Symphony of Diversity, playing with a purpose

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 illusionary. 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 tinfoil 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
**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 502 in the Student Union during an event. According to the report, harassment occurred and the incident is unclear. The officer met with the university administrator who requested 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 forreckless endangerment and terrorist 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 Brottier 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 Brottier 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.

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**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 hammondce@duq.edu.

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**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.”

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**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 under-grad history major, presented the destruction of the lower Hill District in the late ‘60s. His research highlighted the displacement of over 8,000 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 project, especially the lower Hill District that was paved over for the Civic Arena,” Acharya said. “Latter 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 8,000 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 can be 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.
**SPORTS**

**WLAX beats GW, earns third win in a row**

**Benjamin Gottschalk**

Despite trailing with less than a minute remaining, the Duquesne women’s lacrosse team and two goals in 15 seconds from Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw and Sam King in a 15-14, come-from-behind victory against 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 to 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 10 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, King and Deering helped the Dukes to control the task in front of them. Rodriguez-Shaw said. “Because to me, for myself, but for my team,” Rodriguez-Shaw said. “My initial thought after I scored the ensuing draw after her tying goal. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game-tying goal with 40 seconds left in the game. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw, King and Deering helped the Dukes to control the task in front of them. Rodriguez-Shaw said. “Because to me, for myself, but for my team,” Rodriguez-Shaw said. “My initial thought after I scored the ensuing draw after her tying goal. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game-tying goal with 40 seconds left in the game. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw, King and Deering helped the Dukes to control the task in front of them. Rodriguez-Shaw said. “Because to me, for myself, but for my team,” Rodriguez-Shaw said. “My initial thought after I scored the ensuing draw after her tying goal. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game-tying goal with 40 seconds left in the game. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw, King and Deering helped the Dukes to control the task in front of them. Rodriguez-Shaw said. “Because to me, for myself, but for my team,” Rodriguez-Shaw said. “My initial thought after I scored the ensuing draw after her tying goal. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game-tying goal with 40 seconds left in the game. In a rapid series of events, Rodriguez-Shaw, King and Deering helped the Dukes to control the task in front of them.

“Adding these three new sports provides yet more opportunities for top-notch student-athletes to find their way to Duquesne and to benefit from our distinctive, faith-based educational offerings,” Duquesne University President Ken Gormley said in the release.

**Duquesne to add three sports**

Duquesne announced in a release Tuesday that the university will 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 strongly committed to achieving both the letter and spirit of Title IX in regard to opportunities for student athletes. … Besides creating more opportunities, 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.

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**Women’s roles in major sports on the rise**

**Jillian Decker**

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 in 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 Amandaucci, the percentage of women in different roles is growing.

In the NFL office, 39.8% of the workforce was made up by women in 2021, while 25.3% of team’s senior administrative roles were held by females.

These numbers are not the largest (nor is the fact that only 31% 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 during the 2018 season and a black woman was named an NFL official. According to the NFL 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 Pittsburgh Penguins as a scout last November, becoming only the second 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 baseball and 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, long-time 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 unvoice.” According to Bleacher Report, Cash used that voice to help former WNBA player Teresa Weatherspoon get hired by New Orleans as an assistant coach in November 2020. Lindsay Harding, another player who enjoyed a lengthy WNBA career, is now serving as an assistant coach with the NBA’s Sacramento Kings.

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

“We love it and appreciate the opportunity,” Harding said. “But as a whole we aren’t satisfied with where it needs to be. But we continue to take steps forward.”

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**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 and USF transfer DaJuan 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 in games 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
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 from this piece, the theme of Duquesne’s concert will exclaim 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 concert-goer 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 during the performance, debuting 17,562 different singers from 129 countries.

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Duquesne choir students at their Feb. 15 concert at the Carnegie Music Hall. Join their musical journey at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Courtesy of Caron Daley.
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.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and a 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 theduqueuke@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.

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

Contact
email: theduqueuke@gmail.com

OPINIONS

"Kindness is firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly.

POPE FRANCIS

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 tackle the problem. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Sunday’s shooting was the fourth in less than 30 hours within city limits. It was the latest in a series of events in Pittsburgh since the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue massacre.

Although there are much deeper 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. Concerns about problems such as crime that arise from listed rentals 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: one for their 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 within 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 recently-adopted zoning changes in Pittsburgh, and the proposal in past complaints, our city government is reactive, and these pushbacks only support that mentality. In the worst address of the on-going violence, it can address the feeling of impunity from crime.

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

ZACHARY PETROFF

staff columnist

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

Every morning, the first thing I do after I shut off 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-promotion, and forming narcissistic tendencies.

Our need to stay connected and current has produced pockets of 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 260 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 platforms, who in turn sell the information we provide, is sickening. Giving our valuable, yet the horrors that come along with these unregulated major platforms, who in turn sell the information we provide, is sickening.

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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 actions and selling to Tesla and the electric car industry, there is little to debate that he is a shrewd businessman with various opportunities. Musk truly is a visionary that has taken some serious 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 muddied any sort of resolution to the untested 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 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.
Stepping into the ring with a dream come true

Duquesne student athlete Roman Macek earns deal from WWE

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 RecruitingInstagram page (@swerecruit) 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.

The second day of training consisted of physical training, Macek said. “It was a cool experience working with celebrities, Macek said. “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 H, Stephanie McMahon and Shawn Michaels.

The fourth day of training consisted of proper ways and taking the coaching was properly without getting hurt, learning the in-ring form, something he has not already done.

After a brief conversation where Macek 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.

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

“I 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.

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.

“During the tryout, we 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 H, Stephanie McMahon and Shawn Michaels.

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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 H, Stephanie McMahon and Shawn Michaels.

The fourth day of training consisted of proper ways and taking the coaching was properly without getting hurt, learning the in-ring form, something he has not already done.

After a brief conversation where Macek 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.

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

“I 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.

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.

“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. 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 experience 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.”

“This isn’t going to be the last time,” Macek said. “I’m jumping on these opportunities now so I can tell them I [got] the chance to do this.”

“I don’t think it could be any more important to chase your dreams.”

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

“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.”

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