Bridge collapse evidence of infrastructure flaws

Pittsburgh Public Safety and the City of Pittsburgh Fire Bureau held a news conference at the intersection of S. Braddock Avenue and Forbes Avenue on Friday. They announced that authorities would be entering the recovery phase over the weekend. From left to right: Lee Schmidt, acting public safety director & deputy director, operations & administration; Darryl Jones, fire chief; Corey O’Connor, city of Pittsburgh councilman; and Cara Cruz, public information officer.

Zoe Stratos | Opinions Editor

In a heap of snow, rubble and collapsed steel, the Fern Hollow Bridge lay with a Port Authority bus in the center of the wreckage on Friday. Connecting intra-city neighborhoods, the 52-year-old steel structure fell under the weight of seven vehicles making their daily morning commute, and shortly before the president arrived to speak on infrastructure.

Protected by yellow tape and concrete barriers, many stared at the scene in horror and awe — the drivers and passengers lived, with a few minor injuries to both those on the bridge and those responding to the emergency.

The collapse came at an uncanny time, as President Joe Biden took a detour to the scene ahead of his scheduled stop. As he gazed into the ravine, he declared, “we’re going to fix them all.”

Built in 1970, the Fern Hollow Bridge spanned Frick Park allowing for an approximate 14,000 cars to pass over its surface on a daily basis, along with two Port Authority bus routes that run around 200 trips a day.

The constant travel came to a sudden stop at approximately 6:45 a.m., leaving the people in Pittsburgh hoping for a replacement soon. With the new bipartisan program set to begin tackling infrastructure issues, Biden hopes that incidents such as these won’t happen anymore.

According to the official White House website, the program will “rebuild America’s roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and invest in communities that have too often been left behind.”

It will also take on supply chain issues, strengthening our nation’s ports, airports and railways, allowing for new jobs to spring up across the U.S.

Overall, Pennsylvania is spending about $6.1 billion this year on roads and bridges and, if all goes well, expects to receive an additional $4 billion over the next five years through the federal infrastructure program.

During a press conference at the scene on Friday, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire chief Darryl Jones announced that the collapsed bridge would be a “major inconvenience” for the people of Pittsburgh as authorities begin the “recovery phase” before any plans for rebuilding.

Also at the scene was Pittsburgh Public Safety, as well as Councilman Corey O’Connor.

Both emphasized the road to recovery, even with city limitations. “Clean up is most important, and everybody’s safe, that’s great. After that, we have to look at design, engineering, put it out to bid, find funding for it, because you’re looking at millions of dollars that, right now, I don’t know where that would be in the city budget,” O’Connor said. “We’ve seen temporary bridges before, but we have not been told that’s what they would do. I think it’ll be cleaning and then getting something from PennDOT in design as quick as we can.”

Coming up on a week after initial word from authorities, many state and federal organizations have begun these actions to investigate the incident, remove the damaged vehicles and plan for reconstruction.

As of Feb. 1, neither the state nor the city had released details of past inspections to provide a fuller history of the bridge’s structure and potentially what went wrong that Friday morning. Moreover, inspection crews have not released the details of the most recent report in September.

Shortly after the collapse, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) arrived at the scene to launch an investigation that could take more than a year, with little information released to the public thus far. The NTSB did not respond to The Duke for comment on their progress.

On Jan. 29, they began investigations, mapping the scene with drones before allowing the team to dive into the ground work. The city of Pittsburgh, the Port...
Without out word from the city, experts weight in on bridge collapse

**BRIDGE PAGE**

Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation have been included as part of to the investigation.

According to authorities, the Port Authority bus — pulled out of the collapse on Jan. 31 — con-tained nine video cameras. With the acquisition of the footage, confirmed to be obtained on Jan. 30, the NTSB is now able to probe further.

Until then, other engineering experts are weighing in on what may have caused the catastro-phe, and how a typical inspec-tion process works.

The Fern Hollow Bridge had been in poor condition since 2011, according to previous inspec-tions, though the bridge had a reduced weight limit of 26 tons because of these issues.

According to Kevin Heaslip, a professor of civil and environ-mental engineering at Virginia Tech, typical bridge inspections are done every two years; how-
er, the condition of the Forbes Avenue bridge called for yearly inspections.

"There are three different aspects of a bridge. One is the bridge deck, which is the road-way surface; the superstructure, which holds the bridge up; And the substructure, which is the connection to the ground," Heas-slip said. "In this case, the deck and the superstructure were rat-ed in poor condition, meaning there were visual signs of deteriora-tion. As for the substructure, it was rated as adequate."

A poor condition rating does not call for immediate attention nor closure, Heaslip added, only that it should be "slated for im-provements or replacements at some point."

But in between that September inspection date to the Jan. 28 incident — something must have gone wrong.

Although Heaslip, nor any en-gineer, can pinpoint the exact reason for the collapse at the moment, there are contributing factors.

"In Pittsburgh you have all sorts of weather: snow and warm summers, so the steel on that bridge will expand and contract over time. One of the things that can be done [for pre-ventative maintenance] is paint-ing and sealing the steel to make sure that corrosion doesn’t take place," Heas-slip said.

But in taking preventative mea-sures, the resources aren’t always there, and the bridge doesn’t always want to cooperate. Roberto Leon, the D.H. Burrows Professor of Con-struction Engineering at Vir-ginia Tech, commented on these difficulties.

According to Leon, corrosion is the “number one long term is-sue” for bridges made of steel or cement. In cases of steel struc-tures, the iron becomes oxidized. "In personal inspections, there’s always one main reason for failure, but three or four other contributing reasons," Leon said. "But inspection is a costly enterprise. There needs to be an emphasis on maintenance, and we need to be proactive, but there’s not enough resources."

Both Heaslip and Leon agreed that even with Biden’s bipar-tisan infrastructure law com-ing into effect, the journey for repairing bridges across the country, and in the Pittsburgh region, will be difficult.

When it comes to bridges, Pennsylvania has the second highest number of poor condi-tion bridges in the nation, yet almost all 3,353 are open to public use. There are 176 in poor condition in Allegheny County, according to state statistics.

Experts agree the bridges pos-sess issues that need attention, though they are not in immedi-ate danger of collapse.

"In general, the procedures that cities and states use to inspect and manage these bridges work pretty well," Heaslip said. "In the long term, it’s going to take something in order to reha-bilitate or replace these bridges, and certainly I think the funding from the infrastructure bill will help, but it’ll take time."

New campus housing available for upperclassmen and grad students

**ST. MARTIN PAGE**

drawers for storage space, kitch-enette stovetop with an induc-tion cooktop, microwave, stain-less steel bridge and additional space for shelving.

Other room styles include studio doubles with a private bathroom, studio singles with a private bathroom and two-bed-rooms with a private bathroom.

Something that makes St. Martin Hall unlike any of the other living spaces on campus is the communal spot located on each floor. A full kitchen area, game room and a study spot alternate between floors. This design was included to improve community between both indi-vidual floors and the building as a whole, as well as provide spaces for students to unwind.

Katie Andaloro, a construction worker from Jendoco Construc-tion Corporation, is one of the many workers who have been re-shaping St. Martin. From a building perspective, she under-stands the importance of com-munity and what the common areas will mean to students.

"Friday night you might want to have game night or cooking might be your thing, it all de-pends on what aspect of student life you are looking at," Andalor-ro said. "When you are a junior or upperclassmen you have the ability to be with other students at the touch of a button."

Additional amenities include laundry shared per floor, a fitness center that includes four treadmills, four ellipticals, two free weight racks, a rowing ma-chine and an open section for yoga mats. The ground floor in-cludes an ADA unit as well.

Melissa Yot, assistant direc-tor of leasing and marketing for Brottiert and St. Martin Hall, said that students have every-thing they could need included in the St. Martin facility.

"You are right here, a few min-utes walk to your class. You have everything you could ever want," Yot said, "It is really exciting getting to see this project come to life from what it once was to what it could be."

In addition, St. Martin has been redirected to house upper-classmen students due to the university’s request that both Brottiert and St. Martin are de-signed to work as apartment style living, according to Gigliotti.

Freshmen and sophomores will remain in the more tradi-tional university facilities such as St. Ann Hall and Duquesne Towers.

For those interested in living at St. Martin for the Fall 2022 semester, applications are open until Feb. 11 and students will need to place a $300 deposit in addition to the application. The leasing period is from Aug. 18, 2022, to May 8, 2023. It is im-portant to note that St. Martin is a nine-month lease compared to that of Brottiert Hall which is an 11 month lease.

For those looking to ap-ply to live at St. Martin Hall or to find more in-formation visit this link: https://duq.campus-labs.com/engage/or-ganization/stmartin

Students can also email: stmartinhall@cocm.com with any additional questions.

The room shown above is an example of a studio single with a Jack and Jill style bathroom. The kitchen area includes a sink, microwave, fridge and extra storage.
College of Osteopathic Medicine receives new grant

LUKE HENNE sports editor

What Duquesne envisions for its proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, set to open in the fall of 2024, is progressively gaining both momentum and monetary resources.

The university announced this past week that it received a $3 million grant for the osteopathic medicine school from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, the largest gift ever received from the foundation. "I want to express our deep appreciation for the Henry L. Hillman Foundation for this important gift, which will prepare our future medical students with the tools and knowledge to provide the highest level of care to patients, including those most in need," President Ken Gormley said in a news release. "As we work with the Covid-19 pandemic, primary care doctors play a crucial role in keeping the public safe and healthy." With the help of this key Henry L. Hillman Foundation grant, physicians from our college of medicine will deliver essential help to vulnerable populations, both in urban and rural communities, furthering Duquesne's long legacy of promoting health equity in this region and elsewhere.

The foundation's website states that "students, great ideas and timely initiatives that are designed to take advantage of an emerging opportunity to improve the quality of life in Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania."

According to the release, the funding will be allocated toward "state-of-the-art" medical training equipment, including advanced simulation technologies, augmented reality anatomy labs and maker space.

Dr. John Kaufman, who was selected as the dean of the proposed osteopathic medicine school in 2019, feels that the grant is an essential step for the medical college's future students. "This grant will help ensure that our students receive exceptional training that will prepare them to provide compassionate, holistic care to underserved communities in Pittsburgh and beyond," Kaufman said in the release. "With Duquesne's expertise in nursing, pharmacy, health sciences and other disciplines, we are well positioned to educate the next generation of physicians."

According to an August 2019 news release, the osteopathic medicine school will become "the second medical school in Pittsburgh and the first Catholic osteopathic medicine school in Pennsylvania."

The osteopathic medicine school is expected to bring in an initial class of 75 students before expanding enrollment to a total of 600 students when it reaches full development.

Kauffman knows that such a grant is pivotal for bringing the best students to town. "Providing our students with technologically advanced facilities and equipment, we will be able to provide a medical education experience not available at most other medical schools," Kaufman said. "We believe that this will help us recruit the best and brightest students to train here at Duquesne."

The building that houses the osteopathic medicine school will be located directly across Forbes Avenue from the PUMC Cooper Fieldhouse, which re-opened its doors to full-capacity crowds in 2021 after multiple years of renovations.

Bill Gennett, the university's senior vice president of civic engagement, said of the osteopathic medicine school, "We are excited to be part of the revitalization of the Uptown area. We're excited to be part of the realization of the fieldhouse and the location of both the medical college and the fieldhouse will help build the identity of Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood."

"We are excited to be part of the revitalization of the Uptown area," Gennett said in a news release. "The new building and surrounding area will spur economic growth and technological advancement, which will further benefit the community at large."

In a time where Covid continues to take a toll on individuals abroad and the healthcare system as a whole, Duquesne repeatedly emphasizes the importance of health equity.

The university previously received a $2 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, according to a July 2021 news release, which "would help build the foundation for a new medical college and for health care equity in underserved rural and urban areas."

Following July's grant, Gormley said that the osteopathic medicine school "will be one of the most forward-looking medical schools in the country," wherein future physicians will learn how to "serve communities, both urban and rural, that are in dire need of primary care doctors - including those that suffer disproportionately from poverty, low employment levels and other negative health determinants."

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony to help pave the way for construction of the osteopathic medicine school, which is set to begin later this year, on March 1.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed school will be held on March 1.

Weather Watch

Rain, snow and ice are coming to Pittsburgh, and the university is already taking action to keep its students, faculty and staff safe from the inclement weather.

Wednesday afternoon, university officials sent an email out to students announcing that classes would be moved to online learning on Thursday. A subsequent email sent to students corrected a mistake in the prior, which reported that Tuesday was virtual as well. As of now, Friday will still be in person.

For undergraduate students in the nursing program, clinical rotations are canceled for both Thursday and Friday. Graduate students will still attend as normal.

"Clinical rotations are typically canceled due to weather conditions that impact safe driving conditions in the early morning hours. Students report for clinical at 9 a.m. when roads are not plowed," said dean of nursing, Mary Ellen Glasgow.

The nursing program also uses a "Nurse Alert" system to send a notification to students and faculty in case of an emergency.

Pittsburgh can expect rain showers going into Thursday morning, changing to snow from northwest to southeast. Shortly after, a period of freezing rain and sleet will move in, according to meteorologist reports from WTAE.

Snow showers can then be expected overnight and through the day on Friday. A winter storm warning has been issued for Allegheny County from 1 a.m. Thursday to 10 a.m. Friday. The university is monitoring the weather situation for Friday, but it is too early to make a precise call on the best actions to take," said vice president of communications, Gabe Welch.

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Sports Info. and Media student puts in 100% at Duquesne

ANDREW CUMMINGS multimedia editor

Dominic Ferro, a senior Sports Information and Media Student at Duquesne, has taken his experiences and passion for media and applied it to opportunities in Pittsburgh.

"I love the city of Pittsburgh," said Ferro. "For Ferro, Pittsburgh has been an invaluable stop in his career in sports media."

"The Steelers, the Pirates, the Penguins, I love all the teams; I've been a huge fan of the teams since I was a kid," Ferro said.

Originally from York, Pa., Ferro enjoys the "small town feel" of areas like the residential neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.

"I think Pittsburgh's one of those cities that is a big city that holds all these great sports teams, but at the same time it kind of has like that small town feel to it, especially like the neighborhoods and stuff," said Ferro. "I just think it's like a beautiful area and I've always wanted to live in a big city. But being from a small town, I wanted some of that comfort."

After visiting Duquesne as a prospective college, Ferro felt that the Sports Information and Media program would be a "good fit."

During his time at Duquesne, Ferro has taken advantage of opportunities to further his personal and professional growth.

Ferro is involved with multiple campus organizations. He is the co-president of Duquesne Student Television, he works with Duquesne Athletics Productions and has worked at Duquesne University School of Law's library.

Professors like Robert Healy III have helped Ferro discover new interests. In Healy's case, he helped Ferro develop an interest in writing.

"I didn't think I enjoyed writing when I came here. I knew it'd be a large part of my field, but he really helped me develop those critical skills to have a strong control of the English language," Ferro said.

In the fall semester of 2021, Ferro interned with the Pittsburgh Penguins where he worked on video production. Ferro fondly remembers working with Sidney Crosby.

"Meeting Sidney Crosby was definitely one of the coolest experiences I've ever had. I was basically a coworker...which is just unreal and (to) see him face to face, a guy who I've looked up to since I was a kid was just crazy," Ferro said.

"My time at Duquesne has been invaluable...all of the classes have been fulfilling, I've learned a lot...I look at myself before I came to Duquesne and I see how much I've changed and learned and have grown," Ferro said.

After graduation, Ferro plans to work in the media field, preferably for either professional or collegiate athletics.

Ferro is also considering applying to law school, which follows in the footsteps of his father. Ferro's father graduated from Duquesne University School of Law.

"It's definitely a lot of work, but if you find interest in it, it will be enjoyable...I want to do something that I love. I don't want to do something just for money. I want to do something that I truly care about and am excited about every single day that I go to work," Ferro said.

When asked about what brings him hope for the future, Ferro said, "What brings me hope personally, is my work ethic. I know that if I want something, I will work whoever get where I want to. So I know whatever I want to do in life, if I truly put my 100% effort into it, I will be successful."
Eckenrode soaks up return with MBB game

Luke Henne
sports editor

At 94 years of age, Duquesne alumnus Jack Eckenrode finally returned to campus to watch his alma mater play in the refur-bished UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Despite graduating over 70 years ago, Eckenrode never made it a priority to come back and watch the men’s basketball team. That is until this past Saturday, when he attended the Dukes’ game against Saint Louis with his daughter, Susan Rendulic, and a lifelong friend, Chal McCombs.

“Mom and Dad didn’t have much money. Many times, we didn’t have much food,” Eckenrode said. “We behaved ourselves,” Eckenrode said, laughing. “We didn’t smoke and drink.”

When asked what Eckenrode misses most from his time at Duquesne, McCombs said, “We would draw.”

“Everyone loves that,” Eckenrode said. “That was a big part of the reason why Eckenrode never had a chance to return to the Bluff.”

“I was a family man,” Eckenrode said, laughing. “I didn’t have much time.”

Eckenrode and McCombs both graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School, where their friendship blossomed. Both stayed close to home as college came around, with McCombs deciding to attend the University of Pittsburgh and Eckenrode preferring to stay close to home.

“I was a family man,” Eckenrode said, laughing. “I didn’t have much time.”

During his college years, Eckenrode got the opportunity to watch Chuck Cooper, who became the first African American drafted into the National Basketball Association, play during his collegiate career at Duquesne. Cooper’s time with the Dukes spanned the entire length of Eckenrode’s college tenure.

Cooper, whose legacy is now preserved within the arena’s name, left a palpable impact on the relationship between integration and professional sports. For Eckenrode, however, he couldn’t foresee that history coming. He just enjoyed watching Cooper play basketball.

“I knew he was a good player, and we enjoyed watching him, but that part of it never entered my mind,” Eckenrode said. The way of life in Eckenrode’s time in college drastically differs from the present landscape.

“Stories are not the same,” Eckenrode said. “You could have a summer job and afford it [college].”

“Having a friendship that saw one member hail from Pitt and the other Duquesne reignited the debate surrounding whether the two programs should play one another on an annual basis.”

Eckenrode and McCombs are advocates of the idea, ultimately hoping that all of the region’s big-name programs, including schools like West Virginia and Penn State, can find a way to schedule one another in the future.

“It would draw. They should do it. I miss it,” Eckenrode said. “It’s the same with WVU. They should play Pitt. It doesn’t have to be football, but basketball, they could still do that.

“And Duquesne could play WVU. I know they may not do real good, but still, it would draw.”

As a fan of a Duquesne program that’s been starved of postseason recognition and national prominence for so long, Eckenrode hopes he can witness that return to glory and national respect.

“It doesn’t matter whether that comes in the form of a bid to the NCAA Tournament (the Dukes last appeared in the event in 1977) or the National Invitation Tournament (the Dukes won the event in 1955 and last appeared in the event in 2009).”

“I would love to see that. I don’t know why they don’t recruit a little better so they can go [to a postseason tournament],” Eckenrode said. “The NIT, we looked forward to that every year. It was nice. It was a big deal to go to the NIT.”

Eckenrode, who was a member of the Gamma Phi fraternity, reminisced about the memories he made during his active involvement.

“I used to get tickets for my buddies from Pitt and Carnegie Mellon and W&J [Washington & Jefferson], and they’d give me tickets so that I could go to their events,” Eckenrode said.

Before sitting back to watch his first game at the fieldhouse, Eckenrode offered a piece of advice to students, both present and future, in order to help them make the most of their tenure at Duquesne.

“It would tell them to do what I did,” Eckenrode said. “The fraternity was very active in activities within the school, like dances and things like that.

“If you’re not doing that [regularly getting involved in on-campus student organizations], you’re missing out on a lot of good activities.”
MBB falls to Richmond, drops sixth straight

BRENTARO YAMANE
layout editor

After the Duquesne men's basketball team lost its final five games in January, February afforded the squad with the opportunity to get back on a winning track heading into the season's final stretch.

Entering Tuesday night's home contest against Richmond, the Spiders had won their previous three Atlantic 10 Conference road games (at Fordham, La Salle and Rhode Island). That provided the Dukes with a chance to snap Richmond's streak.

Unfortunately, for Duquesne, things did not work out in its favor.

The Spiders fell behind early on the road but managed to come back and pull out a 74-57 win at the UPMC Coop Fieldhouse. Although the Spiders committed 14 turnovers, they were able to make their shots. They were 13-of-24 (54.2%) from 3-point range and 26-of-30 (86.7%) overall.

One of the obstacles that Duquesne has had a tough time overcoming this season is keeping a lead.

Despite holding an advantage that was as large as nine points (26-17) during the first half, the Dukes let the Spiders creep back into the game. With just over two minutes remaining in the half, Duquesne watched that nine-point edge turn into a two-point deficit when Richmond's Jacob Gilyard hit a 3-pointer at the 1:26 mark to make the score 31-29 and put the game out of reach entirely. Richmond's largest lead was by 22 points (60-38) and put the game out of reach entirely. Richmond's largest lead was by 22 points (60-38) and put the game out of reach entirely.

Duquesne's six game, it has only averaged 55.8 points per game. Head Coach Keith Dambrot knows that the teams needs to score more points and hinted that the Dukes might need to add a player or two to provide more of a scoring surge.

"We got to keep developing guys. There's no question about that, but we have to add to what we have. We clearly don't have enough, right?" Dambrot said. "So clearly we don't have enough because [Richmond] was the same team that we beat last year in the [A-10] tournament. Exactly the same team, right?

"And we played pretty close with them most of the time we played them, you know, but tonight we played pretty good for only 16, 18 minutes."

With the Dukes having dropped their sixth in a row, the focus for Dambrot is shifting toward finding a way to get his players to overcome the adversity that they are dealing with.

"I thought we were better than this. Honestly, I really did," Dambrot said. "But we've had a lot of stuff that happened. And I think (with) a lot of stuff, the mentality has affected us. When you lose as many of those close games as we lost in the way we lost them, emotionally, that's hard now."

After Tuesday's night game, Dambrot now has a record of 71-60 (542) during his Duquesne tenure. Although it seems that this season has been a roller coaster, Dambrot continues to enjoy his job and is determined to find a way to get the program back to a position in which it can win games on a consistent basis.

"The school's been great," Dambrot said. "They've been good to me. They understand what we're trying to do, what we're trying to accomplish. That's all you can ever ask for from the people you work for."

"Believe me, it's not easy for them. They can get skittish. I get it. I wouldn't even blame them, to be honest with you. I get it. That's what this world is."

Duquesne — currently 1-6 in A-10 action and 6-13 overall — will have a chance to break its losing streak on Saturday, when it travels to Richmond, Va., to take on VCU.

While things are looking tough for the team at the moment, Dambrot is committed to ensuring that the Dukes will continue to progress and refrain from relenting before the conference tournament begins in just over a month.

"Don't quit because, again, we all know this," Dambrot said. "We've all been through tough times, so you better learn, better learn how to handle them for the rest of your life because there's going to be another one and another one."

WBB handles La Salle, downed by Dayton

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team was busy with a pair of Atlantic 10 Conference games this week, hosting La Salle on Sunday before traveling to Dayton on Wednesday.

Sunday was a day of milestones for Duquesne's Libby Bazelak. The graduate student from Kettering, Ohio, notched a winning double-double against Richmond, the Spiders a 35-32 advantage.

With game highs in both points (18) and rebounds (12), Burton finished the 17-point victory with a double-double.

At the beginning of the second half, it looked like Duquesne would stick around, as Tre Williams committed a layup just 19 seconds into the half to bring the deficit down to a single point.

Aftre that scoring play, however, the Spiders used a 22-2 run that was not halted until the 11:24 mark to make the score 57-36 and put the game out of reach entirely. Richmond's largest lead was by 22 points (60-38) at the 10:57 mark of the second half.

In Duquesne's past five games, it has only averaged 55.8 points per game. Head Coach Keith Dambrot knows that the teams needs to score more points and hinted that the Dukes might need to add a player or two to provide more of a scoring surge.

"We needed to catch it in triple threat and make it move, attack space with a purpose," Burt said. "We needed to catch it in triple threat and make it move, attack space with a purpose and find the next pass."

As Bazelak approached her triple-double, a murmur came over a restless crowd each time she possessed the ball. Her teammates were eager to pass it back to her for the achievement.

A really tight, and smile while she's doing it. She loves to get up in you and play you same way," Burt said, laughing.

The ball movement also separated the two teams, with La Salle committing 22 assists (compared to nine from La Salle).

A glaring flaw in the Dukes' performance against Richmond, the Spiders had won their previous three Atlantic 10 Conference road games (at Fordham, La Salle and Rhode Island) and put the game out of reach entirely. Richmond's largest lead was by 22 points (60-38) and put the game out of reach entirely.

"We had a really great game today," Burt said. "We defended probably the best we have all year. Our goal was to hold them to 59 on the defensive end."

The victory allowed Duquesne to take a three-game winning streak — something the team had accomplished just one other time so far this season — into Wednesday's game.

It briefly seemed like the Dukes would be able to shock the Flyers, who entered the game flashing a 16-5 record. Burt's continuous harping on the team's defensive performance was paying dividends early.

The Dukes held a 30-25 halftime lead and kept their five-point advantage entering the final quarter. However, the lineup ran out of gas, with only two players coming off of the bench in the entire game.

Dayton outscored Duquesne 17-6 in the final frame, with the Dukes failing to score in the final 3:43.

Dayton kept its offense hot, penetrating a tired defense on route to a 60-54 victory that saw the Flyers consistently cash in on jump shots and layups.

A glaring flaw in the Dukes' performance came on the boards. They were outrebound- ed 47-24, which led to them being outscored 32-20 in the paint and 15-0 on second-chance points.

Duquesne will look to avenge the loss on Saturday afternoon, when it hosts Fordham.
Duquesne student writes composition for band festival

Isabella Abbott
staff writer

Last Saturday afternoon, Duquesne Composition for Media major and horn player, Elizabeth Pompa, had her new composition, “Clepsydra,” performed during the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) festival in the Puffers Center Ballroom.

Pompa said she was honored when her professor and conductor, Dr. James Gourlay, gave her the opportunity to have a live concert band perform her piece twice this year: once by post-secondary students and then again by high school students. It was played during the Duquesne University symphony band back in November, and during the Jan. 29 PMEA concert last weekend.

Gourlay is a leading performer, composition, “Clepsydra,” performed her piece twice this year: once by post-secondary students and then again by high school students. It was played during the Duquesne University symphony band back in November, and during the Jan. 29 PMEA concert last weekend.

Gourlay said he always likes to encourage students to express themselves musically, which is why he motivated Pompa to share her music with him.

“When I looked at Elizabeth’s music,” Gourlay said, “I immediately realized that she has enormous talent as a composer and a truly unique musical voice.”

The approximately seven-minute-long piece, consisting of 205 measures, was written in a week by Pompa back in August 2021. Even though editing for the composition was tedious, she said that the most challenging part is sitting down and “going with it.”

Pompa said she had many moments in her life where she wanted to give up and even took a break from music, not writing for a while and not wanting to go to college to pursue it, but she felt that it was something she had to do.

“I guess it’s just what I was born to do,” Pompa said.

Pompa started playing instruments at the young age of six and, during grades six through eight, taught herself a variety of different instruments: clarinet, trombone, French horn and flute. At 19, she now plays horn in the wind symphony orchestra, has written seven full compositions and has over 100 unfinished future projects.

“Sometimes,” Pompa said, “I come up with ideas that I could really use for one special piece.” And one of those special pieces was “Clepsydra.”

“Clepsydra,” or water clock, is an ancient time-measuring device worked by the gradual flow of water into or out of a vessel, according to Pompa.

This clock was the most accurate rate of timekeeping for millennia, which made for the perfect piece of her career since the dripping of the water conveyed the notes throughout the composition. Thus, writing the piece worked like clockwork for Pompa.

Although this piece started without a title and had parts missing until September, Pompa was inspired by the sound of a metronome making the “tick-tock” sound that brought her to the idea of a clock. And, since she didn’t want her piece to simply be named “clock,” she came to find the unique title of “Clepsydra.”

“I wanted a fancier word than clock,” Pompa said.

Pompa’s newly written composition, “Wolf Hunt,” is five minutes long and will be conducted by Gourlay on Tuesday, April 12, the composition will be performed in the Power Center Ballroom by the Duquesne University Symphony Band.

At last week’s PMEA program, local high school musicians had a day and a half to learn the music which Pompa said they did remarkably well. And, after the festival finished, students came up to Pompa praising her work, leaving the Duquesne artist gleaming and ecstatic for her next performances.

Gourlay said he’s excited to see Pompa’s career as well.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing her as she develops as a composer and look forward to programming more of her work,” he said.

Pompa’s newly written composition, “Wolf Hunt,” is five minutes long and will be conducted by Gourlay on Tuesday, April 12, the composition will be performed in the Power Center Ballroom by the Duquesne University Symphony Band.

Getting a head-start on her future career, Pompa was commissioned for the PMEA festival.

COURTESY OF JOSEPH PHILIPPI

A multi-talented student, Pompa has an equal fascination with writing and playing music.

Aquarius
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Funn # foreseeable

Pisces
Am I funny?
(How about now?)

Aries
At what point do we decide
care or is it cool again.
Let’s try it say it with me: hashtag “swag.”

Taurus
Are you there yet?

Gemini
My dog saw his shadow,
can I go home now?

Cancer
You’re charming, in a bags
under the ey, dye-dyed
sweatshirt, talks out-of
breath kind of way.

Leo
Does your cat actually like
me or am I just not talking
right now?

Virgo
Emotional core: swirling
tear drops around your
kitchen table <3

Libra
Incoming subliminal mes-
gage: Dye your hair dye
your hair dye your hair.

Scorpio
My Giant Eagle outfits are
sometimes cuter than when
I actually go out.

Sagittarius
You can’t gatekeep Van
Gogh!

Capricorn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Funn # foreseeable

Prep # foreseeable

...
Hello Hollywood and hello romance! Joining with Pittsburgh Cultural Trust through PNC’s “Broadway to Pittsburgh,” Pretty Woman the Musical makes its first pitstop at the Benedum Center following the show’s national tour.

Bringing the iconic 90s rom-com to the stage, Pretty Woman encapsulates the vigorous energy of Vivian Ward, a hooker look-a-like for a life of normalcy, and Edward Lewis, a businessman who takes a leap of faith to open his heart beyond his workload. Played by up-and-coming actress Olivia Valli and Tony Award-winning actor Adam Pascal, respectively, the duo push to grow into the best versions of themselves — quiks and all.

The show begins with a sun-setombre backdrop, characters running around the Boulevard without a care. Vivian, who just squabbled with her best friend Kit De Luca over monetary deadlines, tries to seduce Edward for rent money. When Edward surprises her with a 6-day offer that she can’t refuse, Vivian finds herself stuck between keeping their relationship business-casual and longing for something more.

The lyricism of the musical was witty enough to foreshadow parts of the show, which was disguised well enough for the audience not to catch onto the juxtaposition between a seemingly unimportant park bench and the dreamy symbolism of a “white horse” to save the day.

Pretty Woman (4 of 6) by wikimedia commons

The music itself reflected the pop scene of the 80s: very flashy, bely and improvisational as any good Madonna or Whitney Houston moment would be. Each song was individually memora-

ble and unique — no number seemed to outshine the other.

The musical adaptation had humorous side-plots displayed well, such as Edward being afraid of heights or the bellhop boy obsessing over Vivian when Edward wasn’t looking. The cheesy, slapstick nature of the acting had the whole audience whispering and grinning to one another.

With sets ranging from the backstreets of Hollywood to preppy clothing stores and a fancy hotel, I found it clever that the technical production team used a pulley-system for their scene changes for a quick, efficient transition to the next whacky moment the characters go through. Blackouts were sudden and expertly timed to switch to the next whimsical encounter between the main characters.

Though small, the ensemble was featured graciously in the show, giving solo opportunities, costume changes and new character arcs through out. Because of this consistent involvement, it became a little game to see which performer would take on what new role next. As soon as the lights changed for bows, the first round of ensemble characters got a standing ovation before a single character moved downstream.

As a final encore, the crowd was invited to sing and clap along to the title’s namesake: “Pretty Woman” by Roy Orbison. While this song was stuck in my head even before walking into the Benedum Center, I was happy to finally hear it to finalize the story.

I found myself giggling in fits at almost every painfully awkward encounter of the show, making me feel as though I was experiencing each scene for myself.

Pretty Woman is running Feb. 1-6. Catch the remaining shows at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday) and 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. The Center for Student Involvement is offering discounted tickets to Duquesne students for $30 per person for Feb. 5 at 8 p.m., though regular-priced tick-

Proof of vaccination and identification is required at entry. Masks are required during the entirety of the performance.

Dreamy film Licorice Pizza open for praise, critiques

Funny, charming and nostalgic is the best way to describe Licorice Pizza, directed and written by Paul Thomas Anderson, making it his first film since 2017’s Phantom Thread.

The film released in select theaters on Nov. 26, 2021 and was followed by a nationwide release on Dec. 25, 2021. The film stars Alana Haim and Cooper Hoffman, with Licorice Pizza being both of their feature film debuts.

Haim especially shines in the film as she plays Alana Kane, a 25-year-old who starts off working for a photography company before she ends up working as a volunteer for a mayoral campaign. Haim makes sure she brings undeniable charm and likeability to her character, while also portraying the lost and confusing time that is your mid-20s perfectly.

Hoffman also gives a great first performance, playing a 15-year-old Gary Valentine who is a young actor and businessman who falls in love with Alana. Hoffman brings charm to his character as well as a strong sense of confidence. Haim and Hoffman both received Golden Globe nominations for their performances.

The film also stars big name actors Bradley Cooper, Sean Penn and Tom Waits, all who play minor characters who give Alana and Gary trouble throughout the film. Cooper’s character, named Jon Peters, a real life movie producer, buys a waterbed from Gary’s waterbed business and threatens to kill Gary if he messes up the waterbed. Sean Penn plays Jack Holden, a character based on William Holden, who is romantically interfered in Alana, making Gary jealous.

The film’s early 1970s setting in San Fernando, California creates a dreamy atmosphere for viewers, and looks stunning while doing it. There are shots of small stores in California, along with some shots of the rolling hills of California that are simply breathtaking. The camera movement helps with the setting too, as it mostly stays static throughout the film, forcing viewers to see every aspect of the western setting.

Anderson wrote and directed the film, and was co-cinematographer with Michael Bauman, who has worked on films such as Iron Man, Nightcrawler, Training Day and more on the film. Anderson’s writing and direction shines through, as all of the dialogue sounds natural and is genuinely funny. The cinematography done by Anderson and Bauman also radiates as the film is truly beautiful and has a dreamy look to it, while also being realistic of what the 1970s were to many.

While the film has received some criticism for the 10-year age gap between Alana and Gary, the characters’ actions make it clear that the two are just friends. Although she does question if it is weird for her to hangout with a 15-year-old, Gary is obviously into Alana, making clear points to make her jealous and to show off to her.

“There’s no line that’s crossed, and there’s nothing but the right inten-

The two do share a kiss at the end, and the ending leaves the viewer wondering if Gary and Alana are entering a relationship, which many would see as crossing a line. The film gives younger audiences a great glimpse of the 1970s ugliness like homophobia, the 1973 oil crisis and misogyny included. While the age gap can be a turnoff for audiences, the film serves as a coming-of-age story for both Gary and Alana, and leaves audiences happy and wanting more.
An inspiration for fans of intellectualism: Who is Amy Schneider?

Ever since I can remember, “Jeopardy!” has been a huge part of my life. Every weekday, my mother, sister and I would get ready to eat dinner during “ABC World News Tonight with David Muir,” and switch channels quickly while eating to watch Alex Trebek welcome us to another episode of unmatched intellectualism.

A lot of things on “Jeopardy!” have been changing these last few months, not just hosts, but many winners, as well. And then came along Amy Schneider, who made a historic run of 40 games.

Unfortunately, the engineer-manager’s run came to an end on Jan. 26, when she bet too high in the final Jeopardy! and lost, gracefully, might I add, to Rhone Talsma. He finished in first with $29,600, while Schneider finished in second with $19,600.

While the shocking end to Schneider’s run is absolutely devastating to “Jeopardy!” fans around the country, her legacy and impact on the LGBTQ+ community and beyond outweighs the despondency.

Schneider, aside from historically surpassing James Holzhauer and Matt Amodio to sit behind Ken Jennings with most consecutive wins under her belt, is also an openly transgender woman. The first to make it to these high ranks, and also to qualify for the “Jeopardy!” Tournament of Champions.

She is a role model for women, trans women and everyone in between — not to mention she got a question about Oliva Rodrigo correct. Iconic!

But besides her incredible knowledge of modern pop music, what I, and many others, loved about Schneider was that she was able to both call attention to, and cast aside, her transness. We were always aware of it, and she made it known, but it was secondary to the game — she was unapologetically herself, and let her smarts do the talking.

Schneider has said that she initially downplayed being transgender on the show because she didn’t want it to be exclusively what she was.

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Interestingly 64 years old, according to an Ad Age report. Schneider’s run has also opened the gates for the country’s older, more conservative population to see someone unlike themselves at the forefront of popular media.

It shows that gender non-conformity isn’t something to be afraid of or angry at, because Schneider is just like every other contestant. Dressed in her signature loose curls and necklace of pearls each episode, she competed — and won — with humility, not calling attention to her transness.

Not only that, but her personality shined each time Ken would speak with her after the first commercial break of each episode. One of which, she admitted her competition hype song is “Lose Yourself” by Eminem.

She is charismatic, witty and full of fun stories anyone can relate to, besides being an unbelievably intelligent “Jeopardy!” contestant. I can only wish.

Although the legendary game show and legendary contestant may not make a seismic shift in our culture often stuck in its ways about transgender individuals, Schneider’s run taught us all a few things, whether part of the LGBTQ+ community or not.

We’re always excited to learn about new things on the show, whether it’s edible rhyme time, hodgepodge, the Renaissance or 19th-century composers.

But Amy Schneider shows us you can learn from those around you, no matter who they are, they look like, or what they believe. Everyone has an equal right to know. 

Zoe Stratos

opinions editor

OPIIONS
Diversifying Democracy: Appointing a new justice

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff columnist

Last week, Justice Stephen Breyer announced that he would retire from the Supreme Court, allowing President Joe Biden to nominate a new Supreme Court justice. Breyer’s decision to retire allows (potentially) the liberals to maintain a seat in an already conservative-leaning Supreme Court.

Breyer concluded his retirement press conference on a usual note. He told a country that has been steadily regressing due to partisan divisions and overwhelming culture wars that he is optimistic that our country is going to be “all right.” He is correct. Even when we stumble, our nation’s true resilience relies on our diversity.

Despite a world where everything is hyper-partisan and seeded with roots of misinformation and ill intentions, this nomination is set up to be less eventful than previous nominations.

The conservative side of politics have already started their talking points. They are making loud — and not-so-subtly racist — remarks that Biden only looking at Black, female candidates is somehow not democratic. They will find creative ways to once again turn liberal politics into a direct threat to the ever-so-struggling plight of the white man.

It is also worth noting that overrated conservative folk hero Ron Johnson also made a campaign pledge to nominate the court’s first female justice. A promise he fulfilled with the appointment of Sandra Day O’Connor.

Despite Breyer’s tie-breaking vote in the Senate. If party lines hold-up as expected, this nomination process will likely mirror that of fellow retiring tenure: unevenful with an overstretching, yet feeble attempt to please liberal conservative voices.

As unimpressive as it appears, this will likely be the correct choice for the nation.

The appointment is set up as one of the least democratic institutions of the American republic. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. They are nominated. The route to a nomination is painfully unclear, allowing for too much freedom on both sides of the aisle and providing ample opportunity for the hyper-partisans to fully display the ridiculousness and hollowness of the nomination process.

We have witnessed examples of this in recent history.

After the passing of one of the best players to the American apocalypse, Justice Antonin Scalia, during the Obama administration, the Republican-led Senate guided by grave digger of democracy, Mitch McConnell, refused to allow the properly qualified and politically moderate nomination of Merrick Garland even to go to a vote.

The lack of constitutional guidance has allowed Republicans to make up their own rules, ignoring precedent and using diversion tactics to hijack the process. The non-popular vote winner Donald Trump would take office and appoint three Supreme Court justices, allowing alleged sexual-assaulter and very under-qualified Brett Kavanaugh. He would be the first of this nation’s in order to placate the increasingly sensitive ego of white men. Picking from a pool of qualified Black women to give a voice to a severely under-represented portion of our population is long overdue.

“Picking the best candidate regardless of race” is a disingenuous statement, mostly being spewed by people in power — usually white, and male...and rich. One’s background is an essential part of any resume. There have been a plethora of studies that show a direct correlation to an ethnically and gender diverse staff to the success of a company.

We are strongest when listening to voices and ideas that are not aware of. The secret to America’s success — which tends to get lost with all the loud voices interrupting our every thought at every moment — is our ability to come together. Every notable monumental achievement the U.S. has experienced occurred because of our ability to embrace our uniqueness and accept and value everyone in this country.

We accomplish very little when we manufacture and feed divergence.

The strength of this country relies on our ability to be diverse. Diversity leads to compromise. Compromise leads to growth. Growth leads to success.

Tom Brady’s scandal doesn’t outweigh his greatness

AFTER completing one of the most impressive careers in National Football League history, quarterback Tom Brady called it quits after 22 seasons when he announced his retirement on Tuesday. Despite being littered with some controversy, his career is still one of the greatest, if not the greatest professional sports career the world has ever seen. And, quite frankly, it’s tough to say that Brady’s shortcomings overshadow the dominance of his two-plus-decade tenure in the NFL.


There’s plenty more accolades for the former member of the New England Patriots (28 seasons, six Super Bowl victories) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers (two seasons, one Super Bowl victory), but listing any more would be making an already apparent notion: no one has had this type of career.

Again, however, that prominence hasn’t come without cost. Brady’s Patriots were at the center of the “Spygate” incident on Sept. 9, 2007, in which members of the organization were punished for videotaping signals from the New York Jets’ defensive coaching staff.

In that same season, the Patriots completed a perfect 16-0 regular season. However, they were knocked off by the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII.

Perhaps, at least for those who try to discount New England’s dominance since the turn of the century, justice was served.

Nearly a decade later, Brady found himself tangled up in the “DeflateGate” incident. During the AFC Championship Game on Jan. 18, Brady was found to have deflated game-used footballs deflated. In that victory, the Patriots dismantled the Indianapolis Colts 45-7 before beating the Seattle Seahawks two weeks later in Super Bowl XLIX.

Was discipline appropriate? Yes. Did it make a difference? Probably not.

The Patriots won by 38 points. Is it realistic to think that non-deflated footballs would’ve caused the Indianapolis Colts score an additional six times? No, it’s not.

Although his punishment, which came in the form of a four-game suspension, was to be implemented at the start of the 2015 regular season, Brady appealed and won.

However, the suspension was reinstated in 2016, forcing him to miss the first four games of that season. The Patriots went 3-1 in his absence. How did Brady respond once he returned to action?

In the final 12 games of that regular season, the Patriots won 11, beating opponents by an average of 14.8 points per game in that stretch.

Come playoff time, the Patriots again found themselves in Super Bowl LI against the Atlanta Falcons. With New England trailing 28-3 in the third quarter, Brady found a way to lead his Patriots back to what has become the norm, winning Super Bowl history, and the Patriots won 34-28 in overtime.

The historic performance helped Brady earn one of his five Super Bowl MVP awards.

Talk about the ultimate revenge. Six Super Bowl victories, all by Brady who was reprimanded for made sense. However, something so minimal should not outweigh a career this deserves?

Brady minutes earlier to make it 27-3, Brady led the Buccaneers all the way back “unfair” or “not right” to specifically look for a Black woman. They will use terms like “the most” qualified or “best for the job.”

The roots of these arguments are hypocritical, ridiculous and take away from the success of that of this nation in order to placate the increasingly sensitive ego of white men. Picking from a pool of qualified Black women to give a voice to a severely under-represented portion of our population is long overdue.

“Picking the best candidate regardless of race” is a disingenuous statement, mostly being spewed by people in power — usually white, and male...and rich. One’s background is an essential part of any resume. There have been a plethora of studies that show a direct correlation to an ethnically and gender diverse staff to the success of a company.

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After 22 seasons in the NFL, seven-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady will no longer step foot on a field as a quarterback after announcing his retirement.

Trailing the Los Angeles Rams 27-3 in the third quarter of Tampa Bay’s NFC Divisional Round post-season game on Jan. 23, Brady pulled off what would be unthinkable for most players and teams. For him, especially considering the one-bad-call-in-Super-Bowl-LII, it felt like an expectation that he would lead a comeback.

Brady led the Buccaneers all the way back from 24 points down to even the score at 27 with 42 seconds left in the game. A 53-yard touchdown throw from Brady minutes earlier to make it 27-20 made one thing very apparent: Brady still had plenty left in the tank.

However, the Rams — who will compete in Super Bowl LVI at their own SoFi Stadium on Feb. 13 — quickly marched down the field and used a 3-yard touchdown as time expired to fend off Brady and Tampa Bay’s monstrous comeback.

Little did we know that this would be the last time Brady the player ever walked off of a football field.

In Pittsburgh, it might be fairly controversial to take such a stance. Regardless, I feel no shame in saying that I will always be appreciative of what Brady did for the game of football.

The strength of this country relies on our ability to be diverse. Diversity leads to compromise. Compromise leads to growth. Growth leads to success.
Founder’s Week is officially underway, and this year there is greater significance behind the celebration. In addition to celebrating our school’s founders, Duquesne is participating in a nation-wide acknowledgment of the 150-year anniversary of the U.S. Spiritan Congregation.

Duquesne plays a special part in this event as the only school of higher education still under the Spiritans’ name in the U.S. Founder’s Week is just the beginning of a larger congratulatory celebration. The Spiritans’ 150th anniversary began in January 2022, with the start of the new liturgical year, and it will continue through Pentecost of next year (May 28, 2023). For 150 years in the U.S., the Spiritans have shared their mission through educational and pastoral ministry. Tom White, Duquesne University’s archivist and curator of special collections, is the resident Spiritan historian for Duquesne.

At the Spiritans’ arrival in 1870s Pittsburgh, White said, “you had an increasing number of Catholic immigrants.” As the immigrant population grew, the Catholic Church needed assistance creating a school for the children of new immigrant families. “They wanted something that could serve the immediate needs of the community here [in Pittsburgh],” White said. The founding Spiritans, led by the Rev. Joseph Strub, began the school “on a shoe-string,” White said. They had very little resources at their beginning, and not many students, either. The Spiritans’ educational facility moved locations from the top floor of a bakery on Wiley Avenue to the structure of Old Main at the crest of the Bluff, White said, where the Spiritan fathers built the bricks themselves.

Since their arrival in the U.S., the Spiritans have maintained their ministerial values. According to White, the priests in administrative, teaching and coaching positions did anything they could to assist students in coming to Duquesne. “They [Spiritans] would always find a way for those students to get here,” White said. Students would sometimes shovel snow or cut the grass if they were unable to pay tuition for a semester.

Today, the Provincial of the U.S. Spiritan Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Rev. Donald McEachin, shared the ways in which the Spiritans continue their ministry. “The idea of service to marginalized populations is certainly one of our focal points in all of our educational facilities,” McEachin said.

McEachin served as Duquesne University Chaplain in the 1990s, and he spoke about the unique opportunities students have to participate in meaningful ministry while they attend this Catholic university.

“One of the principle interests that we have at Duquesne is fostering a sense of world vision in the students that come to Duquesne and a sense of community service,” McEachin said.

Just as the Spiritans set out to educate an underserved population in the 1870s, Duquesne ensures that students today lead in a way that serves everyone in the community. This year, the Spiritans’ anniversary follows the theme of “Led by the Spirit where the need is greatest,” which speaks to their work nationally as well as internationally.

The Rev. Lazarus Langbiir is an administrative assistant at the U.S. Spiritans’ headquarters in Bethel Park. Langbiir shared how the Spiritans are also closely involved elsewhere in Pittsburgh. “One of our charism is to be available, always available, to the church,” Langbiir said, “to go to where the need is the greatest, where the church finds it difficult to get workers or wherever the church needs us.”

When the weather gets warmer, Adda is looking forward to hosting more regular events in its outdoor space at the North Side location. Among Adda’s most popular events are High Tea and Sunday Showcases. High Tea is held during the summer and described by Seaman to be like a traditional High Tea. The event features multiple courses of homemade bite-size delicacies served alongside specialty beverages. “It’s just a really fun opportunity for us to be able to kind of do something out of the ordinary,” Seaman said. “[It] gives our staff the opportunity to work and play around with some great teas and new drinks. And it’s really popular. We sell out consistently each year for the whole season.”

High Teas at Adda are a great destination for groups of friends, dates or even college students giving their parents a city tour. The 2022 schedule for High Teas will be up on their website by the end of February.

Sunday Showcases are a weekly opportunity to highlight local artists. Adda has featured jazz and acoustic musicians, but they also do poetry readings and art gallery exhibits. “I think what we really love at Adda is an emphasis on local craftsmen, local artists, local musicians, local art, all that great stuff,” Seaman said.

When a local business reaches out about featuring in-store, Adda’s team is always willing to include and encourage new creators. “We are always open for new ideas and always love having programming events scheduled,” said Seaman.

Adda is known for its interesting drink menu. The “fun and playful” drink menu, Seaman said, is created by Adda’s in-house beverage manager. Adda is also influenced by Indian culture, which has inspired a tea menu more than most other coffee shops in the area.

Adda shuffles through an interesting seasonal menu. Their featured drinks in February include a Sweetheart latte and a Twin Flame latte that combine flavorful tea and coffee flavors. “We love getting creative with things as well for different drinks specials and non-alcoholic options for people,” Seaman said.

The new Downtown location will be the closest one to Duquesne’s campus, and Seaman is looking forward to the possibilities of welcoming current Adda customers and newcomers alike. “It’s going to be a really beautiful space with all types of great conveniences for people who live and work in Downtown, as well as a lot of our awesome drinks menu that everyone’s come to expect from that as well,” Seaman said.
The Duquesne Duke

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