Osteopathic medicine school receives 'candidate status'

Known for its strong presence in health care education, Duquesne announced Jan. 7 that the new proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) has received candidate status from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, cementing another step toward its launch in fall 2024.

The moves within the college, which was formally proposed in August 2010, are coming at the right time, as Covid-19 continues to ravage the nation, while shortages of labor and disparities in health care continue to soar.

"I really cannot think of a better time to be starting a medical school," said Dr. John Kauffman, the dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine. "This will give us an opportunity to focus on and really study the social determinants of healthcare and really study those barriers to access," said Dr. John Kauffman, the dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Every New Year is loaded with resolutions, promises that we make ourselves to change habits or personal obstacles that may hinder the potential to live our best lives. Whether the goal is to achieve personal fitness, attempt to get more active or simply try a new routine, the Duquesne Power Center has an array of options that students can embrace to help with their New Year's resolutions.

"I've been powerlifting for eight years so I come and work out here years so I come and work out here," Sierra Hirsch, a desk aid at the Power Center, teaches one of the strength classes.

The Power Center has four floors to choose from for an array of work out options. The second floor contains machinery, the third floor contains a basketball court and track. The fourth floor contains free weights, bars, squat racks and power bars for strength training and powerlifting focuses.
Bright outlook for the College of Osteopathic Medicine

The building will include virtual anatomy labs, exam and clinical facilities and simulation spaces.

It's about drive, it's about power, put in the work put in hours

The third floor is geared toward cardio-centered workouts. It has a 100-meter track lined with alcoves that contain barbells and dumbbells for a combined cardio-strength routine. A basketball court, HIIT zone with flipping tires, sand bags and slam balls are also included here.

The second floor is a great option for those who are new to the fitness world. Ellipticals and select equipment specific for each muscle region of the body fill the room. Each piece of equipment is labeled with instructions for easy use.

Dan McCarthy, director of the Power Center, offers advice for those looking to fulfill their fitness goals.

"Simply move! Walk on the track, take a class with a friend, work out on the weight machines. Start off with two to three 20-minute workouts per week. Have fun and enjoy the friendly atmosphere," McCarthy said.

From group classes to intramurals, to the range of equipment and facilities that the Power Center has to offer, the ability to take on New Year's resolutions has never been easier. For students looking for more information, visit Duquesne's website or take a look at the Duquesne Power center Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on all things fitness.

Visit https://www.duq.edu/life-at-duquesne/recreation-services/recreation for more information.

Mary Lee Flavin | News Editor

Many group classes are available for students who are looking to do something new. Dance, zumba, spin, HIIT, cardio, strength and many others are offered.
As the omicron variant continues to surge, students in the Pittsburgh area are returning to yet another semester of pandemic learning. While every school in the region varies slightly in its practices and protocols, there are a handful of constants: vaccines, testing and mitigation.

Here on the Bluff, Duquesne has put in a unique system that incorporates both virtual learning and return to in-person classes. According to the university-wide return policy update, “Duquesne University is providing students with a flexible return to campus between January 12-22. We will utilize HyFlex instruction during this period to allow students to attend eligible classes face-to-face or participate remotely.”

In this announcement, the statement clarified that students have been given a wider range of days to return to campus, in an effort to reduce contact with others. As students come back to campus from all over the country and families assist with move-in, the hope in creating the “flexible return” is to de-densify the moving process, the report indicated.

The elongated time frame also allows students enough time to obtain a Covid test. All students are required to provide proof of a negative Covid-19 test 48-hours prior to their arrival.

To assist in getting a test, the news release provided links to various sign-ups for testing. One of the testing options was in partnership with Allegheny County and their mobile testing units through Curative. The Curative vans were parked on Bluff Street Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to provide students with PCR tests.

In addition to the negative tests, students are still required to be fully vaccinated to attend in-person classes, unless granted a religious or medical exemption. Duquesne’s vaccination policy has been in place for several months, and at the time of publication, the Covid dashboard stated that 91% of students are fully vaccinated.

The dashboard also noted that, at the time of publication, the Duquesne community is experiencing a 17.2% positivity rate in testing.

For students who are unvaccinated, even if they are granted an exemption, they will be required to participate in weekly testing, although the details of how, when and where that testing will be conducted have not been released yet.

The university said that it will continue to monitor the Covid situation and release more information to students when it becomes available. In the meantime, students can stay up to date on positivity rates and Covid campus data through the university dashboard, available online.

**COVID-19 NUMBERS**

Scan here for Covid-19 data and updated dashboard

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Roethlisberger, Steelers sneak into playoffs

BRENTARO YAMANE, staff writer

As Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger sat on the Heinz Field bench crying after losing to the Cleveland Browns on Jan. 10, 2021, in the opening round of last season’s NFL Playoffs, it was widely believed that he might have played his final game in the National Football League. However, during last year’s offseason, Roethlisberger decided to return for an 18th season in 2021, hoping to make one last run at the playoffs and a Super Bowl title.

During many points throughout the season, Roethlisberger struggled, finishing with under 250 passing yards in seven of the 16 games he played in. Despite the inconsistency, Roethlisberger and his team found a way to stay alive.

Going into Week 17, the Steelers held a 7-7-1 record. In order to still have any hopes alive for another week, they would have to beat the rival Cleveland Browns at Heinz Field on Jan. 3, in a Monday night contest that pitted them against the same team that ended their season a year ago. Just days before the game, Roethlisberger made it known that this would likely be his final regular-season home game at Heinz Field.

With the slimmest of playoff possibilities still existing, Roethlisberger would play at Heinz Field one final time in front of a flurry of Steelers fans who showed support for him with posters and chants, knowing very well that it could be the final game he ever played in Pittsburgh.

Roethlisberger’s home career, in all likelihood, ended on a high note. It wasn’t flashy, but his 123 passing yards and a touchdown, coupled with a strong rushing performance from running back Najee Harris (188 yards and a touchdown), helped the Steelers defeat the Browns 26-14, keeping their playoff hopes alive for another week.

In the final week of the regular season, Pittsburgh’s path to the playoffs seemed nearly impossible.

First off, they needed to win a road game against the Baltimore Ravens. It took until the late stages of overtime, but Pittsburgh kicker Chris Boswell’s 36-yard field goal led the Steelers to a 16-13 victory. Next up, they needed the 2-14 Jackson-Ville Jaguars to beat the Indianapolis Colts. Jacksonville, who entered the game as a 14-point underdog, handled Indianapolis from start to finish en route to a 26-11 win.

Finally, Pittsburgh had to wait until the late hours of Sunday night and the early hours of Monday morning to ensure Sunday night’s game between the Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas Raiders didn’t end in a tie.

It took a game-winning field goal from Raiders kicker Daniel Carlson as time expired in overtime, but what seemed impossible became a reality.

Everything that Pittsburgh needed to happen found a way to happen. And now, Roethlisberger has a chance to win his third Super Bowl title and first since 2009.

There were numerous occasions this season in which Pittsburgh didn’t look like a playoff-caliber team. They finished just 8-8 on the season, by a combination of 57 points.

Even a tie against the (at the time) winless Detroit Lions at home in Week 10 led many to question the talent and productivity of the Steelers, although Roethlisberger missed that game due to Covid-19 protocols. But they got the job done and found a way to earn the AFC’s final wildcard spot.

The next challenge for Roethlisberger and the Steelers comes in the form of Patrick Mahomes and the second-seeded Chiefs. For the second time in four weeks, the Steelers will head to Arrowhead Stadium to clash with the back-to-back conference champions on Sunday night, with Pittsburgh looking to avenge its 36-10, Dec. 26 loss at the hands of Kansas City.

In a season marked by inconsistency and skepticism, a handful of memorable plays helped the Steelers earn a playoff spot for the sixth time in eight seasons.

Whether it was Chris Boswell’s game-ending field goal in overtime over the Seattle Seahawks (Week 6), the Chicago Bears missing a game-winning field goal as time expired at Heinz Field on Monday Night Football (Week 9), beating the Ravens by one point thanks to Baltimore failing to convert the potential game-winning two-point conversion (Week 13) or Pittsburgh comebacker Joe Haden stopping Tennessee Titans wide receiver Nick Westbrook-Ikhine just short of the first-down marker on a fourth down play with 27 seconds left in route to a six-point win (Week 15), the Steelers have had their fair share of drama.

It can be hard to beat a team twice in one season, especially at the same stadium. With Pittsburgh having faced Kansas City recently, odds are that this week’s performance can’t get any worse than the 26-point drubbing that Pittsburgh, who is a 12.5-point underdog, endured less than a month ago.

The last time the two teams faced off in the playoffs was in the 2017 AFC Divisional Round, when the Steelers traveled to Arrowhead Stadium and Boswell kicked six field goals to beat the Chiefs 18-16. If the Steelers find a way to win this week, they’ll travel to Nashville to take on the top-seeded Titans next weekend.

However, if Sunday’s game in Kansas City is the last that Roethlisberger will play in a Steelers jersey and in the NFL, he went out on a very-high note.

While so much of Roethlisberger’s legacy has already been written, the season isn’t over yet. It’s unlikely that the Steelers go far, but there’s a reason they play the games.

No matter how his career ends, Roethlisberger’s resiliency in the season’s final stretch is emblematic of his 18-year career.
Luke Henne
sports editor

The Dukes trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half, but a jumper from Johnson with 1:12 remaining in the half gave Duquesne a lead it would hold on to for the remainder of the game.

Head Coach Keith Dambrot said that his team started “ sluggishly,” but was proud of the way they adjusted. “We turned up our defensive intensity in the second part of the first half, which really changed the game and gave us confidence and kind of electrified us on offense.”

Dambrot added that the key to Johnson’s success is his relentless work ethic. “He hasn’t been easy for him, but I can tell you this,” Dambrot said. “I’ve coached, I don’t know, damn near 40 years ... and I can’t say that I’ve had anyone who worked any harder than him.”

Despite not starting in each of Duquesne’s first 10 games, Johnson stayed optimistic. His efforts have earned him a spot in the starting lineup in each of the last three games.

“My mom always tells me to stay the course. This is a marathon, not a sprint,” Johnson said.

Johnson was thankful for his head coach’s praise of him, knowing that his hard work is starting to produce tangible results. “It means everything to me,” Johnson said. “[Putting in the work] is something that I choose to do and that I want to do. [That’s] a huge compliment that does really mean a lot to me.”

Wednesday’s game at Fordham came down to the final seconds, as the Rams’ Antonio Daye Jr. hit a go-ahead shot with three seconds left to help the Rams secure a 72-71 victory over the Dukes. The loss snapped Duquesne’s six-game winning streak against Fordham. It was also the first time the Dukes lost a road contest against the Rams since Feb. 12, 2013.

Duquesne led by as many as 13 points in the first half, thanks in large part to 11 points from Johnson. The Dukes ultimately took a seven-point (40-33) lead into the locker room at halftime.

Fordham countered with its own stretch of momentum, going up by as many as eight points with just over seven minutes remaining in the game.

After the teams traded scoring plays down the stretch, Spears hit a step-back jumper to give Duquesne a 71-70 lead with 33 seconds left. The shot also helped Spears get to the 20-point mark. He finished as Duquesne’s leading scorer, while Johnson and Leon Ayers III each finished with 13 points.

On Fordham’s ensuing possession, two go-ahead shot attempts were blocked by Duquesne’s Tre Williams, who finished the game with seven blocks. Fordham’s Chauba Oulahs managed to get a rebound following Williams’ second block, and the Rams were able to call a timeout and set up a designed play with 13 seconds remaining.

Out of the timeout, Darius Quisenberry failed to hit rim on a 3-point attempt, and the Rams fouled Kevin Easley Jr. and sent him to the free-throw line for a one-and-one opportunity with nine seconds left. However, Easley missed the free throw, allowing Fordham to grab the rebound and eventually run out the clock with a one-and-one advantage. The Dukes were able to come up with a 71-70 win.

After two consecutive road games to start the conference portion of the schedule, four of the Dukes’ next five games will be played within the confines of UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. That stretch will start with a meeting with Dayton on Saturday afternoon in a game that will be broadcast nationally on USA Network.

The Dukes have lost 10 of their last 13 meetings with the Flyers. The last meeting between the two teams was Feb. 2, 2021, when Duquesne won 69-64 in the team’s first game at the fieldhouse since March 9, 2019.
Pittsburgh hops into New Year with 50-foot bunny

According to Parer, over 200 million feral rabbits inhabit the Australian ecosystem—invasively brought over by travelers. Though seemingly harmless, these little bunnies often destroy millions of dollars worth of farmers’ crops, and endanger native species in the area—much like the deer population in Pennsylvania.

This, Parer said, is a big issue that is often not addressed. Junior education major Andrew Mine went to the exhibit on Dec. 31. The ‘Bun-zilla’ display was accompanied with festivities around 9 p.m., including a fire show, ice show, parade and kids’ zone with Christmas-themed arts and crafts.

“It seemed like something from a carnival. They had performers twirling torches, spitting fire, sawing ice blocks into shapes and it was really cool,” Mine said. “A marching band walked by, the mayor walked by, and then there were a ton of tents for kids to make Christmas crafts.”

According to Mine, the bunnies were safe to interact with, as kids ran around and hugged the bunnies over and over.

“A regular person walking by may not know that [this symbolized] an environmental issue,” Mine said. “But I think this is cool because it actively promotes interaction and accessibility, encouraging people to touch the art and be a part of it.”

According to Mine, people have compared the bunny to the giant rubber duck of 2013—a small bundle of joy enlarged for plenty of adorable irony. The duck was measured at 40-foot tall, whereas the First Night bunny was designed 10-feet taller.

Mine said he hopes that Pittsburgh continues to integrate pop-up art exhibits for the city to come together and enjoy. “I hope that Pittsburgh does more with inflatables because I find it very interesting. I think it brings the best out in the city when people come together for art.” Mine said. “Anything art can be promoted for I’m there for.”

To symbolize their integral, persistent nature, the bunnies are inflated in the morning and deflated at night, like the moon or sun. Due to weather, the exhibit is now available 4:30-10 p.m. daily until Jan. 28.

Local Pittsburghers enjoy the interactive exhibit, including the smaller inflatable figurines. The duke encourages students to see the attraction for themselves. Send your photos to @theduquesneduke on Instagram.
Harry Potter reunion reflects on 20-year journey of cast

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, the cast reunited for a behind-the-scenes look at the production of all eight films.

Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts premiered exclusively on HBO Max starting Jan. 1. The special is almost two hours long, and provides fans with cast interviews and never-before-seen footage from the movies.

Fans will be excited to hear that many cast members re-appear for the special. Including, Tom Felton, Helena Bonham Carter, Matthew Lewis, Robbie Coltrane, Evanna Lynch, Bonnie Wright and more.

One of the most interesting components of the special is the way co-stars speak about one another. Not only do the interviews allow the audience to hear about the relationships off-camera, but they also give insight on how people were both similar and different from the characters they were playing.

Radcliffe, Watson and Grint compare themselves to their characters quite a bit during the interviews. Watson was referred to as the smartest person on set, similar to how the character Hermione showcased her intelligence. Watson herself spoke about Grint and Radcliffe, and how in her opinion, they are the embodiment of Ron and Harry.

However, the franchise also features many evil characters, and the actors who played these characters are fondly spoken about. Some of the most hated characters were Lucius Malfoy and his son Draco Malfoy, played by Jason Isaacs and Felton, respectively.

While the relationship between these two in the movies was cold and lacking love, it seems the actors turned on their hatred for the camera. Interviews about scenes between the two portray Felton as a sweet little boy and Isaacs as an adult who cared about the boy in front of him.

The cast reflections illuminate the love everyone on the set truly has for one another.

Not only this, but the audience is shown another side of many of the characters they have admired for years. Fans witness joking, fun, new information and the extra insight needed regarding the relationships on set.

Watching the reunion shows fans how the series written by J.K. Rowling was brought to life. Much of this process was creating a friendly environment on set, allowing for these personal experiences, but also how the movies took this time in their lives and brought it to the big screen.

Dating, kissing and more appear in later films—something no one needed or wanted when the characters were still considered children. But as the characters grew up, so did the fans, and the fans wanted to see the movies convey this transition to more mature topics.

The true coming-of-age moment was when Cedric Diggory died in the fourth film. It was at this moment that the audience saw the characters realize they had something worth fighting for. This HBO Max special heavily emphasizes the meaning behind each stage in the films and brings up the importance of these moments.

Although the reunion is something all Harry Potter fans can celebrate and enjoy watching, there were several people missing. Unfortunately, the loss of cast members Richard Harris, Richard Griffiths, Helen McCrory, Alan Rickman and others left a void during the reunion. The cast members who are unable to be there were severely missed; however, they are still included in a touching remembrance and clips from the films.

Footage from shooting the movies featuring all the cast captures the essence for fans who love the Harry Potter franchise. Potterheads who have been waiting for a reunion have finally granted their wish, and it does not disappoint. The Harry Potter reunion is the perfect way to start the new year and is bound to bring joy to fans around the world.

Spider-Man: No Way Home expands the MCU canon

T he newest Spider-Man movie, Spider-Man: No Way Home, starring Tom Holland, has opened up new possibilities for the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

The movie follows Peter Parker after his identity as Spider-Man is revealed, and after he is framed for the murder of Mysterio, causing a division in the community surrounding Spider-Man. Parker’s life shortly turns upside down as well as the lives of those closest to him, resulting in his girlfriend, MJ, his best friend, Ned, as well as himself not getting into college due to the recent controversy.

Feeling guilty about ruining his friend and girlfriend’s chance at college, Parker visits Doctor Strange and asks him to cast a spell to make the public forget that he is Spider-Man. The spell malfunctions, and ends up pulling everyone into Parker’s universe who knows that Peter Parker is Spider-Man, including the villains from the previous Spider-Man films starring Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield. Together, they create cures for the villains and work to administer them.

As a whole, this movie is shifting the MCU into its next phase of content surrounding the multiverse.

The show Loki, released earlier in 2021, introduced the MCU to the concept of the multiverse, with the finale resulting in the disorder and branching of different universes, allowing for the possibility of individuals to travel between these realities. Later in 2021, the animated show, What If?, was released, which displayed different realities and possibilities for certain characters.

With this newfound information from these shows, Spider-Man: No Way Home allowed for these possibilities of different universes and the travel between these universes to come to life on the big screen, permitting for a nostalgic reality for Spider-Man fans.

Despite the danger of the multiverse seeming to be solved at the end of the film, the second end-credit scene at the end of the movie displays the first teaser for Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness, which highlights that the multiverse is still an issue despite Doctor Strange’s efforts in Spider-Man: No Way Home. Therefore, this Spider-Man movie has permitted for a deeper understanding of the multiverse, which will be beneficial to know for future MCU films.

Along with this Spider-Man film being different by opening up the MCU’s possibilities for applications of the multiverse, this movie also allows for a total shift from Holland’s previous Spider-Man films as well as more of an insight into Holland’s Parker’s character.

Holland’s previous Spider-Man films revolve around Parker trying to figure out who he is and what kind of hero he wants to be, while he simultaneously juggles the awkwardness of being a teenager, his responsibilities and life outside of being Spider-Man. In Spider-Man: No Way Home, Parker still seems to struggle with who he is, although now the struggle seems to be revolving around his morals.

For example, at first, Parker believes the best thing for the villains is to send them back to their own universes before May points out that sending them to die would be better for Parker and not necessarily for the villains. This changes Parker’s mind and eventually leads to his attempts at curing them.

Additionally, toward the end of the film, there is a more graphic fight scene as compared to previous films from the franchise, which comes as a surprise to fans.

Holland’s Parker undergoes many emotional dilemmas throughout the film as he tries to navigate his morals and his overwhelming anger and grief toward the looming death around him, during which he receives advice to be true to himself. These dilemmas contribute to a darker tone and display a vengeful, more troubled aspect in Parker’s character as opposed to the awkward teen depicted in Holland’s previous Spider-Man films.

With this enhanced insight into the darker aspects of Parker’s character and the implications of the multiverse, the MCU has been propelled into a more mature depiction of Spider-Man and his capabilities. They have allowed for the possibility of content that used to just be a dream for Spider-Man fans.

It is safe to say that anything is possible heading into the next phase of the MCU thanks to Spider-Man: No Way Home.
Every generation leaves behind a legacy. What that legacy will be is determined by the people of that generation. What legacy do you want to leave behind?

JOHN LEWIS

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

Eggnog and equitability: The Christmas overconsumption crisis

A
ter all of the holiday gift-giving and New Year’s firewood comes to an end, people around the world find themselves in a heap of stuff and a resolution to fulfill.

Resolutions were never my thing; I could never commit myself to going to the gym everyday or eating healthier. This year, I wanted to take it day-by-day, starting with a resolution to clean out — especially after receiving so many new things for Christmas.

A couple of arguments and a few hours later, my sister and I had piles of old clothing dating back to nearly 2017, and off to Plato’s Closet we went. The agreement was to get some cash back for the more expensive items, and the rest would be given to Goodwill as a donation.

While waiting for the employees at Plato’s to look through the heaps of clothing, we perused the racks — knowing full well we had enough at home to last us the next five or more years — and both ended up purchasing three items each. After returning a jacket to Dick’s Sporting Goods that didn’t quite fit, I ended up purchasing two more clothing items at the mall. So much for the clean out.

My sister and I, and many other Americans, fall victim to one of the biggest issues in our nation: overconsumption. The holidays are no exception, but rather a large contributor to the issue.

According to Stanford University, Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year’s holiday period than any other time of year. This amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or approximately 1 million extra tons per week, including wrapping paper, plastic, cardboard boxes, food waste and more.

The drastic increase in waste is a derivative of the overconsumption problem in the country, as many not only buy gifts during the holiday season, but also buy mass amounts of packaging and food products over the course of the three months — without reusing, recycling or even donating, though these methods are not an excuse for prior overconsumption.

Even with those continuing to recycle clothing, there is an estimated $500 billion in garment wasteage each year, whether it comes from the consumer side or the retail side tossng unsold stock.

Stopping the fast fashion trend is just one way to help our planet and economy, as well as create an equitable holiday. In 2021, according to the National Retail Federation, the average American was spending roughly $980 on gifts, food and decorations.

As for gifts, look toward small businesses, or even produce from resale stores. Instead of looking to Shein or Zara, take a stop at the local Goodwill or Salvation Army for both cheap and durable clothing — plus, it’s recycled. This Christmas, my sister purchased almost strictly from resale stores, making personalized sacks of clothing for her friends and me.

Another option during the holiday season is to use recycled materials for packaging and wrapping. Keep delivered products in their original boxes, and save them for future holiday seasons. That goes for ribbon, too. Instead of continually buying loads of wrapping paper, use old newspaper comics or buy recycled wrapping paper.

In these ways during the holidays — and so many more throughout the rest of the year — we can reduce unsustainable wasteage on our planet, while finding creative new uses for old things. Instead of merely ‘cleaning out’ after the holidays, keep the resolution to make the world a better place.


Visit us at the newsroom in 113 College Hall or email us at theduqduke@gmail.com.
Fix the leaking pipe: Our reactionary democracy

Colleen Hammond
editor-in-chief

As the first anniversary of the Jan. 6 insurrection reared its head, lawmakers (almost exclusively from the left) reflected on the fragility of our democracy. While the Biden administration has faced an onslaught of crisis, both inherited and self-inflicted, since taking office, the latest agenda item has been the growing threat of voter suppression across America.

It’s no secret that voting rights and election security have been on the lips of America’s talking heads since the start of the 2020 campaign season. However, despite the widely acknowledged and long-term issues surrounding voting, the Biden administration chose to address it head on this week, likely hoping to gain some ground near the upcoming commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday.

This week, President Biden and Vice President Harris traveled to Atlanta to speak about the need for increased protections of voting rights and to call upon Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. Both pieces of legislation would strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which has been weakened multiple times by various Supreme Court rulings.

His voice inflamed with passion, Biden spoke at length about the threat of voter suppression looming over the nation, with a particular emphasis on how Black, Latinx and working class voters are being targeted. “Last year alone, 19 states not proposed — but enacted — 34 laws attacking voting rights,” Biden said.

He followed this by noting that an additional 400 bills aimed at voter suppression were proposed this year by Republican state legislators across the nation.

While Biden obviously should use his standing as president to condemn voter suppression and election subversion, his tone and timing on this issue speak volumes to one of the core issues with American politics.

Every policy decision, across party lines, is entirely reactionary.

We have been approaching our democracy like a leaky pipe in a basement. Instead of caring about the minor leaks, lawmakers would rather wait until the basement floods to address the problem.

For some reason, our leaders wait until our national issues reach monumental levels before they intervene. Nothing is done in preparation and careful foresight. Instead, only when problems reach fever pitch do they merit true attention from federal leaders and lawmakers.

This year, IDEA, a European think tank, listed the United States as a “backsliding democracy” in their annual ranking of global democracies. While there are a variety of reasons for this listing, events like the Jan. 6 insurrection are just the tipping point.

Issues like voter suppression are nothing new. For nearly the entire existence of this country, someone, meaning at least one or more major population groups, has been excluded from full protection under the law and/or denied the right to vote.

While we have come a long way from the days where white, property-owning, adult males were the sole group who could legally cast a vote, there has always been more work to be done to uphold the rights and dignity of everyone in this country.

Lawmakers love to tout that our country is a “work in progress,” but they seldom choose to have the forethought to consider the need to respect those players. “Even though they might be built differently, basketball is basketball, so we should treat them like they’re our teammates.”

I didn’t hear any slander about the girl’s basketball team in the two years of high school basketball after that.

However, I’ve worked both men’s and women’s basketball this year, and I’ll guarantee you that fewer people here care about the women’s team than the men’s team. According to Duquesne’s athletics’ website, the average attendance for the men’s team is 1,989; for the women’s team, the average is 789.

Despite the approximate 22% difference in attendance, the women’s team is outperforming the men’s team in just about everything.

To be transparent, my opinion isn’t that the women’s team is better than the men’s team — it is that the women’s team is performing better against their own competition than the men’s team and their competition.

The women’s team should get the same amount of respect from the fans — and the university — as the men’s team, and hopefully, these stats will raise interest in attending the next women’s basketball team.

The first thing to address is some stats for both teams, and compare their percentile across the NCAA.

Throughout their season, Duquesne’s women’s basketball team has show great strides. Their efforts deserve the same attention as their male counterparts.

As for defensive stats, the first thing to look for is defensive rating, or points allowed per 100 possessions. The men’s current rating is 106.2, while the women’s rating is 92.1 points. While the women’s team seems to be allowing fewer points, they’re both around the same success rate, being a game or two below a record that meets .500.

So, we shouldn’t only focus on the team as a whole, we should also look at the players.

The first player to bring to the forefront is Tess Myers, Duquesne’s biggest perimeter threat. She’s averaging 3.7/7 from the three-point line this season, and no one on the men’s team is averaging more than 2 threes a game. To add onto that, she has the potential to put her name in the record book for most threes made in a single season.

With 16 games left, if she keeps up average for those games, she would need 133 threes, adding that to her current total of 76 threes, that is 84 threes made. Tying the third-place record of most threes made in a season.

Another player to mention is guard Megan McConnell: Duquesne’s leader in assists and rebounds, averaging 4.4 assists per game and 6.2 rebounds per game. While both Kevin Easley and Tre Williams are averaging around six rebounds too, no one on the men’s team is averaging more than 3 assists this season.

Both teams have six wins under their belt this season, though the women have played and lost more games, as of Jan. 11. The next game for the men’s team will be Jan. 19 vs. Dayton at 12:30 p.m., and for the women’s team, Jan. 19 vs. Rhode Island at 7 p.m.

The women’s team is just as much of an athletic threat as the men’s team. They put in the same amount of work, they represent Duquesne on the court with the same effort and, most importantly, inclusion should be important to the Duquesne fanbase.

The success of our basketball teams is something worth looking out for, because at the end of the day, basketball is basketball.
While the "season of giving" is wrapping up, the new year brings plenty of opportunities to participate in meaningful community service at Duquesne.

Among the on-campus organizations that serve the community, Duquesne’s chapter of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is starting the new year off by reaching out to the homeless and impoverished populations in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Saint Vincent de Paul is a non-profit Catholic ministry that functions nationwide. Founded in the early 1800s, Saint Vincent de Paul has a long tradition of ministering directly to those who are marginalized.

Duquesne’s chapter of Saint Vincent de Paul occupies a unique position within the larger network of mission work within the city. Kate Rosello and Ella Milback, student co-presidents here at Duquesne, and Lindsey Harvey, treasurer, share how the campus reaches those in need.

According to Rosello, what sets Duquesne apart is that their service is entirely mobile. Those in need are not obligated to come to a designated location.

Harvey said their chapter of Saint Vincent de Paul society comes directly to them: “We are one of the few Saint Vincent de Paul Diocese of Pittsburgh chapters that provides clothing, toiletries, food, and other necessities directly to people on the streets or in homeless shelters.”

Milback adds, “Duquesne’s Saint Vincent de Paul Society also functions uniquely as a ministry that reaches out with two hands - one to the homeless individuals we meet Downtown, and one to students, many of whom have never had the opportunity to interact meaningfully with individuals suffering from homelessness.”

Part of Duquesne’s Saint Vincent de Paul’s mission is directed toward students here on campus, asking for involvement in return for gratifying volunteer experience.

Eric Swain Jr., a junior sports marketing major, reflects on how the Saint Vincent de Paul society has impacted him.

“It’s also great talking to people who are less fortunate than you because it humbles you,” Swain said. “Saint Vincent de Paul does a great job of making sure that the outcasted and rejected are served in Downtown Pittsburgh. They do a great job by giving the homeless their space and giving them supplies for the next few days.”

Swain encourages other students to join: “This ministry will allow you to get out of your comfort zone as it does allow you to be more mindful...it is a great opportunity to meet other students and also serve your community.”

Harvey agrees that the student population that participates in Saint Vincent de Paul’s weekly outreach are better equipped to have understanding for a variety of people.

“I think our specific chapter shows young people the homeless are not to be looked down upon or feared,” she said. “Saint Vincent de Paul opens the minds of college students to see the homeless as people first - people who deserve to be acknowledged, listened to, and treated with dignity.”

Students, faculty and alumni are all welcome to get involved with Saint Vincent de Paul. The student-led group meets in Laval House every Sunday at 7:45 p.m., and then sets off into designated locations throughout the nearby Downtown areas.

Rosello and Milback assure the Duquesne community that involvement in Saint Vincent de Paul is not limited to their weekly trips. “Students and faculty can donate items and supplies via the basket outside of the chapel doors in Old Main, and/or email sdvpduq@gmail.com for specific supplies we are in most need of,” Rosello said.

The most common items that the society is always in short supply of include socks, underwear, t-shirts (L and XL) and blankets. “Baked goods are also deeply appreciated and provide a special surprise for our friends,” Rosello said. “We also put on various campus outreach events throughout the year to educate ourselves and others on issues of homelessness, hunger and poverty and to help the greater Duquesne community engage in our mission of alleviating poverty through love.”

“Ours is hope that our members will leave Duquesne with eyes opened to the presence of poverty in their communities, and hearts moved to compassion and meaningful action,” Milback said.

Rosello, from joining Saint Vincent de Paul as a general member to becoming an officer, recalled how the society changed her life. “Saint Vincent de Paul blessed me with the opportunity to grow more deeply in faith and learn how to better love people around me,” she said. “God still reveals so much to me through not only the people we all serve, but also through every officer and member of Saint Vincent DePaul that I get to serve alongside.”

Students who want to begin the new year with charitable service can join them on campus link or reach out directly to receive emails. These emails function as a way to keep members updated on needed prayers and supplies.

In addition, students can follow Saint Vincent de Paul Society on Instagram (@duqsvdp) as they spread kindness and love to the marginalized in the Pittsburgh community.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Kate Rosello, co-president of Duquesne’s student-led chapter of Saint Vincent de Paul, prepares bags for the society’s weekly service in Downtown Pittsburgh.

EXTRA

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