my trip to Slippery Rock University with Dr. Rahmon Hart and the Black Student Union in 2007, getting Father Hogan to chuckle as I beg for more tuition money, and running into my favorite barista at the Starbucks in the Duquesne Union.

My last trip to Starbucks will be a hard one, marking the end of an era. I'd like to believe I left an impression, too.

That Starbucks will never experience the loud-mouthed Black girl from the Hill District who orders the hot and cold beverages with way too much sugar.

It will probably be the best last trip ever.

STAFF EDITORIAL

The season of giving back to our communities

It's time to exchange giving thanks for giving gifts, because the holiday season is in full swing.

Already, people around the country are breaking out the credit cards and wrapping paper in preparation for yet another December amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the supply chain can't quite keep up with demands this holiday, with companies like the apparel store H&M and Nike experiencing delivery delays and factory closures around the globe, and labor shortages ravaging the country.

According to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 10.4 million job openings on the last business day of September, meanwhile the unemployment rate was at 4.2%.

Data released from the Labor Department in mid-November indicates that consumer prices have soared by 6.2% compared to the same period last year — the biggest one-year jump since 1990.

Many of us, despite the disasters occurring in our economy, still have the ability to shop for our families and friends this holiday. Some of us, though, are much less fortunate.

And there are simple ways to help:

In *The Duke's* Nov. 18 issue, we highlighted local nonprofits and charities that aim to help those during the winter and holiday months.

Local shelters and programs are looking for both new and slightly used apparel, as well as monetary donations to provide for the homeless community of Pittsburgh. Some of these include: Bethlehem Haven, Pittsburgh Mercy Winter Shelter and Light of Life Rescue Mission.

According to the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Gift cards are always the biggest need. Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Giant Eagle and VISA gift cards give the organization the flexibility to quickly respond to the needs of clients. A quick trip to the grocery store to pick up a card could help someone take care of their family for a day, or even the week or month.

Other options for helping include Presents for Patients and Toys for Tots, which are nonprofits that allow for long-term care patients and children, respectively, to receive gifts for the holidays that they may not be able to receive from their own families.

Tangible gifts aren't the only way to help out this season; Giving time to these organizations by volunteering is enough to bring cheer to yourself and those who need it.

Many of the organizations may have different policies regarding volunteering during Covid, so it's important to get in contact before getting involved.

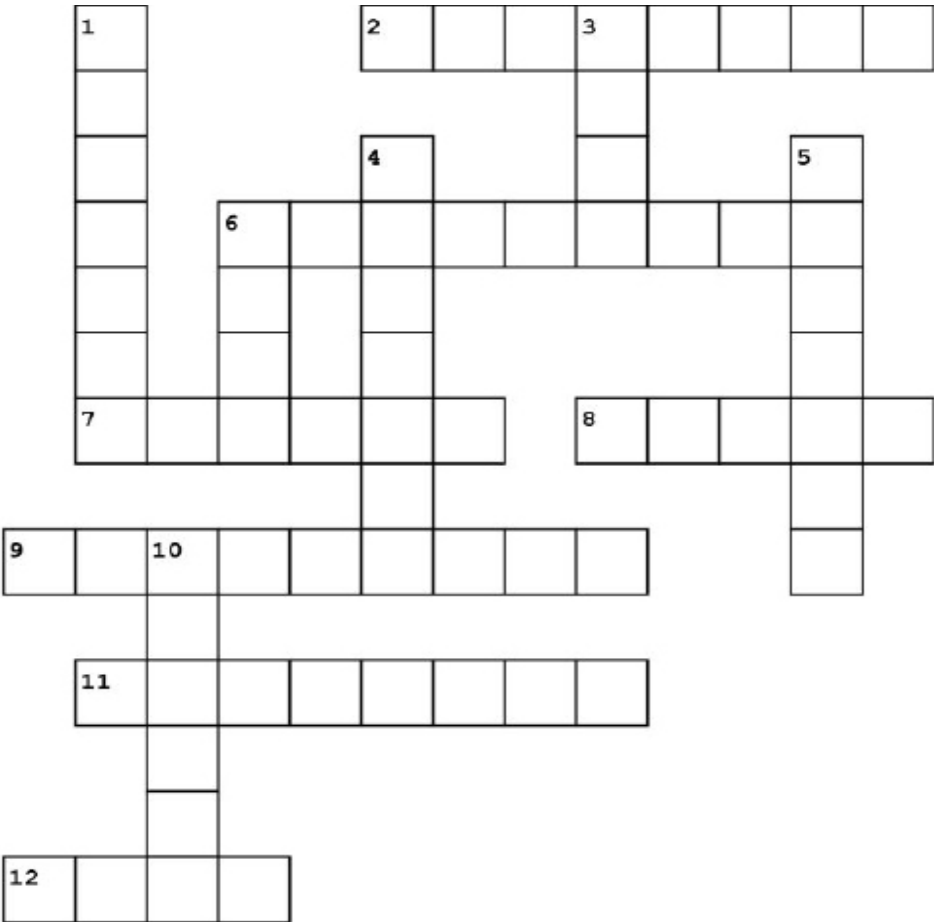
Getting into the holiday spirit isn't always about shopping and decorating, giving back to the community, too, moves all of us past the "bah, humbugs" and "blue, blue, Christmases," after finals.



HOLIDAY PUNS PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 2. WHERE A SNOWMAN KEEPS HIS MONEY
 - 6. WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX A CHRISTMAS TREE AND AN iPad?
 - 7. ALL DAY, WORK!
 - 8. FOR GRAPES, ‘TIS THE SEASON TO BE (A PRESERVE)
 - 9. FROM HEAD TO...
 - 11. YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN SANTA’S AROUND BECAUSE YOU CAN SENSE HIS _____.
 - 12. HIJKMNOP

- DOWN
- 1. WHAT DO SNOWMEN SMELL?
 - 3. AN ELF’S FAVORITE TYPE OF MODERN MUSIC
 - 4. STRUGGLE BUT COZY
 - 5. CHRISTMAS TREES ARE BAD AT KNITTING. THEY HAVE TOO MANY OF THESE.
 - 6. How SANTA VOTES UP NORTH
 - 10. GIVING THE PLACE A FRESH LOOK



Answers on page 8

Snickerdoodle Apple Pie Bites

Recipe by Emma Polen
Inspired by Butter with a side of Bread

Ingredients

- 1 package Snickerdoodle Cookie Mix
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 C butter (1 stick) softened
- 1 can apple pie filling

Instructions

1. Pre-heat oven to 375°. Grease your mini muffin tin with cooking spray.
2. Stir/Knead together your cookie mix, butter and egg. The cookie mix should also come with a packet of cinnamon sugar, which you can set aside in a separate bowl.
3. Once the cookie dough is combined, take roughly a tablespoon of dough and roll it into a ball. Roll the dough ball in the cinnamon sugar and then place it in the pan.
4. Bake for 10 -12 minutes until the edges are slightly golden brown.
5. Once out of the oven, press the back of a spoon into the top of each cookie to make an indentation for the apple pie filling.
6. Let the cookie cups cool for 3 - 5 minutes, and then use a small utensil to remove them from the pan.
7. Prepare the apple pie filling close to the time of serving the apple pie bites. First, chop the apples in the pie filling into smaller pieces and place in a microwave-safe bowl.
8. Heat your filling in the microwave for about 30 seconds. Using a spoon, scoop the finely chopped pie filling into each cookie cup. Finish the apple pie bites off by sprinkling them with cinnamon or any remains from the cookie mix cinnamon sugar packet.

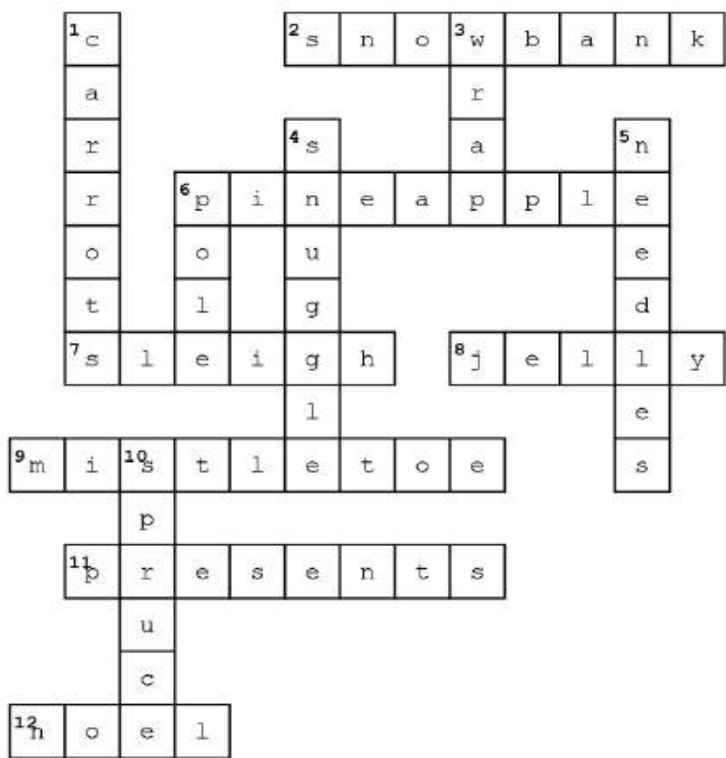
Enjoy :)

These apple pie bites combine one of my favorite Christmas cookies with one of the best fall desserts. To make these bites, you will also need a mini muffin pan. This recipe yields 24 mini bites.



EMMA POLEN / LAYOUT EDITOR

Holiday Puns Puzzle Answer Key



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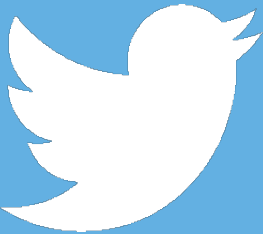
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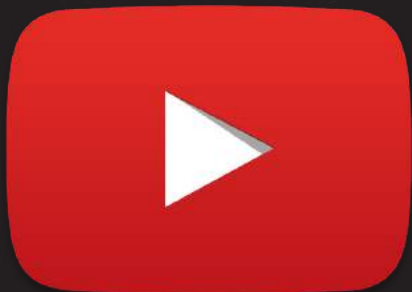
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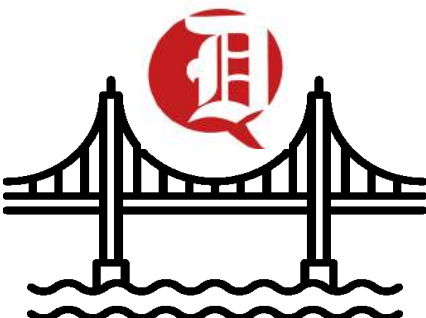


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