KINDNESS

Selfless to the CORE:
One young man’s life-saving gift

Emma Pofen
features editor

Filled with excitement, sitting in the car after passing his driver’s test, 16-year-old Eli Bussotti turned to his mom, pointing to the little red heart on the bottom right corner of his new license and said in a singsong voice, “Organ donor.”

At the time, Bussotti’s mom, Joy Krumenacker, didn’t think much of the moment.

“There wasn’t even any conversation around it, because it’s just something you do,” she said. “You just do these little things that could make a huge difference.”

Bussotti’s choice to check the organ donor box that day meant more than either of them could have predicted.

On Oct. 19, 2018, Bussotti was in a fatal car crash on his way home from school. A “fluke” accident, Krumenacker called it.

Five miles down the road, middle-aged Chad Rivotti was watching coverage of the crash on the local news. He prayed for the grieving family, a feeling he worried his family might soon find themselves enduring.

Rivotti had a failing kidney and his health was drastically declining. He had been on the organ transplant list for more than a year at that point, and his ability to perform day-to-day activities was becoming increasingly difficult.

The day after Bussotti’s accident, Rivotti was out in his yard when he received a call from his transplant coordinator. They had a donor match, and he should be ready for surgery later that day.

Excitement quickly arose for him, then sudden guilt and loss for the donor and their family followed as Rivotti packed his bags for the hospital. He prayed over the loss of this anonymous donor. He had no idea that his two prayers—one for the vrasch victim and one for his prospective donor—were for the same grieving family.

Ten days after recovering from the successful transplant, and dealing with treasured survivor’s guilt, Rivotti was inspired to write a letter to the donor family. He did not yet know who his donor was, but he experienced extreme difficulty while writing to the family.

“I went through 12 renditions of the letter,” Rivotti said. “It was literally the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do in my entire lifetime. What particular words can you write, in what order, and how do you get your thoughts and emotions and feelings out?”

Rivotti held off on sending the letter until March, five months after the transplant.

Rivotti was still reeling from the extraordinary second chance at life he had been given, when he received a letter from Krumenacker and her family telling him the identity of his donor.

“Within the first line of that letter, I read ‘Our dear son Eli, I burst into tears,” she said. “Bussotti was a 17-year-old senior at Highlands High School when he died. One thing everyone around him noticed was his ability to light up a room and help those in need.

On the day the entire senior class was supposed to take their yearbook photo, Bussotti was running late from class—probably hung up with friends, his mother said.

Just as the photographer was about to snap the picture, Bussotti slid into the front row in his typical casually cool way. He was literally the center of the crowd.

Krumenacker recalled this special gift her son had to fit in wherever he went.

“He would walk into a room, and he would light up the room. Everybody was always so excited to see him. That’s just such a unique characteristic.”

Relationships were something Krumenacker said her son valued the most.

“When you hug Chad Rivotti, you get a little piece of Eli...which is just a lovely thing,” said Stacie Conto, Bussotti’s godmother.

“It was little acts of service like this that Krumenacker said her son valued the most.

“One of the things I had always said about Eli was that whatever he did, whatever path he chose, it was going to be a path that made him happy, and he was going to stay relatively close to home,” Krumenacker said.

“And he did. Eli stayed close to home.”

Since their initial introduction through CORE, the donor and recipient families have stayed in touch, had dinners together and sat together at Bussotti’s high school graduation.

“We have really just tried to maintain a relationship because we consider ourselves family at this point. It’s so comforting knowing that he is so close,” Krumenacker said.

Becoming an organ donor was an option that Krumenacker and Rivotti both said made an enormous impact on their lives.

Rivotti’s transplant allowed him the opportunity to once again do activities with his family that he might have never been able to do again otherwise.

“It’s enabled me to go on walks with my wife again, enabled me to walk my eldest daughter down the aisle, enabled me to hunt and fish with my son, enabled me to take my youngest girl back to college at Seton Hill, enabled me to go down and play with my youngest grandson who’s just 14 months old,” she said.

Krumenacker found comfort in the connections she’s made with the people alive today because of her son.

“When you hug Chad Rivotti, you get a little piece of Eli...which is just a lovely thing,” said Stacie Conto, Bussotti’s godmother.

In addition to donating a kidney to Rivotti, Bussotti also was able to give six other strangers a new outlook on life with the gift of his other viable organs and various tissues.

“Eli, at the age of 17, saved six people’s lives. That’s a hero. That’s an incredible look into kindness,” Rivotti said.

“Eli’s legacy is kindness because of his donation,” Conto said. “What a positive impact and legacy to leave on the world.”

In line with Bussotti’s final act, his life is now honored through another form of donation. His family created the Live Like Eli Scholarship for graduating seniors from his hometown high school.

“In our family’s darkest time, there was this situation that was able to illuminate the room and illuminate our hearts and give us hope for the future,” Krumenacker said.

Read more about organ donation and the Duq alum who helps to make it possible on p.3

Courtesy of CORE

Eli Bussotti saved the lives of six people through organ donation, and many more through tissue donation.

“Obviously, I jumped on that opportunity,” she said.

The two families met for the first time that April. “He [Rivotti] and I just immediately connected,” Krumenacker said.

Rivotti had known of Bussotti’s family, but never would he have guessed that the boy who saved his life had lived just down the road.

“I was just mortified that I wouldn’t be worthy in their eyes, worthy of this tremendous gift that they gave,” Chad Rivotti said.

“One of the things I had always said about Eli was that whatever he did, whatever path he chose, it was going to be a path that made him happy,” Krumenacker said.

Upon reading about this remarkably generous and kind young man, Rivotti broke down.

“I hit the ground and my wife said, ‘What’s wrong?’ and I simply, without even reading the rest of the letter, handed it to her and she burst into tears, too. Because we knew at that exact moment: That’s the young boy I prayed for in my kitchen that one Saturday morning.”

With the knowledge that the donor family wanted to connect, Rivotti felt both anticipation and guilt.

“I was just over the moon that Joy and Dave [Eli’s parents] agreed to meet,” he said. “I was just mortified that I wouldn’t be worthy in their eyes, worthy of the tremendous gift that they gave.”

CORE (see page 3) reached out to Krumenacker saying that a recipient wanted to meet.

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February 17, 2022
At the heart of kindness in the Duquesne community is an organization that has helped save and heal thousands of lives through organ, tissue, and cornea donation. CORE, the Center for Organ Recovery & Education, is a non-profit organ procurement organization that serves people in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, New York, who are in need of an organ transplant or are a potential donor.

In 2019, CORE won the 2019 Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award, and in 2021, they broke the regional organ donation record for the third time by offering nearly 700 life-saving organ transplants and offered healing and restored sight to more than 900 people across its service area, “according to a recent press release. Susan Stuart, president and CEO of CORE, explained the organization’s role in the organ donor process.

In all acute care hospitals within CORE’s service area, “When there is an individual whose death is imminent, they [the hospital] must call our 24-hour call center and refer the death to us,” Stuart said.

“We do an initial screening to determine the potential for organ, tissue and cornea donation. If there is the potential, our members of CORE will go to that hospital, they will talk to the family and provide them that opportunity for donation. They’ll work with the healthcare team to facilitate that entire process.”

Then, CORE works to connect a suitable recipient through a local transplant center, and they work with both the donor family and the recipients throughout the recovery process.

Stuart has worked with CORE for 18 years, but she first got involved with the organization while working in Allegheny General Hospital as a trauma nurse in the Intensive Care Unit.

“I was just moved by this process where you take death and dying and you take a day that is the worst day of a person’s family’s life. And you’re able to give them some hope...by offering that opportunity to donate their loved ones’ organs,” she said.

“Then you see the other side and you get to see the recipient receive a second chance of life.”

Stuart completed part of her schooling at Duquesne University, getting her Bachelor of Science for Nursing.

“The approach at Duquesne is a very holistic approach, and that’s what I really liked about it,” Stuart said.

“There’s no greater gift that you can give than the gift of life,” Stuart said.

“You just need to take care of the whole mind, body and spirit. Then you’re able to take care of others.”

Stuart started at CORE as a procurement coordinator while studying part-time at Duquesne and was promoted to positions of leadership.

Stuart appreciated the chance to receive her education while working for such a meaningful organization.

“I was able to take the theory and put it into practice, and I think that was just so wonderful,” she said.

For Stuart, CORE was a way of fulfilling her calling to help others through the medical field.

“I just couldn’t think of anything more that I would want to do in my nursing career than to be able to help people at the worst time of their life,” Stuart said.

“There’s no greater gift than the gift of life and every single day I get to see life as either life [that] is healed or life enhanced through tissue donation.”

Along with the acknowledgement of CORE as an outstanding organization of excellence, Stuart was honored earlier in February with the Malcom Baldridge National Quality Awards Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence.

By breaking these records and having more Pennsylvanians than ever before becoming organ donors, Stuart is hopeful for the future.

“What it means for the community is many more people received the second chance and didn’t die waiting for their organ,” Stuart said.

“On the donor side, it means the generosity of the families that we approached in 2021 was just absolutely amazing, that so many families at the worst day of their life wanted to reach out in generosity and give that gift.”

In addition, CORE’s recognition shows successful teamwork with all involved in the donation process.

“Donation is a collaboration with many different entities who need the healthcare team in the donor hospital, from the doctors and the nurses to the respiratory therapist, they all have to have a real strong commitment and dedication. And we’re very fortunate that we have that in our hospitals in our service area,” Stuart said.

“For so many, donation is really a culture of giving and kindness.”

Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day, is also a major day for organ donations. The day is “National Donor Day,” and it functions to raise awareness of the power of an organ donation.

According to CORE’s National Donor Day press release, this year’s National Donor Day also “coincides with the announcement that the commonwealth now has more than 5 million Pennsylvanians registered as organ and tissue donors.”

This is the highest number of donors yet, but “We have more to do,” Stuart said.

“I encourage everybody to make that pledge for life and register to be a donor,” Stuart said. “That will help us to save a life.”

“Removing lives to save lives is something both Joy Krumenacker and Chad Rivotti would encourage anyone to do.

“For me, that was a really easy, low-stress way to make a contribution,” Krumenacker said. “I’m hoping that with Eli’s story, other people are able to learn, or able to recognize, what an easy way to make a difference in this world.”

Rivotti has been a registered organ donor for 34 years, since he was 16 years old.

“Twenty people die each day without receiving a transplant. Forget Covid, this is the pandemic right here,” Chad Rivotti said.

Sign-up online at registerme.org Go to the DMV and register there, or check “yes” when you go to renew your license.

Register by phone at 1-877-DONOR-PA Go to www.core.org/register to be directed to your state’s online organ donor designation portal.

Interested in learning more about organ donation? Is there a concern holding you back from registering? Check out CORE’s information on registration and myth-busting at core.org.

Susan Stuart is a proud Duquesne alumna and is the CEO and President of CORE.
History of random acts of kindness

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Some will tell you Random Acts of Kindness Day started in New Zealand, while others will say Denver, Colo., in 1995 by the nonprofit organization, the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation.

Another, even earlier account of the phrase is recorded to be through a quote written on a placemat by Anne Herbert in 1982. In response to the well-known quote about “random acts of violence and senseless acts of cruelty,” Herbert wrote, “Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty,” according to information from daysoftbewek.com

Herbert later published a novel by the same name, “Random Acts of Kindness.”

No matter where it started, Random Acts of Kindness Day is nationally recognized as a day of acknowledging the power of small acts of selfless service.

The Random Act of Kindness Foundation encourages a number of activities to spread happiness throughout Random Act of Kindness Week. All activity ideas can be found on the Random Act of Kindness Foundation’s official website.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, the Random Act of Kindness Foundation suggests texting the number 303-529-2494 “to receive a daily dose of self care from RAK’s vice president,” the website said.

The origin of random acts of kindness remains ambiguous, but every year, those small actions you do for others take on a heightened meaning.

Whether it’s something small done for a friend, a neighbor or a stranger, kindness will continue to remind everyone of their connection with one another.

For more information about the Random Act of Kindness Foundation: https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/

Tim Pearce, someone you escargot to know

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

With the curiosity for the natural world of Steve Irwin, creativity of Bob Ross and the loving kindness of Fred Rogers, Tim Pearce is crawling out of his shell to teach the world about mollusks.

Pearce is the head of the Section of Mollusks at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, where he has worked for over 20 years. He continues to live his dream of cataloging various snail and mollusk species as well as conducting research on North American land snails. He considers himself to wear two hats: One as curator of collections and the other as researcher in the distribution of snails.

“Taking care of the collection is basically a library of shells. Instead of books I have 180 shells to take care of. I want to catalog them so people know they are available, and I want them to be organized so they are easy to find,” Pearce said.

A typical day consists of answering emails and writing reports. He primarily works on the lower floors of the museum where he curates shells, categorizes and studies different species. However, it is Pearce’s hope after retirement to do the fun part of conducting science and asking questions pertaining to his field of study.

Something that differentiates Pearce from other curators is that Pearce has a strong social media presence on TikTok, where he promotes the Carnegie Museum as well as tells jokes and mollusk facts to the audience.

With his notorious intro - "Hello I’m Tim Pearce from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and I'm here with a snail joke for you" - the audience is in for a treat.

“I love telling jokes and I’m excited it’s taken off. This under-appreciated group of mollusks are now getting more appreciated. I try to slip in fun facts here and there so people are learning about mollusks. That makes me really happy," Pearce said.

A fun fact about snails that Pearce enjoys telling others is that most snails are hermaphrodites. According to Pearce, if a snail goes to the dance they can dance with any partner and if they are looking for a restroom they can use anyone they want.

The video component of Pearce’s work began when the marketing department for the Carnegie Museum approached him with the idea of creating fun videos in which Pearce would tell a joke in a fact, and from there, it took off.

Due to Pearce’s personable TikToks, his videos have grown to be the more popular ones amongst the Carnegie Museum’s account.

“I don’t get to read all the comments, but I have heard they are overwhelmingly positive. An example is, ‘75% of our defense budget should go to protect Tim Pearce’ or ‘will you be my grandfather’. It’s a wonderful experience," Pearce said.

Going back to the beginning, Pearce has been fascinated with nature and snails since the age of three. He recalled a story where when he was little, he would collect snail shells and place them in a cottage cheese carton to show others.

This perpetuated his love for mollusks all the way through college, where during his second year, he was required to write a term paper and chose the topic of land slugs. At the time, Pearce was living in the Pacific Northwest, where land slugs were abundant which allowed him to turn an assignment into a passion.

“I think I have an extra collecting gene. I love collecting things but I don’t like killing things. Like butterflies, it would be beautiful to have a wall of butterflies but you have to kill them to get the wings off," Pearce said, "if you find an empty snail shell you can collect it and you’ve got a beautiful shell.”

A fun fact about Pearce is that his favorite snail is the land slug, specifically the smaller snails which average around an eighth of an inch or less.

For anyone looking to do something similar and follow Pearce’s footsteps as either a curator or researcher, he recommends following your passion.

Pearce began with a passion for various mollusks and grew that passion throughout his life which brought him to where he is today. According to Pearce, if you get a job for what you enjoy doing, you never have to work a day in your life.

In addition, science as a whole was an eye-opener for Pearce in terms of fields of study that fascinated him. Setting up hypotheses and making predictions, testing said hypothesis and discovering it either worked or did not work is all a part of the scientific process. According to Pearce you cannot prove things in science, you can only prove something false.

Pearce offers a few last words of advice that he hopes others will take into consideration.

"I think people are basically good and in doing science, there are so many people willing to collaborate with you and answer questions. So the world is full of nice people, we need to trust each other more,” Pearce said.

The next time you visit the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, scroll through TikTok or simply see a snail passing by, think of Tim Pearce, your local snail enthusiast.

For more information about Tim Pearce: https://carnegiemnh.org/research/timothy-a-pearce/

To follow the Carnegie Museum of Natural History on TikTok: @carnegiemnh
It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood

In history...

and in the community

Alicia Dye
staff writer

Known as the kindest man on television by many, Pittsburgh-native Fred Rogers, better known as Mr. Rogers, taught emotional lessons to generations through his television show, “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood,” changing the lives of his subjects; Lady Elaine Fairchilde, who is a troublemaker, but is brave and of the Neighborhood and cares deeply for the children. Rogers was born on March 20, 1928 in Latrobe, Pa. Rogers did not set out to be a television star; he wanted to be a floor manager but he soon learned commercial television was not for him. That’s when he founded the Pittsburgh education station, WQED, which was the first community supported television station.

After founding WQED, he started out as a co-producer for “The Children’s Corner,” as well as being a puppeteer and an artist on the show. Rogers then served as the program manager for WQED as well as “The Children’s corner”, before Rogers moved to Canada for a short period of time, where he started his famous “Mister Rogers” show.

Rogers moved back to Pittsburgh in 1966 and launched the modern day version of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” which ended up airing nationally in 1968. The show aired from 1968 until 2001. The show didn’t star Rogers alone. There were many regular characters including Mister McFeely, Lady Aberlin, Officer Clemmons and many more. “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” included many segments, but Rogers always started the show with him singing “Won’t you be my neighbor?” where Rogers puts on his classic red cardigan and puts on casual clothes and ties them.

One segment he always had was the neighborhood of Make Believe, which consisted of single-handed puppets that portrayed real feelings as they grew. Many regular puppets Mr. Daniel Tiger, King Friday XIII, who is the ruler of the Neighborhood and cares deeply for his subjects. Lady Elaine Fairchilde, who is a troublemaker, but is brave and speaks her mind. Some other puppets include Henrietta Pussyfoot and X the Owl.

Another segment that Rogers would always do on the show was “Did you see what I brought?” where Rogers shares people, places and things with the audience, so he could create a personal connection with the audience.

Rogers would occasionally have guests on the show, ranging from regular children, such as Jeff Erlanger, a 10-year-old in a wheelchair to different celebrities, such as Bill Nye, Julia Child and Yo-Yo Ma.

Rogers had a large impact on generations of people, and is seen as one of the kindest people to live. Rogers’ show taught children many things, such as how to deal with their fears, how to deal with grief, death and more. “When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we’re not alone,” Rogers said.

Rogers did episodes on topics that were seen as scary for children. Rogers talked about the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1979, the Challenger explosion in 1986, and even talked about divorce and death.

Rogers even touched on sensitive topics, such as desegregation. In episode 1065 of “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood,” according to Biography, Rogers invited Officer Clemmons, a Black police officer on the show, to join him in a small, plastic pool. While this may not seem controversial now, when the episode aired it was 1969, and although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 had been passed, many pools across the country were still segregated. That day, Mr. Rogers showed that Black and white people could peacefully share a pool. Rogers received four daytime Emmy's for “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” and was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 1999.

Rogers also received a Peabody Award and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

Rogers passed away Feb. 27, 2003 at the age of 74. Rogers’ final resting place is at Unity Cemetery in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Rogers’ legacy lives on today, as he has many exhibits about him throughout Pittsburgh. The Senator John Heinz History Center has a whole exhibit dedicated to Rogers, and St. Vincent in a Fred Rogers Center, whose mission is to carry on Rogers’ vision of helping children.

Emily Ruby, curator of the Rogers exhibit at The Senator John Heinz History Center, said Rogers’ legacy is important because of the way he spoke to children. “His message is timeless,” Ruby said.

Rogers’ kindness and his message live on through “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood,” an animated PBS show created by Fred Rogers Productions in 2012, according to PBS.

All information in this work was sourced from misterrogers.org unless stated otherwise.

Capri Scarcelli
a & e editor

On a warm summer afternoon in 1975, my father and grandfather saved Fred Rogers’ dog. An incredibly curious six-year-old at the time, my father, Jeff Scarcelli, was always at my grandfather’s side. He would sit on the edge of the living room couch, listening to his grandfather take phone calls from his college students at Pittsburgh State University and write down problems on scraps of paper; he would run errands to apartment buildings that my grandfather had owned, and he was right-hand-man in the passenger seat of every drive.

According to Jeff, that afternoon they were running an errand in Wilkinsburg at a supply store called Construction Junction, and drove toward Shadyside for a bite to eat.

On the intersection of Penn Avenue and 44th Street, the car itertools, whose legacy we brought to life in our marching band competition.

Rogers was there to honor her late husband, whose legacy we brought to life in our marching band competition.

Each instrumentalist waited in line to talk to Rogers, asking her about what her husband was really like, off-screen and in-person.

When it was my turn, she told me that it wasn’t his kindness that made him so special, but how genuine he was. According to Rogers, he was honest with his emotions, and he knew how to express them in favor of others. He helped others navigate childhood, adolescence and adulthood so they would feel less alone.

She told me I was beautiful, and that I carried the same radiance my grandfather once did when he knocked on their doorstep. And he didn’t help because it was “Mr. Rogers’ dog.” He helped because he wanted to remember a time where he was helpful. He helped because he knew it would be something that would put his child’s mind at ease, and it was something that would take his family’s doubts.

According to my grandmother, he was the teacher who would give his home phone number to his students if they needed help outside of the classroom. He was the landlord who would spend his own paycheck making sure his tenants were comfortable.

He was the husband who would check on a car in smoke on that side of the road, ensuring his wife that everything will be okay. He was the father that would put “Mister Roger’s Neighborhood” in the living room, where his kids would wind down for the evening and learn more and more about what it means to be the love and support that someone else may need down the road.

“He cared a lot about people. I really miss him being around, he was such a special person,” Claudia said. “If he were still here, I would show him the Facebook page made for him, Ross Scarcelli Fan Club. For as long as he lived, he would never look at it. He was afraid of negativity, and never wanted to see his students in a bad light.”

Little does he know, the fan club has 390 members who share memories weekly.

In a blink of an eye, my father and grandfather were helping someone in need. To this day, a butterfly effect of good behavior has paid itself forward for generations. It is the values I was raised by that remind me to always be the one’s love and support that someone else may need down the road.
Duquesne’s Tess Myers drives to the basket against Richmond’s Siobhan Ryan on Wednesday. Myers scored 15 points and made a game-high three 3-pointers.

The paint play Hamilton mentioned was arguably the greatest improvement showed by the Dukes in the two contests against the Spiders. On Wednesday, the Dukes dominated under the basket, outscooring Richmond 46-28 on paint points. That growth was fueled by Duquesne’s improvement on the boards. The Dukes grabbed 45 rebounds on Wednesday, a 12-rebound improvement from their New Year’s Day matchup with Richmond.

Burt’s explanation for this improvement was simple. “I challenged the kids to actually get fouls on the rebounds,” Burt said. “Knock somebody over, run through someone, whatever you need to do. When you have that level of aggressiveness, you’re going to end up outrebounding them.”

Duquesne will keep its momentum going as it travels to Old Dominion on Sunday afternoon. The Dukes bested the Monarchs 63-43 on Jan. 18 and have won nine of their last 10 games against St. Bonaventure in a stretch that began on Feb. 21, 2017. With three games left in the regular season and the Dukes at 5-8 in Atlantic 10 Conference play, attaining a .500 record is possible for them [his players].”

Dambrot said. “I don’t know what to do with them [his players].”

“I’m just disappointed in our fight, because we feel like we come into games and we’re going to do everything we can to fend off any last rush from the Dukes, securing a come-from-behind victory in their first-ever game.”

Pitt’s success at the offensive end this past week was largely out of Kieren Ratliff-Kallibourne, who scored four times in a game-high five shots on goal. Duquesne’s offensive attack was led predominantly by freshman Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw, who scored two goals (on a team-high four shots on goal) and also recorded an assist.

Tina St. Clair also scored two goals for the Dukes, while Rachel O’Toole made seven saves in 63 minutes worth of action.

In Monday’s victory, the Dukes jumped out to a 4-0 lead by the 9:58 mark of the first quarter and never looked back. The Panthers scored the game’s final four goals to inch back in, but weren’t able to draw any closer.

An offensive outpouring from Duquesne was highlighted by the efforts of Sam King (four goals and an assist), St. Clair (four goals), Rodriguez-Shaw (four goals) and Alana Piano (three goals).

Youngstown State got an impressive individual effort from Natalie Calandra-Ryan, who scored six goals and added two assists. Sydney Busmood and Erin Clark also each added three goals and an assist for the Penguins.

Duquesne will be back in action on Friday afternoon, when it travels to Kent, Ohio, for a road contest with Kent State.

-Luke Henne, Sports Editor
Hamilton: “I can always be there for them”

Jillian Decker | staff writer
Kindness. When people hear that word, it typically resonates positive thoughts. For the Duquesne women’s basketball team, kindness is something that is emblematic of the team environment.

Perhaps no one resembles kindness quite like third-year player Amaya Hamilton, who relishes in the opportunity to be kind.

“It means a lot to me. I don’t ever want to make anyone feel unwelcomed or anything,” Hamilton said. “It makes me happy to be there for other people and to make them feel happy.”

Both on and off the court, Hamilton does whatever she can to make sure that kindness is a key factor in the culture surrounding the team.

“I just feel that my role to be kind is to make everyone feel comfortable and have an individual relationship with every person,” Hamilton said. “I also feel that giving them a resource and someone to talk to is just what I try and do for everyone, making everyone feel like they can always express themselves to me and [that] I can always be there for them.”

Although kindness is essential for good team chemistry and comradery, it can also go a long way in making the world a better place.

For many children, they look up to athletes as role models, so caring for one another and displaying kindness becomes critical.

“I definitely think there can be a negative animosity that opponents often display when taking the field, court or ice against one another. But sports can also bring out the compassionate side of athletes, who have an ability to leave long-lasting impacts on society. While championships and glory are the ultimate objectives, athletes frequently understand that their platform gives them the opportunity to showcase themselves as good ambassadors of the game and as good human beings.

Recent memory has afforded fans of all sports some worthwhile feel-good moments, both on and off the playing surface.

On Jan. 10, Alabama and Georgia squared off in the College Football Playoff National Championship Game. As one of college football’s marquee rivalries, these Southeastern Conference foes were looking to secure glory.

Since leaving Alabama to take the head-coaching position at Georgia, Kirby Smart was never able to beat Nick Saban, his former boss at Alabama.

In heartwrenching fashion, Smart’s Bulldogs always came up short against Saban’s Crimson Tide. This list of losses included surrendering a game-ending, overtime touchdown to Alabama in the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship Game and falling to Alabama in both the 2018 and 2021 editions of the SEC Championship Game.

This time around, Georgia finally stared down the dragon and defeated Alabama 33-18, thanks to a 79-yard interception return with just under a minute to go in what had been a one-possession game just moments earlier.

Smart, after years of hearing the narrative that he’d never beat Saban, could’ve celebrated this time around, Georgia finally slayed the dragon and defeated Alabama 33-18, thanks to a 79-yard interception return with just under a minute to go in what had been a one-possession game just moments earlier.

“Every time we go to the stained-glass windows when we’re talking about the SEC title game on any kind of recognition and your name is the one that’s up there with Alabama,” Smart said, laughing. “Instinctively, however, his first action was to lend a hand to Bryce Young, Alabama’s quarterback, who had just thrown an interception that effectively ended his team’s chances of winning.

Instantaneously, Smart recognized that him extending his hand was more important than a celebration (which there’d be plenty of). He recognized that kindness and mutual respect can transcend the importance of a football game.

In 2019, in the midst of a season where he’d become the National Basketball Association’s Most Valuable Player, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo was taking part in an autograph-signing event. He was approached by a young fan named Lily, who had a jersey that was ready to be authenticated by the superstars.

Upon meeting, Lily handed Antetokounmpo a folder of artwork she’d made for him. He responded by getting up and giving her a hug as she began to shed tears of joy.

“This is amazing. This is amazing,” Antetokounmpo said. "Did you all this? Antetokounmpo, the eventual MVP, didn’t have to do that for Lily. He could’ve simply signed her jersey, and that would’ve been that.

But he let his impact stretch further, and subsequently created a heartfelt moment that Lily will carry with her for the rest of her life.

Sometimes, on the flip side, fans create the feel-good moments for the athletes.

On April 8, almost 600 days since his last Major League Baseball game, Baltimore Orioles first baseman Trey Mancini returned to Oriole Park at Camden Yards to a massive standing ovation from the Baltimore faithful.

Nearby a year earlier, on April 28, 2020, Mancini announced that he had stage three colon cancer and would miss the entirety of the 2020 campaign in order to undergo chemotherapy treatments.

Mancini was not only fighting for his career to continue, but (and much more importantly), he was fighting for his life to continue.

That November, Mancini announced that he was cancer-free and that he planned to return to the Orioles for the 2021 season.

In his comeback season, Mancini was welcomed back with roarous applause from fans all across the league.

He also hit 21 home runs with 71 RBIs in 147 games en route to winning the American League Comeback Player of the Year Award.

Moments like these are emblematic of the palpable impact sports can have on both fans and athletes.

When the two groups of people come together, there’s no telling as to how powerful and iconic that memory might truly be.

Some things are, indeed, bigger than sports.

Feel-good moments make sports memorable

Luke Henne | sports editor
Sports bring out the fierce rivalries and pure animosity that opponents often display when taking the field, court or ice against one another. But sports can also bring out the compassionate side of athletes, who have an ability to leave long-lasting impacts on society.

While championships and glory are the ultimate objectives, athletes frequently understand that their platform gives them the opportunity to showcase themselves as good ambassadors of the game and as good human beings.

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Random acts of kindness brighten students’ days

Isabella Abbott
staff writer

Even the smallest acts of kindness go a long way, which is why Duquesne students are doing just that. Feb. 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day and with one small gesture at a time, we can work to make the world a kinder place.

Buying for Someone on a Whim
Britta Wheeler

I was at a grocery store with my friend, who ended up being short on money. I knew she needed the groceries, and I didn’t want her not to get what she needed for the next couple of weeks. I felt bad and went ahead to pay, knowing she would appreciate the gesture.

The friend said she made her day and told me she would pay me back.

Generosity through Grief
Michaela Bosworth

“When I lost a family member last year, my friends continuously reached out and checked to see how I was doing,” said Michaela Bosworth. “They are always there for me, ready to brighten my day.

It’s been nice to finally celebrate the day."

Homemade Cookies
Nicole Pasceva

“Every weekend my roommate goes home and brings back baked cookies. She makes them with her mother, and they always taste delicious. This weekend she also brought back Popeyes, which is our-go-to spot. It’s a thoughtful gesture that makes me smile.”

Coffee Surprise
Brianna McDonagh

“I had two acts of kindness happen to me in one day. One was that I had lost my water bottle, and someone ended up holding it for me. At the same time, someone else bought me a coffee at Starbucks. Everything was unexpected and lovely, it made my day.”

Gifts from Afar
Nicolas Gaudagnino

“Every time a holiday comes up while I’m at school, I get a gift from my nana. I’m always thankful whether it’s a card or some homemade goodies. It reminds me of her and makes me feel at home.”

Borrowed Sweater
Payton Campbell

“I asked my friend if I could borrow her sweater and she let me. When I went to give it back to her she told me to keep it because she doesn’t wear it and said it looked cute on me. It made my day, and I got a new sweater!”

Buffalo Dip Surprise
Jillian Peters

“My friend is making me buffalo chicken dip for our 2000 meter row coming up. It’s a really difficult piece but knowing I can look forward to the dip will make it easier to complete.

She’s not doing the piece because of an injury but by making the dip for me, I know she’s cheering me on.”

Student Potentiality
Aynslee Sibiley

“I had a faculty advisor who believed in me. They saw a lot of potential and pushed me to apply for an academic fraternity. It was a really sweet gesture knowing that someone thought of me for an opportunity.

It all worked out and I ended up getting into the fraternity!”

Wishing Luck Before Exams
Hannah Valensty

“I always like it when someone wishes me good luck before an exam. My friends are very thoughtful and kind when they do this for me. I know I can succeed when others have my back.”

Coach’s Food Gift
Osa Wheeler

“A girl on my team gave the coaches a batch of cookies the other day. She baked them herself which was a pleasant surprise. The cookies were amazing and it was a thoughtful motion.”

Hydration Reminders
Julia Lauire

“Every time my roommate goes to fill up her water bottle she always asks if I want mine filled up as well. It’s always so courteous and generous of her. She encourages me to always stay hydrated; it’s the little things that matter.”

Duquesne students experience various random acts of kindness, reminiscing on moments that made their days a little better.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Black History Month
Game Night
Feb. 17 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Black Student Union in the Nitespot for games, food, prizes and more.

Paint Monkey Party
Feb. 18 @ 7 p.m.

Go to Townes MPR for a group pain session of fun! Snacks provided and painting supplies included. $10 per person.

DPC DUNite:
Cookie Dough & Coloring
Feb. 18 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot for free cookie dough and coloring books!

Project Linus Blanket Making
Feb. 19 @ 9 p.m.

To help children in hospitals across the Pittsburgh area, Alpha Sigma Tau is hosting a blanket-making event in the NiteSpot. Drop by to make someone’s day a little cozier.

CAPRI’S KIND WORDS

If you have ever considered paying for someone’s coffee or piping doodles for your roommate, I encourage you to start today. What may only be a few minutes of your time or a few dollars to spare could mean so much more to the person you are helping. Whether a loved one or a mere stranger, your impact makes a difference on those around you.

If you can remember a moment where someone went out of their way for you, imagine how much that could mean for someone else? These moments don’t happen often, but are cherished and remembered for years to come.

Random Acts of Kindness are not large gestures. You could bring tea packets to a classmate who said they had a sore throat. You could show up to class a little earlier and ask your professor how their weekend was. You could reach out to someone and simply ask how they’ve been.

No gesture is mightier than the other, and you are sure to be appreciated for your efforts.

— Capri Scarrelli
Circle-K International gives back to community

Nicholas Zotos | Staff Writer

The spirit of giving never ceases here on the Bluff. This much was evident as students crowded in the NiteSpot on Wednesday, Feb. 16 to join Circle-K International in making warmth kits.

According to its website, Circle-K International was founded in 1934 and “empowers college students through service to local and global communities.” The club here on campus is similar in this regard, hosting outreach events and volunteer services for students all across campus. In fact, their latest initiative of making warmth kits was a huge success.

“Today we are making warmth kits for homeless individuals in and around the Pittsburgh area. We are going to make forty plus bags and donate them to St. Vincent De Paul,” said Shaelyn Walker, a member of Circle-K.

“Honestly it feels good to give back,” said Shaelyn Walker, a member of Circle-K.

“Today we are making warmth kits for homeless individuals in and around the Pittsburgh area. We are going to make forty plus bags and donate them to St. Vincent De Paul. The event was a success, and highlighted a unique sense of kindness and service here on campus. There is always something unique happening on the Bluff, and this latest event reminds us of the love and compassion we garner in serving others.”

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Mamma Mia! postponement opening weekend

John Lane, Theater Arts Director, has decided to cancel this weekend’s performances. “We have canceled the first weekend of performances of Mamma Mia! due to illness. Refunds and exchanges will be offered to all patrons who had already purchased tickets,” said John Lane, Theater Arts Director, in an emailed statement.

The show, which was set to open on the evening of Feb. 17, is now anticipated to open the following weekend, Feb. 24.

According to Lane, illness has struck sections of the cast and crew, given the theater communities increased caution due to the pandemic, has decided to cancel this weekend’s performances.

“Patrons with tickets can exchange for any performance the next two weekends or request a refund,” Lane said.

After a month of rehearsals and preparations, the cast and crew of the Red Masquers will have to wait another few days before sharing their production with the Duquesne community. Rehearsals and productions are anticipated to return next week.

Peanut Butter Mocha Muddy Buddies® (aka Puppy Chow)

Recipe by Emma Polen
Inspired by Chex® on allrecipes.com

Whether consumed as a late-night bite or a midday snack, these treats are sure to please!

Instructions
1. In a large microwave-safe bowl, microwave the coffee, chocolate chips, peanut butter and butler uncovered for 1 min.
2. Take the mixture out of the microwave and stir, then heat it again in the microwave for about 30 sec., until the mixture is smooth.
3. Add vanilla to the mixture.
4. Measure cereal into a second large bowl.
5. Add the heated mixture to the cereal.
6. Stir the ingredients together in the bowl, adding in the powdered sugar
7. Spread the Muddy Buddies on a tray to let them cool. Another very important step is to taste-test your confection creation here before they are put away.
8. After about 10 minutes, place the Muddy Buddies in a container and store them in the refrigerator.

Ingredients
• 9 cups rice square cereal
• 1 TBSP instant coffee granules
• 1 C semisweet chocolate chips
• ½ C peanut butter
• ¾ C butler
• 1 tsp vanilla

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Navigating Israel & Palestine with faith

Fred Rogers

You just read | Now tweet our thoughts | us yours

All letters must be verified before being emailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. to the Duke office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com

The long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict is driven by several factors: ethnic, historical, national and religious. It is a multifaceted conflict, one with issues and possible solutions that far surpass the allotted space for an opinion regarding the dispute. It can never quite be pinned down by simplicity, but with enough work, these two states can coexist with another.

Both confined to a small landmass just east of the Mediterranean sea, Palestinians and Israelis assert the land as their own, with claims to it dating back thousands of years. Over the course of the 20th century, both Palestine and Israel have fought in gruesome battles and with a myriad of outcomes — and still neither officially control it.

To add onto the conflict, Jerusalem has been attacked 52 times, captured and recaptured 44 times, besieged 23 times and destroyed twice. The city was ruled by the Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Israelites, the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Islamic Caliphs, the Crusaders, the Ottomans and finally the British, before its division into Israeli and Jordanian sectors from 1948 to 1967.

It can be argued that at the core of this conflict is religion. Both states fight for the sanctity of holy sites, including the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and more. Even through the constant strain, angle between the two, they are very similar in faith, and with a rising in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia across the world, these states can get along — a two-state solution remains the most viable.

The fact of the matter is, on a religious front, Muslims and Jews historically have not always gotten along. Additionally, both religions have more support than oppose one another as two of the three major monotheistic faiths.

According to wikipedia.org, the Qur’an refers to Jews and Christians as people of the book, meaning that they have a special place and treatment in Islamic faith because of their similarities in belief systems. Both religions worship the same prophets, who predominantly reside in the holy city of Jerusalem.

As for smaller, yet still important, parts of their religions, both preach similar dietary restrictions, circumcision traditions, prayer schedules and modesty for women.

It’s been a tragedy to see the religious division between the two states when, in reality, they both just want to freely worship in their homeland. Zionists in Israel see themselves as guardians of the Jewish state, while Islamist groups advocate for the liberation of the holy territories. If their faiths are so similar, sharing the same core values, why do they still denounce one another?

Between the onslaught of religious propaganda perpetuated by the media and worsening socio-economic conditions forcing youth into radicalism, it seems nothing will ever bring these two religions back to a peaceful coexistence in this region.

But there’s a moral core to the two-state solution as well: sovereignty for two peoples, in which each has the right to live in their land and keep their families together.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only a fight for individual rights — it’s a struggle for collective rights between two distinct people, but a one-state solution will only aggravate tensions. Depriving Israeli Jews of a Jewish state or Palestinians of a Palestinian state would destroy one of the group’s aspirations for the other’s. A one-state solution would annihilate any chance of an Israeli nation. They are far outnumbered in population in West Bank settlements.

To overcome that, leaders and citizens on both sides need to alter their end-goals: Jews would need to reject Zionist and Palestinians reject Palestinian nationalism, to an extent. Though not impossible, it is extremely difficult to achieve in such a long-standing dispute.

Recently, discussion has once again ensued in pursuing a two-state solution, even with analysts and experts’ claims that Israel has completely ruined the chance. Although pointing out the failures and shortcomings thus far in the solution, the two-state option is still the most viable for the Israeli and Palestinian masses.

It seems that the only way to achieve the far-off goal of a two-state system is to ditch the royal peace talks, and set the record straight on Israel, who at this point, has the upper hand.

The United States must begin using their leverage to push back on Israel, blocking use of weapons when they push their apartheid regime.

It also includes the U.S. and other international actors recognizing relations between Hamas and Fatah to create a unified Palestinian leadership. Once this happens, the two-state negotiations can begin, one option being a two-state arrangement with permanent citizenship in the other state. This would allow for dual sovereignty of holy territories.

Between the two religions themselves, steps can be taken to cultivate peace: interfaith dialogue; the remembrance of past support shared by Jews and Muslims; and focus on the positivity and kindness toward others in their respective religious texts. These are not new ideas, however, and can be found in religious literature. Whether religion once more, rather than the lies fed to them by radicals.

There is no certainty in how long it will take for peace, nor if it ever will be achieved, but the best step moving forward isn’t violence, nor working toward the impossible; We must continue rethinking the strategy used thus far, and start relying on tradition within faith.
LETTER TO

JOSEPH LECKENBY
class of 2021

I am writing this letter to specifically address my disagreement with Staff Columnist Zachary Petroff’s piece “Diversifying Democracy: Appointing a new justice,” in which Petroff seemingly supports “Biden only looking at Black, female candidates” to fill the SCOTUS vacancy which will be created by Justice Breyer’s upcoming retirement from the court. According to the piece, Biden is doing this “to fulfill one of his campaign promises.”

While I have no problem with having a Black, female Justice—I do have a problem with the assumptions Petroff made in his piece.

When addressing criticisms that conservatives have against this action, sec., looking solely at Black women to fill the court’s vacancy—Petroff classifies these criticisms as “loud—and not-so-subtly racist” remarks. I disagree with this characterization. Any action that excludes candidates from being considered from a position based on their race and sex will contribute to a racialization of the nation’s highest court. Conservatives are calling Biden’s action “racist.” Others, like Petroff, make the argument that it is necessary for diversity, but we should also consider how increasing diversity will change the court in ways that will make it more difficult to appoint more conservative justices.

We are proud to be Marines and part of the force of the military. Many of these issues stem from the male-driven ego? Are our minds dehumanized to such an extent that the violence we commit seems to be normal? This was purely speculative as they are naïve, but they were lured in by the promises of money for safety. Leviev would date each woman, hundreds of women, while spending thousands of instances of deception, lying, and crafting the rudest and most ruthless email that would grow with online dating over the next few months, according to BestVPN.org.

There is a high level of toxic masculinity in the armed forces that requires one to deal with the very real possibility of dying young. The unusual career choice hoisted on the naive, often poor and usually already mentally deteriorated young provides an avenue for a much different and cynical lens of the world. These circumstances created a brotherhood out of necessity. For close to five years I would do everything with these men, most activities are not appropriate to be mentioned in a school paper at a private Catholic university. Our language is filled with homophobic slurs sprinkled in with an obscenious amount of obscenities. We often smelled of Axe body spray to cover up the stench of beer and tequila from the previous night. Our eyes, bloodshot. Our diet consisted of tobacco, energy drinks, protein powder and cheap alcohol.

We walked around as if we were unattached with a mindset that we were God’s handpainted gift to America. We were relentlessly cruel to me that’s what is necessary in to me that’s what is necessary in our family. When I left the Marines after my military service, I was faced with unemployment, I removed myself from social media and changed my contact information. Excommunicating myself was difficult but necessary to help me focus on the next chapter of my life as a civilian. That was the lie I told myself.

In reality, I was facing extreme mental health issues and was ashamed that the men who I had served with would see me as a failure, or even worse, weak.

Tinder may offer a real possibility for love, but with the increase in lies, crimes and society superficiality it may be time to spread awareness about bad people lie out there, and some are naive. The documentary focused on three victims that helped to spread awareness and put Leviev in jail.

In 2018, over 18,000 reported being American victims of romance fraud. Review .42 found in 2020, over $304 million were lost and 64% of catfishers were women. Also alarming is that 53% of users in America lie on their profiles and 35% are actually in a relationship although posing as single. Just a small amount of research proves that online dating is not as safe and useful as creators claim it to be. It is important to become educated before it is too late. Love is easy to be blinded by, but tips and caution will help genuine users to protect themselves.

Online love can turn users into catfishers often use bold pictures of other people, incentivizing lies about their appearance and lifestyle to better attract their preferred person.

Tinder Swindler”: Catching false kindness

The only time I find it appropriate to bring up when I served in the United States Marine Corps is when it immediately becomes relevant, or helps me impress a young lady on a popular dating app (the former having much more success than the latter). There are a variety of reasons why I choose not to advertise my time in service as often as my peers tend to. I find the racist fan base of those that blindly follow violent authoritarianism based institutions to be as off-putting, as they are naïve.

While I am proud of my time serving in the world’s deadliest fraternity, I do not advertise my service to define who I am as a person or have it take over my personality.

When I left the Marines after my military service, I was faced with unemployment, I removed myself from social media and changed my contact information. Excommunicating myself was difficult but necessary to help me focus on the next chapter of my life as a civilian. That was the lie I told myself.

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South Side's little library makes a big impact

Jennifer Dickquist is somewhat of an anonymous celebrity in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood, known to passersby, local tattooors, piercers and homeless community as "the little library woman."

"I was reading a lot but wanted to share all the books I was consuming. I have a compromised immune system, so it was hard for me to connect with anyone," Dickquist said. "I put them on an Ikea cart, put them outside and people started leaving books and exchanging books." The 2003 Duquesne University School of Law graduate lives with Hidradenitis, a skin condition that locked her in her house through the height of the pandemic, and being that she is a lawyer, her job was entirely virtual.

During the summer months, Dickquist began adding bottles of hand sanitizer and packages of water next to the cart for anyone who needed it. She also provided supply drops for protesters after George Floyd's death.

As time went on, Dickquist noticed her cart wouldn't hold up in the Pittsburgh winter weather that her cousin to make an improved one to place in front of her new house on S. 15th, since she no longer had a porch to shelter it.

"She's really into home remodeling, so she was like 'listen, I'll make you one, just shoot me the money for the materials,'" Dickquist said. "I was thinking she made one of those tiny ones that hold a dozen books, but she got an old kitchen cabinet — it was perfect. She weatherproofed it, and then we moved it over (to 13th)."

With the move, her little library gained more traction because of its close proximity to East Carson Street, and Dickquist continued stocking the library with books and more.

"It was getting a lot more attention, and I started going up to the dollar store to get 20 little tins, boxes of Band-Aids, Tylenol, paper towels, and I fill the little tins and put them out there in little baskets on the inside door, and within two days, they're gone," Dickquist said. "I keep making little tins and now, it's extra $100 and grab as much stuff as I can.

Some of the other products, besides books, inside and beside the library include disposable toothbrushes, paper soap, canned goods, gently used clothing and drug test kits. Dickquist also has worked with Prevention Point, a nonprofit that provides health care and support to those using drugs, and they provided her with overdose supplies. Dickquist has a Naloxone stick inside the library to let passersby know she is a safe space to stop if they need it.

Among the supplies, you can also find voter registration and absentee ballots during election months, all nonpartisan, and community resources she's come across during her time as a lawyer — including her own business card.

Even some of the books inside the little library are resources, ranging from self-help books, to finance books, to the Bible to cheesy romance novels. Dickquist makes sure there's a range of genres for everyone in the neighborhood.

One of the best parts of the little library, according to Dickquist, is her own anonymity.

"It's not like I want recognition, I'm not doing anything special and it's something that doesn't take any time. Dickquist said. "I go to the dollar store anyway, but it's not about that, it's about having something that makes you smile. I love letting people grab whatever they need."

Dickquist also mentioned that she hasn't met anyone who has taken or given to the little library collection, and usually doesn't make a scene when she sees someone, in case the person wants privacy.

Looking forward into the future, Dickquist plans to expand her little library into a little library and pantry. She also has talked to purchase a menstrual product dispenser from Don't Good. Period. for people struggling to keep up with the expense.

"I get so many people wanting both [books and products], and it's like, I can supply so much more, but I don't have enough room. My little baby, she's riding strong out there, but I'm always thinking of new stuff to add to it," Dickquist said. "Even if it only helps five people, it's five more people that don't have to worry about buying medication, or if they're just sad, they can get a book."

Shoveling away the Pittsburgh winter blues

Bethel Park serves a relatively large district of people. According to the United States Census Bureau, the township is home to 33,577 people (spanning across 13,633 households).

"Due to the expected severe weather, Monday's weightlifting workout has been canceled. Find an elderly or disabled neighbor and shovel their driveway. Don't accept any money - that's our Monday workout," Bethel Park senior Austin Caye said.

Auntie Caye and Gavin Moul, players on the team, were not surprised to see the tweet. They know the culture that their head coach is trying to build is predicated on helping others as a team.

"When Coach [Delallo] first canceled lifting, our initial reaction was to get a group of friends and go door-to-door to start shoveling people's driveways," Caye said.

"My reaction to Coach [Delallo]’s tweet was not a surprise because we do this every year," Moul said. "When it comes to the culture that Coach D and the coaching staff as a whole tries to implement on us, [it] is to be the toughest, most technical and unselfish to accomplish common goals with the team."
Zachary Petroff
staff writer

On Feb. 9, Duquesne University participated in its 7th Annual “Duquesne Day of Giving.” The university’s programs were able to raise a record-high $607,995 on 1,939 individual gifts, surpassing last year’s record by nearly $115,000.

A key reason for this year’s success were donors who issued nearly $280,000 in challenges. Generosity was the second key ingredient to the year’s record-breaking gifts.

“This is the year we definitely had the most people involved helping to spread the word to make sure this year was successful,” said David Jakielo, the director of Annual Giving. “The fact that we had so many alumni and friends step up to raise those challenge gifts was really great.”

Jakielo had high praise for the employees, alumni and student ambassadors.

“They really stepped up this year to spread the word about the day of giving because that is just as important as raising money, but also having a dedicated group of people who love Duquesne,” he said.

Duquesne Day of Giving is a day where people have a chance to donate directly to a group or organization. Other donors choose to donate by offering a challenge, which is a goal set by the donor that will often match or give additional funds when the criteria, such as number of donors or amount raised, is achieved.

“We see that [as] the No. 1 reason why people give on the ‘day of giving,’” Jakielo said. Challenges allow all participants the opportunity to see their donation have an increased impact if those objectives are met.

This year was record-setting for the amount these objectives are met. "We see that [is] the No. 1 reason why people have a chance to donate directly to a group or organization. Other donors choose to donate by offering a challenge, which is a goal set by the donor that will often match or give additional funds when the criteria, such as number of donors or amount raised, is achieved. “They really stepped up this year to spread the word about the day of giving because that is just as important as raising money, but also having a dedicated group of people who love Duquesne,” he said.

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This year was record-setting for the amount these objectives are met.

The university’s programs raised $667,363 on 1,939 individual gifts during Duquesne’s ‘Day of Giving.’

The fund is named in honor of Professor Vashista Bhaskar, who recently retired from the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business after serving more than 30 years as a finance faculty member. Professor Bhaskar’s work with the Duquesne Asset Management Group student organization, which he founded during the 1990s, led to the school’s current Student Managed Investment Funds program. As a result of his efforts, students today can participate in a multi-year experience managing funds totalling more than $1 million,” said Philip Baird, the chair of economics and finance in an email.

The Bhaskar Student Excellence Fund is utilized to enhance the learning experience for all business students.

Writing a new chapter on kindness and comfort

Alicia Dye
staff writer

Among a hallway of baring doors, one stands out as it is decorated with hearts, just in time for Valentine’s day. The room itself is dark, but on purpose. There are snacks and coffee available, and the room is full of smiles and laughter. The Writing Center, located in 216 College Hall, is this room radiates fun and positivity.

While many may see the Writing Center as a tool for getting help with essays for classes, the Writing Center can do so much more than that for students. It offers feedback on any stage of a paper, and they even give feedback on resumes, websites, creative writing and more, all while creating a positive environment for students.

“We want to create a supportive atmosphere so they can be better [at writing],” said Jim Purdy, director of the Writing Center.

Purdy has been the director of the Writing Center for over 13 years and wants students to have a positive relationship with writing, that’s why the center tries to create a community with students by doing more than just helping with essays. The Writing Center has writing contests, most recently a Valentine’s Day contest, where students picked one literary character and wrote a valentine to said character. The contest is still ongoing until Feb. 18.

“We want to celebrate fun writing, too,” Purdy said.

The Writing Center also does workshops on different writing topics. Past workshops include “Returning to your Writing Post Pandemic” and “Teaching the New MLA 9th Edition Citation Style.”

Beyond that, the Writing Center staff wants students to feel confident about their writing and to see students succeed. The center doesn’t just help undergraduate students either, they help faculty and graduate students as well.

Many of the staff at the Writing Center are students as well. They are a mixture of graduate students, as well as undergraduate students, all of whom vary in major and writing specialty.

Claire Neiberg is one of the undergraduate writing consultants. Neiberg has been a consultant at the Writing Center since fall 2020, and specializes in professional writing, but helps with all genres. Neiberg wants students to be able to have a comfortable conversation about their passions and writing.

“I strive to create an environment where students feel comfortable talking to me and just having a conversation about what they are working on are passionate about,” Neiberg said.

Kaitlyn Harris is a new staff member at the Writing Center. Harris is a graduate student who has experience writing in MLA format, but loves reading papers of all types.

“I’ve helped people with graduate school applications, nursing papers and even cover letters,” Harris said.

Dr. Jane Gasson, the assistant director of the Writing Center, wants students to know that they can bring any type of writing project to the center.

"Students come in at any time and at any point of their writing, any field of study. Bring in your business assignments! We can help,” Gasson said.

Gasson and the writing consultants always try to make the room have a comfortable environment, hence the snacks and coffee being available for anyone who goes in. The overhead fluorescent lights are turned off, with the windows being the only source of light. There’s even a bughouse in the corner of the room, where students and staff alike can brag about anything, even something small.

"Sometimes we put ‘getting out of bed’ as the brag. It’s the little things some days that we brag about,” Gasson said.

Most importantly, the Writing Center wants to be approachable, and wants to be somewhere where students feel empowered, Purdy said.

"We create a culture of kindness. We want them to feel empowered as writers, free of assessment,” Purdy said.

Gasson wants students to leave the Writing Center feeling more secure in their writing.

“This is a brave space! There’s no judgment here. We want to help everyone realize they are a writer,” Gasson said.

The Writing Center also does a program called Community Writing Center, where staff of the center provide after school writing education for families in the Hill District and Homewood areas. The program launched in fall of 2020, and has since grown.

Students and faculty can get involved with the Writing Center by making an appointment and by walking into College Hall 216. Appointments can be in person or on Zoom. Students who are strong writers can also apply to become a writing consultant on the Writing Center website. Work study is not required for the position.

“Come stop by, say hi, get some candy! This is a place to hangout,” Gasson said.
THE LAST WORD

The Duquesne Duke

JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS

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

PITCH STORY IDEAS AND GET TO KNOW THE EDITORIAL STAFF!

EMAIL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF COLLEEN HAMMOND AT THEDUQDUKE@GMAIL.COM

OR VISIT US IN COLLEGE HALL 113

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

Come Visit Us College Hall 113

Contact our Editor-in-Chief hammondc@duq.edu
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<tr>
<th>Random Act of Kindness</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call an older family member just to see how they’re doing</td>
<td>Brush the snow off the car parked next to you</td>
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<td>Feed the campus squirrels</td>
<td>Wish your roommate luck before their exam</td>
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<td>Arrive early to the class you’re always late for</td>
<td>Introduce yourself to your neighbors</td>
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Get Involved: How you can spread kindness

EDITORIAL STAFF
the duquesne duke

On our front cover, we found it fitting to feature an image of Pittsburgh’s lasting icon of love and friendship: Fred Rogers. This statue stands as a symbol of the generosity and kindness our staff hopes to emulate.

In line with Random Act of Kindness Day (Feb. 17), The Duke encourages all members of the Duquesne community to get involved and pass along the spirit of kindness displayed across this special edition. Below are a list of non-profits near and dear to our hearts. We hope you feel inspired to live out the message of Mr. Rogers, “I hope you’re proud of yourself for the times you’ve said ‘yes,’ when all it meant was extra work for you and was seemingly helpful only to somebody else.”

Pittsburgh Service Ministries for the Homeless and Vulnerable

Helping the homeless and vulnerable of a community is one of the focuses of Pittsburgh non-profits. In the spirit of Random Act of Kindness Day, the following organizations are committed to volunteering time, money and resources to positively impact the lives of others through daily or monthly action.

The Red Door (Divine Mercy Parish)

Started back all the way back in the 1930s to support struggling families during the Great Depression, the Red Door welcomes monetary and food donations. They support the community by providing bagged lunches to all who come to them.

Light of Life Rescue

Located on North Side and hidden among the Pittsburgh attractions is the Light of Life Rescue Mission. They offer multiple opportunities to volunteer with tutoring, mentoring, childcare and serving meals. Light of Life provides shelter and support for those experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction.

Shepherd’s Heart Veterans Home (House of Hope)

According to statistics from the Pittsburgh Foundation, almost one in 10 homeless individuals are veterans. The Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh runs this program to reach out to homeless veterans of Pittsburgh and help them transition into life in the community.

Pennsylvania Women Work

Located in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, this women-led organization helps individuals and families find financial stability through work training and job searching. PA Women Work has continued to be busy even with the pandemic, and they offer regular virtual classes and mentoring programs. Volunteers are encouraged to share their skills with the program to improve the good of the community.

Smithfield Shelter

Smithfield Church offers a winter shelter annually for those struggling to find a home during the colder months. They service the community with laundry and shower facilities, warm meals and basic health care. However, Covid-19 has impacted the number of people relying on their free services. They are in need of any materials that the community is able to provide.

Jubilee Soup Kitchen

Open 365 days a year, Jubilee serves the Hill District with a soup kitchen, food pantry and child care services. The kitchen is in need of a number of donations including food, but also supplies that is listed on the “wish list” page of their website.

Saint Vincent de Paul

With multiple partners around the city, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society works to provide comfort for those whose needs are the greatest across the nation. Duquesne’s chapter of the society reaches out directly to the homeless population of Downtown Pittsburgh.

YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

As a subdivision of the overall YMCA, this organization stands for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

With four key areas of program focus (Health & Fitness, Aquatics, Kids & Teens, Arts & Education), the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh offers a variety of different activities, such as: Diabetes Prevention Program, group exercise classes, swim lessons, before and after school care, overnight camps and dance lessons, among others.

With a mission of “changing [their] model to build stronger communities, and a better us,” the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh partners with local community organizations. By doing this, “[They’re] providing the access and support all people need to lead healthy lives. [They’re] connecting neighbors with each other to build stronger communities, and a better us.”

Some of these partners include: Dick’s Sporting Goods, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Pittsburgh Penguins LP, Pittsburgh Pirates, United Healthcare, United Way of Southwestern PA, University of Pittsburgh and UPMC (including UPMC East, UPMC Health Plan, and UPMC Mercy).

Some locations include the Thelma Lovette YMCA at 2114 Centre Ave. in Pittsburgh (412-315-0990) and the Sampson Family YMCA at 2200 Golden Mile Hwy. in Plum, Pa. (724-327-4667)

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Located in Duquesne (the town, not our university!), the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is always looking for group and individual volunteers to work within their offices and hands-on in the community to feed 11 counties across Pennsylvania.

Food insecurity is a large issue all across the United States, with Allegheny county’s rate at 12% during 2021. The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank attempts to combat the problem while offering many opportunities for the public to get involved and feed our neighbors. On their website, a volunteer request form is available to fill out, where you can choose areas of interest and your availability.

Some of the options available include the Volunteer Engagement Center, Drive-Up Distributions, Doorstep Delivery, Food Bank Farm and more. For the Food Bank Farm specifically, volunteers are able to join the Food Bank staff in preparing and weeding soil for homegrown foods. All of the volunteer opportunities are available for college age students.

Visit pittsburghfoodbank.org to find the request form, and for those interested in more information on the volunteer programs can email volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org or call (412) 745-7600.

Looking Out for Others

Write Pittsburgh

Founded by non-profit New Rising Sun, Write Pittsburgh is a way to share the power of storytelling with Pittsburgh’s youngest budding writers. Write Pittsburgh offers a variety of writing and storytelling based courses and activities for specialized groups of students including young women, LGBT+ writers, aspiring journalists and young men pursuing creative writing. Those interested in volunteering can reach out at writepittsburgh.com.

Strong Women, Strong Girls

For those looking to inspire the next generation of female leaders, consider lending some kindness to Strong Women, Strong Girls. The Duquesne chapter of this national organization seeks to provide mentorship to elementary and middle school aged girls. Volunteers and interested students can reach out via CampusLink to sign up.

Best Buddies at Duquesne

A chapter of Best Buddies International, Duquesne’s local hub of Best Buddies seeks to connect students with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their chapter hosts a variety of events throughout the year to build camaraderie among members including an annual talent show, trips to Duquesne sporting events and board game days.

Be on the lookout for more ways to spread kindness this week!