Rememning the Holocaust

Colleen Hammond
editor-in-chief

Aged black and white photographs faded across the screen as a pair of violinis sung a haunting, mournful melody. A shopkeeper. A town doctor. A local hairdresser. A mother of young children. An aging father with a son away abroad. Almost eight decades after one of the darkest chapters of human history, members of the Pittsburgh Jewish and Duquesne communities gathered to honor the often forgotten lives taken in the Holocaust.


“Tonight’s commemoration is an opportunity to remember those who were killed during the Holocaust,” said Sara Baron, Duquesne librarian. While this secular memorial day attempts to pay respect to the 6 million Jewish people who were murdered, it also serves to preserve and passed along through the soon-to-be-graduated class as a way to honor histories we don’t always pay enough attention to.”

Tonight’s commemoration is an opportunity to remember those who were killed during the Holocaust, the beginning of the end for under-graduate, graduate and doctoral seniors graduating in May.

At the start of the spring semester, the university announced its plans for May 2022 commencement on their website, including a list of dates and times for academic schools’ ceremonies — in two different locations.

For the less-populated academic schools — the School of Education, Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Science and the Mary Pappert School of Music, the university has elected to hold the graduations in the Union Ballroom, while other schools will receive their diplomas in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The announcement to hold the smaller schools in the Union Ballroom is nothing new, as similar schedules were standard in previous years; however, various students took action to change the location, furious with the setting for graduation.

In response to the outcry, university leaders offered changes to the time and location of the commencement after a robust back and forth with students and faculty.

Judith Cooke, a senior secondary education studies major, received the announcement email from academic advisor Saundra Bondi on the morning of Jan. 21. Just moments after sweeping through group chats and social media, Cooke said she felt compelled to make a petition “to minutes after hearing the news,” which was soon posted on change.org.

The petition was paired with a letter that was anonymously written by a senior education major, and passed along through the soon-to-be-graduated class as a way to get the attention of administration, according to Cooke. As students concerns only grew, Cooke made the letter into a petition that was then shared through Facebook, Instagram and more.

“I want to know how a committee of people could compare the newly-renovated Cooper Fieldhouse to the Ballroom, which they made into a glorified cafeteria last year,” Cooke said. “You can see Chick-fil-A from the stage, and parents sitting on the sides of the room would have to watch from a tiny screen.”

According to Cooke, many seniors associate the Union Ballroom with informal campus events, such as Freshman Orientation’s ‘Grafitti Dance,’ DPC’s ‘Epic Bingo’ and various guest speakers.

For incoming freshmen, the matriculation ceremony that celebrates the start of a Duquesne student’s academic journey has been held in the Fieldhouse, formerly known as the AJ Palumbo Center. For Cooke and others, students have expressed the desire for their academic experience at Duquesne to come “full circle” — graduating in the same building they were first introduced to at Duquesne.

“If the ceremony were held in the Power Center [Ballroom] or somewhere more professional, we wouldn’t be having this discussion,” Cooke said. “The [Union] Ballroom is outdated, and we don’t want our ceremony to reflect that.”

Senior secondary education and English major Vanessa Llewellyn was one of many concerned students who had signed the petition upon hearing the news. Llewellyn said she was “gravely disappointed” that her graduating class would be overlooked in the Union Ballroom, considering the Class of 2022 would be earning their degrees amidst the worldwide spread of Covid-19.

“Not only have our tuition dollars gone toward the gorgeous new building that we aren’t getting to walk in, but we are earning a degree in the middle of a pandemic. It’s a huge accomplishment and deserves a celebration and ceremony that reflects the resilience of this class,” Llewellyn said.

According to Llewellyn, students have expressed safety concerns with Covid, afraid that a smaller venue for graduation would make an audience more at-risk of contracting the virus without proper social-distance. Aside from this, Cooke said that there was no official announcement as to how many guests an individual student can bring to the ceremony, regardless of Covid-19 concerns or space available in the Union Ballroom.

As of Sunday, the petition had over 1,200 signatures. Class of 2022 Students in the School of Education, School of Natural and Environmental Science and School of Music are hoping to move their commencement from the Union Ballroom to a different location such as the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse to receive their diplomas.

As of Sunday the petition had over 1,200 signatures. Class of 2022 Students in the School of Education, School of Natural and Environmental Science and School of Music are hoping to move their commencement from the Union Ballroom to a different location such as the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse to receive their diplomas.

Zoe Stratos | Opinions Editor
Students seek change for current commencement location

In an email from Provost David Dausey, it was mentioned that past graduation ceremonies have been held in the Union Ballroom.

"some of the most elegant and important events on campus over the years," while also holding "beauti-
ful graduation ceremonies for more than 20 years."

Comments from all three of the students were included regarding the location.

"For many years, graduates of the University of Pittsburgh and their fami-
lies have enjoyed celebrating their education in the Diploma Ceremony in the Union Ballroom," said Ellen
gawl, dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.

"This venue has allowed everyone to be present and to be close enough to see the graduate proudly walk across the stage. We are looking forward to returning to this traditional graduation venue begun by our reception where students and families celebrate and meet their graduate's friends and mentors who have supported them through their time at Duquesne."

Though students seem to be dis-
appointed with the location of the Commencement, they praised the "UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse can appear
half-empty and cavernous when used for these smaller schools."

University spokespersons did not comment on the max capacities of the spaces used for com-
mencement.

Dausey also mentioned in the email that the university's leadership
is willing to further explore a venue change in response to complaints.

According to Dausey, event planners have advised that a pos-
sible combination of different spaces may be the optimal solution, allowing for there to be sufficient changes in between the ceremonies, as well as a thorough cleaning.

Shortly after Dausey's email was sent to concerned students, the School of Education hosted an open zoom conference with Dean Gretchen Genereit to allow edu-
cation students to officially voice their concerns brought forth by
the petition, while also formulating alternative plans for the May com-
mencement.

During the meeting, Genereit said to students that she was "sur-
prised and proud to get the petition," and wanted students to tell
directly what they wanted.

The meeting was largely open
ended, allowing students to come forward with their reasons for not wanting the commencement in the
ballroom. The list included, but was not limited to, worries about the size of the ballroom, its use as a cafeteria during the height of Co-
vid, its out-dated feel compared to the fieldhouse and social distanc-
ing capabilities.

Upon hearing their grievances, Genereit offered two options to the students. The first being to continue the
school of education commencement with another to avoid time overlap issues, while moving into the Fieldhouse. The second being to move the commencement to the Power Center Ballroom, which stu-
dents voiced would provide a better environment than the Union.

In her closing remarks, Genereit said administration would like the matter "reconciled within the next week," adding that she planned to continue their advocacy, while also taking advantage of their access to her, and others within the school of education.

As of Wednesday, Jan. 26, Genereit gave the okay to Cooke to send a poll through the petition.

The poll asks whether or not stu-
dents would be willing to switch the ceremony date to May 14 at 2 p.m., in order to accommodate re-
quests for commencement in the Cooper Fieldhouse, or they can keep the original May 13 at 5 p.m.
in the Union Ballroom.

To vote, graduates and parents/guardians of graduates must fill out the Google form in the link provid-
ed by the petition website.
PMEA offers young musicians chance to perform with Duq community

EMMA POLLEN
feature editor

This year, Duquesne was selected to host the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators (PMEA) District 1 Band West Festival which will be held in the Powers Center ballroom.

On Jan. 28 and 29, students might notice a younger crowd of musicians roaming on campus. The musicians consist of 133 talented 10th to 12th grade students selected from across 34 school districts in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Because of Covid-19, the audition process was moved to completely digital, but the performances will still be in-person. In fact, the in-person experience was one reason North Hills High School junior clarinet player Tyler Workinger was excited to try out for PMEA.

“I chose to audition for PMEA this year because I was excited to have in-person festivals again,” Workinger said. “I always learn something new from the guest conductor, either it’s a new way to practice, how to play my instrument better or just how to be a better person.”

Workinger has participated in PMEA for five years, but this is the first PMEA band he will be part of on the district level. Most years, high schools participating in the festival takes turns hosting the event. However, this year, high school students and band directors will be offered a unique opportunity to visit Duquesne.

Paul Doerkosen is a professor of music education at the Mary Pappert School of Music, and he will be managing the behind-the-scenes operations of the PMEA West Festival. After 18 years of involvement with PMEA, Doerkosen is happy for a chance for Duquesne to host the festival and show what the school can offer to young musicians.

“I’m glad the opportunity came along to step up,” he said. All throughout Friday and Saturday, high school students will continue to receive special learning opportunities from the Duquesne music community. The festival will split into two 8-hour days consisting of rehearsals, lunch, masterclasses and finally the performance beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

James Gourlay, director of bands at the Mary Pappert School of Music and the 2022 PMEA West guest conductor, will be in charge of rehearsing the group. Gourlay explained the significance of incorporating masterclasses with professional players from the music school into the festival.

“To meet a specialist, particularly someone from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra…who’s at the top of the profession, and learn from that person would be a bit like Ben Roethlisberger teaching people to throw a ball and I think they’ll have a lasting effect on the students,” Gourlay said.

During the luncheon, high school students will also be entertained by Duquesne’s Jazz Faculty Sextet, which Doerkosen mentioned as yet another opportunity for the Mary Pappert School of Music to show off their prestige as one of the top destinations for potential music students in the area.

High school band directors will have a chance to learn from the Duquesne music school staff through technology, clarinet and percussion workshops. The collegiate-level and high school band teachers will work together to make music education in the area even stronger.

Suellen Engelhard, the Sto-Rox High School Band Director, will be representing the Sto-Rox school district at the festival along with two of her student musicians.

“I am looking forward to the collaboration time with colleagues,” Engelhard said. “PMEA festivals provide time for directors to share experiences and brainstorm together.”

Current Duquesne music students will also benefit from the event.

Robert Traugh, adjunct professor of music technology, will be assisting Doerkosen with running the event. He shared how the 47 participating undergraduate music school students will get to work alongside the younger high school musicians.

“There’s so much to learn. Something like this is putting those skills (interacting with K-12 students) into practice. People would be a bit like Ben Roethlisberger teaching a kid…or a professional player who’s a sophomore or a junior and hasn’t had the opportunity to do any field placement student teaching,” Traugh said.

Despite the challenges of Covid, the concert will maintain a degree of normalcy.

Gourlay is looking forward to performing with the student musicians in-person.

“The preciousness of that is incredible,” Gourlay said. “And it’s something that if we ever took for granted…we’d never do that again.”

One major tradition that will be maintained at this year’s festival is that of the band uniforms. Students are asked to wear their band uniforms to represent the school they come from.

“The band uniforms show the diversity in the band,” Engelhard said. “Each uniform is unique and is a great representation of all the schools participating in the festival.”

Campus students unable to get free Covid-19 tests sent to Duquesne

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

Students who live on campus have had issues ordering the free Covid tests to their campus address.

On January 14, 2021, the Biden Administration announced that they would be purchasing one billion at home Covid-19 tests that Americans could order for free, and get shipped to their homes. Half a billion of these tests were available starting on January 19, but many have reported having issues with ordering tests, including Duquesne Students.

Students who have tried to order the tests and type in their campus address receive a message that says “At-home COVID-19 tests have already been ordered for this address.”

Many students are frustrated and upset about the error.

“I want the tests just in case,” said Iryyun Kim, a graduate student here at the university.

Cases of Covid-19 have been on the rise here at the university, as well as in the city of Pittsburgh. Duquesne has had a seven day average of 10 student cases, as of January 26, according to the university Covid-19 dashboard. Allegheny County has had a seven day average of 2,039, according to the official dashboard.

“As someone who is immunocompromised, I want to have the tests on hand so I can take all the precautions I need to,” said Jacob Easley, a Duquesne Towers resident. “Getting tested on and off campus is extremely difficult, so these tests would help.”

All students can get tested by health services if they are symptomatic,” said Health Services Director, Joy L. Dougherty.

“Additional testing strategies for asymptomatic students are currently being developed, more details are coming soon.”

Health Services, where students can get tested for Covid if they need to.

While test availability is at an all time low, Duquesne students have no need to worry.

“We placed a very large order, and we have more than enough for the semester and beyond,” said Dougherty.

Students can go to https://www.covidtests.gov/ to order tests. The site will direct students to the USPS site, where they can attempt to order tests and file a service request if needed.

Duquesne Mailing Services, where students would be able to pick up the free Covid tests.

Students can submit a request to USPS about receiving Covid-19 test. Students should not call local USPS offices, as they only direct students to the hotline to submit a request.

At the time of writing, it remains unknown if students will be able to get the Covid tests shipped to campus.

The performance at the end of PMEA on Saturday will be live streamed at 4 pm. Tune in and open the PDF of the program with the QR codes below.
Two hockey players disciplined for racial incidents

Krystof Hrabik was suspended for 30 games in the American Hockey League, while Jacob Panetta was released and is no longer rostered in the East Coast Hockey League.

Hockey game on Jan. 12 in San Jose, Calif.

According to ESPN's Greg Wyshynski, Hrabik "imitated the movements of a monkey in a taunt that targeted Imama, who is Black." Wyshynski also noted that this taunt "was spotted by players on the Roadrunners bench, and Hrabik was confronted on the ice by Tucson's Travis Barron while Imama was held back by a linesman during a stoppage in play.

Following the AHL's decision, Imama released a statement on Twitter, part of which said, "Even though I honestly believe the sport has made positive strides, we still have a long way to go to educate the ignorant and to make hockey a safe place for everyone.

He added, "We have enough to worry about as pro hockey players, and it saddens me when anyone has to deal with these types of issues.

Imama was also the target of a racial incident in 2020, when he was a member of the AHL's Ontario Reign. In a game against the Bakersfield Condors, Bakersfield's Brandon Manning was assessed a misconduct penalty after using a racial slur toward Imama. As a result, Manning was suspended for five games, per The Hockey News.

Hrabik issued a statement on Friday, in which he apologized and also added, "People should know that I had absolutely no inappropriate intent. The gesture was made in the heat of battle and while I didn't mean anything racist by what I did, I realize now through my own ignorance how my gesture could be interpreted. I alone am responsible for that, it was terrible, and I make no excuses. When I heard about Bo-ko's reaction to the gesture, I was horrified by what I had done.

Hrabik's statement also indicated that he sent a personal apology to Imama.

The Barracuda also released a statement, indicating that Hrabik will be eligible to apply for reinstatement after 21 of the 30 games have passed. His reinstatement will depend on "an evaluation of his progress in training provided by the NHL Player Inclusion Committee.

The disparity in suspension lengths stemming from incidents in which Imama was targeted raises an important question: What's the difference in intent?

Why, in a span of just two years, did the appropriate suspension length jump from five games to 30 games? With two similar racially motivated incidents occurring, wouldn't consistency be important? Does Hrabik's gesture carry more weight than Manning's slur did? Is Hrabik's lengthy suspension the product of a culture more committed to social justice than those that came before?

Just one day after the AHL announced Hrabik's suspension, another racial incident came to the forefront during a Saturday-night game in Jacksonville, Fla.

At the tail end of a brawl in an East Coast Hockey League contest between the South Carolina Stingrays (the Washington Capitals' affiliate) and the Jacksonville Icemen (the New York Rangers' affiliate), an individual scuffle between South Carolina's Jordan Subban and Jacksonville's Jacob Panetta ensued when Panetta made a gesture toward Subban. It was insinuated that the gesture was racially motivated.

Following the fight, the Icemen tweeted, "Overtime began with a rough fight result-

Hrabik's gesture was suspended for five games, per The Hockey News.

According to ESPN's Greg Wyshynski, Hrabik "imitated the movements of a monkey in a taunt that targeted Imama, who is Black." Wyshynski also noted that this taunt "was spotted by players on the Roadrunners bench, and Hrabik was confronted on the ice by Tucson's Travis Barron while Imama was held back by a linesman during a stoppage in play.

Following the AHL's decision, Imama released a statement on Twitter, part of which said, "Even though I honestly believe the sport has made positive strides, we still have a long way to go to educate the ignorant and to make hockey a safe place for everyone.

He added, "We have enough to worry about as pro hockey players, and it saddens me when anyone has to deal with these types of issues.

Imama was also the target of a racial incident in 2020, when he was a member of the AHL's Ontario Reign. In a game against the Bakersfield Condors, Bakersfield's Brandon Manning was assessed a misconduct penalty after using a racial slur toward Imama. As a result, Manning was suspended for five games, per The Hockey News.

Hrabik issued a statement on Friday, in which he apologized and also added, "People should know that I had absolutely no inappropriate intent. The gesture was made in the heat of battle and while I didn't mean anything racist by what I did, I realize now through my own ignorance how my gesture could be interpreted. I alone am responsible for that, it was terrible, and I make no excuses. When I heard about Bo-ko's reaction to the gesture, I was horrified by what I had done.

Hrabik's statement also indicated that he sent a personal apology to Imama.

The Barracuda also released a statement, indicating that Hrabik will be eligible to apply for reinstatement after 21 of the 30 games have passed. His reinstatement will depend on "an evaluation of his progress in training provided by the NHL Player Inclusion Committee.

The disparity in suspension lengths stemming from incidents in which Imama was targeted raises an important question: What's the difference in intent?

Why, in a span of just two years, did the appropriate suspension length jump from five games to 30 games? With two similar racially motivated incidents occurring, wouldn't consistency be important? Does Hrabik's gesture carry more weight than Manning's slur did? Is Hrabik's lengthy suspension the product of a culture more committed to social justice than those that came before?

Just one day after the AHL announced Hrabik's suspension, another racial incident came to the forefront during a Saturday-night game in Jacksonville, Fla.

At the tail end of a brawl in an East Coast Hockey League contest between the South Carolina Stingrays (the Washington Capitals' affiliate) and the Jacksonville Icemen (the New York Rangers' affiliate), an individual scuffle between South Carolina's Jordan Subban and Jacksonville's Jacob Panetta ensued when Panetta made a gesture toward Subban. It was insinuated that the gesture was racially motivated.

Following the fight, the Icemen tweeted, "Overtime began with a rough fight result-

in multiple penalties on both sides.

Subban quoted Jackson's tweet with a response of his own, saying, "More like 6y of racist outbursts and much too much of the crowd to fight me and as soon as I began to turn my back he started making monkey gestures at me so I punched him in the face multiple times and he turtled like the coward he is. There fixed it."

Jacksonville issued a statement on Sunday, announcing that although the incident was "a result of a taunt that occurred at the end of a game," the team "will be releasing the player involved effectively immediately and will continue [their] mission of sharing [their] love of community and hockey.

Jacksonville's decision to immediately release Panetta without a completion of league-level investigation also raises questions.

Is this a full commitment to the franchise having a zero-tolerance policy toward racism? Or, is it more a matter of Jacksonville no longer wanting to deal with the baggage Panetta's action carries, regardless of what the league investigation finds?

Panetta posted a video to Twitter on Sunday, in which he said he told Subban that "You're only tough once the refs get involved." He said that he followed that comment to Subban with a "tough guy, body-builder like gesture," the same gesture he said he's made to "non-racialized players a number of times when there have been on-ice confrontations."

Panetta proceeded, reiterating that he used "no racial slurs, noises or anything of the like" during the incident.

Before finishing his video, Panetta said that racism and other forms of discrimination have no place in hockey or society. "I believed that before, and I still believe that now," Panetta said. "I intend to fully participate in the ECHL's ongoing investigation in this matter, and I will continue to try and reach out and connect with the Subban family to express my regret."

Despite Panetta's comments, racial gestures directed at African Americans have become a regular occurrence in professional hockey, most notably at the NHL level. In 2018, per NPR, Washington's Devante Smith-Pelly was targeted by opposing fans in Chicago during a 2018 game.

Hrabik and Panetta's actions and subsequent punishments came just before and after the Bruins held a jersey retirement ceremony at TD Garden for Willie O'Ree, who broke the NHL's color barrier on Jan. 18, 1958, prior to the team's Jan. 18 game.

Over 60 years after O'Ree's historic accomplishment, the league and sport still face a crisis worth addressing.

Imama, a recurring victim of the prevalent discrimination, wants nothing more than this battle to stop.

He closed his statement by saying, "My hope is that people learn from this and that some day hockey will truly be for everyone."
**SPORTS**

**MBB falls to St. Bonaventure, Saint Joseph’s**

**LUKE HENNE**

sports editor

The Duquesne men’s basketball team progressed through its Atlantic 10 Conference portion of the schedule with a pair of games this past week.

The Dukes hosted St. Bonaventure at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Friday night before traveling to Hagan Arena in Philadelphia for a road contest with Saint Joseph’s on Wednesday night.

**Brentaro Yamane**

layout editor

Friday night’s home contest saw the Dukes fall to the Bonnies 64-56. Despite trailing by as many as 16 points (23-7) during the first half and 11 points (33-22) at halftime, Duquesne rallied to trim St. Bonaventure’s lead to three (42-39) with 12:12 left in the game. The Dukes then got as close as five (57-52) with 4:10 remaining. When it mattered most, however, Duquesne only converted on two of its final seven field-goal attempts. This stretch of missed included four unsuccessful attempts from beyond the arc.

After losing by 20 points (72-52) to Dayton on Jan. 15, Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot said there were some positives to take out of the loss against St. Bonaventure — his team’s third in a row.

“Tough and gritty and they were going to give us their best shot and they did.”

Dambrot considered this a good night. In his 19-related issues.

“After scoring a combined two points in Duquesne’s last two games prior to Wednesday, Jackie Johnson III bounced back with a 19-point effort. Eleven of Johnson’s 19 points came in the second half, but he was kept off the scoreboard for the remainder of the game following a successful free-throw attempt with 12:41 left in the contest.

After a made layup from Spears cut the Hawks’ lead to three (59-56) with 6:39 remaining, the Dukes were able to muster just two made field goals for the remainder of the game. One of those was a 3-pointer from Tre Williams with 25 seconds left.

“I feel like we kind of lost our mental toughness, our will to win,” Dambrot said.

While nursing a six-point lead with just under five minutes remaining, Saint Joseph’s turned to Ejike Obinna, who made a layup and three dunks to help push the Hawks’ lead back into double digits for good.

The Hawks used a balanced scoring attack in the 11-point victory. All five of the team’s starters scored in double figures, with Jordan Hall pacing the lineup with 18 points.

“I’m just disappointed that we just couldn’t finish the job,” Dambrot said. “I mean, we’ve just got to do better.”

Duquesne will return home to take on Saint Louis at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon.

The Dukes have won 10 of their last 15 meetings against the Billikens. That stretch began on Feb. 27, 2014, when Duquesne won a road game against a Saint Louis team that was ranked No. 10 in the nation.

The two teams were scheduled to meet last season on Dec. 30, 2020, in St. Louis, Mo. However, the game was postponed and ultimately never played due to Covid-19-related issues.

**WBB beats George Mason in home clash**

**Brentaro Yamane**

layout editor

Throughout this season, the Duquesne women’s basketball team has tried to overcome obstacles, whether in the form of getting players fully healthy or learning how to preserve leads later in games.

One obstacle that Duquesne has steered clear of for a long time is losing to George Mason. Since the Patriots joined the Atlantic 10 Conference prior to the 2013-14 season, the Dukes had never lost to them in nine tries entering Wednesday’s contest.

Duquesne was able to extend its winning streak against George Mason to 10-straight games this past week.

After losing by 20 points (72-52) to Dayton on Jan. 15, Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot said there were some positives to take out of the loss against St. Bonaventure — his team’s third in a row.

“You’re looking at a very inexperienced team against a very experienced team [in St. Bonaventure],” Dambrot said. “We showed a little bit better fight, and I certainly thought we played a better brand.”

Dambrot cited his team’s first-half performance and the inability to make shots in the game’s final stretch as the main factors that led to defeat.

“When it mattered, we didn’t make,” Dambrot said. “We showed some progress. In my heart of hearts, I don’t think we’re that far away. I don’t think we’re good, right now, but I don’t think we’re that far away from being a competitive team.”

Primo Spears, who scored in double figures (18 points) for the 11th time in 16 games this season, said that he believes the key to success moving forward is sustaining momentum for an entire game, not just in brief stints.

“I thought we played good in spurts,” Spears said. “We’ve just got to focus on playing a solid 40 minutes of basketball.”

Wednesday’s game provided Duquesne with an opportunity to secure a road victory against a Saint Joseph’s team that had lost five of its prior six games following an 83-56 dismantling of Richmond on Dec. 30.

Despite trailing 54-53 with just under nine minutes to go, Saint Joseph’s used a 19-7 run to close out the game and earn a 72-61 win. The win helped the Hawks snap a brief two-game skid against the Dukes, which dated back to Jan. 8, 2020.

“The Dukes trailed by as many as 16 (36-20) with 2:21 remaining in the first half, but found themselves up by as many three (46-43) with just over 13 minutes remaining in the game.

“I thought we made a good comeback,” Dambrot said. “[But] we haven’t shown that we can consistently close anything, so you can’t feel too good about yourself until you can consistently close something.”

With the loss, Duquesne has now lost 22 of its 26 all-time road games against Saint Joseph’s. The loss also pushed Duquesne’s losing streak to four-consecutive games, which is tied for the team’s longest this season (from Nov. 13 to Nov. 20).

“I’m just disappointed that we just couldn’t finish the job,” Dambrot said. “I mean, we’ve just got to do better.”

When it mattered, we didn’t make,” Dambrot said. “We showed some progress. In my heart of hearts, I don’t think we’re that far away. I don’t think we’re good, right now, but I don’t think we’re that far away from being a competitive team.”

Primo Spears, who scored in double figures (18 points) for the 11th time in 16 games this season, said that he believes the key to success moving forward is sustaining momentum for an entire game, not just in brief stints.

“I thought we played good in spurts,” Spears said. “We’ve just got to focus on playing a solid 40 minutes of basketball.”

Wednesday’s game provided Duquesne with an opportunity to secure a road victory against a Saint Joseph’s team that had lost five of its prior six games following an 83-56 dismantling of Richmond on Dec. 30.

Despite trailing 54-53 with just under nine minutes to go, Saint Joseph’s used a 19-7 run to close out the game and earn a 72-61 win. The win helped the Hawks snap a brief two-game skid against the Dukes, which dated back to Jan. 8, 2020.

“The Dukes trailed by as many as 16 (36-20) with 2:21 remaining in the first half, but found themselves up by as many three (46-43) with just over 13 minutes remaining in the game.

“I thought we made a good comeback,” Dambrot said. “[But] we haven’t shown that we can consistently close anything, so you can’t feel too good about yourself until you can consistently close something.”

With the loss, Duquesne has now lost 22 of its 26 all-time road games against Saint Joseph’s. The loss also pushed Duquesne’s losing streak to four-consecutive games, which is tied for the team’s longest this season (from Nov. 13 to Nov. 20).

“I’m just disappointed that we just couldn’t finish the job,” Dambrot said. “I mean, we’ve just got to do better.”

Duquesne will return home to take on Saint Louis at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon.

The Dukes have won 10 of their last 15 meetings against the Billikens. That stretch began on Feb. 27, 2014, when Duquesne won a road game against a Saint Louis team that was ranked No. 10 in the nation.

The two teams were scheduled to meet last season on Dec. 30, 2020, in St. Louis, Mo. However, the game was postponed and ultimately never played due to Covid-19-related issues.
Kate Denman blooms with release of new single

Capri Scarcelli | A&E Editor

I n college, it’s difficult to follow your creative pursuits when it seems as though there is no time to.

For Duquesne student Katelyn Denman, however, songwriting has become a new passion that has led her to publish a single on streaming platforms.

“Flower” was released on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms on Jan. 14. Through Distrokid, a website for independently produced music distribution, Denman was able to upload her single to be pre-saved for release.

The song itself reflects a concept that everyone can relate to, even without a specific storyline except that everyone can relate to, there is no time to.

According to Denman, this single was also a project she could add to her running portfolio as a music student.

Denman’s professor, Dr. Doerksen, schedules meetings to oversee student progress, where Denman was able to give a shout out to her single. In the meeting, she was able to show the first scraps of sheet music that turned out to her single. In the meeting, Denman was able to give a shout out to her single.

Starting as a hobby her freshman year, Denman found that she wanted to expand her talents out of her comfort zone, using her knowledge as a piano player and singer to try the art form in a new way.

“Piano used to be a big outlet for me. Now that it is more like a job, song-writing has become something like a hobby for me, something fun for me to do,” Denman said. “It was a good way to let out some emotion, collaborate with people, and it gave me exposure.”

Denman said the learning process of producing original music was a difficult one, though worth the effort to fulfill her vision. Starting off with soft piano chords and vocals, her and her friend, music tech major Tyler Herboldt, were able to add technological instrumentation such as electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass and harmonies.

According to Denman, this single was also a project she could add to her running portfolio as a music student.

Denman’s professor, Dr. Doerksen, schedules meetings to oversee student progress, where Denman was able to give a shout out to her single. In the meeting, she was able to show the first scraps of sheet music that turned into a fully-produced work.

“I am currently working on a few other projects which I am excited to release. I have a lot of different genres I have been working with — like I have one with a jazzy tune, another with strings, so I think I will start out by releasing singles until the songs seem to combine together into an EP,” Denman said.

“A lot of the creative process is finding your new outlet,” Denman said. “Through music education, you are forced to improvise, write your own arrangements and sometimes you are able to produce for fun, whether that be learning a new instrument or trying a new genre. My outlet became song-writing.”

Denman said that before college, she had no inspiration to write her own music.

“My main thing was playing piano and singing in the choir, I never thought to write a song,” Denman said. “I went to a private school, and music wasn’t really a strong suit there. I felt like an outcast in the music world, but coming here I noticed everyone was trying new things, so I thought I would come out of my comfort zone [with music] too, and I ended up liking it a lot.”

As advice to aspiring singer-songwriters, Denman puts it simply and precisely: “go for it.”

“You have nothing to lose. I never thought that I could do it, but I didn’t know until I actually tried. People can do more than they say they can,” Denman said. “Even if you aren’t a music person, if you write all of your lyrics down, they don’t have to rhyme, it doesn’t have to be perfect. Letting out your emotions, talking to a music person, even just sitting down at a piano and seeing what you can do. You have to be willing.”

Denman’s single “Flower” is available for streaming now on Spotify and Apple Music, and listeners can look forward to more music to come.
W ith stadium and concert arenas beginning to open back up again, Pittsburgh has a number of electrifying performances scheduled this year. From the PPG Paints Arena—a walk away from campus—to Stage AE on the North Shore, Duquesne students have many different performances and locations to choose from.

Many artists, even those who haven’t performed in years, are ready for booming crowds again—and are desperately waiting for their return.

Entertainment venue PPG Paints Arena, known for hosting concerts and athletic events, is presenting an extensive amount of artists including well-known modern pop star Billie Eilish and singer-songwriter John Mayer.

“Bad Guy” singer, Eilish, is set to perform with artist WILLLOW on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. for her world tour, Happier Than Ever. The highly anticipated event will include the Billie Eilish Action Village at each show which focuses on climate action and will reduce the environmental footprint of the tour.

The youngest person to ever win a Grammy for album of the year, Eilish, is set to include her entire new album in the short duration of 65-minute shows.

As for the “Gravity” singer, John Mayer will be at the PPG Paints Arena on February 25 at 7:30 p.m. His Sob Rock Tour will include the singer’s eighth album, “Sob Rock,” best known for being a feel-good album.

Other performances at this venue include Justin Bieber’s Justice tour set for April 4 at 7:30 p.m., rescheduled from last July 1. The tour, which will honor tickets for the rescheduled date, includes 52 dates with special guests Jaden and Cioe, who will be there for all concerts.

Guidelines for these events include a mask recommendation indoors, except while eating or drinking. For safety reasons, bags are prohibited.

At the Petersen Events Center, at the University of Pittsburgh, students will be able to watch Tyler, The Creator’s CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST TOUR on March 6 starting at 7 p.m. Tyler is returning to Pittsburgh after three years for his new album, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 charts in June 2021. He will be joined by Vince Staples, Kali Uchis and Teezo Touchdown.

Another concert students can look forward to at the Petersen Events Center is Dear Evan Hansen star Ben Platt’s Reverie tour. His biggest North American headline tour will be in Pittsburgh on March 8 starting at 8 p.m. Platt will be touring with special guest pop-singer Jake Wesley Rogers as well.

With the promoters already being drowned in controversy over the Astroworld tragedy, how will they move forward? With the ongoing COVID pandemic, some concerns are at an all-time high.

Ticket prices and bundles have also been subject to confusion, as some venues have also updated their guidelines for entry. Stage AE is now allowing either full vaccination or a negative test result within 72 hours. PPG Paints Arena has no entry requirements, only a mask recommendation.

Petersen Events Center also has no entry requirements, but requires masks at events.

Provided is a list of upcoming popular events at the major venues. Full events lists can be found on the venues’ websites.
The news this past week has been an overload of reviews and numbers on President Joe Biden’s first year in office.

The start of Biden’s presidency was less than normal, leading off with the Jan. 6 insurrection that disrupted the count of electoral votes necessary to officially place the former vice president in office.

Despite the rocky start, Biden was able to maintain a comfortable 65% approval rating from the public, even though many voters said that it’s not that they particularly loved Biden — they just didn’t like former President Donald Trump; They felt it was time for a different president to take us back to normalcy.

But as Biden’s first year progressed, approval ratings continued to decline, and Covid-19 continued to ravage the nation as the Omicron variant emerged. It’s safe to say Biden’s first year has been a mixed bag, and typically that of a politician: he promised big, delivered little.

The drop in approval rating, sitting currently at a low 36%, has little to do with being too liberal or too old, but more so toward his decision-making skills in important issues such as Covid, Afghan policy and voting-reform legislation.

Biden and his administration are too reactive in every situation.

First and foremost, the Covid pandemic was one of the main talking points during the presidential debates. Both Trump and Biden promised to bring the country back from the devastation the virus caused for two years, yet it’s still here and cases are surging.

Recently, the Biden administration approved and sent out four at-home Covid tests for each household in the United States, but the distribution could have come much earlier in the presidency — before the Omicron variant spread rapidly through the country. Although the country is at fault for disregarding calls for vaccination, and general Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the administration should have expected it, and acted sooner.

On top of the reactive decision to send out the tests, it was also poorly thought out, causing many colleges and apartment complexes across the nation to miss out on home delivered tests due to having the same address. Moreover, many of the bills proposed for vaccine mandates within the workplace have been rejected, and seen as an overstep of the executive branch upon the American people. Opinion on Covid aside, legally, Biden should have seen the Supreme Court decision coming from a mile away.

In early September, Biden made the decision to fully withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan while the Taliban reclaimed control of the nation. Though he was correct in omitting lies about reports regarding the progress of the war in Afghanistan, his reactive and chaotic decision to pull out troops without thought for citizens only undermines American hegemony, and sow’s doubt in U.S. commitment to international cooperation.

The failure was one of domestic and international concern.

The latest agenda item has been voter suppression. Ever since the 2020 election, voting rights has been at the forefront of Capitol conversation, yet little action has been taken by Biden and Congress to assure voters of their safety. Two weeks ago, the Biden administration traveled to Atlanta to speak on the issues, calling on Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Instead of facing the issue head-on earlier, as he mentioned 19 states enacted 34 laws attacking voter rights in 2021, he waited until 400 more bills were proposed this year to take action.

But even with little delivery in certain departments, he’s done fairly well in others.

A major talking point of his campaign was his unremitting support for striking workers and labor unions. The president supported strikes at John Deere, Kellogg’s and unionization of Amazon workers in Alabama.

Moreover, in 2021, the economy added a record 6.4 million jobs, according to a report by CBS News, with the unemployment at 3.9% as of December 2021. The rate dropped from 6.3% at the start of his presidency.

Looking forward into the president’s second year in office, we can expect to see more regarding the infrastructure plan — a major pillar in Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign.

In November 2021, Congress passed the $1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, even with Joe Manchin’s staunch opposition to it. If all goes well, the next five years will touch everything from bridges to roads, as well as new water and energy systems, cementing a major victory for Biden after a reactive presidency during his first year.

The U.S. is watching the president closely, so he must start delivering. The next three years may be his last.
There is a geopolitical war brewing on the border between Ukraine and Russia. The Russo-Ukrainian war has been an ongoing conflict in Europe since roughly 2014, when the southern Black Sea port territory of Crimea was annexed by Putin.

Lately, Russian troops and politics have moved us out of my childhood home in Wilmington, Del., to Charlotte, N.C. While I was upset about moving out of the house where I grew up in, after spending time in Charlotte, I grew up in, after spending time in Charlotte, I moved to Pittsburgh, compared to Charlotte, this city can improve.

It’s clear that Pittsburgh is a growing city like Charlotte. The 2020 U.S. Census showed that the population of Pittsburgh decreased from 305,704 to 297,070 between 2010 and 2020. According to the American Public Transportation Association quarterly report, the monthly average of Charlotte's transit usage in 2021 was 2,190. But it's not only Charlotte; transit usage is growing in other cities as well.

While cost could be a factor, another way to increase usage of the T in Pittsburgh is expanding the system east toward the Bluff, Oakland and South Side. Unlike Charlotte, Pittsburgh is the home of multiple colleges, so having a rail line that can move students between the aforementioned locations would be a big hit. Instead of having to walk, Uber or pay for a car and its extra expenditures, students could just take the train.

Not only is this about the cost of living, but it’s also about the less adequate quality of life in Pittsburgh compared to other fast-growing communities.

According to the 2020 US Census, Pittsburgh has a population of approximately 300,000 people, but it has the highest number of people in the city population living under the poverty line. Charlotte has a population just under 900,000, and the second-lowest poverty rate at 12.8%. Charlotte is behind Seattle, a city with a population of 700,000, which has a poverty rate of 11%.

What Charlotte has done to decrease the amount of poverty is an example to follow. Pittsburgh still has its charm, there’s no doubt that the city is losing its population and therefore a slowly dwindling local economy. But to change that, we have to look at other growing communities to see what they’ve done to bring people in, and keep them in an active and vibrant community that’s worth staying in.

Whether it’s free public transit, investing more into public housing, constructing affordable housing that won’t hurt the budgets of young workers or changing the rent of people in poor neighborhoods, Pittsburgh needs work, despite how great this city is.
Jared Box Project services local children's hospitals

Nick Zotos | Staff Writer

It is officially a new year on the Bluff and Duquesne students have begun volunteering again on campus.

This much was evident as students packed into the NiteSpot last Wednesday, Jan. 19, eager to partake in the Consistent Ethic of Life (CEL) group’s sponsored event known as the Jared Box Project.

The official Jared Box website provides a brief history on the project’s beginnings. The Jared Box Project started in 2001 with the children of Our Lady of Victory School in State College, Pa. When they set out to honor their young classmate Jared McMullen who died of a brain tumor at just 5 years old, McMullen would carry a backpack of toys and games throughout doctors’ appointments. He was known for sharing his toys and inviting others to play games with him, the website said.

McMullen’s classmates began their initiative for local Geisinger Janet Weis Children’s Hospital. Since then, nearly 1 million Jared Boxes have been delivered across the U.S.

According to the official Jared Box website, each box is filled with “small gifts, toys, games, crayons, coloring books and fun activity cards.”

“These boxes are, in turn, given to children in a hospital to provide a fun diversion,” the website said.

Josalynn Rightnour, president of CEL, led the project and encouraged others to join.

“This event is consistent with the ethics of our club, which promotes education and advocacy service. We are very excited to partake in this project and help children who are currently in the hospital,” Rightnour said.

CEL made 25 boxes which they will distribute to kids in UPMC Mercy Hospital’s emergency room next week. Each box was equipped with numerous objects including stickers, toys and even a personal note written by the volunteers.

The intent is that these objects will captivate children while in the hospital. Each toy serves as not only a distraction from boredom, but as comfort for those who may undergo stressful procedures.

The service event had more than 20 volunteers including members from Gamma Epsilon Epsilon, a service sorority on campus.

One of the sororities members, Abby Burke, spoke warmly about the project.

“This is a great opportunity to help kids, and we are excited to have so many people from our sorority attend,” Burke said. “It truly is so rewarding when you help younger people.”

Many individuals shared Burke’s sentiment as the event attracted students from across the Bluff.

One of CEL’s members, Hannah Valenty, said, “Our club president finds really good opportunities to protect all life, especially for kids. I think this event brightens kids’ days in the darkness of winter.”

The Jared Box Project is one of the many service projects scheduled for this semester. In fact, the NiteSpot hosts a service project almost every Sunday.

In the past, these events have included making blankets, creating care packages and other initiatives.

 Founder’s Week celebrates Spiritans 150 year of ministry

Zachary Petroff | Staff Writer

Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Spiritans in the US. The annual celebration known as Founder’s Week, kicks off Monday, January 31st and concludes Friday, Feb. 4.

For those unfamiliar with the Spiritans or their history, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit is a religious congregation of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1703 by Claude-Francois Poullart des Places under the patronage of Mary, the Spiritans set out to create an environment to support students on their way to the priesthood and to help the poor.

As of today, Duquesne University is the only Spiritian institution of higher education in the world.

The Spiritans are a unique order of the Catholic Church as they are focused on serving the needs of the least fortunate, often through service ethnography. Reverend Bill Christy, Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplin, said that he thinks that the focus on serving is one of the essential calling cards of the Spiritan mission.

“When we come the Spirit has preceded us, so learning the language, learning the culture, learning where God has been present in these peoples’ lives is very important,” Christy said.

This type of servitude allows Spiritans to immerse themselves in the community which provides a particular insight and growth for the Spiritan. The 150-year event is a celebration of the work that the Spiritans have accomplished along with an appreciation of the history of the Spiritans and Duquesne University.

The history of this religious order is very important to the apless Spiritans’ message.

“By sharing that history, it allows [the student body] to have faith in the past,” Christy said. “They’ll have hope in the future, and if they have hope in the future, then they can reach out to each other in love right now.”

The theme for Founder’s Week, “Led by the Spirit Where the Need is Greatest,” is tied closely to the third Spiritan charism that emphasizes the evangelization of the poor. Unlike themes in the past, this year’s Founder’s Week mirrors the mission of the Spiritan tradition.

Those looking to contribute can visit one of the daily Founder’s Week events and donate granola bars, fruit cups, small individual bags of chips or small individual bags of cookies. All the items will be donated to Red Door, a ministry for the homeless in Downtown Pittsburgh.

One of the highlights for this year’s Founder’s Week will be the return of the “Interview and Lunch with a Spiritan.” On Thursday, Feb. 3, participants will be able to hear from the U.S. Provincial Father and former director of campus ministry Father Don McEchron.

The week-long celebration will also include activities such as making Mason Jar Lighthouses, a feast on Feast Day and an “Evening of Flights” where attendees can enjoy a flight of beers and hors d’oeuvres while they speak with the Spiritans about their work at home and abroad.

Dr. Luci-Jo Dimaggio, Director of Mission Animation, is looking forward to the return of in-person activities and the revival of the “Lunch with a Spiritan” event.

“In its essence it’s a celebratory week and I would love for people to come and just relax a bit, learn something, have some good food - have a meal on us and celebrate who we are as a university,” Dimaggio said.

Information and registration for the events can be found on Duquesne website.
The Duquesne Duke

JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS

EMAIL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF COLLEEN HAMMOND AT THEDUQDUKE@GMAIL.COM
OR VISIT US IN COLLEGE HALL 113

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 1-2 P.M. IN COLLEGE HALL

PITCH STORY IDEAS AND GET TO KNOW THE EDITORIAL STAFF!

Visit us at the newsroom in 113 College Hall
or email us at steplerk@duq.edu

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

Come Visit Us College Hall 113

Contact our Editor-in-Chief hammondcc@duq.edu

Visit our website at duqsm.com
Underage drinking -- Consider the consequences:

It is illegal to consume, purchase, possess or transport alcohol if you are under the age of 21 in PA (Section 6308 of PA crimes code).

It is illegal to carry or attempt to use ID that falsely claims you are over the age of 21 to obtain alcohol (Section 6310.3 of PA crimes code).

State penalties include:
- $500 fine for a 1st violation
- $1,000 for a 2nd/subsequent violation

PLUS additional sanctions by the University can include:
- First Violation: $100
- Second Violation: $150
- Third Violation: $200

The risks are real for illegal and/or excessive alcohol consumption. Avoid illegal, excessive and "high intensity" drinking!

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The opinions and statements expressed in this advertisement do not necessarily represent the views of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

Applies now! Applications and housing deposits are due February 11th for 2022-2023