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April 7, 2022
Volume 106
Number 12
www.duqsm.com



Duq and Point Park come together for PRSSA

ANDREW CUMMINGS
multimedia editor

Pittsburgh's Public Relations Society of America (PRSSA) hosted its annual conference at Duquesne and Point Park Universities on Friday and Saturday. The title of the conference was "Get to the Point," and focused on teaching college and high school students skills for navigating careers in public relations.

One of the prominent themes throughout the conference was the importance of networking.

Steve Radick, senior vice president at Burson Cohn & Wolfe, at the networking event for young professionals, said "For students and young professionals, networking is your door into everything that you're going to do in your career. These people that you're meeting here at college campus events like this, or at professional networking events, are those people that you're going to reach out to...the power of networking is it gives you that entry into so many different other worlds that otherwise you wouldn't have."

The event began on Friday afternoon with Pittsburgh advertising agency tours of BCW, Red Havas, Highmark and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

Braylyn Bruno, the treasurer of PRSSA, commented on what it was like to see the Pittsburgh agencies.

"I think it's been really cool. I've never been on an agency tour before and we did two of those earlier in the day. So that was really cool to talk to professionals and see their working space," Bruno said.

The tours were followed by a keynote address on Friday evening, in

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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

Professor brings more than just music to Ukraine and other countries in need



COURTESY OF STEPHEN BENHAM

Stephen Benham stands with his team in Irpin, Ukraine, during a 2019 music camp. Several members featured above are currently engaged in the humanitarian efforts that are happening all over Ukraine. Irpin is one of three cities (Bucha and Hostomel) that was at the epicenter of the recent battles around Kyiv.

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

At the age of 15, Andre was adopted by his new family and was set to leave Ukraine on March 10 of this year. Before he could begin his new life, the Russian invasion began on Feb 24, pulling young Andre away from his new parents. Over the next few days, Andre's parents actively searched for their son, but being split between two parts of the world made it a challenge - all they had left was hope.

Through social media, the family reached out to the Music in World Cultures (MIWC), a non-profit organization that brings music and aid through missionary programs. Though divine intervention and the work of many, including the United States Embassy in Poland, Andre arrived a few days later and was reunited with his parents in the U.S.

Andre's story is just one example amongst many families that Stephen Benham, professor of music education and chair of the performance department, along with MIWC has helped through their effort in supporting Ukraine.

It all began around 1992 when Benham and his wife, Kris Benham, became more involved with their church. At the time the parish began hosting Ukrainian refugees after the break-

up of the Soviet Union. Over time, through their efforts, the Benham family got connected with a family who were victims of Chernobyl.

The father worked at Chernobyl during the time of the explosion and had lost everything; they were from southern Ukraine. Through correspondence, the two families stayed in touch until in the spring of 1996, when the family invited the Benhams to visit them. What seemed like fate, Benham received a call from his father asking if he was interested in going to Ukraine because they were in need of a music educator.

"That was just a clear message to me from God that I need to do this, and had I known at that time what that would mean 30 years later and what that would mean in terms of taking 60 trips during that time..." Benham said. "Now expanding that ministry into all countries throughout Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Nepal, I don't know if I would have got on the plane the first time. I would have been overwhelmed at the magnitude of everything."

Benham joined his father's non-profit organization, Music in World Cultures, where through cross-cultural ministry, musical education programs bring the world of music to those in need. Currently MIWC is working directly and with part-

ner organizations in more than 25 countries across five continents. They have formed a coalition of internationally recognized musicians, teachers and other professionals committed to providing education, experience and more, according to the MIWC website.

According to Benham, the Ukrainian people were hungry for life and spiritual revival, and music spoke to them and brought life to them in ways other things couldn't. After that trip, Benham and his family moved from Oregon to New York to help more and begin to establish musical programs in local churches and communities in Kyiv, Ukraine.

"We worked to grow an orchestra ministry over there. Over time, I began to understand Ukrainian tradition, and I began to understand their history," Benham said. "Russia tried to destroy Ukrainian culture, language and created myths. I was entrenched in culture but my heart moved from music education to wanting to advocate for these people."

The first music camps were held in the Tranoble zone in 2015 and have continued for several years. Not only have camps been held but multiple children's programs, conferences and workshops for teachers. A major international conference called Ministry, Creativity and Mission was es-

tablished to empower people to use creativity throughout their church and community.

With the recent attacks and upheaval that Russia has caused in Ukraine, the mission behind what Benham and his team established quickly shifted from a need to bring music to communities to an organization that provides humanitarian aid. Due to their large network of people both here in the U.S. as well as teams in Ukraine they were able to make their services mobile.

A new mission began with help-

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COURTESY OF STEPHEN BENHAM

Stephen Benham is a professor of music education at Duquesne.

POLICE BRIEFS

Thursday, March 31-

Three resident students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct after throwing trash out of a window in Des Places Hall.

Thursday, March 31-

A student came into the Duquesne University Police Station asking for assistance in filing a Protection From Abuse Petition (PFA). Shortly after, the student was escorted to Night Court to obtain the PFA. This case is still ongoing.

Friday, April 1-

An unaffiliated, intoxicated male was found in his car blocking the gate to the administration parking lot. No damage was done to university property, and the male was taken into custody. This case is still ongoing.

Benham goes beyond to give aid to Ukraine

see AID — page 1

ing women and children get out of the country and into Romania and Germany. Supplies such as medical, food and clothing have been transported to the most affected areas. Medicine for chronic conditions such as thyroid, diabetes, hypertension and blood pressure have been given to areas in which they no longer have access. On Wednesday, they sent \$5000 worth of medical supplies and food in addition to two large pallets that were donated by Acuity International - an organization that gives aid to those who need humanitarian assistance.

In addition, Benham and his team are helping women and girls who have been assaulted and raped. Currently they are in the process of determining how to provide rape kits as well as medication that can aid those who are HIV positive or have any other sexual transmitted diseases. Many organizations that MIWC has worked with over the past 25 years are currently helping to provide assistance to those in Ukraine.

"My job has been to help coor-

dinate from the U.S. over there to support the financial people on the ground. It's cheaper for me to work here than to travel and send money over to support more people," Benham said. "For some, \$300 to \$400 a month is a full time salary. So an airplane ticket is going to cost \$2000, when I would rather support someone for six months with that money."

At the end of May, Benham plans to travel to Albania, and from there, plan to go to either Poland or Ukraine to meet with his team. His next step in future plans of providing aid to international communities in need is connecting with Duquesne's medical community. Here at Duquesne, Benham said, we are called to love and minister our community on campus and he has learned that that what he does here on campus as a professor is just as important as his humanitarian work.

"My students at this campus are as important as my colleagues and the people over in Ukraine. My commitment is to that level of service," Benham said. "It is exotic and has a fantastical nature about it. But the miracle everyday we see on campus when someone provides



COURTESY OF STEPHEN BENHAM

The children featured above are from the city of Ivankiv, Ukraine, which is just north of Kyiv in the Chernobyl zone. Teams on the ground are providing aid.

comfort to someone in need, helps someone who is hurting, spends extra time tutoring a student - those are miracles."

Through his efforts in bringing music to those who may not have

those opportunities, aid to those in crisis and faith to various communities, Benham said he has found that these experiences have shown how God brings miracles and blessings into people's everyday lives.

PRSSA gets to the point with a district conference combo

see PRSSA — page 1

the Power Center Ballroom, where Pittsburgh-based public relations specialist Deanna Tomaselli discussed her experience in the influencer marketing industry.

Tomaselli shared tips about succeeding as an influencer. Among her tips were being consistent, knowing your audience and being authentic. She also emphasized the importance of passion in her line of work, noting that "if the passion is there you are going to succeed."

After Tomaselli's keynote address, participants attended a networking session where they had the opportunity to mingle with each other and Tomaselli.

Tomaselli stressed the importance of networking during her address, saying that "even 15 years into your career you need to network."

Caitlin Jefferson, a member of PRSSA that worked as the sponsorship coordinator for the conference, said that she was happy with the turnout.

"I think it's going very well so far. It's exceeded all of our expectations.

We've met our goals for sponsorships, had some great speakers. And we had a really good turnout today for the agency tours and for the conference in general," Jefferson said.

The remainder of the event on Saturday was hosted at Point Park. Starting at 10 a.m. and continuing throughout the rest of the day, there was a variety of public relations-focused keynote addresses, breakout sessions and panels. They addressed topics like remote work, building a personal brand and diversity in public relations.

The events on Saturday included:

Keynote addresses titled "Mission-Driven: How AHN's PR and Social Media Teams Navigated the Covid-19 Pandemic" by Candace Herrington from Allegheny Health Network, and Megan Emmons and Catherine Clements from Highmark Health and "Networking. It's Awkward, Unnatural and 100% Essential" by Dan Ayer from Oyster Creative.

Breakout sessions titled "Agency & Corporate vs Nonprofit Jobs. What's the difference?" by Hollie Geitner

from Duquesne Light and Ananda Miles from Giffords; "Lessons Learned After Graduation" by Robin Rectenwald from BCW; "Taking the Show on the Road: An IMC Approach to Restarting the Arts in Pittsburgh" by Jeanna Lo Castro from Oyster Creative; "Tik Tok Success at the Red Cross" by Jessica Buckholtz from Red Cross National; and "Embedding and Elevating Diversity & Inclusion in Your PR Storytelling" by Angelica Perry from DICK'S Sporting Goods.

A panel of young professionals made up of Sydney Bauer from the Pittsburgh Penguins, Courtney List from The Terminal, Emily Stock from Matter Communications and Anton D. Johnson II from Oyster Creative

Camille Downing, a faculty advisor of PRSSA at Point Park University, said in a press release, "The public relations community in Pittsburgh is very strong. They really support students and their efforts to enter the field. Having that time to meet face to face is invaluable."



COURTESY OF PRSSA

Members of Pittsburgh's Public Relations Society of American (PRSSA) stand together to represent both Point Park University and Duquesne University.

Reverted back to nature through reflection and philosophy

MARY LIZ FLAVIN
news editor

On Monday and Tuesday, Duquesne held an Integrity of Creation conference in the Power Center Ballroom that covered the topic: climate resiliency: collaboration, adaptation and action.

Over the course of two days various presentations, receptions and workshops educated students and faculty about pivotal issues revolving around climate change, research and public awareness.

One of the presentations, Re-

wilding: A Hegelian Reflection, tackled the philosophical idea of rewilding - a process in which nature reverts back to a wilder form. Jennifer Ann Bates, professor of philosophy at Duquesne University, led the discussion by viewing rewilding through the lens of philosopher G.W.F. Hegel.

"There are lots of bio-diverse gardeners and we are all members of an involved, complex - dialectically evolving phenomenological garden," Bates said. "I am going to argue an unorthodox reading of Hegel that the culmination of

phenomenology presents experience as a dialectic becoming that develops through receptivity to preservation via biodiversity."

Out of the gate, Bates compared the audience to gardeners each in their own metaphorical garden. By comparing the garden to Hegel's idea of the preservation of biodiversity, she began to introduce the concept of rewilding. In addition, one of the key concepts that was portrayed throughout the discussion was the idea that we as humans are observers in this process.

According to Hegel, the self-

knowing spirit knows not only itself but also the negative of itself and its limit. To know one's limit is to know how to sacrifice oneself. The sacrifice is the externalization in which spirit displays the process of becoming spirit in the form of free contingent happening, intuiting its pure self as time outside of it and equally its being as space.

The spirit he is referring to is the spirit of nature, including both humans and the rest of the natural world. What Hegel is saying here is that in order to better

understand the natural world, [we] must externalize our experience with it.

Bates' interpretation was that there is a limit to our experience and a portion of that interpretation that is foreign to us. There is a duality in which we realize there is a limit and that we are simultaneously reflecting on this experience.

Through the duration of Bates' presentation, she compared Hegel's findings to a variety of other philosophers as well as various scientists

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Reverting back to nature through reflection

see *NATURE* — page 2

in the environmental community. In addition she applied her own philosophical conclusions and interpretations to allow the audience a better understanding of the topic.

Circling back to the idea that we as a society are a part of a phenomenological garden, Bates brought in the idea that on a much larger scale we are not only gardeners but are both receptive to and perceived by other gardeners. Hegel's dialectic requires the process of taking abstract ideas and making them concrete through reflection, according to Bates.

"I sat in my garden until I could see the multiverse of the buzzing and active goings-on. At least in this one spot nature was coming back to life. Flowers, birds, millions of bugs and yes, pesky deer, would make their way through my tiny yard leaving ticks and eating some of my favorite flowers," Bates said. "Again, I did nothing. It was an experience of sacrifice and the ongoing challenge of the preserving idea."

In order to apply her philosophi-

cal findings on Hegel's applied principles of rewilding, Bates allowed her backyard to become overgrown. In this process she found that many new plants and a variety of creatures began to thrive that weren't there prior to the overgrown state. In addition, by allowing her garden to be overgrown, it was a sacrifice on her end because instead of containing the forces of nature in her backyard she had to permit it to grow in whichever way it chose.

"My hegelian reflection is part of not knowing and not doing which for a philosopher and a gardener is a sacrifice. If there is a wild it was already something we thought and something with which we were entangled," Bates said.

This exact principle was at the heart of Bates' discussion, that on a much larger scale, we should act as observers and allow nature to resort back to a 'wilder' form in order to help the planet reach a healthier state. Bates proposed that to experience this phenomenological process, Duquesne should fence off a portion of the campus and allow it to become



MARY LIZ FLAVIN | NEWS EDITOR

The Rewilding presentation was a part of a larger Integrity of Creation conference that covered the topics of resiliency, collaboration and adaptation.

overgrown and compare that section to the rest of campus. An additional idea was that the School of Osteopathic Medicine should incorporate liberal arts elements in order to promote different

kinds of environmentalism.

Bates concluded by asking the audience to reflect as she had on the natural world around them as if they, themselves could view the world as gardens and gardeners.

BOGO Bookstore is back-in-action in the Atrium

ZACHARY PETROFF

staff writer

The entrance to the PNC atrium has once again brought back the feeling of nostalgia as the Scholastic Book Fair returned for its spring buy one get one (BOGO) sale. The semi-annual event that has taken place at Duquesne University for around 20 years is giving students and faculty a chance to purchase books, posters, colored pens, bookmarks and other various trinkets reminiscent of the beloved youthful pastime.

"If you stand around and listen long enough, you're going to hear students say things like 'Oh my goodness, do you remember when...' and it is always a positive memory. Whether they were readers or non-readers in school, it was always a positive memory," Danielle Henzler, the Curriculum Center di-

rector, said.

Henzler, who has been with the Duquesne for 21 years, is excited to see the popularity of the make-shift book fair continue. It was almost a decade ago when many independent bookstores were closing, but this book fair shows that people still desire to have printed books.

"One of the things that blew me away was how many college kids were shopping for themselves. I kept hearing them say things like 'Oh my goodness, I needed this, this week'," Henzler said. "They're buying books for themselves. Self-care can be in the form of getting a young adult book that they want to read, or if that's in the form of a fuzzy pencil that makes them smile when they're taking notes, I don't think it matters, but I saw more of that than I have seen in 10 years."

In order for one to qualify for the BOGO sale, customers are asked to



ZACHARY PETROFF |

For the BOGO sale, customers were asked to either donate a children's book or donate money. Donations are used to buy books and give them to the community.

either donate a children's book or donate \$1. At the conclusion of the sale the donated profits are used to buy books from the Scholastic Book Fair and donate them to the community.

Plans are being made to support August Wilson House in the Hill District in honor of August Wilson's birthday.

Henzler said that this sale does not create a profit for Duquesne or the Curriculum Center "I'm doing it because I love books."

While the Scholastic Book Fair centers around children and young adults there is a diverse enough selection for all ages and backgrounds.

"We're selling a lot of books around refugees because of the Ukraine Crisis. We have more picture books and graphic novels about refugees and immigration. We've actually sold a lot of trinkets and gadgets. We have these multicolored pens that people really like to

take their notes in different colors," student employee of the Curriculum Center, said Zoe Neft.

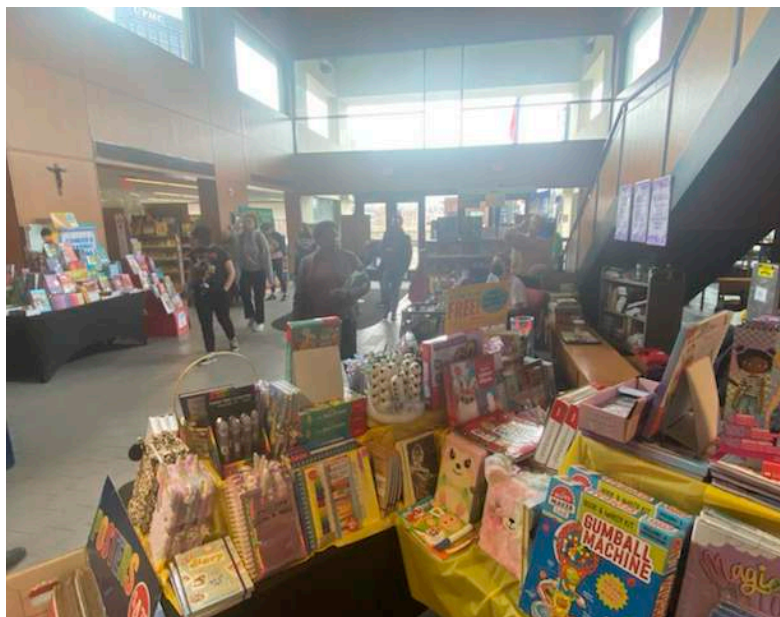
With the Easter holiday just around the corner the children's book "Good Egg" and "Bad Seed" are popular titles. While "The Hate U Give" and "They Both Die at the End" have been popular young adult titles.

Posters of sports cars have been another popular item this season.

Sophomores and education majors Ireland Kennedy and Marissa Feeney are using the book fair to purchase books for their future classroom.

"Right now I'm looking for a book that teaches a lesson. I think it's great that they have it here for future teachers to pick up," Kennedy said.

The Scholastic Book fair will run until Friday April 8th. The hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



ZACHARY PETROFF | STAFF WRITER

Popular titles include the children's book "Good Egg" and "Bad Seed." Titles such as "The Hate U Give" continue to be a popular read.

DU announces second booster availability for eligible individuals

ZOE STRATOS

opinions editor

On March 30, the university announced that eligible students will be able to receive their second Covid-19 vaccine booster on campus.

According to an email sent to students, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna boosters for those at higher risk of disease, hospitalization and death.

For now, individuals 50 years of age or older, or immunocompromised individuals who are four months past their first booster, may receive it. The university has not announced when the rest of the population can.

"Duquesne follows CDC guidelines in determining how we manage vaccinations," said Gabe Welsh, vice president of marketing and communications. "Right now, we offer vaccines and first boosters to everyone. The guidance does not yet open up access to the second booster shot to the general population. We do not know when the CDC will change that guidance."

Individuals can choose to receive either shot, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, with clinics available on campus. According to the email, they will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 109 in the Student Union.

The boosters aren't just available to students, but also eligible family members, according to the email, and community members can contact the Center for Pharmacy Care to schedule an individual appointment in the Muldoon Building.

According to Welsh, the university has administered the second booster to approximately 100 people, with staff easily managing the campus demand.

As for testing, clinics for asymptomatic individuals will continue sporadically.

"The clinics for asymptomatic students and employees are open at specific times in order to manage resources. Demand has been light," Welsh said. "Per CDC guidelines, if you are vaccinated and exposed but asymptomatic, you do not need to get a test. Ninety percent of campus is vaccinated. Individuals can get home tests in the event they wish to obtain a test at a time when the clinics are not open."

WLAX loses to VCU, drops fourth straight

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK
staff writer

In a back-and-forth nail-biter that went down to the wire on Sunday, Duquesne's women's lacrosse team was leading for nearly the entire game before VCU scored six goals in the fourth quarter to win by a 13-10 mark, handing the Dukes their fourth loss in a row.

Duquesne got out to a very strong start, scoring two goals and contributing to VCU's nine turnovers during the opening quarter.

Dukes attacker Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw said that the turnovers were crucial because, from the beginning, Duquesne was able to capitalize and get out in front. She also said the turnovers contributed to finding a level of comfort early on.

"Once we were able to have the ball, stay calm and play our game, I think it worked out well to get that 2-0 lead at the beginning of the game," Rodriguez-Shaw said.

She opened the second-quarter scoring, pushing Duquesne's lead up to three.

The Rams caught up to the Dukes, evening the score at four heading into halftime. VCU neutralized Duquesne's scoring attack thanks, at least in part, to goalkeeper Meghna Dawar who made 10 of her 12 saves on the afternoon during the game's first half.

"Going into the game, our coach [Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers] told us that she had a great percentage for saves, so we really worked on our shot selection and our fake-high, shoot-low, and really make sure we are moving around before we get a good shot," Rodriguez-Shaw said.

The Dukes used the third quarter to their advantage after two goals

from Julie Cassidy and one goal from Ciara Curtis put Duquesne up 7-4 about halfway through the quarter. Curtis, who ended the day with three goals, said that she's adapting to a new role.

"I recently got moved to midfield this year. I've been a defender my whole life," Curtis said. "In practice, I've been working with my coaches and my teammates, who have been helping me out with shots, shot placement and being confident."

"It's definitely been a great learning experience for me, and I've learned to have confidence

fender," Rodriguez-Shaw said. "She was a secret weapon that Richmond and VCU weren't ready for, which worked out for our offense."

VCU swiftly responded to all of the momentum swings, and the score was deadlocked at seven until Duquesne's Mackenzie Leszczynski broke the tie with just four seconds to go in the third quarter.

After Curtis added an insurance goal to make it 9-7 early in the fourth quarter, the Rams scored three goals of their own to grab a 10-9 advantage. Curtis scored her third of the day to tie it at 10 with 7:22 to go, but

been assessed eight yellow cards all season. On Sunday, the Dukes were dealt six yellow cards.

"I think that the game on Sunday was pretty rough on both teams," Curtis said. "I think that people were getting frustrated, and the refs were calling things from what they saw them as, and you kind of just have to go with what the refs say, which is kind of frustrating."

"But it's also a learning experience, when you have those yellow cards, to just take a step back and take a breather," Curtis said.

Toward the end of the game, the Rams won the majority of draw controls, allowing them to maintain possession and keep most of the action at their offensive end.

"I believe that the draw controls were a really big part of the game," Curtis said. "In the final quarter, we just weren't getting as many as we needed. We were still hustling throughout the entire game, but it really did come down to the draw controls and the calls that the refs were making."

"I believe that if we won more draw controls, then we could have won that game."

Rodriguez-Shaw said that Desrosiers was proud of the team for "[their] will to never give up and fight through all the things that were going wrong in the game."

After Sunday's loss to VCU and a 17-8 defeat at the hands of No. 19-ranked Richmond on Friday, Duquesne left Richmond, Va., without a victory.

The Dukes will return to action this Friday, when they take on Davidson in a road contest, looking to salvage a win for the first time since they defeated Butler on March 20.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's Ciara Curtis — pictured during a March 25 game — scored a team-high three goals in Sunday's loss at VCU. She's scored seven goals this season.

in myself."

Rodriguez-Shaw said that Curtis' new position suits her well.

"It is great that Ciara has started to become a dominant player on the attack since she has always been a de-

VCU would score three more times and hold Duquesne off the board to secure a three-goal victory.

One contributing factor to the game slipping away was discipline. Prior to Sunday, Duquesne had

Football team holds spring scrimmage

SPENCER THOMAS
staff writer

Although the calendar said it was April, the atmosphere at Rooney Field during the Duquesne football team's spring scrimmage resembled an October, game-like feeling.

The Dukes capped off a series of spring practices by dusting off the pads, donning the game jerseys and playing an intrasquad spring game.

After a sloppy offensive start, the red team — led by 2021's backup-turned-starter quarterback Darius Perrantes — broke the scoreboard first with a field goal.

That was countered by the white team, and the squads entered the locker room at halftime with the scored tied at three.

One standout was sophomore wide receiver/punt returner Nick Leopold, who became a breakout star. Despite the rules calling for fair catches on all kickoffs and punts, he evaded defenders playing full speed for a 40-yard punt return.

Another Duke who earned his

stripes was running back DaMon Macklin. Despite standing at just 5-foot-6 and weighing 145 pounds, Macklin showed off some blazing speed, acceleration and agility as he bounced around the backfield, extending plays that seemed dead.

His performance, along with touchdown catches from Rahmon Hart Jr. and Rafael McCoy fueled the white team to a 17-3 lead with just under 10 minutes remaining in the game.

However, Perrantes — the first-ever Northeast Conference quarterback to beat an FBS team — found his form, and connected with Nick Leopold for a pair of touchdown passes. The latter of the two completions came with 56 seconds to go in the contest, bringing the red team's deficit to one.

Opting not to take a scrimmage to overtime, the red team kept its offense on the field. Perrantes found Leopold once again for the 2-point conversion, as the red team and completed the comeback and took an 18-17 lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

It may have been a scrimmage, but

that wasn't apparent from the celebration that ensued, along with taunts and trash talking from the red squad.

After such a strong performance, Leopold received high praise from Head Coach Jerry Schmitt.

"We have a lot of young guys that are battling and fighting and getting better, and he's one of those guys," Schmitt said. "It's good to see that."

Schmitt also gave props to Macklin, whose ability to draw out plays was a thrill to watch for fans and players alike.

However, the game wasn't finished just yet. Macklin and the white team marched down the field. With 30 seconds left, a crossing route led to a big hit by the near hash, and each team traded shoves and insults in a heated moment, just as Migos' "Fight Night" humorously played from the public address system.

After action resumed, it came down to one final play. A game-winning, 45-yard field goal attempt from the white team sailed wide left, and the red team stormed the field in celebration.

"I liked how the game trans-

pired," Schmitt said, "[We] got a little bit of excitement at the end. It was pretty good."

Attention now turns toward regular-season preparation. The Dukes will open the 2022 season on Aug. 27 in Tallahassee, Fla., against Florida State. Duquesne will also play at Youngstown State and Hawaii in non-conference action.



SPENCER THOMAS | STAFF WRITER

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt speaks to his team following Saturday's spring scrimmage at Rooney Field.

Acuff enters transfer portal

It's become an all-too-frequent occurrence for the Duquesne men's basketball program, as another one of its players has declared his intentions to find a new home.

In a statement posted to social media on Saturday, Dukes guard Tyson Acuff announced that he'd be entering the transfer portal. Acuff spent two seasons at Duquesne.

"To my guys/teammates, the bond created will never allow me to forget the moments we shared together," Acuff said in the statement. "I am thankful for all of the relationships that have been created from simply being a Duke."

The Detroit native appeared in all of Duquesne's 30 games in 2021-22, seeing his name in the starting five in 16 of those contests. He averaged 5.7 points per game and led the team in 3-point percentage (39.4%).

Acuff became the third Duquesne player to enter the transfer portal since the team's season ended on March 9, joining Toby Okani and Jackie Johnson III.

Pens swept by Avs in home-and-home

With what was arguably as strong of a litmus test for the upcoming Stanley Cup Playoffs as possible, the Colorado Avalanche swept the Pittsburgh Penguins in a home-and-home pair of games.

The action got underway at Ball Arena in Denver on Saturday, with Colorado defeating Pittsburgh 3-2.

The Penguins kept up with one of the National Hockey League's favorites to win the Stanley Cup, but a goal from the Avalanche's Devon Toews with 4:26 left in the game put Colorado ahead for good.

The series turned to Pittsburgh and PPG Paints Arena on Tuesday.

Although the Penguins trailed by just one goal (3-2) heading into the third period, Colorado used three goals to gain a comfortable edge, ultimately winning by a 6-4 tally.

Pittsburgh has another pivotal game on Thursday night. For the third time in less than two weeks, they'll clash with the New York Rangers, whom they trail by four points in the Metropolitan Division standings.

-Luke Henne, Sports Editor

Pirates set for another rebuilding season

SEAN O'DONNELL
staff writer

With Major League Baseball's season set to get underway on Thursday, the Pittsburgh Pirates are still deep in the midst of a long rebuild, seeking to replenish the organizational talent in hopes of becoming competitive a few years down the line.

The Pirates finished the 2021 season with a 61-101 record, earning a last-place finish in the National League Central division for the third season in a row.

Although more roster turnover dominated general manager Ben Cherington's offseason plans, there are still some core pieces for third-year manager Derek Shelton to build around in 2022.

The catalysts for this team, in all likelihood, are going to be: center fielder Bryan Reynolds, third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes and relief pitcher David Bednar.

Reynolds earned his first MLB All-Star Game appearance a season ago, and he finished the campaign with a .302 batting average, 24 home runs and 90 RBIs. In two of his three seasons at the MLB level, Reynolds has batted over .300, hit at least 15 home runs and recorded at least 65 RBIs.

Another bat to keep an eye on is Hayes. In what was his first-full MLB season in 2021, Hayes hit six home runs and recorded 38 RBIs, playing in just 96 games due to multiple injuries.

While his offensive numbers could and should improve, it's his defense that stands out. He won the 2021 MLB Fielding Bible Award as the league's best-defensive third baseman. With room to grow offensively and his defense already proven to be high-caliber, Hayes appears to be ready to take the next step in his growth as a franchise cornerstone.

The Pirates have recognized this talent and are looking to keep Hayes around for the foreseeable future. Last week, MLB Network insider Jon Heyman reported that Pittsburgh offered Hayes a long-term contract extension.

In the bullpen, Bednar appears to be one of the few household names.

The Pittsburgh native who grew up in nearby Mars, Pa., emerged as the team's closer in his first season with his hometown Pirates in 2021. He struck out 77 batters and posted a solid 2.23 earned run average in just over 60 innings of action, and he'll be counted on as a solidified arm.

The rest of the roster, however, is riddled with issues related to depth and inconsistency.

Aside from Hayes, the infield is loaded with players that Pittsburgh is counting on to bounce back and/or take the next step forward.

The catcher spot is as weak as it's been in a long time for Pittsburgh. After trading Jacob Stallings — a 2021 National League Gold Glove Award recipient — to the Miami Marlins in late November, the Pirates filled Stallings' void by agreeing to a one-year deal with Roberto Perez.

The former member of the then-Cleveland Indians had an impressive 2019 campaign, hitting 24 home runs and producing 63 RBIs. It's been an offensive struggle for Perez since then, however. In 2021, he hit just .149 in a season where injuries limited him to just 44 games.

Perez was an American League Gold Glove Award winner in both 2019 and

2020, so it appears that Pittsburgh signed him for his defense, and anything that comes at the plate will be a bonus.

While the Pirates used the No. 1 overall pick in the 2021 MLB Draft to select phenom catcher Henry Davis, he's not MLB-ready just yet. As a result, the catcher position remains pretty thin.

At first base, the path looks clear for Yoshi Tsutsugo. In just 43 games with Pittsburgh in 2021 following rough patches with both the Tampa Bay Rays and the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tsutsugo hit an impressive .268 with eight home runs and 25 RBIs.

The team opted not to renew the con-

tract of first baseman Colin Moran, who eventually signed with the rival Cincinnati Reds after four seasons in Pittsburgh.

With the MLB implementing a universal designated hitter for all 30 teams, the Pirates needed to find a serviceable power option. They found this power in the form of Daniel Vogelbach, who hit 30 home runs and recorded 76 RBIs with the Seattle Mariners in 2019.

Following a disappointing 2021 campaign with the Milwaukee Brewers in which he hit just .219 with nine home runs, Pittsburgh signed him to a one-year contract in hopes that he can recapture the promise he displayed just three seasons ago.

The middle infield will likely be occupied by Michael Chavis at second base and Kevin Newman at shortstop.

After being acquired from the Boston Red Sox in late July of last season, Chavis — Boston's first-round selection in the 2014 MLB Draft — hit an impressive .357 with four extra-base hits in 12 games with the Pirates, missing some time due to injury.

Newman batted just .226 in 2021, but his defense earned him recognition as a finalist for the National League Gold Glove Award at the shortstop position. He's also just three seasons removed from a 2019 campaign in which he hit .308 and recorded 64 RBIs.

Look for rising star second baseman/shortstop Oneil Cruz — one of Pittsburgh's most-promising prospects — to be up at any point in the season.

The outfield will be anchored by Reynolds in center field, but the corner spots could be a fluid situation.

Ben Gamel will likely start in left field

after hitting .255 with Pittsburgh in 2021. Anthony Alford and Greg Allen looked to be candidates to start in right field, but Alex Stumpf of DK Pittsburgh Sports reported on Tuesday that they'll both start the season on the injured list.

That could leave the door open for Cole Tucker — who played some right field for Pittsburgh in 2021 — to help fill the hole.

Tucker — Pittsburgh's first-round selection in the 2014 MLB Draft — hit an uninspiring .222 in 2021, but provides the Pirates with speed and versatility.

Rising outfield prospects like Bligh Madris, Jack Suwinski, Canaan Smith-Njigba

who pitched to a 3.24 ERA with 66 strikeouts in 75 innings during his rookie season in 2021.

While Brubaker, Keller and Thompson seem to have solidified three of the rotation's spots, Mackey reported on Wednesday that the other two spots will belong to Jose Quintana and Bryse Wilson.

Quintana — an MLB All-Star with the Chicago White Sox in 2016 — has played for three different teams over the past two seasons. He split the 2021 campaign between the Los Angeles Angels and San Francisco Giants, combining for a 6.43 ERA with 85 strikeouts in 29 appearances.

While Quintana has seen better days, he still boasts a career 3.84 ERA. He'll look to provide veteran leadership to a rotation that lacks experience.

Although they'll start the season in the bullpen, don't be surprised if Wil Crowe, Dillon Peters or Miguel Yajure find their way into the rotation at some point, as all three started games for Pittsburgh in 2021.

Look for young arms like Roansy Contreras and Yajure — who were acquired from the New York Yankees along with Smith-Njigba in a January 2021 trade — to make a significant impact on this starting rotation sooner rather than later.

Along with Bednar, Crowe, Peters and Yajure, the bullpen will likely include: Anthony Banda, Aaron Fletcher, Heath Hembree, Chris Stratton and Duane Underwood Jr.

The most-notable names to keep an eye on in this group are Stratton and Banda. Stratton pitched to a 3.63 ERA and struck out 86 batters last season, while Banda turned in a 3.42 ERA in 25 games after the Pirates claimed him off waivers from the New York Mets in early August.

In addition to Alford and Allen, Stumpf reported that pitchers Sam Howard, Max Kranick and Luis Oviedo will all begin the season on the injured list.

In all likelihood, it'll be another year of growing pains for the Pirates, who are looking to find their way back to relevance.

With a bevy of young and promising players, however, that time might be coming much sooner than people think.

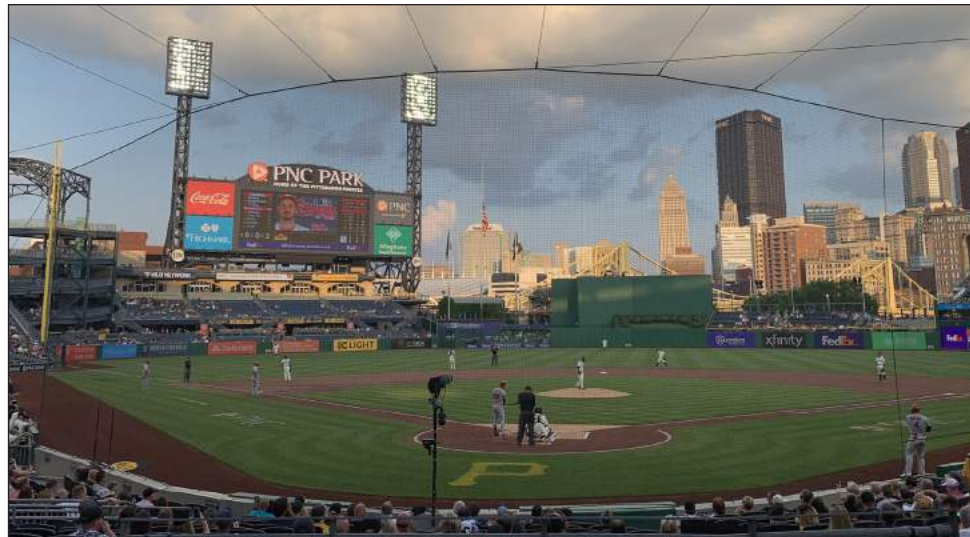
After opening the season with four games in St. Louis, the Pirates will return to PNC Park to host the Chicago Cubs in their home opener on Tuesday afternoon.

**Note: The writer offered his opinion on who he believes will be selected to the Pittsburgh Pirates' opening day roster. Pittsburgh will finalize its 28-man roster just prior to Thursday's game in St. Louis.*



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Two-time American League Gold Glove Award winner Roberto Perez will likely be the Pirates' primary catching option during the 2022 campaign.



LUKE HENNE | SPORTS EDITOR

PNC Park — home of the Pirates since 2001 — will welcome fans back in for the team's home opener, which is scheduled for Tuesday. With Tuesday being Pittsburgh's 412 Day, the game will start at 4:12 p.m.

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Revving up Pittsburgh's flea market Car Bazaar

EMMA POLEN
features editor

The thrilling sights, sounds and smells of local vendors filled the top floors of a Downtown cement parking garage on Saturday.

The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership-sponsored Car Bazaar is back for its second annual event, and this year it will run every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through September at the Forbes-Smithfield Garage (400 Cherry Way) – weather permitting – with exceptions for holiday weekends and April 30, for Pittsburgh Marathon events.

Last week's Car Bazaar featured a variety of vendors selling homemade products, well-loved knickknacks and vintage clothing. The sounds of bartering were accompanied by local bands The

Evergreens and Miss Freddye. The smell of old clothing, cars and clothing mixed with the welcoming aroma of fresh brunch food from The Speckled Egg and cooking grilled cheeses from The Pickled Chef.

The first week of the parking garage flea market happened on the fifth and sixth floors of the Forbes-Smithfield Garage. Food and entertainment were located on the fifth floor, but the sixth floor was a more pleasant venue, as it is the top floor of the garage and offered a warmer environment and gave vendors' wares better lighting.

Carrying cash was a must at the Bazaar. Some vendors accepted Venmo, but cash was useful when inevitably a small seller's vintage item caught the buyers' eye.

Frank Leonardi has been collecting old house wares for 40 years. His collection of vintage kitchen items, toys and clothing were picked from his large garage storage which he finds at state, house and yard sales.

He enjoys coming to vendor fairs like the Car Bazaar that bring people together.

"The flea market is people speaking and looking at each other," he said. "It's old-school communication."

Freshman music major Rachel Lewandowski was pleased with her finds — she scored Abba and *Phantom of the Opera* vinyls, some vintage skirts and a pastel necklace from the '60s.

"They were all really friendly," Lewandowski said. The vinyl vendors were helpful with finding specific records in their enormous collections, she said.

"It was nice to be able to walk down [from Duquesne]," Lewandowski said. "I haven't been able to go to a flea market [since starting college]."

The Car Bazaar was extremely accessible for all people: walkers, wheelchair users, bikers, drivers and even roller skaters.

Jessica Halsband found a creative way to stay warm during the cold parking garage morning and wind by zipping between booths with her roller skates.

Halsband is a vendor herself, selling a variety of homemade



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

Em Collins' small business, Emtree Bath and Body, centers around plastic-free, sustainable bathroom products.

soaps, bandanas and cloth baskets. Her business, Ritual Soapworks, is available online at her website (ritualsoapworks.com).

She appreciated how easy it was to move around.

"Maybe other people will bring their skates [next time]," she said.

Halsband also called the event European-inspired and "so Pittsburgh."

In fact, the Car Bazaar was influenced by the traditional "British car boot sale," according to Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership's official page for the event.

A car's "boot" is the same as the trunk. Some vendors decided to use their car trunks to their advantage.

Ricardo Solis, a Costa Rican artist, showed off a brand new life-size demon mask he had hand-made from recycled cardboard in his car trunk. He encouraged Bazaar browsers to try on the mask for a free photo opp.

Solis's Costa Rica Art business sold recycled cardboard cards,

magnets and keychains. Solis came to the Bazaar last year as well.

"I love it so I kept coming back," he said. "The [Pittsburgh] art scene is really welcoming," he said.

Solis is originally from Costa Rica, and he came to Pittsburgh in 2015. Since then, he has combined his passions for graphic design and upcycling.

Solis' products can be found at local markets and online at Etsy.com.

Environmental impact was the motivation for Em Collins' Emtree Bath and Body beauty products, as well.

"My goal is to get rid of plastic in your bathroom," she said.

Her 3-year-old business has recently made its way to Pittsburgh, and she looks forward to coming back to the Car Bazaar for the remainder of the 2022 season. Her one-of-a-kind soaps, shampoos and beard oils can be purchased on her website (emtreebathandbody.com).



EMMA POLEN | FEATURES EDITOR

The Car Bazaar did not disappoint for vintage record collectors. Records in their original casing from the 60s and even earlier could be found among the vendors' filled-to-the-brim boxes.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Mocktails and Karaoke
April 7 @ 9 p.m.

Join Encore show choir at the NiteSpot for singing, mocktails and more!

SOTA Spaghetti Dinner
April 8 @ 5 p.m.

Help raise money for Alzheimer's Association through a benefit dinner at the Africa Room!

DugAthon Dance Marathon
April 9 @ 3 p.m.

Come and celebrate at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse for the commitment to changing kids' health for the better! Free food, dancing and a meet-and-greet with the strongest kids are all available from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Register on Campus Link.

Welcome Bags for Ronald McDonald House
April 10 @ 9 p.m.

Join Strong Women, Strong Girls at the NiteSpot in making "goodie bags" for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh!

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

It's not a race to the finish

When people ask me how I'm doing, my default statement has been "Oh you know, racing to the finish!" But honestly, is it worth putting my mental health on the line just to speed the semester ahead?

It's good to make a routine that is effectively working toward a peaceful evening, a memorable weekend or a rewarding summer break. However, you don't have to be so ahead that you forget what you're doing it for.

Forgive yourself for taking your time in the morning, or for not being as productive as you intended. Your planner is not gospel; you can give yourself some grace.

As you give yourself periods to relax, make it a productive relaxation. So, instead of going on your phone, make time for a meal you've been craving or a book you've put on hold. If you are taking a break from school work, make sure you are putting that toward good self-care (because school puts you on hold for that, too). Don't feel guilty for your peace.

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Do you see these gains? These wins? (This emotional baggage).

Gemini

Poetry Workshop is free therapy and I need your support on that.

Libra

WHAT DO YOU WANT! A HUG????

Pisces

Anyone wanna frolic? Skip? Be a little silly?

Cancer

Booooooooooooooooooooo.

Scorpio

Yo I can't hang, my grandma is teaching me how to make gnocci.

Aries

Things Aries love: being an Aries in Aries season.

Leo

Nobody can tell you what to do! Except me and your grandma.

Sagittarius

Started a fight with Duquesne squirrel, squirrel won.

Taurus

Pens game quieter than the Benedum, it's an art.

Virgo

Trying to tell your class you're crazy without actually telling them.

Capricorn

You would get lunch with Mermaid Man over Spongebob.

Star-studded performances define music's biggest night

CAROLINE KUCKO
staff writer

The 64th Annual Grammy Awards were jam-packed with extravagant performances and wins for Silk Sonic, Olivia Rodrigo, Jon Batiste and more.

Hosted for a second time by "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah, the three-and-a-half-hour-long show aired on Sunday night from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Noah opened the show with a subtle nod to Will Smith's Oscars slap heard around the world. "We're going to be keeping people's names out of our mouths," Noah joked.

Along with this year's change in venue came some of the most spectacular Grammy performances to date.

Silk Sonic opened the show with an energetic ode to the Sin City, performing their hit song "777." The popular duo, featuring Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, went on to win in two of the "Big Four" award categories including Song of the Year and Record of the Year for their debut single "Leave the Door Open."

Rodrigo followed with a stellar performance of the emotional ballad that quickly took over the world last year, "drivers license." A lifelong dream came true for Rodrigo as she took home her first three Grammys, including Best Pop Vocal Album for *Sour* and Best Pop Solo Performance

for "drivers license." She also won the award for Best New Artist, which was presented and passed down by Dua Lipa and Megan Thee Stallion.

Billie Eilish later performed her Grammy-nominated hit "Happier Than Ever" alongside her brother, songwriter FINNEAS. Eilish wore a Taylor Hawkins t-shirt in honor of the Foo Fighters drummer who died March 25. The Foo Fighters, who were understandably absent, won three awards for Best Rock Performance, Song and Album. The Recording Academy honored Hawkins later on in the show during the staple In Memoriam segment.

Rachel Zegler, Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr. and Ben Platt paid tribute to some of music's greatest as they performed a powerful medley of songs written by the late Stephen Sondheim.

Lady Gaga also gave a standout jazz performance of "Love for Sale" and transitioned into an emotional and heartfelt tribute to duet partner and friend Tony Bennett who is battling Alzheimer's. Gaga and Bennett later won the Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album.

Other noteworthy performances were given by Justin Bieber, Nas, J Balvin, Carrie Underwood, and Lil Nas X; BTS sang their hit song "Butter" during an elaborate James Bond-inspired performance.

One of the show's more sobering moments took place when Ukrainian

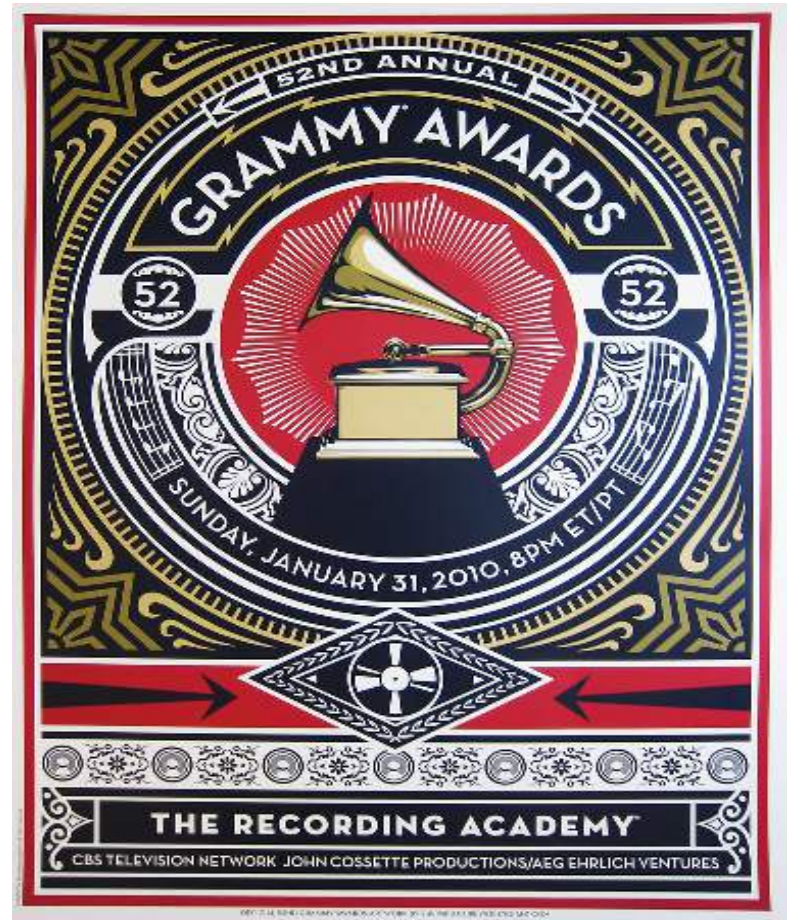
President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivered a compelling speech about the importance of speaking up amid the ongoing war by using music and social media. His plea was followed by John Legend's stunning performance of "Free" alongside Ukrainian musicians.

Another memorable moment took place as Doja Cat and SZA accepted their award for Best Pop Group Performance. Doja Cat quite literally ran from the bathroom to make it on stage to accept the award. What started as a joke turned into a tearful moment of clarity for Doja Cat as she expressed how much the award meant to her.

Jazz singer Jon Batiste was the most nominated artist of the night — with 11 nominations. Toward the end of the show, Batiste snagged the top prize of the night, Album of the Year, for his eighth album *We Are* after giving a joyful and upbeat performance of his song "Freedom."

"There is no best musician, best artist, best dancer, best actor," Batiste said during his acceptance speech. "The creative arts are subjective and they reach people at a point in their lives when they need it most."

Noticeably absent from the ceremony were nominees Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift and Tyler, the Creator, who won Best Rap Album for "Call Me If You Get Lost." Cardi B also skipped out on the awards and deleted her Twitter account on Sunday night among criticism from fans.



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Year after year, the Grammy Awards offer a myriad of performances and recognition for Hollywood's favorites.

Country duo and Grammy winners Brothers Osborne closed out the night with an electrifying rendition of their song "Dead Man's Curve."

The 2022 Grammy Awards brought

a slew of big wins from an exciting new venue. What ultimately stole the show, however, were the sensational performances given by a wide array of talented artists.

Daniel Franzese performs comedy, talks about *Mean Girls* career

MEGAN TROTTER
staff writer

A monochromatic array of pink could be seen inside the Union Ballroom on March 31 as actor, activist and comedian Daniel Franzese put on his comedy routine, proudly titled, "Yass Things Are Amazing."



MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER

Daniel Franzese signs student's arm.

In addition to his performance, the event also featured refreshments, a merchandise table, a raffle, a Q&A and a personal meet and greet with Franzese himself.

Organized by Duquesne Pro-

gram Council (DPC), roughly 125 students attended the late-night event, and masks were provided to students who chose to participate in the meet and greet.

In setting up the event, incoming Arts and Entertainment Director Alaina Baker said that DPC offered Franzese refreshments as he waited on the sixth floor in preparation for his Q&A.

Students who were quick to buy tickets received a free pink t-shirt with the movie slogan, "On Wednesdays, we wear pink."

Best known for his role as Damian in "Mean Girls," Franzese spoke a lot about the cultural shift his character had across the world. When asked if he feels his role as Damian overshadows his other works, Franzese said that he'll "never tire of it."

"I'll always lean into it. It's such a gift that keeps on giving," Franzese said.

He said that since his character never openly announced he was gay in the movie, it was able to get past several censors and even hit No. 1 on the charts in India.

Franzese said he often receives letters from members of the LGBTQ+ community, thanking him for being the first on-screen gay representation they had ever seen.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Franzese said "the best thing

you can do is be an example of love."

Going on his third year of tours, his relaxed appearance extended beyond just his casual beach-themed outfit: neon yellow shoes, a white palm tree shirt and a jean jacket vest with a van on the back. Obviously, he was comfortable in the spotlight, as he danced around the stage, frequently knocking over the microphone stand for comedic effect. Franzese joked about stressing out the tech guys with all his commotion.

Stirring up some gossip in his routine Franzese mentioned popular exo-star, Lindsey Lohan, joking that she was off kidnapping kids in Syria. When asked who his least favorite cast member had been from the set of "Mean Girls," Franzese said while he did not want to say it was Lohan, since she was also only 16 years old at the time of filming. He said that he "loves the current modern-day version of her."

The comedy set covered jokes about everything: from Franzese's fear of Pompeii; to him acting out the plot of Paranormal Activity; to several impressions of his mother and what it's like growing up in an Italian household.

During his time on stage, he pointed out his mom, Denise Franzese, in the audience and shared it was her birthday. The entire room



MEGAN TROTTER | STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Alaina Baker interviews Franzese on the Union Ballroom stage.

erupted in cheers.

Encouraging the celebration, Franzese surprised his mom with candles and two slices of a birthday cake. Everyone in attendance joined in to sing "Happy Birthday" so she could blow out her candles.

"Being a part of DPC and meeting Daniel Franzese was amazing. He was very open to answering our questions and seemed genuinely excited to meet everyone," DPC board member Isabella Niccolai said.

The fun continued with a raffle for a \$100 Amazon gift card. Raffle winner Alexandra Wiseman said she was inspired to come to the event because

of "Mean Girls."

"I love that movie," Wiseman said. According to Wiseman, she hopes to put the gift card toward a new iPad for herself.

During the Q&A, Franzese revealed he is happy to be at the point in his career where he can afford to be particular about his work and what he wants to act in. According to Franzese, he said he is lucky to have the opportunity to be a part of so many different projects.

"I am very grateful we were able to host Daniel [Franzese], and we couldn't have had more fun," Niccolai said.

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“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

MARK TWAIN

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

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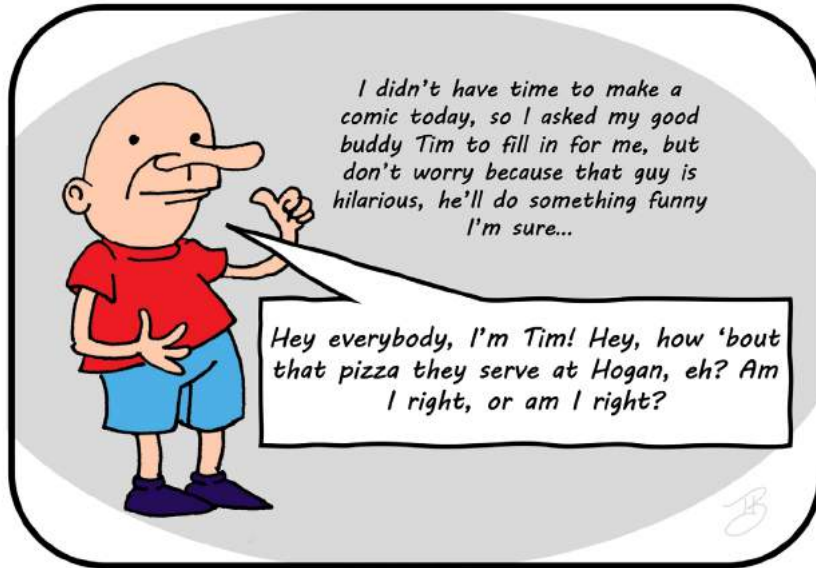
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BENJAMIN CRAWFORD | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

Streamlining student loans: the solution to our growing debt

President Biden recently revealed that millions of federal student loan borrowers will be able to freeze their payments until Aug. 31; it is the sixth time the date has been moved back since the pauses began early in the pandemic.

As a student, the continued moratorium is a god-send, but no one is really pleased with the prolonged but temporary solution: Many see it as unnecessary, and the rest want to see outright loan forgiveness.

However, as an *NPR* investigation discovered, the true nature of the student loan debt problem is a borrower's income, and the mismanagement of income-driven repayment plans (IDR). Large debts owed by high-income borrowers are often affordable, while smaller debts of lower-income borrowers enrolled in for-profit schools are weighing them down. A change must be made to the IDR plan, and the Biden administration must enact that change, with follow-up from the Department of Education.

According to Statistica, student loans are the largest body of consumer debt, following that of mortgages. What's most frightening is that it's concentrated among a small percentage of the population.

So far, proposals to forgive some amount of student loans — \$10,000 suggested by the president, \$50,000 suggested by Democratic members of Congress — are problematic, put simply.

First and foremost, in the political sense, there are arguments over whether the president or the education secretary even have the authority to forgive any amount of student loans. It could be seen as a form of unauthorized spending by the administration.

Economically, the \$10,000 or \$50,000 blanket loan forgiveness presents fairness con-

cerns for current and future loan borrowers: higher-income families would end up receiving too much relief, while those in lower-income families may still need to pay a substantial amount.

The obvious answer is to enroll in the IDR plan; however, the plan is less than adequate, and is not the default plan for borrowers. Many are unaware of the option, and the federal loan servicers don't ensure that they know about it.

The immediate problem



ZOE STRATOS
opinions editor

could be easily fixed by Congress by suggesting that repayment of all federal loans be done on an IDR plan and directing the IRS to share the tax returns of all federal loan borrowers with Federal Student Aid loan servicers.

The student loan moratorium debate itself is controversial across party lines, but there's been bipartisan support for IDR reforms in the past: The first major expansion of IDR happened under the George W. Bush administration.

The next part of the issue is the IDR plan itself. Several forms of the IDR plan allow for monthly payments as low as \$0, as well as cancellations after 20-25 years of qualify-

ing payments. Servicers must count the payments made, and notify them when they qualify for cancellation, according to *NPR*.

“But the previously unreleased 2016 review of servicers, conducted by the department's office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), found that three servicers — PHEAA, CornerStone and MOHELA — did “not have an IDR forgiveness payment counter” to track borrowers' progress toward cancellation,” the same article said.

These irregularities carry into how servicers count payments:

“If a monthly payment of \$100.01 is owed but a borrower pays just \$100 — one penny shy of the required amount — three servicers (Great Lakes, Nelnet and Edfinancial) said they would still count it as a qualifying payment. But four others indicated they would not.”

After passing legislation to rework the federal loan program and IDR plan, the Department of Education must streamline and fix these irregularities between servicers. Also, streamlining the plans into one income-based plan, or automatically enrolling borrowers into the IDR plan unless they opt out would make the complex process much less confusing. Not only would it make the process easier for borrowers, but also for the variety of servicers with different regulations.

Those who opt out, too, would still benefit from the fixed payment option, as if nothing ever changed. With a streamlined system and better communication, borrowers won't be left stranded in a pile of debt.

While reforms will help moving forward, the damage is already done for past borrowers. There may be disagreement about the solution, but one thing is certain: IDR, Congress, FSA and the Department of Education have failed students.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Violence in Pgh: How do we protect the vulnerable?

Last week, multiple instances of violent abuse against children made headlines in Pittsburgh.

Dayvon Vickers, a 15-year-old kid from Homewood, was shot and killed on Wednesday, March 30. His friends and family gathered to hold a vigil, but they are frustrated with the lack of police information about the homicide that could prevent instances like it from happening again.

A number of violent crimes have made the news in Pittsburgh recently. In Homewood alone, there have been eight homicides since New Year's Eve, reported the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. While these stats might not necessarily show an increase in shootings and stabbings in Pittsburgh compared to years prior, the number of child victims is certainly troubling.

On Friday, April 1, two young boys were transported to a hospital in critical condition after allegedly being stabbed by their own mother in their Hill District home. The person who is accused of the violent act was the very person responsible for protecting these children from the dangers of the world.

Helping the most vulnerable in a community is the responsibility of everyone. These awful crimes are unfortunately not the only instances of violent abuse against children in the city, but at least with the media attention these cases are getting right now, community leaders are making it known how citizens can help.

Mayor Ed Gainey called this a “pandemic of gun violence” in a statement following the shootings of Vickers and Devonte White, a 29-year-old Wilkinsburg man, the night of March 30.

Gainey's suggestion for illegal firearm trafficking is promising, but like any “pandemic,” it takes the active involvement of everyone capable of contributing. And when it comes to keeping our city safe, that contribution can come from anyone—including those who might be feeling helpless after these recent events.

Last weekend at a neighborhood meeting held in the Tree of Life Open Bible Church, Gainey told community members to report suspicious activity to the police through phone calls or anonymous complaint forms. He recommended taking photos and video footage when possible, and especially of license plates.

Here at Duquesne, we encourage students to help, too, by donating time and resources.

Community outreaches designed for children in Pittsburgh, including Jeremiah's Place, provide a space for children of families dealing with crises. One converted home in Homewood, ARThouse, encourages children to enter into a “creative sanctuary” where they can paint and sculpt safely away from street violence.

While these neighborhood solutions do not directly solve the problem of violent abuse, they certainly help community members to be more aware of how they can contribute to the wellbeing of their city when things feel the most helpless.

A labor movement happening, prepare accordingly

ZACHARY PETROFF
staff columnist

I will never forget when one of my closest mentors and father figure gave me a brief tour of Akron, Ohio. It was the day before Thanksgiving, and the dealership we worked for was playing against our rival dealership in a “friendly” football game. As we drove through the desolate part of the city, he made sure to point out all the run-down factories and abandoned buildings.

Half joking, he mentioned that the reason that the city had become so barren was due to “your people,” a phrase he often used when mentioning liberals. He informed me that the reason so many businesses left was because unions had caused the price of production to go up so high that it forced various businesses to leave town, leaving the city of Akron in an economic downfall.

Though it has been years, that conversation has stuck with me. He was a man of few words and someone I had grown to admire. He helped craft my views on leadership, professionalism and offered me guidance in a time of my life when I felt like I already knew everything. When he spoke, even if I did not heed his advice, I listened.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Despite Amazon’s malicious tactics, the Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, NY was able to unionize on April 1.

Upon reflection, I have come to understand his and many others’ stance on labor and labor rights. I do not believe it comes from a place of malice, but rather from a slew of misconceptions and archaic perceptions.

It’s brainwashing.

The way we view corporations, who have hoarded a massive amount of profit, seems almost satirical. Mitt Romney, during his campaign for presidency in 2008, made the claim that “corporations are people too.” In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark decision that under the first amendment, corporations

could contribute, and thus influence, without limitations, how much they give to political contributions. In 2016, we elected an under-qualified billionaire without any political experience to the highest office in the country.

We have a cult-like attitude when it comes to CEOs. We put men like Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Tim Cook and Steve Jobs on an adorative pedestal while often villainizing those in the workforce. Words like labor unions, socialism, strikes and profit-sharing are often met with disdain and distrust.

Labor is changing. It needs to change. For too long in this country

corporations have exploited various members of the working class with low wages and unreasonable demands all while asking for their blind loyalty, which we have given to them willingly.

The work force is being asked to do more for less compensation in several sectors. This is most apparent when it comes to jobs where less qualifications are required: retail, the service industry and manufacturing employees are being asked to do more with stagnant compensation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has studied productivity trends from 1987-2015 finding that “the share of income going to workers has declined in 77% of industries since 1987...These industries also saw a large rise in output and productivity in this period, in contrast, labor share increased.”

The working class is being asked to do more for less. Wages have remained stagnant while wage inequality continues to grow. The right of the people to come together and have their voices heard is American. The right to collective bargaining allows the working class not only a voice, but a chance to be recognized and to put the power of industry back into the hands of the people. As legislation has failed to recognize the rights of workers, it is

up to the people to come together and demand that various levels of exploitation need to be corrected.

The road for workers to gain their rightful share of profit will be a hard one. In 2020 we saw giant tech companies like Uber and Lyft spend a record \$205 million to pass Proposition 22 in California, which allowed tech employers to categorize their workers as “independent contractors” instead of employees.

This allows the corporations to not have to pay for unemployment insurance, health care, sick leave and other responsibilities of an employer. Amazon spent \$4.3 million on anti-union consultants last year alone. Other massive corporations such as Walmart and Starbucks have spent years cultivating a culture that slows or prevents the unionization of employees.

The monumental labor organization that occurred last Friday at the Amazon facility in Staten Island, N.Y. took two years. There were aggressive and even illegal tactics being deployed to stop the efforts. The trend of malicious attempts to deter workers from uniting will likely increase before sweeping changes occur.

We as Americans should embrace and ready ourselves for the right for the average worker to have a voice.

The future of American public health is looking up

COLLEEN HAMMOND
editor-in-chief

As Covid-19 cases decline across the country (likely temporarily), society begins to take a collective breath to reflect on the destruction the pandemic has caused over the past two years. With the scratch of the head, many find themselves asking, “How could this have happened? Where did we go wrong?”

The answer: There is plenty of blame to go around.

Although the former presidential administration was significantly more dangerous in their nightmarish decision-making, both the past and present presidents made egregious errors when handling the pandemic. While the former presidential administration chose to recklessly deny the pandemic altogether until acknowledgement became both unavoidable and politically convenient, the current administration has struggled to distribute testing and quell case surges in the face of the Delta and Omicron variants.

But despite their vast political differences, one constant remained: The government agency tasked with upholding, maintaining and protecting public health was ill-prepared for a catastrophic event that had been brewing on the horizon for decades.

For years, epidemiologists and public health researchers have warned about the potential of a highly contagious, air-borne respiratory illness rapidly spreading through our ultra-globalized society. Still, regardless of the warnings, administration after administration continued to divert funds away from pandemic preparedness plans.

Over the past two years, the cost of these decisions has proven to be millions of lives here and abroad.

However, the future of public health does not have to be as bleak as its past.

In the wake of blistering criticism over pandemic handling and preparedness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky announced plans to revamp the entire agency on Monday.

Walensky stated in an agency-wide email that a one-month review of the CDC’s “structure, systems and processes” was about to begin, with the intention that adjustments to procedure would be made based on the review’s findings.

While this is a step in the right direction, the changes needed within the CDC speak volumes about the necessary attitude change we need to start seeing society wide to protect public health.

For Americans, we often take a reactionary approach to our health. Due to the exorbitant costs of the healthcare system in this country, many people find

themselves putting off treatment as long as possible, hoping the problem will go away on its own. When these issues inevitably become worse over time, they often become more difficult (and expensive) to treat. This practice has become the norm in the face of hefty medical bills and nearly inescapable medical debt.

In conjunction with these steep prices, public health agencies, like the CDC, do not often prioritize preventative medicine, and many Americans feel more than comfortable skipping their yearly physical, regular dental cleaning, or routine cancer screenings.

This leaves many people in the crushing position of suffering the late stages of a medical condition that could have easily been detected earlier.

While shifting these long-held attitudes is no simple task, there is hope on the horizon for change. During the upcoming revamp of the CDC, agency officials should make preventative health their priority.

As we have seen since the genesis of the Covid-19 pandemic, the best way to protect people from dying from this illness is to keep them from contracting the virus in the first place. We did this through stay-at-home orders, mask mandates and vaccine requirements. Clearly, many Americans recognize the inherent value in preventative medicine and have done their best to avoid illness by abid-



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky announced plans to revamp the entire agency on Monday.

ing by guidelines.

Luckily, as the CDC forges ahead into the public health crises beyond Covid-19, the same preventative principles can be applied.

For example, although the annual flu shot is widely available, reception rates in the 2021-22 flu season hovered around 50%, according to the CDC.

In addition to preventative measures, the CDC revamp should also take a large focus on holistic health. Frequently, symptoms can be viewed as occurring in a vacuum, as if the vast systems of the body are not deeply interconnected. Medicine at its worst siloes organs and systems and refuses to look at a person as a complete being. But, when specialists work together, it can be easier to recognize the

links between various medical problems, their potential origins and likely treatments.

So often, people are told that “a healthy diet, exercise and lifestyle changes” can make all the difference to one’s health. But our public health organizations often fail to recognize and prioritize the impact of lifestyle on long-term health. Instead, many of us are left to put bandaids on problems that have become bullet holes over time without proper prevention.

As the CDC reflects on the failures of the past in the hopes of correcting the course of the future of public health, preventive medicine and holistic health need to come to the forefront of decision making to ensure the long-term health of the American people.

An egg-stra special gift

Duquesne pharmacy students make Easter baskets for the elderly

ALICIA DYE
staff writer

While most people think of wicker Easter baskets filled with candy during Easter season, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) made paper bunny Easter baskets, and filled them with fuzzy socks, self care items and goodies during their Easter baskets event.

On Sunday, April 3, ASCP members and other pharmacy students gathered in the NiteSpot to paint picture frames and create Easter baskets for residents of the Haven Convalescent Home in New Castle.

ASCP plays bingo with the residents there every month, and April will be their last bingo visit this semester.

"We play bingo with them every month and bring some prizes, but this month we wanted it to be extra special," said Megan Stocklas, ASCP president and fifth-year pharmacy student.

"While we always have prizes, we wanted everyone to get something, especially since this is our last visit there this semester," Stocklas said.

Before creating the Easter baskets, students painted more than 24 picture frames for the residents. The residents will be gifted a photo of the members of ASCP that they can put in

the picture frame, if they choose.

Afterward, students created the paper Easter bunny baskets and filled them with all types of fun items. While candy was included, so were mini rabbit plushies, lotion, activity books, fuzzy socks and bunny pens. Students also wrote Easter cards and included them in the baskets.

"It's always been a joy to interact with them, but even more now because we're able to actually see them," Stocklas said. "During Covid, we weren't allowed there, so there were two years of having no interaction with them."

The ASCP members looked forward to coming to this last bingo outing at the end of April, right after Easter break, and many discussed how they want to help older adults in their future career. "I love knowing we are giving back to them," said Lysandra Ospino, ASCP service coordinator.

"It's all about building relationships with them, and I love it. They radiate so much joy when we come, and that's what I love."

"Working with them is my favorite part of ASCP. It's so nice to see how happy they get when we work with them," said Gabrielle Shearer, ASCP secretary.

While this is ASCP's last event of the semester, pharmacy students are encouraged to join them next semester for service to the nursing home.

"We've painted flower pots for them, door



ALICIA DYE | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne's American Society of Consultant Pharmacists made Easter baskets for residents at the Haven Convalescent Home in New Castle.

tags, etc. We always try to switch up during the semesters, and they love getting gifts from us," Stocklas said. "It puts a smile on their face, and in turn, a smile on my face too."



Duq alumni brought back together to explore writing

EMMA POLEN
features editor

Duquesne's Coffee House Readings are back in-person for the first time since pre-pandemic, just in time for an exclusive reading event that brought alumni back from across the country.

Members of the present and past Duquesne community gathered inside the Genesis Theater on Wednesday to listen to four Duquesne English alumni present works written throughout their careers. An ASL interpreter was present to illustrate the images of each poet in an inclusive manner.

While all four poets studied at Duquesne, they have since taken their writing talents into a variety of fields. Their invitation to the

reading proves, though, that they maintained a connection to their writing in whatever path they chose.

Brian Tierney was featured at the reading for his recent debut collection of poetry, "Rise and Float." His poems touched on his personal, emotional experiences.

Tierney credits his Catholic upbringing for part of his poetic success.

"Catholicism believes in the enchantment of words," he said at the reading.

In addition, the writer discussed the heavy topic of suicide — something he admitted had plagued his life and the lives of others close to him. While some of the poems in "Rise and Float" discuss the dark side of deep personal thoughts, the book is also about "deciding to live," he said.

Tierney's poetry work followed him to San Francisco, where he teaches a poetry workshop at a community organization part-time.

In college, Tierney studied creative, academic and journalistic writing, which included being an editor for the *Duquesne Duke* where he met his wife.

"Now, [writing styles] are all part of how I approach talking about writing, and I'm able to talk about different kinds of writing, at a higher level than I would have if I had only done maybe one of those things," Tierney said.

Specifically, Tierney discussed how his journalistic experience influenced the way in which he maneuvers writing about his experiences.

"What I learned in journalism school is how you pay attention to the world," he said. "I think that has influenced my poems. And the kind of presence of my creative mind that has to do with the kind of journalistic seeing — you're seeing what other people aren't seeing."

Another speaker at the Coffee House Reading, Justin Kishbaugh, is now a professor of legal writing at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

He noted the similarity between his studies of law and poetry.

"Law, like poetry — you're trying to locate an ideal abstraction in sort of concrete particulars and specific facts," Kishbaugh said. "Everything revolves around analogy. And you want to create maximum meaning in the fewest words."

Kishbaugh presented poems from a 20th century classification of poetry called imagism, which he wrote his dissertation about back in his collegiate years. His reading contained a unique forward motion coupled with rhythmic flow of his poetic measures.

One poem Kishbaugh read, "Black Water," was written back in 2005 and dedicated to those dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It was one of the first poems he wrote and read as a

Duquesne student, he said.

The premiere speaker at the Coffee House Reading, Elizabeth Savage, is a professor of English and co-director of Women's & Gender Studies at Fairmont State University.

Savage recalled the encouragement she received while at Duquesne while finding her passion in an English career.

"Duquesne's English faculty, especially Dr. Kinnahan and Dr. Michael, prepared me to be a professional in the field," Savage said in an email. "Their courses and supportive responses to my writing gave me a strong foundation to continue my work as a feminist critic, poet and editor."

Savage's collection of poems she read at Genesis Theater represented a range of poetry she wrote over the past couple of years. Themes of long-lasting friendship and wilderness played out in her readings.

"The poems are from a new manuscript, which is an expanded version of the upcoming chapbook 'Noncallable Debenture,' which *Dancing Girl Press* will publish this summer," she said.

Not all of the alumni readers have wandered far from their creative writing roots at Duquesne. Cameron Barnett has remained in Pittsburgh as a teacher and poet.

He currently serves as an editor for *Pittsburgh Poetry Journal* and as a board member for *Write Pittsburgh*, according to his website.

Barnett read five pieces of poetry from his first book, "Drowning Boy's Guide to Water." His favorite piece is titled "Super Nova." The poem explores the relationship he had with a child he babysat.

"Super Nova" is representative of Barnett's dedication to speaking about the Black man's experience in modern-day America.

"He reminds me how close we are to an explosion," Barnett read in "Super Nova."



ANDREW CUMMINGS | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Brian Tierney was featured at the in-person Coffee House Reading for his recent debut collection of poetry, "Rise and Float." His poems touched on personal, emotional experiences.

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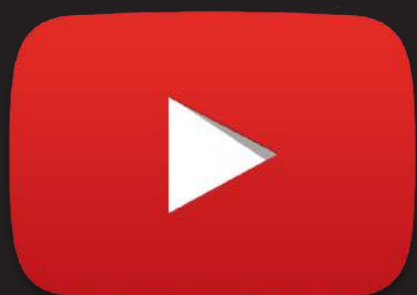
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