

sports	a & e	opinions	features
WLAX beats GW	"Singing gently" with the School of Music	Musk breaks the internet	Law school to professional wrestling
Dukes win third in a row.	Duquesne choirs perform at Trinity Cathedral this Saturday.	Super rich troll looks to purchase Twitter.	Duquesne student gets deal from WWE.
PAGE 3	PAGE 4	PAGE 5	PAGE 6



Undergrad students show off research

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff writer

After two years of being virtual, the Charles Dougherty Ballroom was filled with 145 projects from undergraduate students sharing their research and scholarship on Wednesday, April 20.

Students representing all schools at Duquesne University were present at the 14th annual Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium (URSS) hosted by the Office of Research and Innovation.

The event filled the ballroom with a wide range of topics from "A Computational Study of the Behavior of a Model Squaramide Catalyst System" to "Anxiety Levels in Relation to Climate Change in Undergraduates." The sporadic placement of the poster was intentional to encourage cross disciplinary collaboration.

According to Mary McConnell, Associate Director of Student Research and Grants Officer in the Office of Research and Innovations, this year during the hybrid event, students and faculty can see all of the posters with accompanying videos of the students explaining their projects.

"[The videos] will be featured Monday through Friday of this week, but honestly, it will become an archive and then students can reference this for a long time and be able to show family, friend, or prospective employers," McConnell said.

The event was open to the public at 8:30 a.m. where spectators could engage with students, giving the presenters presentation experience as well as working on

see URSS— page 2

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Symphony of Diversity, playing with a purpose



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

The Iowa State University Chamber String Orchestra performed *Symphony of Diversity: A Thousand Thunderbolts*, which combined spoken word and music.

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

The orchestral music swelled with intensity and emotion as photos of historical musical figures were shown behind the performers. The traumas of the past, the expression of overcoming great challenges and struggles were represented through both spoken word and musical pieces during the *Symphony of Diversity: A Thousand Thunderbolts*, performed by the Chamber String Orchestra of Iowa State University.

Classical musicians have historically been eurocentric, however this concert brought black classical artists to center stage to receive the recognition. This unique performance was held in the PNC Recital Hall on Wednesday April 20, and was led by Jonathan Govias, conductor of the Iowa State chamber string orchestra. The show honored the victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for its 100th anniversary — showcasing the struggles of Black Americans in the United States with spoken word and Black classical compositions.

"I am not just a musician, I am a citizen. I advocate for music but also am an advocate for my fellow man, and this is as much

a part of my mission as it is to teach music like Beethoven," Govias said. "To bring it to the students here, I hope they walk away with the sense that they are empowered as musicians and citizens to affect change."

The reflection of the music and speakers showcased 100 years worth of suffering for Black Americans in the United States. Several classical composers and musicians such as Dorothy Rudd Moore, Jessie Montgomery, Oscar Peterson, Florence Price and George Walker were represented. Their pictures were shown throughout the duration of the show in conjunction with the musical piece they created.

Laced in between musical compositions, spoken word portions captured the audience by reiterating ideas and experiences from the Black civil rights movement. Ida B. Wells, Frances Ellen Watkins and B.C. Franklin all brought to life those ideals both from the past and into the current day.

Words from Wells, an activist during the anti-lynching crusade in the U.S., were expressed via a pre-recorded video. According to Wells, in marking the 30 years of its existence, the inhumane butchering of more than 10,000

men, women and children by shooting, drowning, hanging and burying them alive showcased the example of lynching mania that spread through the north and midwest.

"The first statute of this law was written in the blood of thousands of brave men who thought that if a government was good enough to create kinship it was strong enough to protect it. The national law was short-lived and illusory. There was an unwritten law that justified any means to resist it," Wells said.

Wells focused on the idea of the unwritten law, in which lynching, the persecution of Black Americans, and other forms of inhumane conduct was permitted. It was a time in which little was done to aid those who were being oppressed, and the narrative of the majority progressed. This left one class of individuals to be at the mercy of another.

Another speaker expressed the words of Franklin, known for his work defending the survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Franklin described his experience as the lull before the storm and told a personal narrative about a mob that came

to his town.

"The sounds from the thousands and thousands of guns were deafening. I thought of another saying, 'he saved those but himself he cannot save.' It seems so applicable to my race. No, we were unable to save ourselves. The sidewalks were covered with burning turpentine balls, I knew all too well where they came from. I paused and waited for a time to escape," Franklin said.

What began as a normal day ended in travesty. It began with the sound of bullets and was later followed by fire. Franklin sought shelter at his office, to which he later had to escape. He was surrounded by buildings that were set ablaze and chaos. The music that followed in the program reflected the chaos that Franklin experienced as well as the slowing of time expressed in his statement 'during that day I lived 1000 years.'

Benjamin Bender, associate professor of music and chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Committee, stressed the importance of representation through music. Prior to the concert Govias visited the

see MUSIC — page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Thursday, April 7-

A male student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after a resident assistant reported that he was smoking marijuana in St. Ann Hall.

Friday, April 8-

An officer was requested to respond to room 302 in the Student Union during an event. According to the report, harassment occurred and threats were made, though the incident is unclear. The officer met with the university administrator who requested them to discuss the incident, and all parties associated were separated. This case is still ongoing.

Sunday, April 10-

A female student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after being found in Des Places Hall with possible alcohol poisoning.

Sunday, April 10-

A non-affiliated male activated a code blue emergency phone for a female with a large knife. The incident occurred in the area of Fisher Hall on Forbes Ave. After police arrived on the scene, the female was placed under arrest for reckless endangerment and terroristic threats.

Sunday, April 10-

An unknown intoxicated male was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and issued a citation for Disorderly Conduct and Harassment after entering a Brotter Hall dorm room he did not have permission to be in.

Tuesday, April 12-

An unknown intoxicated male was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and issued a citation for disorderly conduct and harassment after entering a Brotter Hall dorm room he did not have permission to be in.

Tuesday, April 12-

Students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after drug paraphernalia and false identification cards were found in their Duquesne Towers dorm room.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to Editor-in-Chief Colleen Hammond at hammondc@duq.edu.

Music honored Tulsa Race Massacre victims

see MUSIC — page 1

music history as well as musicology class for the juniors and held discussions that tackled the rationale behind music and diversity.

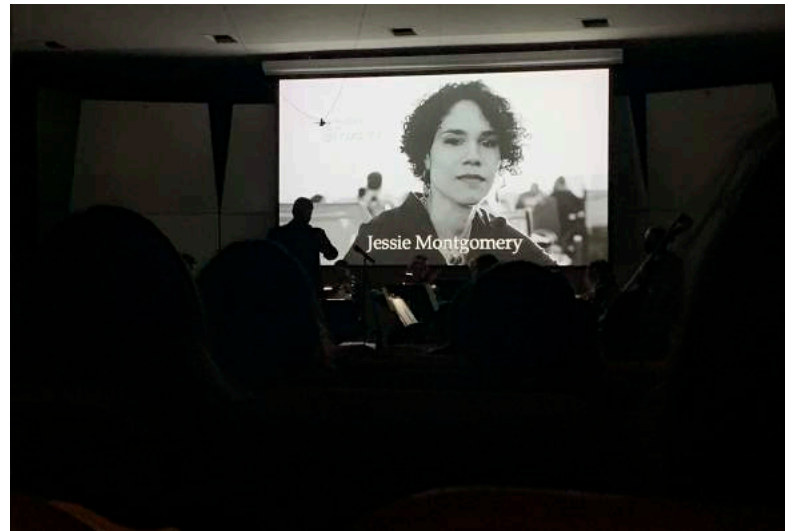
"I think the pairing of the music with the spoken word was really very powerful. It's one thing to read words on a page but it's another to hear them spoken so passionately with meaning by current civil rights activists," Bender said. "To have musical spaces in between with such thoughtful selections and to provoke reflection through music is one of the best things music can do."

The music allowed for expression in the ways words could

not. The spoken word allowed for clarity in remembering the events of the past. Together the two worked in tandem to create a somber, yet unforgettable experience.

Faith Foster, first violinist for the Iowa State Chamber String Orchestra, both played and conducted in the performance. Foster said that music and performances, like the one for Duquesne University, is her way of contributing to movements and issues that society faces today.

"It's not a fun show but an important one," Foster said. "We address uncomfortable topics and then being able to take that emotion that the words generate and put that into the music, that is really special."



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

Jessie Montgomery is an composer, violinist and educator whose compositions focus on language and social justice.

Students present array of projects to their peers

see URSS — page 1

their "elevator pitch." Throughout the day, 12 oral presentations were selected by a peer selection committee from the honors college. The oral presentations were 15 minutes long and covered a diverse set of topics.

"We do try to encourage them to select from a variety of disciplines because we don't just have one discipline represented in our organizations, thus the peer selection committee," McConnell said.

The variety of presentations centered around the university, Pittsburgh and current social events.

Avishek Acharya, an undergrad history major, presented the destruction of the lower Hill District in the late '60s. His research highlighted the displacement of over 8000 mostly Black residents.

"I grew up in Pittsburgh and I wanted to look more into the Pittsburgh Renaissance because the way it's usually taught is that the administration came in and things got clean. All the smog got taken out, but I think what we don't talk about is this



ZACHARY PETROFF | STAFF WRITER

A variety of undergraduate presentations were set up in the Charles Dougherty Ballroom on Wednesday, April 20. The sporadic placement of the posters was intentional to encourage cross disciplinary collaboration.

project, especially the lower Hill District that was paved over for the Civic Arena," Acharya said. "Later that was condemned and it got turned into a parking lot. So, as it sits, it's currently just parking lots and

all those parking lots used to house more than 8000 people."

Acharya's research is relevant as the Penguins ownership was recently sold to the Fenway Group, leaving the development of the former lower Hill District area to the new owners. Acharya hopes that history doesn't repeat itself and the new ownership consults the community.

Fifth year pharmacy student Duncin Dobbins blended his presentation with his love of art and passion for his research. His topic "Engineering Extracellular Vesicles with an Enriched Mitochondrial Load" sought to determine if the innate EV mitochondrial load can be used improve the health of stroke patients.

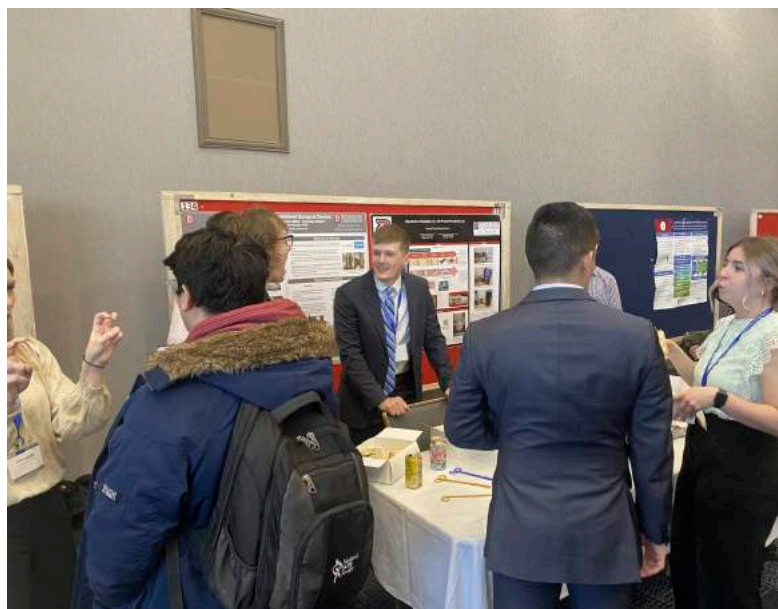
"We've shown that you can use the natural innate micro vesicles to deliver mitochondria in the context of a stroke. Strokes are one of the leading causes of death and long term disability globally and the only thing that they have to fix it right now is a thing called TPA," Dobbins said. "TPA is severely underused because you can only administer it within three hours. The estimate

is that less than 3% of people that have a stroke are able to use TPA in time. All TPA does is dissolve the clot and restore the blood flow. It does nothing to protect the blood or restore the blood brain barrier."

The complex presentation was not only aided by the poster, but was accompanied by a video created by Dobbins where he illustrated the process of his work with drawings he created in order to help people understand his research. Additionally, Dobbins is participating in the creative video competition.

"I think this is kind of perfect for being a medical science liaison because you act as the translator between some of science. You're directly next to the research you have to translate it to the people that aren't science people, such as the business side of things, and being able to do this video will help. I was able to blend both of my passions," Dobbins said.

Participants in this year's URSS are eligible to win a monetary reward from a number of various donors. Winners will be announced early next week.



ZACHARY PETROFF | STAFF WRITER

Students spoke about their work, a few included demonstrations as well as a complimentary video showcasing their research.

WLAX beats GW, earns third win in a row

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK
staff writer

Despite trailing with less than a minute remaining, the Duquesne women's lacrosse team used two goals in 15 seconds from Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw and Sam King in a 15-14, come-from-behind victory at George Washington on Saturday afternoon.

The win was the Dukes' third in a row and put them in range to earn a spot in the Atlantic 10 Women's Lacrosse Championship, which will begin on April 28 in Amherst, Mass.

After holding a 3-1 advantage at the end of the first quarter and a 7-6 edge at halftime, Duquesne began to fall behind. From the start of the third quarter until the 10:11 mark in the fourth quarter, George Washington scored eight of the game's 11 goals, watching a one-goal deficit turn into a four-goal lead (14-10).

With the game seemingly out of reach, goals from Jillian Caroselli, Mackenzie Leszczynski and Alana Piano brought the Dukes to within a goal with just under seven minutes to go in the game.

As time continued to tick away, Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game-tying goal with 40 seconds left in the game. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw immediately won the ensuing draw after her tying goal.

"My initial thought after I scored was 'I have to win this draw not only for myself, but for my team,'" Rodriguez-Shaw said. "Because to me, whoever won that draw, they were going to win the game, and I put it on myself that it was my responsibility to win us that game."

Just 15 seconds later, the ball found its way to King, who had come in to support Rodriguez-Shaw. King

drove to the net and scored what would be the game-winning goal with just 25 seconds left on the clock.

"I think it was a great shot, and she really helped me out after winning that draw control when I was getting swarmed by GW players," Rodriguez-Shaw said. "I knew that I could trust that she would go and score for us."

Immediately after scoring what would eventually be the decisive goal, Duquesne Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers called a timeout.

During the stoppage, King said that Desrosiers told the team that

Piano, a senior who scored three goals of her own in Duquesne's victory, said that she was proud of Rodriguez-Shaw and King, who are both freshmen.

"These girls are great lacrosse players and are a great asset to our team," Piano said. "They have a bright future ahead of them. It was extremely exciting being out there with them to help us to win the game."

Piano also added that Desrosiers was impressed with the team's fourth-quarter rally.

"After the game, [Coach Desrosiers] expressed how proud she was



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's Alana Piano — seen here in a March 25 contest — scored three goals in the Dukes' come-from-behind victory against George Washington on Saturday.

as long as they gained possession off of the draw and worked their hardest for the last few seconds, they'd come out on top. While the Colonials won the draw, they were unable to net a tying goal.

of us to finish out this game in a win and that we showed perseverance right up until the end," Piano said.

In addition to Piano, Duquesne had three additional players that scored three goals in the victory: Ro-

driguez-Shaw, King and Leszczynski.

"I think this win shows that we are a good lacrosse team," Piano said. "In the beginning of conference games, we had some shortcomings, but we are finally clicking, and it's showing through these wins."

With just one game left in the regular season, the Dukes have a legitimate path to earning a spot in next week's A-10 tournament. The event takes the conference's top six seeds.

Duquesne is currently tied with VCU and La Salle (all are 3-5) for the fifth seed, but tiebreaking procedures place the Dukes in the sixth and final spot for the time being.

"These last three wins have been huge for our momentum, [and for] trying to secure a playoff spot," King said. "Making playoffs would be amazing for us as a team, especially for us freshmen to experience A-10s [in] our first year at Duquesne."

While a lot can happen on Saturday, the final day of A-10 regular-season action, the Dukes can only control the task in front of them.

That task comes in the form of a trip to Olean, N.Y., to take on St. Bonaventure this Saturday afternoon. The Bonnies are 0-8 in A-10 action.

"I think our success is generating now because we know playoffs were on the line, and we all want that trip to Massachusetts for playoffs," Rodriguez-Shaw said. "But I also think now that the pressure has been on us, it has helped us a lot, as a team, to finally figure out how to play as a whole, offensively and defensively, which teams will find very intimidating coming into conference playoffs."

Piano said that earning a spot in the A-10 tournament for the first time since 2019 would "mean everything to Duquesne."

Duquesne to add three sports

Duquesne announced in a release Tuesday that the university plans to add three varsity sports by fall 2024: women's acrobatics and tumbling, women's golf and women's triathlon.

In the release, Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper said, "Duquesne is strongly committed to achieving both the letter and spirit of Title IX in regard to opportunities for student athletes."

"... Besides creating more opportunity, the sport additions also will support an overall enrollment strategy of growing the undergraduate population with highly-qualified students with strong leadership skills."

The target date for the launch of the women's triathlon program is fall 2023, while women's acrobatics and tumbling and women's golf are tentatively set to begin competing in fall 2024.

"Adding these three new sports provides yet more opportunities for top-notch students to find their way to Duquesne and to benefit from our distinctive, future-focused educational offerings ...," Duquesne University President Ken Gormley said in the release.

Spears, Ayers III enter transfer portal

A Duquesne men's basketball program trying to find some form of semblance recently lost two more players to the transfer portal.

George Michalowski of Pittsburgh Sports Now reported on Monday that Primo Spears will transfer after one season at Duquesne. Two days later, Michalowski reported that Leon Ayers III will also leave the program following one year with the Dukes.

Spears led the team in scoring (12.7 points per game) and time on the floor (32.2 minutes per game) in 2021-22. He recorded a career-high 34 points in a March 5 loss against La Salle.

Ayers averaged 10 points per game in 2021-22, scoring 20-plus points on four separate occasions.

Spears and Ayers join Tyson Acuff, Jackie Johnson III and Toby Okani on the list of Dukes to enter the portal since the season ended.

The Dukes have added two junior college transfers: Tre Clark and Quincy McGriff. Clark also played in the Atlantic 10 Conference at VCU in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

-Luke Henne, Sports Editor

Women's roles in major sports on the rise

JILLIAN DECKER
staff writer

For many years, the sports industry has been one that's male-dominated. However, in recent years, women have come into the spotlight and are striving to make the sports industry not so one-sided.

In 1972, Title IX was introduced. The law prohibits sex-based discrimination in education. Women used to be overlooked in sports and did not have the support that males did.

Title IX changed that narrative, helping to ensure that women could belong and succeed in sports.

With Title IX's 50th anniversary coming this June 23, female involvement in sports has increased dramatically. While most roles in sports are still male-dominated, that's expected to change, given the growth and commitment from major sporting leagues.

Specifically, the National Football League has seen a rise of women working in the league. Per a study from The Institute of Diversity and Ethics in Sport that was published

in a February *Women's Health* piece by Amanda Lucci, the percentage of women in different roles is growing.

In the NFL office, 38.8% of the workforce was made up by women in 2021, while 25.3% of teams' senior administration roles were held by females.

These numbers are not the largest (nor is the fact that only 3.1% of women occupy CEO and/or president positions in the league), but it's a step in the right direction.

Strides have also been made on the field. After becoming the first full-time female official in league history in 2015, Sarah Thomas was honored as the first woman to officiate a Super Bowl when she worked the 55th edition of the contest in February 2021.

The National Hockey League has also seen a rise in female employees, especially in higher positions.

According to the NHL Players Association, there are roughly 100 women in hockey operations, player development or player health and safety roles.

After competing for Team USA during her playing career, Krissy Wendell-Pohl joined the Pitts-

burgh Penguins as a scout last November, becoming only the third woman to hold a scouting position with an NHL team.

Some sports, like football and hockey, still have work to do but are making strides in becoming more-inclusive environments for women.

On the other hand, sports like basketball have fostered a more-welcoming atmosphere for women for a longer period of time.

The WNBA, which was founded in 1996, has stood as a major professional league for women. The league has also received massive support from its male counterpart, the National Basketball Association.

According to Bleacher Report's A. Sherrod Blakely, longtime WNBA star Swin Cash is now serving as vice president of basketball operations and team development for the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans.

Cash sees herself as a "voice for the unheard." According to Blakely, she used that voice to help former WNBA player Teresa Weatherspoon get hired by New Orleans as an assistant coach

in November 2020.

Lindsey Harding, another player who enjoyed a lengthy WNBA career, is now serving as an assistant coach with the NBA's Sacramento Kings.

Harding told Bleacher Report that she is grateful, but not yet satisfied with where things stand.

"We love it and appreciate the opportunities," Harding said. "But as a whole we aren't satisfied with where it needs to be. But we continue to take steps forward."



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After a lengthy playing career in the WNBA, Swin Cash now holds a key position in the male-dominated NBA.

Duquesne choirs ‘Sing Gently’ through pandemic

ISABELLA ABBOTT
staff writer

After a challenging year of restricted performances, Duquesne’s choirs will be back in action on Saturday, April 23, where students will be performing joyful music during their “Sing Gently” concert at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. Those involved will be from Duquesne’s two choirs — Voices of Spirit and Pappert Chorale.

Caron Daley, director of choral activities, said she’s “ecstatic” about the upcoming concert. Since most of her students haven’t had a standard performance in a while, Daley said they are ready to entertain once again.

“We’ve had a wonderful opportunity to be able to sing in person this year and enjoy singing in groups again,” Daley said. “I’m excited to celebrate the students’ achievements, their successes and their progress as singers and musicians throughout the year.”

“Sing Gently,” composed by Eric Whitacre and performed by Virtual Choir 6, is a song that was featured in a 2020 virtual performance, debuting 17,562 different singers from 129 countries. The piece was written during the pandemic to convey its effects on music and society globally. Drawing inspiration



COURTESY OF CARON DALEY

Duquesne choir students at their Feb. 15 concert at the Carnegie Music Hall. Join their musical journey at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday .

from this piece, the theme of Duquesne’s concert will encase all the excitement of returning to normalcy for choirs, according to Daley.

“We are celebrating our return to singing with a lot of music that is uplifting, joyful, light and airy,” Daley said.

Since the choir has had all year to practice together, Daley said the students are very comfortable performing with one another, making this concert a “can’t

miss” event.

“Usually the choir is at its absolute finest in April,” Daley said. “We’ve had an entire year together to practice and learn, so everyone’s singing at a really high level.”

Along with their director, the students are thrilled to be able to enlighten audiences’ ears again, especially Voices of Spirit alto Natalie St. Hill.

“I’m most excited to sing without a mask and experience the full

sound of the ensemble at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral,” St. Hill said. “It’s going to be a great evening filled with wonderful music.”

The concert is mask-optional for performers and concertgoer alike. Duquesne students can attend for free and non-Duquesne students can pay \$10 at the door for entry. Audience members can enter the building on 328 Sixth Ave.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Best Buddies Spread the Word to End the Word Concert
April 21 @ 6 p.m.

Help Duquesne’s Best Buddies chapter incorporate inclusion and spread awareness of the r-word’s harmful effects. Located in the Union Ballroom; free food provided.

Delight Ministries Service Night
April 21 @ 9 p.m.

Lend a hand by helping homeless individuals in the area. Students will prepare packages of feminine products in the NiteSpot.

DPC DUNite: Ice Cream Sundae Bar
April 22 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the NiteSpot for a make-your-own sundae bar, as well as personalized spoons!

Out of Darkness Campus Walk
April 23 @ 9 a.m.

Join the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in a benefit walk to raise awareness. Event starts at Mellon Hall; register on Campus Link.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Be gentle with yourself

You are doing the best you can! Hear me out!

Every choice you’ve made has made you all the stronger, all the wiser and all the more worthy of the happiness you seek. Wishing to go back in time only keeps you from enjoying the little things right before your eyes.

It takes courage to grow, especially from moments you were hard on yourself for. But over-analyzing yourself does not push you forward — it sometimes can only hold you back from becoming the person you are striving to be.

Be gentle with yourself like you are with others. Be patient with yourself as you take these moments and build on them, bit by bit, to get to where you want to be.

Forgive yourself, trust yourself and allow yourself the grace of moving forward

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Hey what are the horoscopes this week? Can anyone tell me?

Pisces

Too busy being awesome. Am I awesome? (Please tell me I’m awesome...)

Aries

What if we went to Duquesne but in California.

Taurus

You are paying for my parking tickets or my coffee for the next 3 business months.

Gemini

Can’t order food by myself without crying but will yell at a classmate for having a tone.

Cancer

Anyone want to donate to the sushi fund? (Me wanting sushi).

Leo

Target is a spiritual experience not for the faint of heart.

Virgo

enjoying Pittsburgh’s 4th winter in April this seasonal depression’s got HANDS!

Libra

DID YOU KNOW I WENT TO THE RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE CONCERT.

Scorpio

Tinder bio: looking for nerds to write my paper for me and maybe give me a hug.

Sagittarius

Ayo can’t make it to the function, I’m playing golf with my Grandma.

Capricorn

The Easter bunny brought me closure in this year’s basket.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief Colleen Hammond
news editor Mary Liz Flavin
opinions editor Zoe Stratos
features editor Emma Polen
a&e editor Capri Scarcelli
sports editor Luke Henne
layout editor Brentaro Yamane
multimedia editor Andrew Cummings
social media & ads Erin Carbone

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

"Kindness is firm
and persever-
ing intention to
always will the
good of others,
even the un-
friendly."

POPE FRANCIS

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

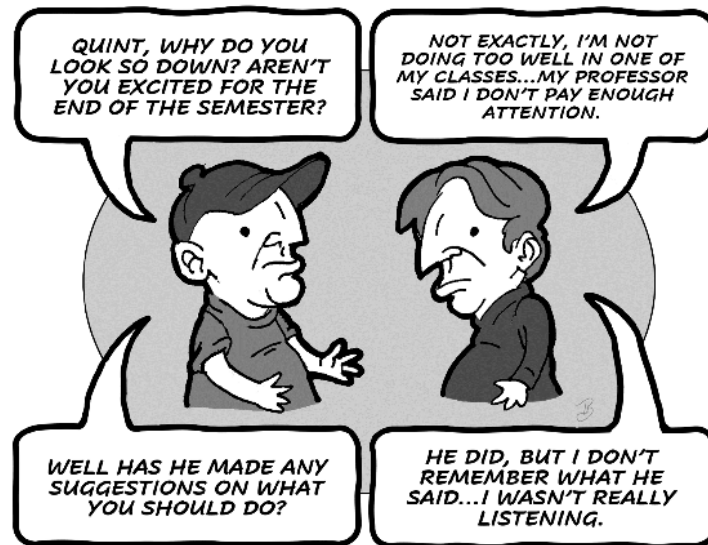
Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The 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

email: theduquduke@gmail.com



BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

We 'Musk' put an end to billionaire rule on social media

Every morning, the first thing I do after I shut my (fourth or fifth) alarm off is check my Facebook and purge my memories from the obnoxious posts of my youth. I, like most people, have used social media for a plethora of reasons, such as staying in touch with friends and family, advertising, self-promoting and feeding narcissistic tendencies.

Our need to stay connected and current has enriched the pockets of some less-than-ethical tech tycoons.

The polarizing richest man in the world, Elon Musk, is currently in the process of buying Twitter. The popular application has 206 million monetizable daily active users worldwide, according to Statista.com. The platform has been the main social media network used by some powerful political leaders including the Pope, former President Barack Obama and, before he was banned in 2021, former President Donald Trump.

I understand the necessity of these communication avenues, yet the horrors that come along with these unregulated major tycoons are worrisome.

Nothing about our lives is private, whether we consent to it or not – the hard truth is that we are, often unknowingly, giving our valuable, private information to these platforms, who in turn sell the data to the highest bidders.

Our private information is not the only thing at stake. Social media corporations like Twitter are operating with very little oversight, which has led to grave consequences, such as election meddling and false narrative spreading. Facebook was even cited by the U.N. as the prime cause of a 2017 genocide in Myanmar, where over 10,000 civilians were killed after becoming targets of the Myanmar military's disinformation campaigns.

The same platforms (Facebook and Twitter) that were utilized to establish a democratic revolution online are the same ones that gave way to several atrocities. Social media platforms have become the internet. The future landscape of this mass communication is wide open, for better or for worse.

Musk is an active user of Twitter and has witnessed, first hand, the power that Twitter can wield. The billionaire "troll" has found himself



ZACHARY PETROFF
staff columnist

in not only controversy and the loss of share value as a result of having minimal discretion, but also facing possible legal ramifications from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for his tweets.

The Tesla CEO has a cult-like following from a fanbase that views him as some sort of genius innovator that is "just telling it how it is." They view him as a "relatable billionaire," which is oxymoronic in itself. His endeavors and actual contributions are often romanticized to the point of exaggeration. His exploitative nature is twisted into a "pull yourself up from the bootstrap" narrative that both twists and omits the truth.

Musk, like his father, is an opportunist first and foremost. While there is much debate about his actual contribution to Tesla and the electric car industry, there is little to debate that he is a shrewd businessman who can capitalize on various opportunities. Musk truly is a visionary that has taken some major risks that have, ultimately, made him the wealthiest man in the world.

His vision for Twitter, however, may be more diabolical than we are anticipating. Musk does not care about freedom of speech; he is not a First Amendment champion that is looking to save Twitter from the leftist elite to give back to the people out of the goodness of his heart.

Musk, like many CEOs, is driven purely for his ability to extrapolate profit. Unblocking Trump and adding an "edit" option is not Musk's endgame. The endless amount of consumer data is Musk's new mining conquest.

The world has watched, twice now, congressional hearings fall apart when it came to holding the tech world to any sort of accountability. Like with so many other issues, partisanship has muddled any sort of resolution to the unfettered ways of "big-tech" allowing these tycoons to "self-regulate." These monopolies of the internet are not only clearly violating antitrust laws, but are illegally taking private user information and selling it to the highest bidder – despite who that bidder may be.

Nonetheless, it's a sound investment on the part of Musk.

If I was a billionaire that constantly needed attention and was looking to exploit an unregulated market, I would also travel to space and buy Twitter. I could do this, knowing that most people will allow me to do whatever I want because this country worships rich people.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Addressing the problems with housing rentals

Over the Easter weekend, unidentified gunmen shot through an Airbnb on Pittsburgh's North Side, killing two juveniles and injuring nine more. It was the worst display of violence yet in the city this year, and finally the city is taking steps to regulate short-term rentals – a step that should've been taken long ago.

A series of violent encounters have plagued the city for the past year, and as of yet, city officials are unsure of how exactly to stop the violence. According to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Sunday's shooting was the fourth in less than 30 hours within city limits. It was also the worst mass shooting in Pittsburgh since the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue massacre.

Although there are much deeper rooted issues going on in our city that must be resolved, the lack of regulations regarding rentals gave cause for the violence, and it's nothing new. Complaints from residents about parties in short-term rentals have been going on for years.

After the incident, City Council proposed a bill – that was originally proposed years earlier, but never passed – to increase limitations on hosts/homeowners. Sponsored by Council President Theresa Kail-Smith and other members, the bill would require hosts to receive two licenses to rent out a home.

However, it is a much less onerous way than other cities. In Philadelphia, hosts are required to receive three licenses, whereas Pittsburgh's would only require two.

On Airbnb's website, they warn renters that they must pay attention to laws within their respective cities, as regulations vary according to jurisdiction. Airbnb is not responsible for knowing these, but rather, the host is. Some differences include a requirement of a business license or special permit, variations in housing standards and zoning rules and many other contracts.

If approved, the licenses in Pittsburgh will be a business license and a specific Short Term Rental License.

In addition, owners also would be required to keep a log of guests who rent the unit, including their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. The log would be made available for inspection by city code enforcers.

On Wednesday, the bill was pushed back by three weeks so other city officials could review it. Instead of waiting, the city should pass the bill as is, and add onto it in the following weeks. There's no need to continually push back on a bill that is needed in a city where violence is at its peak.

The bill is long overdue in Pittsburgh, and the proof lies in past complaints; our city government is reactive, and these push backs only support that narrative. Although the bill won't address the on-going violence, it can address the feeling of immunity from crime.

It will hold both the host and the renter accountable, and possibly prevent future issues with partying and violence within these properties.

Stepping into the ring with a dream come true

Duquesne student athlete Roman Macek earns deal from WWE

BRENTARO YAMANE
layout editor

When the caller ID on Roman Macek's phone read "World Wrestling Entertainment," he thought it was fake. It wasn't until he saw a message from the official WWE Instagram account pop up as well that he realized it was all real.

When Macek picked up the phone, they asked if he'd like to try out this spring for a new program targeting college athletes, and he answered, "Absolutely."

The phone call guaranteed Macek a spot at the Texas training camp for potential WWE trainers and competitors. It offered the potential for a wrestling career afterward, depending on the candidate's tryout.

Macek had to decide if the opportunity was really worth the cost.

For Macek, a Duquesne football player and School of Law student, this invitation was a dream come true. The student athlete has followed WWE from an early age. In high school at Montour, Macek wrestled varsity for four years, and was a captain for three.

Last December, Macek saw on the WWE Recruit Instagram page (@wwerecruit) that they were giving out Name Image Likeness deals to college athletes. The program allows young athletes to monetize their name through their own brand.

After interacting with the profile for several months, Macek was invited by the WWE to participate in its WrestleMania tryout in Frisco, Texas, from March 30 to April 1.

After the initial excitement of receiving the call about the tryouts, Macek had to decide if the opportunity was really worth the cost.

On one hand, Macek felt he would regret not going to Dallas.



COURTESY OF ROMAN MACEK

During the WWE WrestleMania tryout in Frisco, Texas, Roman Macek met many WWE stars such as Triple H.

"I don't want to grow old and tell my kids, 'Oh I wish I did this, I wish I would have said that.' I'm jumping on these opportunities now so I can tell them I [got] the chance to do this," Macek said.

On the other hand, the wrestling tryouts came right in the middle of the spring semester, and football practice was scheduled to start soon. There was the possibility of injury at WWE tryouts, which would make it difficult entering football season.

"I talked to the other captains, and my roommate Spencer DeMedal, and they all said, 'Go do this,'" Macek said. His coaches were just as enthusiastic. With support from his teammates, Macek decided to accept the WWE's invitation.

Macek began his journey with WWE on March 28 with a visit to the Monday Night Raw wrestling show in Pittsburgh. Right after the show was over, Macek got on a flight with WWE legends Randy Orton and Seth Rollins to Texas. Macek was also able to meet Triple

ence will last a lifetime, Macek said. Working out with the other recruits is also something he will never forget.

"I'm messaging all of them constantly," Macek said. "We're that close to each other. It's crazy. The WWE brought in the best of the best to compete. I feel like every single one of the people they brought in would fit in well with my friend group back here."

"I don't think it could be any more important to chase your dreams."

Four days after the camp ended, on April 5, Macek was sitting in his apartment, unwinding from a day of classes at Duquesne, when he received another phone call. This one was from the WWE Vice President of Talent.

After a brief conversation where Macek self-assessed his experience at the tryouts,



COURTESY OF ROMAN MACEK

During the third day of the WWE WrestleMania tryout in Frisco, Texas, Roman Macek and many of the other college athletes at the event showed off their skills in front of fans outside of the Dallas Cowboys Training Facility.

H, Stephanie McMahon and Shawn Michaels. It was a cool experience working with celebrities, Macek said.

The first day of training consisted of physical, agility and basic training courses, Macek said. The first and second day, Macek got to learn in-ring form, something he has not always trained with during his athletic career.

"As an offensive lineman, I don't want to be on the ground at all. So, it was different learning how to do stuff like that: falling properly without getting hurt, learning the proper ways and taking the coaching was something really cool to be a part of."

The third day of the tryout covered everything the athletes performing in the ring have to consider on- and off-screen, according to Macek.

The lessons he learned from the experi-

the VP broke the news: Macek was being offered a three-year deal with WWE's Orlando training center.

"Immediately, I just threw my hands up. Sitting right here in my room, [I] threw my hands and started crying."

Macek said everyone he told about the offer was happy and supportive. Seeing his friends, teammates, family, coaches and professors congratulate him meant so much to him, that there are not enough words to describe his feelings, he said.

Duquesne quarterback Joe Mischler was one of the teammates that was happy to see Macek get the offer.

"This is something that Roman has always wanted to do," Mischler said. "Seeing your friend and teammate accomplish their dreams is always very exciting. We're all very happy for him."



COURTESY OF ROMAN MACEK

During the WWE WrestleMania tryout, Roman Macek learned different moves and techniques alongside other college athletes.

Even with the outpouring of support, it is ultimately up to Macek to make this future-altering decision himself.

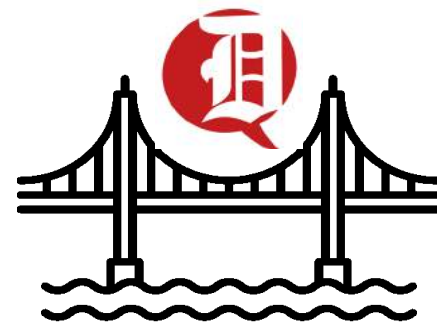
"If people don't laugh at your goals, they're not big enough."

"There will be bigger decisions to come that I'm going to have to make in the future, whether that be with football, with law school, with wrestling, with life. There is always going to be a bigger decision. Always."

At the end of the day, whether or not Macek decides to pursue a career in the WWE, he will find another dream that he'll look to accomplish as he knows the world is full of opportunities.

"I don't think it could be any more important to chase your dreams," Macek said. "I like to say that if people don't laugh at your goals, they're not big enough. You should shoot for the stars, and no matter what you do, go try to be the best version of yourself."

The Duquesne Duke supports local businesses



ADVERTISE WITH US



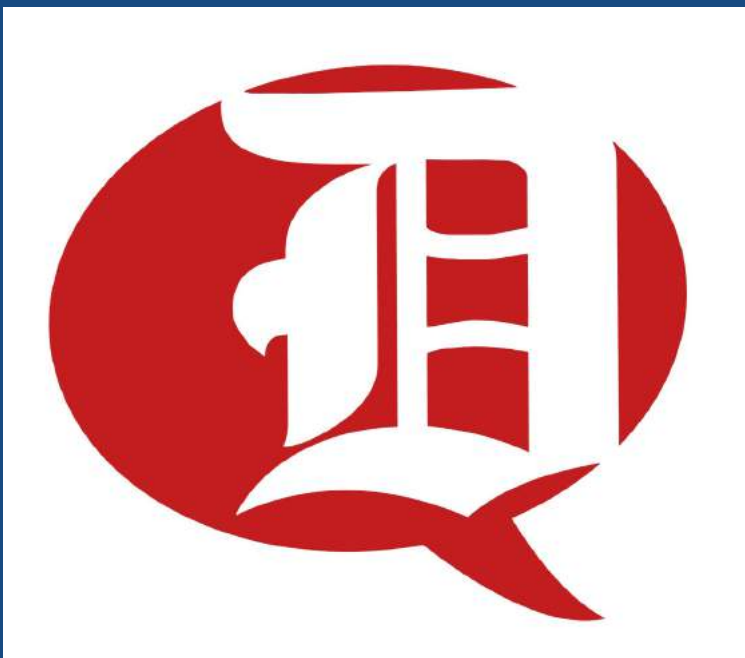
Follow us on Instagram

@TheDuquesneDuke



The Duquesne Duke

JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY **STAFF**
MEETINGS



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

PITCH STORY
IDEAS AND GET
TO KNOW THE
EDITORIAL STAFF!

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

OR VISIT US IN
COLLEGE HALL 113

*Apply for The
Duke's editor-in-
chief spot

*Interviews on April
22 at 1 p.m

*Send resumes to
professor Paula Ward

**COMIC
ARTIST**
Needed
for THE DUKE



Visit us
at the newsroom in
113 College Hall
or email us at
[steplerk@
duq.edu](mailto:steplerk@duq.edu)



Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

Come Visit Us Contact our Editor-in-Chief
College Hall 113 hammondc@duq.edu



Get Updates INSTANTLY

Facebook

The Duquesne Duke

Instagram

@TheDuquesneDuke

Twitter

@TheDuquesneDuke
@TDD_Sports

Online at

www.duqsm.com

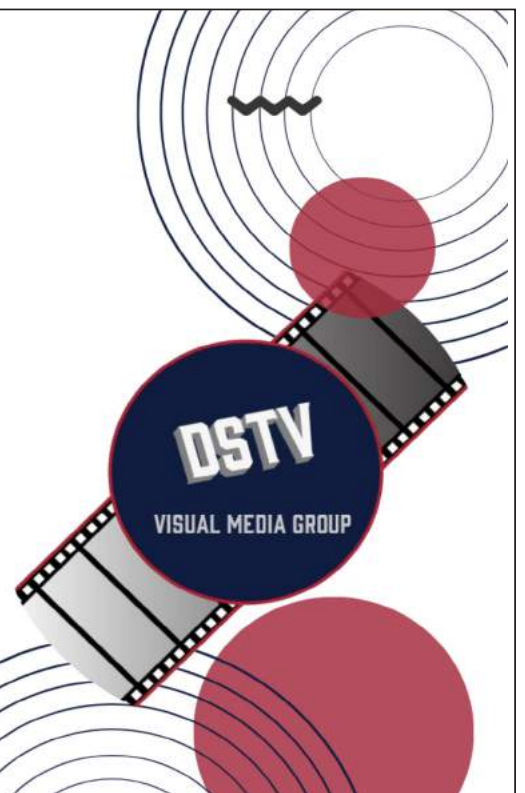
Follow **THE DUKE**
on Social Media

GENERAL MANAGER POSITION

- Covers 3 Credits a Semester
- Oversee & Coordinate Projects and Productions
- Run Weekly Meetings
- Be Proficient in Video Editing and Using Professional Recording Equipment

INTERVIEWS APRIL 22ND AT 1PM

Send résumés to
patterson42@aol.com to
Professor Maggie Patterson



FOLLOW THE DUKE

Instagram

@TheDuquesne

Facebook

The Duquesne Duke

Twitter

*@TheDuquesne
Duke*

**Advertise
with us!**

duqudukeads@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



@theduquesneduke



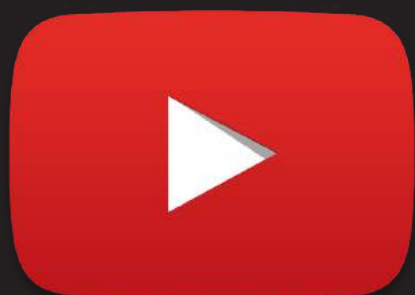
**Writers & Photographers
needed for the Duke**

Come Visit Us **Contact our Editor-in-Chief**
College Hall 113 *hammond@duq.edu*



Follow us on Instagram

@TheDuquesneDuke



**Subscribe to
The
Duquesne
Duke
Today!**

**The Duquesne Duke
supports local businesses**



**ADVERTISE WITH US
TODAY!**

visit our
website at
duqsm.com



**LISTEN
LIVE 24/7**
**DUQSM.COM/
WDSR/**