University announces new transportation options

ALICIA DYR
news editor

The Office of the President officially announced new and updated transportation options for students on Aug. 18 in an email.

The email detailed the updated South Side Shuttle and Weekend Shuttle programs and informed students about the new bus option titled "UPass." The new UPass system will provide students with a discounted rate for Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) travels at a discounted fare of $1.74 per ride (compared to the $2.75 regular price), the email said.

Students and faculty who want to use the UPass system need to download the ‘Ready2Ride’ app and then can sign up using their Duquesne email. After signing up, students and faculty will need to complete the enrollment and payment agreement form.

Freshman Nick Licata is happy Duquesne is offering UPasses.

"I think it’s good that they left the UPass system as an opt-in system," he said. "Some people have a car on campus, some people prefer to walk everywhere. It's a nice option."

After that, students and faculty will be able to use their UPass at any time throughout the semester and on any PRT bus. Anyone using the UPass system will be billed at the end of the month based on their usage.

"I'm from Buffalo, so Pittsburgh is totally new to me," Licata said. "It really helps us freshmen, especially when so few of us have cars on campus."

In April, Duquesne furthered its commitment to the equality outlined in Title IX by announcing that the school will add women's triathlon, women's golf and women's acrobatics and tumbling teams. Women's triathlon is set to begin in fall 2023, while the other two programs will begin in fall 2024.

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

On June 23, 1972, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon. The law, made up of 37 words, laid the foundation for a path toward a more-equal future.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance," the law reads.

This past summer, the law reached its 50th anniversary. Where Title IX has had arguably its most notable impact is in the world of collegiate sports at universities, both public and private, that receive federal financial assistance.

The NCAA lays out that the law requires "that women and men be provided equitable opportunities to participate in sports. Title IX does not require institutions to offer identical sports but an equal opportunity to play."

On April 19, Duquesne University announced that the school will add three new varsity sports in the coming years: women's triathlon (targeted for fall 2024) and women's acrobatics and tumbling (targeted for fall 2024).

"Duquesne is strongly committed to achieving both the letter and spirit of Title IX in regard to opportunities for student athletes," Harper said during the April announcement. "We are adding additional women's sports to ensure we are balanced with the right proportion of available activities for our campus."

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

Joella Baker, who was named head coach of the women's triathlon team on July 26, is eager to get to work, knowing that her position was made possible due largely to the principles of "making sure that women are included" and the "fairness" sought out by Title IX.

"I'm super excited about it. It was just an amazing thing...I worked my way up from a GA (graduate assistant) to Division III to now Division I head coach," Baker said. "I ran and swam at Duquesne, so I was a collegiate athlete there, and I loved my time there."

"I couldn't be more proud. I couldn't be more excited. I've met with so many people from the athletic department already, and they are just so welcoming. They really want to work with me, and they want to see this program grow and be successful. What more could you ask for?"

Jody Fetterhoff, who has served as the women's bowling coach since its inception in 2016-17, has become a model of what a successful women's program can do. She knows that having the opportunity to participate in sports was her only avenue because I wasn't good at other things. For this to be my career is just an amazing thing...I worked my way up from a GA to assistant to Division III to now Division I head coach," Fetterhoff said.

"For me, (playing sports) was everything growing up," Fetterhoff said. "I have an older brother, so I just wanted to do whatever he was doing. For me, (playing sports) was my avenue because I wasn't good at other things. For this to be my career is just an amazing thing...I worked my way up from a GA (graduate assistant) to Division III to now Division I head coach, [Title IX] has opened the doors for me and allowed me to do amazing things."

Despite having led the program to its first NCAA Championship appearance in 2021 and earning rankings of 12th or better in each of the past three end-of-season NTCA (National Tenpin Coaches Association) rankings, Fetterhoff emphasized that, in all reality, women's sports are still not always getting the equal attention they deserve.

"It's ridiculous that we need a law in place for us to have these things. The brutal reality is that we're nowhere close to having all colleges be compliant with it," Fetterhoff said. "Women's sports just haven't grown enough, and I think it's partly because we don't get the exposure."

"...We put in just as much work as every other athlete, every other coach on campus. We just want to be given the opportunity."

Hanna Everhart, a graduate student who completed her final season as a member of the school's swimming and diving team in February, didn't take her time as an athlete for granted.

"Title IX was the first time women could compete equally in a sport at my level, and it provokes pride, as well as honor," Everhart said. "I'm doing just as well as any other player, and that means a lot to me."

Everhart, who was nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award in July, attributes her success to those before her who had a vision for the future.
Despite crime, students flock to South Side

Alicia Dye
news editor

Ninety-one shots fired calls in the first six months of 2022 in the South Side neighborhood. Sixty-three shots fired in the first six months of 2021, in the same neighborhood. Crime, specifically gun violence, has been on the rise over the years, according to data provided by the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety. The gun violence in the area has been hurting businesses, causing some to even leave the neighborhood. Fudge Farm, a gourmet fudge, ice cream and chocolate shop, closed its doors in June of this year due to the violence, according to a Facebook post made by the business.

"Due to the uncontrollable shootings and violence as well as other circumstances on E. Carson St. today, the Facebook post said. "We can no longer ask teenage children, or no one for that matter to work for us in this environment."

Even with businesses and residents being frequently being hurt by the violence, students still flock to South Side on weekends, with no fear of the violence.

"Going out in South Side doesn't scare me," pharmacy student Megan Mcqigg said. "I could get shot anywhere in the city."

The gun violence in the area has been on the rise over the years, according to data provided by the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety. North Shore, where popular bars such as Tequila Enclave (formerly known as the Rox Theater) is the newest club in South Side. It's become a popular spot among students who go out in South Side during weekends. "City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Safety, which the Bureau of Police fall under, have been working with other departments and outside law enforcement partners as well as other agencies to reduce crime and disorder not only in South Side but citywide," Fisher said.

Some Duquesne students think the police presence helps them feel safer. "All my friends love going out there," senior Avery Clark said. "I was iffy at first, but after seeing the amount of police in the area, it made me feel a lot better about the crime in the area."

Even freshmen say that the crime won't deter them from going to the South Side.

"There are a bunch of restaurants I want to try down there," Vivian Mai said. "Any area can be dangerous, I don't want to miss out on stuff because I'm scared."

Pittsburgh Police are trying to do more to make students and businesses feel safe in South Side and citywide.

"We are doing directed patrols, park n walks, roving dui patrols, engaging with the community and businesses as partners to address issues that foster negative activity," Fisher said. "We are also working with other departments and agencies to assist when needed, lighting has been enhanced to brighten dark areas, technology is utilized via public/private camera systems and education for those living and visiting the South Side area as to what behavior is unacceptable."

City councilman Bruce Kraus did not respond to requests for comment.

Shuttle service returns to normal hours

The email also introduced the updated Weekend Shuttle (also known as the Student Government Association Loop Bus system). The Weekend Shuttle will be free to all students and will have three stops that students can travel to on weekends.

"The Duquesne Weekend Shuttle Service is a free shuttle service operated exclusively for Duquesne students that will run to and from campus to stops in the South Side, Oakland and the Waterfront on three separate shuttle running in continuous loops," the email said.

The weekend shuttle will run the three stops starting Aug. 26 and will continue throughout the academic year. Every weekend, starting Friday at 6 p.m. the shuttle will run to the three stops until Sunday at 2 a.m.

The shuttle will be unavailable during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring and Easter breaks, according to the email.

To ride the shuttle, all students need to do is show their valid Duquesne ID when boarding.

"I'm really excited for the return of the loop bus," said senior Emmala Lee. "I used it all the time my freshman year. It being back makes things a lot easier."

"Each bus will depart from the Student Union and will have multiple stops along each route. Stops for the Oakland Shuttle are Forbes Avenue & Bouquet Street, and Forbes Avenue & Morewood Street."

The South Side Shuttle stops are East Carson & 13th Street, East Carson & 22nd Street, and Sidney Street & South 27th Street.

The Waterfront Shuttle stops are Friendship Circle, Murray Avenue & Forward, Front of the AMC Waterfront 22 theater and the Target at the Waterfront.

The last updated system that was revealed was that the South Side Shuttle will now be free to students throughout the semester.

"The shuttle is free to Duquesne students only, with the only requirement that students show an active Duquesne student ID to board," the email said. "Operating Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., the schedule follows the academic calendar, meaning there is no service on holidays, university breaks, or during the summer."

There will be multiple stops in South Side where students can board the shuttle, with one stop on campus.

"We are doing directed patrols, park n walks, roving dui patrols, engaging with the community and businesses as partners to address issues that foster negative activity," Fisher said. "We are also working with other departments and agencies to assist when needed, lighting has been enhanced to brighten dark areas, technology is utilized via public/private camera systems and education for those living and visiting the South Side area as to what behavior is unacceptable."

City councilman Bruce Kraus did not respond to requests for comment.

"All these options are another comfort to me," Licata said. "I felt so grateful when they told us about all the things available to us."
Students gather for restriction-free orientation

Orientation Director Zach Mansberry wanted to return 2022’s orientation to one he has fond memories of, the 2019 orientation — the last orientation event without Covid-19 restrictions.

“When I was a freshman, I had the best experience with orientation,” Mansberry said. “I wanted to give that kind of experience to the class of 2026.”

Orientation in 2020 was held almost completely on Zoom, with any in-person events happening with masks and with social distancing being enforced. Orientation in 2021 had less restrictions, but all the indoor events required masks and social distancing was strongly encouraged.

“2020 orientation was not productive. We tried to hold events outside when we could, but it was not always possible,” Mansberry said.

Even with Covid cases on the decline, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Covid data tracker, some of the orientation staff still felt uncomfortable about returning.

“The past two years have been hard on staff,” Mansberry said. “We had a lot of people leave and ended up being short staffed because of Covid. We only had 160 or so team leaders this year.”

Assistant Director Amandalynne Davis is part of the class of 2024, who experienced orientation during the height of Covid-19, and knew the impact it had on her experience.

“I missed out on a lot during my orientation,” Davis said. “By year, we wanted to really connect with the freshmen and create happy moments for them, especially after the last two years.”

Davis and Mansberry wanted to give their all to the estimated 1,500 freshmen that came to Duquesne, and so did all the orientation team leaders. To make sure they gave their all, the team leaders went in with a positive attitude.

“We went in with the attitude of ‘Let’s do this,’ and it worked out in the best way possible. We kept that attitude for all of the orientation events,” Mansberry said.

Even with the positive attitude, there were some Covid worries among the orientation staff and among freshmen.

“We were incredibly concerned about the staff getting Covid,” Mansberry said. “We’re always in close contact with the freshmen, but we let people do what was comfortable to them.”

Davis made sure everyone was comfortable with what they were doing and made sure events were spaced out to limit the amount of time everyone was in contact.

“Our main concern was move-in. We staggered things out and tried to comfort everybody, parents, students and, of course, our team,” Davis said. “We had an open door policy regarding Covid. If someone asked us to wear a mask, we would. We wanted to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible.”

Since Aug. 19, there have only been eight Covid cases reported on campus, according to the university’s Covid Health and Safety dashboard. Allegheny County has a seven-day moving average of 344 cases, according to the Allegheny County Covid dashboard.

Even with high Covid numbers within Allegheny County, orientation was a massive success. There were plenty of events for all of the incoming freshmen, including the popular Graffiti Dance.

“The Graffiti Dance is always so popular. Doing it with Covid restrictions was hard,” Mansberry said. “Luckily, this year, we could throw out all the Covid handbooks that we followed for the past two years.”

Davis, who will be the director of orientation next year, encourages anyone who loves orientation to join.

“I joined because I loved my orientation, and that was during the height of Covid,” Davis said. “I really think anyone with any major who loves orientation should join. It’s a really great experience, and you meet a lot of great people.”

Scanlon, who is also a resident assistant for freshmen, got to know her own residents better than ever before because of Orientation.

“Connecting with my residents and others in general has been hard because of the pandemic,” Scanlon said. “I got to meet and interact with so many different people. Getting to meet my residents and bond with them without Covid barriers was so refreshing.”

Davis said that she hopes next year will be even bigger, and that they will hopefully “still be able to have all these events without restrictions.”

“We’re already starting to plan, and we could not be more excited for it.”

DU members share thoughts on Title IX's magnitude

“Alicia and I, we both wrote about the importance of Title IX,” said Simpson. “That wording is [also] a safe and healthy campus culture that we provide to make sure that we’re doing everything that we can to educate, prevent and respond to sexual harassment on campus.”

In her short time at the university, Simpson said that speaking up and speaking out can prove to be valuable for those impacted.

“I think that what we strive to do at Duquesne is, in conjunction with our mission, provide respect and dignity for everybody around us,” Simpson said. “With the statistics that we’re working with, we’d like to see a higher number of reports. Is that necessary, that’s the question?”

“We know that most matters aren’t reported, and we want people who are impacted by this to access help and resources and support that they need...It’s important that they know that my office is here to help.”

She also indicated that fellow students and faculty can be an ally in the fight toward eliminating such discrimination.

“One thing I talk to in a lot of my training with students is being a good bystander,” Simpson said. “What that means is intervening in a situation that you perceive as potentially harmful to affect, in a positive way, to make a positive change.”

“Really looking out for each other and trusting our instincts when something doesn’t feel right, getting involved in a way that you’re still safe, but still involved, but making sure that that other person maybe can get away from that situation safely as well.”

see TITLE IX — page 1
WSOC splits first two contests of campaign

**SPORTS**

Spencer Thomas | Sports Editor

The Duquesne women’s soccer team began its 2022 campaign this past week, winning in the season opener over Ohio Thursday before falling at No. 14 Penn State on Sunday. After a slow start to last Thursday’s game, the Dukes found their rhythm and came from behind to defeat the Bobcats 2-1.

A free-flowing first half saw Duquesne play more conservative in the early stages.

Members of the Duquesne women’s soccer team gather along the sideline during the final moments of the team’s 2-1 season-opening victory over Ohio at Rooney Field last Thursday.

Rarely pressing too far beyond midfield, Duquesne was happy to feast on Ohio’s miscues. That started with a takeaway just seconds into the game, with defensive pressure that induced enthusiastic cheers from the bench.

Chances for the Bobcats came when strong pressing got them possession behind the midfielders. That left Ohio attackers against a helpless defense, and they had plenty of space to work with.

The Bobcats, who were picked to win the Mid-American Conference this fall, opened the scoring in the game’s 20th minute. Duquesne’s best chance came in the 12th minute, with a shot on goal from midfielder Cassy Pigeon, leading to an Ohio shot attempt.

The attempt was blocked, but fell comfortably to Bobcat midfielder Casyyn Prigge on the left side. Her shot from outside the box careened off the right goalpost and in. "I thought, in the first half, we created our own problems," said Duquesne Head Coach Al Alvine after the game. "The goal that they scored was a result of us dwelling on the ball and losing possession."

Duquesne captain Sarah Wilkinson felt there was a clear adjustment made at the halftime break.

She said that they initially planned to “play more of a low block,” but switched to high press after realizing that low block wasn’t effective (their) game.

The audible to play more aggressively did not come from Alvine or the coachingstaff, but from the players themselves.

"That was between the players and that was between the starting 11," Wilkinson said. "As an 11, we’re kind of finding what works for us."

Duquesne found an equalizer shortly after the halftime break. After a corner kick, the Dukes passed the ball around before an outside shot ricocheted into the six-yard box. Wilkinson pounced, poking the ball home for the Dukes’ first goal of the season and evening the score in the 49th minute.

"By the time I whipped my head around I saw it was in the back of the net, and I had everyone jumping on me," Wilkinson said. It was the first-career goal for the fifth-year senior. Alvine added that, “If anyone deserved a goal, it was her.”

From that point on, Duquesne had a clear advantage. The Bobcats struggled to advance beyond their half of the field with any intensity. The fierce pressure allowed the Dukes to control the game, even when not in possession. They forced frantic and sloppy passes that could easily be seized and turned into offensive chances.

"The key was recognizing those moments when we can put pressure, those visual cues," Alvine said. "Backward passes, a bad first touch where we can step in.

Opportunities came via strong runs, particularly from Maya Matesa on the right side. With all the momentum, Duquesne continued to mount the pressure. Brianna Moore found Matesa with a short, first-touch ball in the middle, and the striker caught it in stride. She breezed behind the Ohio center backs and slotted it past goalkeeper Celeste Skrom in the fourth minute.

Alvine was particularly complimentary toward Matesa, a freshman.

"Through preseason, she’s really stood out as one of the sharpest players," Alvine said. "Just so strong, so fast, she’s just a handful to deal with. And you saw when she gets opportunities, she can finish."

Her goal was all Duquesne needed, and they rode relentless pressure to a victory.

"I think it’s just a testament to the two and a half weeks we put in," Wilkinson said. "It was a great, great start to the season."

On Sunday, the Dukes fell 3-0 to Penn State, who entered the game as a co-favorite to win the Big Ten Conference and was ranked No. 14 in the NCAA Coaches’ Poll. Goalkeepers Maddy Nuenendor and Savannah Keppy combined to make nine saves in the defeat.

The team managed just a pair of shots on goal and did not record a single corner kick. Alvine was happy to use the tough competition as an opportunity to foster development, subbing frequently. In total, 31 different players saw action during the game. Seven newcomers saw the field for the first time in their Duquesne careers.

Duquesne returns to action with a non-conference clash at Youngstown State this Thursday night.

The Dukes have not played at the Penguins since Sept. 17, 2017, a game that ended in 1-1 tie.

**SPORTS**

Jennaro Yanes | Layout/Multimedia Editor

Spencer Thomas

Friday’s scrimmage against Youngstown State prepared the Duquesne women’s volleyball team for any challenge the upcoming season might bring. The Dukes defeated the Penguins 4-1 during an exhibition inside the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse’s practice gym.

In the first, Duquesne came out strong and never looked back, winning by a 25-17 mark.

The start of the second set proved more challenging as the Dukes allowed Youngstown State to score five-straight points. After the significant run by the Penguins, off-ense gave them a 12-3 edge, Duquesne Head Coach Steve Opperman called a timeout.

“We were talking about [the fact that] when their center was moving across the net, she was always reversing the ball behind, so I think we got better touches, and it put us in a better position defensively as well,” Opperman said. “I think those little things translated a little better.”

After the timeout, Duquesne trimmed the deficit to four at 14-10, but Youngstown State would pull away and win by a 25-17 score of its own.

The third set was the most evenly matched, with each team trading points until the score was level at 17. Duquesne then scored twice, and Youngstown State tried to answer, but Duquesne’s defense stood stout, highlighted by a block from Anna Shoemaker, which iced the set and gave Duquesne a 25-23 victory. The Dukes then held a 2-1 set advantage that they would not relinquish.

Opperman said that resiliency helped guide the Dukes’ relentless efforts in the exhibition.

“If I had to say it, this is probably the deepest team that I’ve ever had as far as every position goes,” Opperman said. “Today, we actually had people out, kids who couldn’t play tonight, so we had two freshman middles playing the whole time and never getting a break.

“It was fun for us to see. But it’s really competitive in the gym, and it carried on to our play tonight.”

The fourth set started back and forth until the score was even at nine. Duquesne eventually took control and won the set 25-18.

“Blocking and defense are things that we really worked on (during practice),” Opperman said. “I think we got a lot of balls up that, in the past, kids probably wouldn’t have gotten up, and we made better plays on those balls and those touches.

In the context of the extra fifth set, Youngstown State opened on a 4-1 tear, but Duquesne rallied and tied the score at 13. The Dukes would secure the final two points, winning the set 15-13.

Shoemaker (2021 Atlantic 10 Conference All-Rookie Team) and Morgan Kelly (2021 A-10 All-Conference Second Team) return this year after earning accolades a season ago. Also returning is Haley Poling, who led the conference with a doubleheader against Loyola (Md.) and West Virginia before squaring off with UConn on Saturday.

The Dukes will return home for the Duquesne Invitational, which begins on Sept 2 at the fieldhouse.

**SPORTS**

Volleyball bests YSU in exhibition contest

Benjamin Gottschalk | Staff Writer

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DU football enters season with expectations

It is finally that time of year. As one walks past Rooney Field, they’ll find the Duquesne football team preparing for the 2022 season, one that will be highlighted by a challenging schedule.

Last year’s team finished 7-3, missing out on the Northeast Conference title and subsequent automatic bid to the FCS Playoffs by one game. Instead, Sacred Heart — one of the two NEC teams to defeat Duquesne — earned that bid.

In the 2021 season opener, Duquesne lost starting quarterback Joe Mischler to a season-ending knee injury before he even completed a pass in a 42-3 loss at TCU. His backup, Darius Perrantes, came in and provided stellar play to help the Dukes hardly miss a beat. In his first game as the starter, Perrantes led the team to a marquee win over Ohio, an FBS program out of the Mid-American Conference.

The Dukes received three-first place votes, but were picked to finish second in the NEC preseason poll (trailing only Sacred Heart, which received five-first place votes).

The Dukes have finished in the top three of the conference in every season since 2015. Duquesne was awarded the conference’s automatic bid to the FCS Playoffs in both 2015 and 2018.

In what will be his 18th year as head coach of the program, Jerry Schmitt can take comfort in the fact that his team will return a few key players.

Last year, Perrantes appeared in nine games and threw for 1,620 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also went 7-1 in his eight games started last season.

The Dukes do return wide receiver Joey Isabella, who is also a member of the All-NEC Preseason Team. Isabella reeled in 12 catches for 75 yards last year, while also getting looks as a kick and punt returner.

On the opposite side of the ball, defensive lineman Maxi Hradecny, linebacker Todd Hill and defensive back Jeremiah Josephs return this year were each named to the All-NEC Preseason Team.

The Duquesne football program is currently ranked third in the NEC Preseason Team. Isabella reeled in 12 catches for 75 yards last year, while also getting looks as a kick and punt returner.

In all likelihood, the most-pivotal game will come on Nov. 5, when Sacred Heart comes to Rooney Field for a matchup between the conference’s preseason favorites.

“I would say we have a lot of optimism for the season,” said Schmitt. “The match-up between the conference’s pre-season leading the Duquesne football program.

The game will be nationally televised on the ACC Network, and will kickoff from Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla., at 5 p.m.

The non-conference action continues on Sept. 3, when the Dukes travel to Youngstown State for a date with the Penguins.

On the opposite side of the ball, defensive lineman Maxi Hradecny, linebacker Todd Hill and defensive back Jeremiah Josephs return this year. The Dukes do retain wide receiver Joey Isabella, who is also a member of the All-NEC Preseason Team. Isabella reeled in 12 catches for 75 yards last year, while also getting looks as a kick and punt returner.

After a bye week, Duquesne will open NEC play on Oct. 1 at Stonyhill, the conference’s newest member.

It was the first time either Duquesne or any NEC program had accomplished the feat of taking down an FBS program.

However, he could still be in competition with Mischler for playing time.

Mischler, a member of the 2020-21 All-NEC First-Team, and Perrantes are separated by an “or” on the team’s official depth chart, according to TriLive’s Tim Benz.

Another key player returning for the Dukes is running back Billy Lucas, a member of the All-NEC Preseason Team who averaged 5.1 yards per carry in 2021 despite sharing carries with the now-graduated Garrett Owens. Other key losses include wide receivers Cyrus Holder and Davie Henderson, who helped power an offense that averaged 29.5 points/game in 2021.

The Duquesne quarterback Darius Perrantes throws a pass during a 39-34 victory over Bryant at Rooney Field on Oct. 9, 2021. Perrantes helped the team to a 7-1 record in eight games started last season.

The Dukes' season will get underway on Saturday, when they square off with a historic program in Florida State, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. For the second consecutive year, the program will be opening on the road against not only an FBS program, but a Power 5 one at that.

The game will be nationally televised on the ACC Network, and will kickoff from Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla., at 5 p.m.

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On the team’s 2021 home opener at Rooney Field against Thomas More, another FBS opponent awaits the Dukes: the Mountain West Conference’s Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

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The non-conference action continues on Sept. 3, when the Dukes travel to Youngstown State for a date with the Penguins.

On the team’s 2021 home opener at Rooney Field against Thomas More, another FBS opponent awaits the Dukes: the Mountain West Conference’s Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

After a bye week, Duquesne will open NEC play on Oct. 1 at Stonyhill, the conference’s newest member.

In all likelihood, the most-pivotal game will come on Nov. 5, when Sacred Heart comes to Rooney Field for a matchup between the conference’s preseason favorites.
Pittsburgh welcomes 20th Little Italy Days

Duquesne alumni join every year for Little Italy Day's Bocce Tournament. This year, the league was up against an Irish team.

From Aug. 18-21, families and friends gathered at the 20th rendition of Bloomfield's Little Italy Days, immersing in the rich heritage of Pittsburgh's historically Italian culture — including authentic gnocchi, cannoli, gelato, jewelry, bocce tournaments and more.

Mia Madre Trattoria in Avalon is run by the Hawkins family as a way to keep the Italian tradition alive and well.

“My son, my daughter, my wife, my niece...we all work at the restaurant together full time, and [this festival] gives us a little break from our usual schedule to celebrate our heritage,” Alex Hawkins said.

Open since 2009, Alex said that the family restaurant has set up a booth at Little Italy Days each year since its opening.

“We've been around forever, and we'll keep coming too,” Alex said.

Elise Hawkins, daughter of Alex Hawkins and owner of Isabella’s Holi Cannoli, was inspired to start her own business apart from helping at her family’s restaurant. When she lost her own daughter in 2018, she decided to dedicate her career to her.

“She had a little girl that passed away, and her name was Isabella, so we started this company in honor of her,” Alex said. “And now she has her own food truck that will be coming out [next week], and Isabella’s Holi Cannoli will be all around Allegheny County and in the city of Pittsburgh.”

According to Elise Hawkins, she was invited to be a vendor in Bloomfield's Little Italy Days, and will also appear in Butler for their Italian festival on Aug. 26.

“Whether other festivals or food truck events, anywhere they'll have us,” Elise said.

Michael Tambellini's Event Catering celebrated its 20th year of Little Italy Days, setting up shop every year the festival has run in the Pittsburgh area. Tambellini said that the company is “just a block away” from where the event took place on Liberty Ave.

He also said that his company carries the Vintage Fair, Grand Prix, local farmers markets and other various social events. Regular customers have enjoyed Tambellini’s chicken parmesan, stuffed shells, penne, meatball hoagies and more.

“Being Italian and celebrating the Italian heritage is something that everyone looks forward to,” Tambellini said. “This is one of the biggest events in Pittsburgh besides the Steelers game.”

Joey Spadaro is a sophomore information systems major at Duquesne. He and his Alpha Phi Delta brothers, a historically Italian social fraternity, talked to multiple vendors at Little Italy Days — enjoying the food, music and good memo-

ries. Spadaro said, his favorites were Calinette’s pizza and “Italian” egg rolls, which he considered a “modern twist on classic Italian food.”

“This was my first time there, and I think since my family is Italian and a bunch of my friends are too, we wanted to check it out to support the culture,” Spadaro said. “I think more Duquesne students should head [to the festival] next year, too...

Anthony Marconi, a 2006 Duquesne University alumnus, gathers with fellow Duquesne graduates Robert Salvatore, Adam Marino, Anthony Rocco and John Barnallini each summer for the Little Italy Days' bocce tournament.

Consisting of 18 teams, Little Italy Days has welcomed bocce leagues for the past 10 years. Anthony said that he and his friends are “super fortunate” to be leaders of their league for seven years in a row.

“We got a great bunch of guys here...that come out, and we get teams that come from Belle Vernon all the way to Wheeling, West Virginia,” Anthony said. “If you look around, we get a good crowd. Everyone loves to watch, and to get the game if they don’t know it already.

“It’s like young and old. You have old school Italian guys who can teach you in their mid-20s just learning. Kids can run around on Friday nights for open courts. It’s all for the community.”

The bocce leagues are founded on volunteer work, and all materials are donated from local fund raisers in the community, where winning teams give back to local businesses, according to Anthony.

“This is all for the community, all for Bloomfield and all for this festival.”

CAMPUS EVENTS

Welcome Back Picnic! Aug. 26 @ 12 p.m.

Calling all commuters! Go to the Commuter Center on the first floor of the Union for free food and fun!

DU Nite: Outdoor Movie and Ritas Aug. 26 @ 8 p.m.

Go to College Hall Lawn for an outdoor movie with DPC and Rita’s Italian Ice! Movie will be relocated to College Hall 104 if it rains.

Make-Your-Own Ice Cream! Aug. 26 @ 9 p.m.

Head to the NiteSpot for another sweet treat! Free to all Duquesne students. Supplies limited.

CAPRI’S KIND WORDS

Enjoy it while you can

It’s true what they say: these moments don’t last forever.

I’m sure you can recall — at least the feeling of — your first day of high school, or maybe your last one. That bittersweet, shakky memory of nerves and excitement that bubbled up inside you is something you can experience again and again, just not in the exact same way.

Cherish each hello and welcome you receive in your classroom this year — there will come a day where you’ve achieved all you’ve strived for, but that success no longer translates to a grade on a paper. Your success, instead, will be a mosaic of every kind word you’ve given to a stranger, or the way your eyes lit up when you got to talk about something you love. You must continue to learn, to lead, and to grow. You must push yourself to do your best.

Pay it forward, bring a smile with you to class. It'll make all the difference.

— CapriScarcelli
Duquesne Red Masquers unveil 2022-23 lineup

The Duquesne University Red Masquers have released a lineup filled with unique performances for the 2022-23 year. From “SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical” to “Burlesque on The Bluff,” Duquesne students will have many different genres of performances to choose from.

The first performance on the calendar this fall is the Pittsburgh “New Works Play Festival,” which Duquesne began hosting at the Genesis Theater on Aug. 20. The performance will run through Sept. 17.

During these dates, viewers can watch the many plays put on by theatre companies in the Pittsburgh region, including The South Hills Players and McKeesport Little Theater. Most of these new plays will also be available in-person or to stream on demand.

The Red Masquers’ first performance back on the Bluff will be their “Fall Play-In-A-Day.” This includes students writing, memorizing and rehearsing a number of plays in a 24-hour time period. Some members, like Victoria Kapfer, describe that period as “chaotic fun.”

“It’s chaotic, for starters,” Kapfer said. “People are taking coffee shots all day, and it shows how fun we can be.” Kapfer, a senior Secondary English Education major and the President of Red Masquers, said she is ecstatic for the upcoming shows this year like “SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical.”

“With auditions coming up, we’ve been getting so much interest, and we’re hoping to have a really strong presence this year,” Kapfer said. “We’ve already ordered pool noodles and seaweed cutouts.”

John Lane, Arts and Executive Director of the Red Masquers, knows that the SpongeBob SquarePants performance will be a hit because of its unique script and large cast size. “It’s a really lovely show,” Lane said, “the score is really clever, the script is really cute and it’s got a big cast.”

Auditions will be held for “SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical” on Sept. 5-6 from 6 to 9 p.m. The actual performance is scheduled to run from Nov. 3-19.

Roughly a month after the SpongeBob SquarePants performance, the Red Masquers will perform their “One Acts for Charity” event from Dec. 3-10.

This event has students putting on a number of plays, with proceeds going toward a charity of their choosing. There will be a “Spring Play-In-A-Day” performance on Jan. 7, similar to the fall.

There will be four other performances during the spring semester. One of these performances, known as “Burlesque on The Bluff,” is already bringing excitement to the members of the Red Masquers because of its historical factor. “The show is based off the 2010 movie-musical “Burlesque,” featuring artists Christina Aguilera and Cher.

“I like how we’re presenting the historical part of it since Burlesque has taken on a different meaning,” Lane said. “We’re going back to this meaning with songs and acts.”

Susan Betten, Vice President and costume chair of the Red Masquers, is thrilled for what this performance will look like as well. “I’m super interested in the history of Vaudeville and Burlesque type performance, not to mention the costumes, and I can’t wait to see where we take that production,” Betten said.

From March 23-April 2, the Masquers will be putting on “Serenade.”

Red Masquers secretary Rachel Lewandowski said she can’t wait to be a part of this show. “I’m really excited for Serenade since it’s the world premiere for it, and (it) will hopefully be a cool process,” Lewandowski said.

From Jan. 25-29, the play “Mud” will be performed. The Red Masquers’ last performance of the year will be Premieres 46, which includes a series of short plays that will run near the end of the semester, from April 19-22.

Students who are interested in joining the Red Masquers can reach out to Lane, who is the director of the university’s Theater Arts program. Kapfer wants it to be known that students of all interests and backgrounds are welcome.

“...If you’re passionate about theater, you’re able to just come and have fun with everyone,” Kapfer said.

Big stars find way to Pittsburgh's brightest stages

As the summer concert season is wrapping up, local Pittsburgh venues prepare for highly anticipated fall tours, and it is expected for more shows to pop up throughout the fall season.

Wiz Khalifa and Logic will be opening the Three Rivers Arts Festival on Aug. 26 with their “ICY Verse Tour” which will give an opportunity to see part of his American Heartbreak Tour, as well as songs from his latest album “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.” This is intended to be his last tour.

For country fans, Zach Bryan will be performing at Stage AE on Sept. 19 as part of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour named after his 1973 album “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.” This is intended to be his last tour.

For country fans, Zach Bryan will be performing at Stage AE on Sept. 19 as part of his American Heartbreak Tour, which will give an opportunity to see him perform in a mid-sized venue.

He will perform many of his hits, as well as songs from his latest album “American Heartbreak.”

Post Malone will bring his Twelve Carat Tour to PPG Paints Arena on Sept. 28. He is expected to play an 18-song mix from all his albums. Songs from his latest album “Twelve Carat” Toothache include “Wrapped Around Your Finger,” “Cooped Up,” “I Like You” and “Insane.”

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Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is too little, too late

This past summer, America took part in one of its most consistent traditions dating back to the mid-20th century: economic turmoil. Opponents of the current administration classify this current economic situation as a recession. The White House has adamantly denied this, stating in a news release that, “While some maintain that two consecutive quarters of falling real GDP constitutes a recession, that is neither the official definition nor the way that has become an assets evaluate the state of the business cycle...”

That sounds more like an eloquent way to say, “The economy is failing, but just in a non-traditional way.”

While talking heads in the political realm bicker over semantics, the American people saw consumer prices rise 9.1% (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics), the largest increase in over 40 years. Gas prices soared to the highest amount they have ever been at an estimated 57% increase from this same metric many years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Americans are not looking for clarification on what defines economic anomalies. They want change, they want to not have the uncertainty that is facing so many families across the country.

However, some Americans are seeking comfort from these tumultuous economic times by finding ways to place blame on their opposing political party. The same age-old arguments tied to political partisanship are being regurgitated from month pieces whose moral outrage is guided by his/her thin-veiled political ideologies.

It does seem that there is an irrational loyalty to an economic hierarchy, and our political leanings give almost a cleanness to perpetrators as long as their political identities align close to our own.

I once asked someone whose opinions I respect: What is the measure of a good economy? His answer — the deficit. When asked the same question four years later with a different political party in the majority, his answer changed to the unemployment rate. The lack of consistency we have with holding those making economic decisions accountable greatly diminishes our chances of actually enacting change.

It is puzzling that, despite supposedly having the strongest economy in the history of the world, we find ourselves in economic crises seemingly every decade. These economic downward trends have a tendency to hit the lower economic classes the hardest, forcing the majority of American people to carry the brunt of the consequences of the wealthy elite. When the economy tanks, it decreases cash flow. Those that have assets may see a temporary decrease in their assets’ value, but a majority of America’s wealth are criticizing it with their usual hot-button terms like socialism and big government. These ideas and accusations are so off the mark that one has to wonder if they’re genuine.

The Democrats appear inefficient at self-reflection and are so afraid to criticize members of their own party as if the whim of the American voter could drastically change when any sort of criticism is aimed at their own party.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 only does this in theory. At the gap between the wealthy and the rest of us keeps increasing, these subtle changes in the bill’s actual attempts to hold the economic elites accountable is not nearly strong enough to change the trajectory of the American economic landscape.

A 15% tax increase to the corporations and individual estates that profited over a billion dollars in a period of three years, the increase in the IRS’s budget to try to capture tax-avoiding wealthy individuals and the expansion of Medicare benefits sound promising on paper. However, this administration is just scratching the surface when it comes to our economic woes.

There is a true lack of investment in your everyday, modern American citizen. This country’s wealth and economic capabilities are influential by a wealthy elite ruling class and major corporations. As these wealthy elites garner more wealth, a section of the American people are left on the outside looking in.

The housing market is in a serious flux as property values will plummet back to normalcy, causing a level of value disruption that could have some very unfortunate consequences. Rent across the nation keeps steadily climbing. It is almost impossible to receive a higher education without incurring a massive amount of debt that seemingly never able to get paid off. Wages have stayed stagnant while laborers are asked to do more. Small businesses that are being absorbed by the massive corporations, Wall Street is an exclusive, members-only club, a club that feels like it’s been kept only a few predetermined individuals.

We need practical regulations. This needs to be an economy that works for everybody, not just a privileged few.

Peter Boettger • Staff Comic Artist

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Consists of cash, savings and a relatively small slatke in the market. While a majority of American people will watch their savings deplete, the wealthy can hold strong as the value of their assets will eventually return. It almost seems like the game is rigged.

In an attempt to muster support before the midterm elections, the Biden administration was able to pass the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This is a watered down version of the “Build Back Better” legislation that the Democratic Party was unable to get passed with a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

It is a feeble attempt that does not cover nearly enough to prevent the economic crisis that this country has been bracing for since the turn of the century. Republicans

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Marc Fogel, a teacher from the Pittsburgh suburb of Oakmont, was sentenced to 14 years in a Russian prison for attempting to enter the country while possessing medical marijuana. His case closely parallels that of WNBA superstar Brittney Griner.

On the field product means more than a stadium name

Luke Henne | Editor-in-Chief

After over two decades of entering Heinz Field, Pittsburgh fans will see a new name on the North Shore: Acrisure Stadium, which secured naming rights in July.

Field. Many local fans are upset because Heinz was and is Pittsburgh. It's a Pittsburgh-based company, and it was something they could relate to. It evoked a sense of pride and honor.

While it might be upsetting to not see two giant red ketchup bottles anymore, it will not stop people from attending Steeler's and Panthers games this fall. Change is a part of life. If every thing was the same, nothing would ever move or evolve forward. Personally, this 'switch' that has happened is one that many Pittsburgh residents would take any day in because it's inconsequential to the way they go about their lives.

Other forms of change consist of having a family member die, losing a job or having a relationship with a significant other end. It's important to keep things in perspective.

The only thing people should and will complain about in year one of Acrisure Stadium is if one or other teams significantly underperform. Both teams are still legit. The Steelers have a shot to make it to the postseason for the third-consecutive year, having assembled a healthy mix of young offensive weapons to coincide with a strong defense in year one removed from the post-Ben Roethlisberger era.

With the exception of quarterback Kenny Pickett (drafted by the Steelers) and Jordan Addison (transferred to Southern California), the Panthers return a significant amount of talent from a team that won 11 games and an Atlantic Coast Conference title a season ago. Despite any outrage, attendance isn't going to shift.

In October 2016, just four months after the franchise secured its fourth Stanley Cup, the Pittsburgh Penguins renamed their arena from Consol Energy Center to PPG Paints Arena. While both companies are based in Pittsburgh or its surrounding area, people couldn't have taken exception to having a building that opened just six years prior already changing its name.

Attendance didn't skip a beat, and the Penguins won a second-consecutive title in 2017.

In the end, results always have the biggest impact.

After watching the first game at Acrisure Stadium, a preseason contest between the Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 13, it was obvious that the atmosphere was electric.

It was also clear that a name wouldn't dictate whether fans were excited. That was left to Kenny Pickett, who entered the game in the third quarter and threw for two touchdowns in his professional debut with the Steelers.

Although initial reaction to the stadium's name might not be favorable, in the end, people will not care. They'll care about whether Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin can produce another postseason appearance. They'll care about whether Pitt Head Coach Pat Narduzzi can prove that the 2021 campaign wasn't a fluke.

Perspective is key. Don't lose sleep over a name. There are bigger things to worry about in life.
Michael Bracci, a member of the Pirates' security department, found his way to our section in a matter of minutes to begin the negotiation process. "He was like, 'Alright, well, we want that ball,'" Brendan said. "We want to put it in the PNC Park Hall of Fame if you, of course, would give it up, so we're prepared to offer you a signed bat or ball." He didn't really specify a player.

Before Bracci told Brendan that he was willing to negotiate with whatever he wanted in exchange for the ball, Brendan had just one initial request: meeting and exchanging the ball with Reynolds. He also informed Bracci that his favorite player was Jack Suwinski, and he hoped that maybe a replica Swinsoni jersey would find his way to him.

While the latter hope was not immediately possible because Swinsoni is currently not on the Pirates' active roster, the former wish was in place to be fulfilled. After a brief discussion, Bracci and Brendan left the seats. Bracci then made a call to Chris Hunter, the Pirates' senior director of ballpark operations, to get the postgame plans lined up. At this point, footage of the event had made its way onto social media, and cameras began capturing the negotiations.

Koby Inemokioski, a reporter for iETI SportsNet Pittsburgh, found his way to Brendan and Bracci to get the inside scoop on the process, and he'd soon relay the details to play-by-play commentator Greg Brown on live television. After a few innings, Brendan got it arranged to have Clinefelter and the rest of our group go into the stadium’s service tunnel with him. Brendan was going to be the one to deliver the ball to the man who hit it. The three of us were just along for the ride, soaking the moment in. After the game, we knew he’d be meeting Reynolds, but was stunned at how it happened.

“My first thought when I said I wanted to meet Reynolds was maybe after he shorn or when he’s walking to his car, get a picture with him there or in the club house,” Brendan said. “I never would’ve imagined walking on the field.

"I think that was a good thing because I didn’t really expect it, I wasn’t nervous. As soon as the game ended, [Bracci] takes off on the field. Reynolds is giving the postgame interview, I look up into 20,000 people and all the lights...I think, ‘This is surreal right now. I’ve never seen anything like this.’"

Brendan expressed his gratitude for the moment, especially given that his brother holds an internship in the Pirates’ baseball communications department and doesn’t get to attend as many games with him.

“We’ve [each] gone to a million games together, forcing us to buy seats in the outfield.”

Brendan became a local celebrity in his native Cranberry Township. The Butler Eagle published a feature story, and he was recognized in a tweet by Seneca Valley, his high school alma mater. A video of him catching and celebrating with the ball found its way on to SportsCenter’s Twitter page. His picture with Reynolds was featured on the Pirates’ Facebook page. Brendan is grateful for the memory created.

"I wouldn’t have rather had anyone there other than you [Luke], but it was pretty cool to have [Clinefelter] and Brentaro there, too. That’s probably a moment that they’ll remember for the rest of their lives as well.”

"When scratching Kobie, one student remarked that it was the best day of her life. Kobelzent echoed a similar sentiment, saying that, "This is the best day ever for [Kobie], too."

“Spencer Thomas | Staff Writer

Pet therapy relieves orientation week stress

The line stretched around the fifth floor of the library, with upward of 100 freshmen eager to meet and pet three trained therapy dogs.

Any pet owner can contact the company, and once the pets make them through their training, they are able to be present at colleges, hospitals, workplaces and wherever else anxiety may arise. The Kobelzents’ family adopted Kobie when he was a puppy, and he came at a crucial time, supporting them as the Covid-19 pandemic began.

"He did a wonderful thing for my two boys, just being there when they needed him," Kobelzent said.

She also added that she knew Kobie’s therapeutic side-giggles was "something we wanted to do with therapy dogs.

Kobie is a rookie in the therapy game, having just started his training in June. Kobelzent noted how he had the energy of a puppy, but it was the training that allowed him to remain under control in such a stimulating environment.

He seemed just as happy to meet the students as they were to meet him, with a smile across his face and a panting tongue. Besides the hugs and kisses, Kobie loved to back up onto students, enticing them into what Kobelzent said were his favorite: butt scratches.

Students happily indulged him, laughing with Kobie and his self-described “mom.”

Among the students lucky enough to meet Kobie was Lucas Cook, who felt like the contact definitely helped relieve some of the move-in anxiety.

"Who doesn’t love therapy animals?" Cook said. "I already feel better."

Many students get to know each other over conversations about their own pets, with the animals consisting of dogs, cats, bunnies and even a raccoon.

Perhaps the best indication of the event’s success could be seen on a before-and-after exercise. Upon entering the room, students were asked to rate their stress level from one to five by placing a sticker on the corresponding number at the end of a chart. They were then asked to do the same thing after meeting with the dogs.

As the event came to a close, the graph demonstrated students entered with a minimum of four on the scale. No student ended with the thing higher than a two. Despite being a small sample size, the atmosphere in the room was unexplainable or... "pawsitive.”

When scratching Kobie, one student reported that it was the best day of her life.

"This is the best day ever for [Kobie], too."
The Last Word

The Duquesne Duke

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(Hennel@duq.edu)

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Welcome new and returning Dukes!

Alcohol is a part of our culture, but if you're under 21:

🌟 It is illegal to consume, purchase, possess or transport alcohol (Section 6308 of PA crimes code).

🌟 It is illegal to carry or attempt to use ID that falsely claims you are over the age of 21 to obtain alcohol (Section 6310.3 of PA crimes code).

State penalties include:

🌟 $500 fine for a 1st violation
🌟 $1,000 for a 2nd/subsequent violation

PLUS additional sanctions by the University can include:

🌟 First violation: $100
🌟 Second violation: $150
🌟 Third violation: $200

The risks are real for illegal and/or excessive alcohol consumption. Avoid illegal, excessive and “high intensity” drinking!

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