

sports	a & e	opinions	features
The end for Ben?	The Wizarding World of the multiverse & 50-foot bunnies	The clock's running out	Duquesne mission of love
Roethlisberger guides underdog Steelers to playoffs	The magic of cinema and inflatable art is in the air	America's reactionary democracy	New year, new chances for serving the community
PAGE 4	PAGE 6	PAGE 9	PAGE 10



Osteopathic medicine school receives 'candidate status'

ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

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 2019, 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. Covid has really focused our attention on the importance of good medical care as well as barriers to access," said Dr. John Kauffman, the dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine. "This will give us an opportunity to focus on and recruit students who are interested in addressing disparities in healthcare and really studying the social determinants of health. Additionally, we have a real shortage of primary care physicians in underserved urban and rural areas, and this will be another important focus of the medical school."

Before beginning their mission, the osteopathic medical

see *OSTEO* — page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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New year new you, fitness resolutions made easy



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

The second floor of the Power Center offers many different types of equipment for students to choose from. Treadmills, ellipticals, bikes and other machines that target specific muscle groups allow students to work out with ease. Each piece of equipment includes step by step instructions on how it operates.

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

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.

Amber Lasure, assistant director of wellness and fitness, said that with motivation at an all time high, now is the best time to set goals and maintain them.

"I think this is a great time within the recreation department because everyone is already motivated to come in and get fit, get active, do things they like. A big thing to consider is when motivation wanes, what do we do?" Lasure said, "Because exercise and wellness practices are so important we need to treat them like a core academic class."

The Power Center offers an assortment of group classes that is sure to fit the schedules and desires of most students. Classes are led by both students and professionals; each class offers a unique

experience outside of the average workout. The most popular activities include yoga, spin, cardio, zumba and dance. For those looking for a more intense workout, there are HIIT (high intensity interval training), barbell, and strength classes.

Sierra Hirsch, a desk aid at the Power Center, teaches one of the weight lifting classes offered.

"I've been powerlifting for eight years so I come and work out here all the time when I'm not working. I really like to weight lift, I do it more for my mental health. I think it really takes the stress off. I love teaching people," Hirsch said.

All group fitness classes work on a first-come first-serve basis with no need to sign up ahead of time. In addition, the Spring 2022 schedule can be found on the Duquesne University Power Center Facebook page.

Also as a reminder to students while participating in any activities at the gym, masks are to be worn at all times, and as an additional precaution group classes will be utilizing social distancing.

For those who are looking for something more sport-oriented, Duquesne offers intramural sports such as basketball, volleyball, flag football and soccer. For the spring semester the focus is on basketball

and volleyball. Like group classes, masks will also be worn during intramurals and students will be social-distanced.

Tim Fung, coordinator of intramurals, encourages students to participate in the various sports offered.

"I would say students should come down at their leisure and interact with other students. I found through the years that it's a building block for their success, it's all about social interactions," Fung said.

For those who are interested

more in adding variation to their workouts, the Power Center has four floors in which students can explore different ways of engaging in fitness.

The fourth floor contains an array of squat racks, deadlift racks and benches for those looking to focus on weight lifting. In addition there is a synergy room that contains monkey bars, infinity ropes, battles ropes, a rowing machine, an attack bike, cable training, kettle bells, TRX bands and more.

"My favorite place in the gym

see *FITNESS* — page 2



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

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.

POLICE BRIEFS

There are no police briefs at this time.

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 hammondc@duq.edu.

COVID-19

NUMBERS

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Bright outlook for the College of Osteopathic Medicine

see *OSTEO* — page 1

school has to go through an extensive accreditation process. It requires placing a founding dean in charge to recruit faculty, design a curriculum, identify and construct space for instruction and recruit students.

Accreditation is reserved until a school can illustrate its ability to provide instruction, recruit students and graduate them with viable degrees, according to a university news release. This process can take up to three years.

Many of these processes have already begun at Duquesne, starting with the selection of Kauffman as dean in 2019.

"An accomplished leader who has successfully launched a major osteopathic medical school, John has served on accrediting boards, directed medical education in many contexts and is a seasoned internal medicine physician," President Ken Gormley said in a university news release. "His professional

expertise and his mission commitment are characteristics that we made a top priority in identifying a founding dean."

Shortly after selecting Kauffman as dean, the university moved into selecting a building site for the proposed college. The building will be constructed at 1323 Forbes Ave., housing more than 12,000 square feet of classroom space and 20,000 square feet of advanced learning technologies.

Some of the featured technologies in the building will include virtual anatomy labs, simulation exam and clinical spaces and virtual reality studios.

"We are very excited to have a virtual anatomy lab. We looked at the curriculum developed by Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and the Cleveland Clinic and are looking to purchase that curriculum and allow students to learn anatomy using HoloLens technology," Kauffman said.

Partnered with SLAM collabora-



COURTESY OF SLAM COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTS

The building will be located at 1323 Forbes Ave., housing more than 12,000 square feet of classroom space and 20,000 square feet of advanced learning.



COURTESY OF SLAM COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTS

The building will include virtual anatomy labs, clinical spaces and studios.

ative architects, the university estimates the cost of the building at \$60 million. With the new candidate status, the university will begin significant funding for the college.

"The Sim hospital is another area that we are very excited about. We will have a simulated birthing suite, a simulated operating room, ICU [and] emergency department, and here students will spend a lot of time learning the clinical aspects of medicine so that when they start rotations at the hospital, they will have a higher level and more diverse skill set than the average medical student," Kauffman said.

According to Kauffman, with the major step forward in candidacy, the university expects to be awarded with pre-accreditation status by the summer of 2023, and will begin recruiting medical students for the inaugural class of 2024.

Until then, the dean and his team will be revising drafts for the curriculum.

"Our curriculum will be systems-based, and will include

lectures as well as clinical cases. The first two years will be the biomedical and clinical sciences and the second two years will be clinical rotations and will occur at hospitals in the surrounding area," Kauffman said.

The dean also explained to The Duke that the first semester of the medical school will cover biomedical sciences, including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology and pharmacology — as well as genetics.

As for the final two years of a student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, they can look forward to training at the school's partner hospitals. According to the Jan. 7 news release, Duquesne has developed agreements with several hospitals in western and northwestern Pennsylvania.

"[It's] a very exciting time to be starting a new medical school," Kauffman said. "Lots of important work to do. And we believe that 20 years from now we will have significantly impacted the practice of medicine in Western Pennsylvania and beyond."

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

see *FITNESS* — page 1

is the synergy room on the fourth floor, it's a bit of a secret. It's a really great place to get a functional workout," Lasure said.

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 ties, sand bags and slam balls are also included here.

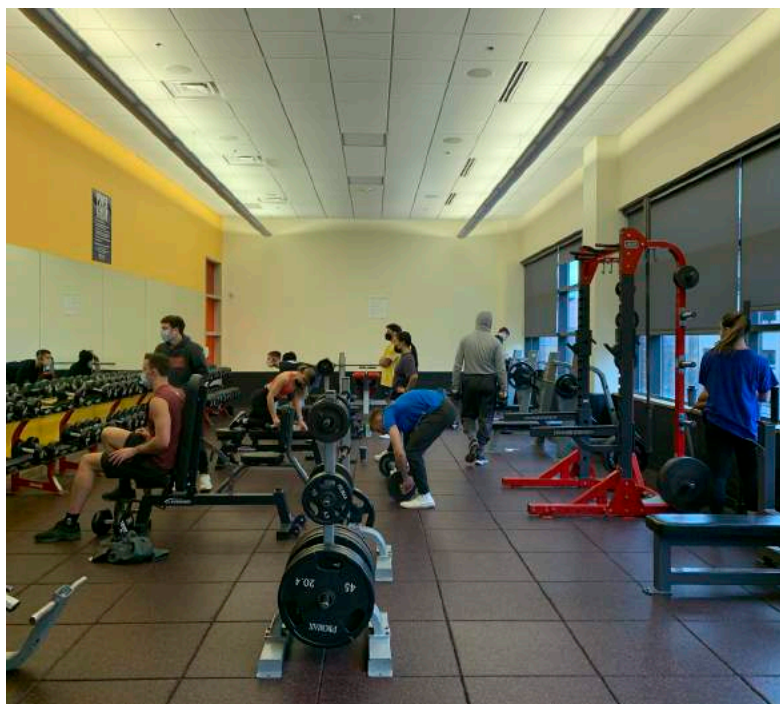
The second floor is a great option for those who are new to the fitness world. Ellipticals and select equipment specific for each muscle region of the body fill the room. Each piece of equipment is labeled with instructions for easy use.

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.



MARY LIZ 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.

Visit <https://www.duq.edu/life-at-duquesne/health-recreation-and-counseling/recreation-services/recreation-for-more-information>

Spring 2022 Covid-19 Protocol Update

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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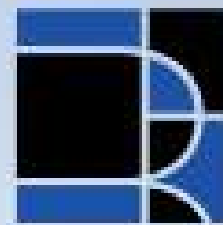
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Roethlisberger, Steelers sneak into playoffs

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

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 slimnest of playoff possibilities still existing, Roethlisberger would play at Heinz Field one final time in front of a flurry of Steelers fans who showed



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ben Roethlisberger leaves the field after a 15-10 victory over the Cleveland Browns at FirstEnergy Stadium on Oct. 31. Roethlisberger threw the game-winning touchdown in the game's fourth quarter.

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 shot at earning a playoff spot, they would

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 Jacksonville 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 2-5 against teams who qualified for the postseason. They lost road games against the Cincinnati Bengals and Kansas City Chiefs, who each won their respective division, by a combined 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 wild card 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 champi-

ons 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 cornerback 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 en route to a six-point win (Week 15), the Steelers have had their fare 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.

College Football AP Top 25 Poll - Final

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Conf.	Bowl (Result)
1.	Georgia	3	14-1	SEC	Nat'l Title Game (Win)
2.	Alabama	1	13-2	SEC	Nat'l Title Game (Loss)
3.	Michigan	2	12-2	Big Ten	Orange (Loss)
4.	Cincinnati	4	13-1	American	Cotton (Loss)
5.	Baylor	6	12-2	Big 12	Sugar (Win)
6.	Ohio State	7	11-2	Big Ten	Rose (Win)
7.	Oklahoma State	9	12-2	Big 12	Fiesta (Win)
8.	Notre Dame	5	11-2	n/a	Fiesta (Loss)
9.	Michigan State	11	11-2	Big Ten	Peach (Win)
10.	Oklahoma	14	11-2	Big 12	Alamo (Win)

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Conf.	Bowl (Result)
11.	Mississippi	8	10-3	SEC	Sugar (Loss)
12.	Utah	10	10-4	Pac-12	Rose (Loss)
13.	Pittsburgh	13	11-3	ACC	Peach (Loss)
14.	Clemson	19	10-3	ACC	Cheez-It (Win)
15.	Wake Forest	20	11-3	ACC	Gator (Win)
16.	Louisiana	16	13-1	Sun Belt	New Orleans (Win)
17.	Houston	21	12-2	American	Birmingham (Win)
18.	Kentucky	25	10-3	SEC	Citrus (Win)
19.	BYU	12	10-3	n/a	Independence (Loss)
20.	NC State	18	9-3	ACC	Holiday (Canceled)

Rank	Team	Prev.	Overall	Conf.	Bowl (Result)
21.	Arkansas	22	9-4	SEC	Outback (Win)
22.	Oregon	15	10-4	Pac-12	Alamo (Win)
23.	Iowa	17	10-4	Big Ten	Citrus (Loss)
24.	Utah State	NR	11-3	Mt. West	LA (Win)
25.	San Diego State	NR	12-2	Mt. West	Frisco (Win)

MBB opens A-10 play with two road contests

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

After having four games either canceled or postponed due to Covid-19 issues, the Duquesne men's basketball team returned to the court this week after nearly three weeks off, opening up Atlantic 10 Conference action with road games against Massachusetts (Saturday) and Fordham (Wednesday).

Behind a combined 48 points from

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 of-

hard work and you're coachable, good [stuff] happens," Dambrot said. "We've got a good relationship. He hasn't always liked how it's went, but he's trusted me, and usually when guys that have talent like that trust me, good stuff happens. He played unbelievable."

Dambrot added that the key to Johnson's success is his relentless work ethic.

"It 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 the Dukes' 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 Chuba Ohams 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 en route to Daye's game-winning layup. Johnson attempted a game-winning 3-pointer from half court as time expired, but his shot came up well short.

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 on Feb. 2, 2021, when Duquesne won 69-64 in the team's first game at the fieldhouse since March 9, 2019.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Jackie Johnson III, pictured during a Nov. 15 game against Weber State, scored a career-high-tying 27 points in Saturday's road win over Massachusetts. Johnson also scored 27 in the Nov. 15 contest.

Jackie Johnson III and Primo Spears, the Dukes defeated the Minutemen 78-74 Saturday to earn their first conference victory of the campaign, while simultaneously earning their first road win over Massachusetts since Feb. 16, 2011.

fense," Dambrot said.

Johnson, whose 27 points tied a career-high mark that was previously set on Nov. 15, received high praise from Dambrot after the win.

"When you have talent and you put in

WBB uses late surge to beat St. Bonaventure

LUKE HENNE
sports editor

Following two-straight losses to open Atlantic 10 Conference play, the Duquesne women's basketball team used a 23-5 fourth quarter to defeat St. Bonaventure 63-44 and earn its first conference victory of the season at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon.

The Dukes have now won nine of their last 10 meetings with the Bonnies and 10 straight home contests against St. Bonaventure, a streak that dates back to Feb. 7, 2013.

Duquesne used a balanced scoring attack in the game's final quarter, getting scoring contributions from five different players to pull away and secure its first victory since Saint Francis (PA) in a non-conference game on Dec. 11.

Seven of the 23 fourth-quarter points came from Laia Sole, who attributed her team's ability to pull away to their success from behind the 3-point line. After not hitting any outside shots in the first three quarters of the game, the Dukes hit four in the fourth quarter (one from Sole, one from Megan McConnell and two from Tess Myers).

"It's very tough to win games when you

shoot that poorly from the 3-point line, but our defense throughout the entire game kept us in," Sole said. "So when you get stops on defense and are able to score a couple threes like we did in the fourth quarter, the game completely changes."

Sole finished the game with 11 points, while also recording five rebounds and three assists. With Sole providing contributions in many aspects of the game, she knows that her efforts are essential for victory.

"I will do whatever the team needs me to do. Whether it's scoring, assisting my teammates, rebounding or cheering for the girls," Sole said. "I think all the girls want the same thing, which is to win games. So whatever role I have to take part in, I will do my best to embrace it."

Fatou Pouye led the Dukes with 16 points in the win, scoring in double figures for the seventh-consecutive time. She said that the sustained success isn't possible without the effort of her teammates.

"I give credit to my teammates for finding me on the floor in areas that I can score from," Pouye said. "We have good chemistry and we put each other in positions to be successful."

Pouye said that she and her teammates "are

motivated by playing hard and having fun."

"That's what helped us create distance in the fourth quarter," Pouye said. "As we continue conference play, we will continue to prepare, compete and have fun."

After losing its first two A-10 games by a combined 10 points, including a four-point loss in overtime against VCU, Sole believes that such a convincing victory is huge after some narrow losses.

"There are obviously a lot of things this team can improve on, but one of the things that comes to my mind first is believing in ourselves," Sole said. "We've had a bunch of close games this year that we lost last minute and that can most certainly be a confidence killer."

Sole said that with each win comes a renewed sense of belief and optimism.

"I believe that my teammates and I will continue to gain more confidence as we win more games, while we [continue to] support each other through the inevitable ups and downs of the regular season."

Duquesne will be back in action on Saturday, when it takes on Davidson in a road contest. The Dukes have lost two-straight meetings against the Wildcats.



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

Fatou Pouye scored 16 points, while adding four rebounds in Duquesne's win on Saturday.

Pittsburgh hops into New Year with 50-foot bunny

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

On Dec. 31, the 2022 Highmark First Night Event hosted friends, families and couples in-person, featuring an inflatable rabbit attraction for passerby to take pictures with to ring in the New Year.

The exhibit debuted with the help of Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, where the bunny is placed on the corner of 8th Street and Penn Avenue downtown in an empty parking lot. Smaller, 12-foot bunnies are scattered in a cushioned alleyway right by the Benedum Center, and are said to be her “babies” according to the PCT website. Entitled “Intrude,” Australian artist Amanda Parer captures the youthful innocence of these bunnies, though also nods to how this invasive species was introduced into Australia unknowing settlers.

Parer said her inspiration for this exhibit was to symbolize “how humans mismanage the natural world and [their] relationship with it,” according to CBS.

“People see it and are drawn into the cuteness of [the exhibit], but might dig a little deeper to the more serious tones of the artwork.”

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,”



COURTESY OF ERIN SWIHART

Local Pittsburghers enjoy the interactive exhibit, including the smaller inflatable figurines.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

The Duke encourages students to see the attraction for themselves. Send your photos to @theduquesneduke on Instagram.

Aquarius Welcome to the adult world, kid!	Pisces Museums hold so much power. If I were to put my 7th grade painting on a wall, it would now be "2000s vintage."	Aries Hey Shy Guy, the winter blues have just begun! Don't hermit yet we have sled riding to do.	Taurus Oh my!
Gemini Cosmic Bowling but put the bumpers on because we have to stay grounded.	Cancer You're charming, in a bags under the eyes, tie-dyed sweatshirt, talks out-of-breath kind of way.	Leo Bed time is no longer 4 a.m.! You must be up at 5.	Virgo Is she Christian Girl Autumn or Cool Grandma Witch?
Libra Don't TRIP. Not for your sake. You'll embarrass ME.	Scorpio Ms. Teacher, <i>Lord of the Flies</i> is a strange display of animalism fan-fiction?	Sagittarius Oh, I can't rhyme? Lo-fi Sci-fi cry, why?	Capricorn Do mermaids have fish gills or human lungs that operate like fish gills.

NEW
RELEASES

The Weeknd
Dawn FM
Jan. 10

Rebranding 80s synth-pop, The Weeknd backs away from his earlier root of alternative R&B and dark lyricism to a more nostalgic feel. Fans described it as a similar feel to watching *Stranger Things*: bringing in the old and making it new. This concept album features a range of artists from Beach Boys members to Tyler the Creator, including Jim Carrey through elements of dialogue.

Joni Mitchell
Archives Volume 2: The
Reprise Years (1968-1971)
Jan. 7

Spanning through the 70s and now into 2022, the 122-song collection touches upon the the cherished and yet-to-be-heard recordings of the legendary singer-songwriter's experience.

CAPRI'S
KIND WORDS

Welcome Back

Hello hello, it is so great to have you back!

After a well-needed period of rest and restoration, I hope the holidays have helped you recoup to a happier, healthier mind and body.

Transitioning from late-night adventures and sleeping in, family games and catching up with hometown friends, it sometimes comes as a shock to be back on campus in what feels like a perfectly new "first day of school."

Hold yourself to habits that fall in your favor this semester, and do all of the things you meant to do this time a month or so ago.

Take the time to reflect: what can I do to grow into my better self? What changes can I make for the better, even in the smallest of ways?

Journal it. Channel it. Put your energy into what is most worthwhile.

— Capri Scarcelli

Harry Potter reunion reflects on 20-year journey of cast

BRAYLYN BRUNO
staff writer

It's hard to believe, but Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint have been gracing the big screen as Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley for over 20 years. In celebration of the *Harry Potter* franchise's first film, *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.



COURTESY OF BETH POLEN

Fans of all ages can enjoy the reunion of the wizarding world through HBO Max.

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,

which set the tone for all eight movies.

Although the *Harry Potter* movies began as films for children and featured children as the main characters, the movies are very much a coming-of-age series. Fans watched as their favorite characters grew up in front of them, and this growth was evident in the evolution of movies.

While the changing voices are an obvious indicator of the transition from kid to teenager to adulthood, the content is what speaks volumes.

All teenagers experience hormonal changes, and the *Harry Potter* cast is no exception. The cast spoke about their personal experiences, but also how the movies took this time in their lives and brought it to the big screen.

Dating, dances, 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 in 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 been 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

JORDYN ROSE
staff writer

* This article contains spoilers for the *Spider-Man* franchise

The newest *Spider-Man* movie, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, starring Tom Holland, has opened up a new world of 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 support 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 tonal 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



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The *Spider-Man* series thickens with inter-dimensional drama.

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*.

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Eggnog and equitability: The Christmas overconsumption crisis

After all of the holiday gift-giving and New Year's fireworks come 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.



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

One of the biggest contributors to the issue is the development of fast fashion, an economical phenomenon that has taken over the global fashion chain by creating cheap, trendy clothing at breakneck speed to meet consumer demands.

The variety goes up, the prices go down but the durability is less than desirable — but it doesn't matter, there's new \$5 tops to buy and wear twice before tossing.

According to a 2021 study done by Earth.org, over the course of the 2000s, clothing sales doubled from 100 to 200 billion units a year, while the number of times an item was

worn decreased by 36% overall.

Even with those continuing to recycle clothing, there is an estimated \$500 billion in garment wastage each year, whether it comes from the consumer side or the retail side tossing 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 \$998 on gifts, food and decorations.

As for gifts, look toward small businesses, or even purchase 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 wastage 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.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Weight loss resolutions are so last year

Auld acquaintances were forgotten as the ball dropped on 2021, and thus, we ring in the New Year. 2022 is bringing in the opportunity for fresh starts on all fronts: from our progress with the Covid-19 pandemic as a nation, to the small problems we deal with in our own lives.

We kissed the old year goodbye and talked about our plans for New Year's resolutions that almost never come to fruition. But we make them regardless. Some choose to pursue a new hobby, others to spend more time with family, but the most common resolutions always surround our health — particularly our weight.

While focusing on health isn't inherently an issue, and more than likely is a great promise to make to yourself, America's obsession with weight loss — or more so fatphobia — seems to become more apparent during January.

The new year is a time when diet culture, fatphobia and capitalism intersect. As a way to exploit our goal to 'start over' and highlight our insecurities, weight loss companies and gyms alike ramp up advertisements, while also reducing rates, and promise to realize our dream of becoming "fit" again.

It's easy to be fooled by the front of body positivity, but behind the curtain is a dangerous message: Your body isn't good enough, and you need to fix it.

It perpetuates a long time social stigma of skinniness in our culture, when in reality, skinniness doesn't equate to healthiness. According to a 2021 poll by Statista, 50% of Americans pointed out that they wanted to exercise or improve their fitness. Out of the top five resolutions, three were related to weight loss.

Instead of promoting the perfect body in the Planet Fitness commercial — even with the promise of no "gymtimidation" — or Weight Watchers advertising a new diet deal for 40 lbs of weight loss, there are better ways to promote health, and better resolutions to have regarding our health.

According to Penn Medicine, bodies aren't even designed to diet. Research shows that 80 to 98% of dieting attempts don't work long term, and two out of three dieters eventually gain back the weight they lose.

We must focus instead on promoting healthy bodies, rather than socially acceptable body types. So, cross off "lose weight" on the resolution list and replace it with "work on my health."

Eating healthier, going to regular check ups with a primary care physician, exercising, going to a mental health professional and working on a better sleep schedule all contribute to the goal of getting fit.

There's no reason to shame fatness, when fatness isn't really the problem — our socially accepted view of it, is.

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 the country.

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 longtime 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 fortitude to ensure that this necessary work happens in their generation.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

American democracy faces its ultimate test as lawmakers continue to provide temporary, bandage solutions instead of preparing for generations to come.

It is only when issues reach critical levels — like the current rampant voter suppression problems — that lawmakers want to step in.

Our political system doesn't have to operate this way. We can choose to see past our noses and recognize the need to create policies that protect future generations.

The second that lawmakers saw Supreme Court rulings like *Shelby County v. Holder* chip away at voting rights, they should have stepped in and created additional measures to up-

hold the right to vote.

And the example of voting rights is just the tip of the iceberg. Almost every decision about the pandemic, the climate crisis, the lead water epidemic, inflation management, infrastructure, foreign policy, military operations and a myriad of others have been made with a knee-jerk reaction once the problem finally became too large to ignore.

It's high time we stop waiting for the basement to flood before fixing the leaking pipe of our democracy.

"Basketball is basketball" despite gender disparities

PETER BOETTGER
staff columnist

A core memory I had of high school was the countless times my then-basketball teammates would trash talk the girl's basketball team. They would say things along the lines of: "Oh I would score 50 points on the girl's team;" "If I was a girl, I'd basically be girl-Shaq;" or "Their games are so boring."

More importantly, I'll always remember one day on the bus when my JV coach told the team not to disrespect 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 1,984; 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 certain statistics.

But to be transparent, my opinion isn't that the women's team is better than the men's team — it is



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

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

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.

On the offensive side of things, the first stat to cover is true shooting percentage, which is dividing all the made shots from all attempts from anywhere on the

court, including free throws. The men's team has a true shooting percentage of 50.5%, the women's team has a slightly lower percentage of 49.7%; however, the men's team is only better than 14% of men's teams, while the women's team is overall shooting better than 55% of all the Division 1 women's teams, according to CBB analytics.

Another category is ball movement, meaning assists. The women's team is in the 89th percentile in assist percentage and 63% of their shots are generated by an assist. As for the men's team, they're in the 3rd percentile for the same stat and only 40.8% of their shots are assisted.

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.

But 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 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 make 48 threes, adding that to her current total of 36 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 4.3 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. 15 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.

Change of year changes lives

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul helps homeless community

EMMA POLEN

Features Editor

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



COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Saint Vincent de Paul members, left to right, Bethany Smith, Ella Milback and Shania Appadoo prepare special meals for their homeless friends Downtown.

you,” Swain said. “Saint Vincent de Paul does a great job of making sure that the out-casted 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 oth-

er 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 edu-

cate 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.”

“Our hope is 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 (@duqs-vdp) as they spread kindness and love to the marginalized in the Pittsburgh community.



PHOTO BY EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

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.

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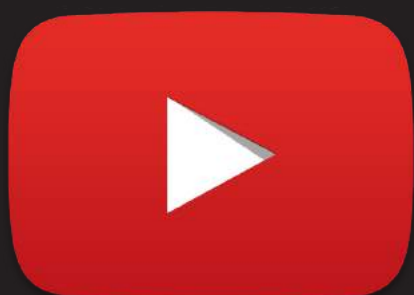
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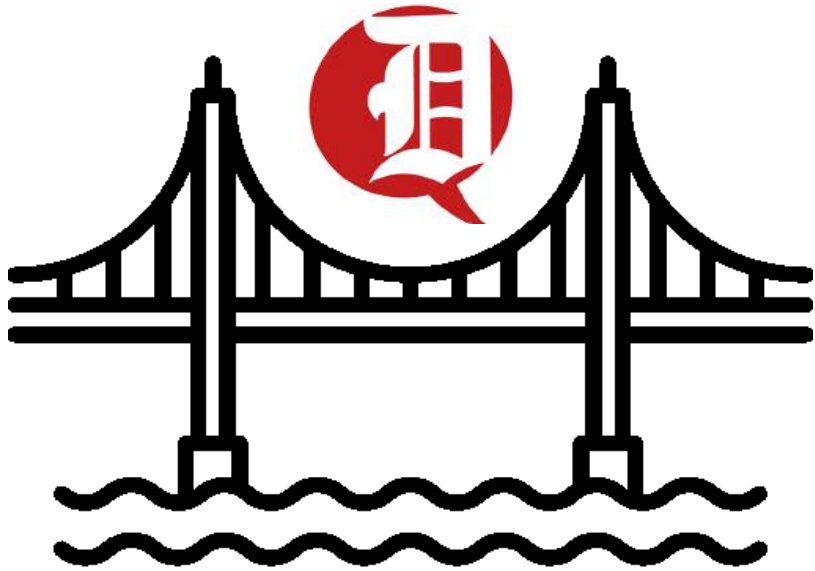
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