



# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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# *Selfless to the CORE: One young man's life-saving gift*

EMMA POLEN  
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 sing-song voice, "Organ donor."

At the time, Bussotti's mother, 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 vrash victim and one for his prospective donor — were for the same grieving family.

Ten days after recovering from the successful transplant, and dealing with tremendous 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 hard-

***"I was just mortified that I wouldn't be worthy in their eyes, worthy of this tremendous gift that they gave," Chad Rivotti said.***

est 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 Krume-

menacker 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," he 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.***

"He loved people," she said. "He loved to be around people, he loved to pull people together and just had this really sort of remarkable way of making people feel seen and heard."

It wasn't just people who Bussotti cared for, though—it was all living things.

Bussotti worked in a greenhouse after school, and he was always sensitive to the plight of the baby bunnies and mice who were terrorized by the greenhouse cat.

At one point, Bussotti discovered an injured mouse who had gotten a little too close to the cat. The teenager brought the mouse home, made a little habitat for it and nursed it back to health.

It was little acts of service like this that Krumenacker remembers instilling in her son.

"His final act was this enormous act of service for the greater good," 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.



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.

***"Eli, at the age of 17, saved six people's lives. That's a hero," Chad Rivotti said. "That's an incredible look into kindness."***

"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



COURTESY OF CORE

Joy Krumenacker and Chad Rivotti are as close as family now, and Eli's memory endures in the lives he helped save.

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," he 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***



# KINDNESS

## Reaching to the CORE of Kindness

EMMA POLEN  
features editor

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 Baldrige 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 99,000 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

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

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 Baldrige 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 gen-

erosity 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 Do-



COURTESY OF CORE

Susan Stuart is a proud Duquesne alumna and is the CEO and President of CORE.

nor 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.”

# 20

people die each day without receiving an organ transplant.

# 1 donor

can save the lives of 8 people through organ donations, and heal 75 with tissue donation.

# 110,000

people in the U.S. are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

# Anyone

can be a donor. Not just people in perfect health.

## Get Involved: How to become an organ donor

EMMA POLEN  
features editor

Becoming an organ donor 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 because this is something instantaneously that can make them heroes and make so much more of a change in someone’s life. By checking the box, by signing up, you’ve lost absolutely nothing. It’s completely free and can change so many people’s lives and mean so much more,”

*“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](https://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](https://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](https://core.org).



## 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 daysoftheweek.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 escar-got 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



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Tim Pearce, head of the Section for Mollusks at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, shows off part of the snail shell collection located beneath the museum. Pearce is a fan of these particular shells because of their distinct line pattern.

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 underappreciated 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 or 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 Museums 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 in 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 didn’t 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.



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Here, Pearce is holding a squid, one of the many organisms on file at the CMNH.

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...

**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 thousands of children.

Mister 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 organist 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 shoes 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 grow. Some regular puppets include Daniel Striped Tiger; who is a shy and gentle 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 Pussycat 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 1970, 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



COURTESY OF THE CREATIVE COMMONS  
Fred Rogers, the iconic face of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood", has inspired kindness from the first episode air date in 1968 through the end of the show in 2001. Even today, he continues to inspire.

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 Emmys 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 has 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.

## ...and in the community

**CAPRI SCARCELLI**  
a & e editor

On a warm summer afternoon in 1975, my father and grandfather saved Fred Rogers' dog.

An innately curious six-year-old at the time, my father, Jeff Scarcelli, was always at my grandfather Ross Scarcelli's side. He would sit on the edge of the living room couch, listening to my grandfather take phone calls from his calculus students at Penn Hills High School and write down problems on scraps of paper; he would run errands to apartment buildings that my grandfather had owned, and was his right-

"He was just that kind of person," Claudia said. "He cared about everything that was going on around him, and would never want to see a person hurting."

In that letter, Mr. Rogers said that the dog was a special part of their family, and was the children's favorite pet. He was astonished that someone would go out of their way to find the address on the collar.

"We all know that Mr. Rogers is also the kind of person that would reach out to show his gratitude, and he was really very appreciative," Claudia said. "Mr. Rogers' show was a favorite of my four children, so we got a kick out of that. He was such a gentle person, with so many loving, positive messages that became instilled in our house."

Flash forward 44 years. Ross passed away from pancreatic cancer, and I was able to carry his story to Mrs. Rogers myself — in the Penn-Trafford auditorium during my senior year marching band competition.

Rogers was there to honor her late husband, whose legacy we brought to life in our halftime show.

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 didn't help 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 the weight off of a family's shoulders.

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 the side of the road, assuring his wife that everything will be okay. He was the father that would put "Mister Roger's Neighborhood" on 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 went out of their way to help someone in need. To this day, a butterfly effect of good behavior has paid itself forward for generations. It's the values I was raised by that remind me that in any instance, you can change someone's life in an instant. And that, I can tell you, is how to be a good neighbor. On a warm summer afternoon in 1975, my father and grandfather saved Fred Rogers' dog.



# WBB bests Richmond, snaps losing streak

**SPENCER THOMAS**  
staff writer

Offenses exploded Wednesday evening at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, as the Duquesne women's basketball team bested Richmond 80-68 to earn its 10th win of the season.

The 80 points were a season-high mark for the Dukes.

The game's first four minutes were run at a hectic pace, with both teams combining to average just 15 seconds on each possession.

However, Duquesne's offense wasted no time getting going, scoring 17 in the opening quarter, highlighted by a 9-2 run coming out of the first media timeout.

Tess Myers hit a pair of threes from the center of the arc, and Fatou Pouye muscled out several tough buckets as the Dukes scored 25 points in the second quarter to enter halftime with a 42-32 lead.

The high-flying offensive play seemed to be part of the plan for Duquesne. By the final buzzer, the Dukes had put up 72 field-goal attempts, compared to just 55 from the Spiders.

Head Coach Dan Burt said that preparation for the game involved a lot of talk about the volume of shots taken by his team.

"That's what we were looking for, to get a lot more shots up," Burt said.

The Spiders didn't shy away from the offensive shootout, however, and opened the second half on a 7-0 run. A timeout just over three minutes into the half allowed Burt to shore up his team's problems, and they immediately went on a run and regained the momentum.

Midway through the third quarter, Megan McConnell drove to the

basket, absorbed contact and finished a reverse layup, setting herself up for a three-point play to the delight of the crowd as well as her teammates.

Tess Myers notched her third three-pointer of the game with 4:45 left in the third quarter, and the Dukes proceeded to force a shot clock violation out of Richmond's offense about a minute later. Those, combined with more gritty shots from Pouye, sent the Dukes on an 8-0 run that put the game out of reach.

Five Duquesne players scored

lection, according to her head coach.

"Instead of settling for jumpers, she attacked," Burt said. "That's where Amaya Hamilton is best, because she's either going to make it at the rim or she's going to get fouled."

In addition to the strong play from both Hamilton and Pouye, Precious Johnson picked up a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds, while McConnell dished out six assists and secured 10 rebounds.

A big-time win for the Dukes was a welcome sight, as they snapped a four-game losing streak



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT EDITOR

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.

in double figures, led by Pouye, who recorded 20 points in just 25 minutes of action.

Amaya Hamilton, who was one of the Dukes to score in double figures with 12 points, had a strong shot se-

and avenged their 82-76 loss at Richmond on Jan. 1.

"We've grown a lot," Hamilton said, "We came out with more of an edge. We're slow on the boards, but today we out-rebounded them."

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, outscoring 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 out-rebounding an opponent."

Duquesne will look to keep its momentum going when they travel to Olean, N.Y. to square off with St. Bonaventure on Sunday afternoon. The Dukes bested the Bonnies 63-44 at home on Jan. 8 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 before departing for Wilmington, Del., for the A-10 tournament.

That task seems manageable, as none of Duquesne's remaining opponents currently boast a winning record in league play.

Wednesday's win seemed to have revived a sense of optimism in the Duquesne locker room.

"When we play like this, it's going to be hard for anyone to beat us," Burt said.

## Women's lacrosse opens up season

The Duquesne women's lacrosse team opened up its season with two games in four days this past week.

The Dukes fell to crosstown rival Pitt 9-8 in an overtime contest at Highmark Stadium on Friday evening before beating Youngstown State 19-15 in their home opener at Rooney Field on Monday afternoon.

Friday's win over Duquesne was the first in Pitt's program history, as the team is in its inaugural year of competition.

Despite holding an 8-7 edge late into the fourth quarter, the Dukes surrendered a game-tying goal to Paige Petty with 2:08 left in the game, allowing the Panthers to force overtime.

Just over a minute into the extra period, Pitt's Carlie Leach scored her second goal of the game. The Panthers were able 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 of the field came largely from Kierin Ratliff-Kailbourne, 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 recored 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 Penguins 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 Bumstead 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

# MBB drops 11th-consecutive contest

**LUKE HENNE**  
sports editor

The Duquesne men's basketball team fell to George Washington 73-52 on Wednesday evening at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse, extending its losing streak to 11-straight games in the process.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Primo Spears, pictured here on Feb. 12, scored 15 points in Wednesday's home loss against George Washington.

"I've never felt more helpless in my life," Head Coach Keith Dambrot said. "I don't know what to do for them [his players]."

Duquesne saw 63.5% of its scoring come from just two players (Tre Williams with 18 points, Primo Spears 15 points). The team shot 21-of-76 (27.6%) from the field on the night, going just 1-of-21 from 3-point range.

"I'm just disappointed in our fight, really. That's the biggest thing," Dambrot said. "I can't help them if they don't fight."

Coming off Monday's game in which the Dukes battled on the road against Davidson, who sits at the top of the Atlantic 10 Conference standings, tonight's loss was a step backward.

"The remarkable thing, for me, is you play pretty good at Davidson and you play pretty good at VCU and we didn't play worth a damn here [at the fieldhouse], yet," Dambrot said. "I can't put my finger on it. I've never seen a team play worse than that at home."

By the first media stoppage, the

Dukes found themselves into a 13-6 hole. Joe Bamisile – a transfer from Virginia Tech – scored nine of the Colonials' first 13 points and forced Duquesne to call a timeout after he put an alley-oop home. Bamisile finished the night with a game-high 21 points.

At halftime, Duquesne trailed by a 33-19 mark. In the opening 20 minutes, 16 of the Dukes' 19 points came from Williams and Spears, who each recorded eight points.

The losing streak, which began on Jan. 12, isn't easy for Williams and his teammates to navigate.

"We're definitely disappointed because we feel like we come into practice every day and we're working hard, but we just can't find a way to get that out there on the court and get a win," Williams said.

The entire first half saw the Dukes convert on just nine of their 40 field-goal attempts, and they were unable to hit any 3-pointers on 11 tries.

George Washington didn't take its foot off the gas in the second half, seeing its lead grow as big as 27 points

with just over five minutes remaining in the contest.

With just five more regular-season games on the schedule, an outlook toward the future is becoming more and more pertinent for Dambrot and his program.

"At some point, what's the difference between winning one game, five games, or three games in the league?" Dambrot said. "That's really not what I signed up for. Five is crappy too, for me."

Duquesne will be back in action on Saturday evening, when it travels to Olean, N.Y., for a meeting with St. Bonaventure that will be nationally televised on ESPNU.

The Dukes lost to the Bonnies 64-56 at home on Jan. 21 and have won just once at St. Bonaventure in their last 13 tries (a stretch that dates back to March 3, 2010).

"I feel bad for our fans," Dambrot said. "I apologize to them that we're playing as poorly as we are. I'm trying like hell. I just haven't been able to get it [a level of fight and competitiveness] out of them yet."



# 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

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

tive stigma sometimes toward athletes and sports players just because people may think they are full of themselves or super focused on their sport,” Hamilton said. “However, I think that if athletes are kind to everyone, it just shows that they are more than just athletes and not just shallow people.

“I think it is definitely important for everyone to know and realize they have personalities outside of their sport.”

Hamilton likes a lot about the culture surrounding the team. Being around each other for most of the year, both on and off the court, allows them to grow, individually and collectively.

“Everyone is very different, and everyone is accepting. We have people from all across the world, like all different countries and places,” Hamilton said with pride in her voice. “We all have very different personalities, but we all gel together for one common goal with the team.

“Nobody ever makes fun of everyone. Rather, everyone is accepting. It’s like a family environment to be in.”

As a naturally kind figure, it’s not uncommon for Hamilton to complete acts of generosity in any way possible.

“When my teammate was going through a lot, I made sure I was always there for her. I would spend the night in her room and always check in. This might not be the smartest idea, but I would leave class to go to be with her, I was always willing to do that,” Hamilton said, laughing.

Hamilton said that the “dedication she had to her [the teammate]” during that time was the kindest thing [she had] ever done for someone.

She also reflected on what kindness means to her and what she thinks it can do for her team, both now and moving forward.

“To me, being kind just means making someone feel accepted and valuable while

also making them feel special in their own way,” Hamilton said. “For a sports team, kindness can bring a lot of people together and I think that if you don’t have people who are kind to each other, you’re not going to get anywhere.

“When everyone is kind, it helps in making people feel more encouraged to work for each other and with each other, and I think that is what creates a successful environment in the end.”



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Amaya Hamilton (far left) and her teammates celebrate during a game at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Hamilton said, “It makes me happy to be there for other people and to make them feel happy.”

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

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 nega-



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Amaya Hamilton feels that being kind is about “making someone feel accepted and valuable.”

# 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.

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 heartbreaking 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 CFP National Championship Game and falling to Alabama in both the 2018 and 2021 editions of the SEC Championship Game.

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.

Smart, after years of hearing the narrative that he’d never beat Saban, could’ve celebrated like a kid in a candy store immediately following the interception.

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 au-

tographed by the superstar.

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. “You did 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.

Nearly a year earlier, on April 28, 2020, Mancini announced that he had stage three colon cancer and would miss the entire 2020 season 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 roarious 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.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Trey Mancini returned to much applause in 2021 after beating a colon cancer diagnosis.



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 I 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 in on me.

On campus, they all pulled together money to buy me a pick-me-up gift to brighten my day.

It meant a lot to me and showed that they would be there for me through it all."

Birthday Celebration  
Kiran Dahnke

"At home, we don't celebrate birthdays.

This year my friends took time out of their days to celebrate me.

We hung out during the day and got Chinese food for dinner.



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

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

Homemade Cookies  
Nicole Pascetta

"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 my coffee at Starbucks.

Everything was unexpected and lovely, it made my day."

Gifts from Afar  
Nicolas Guadagnino

"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 Sibley

"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 Valenty

"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."

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 @ 9 p.m.

Go to Towers MPR for a group paint 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 in the Pittsburgh area, Alpha Sigma Tau is hosting a blanket-making event in the NiteSpot. Drop on by to make someone's day a little cozier.

CAPRI'S  
KIND WORDS

RAK Day: A day to pay it forward

If you have ever considered paying for someone's coffee or flipping loads 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 Scarcelli

Aquarius

Do you think fax reaches to Virginia?

Pisces

10 funny points today!  
For now...

Aries

Why are the Rugrats on that skateboard I thought that was a show about babies. Skateboarding is not for babies.

Taurus

Welcome back, little petunia!

Gemini

What is going on <3

Cancer

Changing the narrative: sitting in the corner is the best-case scenario.

Leo

Boys who cry and blame it on the full moon <3

Virgo

Hashtag health and wellness hashtag I am awesome and totally fine.

Libra

Are you the horse girl that used to bite people or the horse girl that has been bitten.

Scorpio

Mountain Dew you want to go out with me? How about now?

Sagittarius

Sorry, I couldn't hear you over the sound of me not paying attention to you because I want chicken and waffles but this is a burger place wait what.

Capricorn

Anyone else afraid of their 18-year-old self?



## 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

Charity. They should be distributed next week and we are very confident in the impact they will make for individuals who are living out in the cold,” said Gram Hepber, Treasurer of Circle-K International.

Each warmth kit was equipped with a variety of different utilities including: a drawstring bag, soap, mylar blankets, socks, mints and a toothbrush. It is the clubs hope that these tools will make people who need them feel more comfortable during the winter season.

“Warmth kits are essential for Pittsburgh’s homeless community. They are usually done around winter time and are distributed almost every Sunday. The charities that we donate to tell us how much they appreciate what we give them. Plus, when we create these bags it usually pulls everyone around campus to help,” said

Jack Hosteler, Vice President of Circle-K International.

“I’m excited about the amount of people here. It is our hope that more people join Circle-K from learning about events like this. It’s a great club and an efficient way to accumulate service hours,” Hosteler said.

Both the executive board and the members of the club were present and efficiently finished the event in under an hour. Each member contributed by placing the items in each bag and properly packaging them to be distributed.

“I am very satisfied with the service we did today. It was a great event. Circle-K does a lot of community service and good things in general for the Pittsburgh area. Honestly it feels good to give back,” said Shaelyn Walker, a member of Circle-K.



NICHOLAS ZOTOS | STAFF WRITER

Students spent their evening putting packages together for those in need.

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.

“We are proud to serve our community and we are always looking for new members,” Hepber said.

For those interested in joining Circle-K, the club meets every other Wednesday in the NiteSpot; Email Duqcirclek1@gmail.com for more information.

## Mamma Mia! postponement opening weekend

Hours before the curtain was set to rise on the Red Masquers’ production of the hit jukebox musical *Mamma Mia!*, the super troupe of cast and crew members are taking a pause.

Although the old adage goes “the show must go on,” the cast of 21 are now placed on a tempo-

rary production hold.

“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, given the theater communities increased caution due to the pandemic, has decided to cancel this

weekend’s performances.

Ticket holders were contacted as this announcement was made and were given the option to refund their purchase or place it as a donation to the Red Masquers.

“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*



COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

### Ingredients

- 9 cups rice square cereal
- 1 TBSP instant coffee granules
- 1 C semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ C peanut butter
- ¼ C butter
- 1 tsp vanilla

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 butter 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.



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“All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we’re giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That’s one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.”

FRED ROGERS

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

@TheDukesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Duquesne Duke* is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

### Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

### Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

### Contact

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# OPINIONS

Dang Honey,

You’ve got more  
style than AP

To: the media department  
From: The Duke

ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

## Navigating Israel & Palestine with faith

The long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict is driven by several factors: ethnic, historical, national and religious; It is a multilayered 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 one another.

Both confined to a small land-mass 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 sides have fought with gruesome outcomes — and still neither officially control it.

To add onto the confusion, 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 Persians, the Byzantines, the Islamic Caliphates, 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 struggle between the two, they are very similar in faith, and with a rise 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 been at odds. Additionally, both religions more so support than oppose one another as two of the three major monotheistic faiths.

According to whyislam.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 resided 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 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



ZOE STRATOS  
opinions editor

coexistence in this region.

But there’s a moral core to the two-state solution as well: sovereignty for two peoples, each with a history of victimization that led them to desire a government for and run by their own people.

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 Zionism 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 rosy 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 reconciling 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 they would centrify 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.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Approaching disinformation with empathy

It’s no secret that political discourse has reached a fever pitch in this country. At a day and age where access to information is seemingly limitless, it can be unbelievably perplexing to hear friends and relatives regurgitating the toxic claims of misinformation and disinformation.

Even among highly educated and competent company, many of us find ourselves in a constant struggle for truth, each irate and demonstrably false Facebook post tearing us further and further apart from our loved ones.

As the resident journalism professionals in our families, we are often tasked with educating the less media-savvy of our households. Oftentimes, a quick correction of fact or a simple probing question can send the Thanksgiving table into utter chaos or Christmas morning into an all out battle for truth.

The core of believing conspiracy theories is a sense of belonging. When groups of people feel wronged by society, the government and even the world at large, they want to feel heard. They want to find meaning in the often meaningless suffering around us. For many Americans, certain world events seem too large, too impactful to be coincidence.

For example, in the 90s, many conspiracy theories arose after the death of Princess Diana. To many, she was too prominent, too important, too beloved to have died in a car accident like any other faceless victim. As a result, even in the infancy of the internet age, groups of people began spreading the endlessly disproven idea that Diana of Wales had been assassinated by other members of the royal family. Although this theory has been investigated and debunked by every professional and armchair detective the internet has to offer, many still cling to this idea as fact.

A similar phenomenon has occurred with misinformation regarding the pandemic. This massive, global event has stalled and stopped life on nearly every corner of the planet and is, quite frankly, terrifying. Seeing this, it can often be easier to find comfort in thinking that this was a planned, anticipated attack against humanity instead of a trick of fate mixed with a slew of poor planning and response.

When dealing with loved ones who believe conspiracy theories like these, we must rise to the challenge of educating them — not with intellectual elitism or demeaning condescension — but with the kindness and compassion we should always show to our fellow man.

The war against disinformation is not going to be won with screaming matches and a barrage of links to credible sources. To fully combat these tendencies toward disinformation in the people we love, we must instill in them a greater sense of community and belonging than these fringe conspiracy groups can provide.

While we need to tackle the issue of disinformation as a society with fact checking websites, the continued support of local journalism and tighter regulation of social media platforms, the everyday fight against disinformation, conspiracy theories and misinformation must be done on the individual level through empathy and a genuine concern for the other.



## LETTER TO

JOSEPH LECKENBY  
class of 2021

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to respectfully address my disagreement with Staff Columnist Zachary Petroff vis-à-vis his opinion 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.”

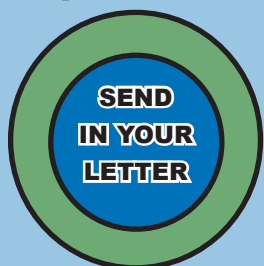
While I have no problem with having a Black, female Justice—I do have a problem with the assumptions Petroff made in his piece:

When addressing criticisms that conservatives have against this action, sc., 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 serves our interest to only look at Black, female candidates in order to bring more diversity to the Court. If we want diversity, then we should include all groups of people in the hiring pool, not just those who would bring diversity because of their backgrounds. Petroff argues that “Picking the best candidate regardless of race” is a disingenuous statement, mostly being spewed by people in power—usually white, and male...and rich,” but I have to disagree: It is much more gratifying for a Black woman to be nominated from a group of similarly-qualified candidates from multiple ethnic backgrounds, than it is for her to be picked from a same-sex, same-race pool of candidates. It would show that she was chosen based on her abilities, not her immutable characteristics.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Above is a letter to the editor sent by Duquesne graduate, Joseph Leckenby, in response to staff columnist, Zachary Petroff’s article entitled “Diversifying Democracy: Appointing a new justice.”

All letters to the editor are not reflections of the Duke staff’s opinions.



## The conflicting ideologies of brotherhood

ZACHARY PETROFF  
staff columnist

The only time I find it appropriate to bring up when I served in the United States Marine Corps is when it immediately benefits me professionally.... 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 rabid fan base of those that blindly follow violent authoritarianism based institutions to be as off-putting, as they are naive.

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

When I left the Marines after my second combat deployment, I removed myself from social media and changed my contact information. Excommunicating myself was difficult, but I thought a clean break would 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.

This was purely speculative and said more about me and my issues than it did about those that I served with.

There is a high level of toxic masculinity in the armed forces that tends to amplify more intensely in combat units. We were a group of young men faced with the impossible task of “defending democracy.”

Training for war means being ready to end someone’s life. It also 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 youth provides an avenue for a much different and cyclical 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 was barbaric, often filled with homophobic slurs sprinkled in with an obnoxious 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 untouchable with a mindset that we were God’s handpicked gift to America. We were relentlessly cruel



COURTESY OF ZACHARY PETROFF

Pictured above is the 3rd L.A.A.D Detachment.

to one another, often taking conversations beyond inappropriateness.

I often refer to this as the best time of my life.

Along with the worst.

We were brothers. We had a bond that can only truly be accurately characterized as love. Our affection often through jeers and toughness shined brightest when the violence erupted. We all were willing to both take and sacrifice our lives in order to protect comrades. Some of the best men I have ever had the pleasure of serving with are not here today because of their commitment to their Marines... or struggles with mental health.

Even as I write that, I can picture my fellow jarheads rolling their eyes and crafting the rudest and most ruthless insults to hurl relentlessly at me.

There are many issues in the U.S. military that are often ignored or downplayed due to our blind nationalism that de-prioritizes account-

ability. Sexual assault is alarmingly rampant; The amount of hate groups in the ranks continues to increase annually in the military; suicides appear to be common among veterans.

Many of these issues stem from an oddly romanticized toxic masculinity that appears to be the driving force of the military.

We were proud to be Marines and attempted to emulate the complex lore that came with being one of the world’s elite fighting forces. Can this manufactured but necessary comradery be instilled without the need of perpetuating every facet of male-driven ego? Are our minds developed enough to fully understand the gravity of consequences from war without shredding our thin fabric from an overwhelming angst of both death and murder?

It does not seem likely.

Maybe that is why it is just easier not to bring it up.

## “The Tinder Swindler”: Catching false kindness

MIA LUBRANI  
staff columnist

With Valentine’s day, spring break and continuation of Covid-19, Tinder is predicted to grow in its popularity over the next few months, according to AdWeek.

Tinder serves as a fantasy for true love. In reality, the app acts more as a breeding ground for fake kindness, unsafe meetups and hookup culture. Dating apps show pictures of other people, incentivizing lies about their appearance and lifestyle to better attract their preferred person.

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 dating safety.

Bad people lie out there, and they can manipulate these apps to help them use others to get money, fame or affection. Dating apps are ruining the atmosphere of romance in the 21st century and normalizing a culture that will only hurt people in the long run.

“The Tinder Swindler” is a new Netflix documentary based on a true story of a man catfishing a sequence of women through the popular dating app. The man, Simon Leviev, acted as a rich son of an international billionaire to lure women into seemingly exciting relationships that would be short lived.

The documentary focused on three victims that helped to spread awareness and put Leviev in jail.

Leviev would date each woman, then proceed to act like his life was in danger, until the women would take out credit cards to lend him money for safety.

Some criticize the victims for being naive, but they were lured into an atmosphere of luxury only to be psychologically abused for months. From love texts begging for money, to audio messages screaming when the victim would get suspicious, Leviev hurt hundreds of women, while spending their funds on jets and bottle service for his newest target.

With nearly \$10 million cheated out of his girlfriends over the years, Leviev’s story was put to a just end and the victims succeeded in spreading awareness of dating caution. Leviev went to jail in his home country, for only four counts of fraud, and was unfortunately let out after only five months.

This documentary is one of thousands of instances of deception through online dating portals.

Business of Apps reports 2021 as Tinder’s highest revenue year thus far, with over \$439 billion. Although economic growth and more love found is positive, the increasingly popular online platform can allow for more deception, lying, ghosting and safety hazards.

Catfishing is a serious problem that grows with online dating connections becoming more popular.

In 2018, over 18,000 Americans reported being victims of romance fraud according to BestVPN.org.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

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 51% 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 makeshift FBI agents, but it seems to me that’s what is necessary in today’s world of catfishers.

First, try to use a reverse image search. Reverse image searching takes the given photo and finds where else it is used. While this is a great first step, it is not the only.

Next, be cautious if someone is obsessive or overwhelmingly kind too fast. Catfishers often use bold claims of love too early to lure

someone into a fantasy. Make sure to check if the person is legitimate.

Facetime or video calling is extremely easy and accessible, so online daters should use this method for checking authenticity. If your potential significant other doesn’t ever want to Facetime, then this could be a sign they are a catfish.

Lastly, remember to trust your gut and choose kindness. If someone seems inauthentic or seems to flaunt a dramatic lifestyle, investigate it further to calm any doubts. Always make sure to communicate with the other to establish a shared intention for the relationship.

Love is able to be found, and it is waiting for everyone at the right time. Online dating increases hazards but it can also be used to increase your scope to hopefully find that special someone. Protecting yourself mentally and physically is always the main priority. Relationships are meant to increase happiness, not decrease your bank account.



# South Side's little library makes a big impact

ZOE STRATOS

opinions editor

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

During the peak of Covid-19 lockdown in May 2020, Dickquist noticed her collection of books growing in her S. 13th Street household, taking up four bookshelves, two Ikea carts and piling up in stacks around the house. Soon enough, the constant flow of 'book of the month' deliveries was out of control, and she had an idea: Why not start giving them to other people?

"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 2013 Duquesne University School of Law graduate lives with Hidradentitis, 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. She asked 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 15th]."

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, allergy meds. 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 them whenever I have an 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 over-dose supplies. Dickquist has a Naloxone sticker inside the library to let passersby know her house 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 letting people grab whatever they need."

Dickquist also mentioned that she hasn't



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

The little library is made from an old kitchen cabinet.



ZOE STRATOS | OPINIONS EDITOR

Jennifer Dickquist started her little library during the peak of Covid-19 lockdown in May 2020.

## Shoveling away the Pittsburgh winter blues

BRENTARO YAMANE

layout editor

During a snowstorm, it wouldn't be surprising to see high school football players staying inside their homes, either training in their basements or playing video games in their rooms.

However, when members of the Bethel Park High School football program saw snow fall this January, they took initiative.

On the day before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, tons of snow blanketed the western Pennsylvania area. Bethel Park Head Coach Brian DeLallo took action, going on Twitter, saying, "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."

Austin 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."

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).

Players like Dom Capone and Aidan Currie did not mind shoveling. They felt good about helping the people in their neighborhoods.

"It was really nice to get out and do something for the community, considering all they do for us," Capone said.

"Shoveling snow is the least we could do for the people living in Bethel," Currie said. "Throughout the whole season and even in the offseason, the people of Bethel supported our team by donating to some of our fundraisers and coming to our games every week. So, it's just nice to help out those who need it and to just help out in general."

Other members of the team like Tyler Stewart and Coby Goelz noticed all the gratitude the neighbors gave them, with some even trying to give the team money for their services. No players accepted any of those offerings.

"The neighbors were ecstatic when they saw us shoveling snow," Goelz said. "They were happy to hear that their local high school football team was in the community doing a good deed and not accepting money."

"Most of the neighbors came out and were appreciative of the work we were doing," Stewart said. "All the money that was offered was turned down because the work we were doing wasn't for a reward. It was to bring our community closer."

Many neighbors were so fond of what the players were doing that they posted photos and videos on social media. The good deed got attention



COURTESY OF DM3 MEDIA

Bethel Park junior Austin Caye was one of the players who shoveled driveways this past January.

from local outlets such as WTAE-TV, but also got national attention from outlets such as CBS News and *The Washington Post*.

The team even made an appearance on *FOX & Friends* to talk about their volunteer efforts.

"I was very shocked to hear that we would be on *FOX & Friends*," Goelz said. "A simple good deed was on national television just like that."

"The media attention was very odd because it is nothing out of the ordinary of our program and what we had done before," player Braedon Del Duca said. "We all enjoyed our few weeks of fame, and we were all definitely shocked that it received as much attention as it did."

Besides shoveling snow, the football team also goes to local parks during the spring to fix them up by putting in new mulch and/or sand.

With all the volunteering that the team does, it is easy for the community to want to see the football team succeed. This past WPIAL and PIAA football season, the Blackhawks made the WPIAL 5A football playoffs, but lost in the first round. While the team is still looking to hoist a football championship for the first time since 2008, they'll still be continuing the tradition of helping others, with current players setting the precedent.

"I feel we are setting a great example of what it means to volunteer," Caye said. "No matter how many times people asked to pay us and get us something to drink or eat for shoveling their driveway, we simply wouldn't take it. We just wanted to do something nice for the community and will continue to do so in the future."



## Day of Giving: Sky's the limit for giving back

**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 \$667,363 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 issue 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 [is] 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 these objectives are met.

This year was record-setting for the amount of challenges that were secured.

The Center for Excellence in Diversity and

Student Inclusion was the beneficiary of a \$4,000 dollar-for-dollar match. The newly formatted office participated in its first "Day of Giving" since its name change last year. Following the death of George Floyd, the former Office of Diversity and Inclusion expanded upward in order to better encapsulate what the administration and student body stand for and strive to become.

An anonymous alumni donor offered the generous \$4,000 match as the inspiration of the new initiative.

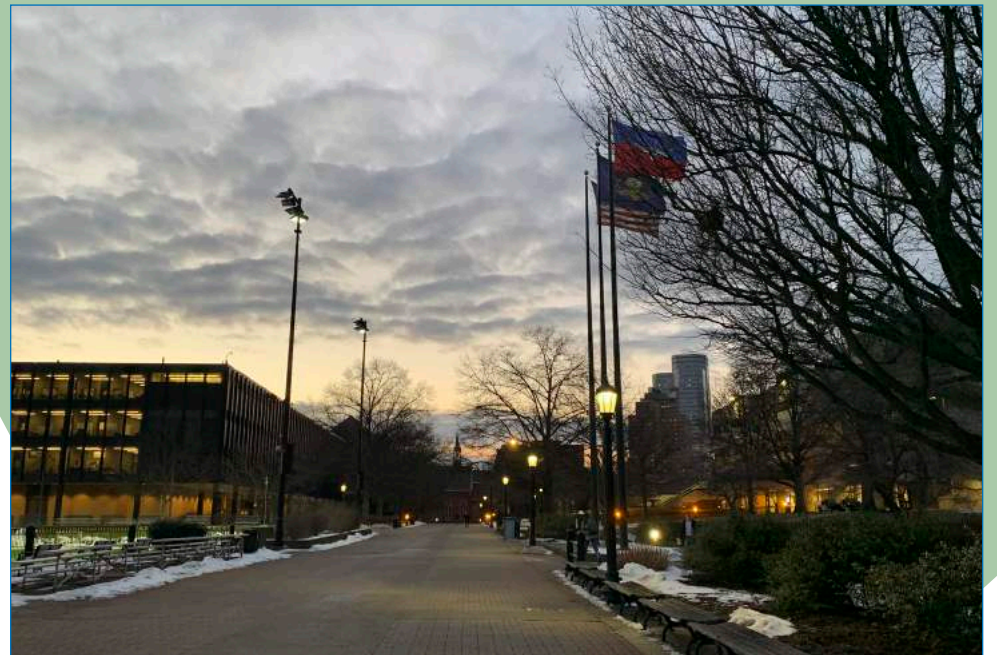
"I think this 'Day of Giving' was special for us because it allowed us to officially start that next chapter," said Anthony Kane Jr., director of the Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion. "Even though we've been doing the work and we've been given tremendous support by the university and administration, having alumni contribute to some of the work we're doing validates that we are moving diversity, equality and inclusion forward at Duquesne."

The proceeds will help benefit program events, provide financial support in the form of scholarships for students and contribute to the growing book loan program that allows students to borrow or rent books for a semester.

The women's swim team was able to dive right into the Day of Giving by raising over \$40,000, leading all athletics in amount raised. The swim team had a donor who contributed a \$10,000 matching gift.

Head coach David Sheets credits the generous dollar-for-dollar match for sparking momentum in this year's Day of Giving by invoking donors and alumni to showcase their competitive spirit.

The 21-year tenured coach was able to utilize the swim team's work ethic, which has led them



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

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

to national success in recent years, in establishing a solid social-media presence in order to garner support on Feb. 9.

"I was constantly on Instagram, constantly on Facebook and sending emails out leading up to and on the Day of Giving," Sheets said.

The funds are going to modalities of training that could include a heart rate monitoring system that will allow the student athletes to enhance their training regimen. Recruiting and other needs for the athletes' success will also be available thanks to the donor's generosity.

The Bhaskar Student Excellence Fund raised over \$40,000 largely due to the generosity of two anonymous School of Business alumni to match all donations up to \$40,000.

The fund is named in honor of Professor Vashishta 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 boring 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.

Rochel 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 can 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 brag board 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 on their website 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.



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

The Writing Center offers feedback on papers, resumes, websites, creative writing works and more.



# The Duquesne Duke

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## Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Call an older family  
member just to see  
how they're doing**

**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Brush the snow off  
the car parked next  
to you**

**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Feed the campus  
squirrels**

**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Wish your room-  
mate luck before  
their exam**

**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Arrive early to the  
class you're always  
late for**

**Random Act of  
Kindness**

**Introduce yourself  
to your neighbors**



# 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 United Church of Christ)

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.

### 412 Food Rescue

Have surplus food this semester? Leftover trays from a catered event? 412 Food Rescue takes select personal food donations as well as money donations. With thousands of volunteer drivers situated across western Pennsylvania, the program has re-directed over 20 millions pounds of food from becoming waste to benefitting members of the community.

### 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 "wishlist" 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 become a more inclusive, purpose-driven entity. One built to ensure everyone in every community has equal opportunity," 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](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org) to find the request form, and for those interested in more information on the volunteer programs can email [volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org](mailto: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](http://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!***