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# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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## Photo Story Inside: Seven inches of snow turns the Bluff into winter playground for students

### Annual MLK Breakfast hosts slew of special guests

ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

For its 23rd iteration, the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program was held virtually on Monday, stopping at nothing to honor King and to present Mayor-Elect Ed Gainey with the 2022 Drum Major for Justice award — just a few weeks after being sworn in.

Hosted by the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA), the breakfast began at 9 a.m., with special guests Common Pleas Court Judge-Elect Nicola Henry-Taylor, Homer S. Brown Division Chair Morgan Moody, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and more to pay tribute to the holiday.

Each year at the MLK Prayer Breakfast and Program, an individual receives the Drum Major for Justice award, a prestigious award given to those following in the footsteps of Dr. King. In his Feb. 4 1958, sermon on the Drum Major Instinct, Dr. King stated:

"If you want to say that I was a drum major, say I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace, I was a drum major for righteousness."

Between songs and prayers throughout the program, Kellie Ware, the Director of Diversity and Gender Equality for the ACBA spoke of Gainey's candi-

see MLK — page 3



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Students sprawl out in the fresh blanket of powder on McCloskey Field, making snow angels and enjoying their first day off of the semester. Students could be seen around campus playing in the snow, taking advantage of their time off.

## Packing bags and giving back with Duq alumni non-profit

MARY LIZ FLAVIN  
news editor

Standing outside Status Grooming in East Liberty in 2020, Spencer Marnich watched as youngsters filed in and out of the storefront with free, freshly clipped hair just in time for the school year. Inspired by Status Grooming's desire to help students in need, Marnich approached Duquesne alumni Jennifer Marfisi and Cole Barefoot with an idea. Together, Marnich said, the three would distribute backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, water bottles and other essential school supplies for underprivileged students.

Their first event was such a success that Marnich, Marfisi and Barefoot decided that they should turn this one-time instance into a non-profit organization that would help kids reach their full educational potential. Thus, the Dream Start Foundation was born.

"It really is a feel-good moment, for me personally being at the events and seeing these kids



COURTESY OF DREAM START FOUNDATION

Spencer Marnich, co-founder of the Dream Start Foundation, stands with one of the many families that attended the backpack event

who have never really had stuff for themselves. Seeing them pick out what color backpack they want, seeing their faces when you give them these things is an amazing feeling," Barefoot said.

In 2021 another backpack drive was held in which t-shirts from Benny Snell and the rest of the Steelers were donated for the event as well as hot food to give

out to families. Other partners donated different items to help make the backpack drive as large a success as the last one.

The success didn't go unnoticed; Mayor Ed Gainey and Mel Hubbard invited the Dream Start Foundation to work with the Pittsburgh Food Bank to help with the annual turkey drive that was hosted this past fall.

"It's really exciting. We gave out turkey and fixing as representatives for the mayor and then Mr. Gainey and Mr. Hubbard hosted their own turkey drive a few weeks later," Marfisi said. "Spencer and a few of our volunteers were there, and they gave out about 1,000 turkeys to families in the community."

Large partnerships like these have helped the Dream Start Foundation grow and be able to help more people in the Pittsburgh area.

Marfisi attributes her ability to help in the community with many of the experiences she was a part of as a student at Duquesne. Prior to becoming an educator, she was both the service chair and later on became the president of the Student Education Association at Duquesne.

"That allowed me opportunities to see the need in the community and organize events to help students, families and people in the Pittsburgh community. Like the backpack initiative, collect-

see ALUM — page 2



## 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 hammond@duq.edu.

## COVID-19

## NUMBERS

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# Duquesne students' day off: snow way home



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The Bluff experienced major snowfall on Monday, as snowflakes began falling on Sunday night. According to WTAE, Pittsburgh received a total of 7 inches of snow in just over 24 hours. Across campus, students finally could enjoy the Bluff's hilly terrain with a variety of unconventional sledding, skiing and snowshoeing.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne freshmen Rosemary van der Net, Jess Pichat and Emma Meixel playing in the snow at Brottier Commons. After seeing the large accumulation of snow on campus, they decided that they had to take advantage of the opportunity. "We're also literal children at heart," said Pichat.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Lance Robertson, a member of the grounds crew with a snow plow. "When it's snowing, you're just focused on plowing because...if you don't plow and then you wait until the snow's done, you're gonna have...these big piles here, and that's obviously a lot harder to plow," Robertson said.



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

Some Duquesne students got creative in their fun, using items like laundry baskets as sleds. Pictured here is Suzie Betten, sledding on the hill between St. Martins and Towers.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Margaret McIntosh, a junior marketing and management major skiing in the snow at Brottier Commons. "I have skied my whole life so I was like, hoping maybe I can go up to Seven Springs and ski, and then I saw that it snowed, and I was like you know what? Let's go skiing down the Brottier hill," McIntosh said.

## Dream Start Foundation Cont.

**from MLK — page 1**  
ing non-perishable food items for different school districts," Marfisi said, "Being at Duquesne allowed me to see a different type of need in the Pittsburgh community."

Both Marfisi and Marnich are educators with Marfisi currently working as a fifth grade teacher and Marnich as a substitute teacher; their first-hand experience and background allows them to address the needs of kids in the Pittsburgh education system.

Barefoot is currently studying PR and advertising at Point Park University, but he said growing up with his father as an elementary principal, he frequently heard stories.

"Whenever Spencer and Jen approached me with the idea, I've always seen those needs so let me bring what I have to the table. I handle the business side of things whereas Jen and Spencer were the vision of Dream Start," Barefoot said.

As a newer organization, Marfisi and Barefoot find that although there have been barriers with the pandemic and other issues, that doesn't stop them from achieving their goals. In addition, the foundation is working on their 501(c)(3) status that officially recognizes their organization in order for them to provide volunteer hours.

"I think it's given us an edge being so new, so many other companies have had to adapt where as we are able to just set things up," Barefoot said, "we were founded during the pandemic so we are already able to adapt to all the procedures into our core from the beginning."

Looking toward the future the foundation is hoping to host another backpack drive in either late spring or early summer. In addition they are working on a virtual coloring contest where kids would be able to submit drawings with a specific theme and the winner would get a prize in return. This would be run through their social media pages.

Additionally, the foundation is hoping to implement a mentorship program where well respected adults in the community help kids understand the impact of being successful in school and present themselves as a role model for what the kids might want to be in the future.

"I think the passion all three of us have in our goal and mission, it's one of the biggest things that keeps me going," Marfisi said. "We've faced challenges as a group of young people in the time of ovid. We came together to tackle a problem and that's the energy we've kept regarding the problems we've faced. It's the passion for us."



## March for Life 2022 Trip

**RIO SCARCELLI**  
staff writer

Spiritan Campus Ministries and Consistent Ethic of Life are inviting Duquesne students to an advocacy experience at the 2022 March for Life in Washington, D.C. The trip will be on Friday, Jan. 21 with buses departing at 5:15 a.m. and returning at 10 p.m.

To register for the event, students can email Campus Minister Linda Donovan at donovanl@duq.edu or scan the QR code below to sign up. The registry will continue until Thursday, Jan. 20.

Donovan has done work as an advisor to the CEL to provide a comfortable outlet for students' opinions in their three-step model: education, advocacy and outreach.

"I believe that we need to advocate for a consistent ethic of life that includes all of the issues from natural conception to natural death. I think advocacy is important and we all deserve to have our voice heard. I believe the March for Life is a good place for that to happen," she said.

Sophomore Grace Reitz, who is attending the event, shared her opinions on what she feels the climate of the march will be like.

"I think this march will be interesting because of the political environment in the country right now. From my experience, there are not many protestors that come to cause chaos. I think it will be tense, but honestly, I think it will be very similar to the marches of past years."

Reitz is also a member of the CEL and has gotten the opportunity to discuss issues with abortion laws like the Gestational Age Act and SB8.

CEL's goal concerns issues of human dignity with recent discussions being centered around abortion, human trafficking, government shutdown and euthanasia. For these controversial topics, Donovan emphasizes

the importance of respecting the opinions and choices of others.

"When someone has an adverse opinion, it is important to engage in dialogue because everyone is coming from different life experiences that form different views. Getting inside of a person's reason for a specific opinion creates a better environment than having an argument and walking away," she said.

Reitz agreed that creating an open dialogue and not imposing opinions onto someone else is a key to having conversations on controversial topics.

"I feel that the opinions directed toward the pro-life community are sometimes harsh, but that makes sense considering they come from those who have an opposing viewpoint. To combat the things that come toward us we just explain what the facts are and work to educate people," Reitz said.

In providing education for opinions of all backgrounds, the CEL also coordinates outreach to organizations that help women deal with unwanted pregnancies. The group encourages others to voice their thoughts through advocacy trips like March for Life.

Reitz encouraged those going to Washington, D.C. to "be kind to those around you."

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## Honoring MLK Day Cont.

from MLK — page 1

dacy for the award.

"Mayor Ed Gainey has worked to advance opportunities for all, even those who fell outside of his legislative district. He has been a formidable voice for the downtrodden in the community in Harrisburg, and now on Grant Street," she said. "The Homer S. Brown Division believes that his commitment to justice and equality, and his vision of a city of Pittsburgh where opportunity and justice is accessible for all, exemplifies Dr. King's work."

Shortly after, Pittsburgh's first Black mayor said in the virtual acceptance speech that in the spirit of King, he must fight every day to create justice

for everyone.

"Every day, we've got to let our light shine so that the next generation has more opportunity and more access to growth than we had," he said. "We can do that because we understand the history. We stand on the shoulders of great civil rights leaders, ones that made it possible for me to be here today."

The address reflected the campaign of the Mayor-Elect, promising opportunity for "those who have been left behind," as his website states.

In thanking the ACBA, Gainey said he plans to move forward by planting a "seed of change, as long as we water together — that's the vision of Martin Luther King."

## Omicron Q&A with SGA

**COLLEEN HAMMOND**  
editor-in-chief

As the Omicron variant continues to rear its surging head, communities across the nation are grappling with growing positivity rates, packed hospital beds and an onslaught of newfound questions. To combat the spread of both the virus and misinformation, Duquesne's Student Government Association (SGA) is hosting a virtual Q&A event to help disperse the truth about the threat of Omicron.

"The Omicron variant is now the most common variant of Covid-19 in the U.S., but it seems like a lot of the information online is conflicting or unclear," SGA President Jessica Schmitz said in a statement to all students.

In an effort to assuage fears and clarify the truth in a barrage of voices, SGA is looking to hyper-local health professionals to help answer some questions. Featured in this

webinar will be Duquesne Provost David Dausey, an epidemiologist; Dr. Elizabeth Bunk, the manager of Duquesne's Center for Pharmacy Care; and Joy Dougherty, the Director of Health Services.

On Thursday, Jan. 20 at 4:30 p.m., the panel will convene over Zoom to answer questions from viewers.

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# NFL opens playoffs with subpar showing

*Following a regular season filled with drama and high-stakes football, the NFL's opening weekend of postseason action didn't produce the hype that many anticipated. With blowouts across the board, the disparity between the true contenders and pretenders was on full display.*

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

The National Football League opened its 2021-22 rendition of the playoffs last weekend, with 12 of the 14 qualifying teams playing in an opening-round matchup.

Prior to the 2020 season, the league announced that it would expand its postseason, and the top-seven teams (as opposed to six in prior seasons) from each conference would earn a postseason berth.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Buffalo's Josh Allen - pictured here in a Sept. 26 game - threw for five touchdowns in Saturday's victory.

This rule took effect during a 2020 season in which every NFL franchise was forced to limit or completely restrict attendance at its respective stadium.

Nonetheless, the league began branding the opening weekend of the playoffs as the "Super Wild Card Weekend." This postseason, as fans returned to the stadiums in droves, was supposed to feature some of the most-entertaining games in what the league labeled as its "biggest season ever."

After spending the entire weekend taking in the opening-round games, it's safe to say that the majority of this weekend's games were anything but super or wild.

While there were a few key storylines that consumed the slate, it's hard for the casual viewer to be interested in games that saw an average margin of victory of 17.2 points, including three games where the winning team won by 20+ points.

Saturday's action started at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati with a battle of American Football Conference teams looking to snap long droughts of playoff failure.

In what ended up being the second-closest game of the weekend, the fourth-seeded Cincinnati Bengals defeated the fifth-seeded Las Vegas Raiders 26-19, winning the franchise's first playoff game since Jan. 6, 1991.

Quarterback Derek Carr led Las Vegas nearly the length of the field for a potential game-tying drive, but his interception

in the red zone with under a minute remaining kept the Raiders from winning their first postseason contest since Jan. 19, 2003.

Although the final score reflected an exciting game, it was an erroneous whistle from a line judge that stole the postgame spotlight.

With just under two minutes remaining in the second half, as Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow's momentum was taking him out of bounds, he let go of a 10-yard pass that was caught in the end zone by

everyone else.

These two games, littered with controversy, were the only ones that produced some sort of competition. With its six-point victory, San Francisco became the only lower-seeded team to win a game in the opening round.

Those who were expected to win, did (except for Dallas), but the wins were really never in doubt.

Saturday night's AFC contest between the third-seeded Buffalo Bills and sixth-seeded New England Patriots at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., saw Buffalo score touchdowns on seven of its eight drives en route to a 47-17 dismantling of New England.

The only drive in which Buffalo didn't score was on the final drive, when backup quarterback Mitch Trubisky went into victory formation and knelt it three times. Josh Allen, Buffalo's starting quarterback, threw for more touchdowns (five) than in-completions (four).

Sunday's early-afternoon NFC game saw the second-seeded Tampa Bay Buccaneers take care of the seventh-seeded Philadelphia Eagles with ease in a 31-15 win at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

Philadelphia, who went just 9-8 overall and 0-6 against fellow playoff teams during the regular season, scored each of its two touchdowns (one accompanied by a two-point conversion) in the fourth quarter, when the game was already well out of reach.

In the last game of the night, an AFC matchup between the second-seeded Kansas City Chiefs and the seventh-seeded Pittsburgh Steelers at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Pittsburgh sought revenge after a 36-10 blowout at the hands of Kansas City just three weeks prior.

After a scoreless first quarter, a fumble recovery and subsequent touchdown from T.J. Watt early in the second quarter gave the Steelers a 7-0 lead. It looked as if Pittsburgh, who was nearly a two-touchdown underdog, would be able to compete with Kansas City.

The Chiefs proceeded to find the end zone on six-consecutive possessions (three before halftime) and never let the Steelers back into it. Pittsburgh scored touchdowns on two-straight possessions and nearly found it for a third time to end the game, but Kansas City coasted to a 42-21 victory.

In Monday night's NFC contest that wrapped up the weekend, the fourth-seeded Los Angeles Rams jumped out to a 28-0 lead and never looked back, blowing out the fifth-seeded Arizona Cardinals by a 34-11 mark at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.

This week's slate of games sees three of the four matchups comprised of rematches of regular-season contests.

On Saturday afternoon, the Bengals will head to Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn., to meet the top-seeded Tennessee Titans to open up the divisional round on

the AFC side. The teams didn't meet during the regular season.

At night, the 49ers will travel to Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisc., for a matchup with the one-seeded Green Bay Packers as things get back underway on the NFC's side of the bracket. On Sept. 26, the Packers used a 51-yard field goal from Mason Crosby as time expired to slide past the 49ers 30-28 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

Sunday's schedule starts with the Rams meeting the Buccaneers in Tampa. Los Angeles and Tampa Bay also met on Sept. 26, with the Rams beating the Buccaneers 34-24 at SoFi Stadium.

The divisional round wraps up with the Bills making their third trip to Arrowhead Stadium in less than a year. In last season's AFC title game, Buffalo fell to Kansas City by a 38-24 tally. The Bills tried to avenge that loss with a 38-20 victory over the Chiefs on Oct. 10.

On the surface, this weekend should see competitive football return to the screen after a week characterized by mediocrity, controversy and disparity between the league's elite and the rest of the playoff pack.

If the NFL wants this season to be remembered as the best ever, it needs quality competition to return this weekend.

If last weekend was a preview of this postseason's trajectory, there's room for concern.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Aaron Rodgers, looking to win his first Super Bowl title since 2011, helped the Green Bay Packers earn the NFC's top seed this season.



# MBB drops second straight in loss to Dayton

SPENCER THOMAS

staff writer

In Saturday afternoon's nationally televised contest at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, Dayton defeated Duquesne 72-52.

The victory was the Flyers' largest in the all-time series since Jan. 3, 2015, when they bested the Dukes by an 81-55 tally.

It was clear Duquesne had their work cut out for them even before tipoff, as junior forward Austin Rotroff was deemed unavailable due to injury. Without their 6-foot-10, go-to big man, the Dukes were forced to field a starting five without anyone over 6-foot-7.

That led to repeated mismatches in the paint, where 6-foot-10 freshman DaRon Holmes II dominated for the Flyers. The four-star recruit scored a game-high 18 points, complemented by five rebounds, a block and an assist.

His Flyers outscored the Dukes 38-26 in the paint, which included several thunderous dunks that repeatedly brought the Dayton fans in attendance to their feet.

The biggest disparity in height was evident in the rebound category. The Flyers outrebounded the Dukes 35-24, including a 9-5 edge on the offensive glass. Dayton scored eight second-chance points in the first half (10 total), while the Dukes managed just two all game.

Defensively, Dayton's size locked off the paint for Duquesne and forced them to attempt more shots from long range. The Dukes finished the day going just 5-for-19 from 3-point-land (1-for-8 in the second half).

The Flyers consistently hit their outside shots at the outset, knocking down five of their first eight 3-point attempts. Although Duquesne grabbed an early 7-4 lead, the outside shot was a key factor in helping

Dayton take a 40-28 lead into halftime.

Dayton was also incredibly active off the ball, forcing Duquesne defenders to tire themselves in pursuit of their man. Dayton's offense racked up a total of 19 assists, while Duquesne only recorded eight assists.

"I thought that was the key to the game," Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot said. "They moved us so much in the first half that we tired in the second half. We didn't have [expletive] in the second half."

With a chance to make a comeback at the start of the second half, the Dukes managed to score just 11 points in the first 12 minutes of the half. This allowed Dayton to extend its lead to 25 points (64-39).

"We're just too one-on-one oriented right now, which is hit or miss," Dambrot said.

Dambrot also discussed how critical he thought ball movement would be for his team going forward.

"I've got to 'revolving door' it," Dambrot said. "If you don't move the ball and you take bad shots, you're coming out."

That philosophy was put into practice early in the second half, when freshman Jackie Johnson III attempted to drive to the basket but was swallowed up by a flock of Flyers. He was immediately pulled from the court, advised by his coaches and went back into the game.

It was an uncharacteristically quiet day for Johnson. He had just two points on 1-of-5 shooting, along with a pair of turnovers.

"We have good individual pieces, but we haven't shown we can consistently play together," Dambrot said. "... I'm just going to have to clobber it over their heads."

A season-high 3,012 spectators escaped the bitter cold and entered the fieldhouse for the game, but it was Dayton's strong traveling section that was making a major-

ity of the noise.

Following the defeat, which tied a Dec. 7 loss against DePaul for largest margin of defeat this season (87-67), the Dukes have lost back-to-back Atlantic 10 Conference games. They'll return to action on Friday night, when they host St. Bonaventure in a game that will be televised nationally by ESPN2.

The Bonnies were ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation during the first month of the season, but have lost three of their last

five games (dating back to Dec. 11), including an 18-point road loss at the hands of Dayton on Tuesday night.

The Dukes have lost three-consecutive games against the Bonnies and 11 of the last 12 meetings overall (dating back to Feb. 24, 2016). The lone victory came on Feb. 26, 2020, an 81-77 road win in overtime.

The Dukes have not won a home game over St. Bonaventure since Jan. 16, 2016, when they bested the Bonnies by a 95-88 mark.



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

Austin Rotroff - pictured here in a Nov. 13 game against Hofstra - missed Saturday's game with an injury. Rotroff is the only rostered player that has been with Duquesne since the 2019-20 season.

# WBB loses second in a row, falls to URI

BRENTARO YAMANE

staff writer

Since Tammi Reiss got the head coaching job at Rhode Island back in 2019, one of the things that she could never accomplish was beating Duquesne.

She no longer has to worry about that.

In order to stay at the top of the Atlantic 10 Conference standings, the Rams knew they'd have to defeat the Dukes in Pittsburgh for the first time since Jan. 12, 2007.

"I always come to this place and [Duquesne Head Coach] Dan [Burt] gets our number," Reiss said. "They compete and give us a lot of matchup problems, and it feels good for the first time to beat Duquesne because we never did before."

Behind a team-high 19 points and five assists from Dez Elmore, the Rams defeated the Dukes by a 67-57 mark to push their winning streak to seven consecutive games.

The start was far from perfect for Rhode Island. At the 3:08 mark of the first quarter, the team trailed 11-2, its biggest deficit on the evening. For Elmore, just four of her 19 points came during the first half.

Reiss was proud of the way her team re-

sponded despite falling behind.

"I'm really proud of the squad, they [Duquesne] jumped on us early and gave it to us," Reiss said. "We weren't quite ready to compete, but we battled and persevered."

Besides Elmore, Chanell Williams (14), Marie-Paule Foppossi (14) and Emmanuelle Tahane (10) also scored in double figures for Rhode Island.

The loss prevented Burt from winning his 14th game against the Rams in 16 tries since taking over at Duquesne. Burt now has a 13-3 record against the Rams.

The Dukes shot 23-for-57 (40.4%) from the field and only had four free-throw attempts on the night (Rhode Island had 15).

"When you shoot four free throws for the entire game, that tells that you have passivity, and we didn't help ourselves by driving the ball more in the game," Burt said.

Tess Myers led the Dukes with 11 points in the game, while five other different players on the team scored exactly eight points. Libby Bazalak was one of those five players, and she also had a game-high seven assists. No other player from either team had more than five assists.

Finishing games is something that Burt

has addressed to his team numerous times, but the message has not seemed to have fully translated yet.

At the end of the third quarter of Wednesday's game the Dukes only trailed by two (44-42), but were outscored 25-15 in the final quarter.

Myers hit a 3-point shot as time expired at the end of the second quarter to trim the team's deficit to 31-28 going into halftime.

The Dukes have now lost six games by six points or fewer this season. With the conference slate continuing to progress, Burt said he hopes tonight's loss can be a "tipping point," with his players using the close loss as a source of motivation moving forward.

"I really do believe we're the best 6-11 team in the country. We've been in just about every single game," Burt said. "Outside of the first week of the season, we lost by a couple of possessions or fewer and we're still trying to correct things."

"We've got a very young group with some very experienced veterans that are playing through significant health issues. I'm still very proud of them, and I come to work everyday excited about the positivity around those kids."

Duquesne will be back in action on Sat-

urday, when it travels west for a road game against Saint Louis. The Dukes and Billikens last met on Jan. 26, 2020, when SLU defeated Duquesne by a 53-50 mark.



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne's Libby Bazalak looks on during a 3-point attempt in Wednesday's 10-point loss.



'Spirit Everlasting' premiere honors Dr. King

NEW RELEASES

CAPRI SCARCELLI  
a&e editor

“His words echo through our hearts and minds,” Mayor Ed Gainey said. “In the spirit of [Dr.] King, ‘If we work together, we shall all overcome.’”

Sponsored by the DEMASKUS Theater Collective and the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, “Spirit Everlasting: A Tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” offered a virtual, heartfelt performance to commemorate King’s birthday on Monday, Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. through YouTube live stream. Filming was done by Emma Alaquiva and Ya Momz House Production.

Executive producer and assistant director Shaunda Erikka McDill said that the premiere put a spin on recognizing the legacy of King through their “artistic home.”

“You will see the gifts and talents of actors and singers on display, inspired by the legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King,” McDill said. “We hope that you, too will ponder and question during this time: What is it that we say about our faiths, our beliefs, our values, when all of our backs are against the wall?”

The premiere began with snippets from King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech, then crossed over to live performances of his lesser-known words of wisdom.

Inspired by works from Howard W. Thurman, a supporter of the non-violence movement, King incorporated Thurman’s ideologies into his own. DEMASKUS performers made sure to also include his speeches to show the duality of these idols.

Actors included Dwayne Fulton, Amanda Van Story Lewis, Karla C. Payne, Lisha Logan, Pariss Johnson, Charles E. Timbers, Lorenzo Boone and Peter Lawson Jones. These performers memorized excerpts from both King and Thurman to represent the African American experience in King’s lifetime, while also mak-



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

“Spirit Everlasting” brings musical celebration to King’s influence.

ing parallels to the civil unrest of today. Each excerpt rang out with the unsung tune of acknowledging the pain of the past for hope for tomorrow.

In the “God’s Children” speech, the powerful notion of inequality in America was made known through the euphemisms of being a “nobody” or a “somebody.” In King’s words, “every man is a somebody if he is a child of God.” Through these religious undertones, the performers noted that King inspired hope from having faith in a better world.

In between the readings, gospel performances of “Walk With Me Lord,” “Be Free” and “Summertime” were featured as an uplifting accompaniment to King’s impact.

Okema T. Moore directed the musical portions of the premiere. She said that the opportunity to work with singers Calesta Day, Charlie Vox and Jonathan Royal was “a true blessing.”

“These are the words of MLK and Howard W. Thurman, and they are stirring,” Moore said. “It was my honor to direct these pieces.”

Day was a featured soloist from Atlanta, classically-trained in opera and no. 9 on Billboard’s top 100 for Gospel music. Thanking DEMASKUS for this premiere, Day said she was “honored for the opportunity to minister through song.”

The music itself had impeccable range, from classical arrangements to renditions of J. Cole. Each vocalist brought an astounding energy to the table, keeping the audience’s hearts overflowing with joy. The storytelling within the sheer power of their voices was a showstopper in itself.

To conclude the premiere, DEMASKUS cut back to the “I Have a Dream” recording from the very beginning, leaving the audience with a ray of hope to remember King for his passionate teachings.

The “Spirit Awakening” live stream is still available on the AWAACC website. Tune in for the inspiring, uplifting performance supporting King’s works and the beauty of Black art.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Day is a nationally renowned artist that has been selected to participate in the DEMASKUS premiere honoring King.

Hotel Transylvania:  
Transformania  
Jan. 14

The whacky vampire family is back! In the fourth addition to the series, Dracula and Johnny experience an alarming switch-a-roo: monsters and humans switch lives! To combat this, the characters must travel to the Amazon to reverse the transformation. The movie is available for streaming on Prime Video.

The King's Daughter  
Jan. 21

A fantastical depiction of a historic kingdom wherein King Louis XIV achieves immortality by capturing a mermaid’s life-force. However, the king questions his choices when his illegitimate daughter seems to take a liking to the magical creature. Live in theaters.

Redeeming Love  
Jan. 21

Based on the novel by Francine Rivers, the story follows a couple from the 1850 Gold Rush, and their struggles to stay afloat. Live in theaters.

CAPRI'S  
KIND WORDS

Accept the love you give others

I find that all of my energy goes toward making others happy, and I have willfully made that my full-time job. It makes me happy seeing others happy, so why should I require the same effort I give others if I'm content with being the giver?

Newsflash! You do need the same love and care, and you deserve it so much!

Sometimes it comes as a shock to me when I receive small compliments, or if someone brings me snacks because they were thinking of me. Knowing that someone is looking out for me makes my heart feel so warm, but sometimes I don't make time for these interactions when I'm stuck in a "machine routine" of scholastic duties.

We can't always be superheroes. Let people take care of you now and then — after all, it's what you would do for them.

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Hey, you wouldn't happen to know my friend, would you? \*holds up a small gecko with a top hat\*

Pisces

"Being well-rounded is a false prophet" — a Pisces whose sole life skill is theoretical physics but doesn't know

Aries

Dyeing each others hair but as an "I miss you let's hang out"

Taurus

Where'd you go?

Gemini

Your next tattoo is the last picture in your camera roll.

Cancer

Oh, you're sweet? Drink the honey out of the bottle.

Leo

Spicy!

Virgo

Are you #awesome today?

Libra

Ramen or ray-men noodles, may I ask?

Scorpio

MEOOWWW

Sagittarius

Shawty fire burning on the dance floor?

Capricorn

Motion Sickness by Phoebe Bridgers please



## Red Masquers conduct 24-hour "Play in a Day"

EMMA POLEN  
features editor

Some play-writes spend years creating a work. During Duquesne's annual Play in a Day celebration, student writers, directors, actors and technical crew had just 24 hours to create an entire production from start to finish.

Play in a Day allowed the theatrical performers to challenge themselves to put on an entertaining production using teamwork and perseverance.

The only direction given beforehand was the writing prompt, "Everyday locations with a genre-inspired twist."

The 24-hour day began at 8 p.m., Friday night. According to junior education major Erin Wrisley, the writers and directors are paired randomly, and then auditions for cast

members start. This year, there were four teams that, at the end of the 24 hours, put on four separate, one-act productions.

After auditions, the writer/director teams settled on their writing prompts. Then, everyone went home for the night except the writers, who have just 10 hours to "brainstorm, write and edit" a final script that is due at 7 a.m. the following day, said Wrisley.

"The most challenging part of the day for me was definitely getting started with the writing," Wrisley said. Given only the setting and genre for her production, Wrisley's task involved creating a story around the simple prompt.

8:30 a.m. marked the first read-through involving each production's writer, director and cast. The direc-

tor takes over from there, spending the whole day creating the scene with the cast.

For junior marketing and theater arts major Anita Parrott, who directed "Sealed Deck," the early morning read-through was her favorite part of Play in a Day.

"It was a really exciting time and I finally knew exactly what kind of script we'd be working with."

After the read-through, it was up to the scenes' directors to continue the writers' vision.

Parrott said, "Being a director is different from writing because I think there's an added pressure to do the playwright's work justice."

The rest of the day involved the productions' directors, cast members and technical crew bringing the writers' finished scripts to life.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wrisley's script-writing brought a robot apocalypse to life.

Freshman digital media arts student Ryan Graves recalled that, as an actor in his scene, "Tale of Cake," the hardest part was memorizing lines.

However, along with performing typical actor roles, Play in a Day supplied a new opportunity for the cast and crew involved.

"I was able to contribute to the set design, stage directions and costumes, and those were things I've never done before, so it was a change from what I'm used to," Graves said.

Learning new roles in the theater was not the only fun part for the cast of Play in a Day.

Second-year nursing student Sadie Raynor was a cast member of "Tale of Cake" as well.

She described the role of the cast on production day: "My role...is to bring these stories to life and in [my] case, eat a lot of cake." She explained that her scene's writer, Bill Feher, wrote the entire scene based around Raynor's love for cake.

Reflecting on the beginning vs. the end of the day, Raynor said, "In the beginning, I was really pumped up

and ready to focus. By the end, I felt very sick from the cake and went to bed. But it was worth it."

8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15 marked the final hour of Play in a Day, and the productions were officially finished.

What the audience saw was the full-fledged, completed production. What they did not see, however, was the long, challenging journey that was 24 hours in the making.

All interested in getting involved next semester with Play in a Day are encouraged to do so. The Red Masquers will also be putting on main stage productions including *Mama Mia!* Feb. 17 - March 5, *1,000 Airplanes on the Roof* March 31 - April 9 and Premieres scattered throughout this semester.

"It's a terrifying, chaotic, and wild experience, but it was also incredibly fun and rewarding, and just a super cool experience," Wrisley said.

Members of The Duke editorial staff are also affiliated with the Red Masquers and the aforementioned productions. This did not impact their coverage.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

(From left to right): Ryan Graves, Sadie Raynor and Victoria Kapfer lay out the scene like a piece of cake.



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“Never say never be-  
cause limits, like fears,  
are often just illusions.”

MICHAEL JORDAN

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

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EDITORIAL  
POLICY

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## The athletic sphere of public health

An Australian court ruled on Jan. 16 that Novak Djokovic was to be deported from the country, crushing the Serbian tennis pro's goal to win his 21st Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

The reason? Djokovic isn't vaccinated against Covid.

The Australian government wasn't having it — and I don't blame them.

Upon Djokovic's arrival to the country on Jan. 5, Victoria state, where the Open would be held, recorded more than 20,000 new cases, which would become the largest daily jump in cases since the onset of the pandemic, the AP reported.

Djokovic has been vocal about his opinion on the vaccine ever since its development. In an interview translation from Reuters in 2020, he expressed that he was “opposed to vaccination,” and “wouldn't want to be forced by someone to take a vaccine in order to be able to travel.”

Although many would have loved to see the tennis star perform once again in the Open, me being one of them, the court's decision comes with a strong message: even though you're a person of importance, you're not exempt from a clearly stated requirement.

The events of Djokovic versus the Australian government open up the conversation for even bigger topics at hand: the social power of an athlete, and the institutionalized power the associations hold over them.

Athletes, now more than ever, have the agency to reach out and communicate with fans on a daily basis via social media. They garner support through their victories and create a platform to express their views — some rather questionable.

Djokovic, at the paramount of physical health, attempted to defy public interest, dis-

playing to the world that you don't have to follow policy, and his winner status calls for an exemption.

The Covid-19 virus, especially now during the surge of the Omicron variant, has thus far taken approximately 5.5 million lives worldwide, and 334 million have been afflicted with the virus. With the power that an athlete holds, wouldn't they want to promote staying healthy?

Not to say that it requires a vaccine, as some exemptions exceed it, but at least the adherence to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines



ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

could influence fans and general viewers alike to work together to get rid of the virus plaguing the world for nearly two years.

A well-known name in the U.S., Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers has been a flag-bearer for the anti-vax community, as well.

Rodgers tested positive for Covid-19 in November after initially telling the media he had been immunized against the virus. Later, on the Pat McAfee show in December, Rodgers admitted “I believe strongly in bodily autonomy and the ability to make choices for your body. Not to have to acquiesce to some sort of woke culture or

crazed individuals who say you have to do something.”

Although he may not realize it, his quote, and in Djokovic's case, his actions, become weapons for those against the vaccine, and those who dismiss the severity of the virus. It's another reason to deny the effectiveness of the vaccine and quarantine guidelines brought forth by the CDC.

Part of the issue is the cessation of American sports associations, giving into fan requests to allow for unvaccinated players to continue competition — all for capital gain and continued support.

Besides the NFL, the NBA also waved the white flag, allowing NBA star Kyrie Irving to receive an exemption to play part time in away games since indoor arenas in New York require vaccination.

When it comes to athletes, rather than your unvaccinated next-door neighbor, what they do in public health situations matters. Circling back to their platform, professional athletes are symbols of health, success and leadership. They are sought after by sports apparel brands, supplement brands and medicine brands — they are a pop culture representation of what we should be striving for.

But we shouldn't be striving for exemptions or dismissing scientific studies. No athlete, no matter how successful, should receive a free pass when there are clear restrictions in place to protect other players, coaching staff, referees, stadium employees and even fans.

And that's why it's disappointing to see sports associations fail to exert the one sliver of power they hold over athletes: whether or not they are allowed to compete. Australia did what the U.S. is afraid to do, and it's about time we step up to the plate.

STAFF  
EDITORIALThe significance of *United States v. Rhodes*

It was a dark day for democracy on Jan. 6, 2021, as rioters swarmed the United States Capitol Building in an effort to stop the certification of President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Over 700 people have been charged with crimes related to the riot so far, according to Insider.

Many have been critical of Attorney General Merrick Garland's approach in his investigation of the riot. Critics of Garland argue he has not done enough to pursue leadership involved with organizing the riot, and is too focused on prosecuting the people that were physically present at the Capitol that day.

While some may have wished for swifter justice, Garland has explained the rationale behind this methodical approach:

“We build investigations by laying a foundation. We resolve more straightforward cases first because they provide the evidentiary foundation for more complex cases. Investigating the more overt crimes generates linkages to less overt ones. Overt actors and the evidence they provide can lead us to others who may also have been involved. And that evidence can serve as the foundation for further investigative leads and techniques.”

This indicates that the Department of Justice is not only searching for all of those involved, but also taking the proper steps to do it.

On Jan. 13, 2021, the Department of Justice unsealed seditious conspiracy charges against Stewart Rhodes, the leader of the far-right group named the Oath Keepers. Rhodes was arrested the same day.

The indictment references messages sent by Rhodes to other Oath Keeper members, where he is quoted as saying, “We aren't getting through this without a civil war,” and “We will have to do a bloody, massively bloody revolution against them.”

Prosecutors say Rhodes and other Oath Keeper members held paramilitary training sessions and transported weapons and other equipment to Washington in preparation for Jan. 6.

Evidence like this helps to dispel some narratives that the insurrection was a spur-of-the-moment, spontaneous event.

Hindering the execution of a U.S. law will likely be what condemns Rhodes in court, as the evidence suggests that he was crucial in the organization of the insurrection, with the intent of stopping the certification of the election.

Charging Rhodes with seditious conspiracy is significant, as it is relatively rare in the U.S. legal system. Seditious conspiracy can be difficult to prove in court, and the fact that the Department of Justice is proceeding with this charge indicates a confidence that they can prove it.

They are sending a message to those who helped organize the event that they will not stop at physical participation and that they will not shy away from the prosecution of anyone involved to the fullest extent of the law.

The attack on the Capital was a direct attack on democracy, and anyone who contributed to it should face the consequences for their actions. Charging Rhodes with seditious conspiracy is just, considering how heavily he was involved with the organization of the Jan. 6 riot; a riot that attempted to disrupt a fair election.



## Concerns of the Tolkien literati: ‘Lord of the Rings’ 20 years later

**SIMON JARONSKI**  
staff columnist

The titanic imagination of J.R.R. Tolkien looms large over the contemporary landscape of culture and entertainment. With the 20th anniversary theatre debut of Peter Jackson’s film adaptation of “The Fellowship of the Ring” recently having passed in December, and the upcoming “The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power” Amazon Prime series in 2022 being highly anticipated, a recent debate has once again emerged from the shadows: How can one transform a highly venerated work of literature into film or TV tastefully? Alternatively, should it be attempted at all, or is it simply apostasy?

There will always be those who question Peter Jackson’s directorial interpretation of Tolkien’s legendarium. And, quite frankly, I refuse to dismiss them as ivory tower barons, if not solely for the debt owed them by all who love the works of Tolkein: their advocacy for the relevance of LoTR cannot be understated in its importance, and has helped to reinvigorate the timeless epic.

Some of his more unfortunate elisions appear particularly irksome to those scholars who demand an undeviating interpretation of the Professor’s works, with regard to theological, ecological or philological considerations that seem unimportant to the action packed world of cinema. The role of Tom Bombadil, the Scouring of the Shire and epic songs and poetry

all come to mind.

But perhaps the democratization of Middle-earth and its lessons make the natural dilution of Tolkien’s prose quality — insofar as translation to the big screen naturally exacts that toll — well worth it. And far from merely detracting, these films decisively augment in many ways.

Howard Shore’s masterful score, which has consistently been ranked among the greatest and most recognizable of all time by BBC, adds considerable weight and gravitas to the Third Age. The rustic beauty of the Shire, the soul crushing Evil of Mordor and the soaring triumph of free civilization in the War of the Ring: Does not the ineffable quality of music lend itself to cinema and story in ways that can elevate beyond the page, and color experience of even familiar characters in wholly new ways?

This is but one example of how new life can be breathed into a world staunchly defended by those who would wish to see it unchanged. Regardless I sympathize and agree with them.

The promotion of gratuitous violence, the wanton exploitation of our less refined proclivities and increasingly desensitized capacities for wholesome entertainment — all of these are met too eagerly by commercial interests who stand ready to provide us with utterly non-stimulating and banal content.

Tolkien and Jackson, both possessors of keen minds, and both uncompromisingly principled (perhaps I shall address the short-

comings of The Hobbit trilogy elsewhere), have something to offer to a deprived and depraved public through their respective skillsets.

Although George R. R. Martin has grappled with Tolkien problematically in the past (perhaps he can properly spar with his idol if and when he sees fit to complete his fantasy opus), his work — ‘A Song of Ice and Fire’ — deserves plaudits for conveying a vision of moral complexity, one made even more impressive through its scope and realism. However, there is an object lesson in his joint venture with HBO, and the converse of its result is visible in Jackson’s product.

His iconic penchant for grisly violence aside, Martin’s techniques are not undue: they further a genuine artistic goal, one that was at times derailed through a personal struggle to finish his own work, and the necessities of business that came from being inextricably bound to an HBO series that halted for no man. Therein lies the danger, which was obviously no issue for Tolkien, since he died nearly 30 years before Fellowship debuted. The issue is evergreen nonetheless.

Tolkien’s work, however, serves as the ideal bulwark against the dark forces of moral and cultural turpitude that have seemed to overwhelm modern society. His vision is fundamentally one of hope. Although Mankind is corruptible (as we know well from the story of the Ring), there is Good, Truth and Beauty yet among us.

While there may be a way to do so, a discussion of Tolkien’s politi-



COURTESY OF PEXELS

“The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power” Amazon Prime series premieres in 2022.

cal views is unwarranted here. Perhaps they can be discerned through context (if at all), or with knowledge of the author’s unshakeable Roman Catholic faith. No matter. Whether liberal or conservative, religious or secular, American, British or otherwise, we all like to believe in the ability of the small and simplistic to persevere in the face of great opposition; in the natural equilibrium of the universe — that Justice might ultimately be done, and Evil be the source of its own undoing; that different cultures and peoples might attain harmony, balance and friendship.

In 2022, we find ourselves in an execrable desert and a veritable wasteland of culture. Our most popular music glorifies violence and the routine degradation of women; the assembly lines of Hollywood manufacture items of prosaic and unintelligent nature; we revere models and makers of TikToks instead of authors, doctors and creators. How might we

liberate ourselves from mental drudgery and self-imposed exile in the Dead Marshes of Digital Age ennui? There are yet stories of uplift and hope among us, that recall the kinder side of humankind.

PJ’s films are a reminder of Tolkien’s legacy, and a compromise with it and those folk who keep it alive through their unceasing interest in its finer details, and through their work in cultivating a sense of community among lovers of lore. And for many, those films will be a bridge into the written world of Middle-earth, where so much more lies to be discovered for the curious and imaginative reader on their own journey. Both men have done essential work, and their contributions to literature, cinema and the human spirit cannot be passed over in the course of this debate.

To invoke Tolkien himself in regard to this desolation: ‘To the Hobbits. May they outlast the Sarumans and see spring again in the trees.’

## Safety and sanctuary: Protecting our nation’s places of worship

**EMMA POLEN**  
features editor

The U.S. prides itself in freedom of religious assembly, but with recent hate-crimes on the minds of many religious organizations, this freedom is tested by the lack of safety in public places of worship.

This past Sunday, British national Malik Faisal Akram, marched into Beth Israel Congregation in Colleyville, Texas, and took four hostages. It was several hours before police were able to get inside. All four hostages were safely rescued, and Akram died on the scene.

According to NPR on Monday morning, authorities were still not sure of Akram’s motive, but the real issue is not why he did it, but how.

Following the Tree of Life shooting, the most deadly display of anti-semitism in U.S. history, synagogues around the country have increased security measures to ensure the safety of their practitioners. But last Sunday proved that this was not enough.

Jonathan Greenblatt from the Anti-Defamation League said in an interview with PBS, “Jews across the country are terrified in this moment.”

It is no wonder that the U.S. Jew-

ish community is worried about the freedom to practice their faith. According to the Anti-Defamation League, over 2,000 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in 2020. It was the third highest year of anti-semitic behavior on record.

The publicly-released series of events at Beth Israel Congregation showed that Akram was initially stopped by security from entering the service, but he spoke of a need for shelter, which gave him the ability to enter the building.

Now, the rabbi at the Beth Israel Congregation is calling for even greater security as well as active shooter drills among Jewish gathering places in the area. But the very fact that their security measures were not enough — it implies that safety in places of worship is no longer promised.

What could prevent someone else from bypassing security at a later time?

Furthermore, while increased safety measures are able to prevent a future attack, they might make it harder and more uncomfortable for those who genuinely want to enter the sanctuary to do so.

Jewish synagogues are often open to the public to allow those who want to enter the freedom to do so. However, it is impossible

to distinguish between those who wish to do harm and those who actually want to come inside to pray.

It is unfortunately left to the religious congregations facing the possibility of threats to solve the problem of anti-Semitism in the U.S.. Many synagogues practice defensive techniques in case of an emergency.

In relation to Beth Israel Congregation, Amna Nawaz said on PBS News Hour last Monday, “The rabbi is saying that the only reason they all made it out alive was because of trainings” from the FBI, Anti-Defamation League and local law enforcement.

Education on defensive techniques is one step toward a greater feeling of safety in places of worship. However, there is still no promise of control over people with a hate-filled agenda targeted at a religious group.

Discrimination against religious affiliation is not acceptable in any public building, but it is especially unfair to bring it into the religion’s own sanctuary.

Rather than educate themselves, people would rather blame the world’s issues on a group of people they really know nothing about.

Days before Akram entered the Texan synagogue, Washington

Post’s Yair Rosenberg that David Bateman, an influential Republican political donor in Utah Republican, sent an email blaming the scale of the pandemic on unvaccinated Jews.

Unprovoked hatred targeted at a religious group opposes the values of love and hospitality that run deeply through the Jewish faith.

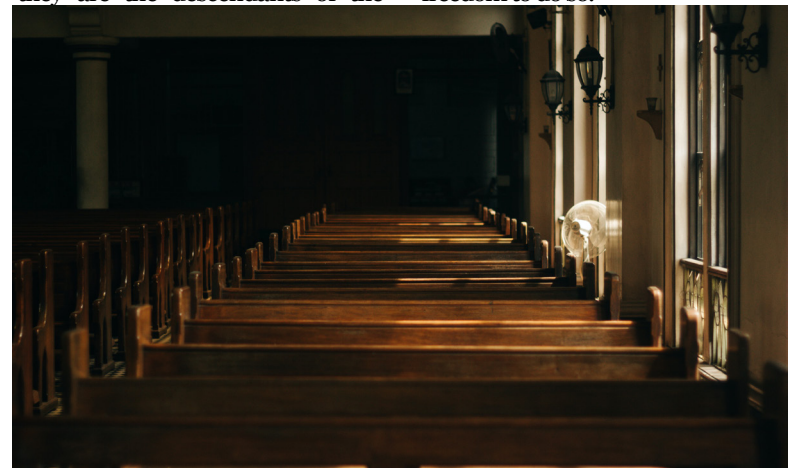
While these threats make live-streaming services from home seem like the easy answer, in-person worship remains important at the center of many faith communities.

The Jewish faith believes that they are the descendants of the

people of Israel. In modern day, this “peoplehood” is translated into the synagogue.

The Jewish faith believes that they are the descendants of the people of Israel. In modern day, this “peoplehood” is translated into the synagogue.

Many practicing members of this religious community will remain true to the tradition of in-person worship, but the sad truth remains: With the lack of guaranteed safety in churches and synagogues, worshippers cannot feel fully welcome to practice their faith in a nation that promises the freedom to do so.



COURTESY OF PEXELS

This past Sunday, British national, Malik Faisal Akram, marched into Beth Israel Congregation in Colleyville, Texas and took four hostages.



# *This Duq alum recently appeared on Jeopardy!*

## *Who is Allison Bove?*



Ally Bove, Duquesne alumna from the Health Science department, completed a lifelong dream by competing on Jeopardy. Her episode aired Wednesday, Jan. 20.

EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

**EMMA POLEN**  
Features Editor

Ally Bove has wanted to compete on "Jeopardy!" since forever.

She finally got her chance in November, and the episode finally aired to the public on Jan. 12.

Since her childhood, Bove has watched "Jeopardy!" religiously.

Bove recalled watching "Jeopardy!" with her grandparents. "I'd go down to their house every night after dinner and watch "Jeopardy!" and Wheel of Fortune with them. But "Jeopardy!" was always the game that we took more seriously," she said.

Bove's grandfather was her first inspiration to be on "Jeopardy!" because of his seemingly endless smarts.

"He didn't have a lot of formal education, but he read so many books and always watched the History Channel, and he always knew all the answers, and I always wanted to become that knowledgeable," Bove said.

Bove grew up in Johnstown, but she came to Pittsburgh to begin her formal education at Duquesne. Bove graduated from Duquesne in 2007, and she has remained in Pittsburgh in the physical therapy department at University of Pittsburgh.

Bove began to pursue her "Jeopardy!" dream after graduate school. "I started taking the test every year. But I probably took

it five or six times before I ever got an audition. And [then] I did and I auditioned twice, unsuccessfully. So I was on my third round of being in the pool of potential contestants before they called me," she said.

Bove admitted that her third time trying out for the show, she was close to giving up.

"I had kind of been thinking to myself, 'Gosh, if I don't get on this time, I don't know if I'm ever going to know enough to get on.'"

Luckily, Bove was successful in beating out the other potential "Jeopardy!" competitors to be on the show.

Once she was invited to participate as a contestant, Bove went right to work preparing as best she could.

"You only get about three or four weeks' notice that you're going on the show," Bove said. She already had been compiling a list of potential topics that she knew little about. With this list, Bove began studying.

"So, because I watch every night, I know what kinds of categories tend to come up frequently and I know which ones I'm not as strong in," Bove said. She would study pages of information from anticipated categories that she did not feel as confident in, mainly history and literature.

While the years of careful study of the "Jeopardy!" categories helped her feel more

prepared, Bove said, "Unfortunately, literally none of it came up in my game so...it did not actually help me to answer every single question in my game."

In Bove's defense, who could have anticipated "Reptilian words/phrases" as a category?

Question-wise, Bove stepped into the competition confident in her "Jeopardy!" knowledge. It was the buzzer, Bove said, that gave her some anxiety before competing.

"My first rehearsal, I managed to successfully ring-in zero times," Bove said.

With a little bit of self-coaching, Bove changed her buzzer-hitting technique and was more successful in her buzz-in's in the actual game.

Bove finished the competition in second place, losing to the ongoing champion, Amy Schneider.

Over the two days Bove was at the "Jeopardy!" studio, ten episodes (five episodes per day) were filmed. This meant that while Bove was off-air, she was able to make friends with the other contestants.

According to Bove, each day hosted a returning champ, 10 contestants and a few alternates.

Because of Covid, there was no way for family or friends to be in the studio. In a way, this helped the contestants grow even closer.

In fact, Bove has continued to stay in touch with the people she met during her time at the studio through group messages.

Bove said that, among other things, the

contestants have been using the group chats for "commiserating over running into the buzzsaw that was Schneider who's currently a 32-time champ."

"And also, it's just nice to have people that just went through that same process that you did and who probably dreamed about it, at least as long as you had as well," Bove said.

In a more personal way, she believed the experience was meant to happen.

"I filmed my episode on Nov. 2, which was the anniversary of my grandfather's passing," Bove said. "And then my episode ended up airing the week that my grandmother, who's still with us, turned 90."

"It just really made me feel like that kind of came full circle. I thought that was just perfect, kind of [a] poetic ending to my "Jeopardy!" journey," she said.

Besides other contestants and her family, people from all across Pittsburgh have been cheering Bove on since the show's airing.

"It's been totally crazy, but the level of support that I've had has been awesome. And so many people who I don't know have reached out and just said, 'Hey, you did your best against Amy. You made Pittsburgh proud,'" Bove said.

Stay tuned for Jan. 20. Dr. Patrick Lackey, another Duquesne Alumni, also competed and his episode will air on CBS this Thursday, Jan. 20.





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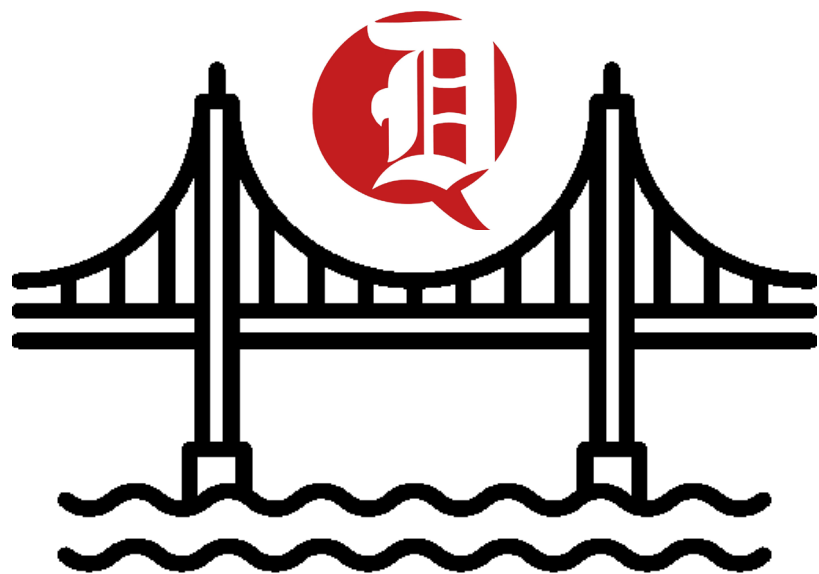
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