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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duquesne student balances education with business endeavors

Election rundown: Why votes matter

ALICIA DYE
news editor

Pennsylvania is one state that is being heavily watched in the upcoming 2022 general election. With dozens of races across the state, *The Duke* is detailing three; the PA-12 Congressional district race, the U.S. Senate race and the gubernatorial race.

For each race, *The Duke* will detail the republican and democrat candidate, their key issues and how each race is doing in the polls according to FiveThirtyEight.

Why Pennsylvania's Elections Are Important

Not all state elections are watched with such intensity. So why Pennsylvania?

"Pennsylvania is one of a handful of battleground states," said Alison Dagnes, a political science professor at Shippensburg University and commentator on American politics. "Battleground states are fairly evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. In Pennsylvania's terms, in the 2020 election, Joe Biden won by 72,000 votes. In 2016, Donald Trump won Pennsylvania by 46,000 votes. When you have 9 million registered voters, that is a tiny margin."

According to the National Governors Association, Pennsylvania has elected two Republican governors and two Democrat governor's, including current Governor Tom Wolf since 2001. Since 2000, Pennsylvania has voted for a Democratic president 83.3% of the time, according to Ballotpedia.

"A vote may determine the outcome in an election," said Lewis Irwin, a political science professor at Duquesne said. "It can come down to 1,000 votes to determine who wins. Voting in Pennsylvania is important."

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ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

Isis Philibert (Right) runs her lash business on top of being a full-time student at Duquesne University. She has about 60 loyal customers, which she gained over a year and a half. She is a business major and leads multiple organizations.

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

At 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, Isis Philibert takes the 40 minute bus ride from Homewood to Duquesne University. Her first class starts at 9:25 a.m. — and after her five consecutive classes end at 4:20 p.m. — she walks a mile-and-a-half to the Investment Building in Downtown.

Most Tuesdays, she makes an effort to see just one client, but Monday Oct. 24, she has two regulars booked. A typical session lasts anywhere from 2 to 2-and-a-half hours. Philibert finishes in time to catch the bus back home.

A current junior and entrepreneurship major at Duquesne, Philibert is not a stranger to working from sun-up to sun-down.

While it is not unusual for a college student to have a heavy-workload, what separates Philibert from her peers is her fierce work ethic and her ambition. The soon-to-be 21-year-old is the Owner of ICEY Aesthetics, an eyelash extension artist and supplier, located on 4th Avenue in Pittsburgh.

Philibert started selling sunglasses in the summer of 2019

as a way to supplement her income and lay the foundation for her future business endeavors. Operating from a rented room out of South Side, Philibert made the slow transition from retail to lashes.

"I had worked three other jobs, and I used that money to pay my rent. I was working at [TGI]Fridays, I worked at FedEx, I went to school, and I worked at Cold Stone Creamery throughout that whole duration," Philibert said. "I only had one client who was coming in every month. That was it. I made \$60 for the whole month and my rent was 275. So everything else I did made up for rent. I did that for about nine months. I didn't start making money with lashes until March of 2021."

During the pandemic, Philibert used her time to hone her skills and prepare to enter the world of entrepreneurship. Even though she was not making money for her lashes, she had the foresight to create an LLC.

Initially a biology major, Philibert said she had "no plan B" as she mapped out her path to become a veterinarian. Her decision to get into entrepreneurship came from being a

client herself.

"I always got my lashes done, and I walk like 'oh this is cool.' And one day I just asked my lash artist, 'how much money do you make a week or something?' and she never told me how much, but she said she made 'decent money'" Philibert said. "I was like, wow, I come here every two weeks and if I can figure out how much money I put into this, about \$60 every two weeks, that's about \$120 a month I just spend on lashes. That's decent money for one person. So ok, maybe I should try it."

From there, Philibert took the three month course, on top of her Duquesne classes, to obtain the proper licenses. As she learned the craft of eyelash extension she would practice on friends from her dorm where sessions could last anywhere from four to six hours.

"I have really good friends," Philibert said. "I really appreciate them."

The business started out slowly for Philibert. She had only one client for nine months.

"I had friends who had come, but there was only one consistent client. She would do it roughly twice a month. And like I said,

my rent was \$275 a month, so I was making about \$60 to \$120 a month," Philibert said.

Not to be deterred, with the help of social media, an intense work ethic and persistence, Philibert has grown her client base to around 60 customers in a year-and-a-half. Not only has she focused on honing her craft but makes a strong effort to provide top-notch customer service.

"I come every two to three weeks and I've been coming for about six months. She's one of the best. I've been to a couple of lash artists around Pittsburgh, and I really appreciate the work that she does and how reliable and responsible she is with appointments," said Abby Settembrino, one of Philibert's regular clients.

Her success and increase in clientele led her to partner up with Brianna Maenz, a former client, to open up a salon Downtown.

"She is literally my low-key inspiration. I wish I had done that at her age," Maenz said. "I really appreciate her and I just love our dynamic. We really feed off of each other. I have ideas, she has ideas, and we just work together. It's the best, we're business partners but we

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POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Oct. 18-

DUPS received a call from dispatch to meet a facility manager about a minor vehicle incident on Boyd Street involving a grounds crew employee.

Wednesday, Oct. 19-

Graffiti was found on the exterior of the Cooper Field House.

Wednesday, Oct. 19-

A Duquesne University student, who requested to remain anonymous, walked into DUPS to report concerning and alarming behavior of another Duquesne University student during class.

Wednesday, Oct. 19-

Officers checked on the welfare of a student living in Brottier Hall. Student was picked up and brought home by a family member.

Thursday, Oct. 20-

A Duquesne University commuter student was parked in the Locust Garage and claimed two separate vehicles struck his SUV while he was away. An investigation into the matter determined his accusation was false due to camera footage evidence.

Friday, Oct. 21-

Duquesne University officers met with several Duquesne University students regarding the actions of another student. The officers filed a report. The incident is being investigated.

Saturday, Oct. 22-

A Duquesne University commuter student called to report damage to their unattended vehicle in the Locust Garage. The damage was observed and documented. Neither an actor vehicle or actor was located.

Monday, Oct. 23-

Student has a kitten for a support animal and the roommate is harassing the animal, threatening to harm the kitten causing the owner to become fearful for the kitten's safety when not in the room, according to DUPS. The student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

EMAIL TIPS

We want your input!

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

MAX MARCELLO

staff writer

Mental health is an issue millions of university students experience across the United States. Despite its growing prevalence in personal lives and society at large, it still remains a highly stigmatized and taboo topic to discuss openly.

Friday Oct. 21, Resident Assistant, Zach Seddon hosted "Let's Talk", alongside Luke Fabisiak from Duquesne's Counseling Services, to discuss how mental health impacts students as well as begin the process of destigmatizing mental illness.

Fabisiak is a practicum student for the university's counseling services, and he led the session. His approach to mental health well-roundedness splits the topic into five more manageable subgroups: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and environmental health. By taking this approach, mental health becomes a more approachable and manageable topic. Mental well-being can be improved on the whole through improvement of its pieces said Fabisiak.

Fabisiak said another way to help mental health is to reframe instinctive criticism. It is natural for someone to turn self-reflection into unhealthy self-criticism. This cycle can lead to low self-esteem and create more problems than it solves.

Fabisiak recommends that people reframe self-evaluation from 'I suck at this or I can't do this,' into statements such as 'I can improve by...' People who take the reframing approach are more likely to make tangible progress towards mental wellbeing. Fabisiak is currently working toward a master's degree with the hopes of becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Following the discussion with Fabisiak, the group was encouraged to begin creating artistic renderings that reflected what mental illness looked like to the individual.

"Mental health to me is the good and bad habits people perform and develop," said Kyle Chauvette, a sophomore music student.

Students' illustrations featured themes such as depression and dementia. Seddon empha-

sized the uniqueness of art as it serves as both a medium of expression and a form of therapy as many people find art to be a relaxing activity. Seddon talked about the importance of making it a topic where everyone has a voice and the conversation can be open and nonjudgmental because mental health plays such an important role in lives and society. Seddon acknowledged mental illness has a real tangible effect on our communities and how we respond to it can produce different outcomes.

One such problem Seddon is committed to resolving is the disparity between the sexes regarding mental health.

"Men's mental health is a pet project of mine," Seddon said.

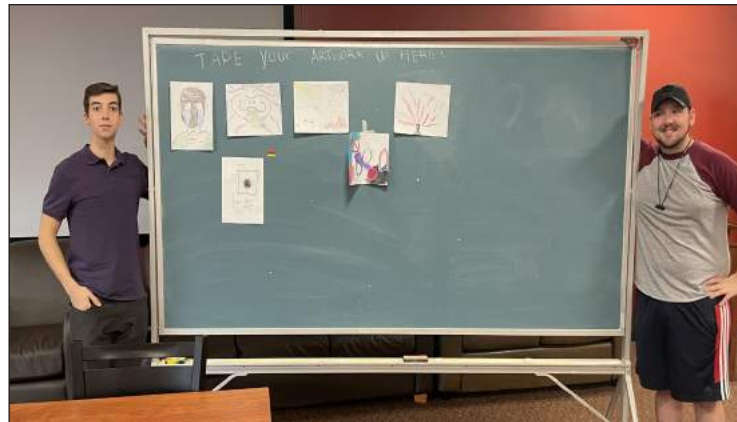
According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in 2020, roughly 80% of all suicides were committed by men. Mental health activists such as Seddon point to this statistic as a call to action to not only raise awareness but also change wider societal perceptions.

One such strategy is likening mental health to physical health, as physical illnesses such

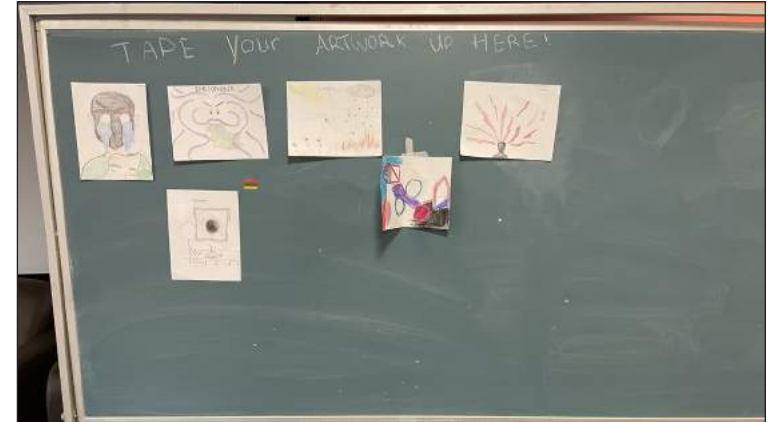
as heart disease and chronic inflammation are not branded as the failing of an individual nor something to be ashamed of. Mental illness on the other hand, are still commonly viewed as the exact opposite, placing the blame not on physiological causes but rather on the person.

Altogether, mental illness is an enigma psychiatrists, psychologists and patients are all trying to better understand. Various therapies, activities, and rituals have both clinical and anecdotal proof of effectiveness. However, these habits are not as valuable as seeking treatment from a healthcare professional. Societal stigma regarding mental health is still discouraging people with mental illness from seeking treatment. By removing this stigma and the sense of self blame, those suffering from mental illness will be emboldened to seek the help and resources they need to improve their lives.

Students can visit counseling services in 636 Fisher Hall, free of cost. They are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



MAX MARCELLO | STAFF WRITER
Luke Fabisiak and Zach Seddon pose with student artwork.



MAX MARCELLO | STAFF WRITER
The artwork that students made represented what mental health looked like to them

Business owner credits family for work ethic

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can also be besties."

Philibert's work ethic stems from her upbringing.

"I'm originally from New York City, if you're familiar with that city, it's a hostile city. I didn't come from much you know. I have a great family support system and all that good stuff but nobody's been to college," said Philibert.

Philibert also credits her mother.

"We came from humble beginnings. My mom was a really hard worker. It was just natural. When I started school I worked

at Coldstone, I worked crazy hours, I would pull 96 hour weeks."

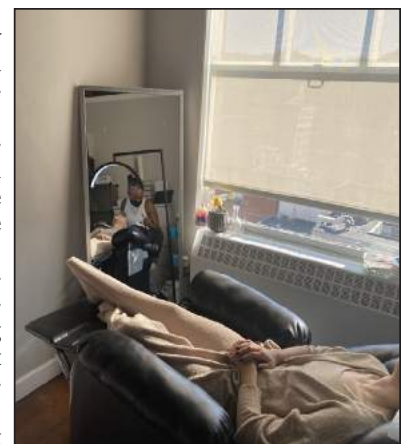
On Friday during the Black Student Union's Annual Black Expo, Philibert debuted another retail venture. Aside from selling her own brand of eye-lashes to vendors, Philibert was able to utilize the maker space to expand her brand into merchandising. Offering black tote bags with "Lashes that just make sense." Shoppers could pick from a variety of colors for the font.

"I went to the maker space, and every night after class or clients, I made 37 bags. The goal was 48 but I couldn't get to all of them. I was too tired.

I actually made my own money back and some profit...It was a really pleasant surprise" Philibert said.

She still finds time to participate in organizations on campus. She is a member of the BSU and the co-president of the Duquesne entrepreneur council.

"Isis is an amazing businesswoman who truly is inspirational to everyone including members of the Black Student Union. It truly is not easy running a Black owned business, but to also be a college student while doing that, Isis has mine and BSU's respect" said BSU President Lindsey Harris.



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR
Isis works with her clients in her studio.



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Getting to know your local political candidates

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Issues Among Voters

At the top of the list of importance is the state of the economy remains the largest among voters regardless of political affiliation.

"Among all voters, inflation and the economy remain a top issue," Irwin said. "It is still the top issue among Republican voters, but not among Democrat voters.

According to a Pew Research Center poll conducted in August, 77% of registered voters polled said the economy is very important to their vote this election season.

"Rising prices and how much everything costs, and the fact that it feels like the economy is not in a great place right now, that is top of mind for most people," Dagnes said.

Lewis and Dagnes also cite abortion as a key issue among voters, although it is more of a key issue for democrats.

"it is also a very important issue for some people," Dagnes said. "Especially those on the left."

"The top issue is abortion for democrats, especially after the Dobbs decision," Irwin said. "Democrats overperformed in special elections due to their stance on abortion. The democrats emphasize where they have the advantage, and abortion is one of those advantages."

Abortion is a key issue for women in college when it comes to voting.

"The races are super important to me because I'm pro-choice," said senior Rebecca Fisher. "I want women to be able to make decisions for their own bodies, and to have so many pro-life candidates who are promising to outlaw abortion is frightening."

Crime remains a significant issue among Republican voters as well.

"There are some areas where crime is a very real issue and there are certain cities, Philadelphia is one of them, where crime rates have escalated, but that is not everywhere," Dagnes said. "The reason we are hearing more about crime has to do with right-wing media and how every two years they emphasize crime as an election motivator. It resonates in areas where that is true."

"Crime rates are a large issue among republicans," Irwin said. "Shootings and other crimes are their top priorities and similarly to democrats, they emphasize where they have the advantage and this is one of those advantages."

The crime rate in Pennsylvania has risen, with the violent crime rate rising to 3.9 incidents per 1,000 people in 2022, with the violent crime rate being 3.1 incidents per 1,000 people in 2021. The U.S. rate is 4.0 incidents per 1,000 people according to Safe Wise.

For college students, student loan forgiveness is an issue very important to them.

"I think student loan forgiveness is one of my top issues," said Junior Dina Gumaa. "College gets more expensive every year and more people, specifically those who are low-income, have to take out even more loans every year. I think forgiving student loans would be helpful to many."

PA-12 Congressional Race

For clarity, PA-12 used to be located in the north central and northeastern parts of Pennsylvania, and included State College. The 12th district has changed many times over the years, but for the upcoming election in November, the district covers different cities in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties including East Pittsburgh, Homestead, Monroeville, Jeanette and more according to vote.pa.gov. Both candidates, Summer Lee (D) and Mike Doyle (R) were originally running to replace Mike Doyle (D) in the PA-18 district. Duquesne University is located in the PA-12 district as well.

Mike Doyle (R) is not the same as U.S. Rep Mike Doyle (D), who is retiring this year. The name can cause confusion among voters, however the two have different political ideologies and are from different political parties.

Lee is currently serving as a Democratic member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 34th district and has been since 2019. Lee is from North Braddock and has lived in Pennsylvania most of her life. She graduated from Penn State University and got her law degree from Howard University School of Law in 2015.

According to Lee's website, some of her top issues are making public schools and vocational schools free, canceling all student loan debt, transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy, expanding Supreme Court and ending lifetime appointments for unelected justices and keeping abortion legal. Lee has been endorsed by many members of the Democratic party, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and current Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Bob Casey.

The Republican opponent Doyle is the Vice-President for Excalibur Insurance in Pittsburgh and has been a Plum borough Councilman starting in 2005. Doyle attended King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and got a degree in Business Administration. Doyle has over 30 years of experience in business.

According to Doyle's website, some of his top issues include reducing inflation, anti-green new deals, cutting government spending and opposing criminal justice reform. Accord-

ing to WESA, Doyle has been endorsed by U.S. House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy.

According to Irwin, the U.S. House seat isn't a top contest, with Lee being the top contender. According to Politico, the PA-12 district will most likely vote blue and vote for Lee. There have not been official polls for this race since May, however it is most likely going to vote blue, experts said.

PA Gubernatorial Election

The current Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf (D) is unable to run for re-election due to Pennsylvania's constitution which limits governors to two consecutive terms. Current Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro (D), and Pennsylvania State Senator from the 33rd district Doug Mastriano (R), are running to replace Wolf.

Shapiro has been Attorney General since 2017. Shapiro attended University of Rochester, where he majored in political science. Shapiro got his juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2002. Prior to becoming Attorney General, Shapiro was a representative for the 153rd district in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

According to Shapiro's website, some of his top issues are abortion rights, workers rights, investing in Pennsylvania's infrastructure, reviving rural communities and lowering costs for Pennsylvanians through gas tax refunds, eliminating the state cell phone tax and expanding the Property Tax and Rent Rebate program. Shapiro has received endorsements from many labor unions including American Federation of Teachers Pennsylvania and Laborers' International Union of North America. Shapiro has also received endorsements from PA Dems, former national security Cabinet member and a former Trump administration lawyer Michael Chertoff, according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Mastriano has been serving as the senator for Pennsylvania's 33rd district since 2019. Prior to becoming a senator, Mastriano was a colonel in the U.S. Army and had 30 years of active-duty service, before retiring in 2017.

According to Mastriano's website, his top issues are making Pennsylvania a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary," where citizens Second Amendment rights will be protected; protecting election integrity; which includes getting rid of no excuse mail-in voting, the right to life; which includes enacting a heartbeat bill and ending funding to Planned Parenthood, and putting an end to mask and vaccine mandates. Mastriano has received endorsements from former President Donald Trump, U.S. Reps. Guy Reschenthaler and Mike Kelly, and

almost the entire GOP Congressional delegation, according to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

According to FiveThirtyEight, Shapiro is heavily favored to win the gubernatorial race. Shapiro is ahead by 8.3 points, a closer race than a few weeks ago where Shapiro was leading in the polls by almost 11 points.

U.S. Senate Race

The U.S. Senate race is the closest and most important race, according to Irwin. John Fetterman (D) and Dr. Mehmet Oz (R) are running to replace Sen. Patrick Toomey (R), who announced he would not run for re-election in Oct. 2020.

Fetterman is the current lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania and has been since 2018. Prior to becoming lieutenant governor, Fetterman was the mayor of Braddock, a small town just outside of Pittsburgh. Fetterman also has a masters in public policy from Harvard University.

According to Fetterman's website, his top issues are cutting taxes for working people; protecting abortion rights; legalizing cannabis; criminal justice reform and fighting inflation. Fetterman received endorsements from President Joe Biden, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, United Steelworkers District 10, Utility Workers Union of America and more, according to City & State Pennsylvania.

Oz is a TV personality, having his own program "The Dr. Oz Show" that ran from 2009 to 2022. Oz graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1986.

According to Oz's website, his top issues are stopping illegal immigration; protecting innocent lives; supporting small businesses and being tough on crime. Oz has received endorsements from former President Donald Trump, Fox News host Sean Hannity and U.S. Sens. Tim Scott and Kevin Cramer.

According to FiveThirtyEight, the senate race is slightly favored toward Fetterman. He is ahead by 2.2 points, a small gap compared to previous polls where Fetterman was more than 10 points ahead.

Irwin encourages everyone to do their own research to make an educated vote.

"The U.S. Senate race is the most important race to research," Irwin said. "It can determine who controls the U.S. Senate and could pivot the entire Senate."

Dagnes wants the younger generation to know that voting is important.

"Every two years in an ad someone says this is the most important election of your lifetime," Dagnes said. "We're getting to a place where that hyperbolic catchphrase is starting to be true."



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

John Fetterman, the Democratic U.S. Senate candidate, is in a tight race with his Republican opponent.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mehmet Oz, Republican U.S. Senate candidate, is running to replace Patrick Toomey, who decided not to



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Josh Shapiro, the current Pa. Attorney General, is running to replace Tom Wolf.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Doug Mastriano, the Republican candidate for the gubernatorial election, is behind in the polls.

Football snaps skid, beats Central Connecticut

RUSSELL MACIAS
staff writer

The Duquesne football team took down Central Connecticut 30-6 on Saturday afternoon, snapping a three-game skid and earning their first Northeast Conference win of the season.

Both teams traded punts in their opening drives, but the Dukes' next possession spanned 20 plays and took up nearly 10 minutes of game action. However, all Duquesne came away with was a 23-yard field goal from Brian Bruzdewicz.

After one more drive with starting QB Joe Mischler under center, Darius Perrantes then took over at quarterback for the Dukes in the second quarter.

One issue that has plagued Duquesne recently is the lack of success on third down. In the Dukes' last three games, they are just 14-for-41. When asked about this at practice on Tuesday afternoon, Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said that while he does see the struggle, he thinks a lot of the issues on the pivotal down are rooted in sloppy plays on first and second down. As a result, third downs become that much harder to convert.

On his first drive of the day, Perrantes connected with wide receiver Abdul Janneh for third-down conversions of 26 and 27 yards, respectively. However, the offense stalled again, and a 40-yard field goal from Bruzdewicz pushed Duquesne's lead to 6-0 nearly halfway through the quarter.

After Duquesne's defense got the Blue Devils' offense off the field quickly, Perrantes had another chance to make big plays, and he did.

Starting from his own 9-yard line, Perrantes connected with wide receivers Dwayne Menders Jr. (45 yards) and Joey Isabella (37 yards) on consecutive plays, putting the Dukes in the red zone. After a brief two-yard run from DeMarcus Ware, Perrantes hit Janneh for a 7-yard touchdown reception, good for his team-leading seventh score of the season.

When Janneh was asked about his success, he referred to his teammates and wide receiver depth on the team.

"[The depth]'s huge, I wouldn't get a TD without them," Janneh said. "With Joey coming back from injury, it was big to see [him make that catch], and Darius made the big throws. We focused all week on execution, especially in the red zone, so it was good to get that going early."

The Dukes took a 13-0 lead into halftime, but Central Connecticut threatened that lead midway through the third quarter with a 19-yard rushing touchdown from Nasir Smith. However, the Blue Devils missed the extra point, and the score sat at 13-6.

Entering the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils held possession within the Dukes' 10-yard line and looked prime to tie the game with a touchdown and accompanying extra point.

However, led by captain Jeremiah Josephs, the Duquesne defense held their own. Af-

ter plays that resulted in no gain or negative yardage on second and third down, Josephs intercepted a fourth-down pass from Central Connecticut's Shon Mitchell in the end zone, preserving Duquesne's lead.

On the ensuing drive, Perrantes, who had remained in at quarterback since coming in during the second quarter, led a long drive that got Duquesne as far as Central Connecticut's goal line. However, the Dukes were stuffed again, and a 20-yard field goal from Bruzdewicz allowed Duquesne to walk away with a 16-6 edge.

That drive featured running back JaMario Clements, who was unable to score in consecutive plays from the Blue Devils' goal line. However, Schmitt believes that Clements' emergence will be pivotal for the Dukes moving forward, especially as the wear and tear of the season begins to take a toll on frequently used backs like Ware and Billy Lucas.

"He's been huge for us," Schmitt said. "He's a hard worker, and we really needed a guy to step up."

After Duquesne's defense forced a stop and regained possession with just over eight minutes left in the contest, a series of runs from Ware and Clements helped get the Dukes back into Central Connecticut's red zone. Faced with a 4th-and-11 from the Blue Devils' 24-yard line, Schmitt dialed up a passing play, and Perrantes found wide receiver Jalin Cooper for a 24-yard touchdown. With just 1:28 to go in the game, Duquesne's lead sat at a comfortable 17 points.

With the game all but secured, Mitchell had a pass intercepted by Duquesne's Ezekiel Dauré 30 yards for a touchdown, ballooning the Dukes' lead to 30-6.

The day after Duquesne's 24-point victory, Perrantes was named the Northeast Conference Offensive Player of the Week. He threw for 260 yards and two touchdowns in the victory.

"Perfect timing. We played a great opponent. We all worked hard all week, watched a lot of film and prepared a lot," Perrantes said. "Obviously, when the time is right, and we work hard, we get it done. [His wide receivers and running backs] make my job so much easier. Such an all-around great effort from everyone."

The Dukes will return to action on Saturday, when they host Long Island at Rooney Field.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Abdul Janneh — pictured on Oct. 8 — had five catches for 72 yards and a score on Saturday.

Thomas: Astros will win World Series title

SPENCER THOMAS
sports editor

The 2022 World Series gears up to welcome back a familiar face, as well as an old friend. The Houston Astros will appear in their fourth Fall Classic in the last six years, while the Philadelphia Phillies are back in the World Series for the first time since 2009.

The Astros come in looking to cap off a dominant period with another World Series ring. After winning it all in 2017, albeit with an asterisk, they were eliminated in the American League Championship Series in 2018 and 2020, and finished as the runner-up in 2019 and 2021. They are guided by two massive storylines, neither surrounding the actual play on the field.

Dusty Baker was the perfect hire for a team trying to shed their tarnished image from the one that emerged in the wake of their cheating scandal a few years ago.

One of the most beloved figures in America's pastime, Baker is in his 25th season as a big-league manager, but he keeps coming tantalizingly short of the ultimate prize. At 73 years of age, Baker looks to finally get his hands on the Commissioner's Trophy.

The other major theme with Houston is the aforementioned cheating scandal. In the 2019-20 offseason, it was revealed that the team illegally relayed signs to batters during their 2017 championship run. The fallout resulted in the firings of manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow, and the start of a lingering disdain for stars like Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and Alex Bregman. Most significantly, it caused a massive ques-

tion to linger: Did they deserve that championship?

With their continued dominance after the scandal was revealed, Houston has shown that they are still stacked with immense talent. Winning the championship this season would go a long way in beating the asterisk allegations.

Houston enters heavily favored, having racked up 106 regular season wins, and are undefeated in the postseason after series sweeps of both the Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees.

Players to Watch

Justin Verlander: The ageless wonder continues to dominate the bump, on his way to what will likely be his third Cy Young Award-winning season. The 39-year-old starting pitcher doesn't match up incredibly well against a Phillies lineup that can feature as few as five right-handed hitters, but he should have intriguing matchups against left-handed hitters like Kyle Schwarber and Bryce Harper.

Jose Altuve: The mainstay of Houston's lineup struggled to find any sort of semblance to start the postseason, but the lineup surrounding him picked up his slack. However, the buck stops now for the 2017 Most Valuable Player. When October turns to November, a team's stars need to show up, and Altuve's performance will be highly indicative of what the team is able to manage against Phillies' aces Zack Wheeler and Aaron Nola.

Jeremy Peña: With the absence of past stars like Correa and George Springer, Houston's new image is centered around the rookie infielder. He's shown no fear of the

postseason, winning the ALCS MVP, and could be the answer for Baker if Altuve continues to struggle.

Contrary to Houston, Philadelphia was not expected to be here. If not for the league's expanded playoffs (moving from five playoff berths in each league to six) that took effect this season, they wouldn't be here.

The last team to get into the playoffs is looking to be the last team remaining, thanks to a powerful lineup that can leave the yard at any moment. After clambering their way to 86 regular-season wins (20 fewer than Houston), the Phillies got hot at the right time thanks to a dominant front-end of their rotation that was able to quiet the St. Louis Cardinals, Atlanta Braves and San Diego Padres.

Star-studded talent that was acquired via free agency like Bryce Harper, Kyle Schwarber and Nick Castellanos accompany homegrown talent like Rhys Hoskins and Bryson Stott to put up five runs per game in the postseason.

Players to Watch

Bryce Harper: One of the most famous faces in baseball has endeavored deep into the postseason for the first time in a career laden with accolades. After hitting five home runs in the postseason's first three rounds, the 30-year-old will be essential to his team's shot at glory. In baseball, a star has to get hot in October, and that is exactly what Harper's .419 batting average has shown. He needs to keep the momentum going against stiff pitching.

Kyle Schwarber: The leadoff hitter needs to set the tone for Philadelphia, something that Schwarber has the capability to do when

he leads off the series in Friday night's opening game. He has been the table-setter for Philadelphia this playoffs, scoring eight runs off of seven hits and eight walks. Schwarber also has the most postseason pedigree of anyone on the roster, and his leadership on and off the field will be essential.

The Bullpen: In a seven-game series that is likely to stretch into next week, Philadelphia can't rely too heavily on Wheeler and Nola. At some point, they will be asked to use their bullpen. Names like Brad Hand and Andrew Bellatti ought to become household names, as they shore up the latter end of the games and the series. There can't be any scenarios like the second game of the National League Championship Series against the Padres, where a streak of failures from the pen saw a 2-0 lead turn into an 8-5 loss.

Spencer's Prediction

The Astros claim their second World Series title, defeating the Phillies in seven games.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Dusty Baker is looking to capture his first World Series title in what is his 25th season as a big-league manager (third with the Houston Astros).

MSOC ties Fordham in senior night clash

JACK MORGAN
staff writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team looked to earn another win and push toward an Atlantic 10 Conference regular-season title, but their momentum was stopped in a 2-2 draw with Fordham on Saturday night at Rooney Field.

The game's pace picked up early, as Ford-

after the Dukes misplayed the ball in their own end, but it was blocked by Duquesne's Torge Witteborg.

Two minutes later, the Dukes drew first blood. Ask Ekeland scored his eighth goal of the season, converting on a 28-yard free kick. He placed his ball in the top left corner of the net, where Rams goalkeeper Callum James couldn't swat it away.

Just over two minutes later, Maxi Hopfer

the Dukes held much of the momentum in the game's early stages, the Rams shifted that quickly.

In the 21st minute, things got chippy between Ekeland and Fordham's Savvas Christoforou, and both were assessed yellow cards.

After a foul on Dukes defender Christof Vie Angell in the 25th minute, Fordham cashed in on the ensuing free kick. Ben Shepherd played it in for Timo Hummrich, who headed it straight past Duquesne goalkeeper Domenic Nascimben.

The physical and aggressive play between both teams was prevalent throughout the first half, and Duquesne maintained its 2-1 advantage heading into halftime.

However, a minute into the second half, the Dukes surrendered their lead. Hummrich set up Daniel D'Ippolito, who shifted the ball from left to right and sent it past Nascimben.

Hopfer was among those on the Dukes' side that were disappointed with the start to the second half, and he said that it had an impact on the remainder of the game.

"We were effective in front of goal in the first half, so we were up," Hopfer said. "When you're up, it's always easier to play. We kind of, we couldn't really find our game. And then since the game went on, and it was 2-2, the pressure kind of rose on us, and we got more under pressure."

After the game, Head Coach Chase Brooks said that the team can learn from the contest.

"You're at home, it's senior night, you're playing a good team," Brooks said. "But I will take us here versus anybody in the country. We always feel like we can win at home, and tonight was no different. And ultimately it wasn't meant to be tonight, but again, that's

where we have to learn from it, and we have to move forward."

Even with one game left to play in the regular season, the A-10 tournament remains an important point of focus. Hopfer expressed how difficult it is to just take things one at a time without looking ahead at the bigger goal.

"It's always easy to say to take it one at a time, but in the back of our heads, our big goal was to make the playoffs, to win the A-10s," Hopfer said. "And that's still our big goal."

Brooks and his players appreciated the support given from their home fans all season long, and hope that continues into the postseason.

"I mean that's the beauty of college sports and college athletics in general," Brooks said. "It's that you have the fans, have your students, have your peers around you, cheering for you and pushing for you. You need that energy. It's absolutely vital."

"We have an opportunity to host an A-10 quarterfinal game. If that comes to fruition, we want everybody out there, we want to pack the stands and we want to get after it. And we want to show people who Duquesne is because, for far too long, I think it's been a bit of an afterthought, and it's time to change that."

The Dukes sit in second place in the A-10 standings, trailing Saint Louis by one point. In order for the Dukes to win the regular-season title and clinch home-field advantage for the conference tournament, they will need to have a better result on Saturday against La Salle than Saint Louis does against Saint Joseph's.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne goalkeeper Domenic Nascimben — seen here during an Oct. 17 game against Pittsburgh — made 10 saves in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Fordham at Rooney Field on senior night.

ham forced the issue and got some shots on net. Fordham captain Daniel Espeleta had a dangerous opportunity in the 13th minute

set up Jacob Casha, who gathered the cross and slotted it in the net's bottom left corner to give the Dukes a 2-0 lead. Although

WSOC prepares for Atlantic 10 tournament

BRENTARO YAMANE
layout/multimedia editor

The Duquesne women's soccer team's fell Sunday afternoon to George Washington by a 2-1 score. With regular-season games now in the rearview mirror, the team gets to move onto bigger goals as they begin their pursuit of an Atlantic 10 Conference championship.

Duquesne, which finished with a 4-3-3 record in A-10 action, finished as the fifth seed in the conference. The Dukes will face fourth-seeded Davidson in a road contest on Friday night in the tournament's opening round. The last time Duquesne won the conference was in 2015.

"The loss against George Washington is fueling our motivation [to do well in the A-10 tournament]," junior forward Cami Taylor said. "We are learning from it, like we have with the other losses throughout the season. Most importantly, we are looking to move forward, push ourselves and give the best we have for Friday."

The Dukes were ranked 10th in the A-10 women's preseason soccer rankings, so making the tournament as one of the top five seeds is exceeding expectations, even if they were those from outsiders.

"I don't think we were focused on [the preseason rankings]," freshman defenseman Eva LaVecchia said. "We know we

have so much talent, and from the start we knew we were going to be a hard team to compete with."

Led by 17 freshmen, Duquesne is one of the youngest squads in the nation. Seven of those players have recorded at least a point, showing that everyone is getting involved and are trying to make an impact. The quick success that they are all having is making the team closer, as their desire to become better continues to rise.

"As a freshman, I had no idea what to expect this season," said midfielder Mackenzie Muir. "Us freshmen had to prepare for anything and everything. With the tournament approaching, this season flew by so fast. It was so exciting to be able to always be with the team and building a family culture in this program."

"The season has been challenging with constantly having to play our highest level of soccer, but I think this season has been a testament of who we are as a team."

Junior forward Jaimi Araujo ended the regular season as the team's leading scorer with five goals and six assists. With the offensive attack that she brings, coupled with the younger players on the team, she knows that her experience and leadership helped the team in their success.

"For most of our team, this is their first

experience with the A-10 tournament, so we've really been trying to stress what this opportunity means," Araujo said. "We know we can compete for a championship, so we've been putting a lot of emphasis on building that confidence as we head into our biggest game of the year."

Taylor is one of six players on the team to play all 15 games. She is also one of the upperclassmen that was relied upon to provide leadership to the team.

"I think it's important for us to keep our routine in order for us to stay comfortable and focused during the playoffs," Taylor said. "We are focusing on ourselves, playing the way we know how to play and playing for each other."

Duquesne has not defeated Davidson since Oct. 8, 2017 (three ties and one loss in the four contests since then). In the lone contest this season, the Dukes and Wildcats played to a 1-1 tie at Rooney Field on Oct. 9. Araujo scored the lone goal for the Dukes in that contest. She said that having already seen Davidson's style of play helps a lot as Duquesne prepares its game plan for Friday's contest.

"Davidson played exactly how we expected them to [in the first game]," Araujo said. "They're a tough team to break down, but I don't think we put ourselves in too many dangerous positions to challenge their back line. My team knows we

can win this game if we apply to the game plan we've been working on in training."

"A win is going to take everyone being bought in, wanting more than the person next to them. As long as we have that, I'm not worried."



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Margey Brown (No. 7) and Sarah Wilkinson (No. 33) fight for possession in last Thursday's game.

PSO celebrates Black heritage in tribute

SOPHIE PERRINO
staff writer

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Lift Every Voice Unity Choir performed a memorable show Saturday night that featured local artists, activists and prodigies, honoring the past and present of Pittsburgh's Black community.

"Lift Every Voice," conducted by Kellen Gray and hosted by Kendra Ross and Garfield Lemonius, featured incredible musicians who debuted with the symphony, including Josh Jones on the marimba, rapper Jasiri X and soloist Curtis Lewis Jr.

The concert series' primary goals were to promote equity within the Pittsburgh arts and music community by sharing the music of Black artists, giving more representation to Black musicians of Pittsburgh especially.

The concert kicked off with "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," originally composed by brothers James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson. The audience rose as the LEV Unity Choir delivered a powerful message as one blended voice.

The piece, used during the Civil Rights protests of the '50s and '60s, was adopted by the NAACP as the national anthem for African Americans.

Nikki Porter, an alumna of Duquesne's School of Business and former vocal jazz student, is the choir's director, who has brought singers from across Pittsburgh together to perform gospel music for "Lift Every Voice" since 2018. She has been working in music since she started Duquesne's Gospel Joy Notes choir as a college student.

Porter is an advocate for social justice, whose music is a celebration of the rich heritage of Black citizens in America. "I'm standing for justice," she told Jim Cunningham in an interview with WQED-FM 89.3, "I'm standing for the right to be Black in America."

A major highlight of the show was a three-movement Vivaldi concerto, featuring Jones on the marimba.

Jones delivered an unbelievable performance and stunned the audience with his ability to play extremely fast across multiple octaves.

Jones, who deservedly received a standing ovation, hails from Chicago, and has been a percussionist since the age of three. After receiving his Bachelor's of Music from DePaul University, he began fellowships with the Pittsburgh and Detroit symphonies before becoming the Kansas City Symphony's Principal Percussionist two years ago.

The concert is a way to celebrate diversity and pay "tribute and homage to those who came before us," choir member Bryan Keys said.

Fellow vocalist Brendan Williams said he wants the audience to notice "not just the musicality of [the songs], but the actual lyrics, and be encouraged by [them]." Keys agreed, adding that having a diverse group of people making music together "is the American experience."

Mark Graves, who is singing with the choir for the first time this year, added that the purpose of coming together to share music with a wider community is to "show love" and affirm that "every life matters."

During the concert, the short film "As I Please" premiered, accompanied by the symphony playing a piece Kathryn Bostic composed for the project. The film, based on an oral history project focusing on the elder women of Pittsburgh's Hill District, was written by Jessica Lanay, and directed and edited by Njaimeh Njie and consulting producer and consulting editor Johanna Giebelhaus.

Lanay has worked with the LEV concerts before, having contributed her writing which details the truths of being a Black woman in modern-day America. In her pre-concert discussion on Saturday, she had conversations with women who have lived in the Hill District.

"As I Please" is the story of a Black woman, played and voiced by Karla Payne, who lives in the Hill District and has a vision of the queen of Sheba, portrayed by Jacqueline Walker, who represents the powerful version of herself she aspires to be. During



SOPHIE PERRINO | STAFF WRITER

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra celebrates performers of color in tribute concert.

the film, she begins to imagine herself as the queen and explores her everyday life with this newfound empowerment.

The hosts of this year's concert had impactful messages to share as well. This was Lemonius' first time as a host. As a professional dancer, professor and Dean and Artistic Director of Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts, he believes that "it's important to wake up every day and know that what you're doing is going to impact someone else."

"We have to be good neighbors," Ross said about her work as Duolingo's Head of Social Impact, emphasizing that Pittsburgh is a great city in part because there are so many different groups who come together to contribute to it.

Ross has been working with the PSO's "Lift Every Voice" programs since 2017 and said she believes that this event is significant because it "has brought together people from different backgrounds" and "different kinds of artistic practices."

"It's about amplifying all the voices in the community," Lemonius said.

The concert concluded with an energetic and soulful arrangement of "Glory" from Selma, composed by John Stephens, Lonnie Lynn and Che Smith. The LEV Unity Choir

was joined by Lewis and Jasiri X as soloists. Lewis also showcased his wide range on a solo alongside the Choir for Sam Cooke's "Change is Gonna Come."

Jasiri X is a hip-hop artist and the first of which to receive an honorary doctorate. He is a strong advocate for equality and justice and spreads his powerful messages through songs such as "Strange Fruit" and "Justice for Trayvon," which are dedicated to the young, Black citizens who were killed in instances of police brutality. He is the co-founder of 1Hood Media, which aims to "identify, develop and inspire" young artists and activists in the Pittsburgh area.

"Lift Every Voice" will return to the PSO next year and continue its mission of spreading a sense of togetherness to the communities of Pittsburgh.

Upcoming symphony community concerts include "Last Stop on Market Street" on Nov. 2, adapted from a children's book by the same name about a boy who meets a variety of different people on the bus and learns the importance of acceptance and compassion.

The next Fiddlesticks Family Concert on Nov. 5 will include Duquesne graduate Kory Antonacci as a featured soloist.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Trick-or-treat: Center for Student Success
Oct. 27 @ 1:30 p.m.

Go to the 7th floor of Rockwell Hall for Open House and sweet treats! Business students only.

Food Truck Fridays
Oct. 28 @ 11 a.m.

You know the drill! Head to A-Walk for an array of food truck festivities. Meal plan not accepted.

Duquesne Ballroom Halloween Social
Oct. 28 @ 7 p.m.

Dress in your very best costume for dancing, treats, games and more! Free food and prizes provided!

DPC DUNITE: Spooky Bingo
Oct. 28 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the Africa Room for a spooky rendition of DPC's Duquesne-famous Bingo! Hosted by DPC, eight rounds of bingo will be accompanied by a variety of awesome prizes.

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

"Treat" yourself with kindness

Beyond the glitz and glam, Halloween is a time to express yourself and enjoy moments of nonsense with friends. It is by far my favorite holiday, for more reasons than dressing up and fitting a theme.

I like people-watching at pumpkin patches. I like crunching leaves beneath my feet on the sidewalk. I like switching my coffee order from iced to hot and decorating my house with spooky trinkets from the Target dollar section.

These simple fall joys will be gone before you know it in the commercialized countdown to Christmas, so cherish these small moments for yourself while you can.

Enjoy arts and crafts, enjoy creating themed costumes with friends, and enjoy cozy nights in with Disney Halloween specials when the world seems too scary outside.

Your life is not a ghost story. You can fill it with as many innocent joys as you please. The biggest treat of all is knowing that you can treat yourself.

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

I'm going as an independent baddie for Halloween.

Pisces

You have the joke all wrong. The skeleton had the guts, he just didn't want to cross the road alone.

Aries

picked costumes 7 months ago

Taurus

Make pumpkin cookies! Pumpkin loaf! Pumpkin seeds! Pumpkin cold brew!

Gemini

I'd rather an evil spirit call me than my ex-boyfriend rn.

Cancer

dresses as the same three things each year

Leo

Going as glitter for Halloween is totally valid and celebrated.

Virgo

Everything is a concept. My costume is a concept. The life I lead is a concept.

Libra

Is this the redneck Taylor Swift convention?

Scorpio

Kermit the Frog look with an Oscar the Grouch personality.

Sagittarius

Can Michael Myers walk any slower toward his death

Capricorn

Bang bang waterfall spiders crawling up the wall cool breeze tight squeeze --

Taylor Swift's 'Midnights' shimmers with new pop quality

CAPRI SCARCELLI

a&e editor

Thirteen sleepless nights and one concept album later, Taylor Swift released her 10th studio album: "Midnights."

In glittery mysticism and vulnerable reflection, Swift brings to life the variances of middle-of-the-night-madness, interwoven between synth-pop and electronic beats that pose as a stark juxtaposition to the elevated lyricism.

Announced at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 28 in her acceptance speech for "All Too Well: The Short Film," Swift led fans into a series of Easter eggs for the widely-anticipated Oct. 21 release date. In her social media series, "Midnight Mayhems With Me," Swift used a metal bingo cage to announce track titles one-by-one until the album's release.

Of course, it didn't end there — Swift released seven bonus tracks to "Midnights" three hours after its initial release, calling this deluxe album "Midnights (3am Edition)."

Though many fans anticipated a sound similar to her previously released "Folklore" and "Evermore," Swift delivered an experimental genre-shift back into the pop sphere, now with a rhythmic murmur and tonal shift reminiscent of Lorde's "Melodrama" or Lana Del Rey's "Lust for Life." With Del Rey credited as a co-writer and featured singer on the album, it's clear where Swift drew inspiration — even if it felt lackluster on first-listen.

As someone who's belted Taylor Swift ballads in the car since 2008, I think it's fair to say that some of her discography has to grow on you, depending on what style you typically gravitate toward. For much of her fanbase, this album needed a closer reading in order to understand the true complexity of the piece, as well as the concepts she was trying to convey.

Let's take it track-by-track:

Starting off with "Lavender Haze," Swift delivers an RnB feel with soft pop vocals, clinging onto the feeling of love at first sight. Her breathy vocals paired with the lulling bass give off a club remix vibe, setting the tone of the album within the first three seconds. Transitioning into "Maroon," a somber foil to track one, Swift recalls an honest love that "felt so scarlet it was maroon," which would compare to the color symbolism she's used to allude to true love in her 2012 album "Red" and her 2019 album "Lover." Visualizing love as "the wine you spilled on my t-shirt" but also "the rust between telephones" indicates a relationship that started strong, but is fizzling out with long distance. These songs, however, didn't stand out to me much.

Shifting away from love songs

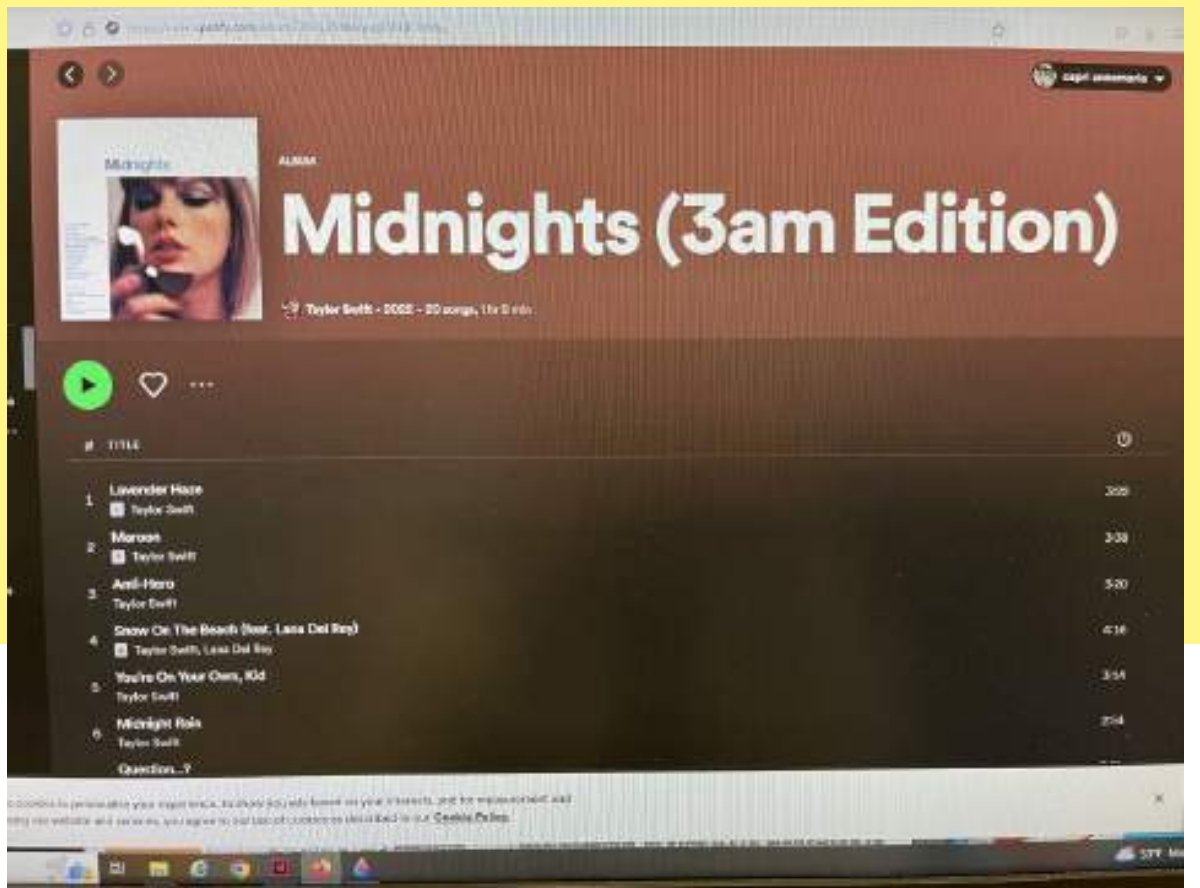
and into self-perception by track three, "Anti-Hero" has become one of the highest trending songs of the album thus far. With her relationship status and reputation in full limelight since she was a young teenager, Swift sarcastically used this song as a display of her insecurities and doubts, proudly taking ownership of her faults. The chorus going "It's me! Hi! I'm the problem, it's me!" to "I'll stare directly at the sun but never in the mirror!" is playful and cute in true bubblegum pop fashion, even when paired with lyrics like "when my depression works the graveyard shift, all of the people I've ghosted stand there in the room." Celebrating her vulnerability and becoming comfortable in her own skin, this anthem details Swift's journey toward self-love and acceptance.

"Snow On The Beach (feat. Lana Del Rey)" absolutely was under Lana's direction, but yet she wasn't even given a verse to herself. Swift is usually generous with her collaborations, but Del Rey could only be heard in an octave or a minor third away from Swift throughout the chord progression in the choruses. This song compared to the others though was very dark in its tone, but had dreamy vocals and lyricism. The blend between Swift and Del Rey's voices were flawless, and maybe that's why so many believed she wasn't even in the song.

"You're On Your Own, Kid," felt like a response to her first few albums as an artist, reminding her younger self that she will be okay in the end. In the bridge, she cries "I hosted parties and starved my body/Like I'd be saved by a perfect kiss," addressing rumors about her eating disorder and reliance on her love life. The upbeat tempo kept the song running like a cadence, bringing positivity and hope to these midnight thoughts.

"Midnight Rain," and "Question..." seemed to be the only two songs I could pin to past lovers, with the first reminding me of her relationship with Taylor Lautner, or perhaps Tom Hiddleston, and "Question..." either a spoof of Harry Styles' "Just Keep Driving," or commentary on best friend Selena Gomez and her ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber's on-and-off relationship. I liked how "Midnight Rain," felt like a pop version of her "Folklore" song "my tears ricochet," giving a glamorized look into a love that worked almost a little too well. "Question..." on the other hand is a skip in my eyes for the lack of quality lyricism and a somewhat monotonous beat.

"Vigilante [Sh*t]," however, feels like a jarring transition to her present self, a song that feels like it was meant to be on her album "Reputation," or even a call-and-response to her song off "Evermore," "No Body, No Crime."



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

'Midnights' propelled singer-songwriter Taylor Swift back into the pop scene.

I thought this song was genius in its simplicity in order to tell a story about revenge. The bridge builds tension in isolating the vocals, bringing the bass back in for the regular verse and chorus beat. Some believe this song is either an allusion to Kanye West or ex-manager Scooter Braun by the line "someone told his white collar crimes to the FBI." Overall, though this song stands out on the album, it perfectly fits the concept of midnight thoughts she was going for, and ended up being one of my favorites on the album.

I felt the second half of the album to be much stronger than the first, becoming more transparent with each and every song.

"Bejeweled" was like glitter as a sound. Reminding fans of her "Lover" era, this was a song that showed her listeners that she can still shine in the pop scene. With this in mind, I thought "Karma" would be the next song on the album, but it's wedged between "Labyrinth," which felt like Swift was on the brink of a meltdown. That song holds as probably my third favorite because it more closely resembles her older ballads and her fear of falling in love again. The vocals felt like a hollow echo, which added to its ethereal feel.

"Karma" however needed to grow on me. I think it's fun to dance around to, but I was disappointed by the childish lyricism. From "karma is my boyfriend" to "karma is a cat purring in my lap 'cause it loves me," I understood she was appreciating the life she grew for herself, but her fans have very high standards considering her lyrics are typically so intelligent and cryptic in poetic value.

Closing out the concept album, "Sweet Nothing" and "Mastermind" were easily the most complex and best-produced of the 13 original songs. "Sweet Nothing," feels warmer and softer than the other songs, detailing her current relationship with boyfriend Joe Alwyn. The sweetest line on the whole album is "on the way home/I wrote a poem/You say, 'what a mind,'/This happens all the time," showing how Swift is finally appreciated and nurtured in a relationship in ways she's never experienced before, even in small gestures.

"Mastermind" ties up this concept, showing how she's "been scheming like a criminal ever since" for the perfect life, but it was with her all along. The 80s synth beat rushes through the buildup of the verses of "the dominoes cascading in a line," though reflects on moments of vulnerability, especially in the lines "no one wanted to play with me as a little kid" to "I'm only cryptic and Machiavellian 'cause I care."

If this pulse and lyricism carried in the beginning, it would have been a no-skip album.

The "3am Edition" of "Midnights" felt more cohesive than the original album itself, delving deeper into her happiest moments and most gut-wrenching hurt.

If isolated on its own, the "3am Edition" would be a stronger album than "Midnights" itself.

"The Great War," reveals a fight in a relationship that felt like it would never resolve, while "Bigger Than The Whole Sky" reminisces on a love that was meant to be, but will never return. "Paris" gives a peaceful, unregrettable perspective of love when no one

is watching, and "High Infidelity" stands as its polar opposite, where Swift may have admitted to a cheating scandal. I thought "Bigger Than The Whole Sky" deserved a spot in the original 13, especially because it perfectly depicts the sadness midnight can bring when longing for someone you used to know. "Paris" felt like it didn't belong in this mix, but was still a sweet song.

"Glitch" shows a love that feels so powerful it feels like an accident, where "Would've, Could've, Should've" is an even deeper cut into the heartbreak and hurt she experienced from artist John Mayer — especially now that she is finally the age he was when they dated. The line "God rest my soul/ I miss who I used to be, the tomb won't close/ stained-glass windows in my mind/I regret you all the time," shows the girlhood that was taken away from her after that relationship, still healing from it over a decade later. I wish this song was included on the original 13 tracks because it is so much stronger in comparison and shows clearer imagery.

Finally, "Dear Reader" ends the album as a letter to herself, reminding her of all the love she has left to give. I like that it was written for herself and not for her audience, like a diary entry. Though it wasn't as enchanting as some of the others, it was ending Swift's midnights, not ours.

On first listen, "Midnights" is a 6/10. After a close read, it is now an 8/10.

To delve into what Swift considers to be "the magical hour," stream "Midnights" to experience the mayhem for yourself.

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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

John Fetterman, a candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, is still recovering from a stroke he had in May.

Fetterman's health at center of petty political rhetoric

The battle for Pennsylvania's vacant Senate seat is shaping up to be one of the most important in the country, with control of the upper chamber likely riding on the ability of either John Fetterman or Mehmet Oz to pull ahead in the 12 days before the Nov. 8 election.

Lately, a troubling issue has cast a pall over Fetterman's once-robust electoral prospects. The stroke he had immediately before May's primary election has become fodder for the Oz campaign, Republicans nationwide and even journalists to raise doubts about his ability to serve in office.

With Tuesday's highly criticized debate performance in the rearview mirror, it seems unlikely that he will be able to shake the allegation that he is unfit before the midterm election. How should Pennsylvania residents react to that charge? Is Fetterman's condition something to worry about?

This is, of course, nothing new. Health scares and their potential to disrupt otherwise impeccable partisan credentials have a time-honored place in the annals of American political lore. Woodrow Wilson's wife, Edith, assumed executive duties well beyond her capacities as first lady. After her husband had a debilitating stroke in 1919, the American people were deliberately kept in the dark about the status of presidential affairs and the wellbeing of their leader.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's unprecedented four-term presidency, built around the consensus issues of the Great Depression and World War II, was no doubt facilitated by discarding the transparency which we rightly view as indispensable to responsible government.

Dwight Eisenhower's 1955 heart attack raised serious concerns about his reelection prospects. John F. Kennedy lied to the American public about Addison's disease. Donald Trump's Covid-19 diagnosis provoked widespread anxiety throughout America. Today, folks on the left and right express unease about President Joe Biden's various gaffes and non-sequiturs, supposedly harbingers of a creeping decline and an unac-

countable executive branch.

These incidents are recalled in light of our government's crucial obligations of accountability, which are enshrined in historical memory and tradition. The electoral process, as a pathway to public trust, should be held to the same standards. This is the core of representative democracy.

Fetterman's health, however, has been seized upon by conservatives to bypass the debate over substance and policy, so often

tainly not done wonders for our collective democratic intelligence.

It seems that the question raised about Fetterman's health has been done so disingenuously. Legitimate concerns about responsible governance and the importance of disclosure are not the goals of the Oz campaign. Instead, they seek to provide Pennsylvania citizens with a crude, cognitive shortcut that signifies an inability to serve (the Republican Party is capitalizing on the widespread anxiety about Biden's decline to encourage down-ballot voting).

We can rest assured that Fetterman's recently released doctor's clearance is legitimate. Yet, if the minor segment of Pennsylvania citizens who remain undecided choose to make his ability to serve a factor in casting their ballot, so be it. Those of us who value informed political decision-making and thoughtful, local politics can only hope that this choice is made with concerns of accountability in mind, and not with the same cruel indifference to rationality that has come to dominate the conversation about Biden.

Is asking for good faith policy discourse truly too much? The demographic of suburban women who could determine the outcome of this election have shown their ability to engage with concrete policy issues from a unique moral standpoint, both in their 2018 and 2020 rejections of Trumpism. If Oz and Fetterman abandon the rigid typologies of middle-class America informing their campaigns, and drop the synthetic populism they both purvey, perhaps they would see that Americans are capable of making political judgments outside of modern-day smear politics.

We still have enough common sense to not let insensitive invocations of mental and physical wellbeing define our political decisions.

It hardly seems contestable that a healthy democracy depends on substantive issues receiving some degree of deliberation. The American people can do better, as can their representatives.



SIMON JARONSKI

staff writer

inconvenient to candidates who instead seek to diminish their opponents with a now-familiar playbook of moral criticisms. Of course, the Pennsylvania race and the depths of astounding adolescence into which both candidates have sunk should be insulting to the state's residents.

The Oz campaign has managed to become resurgent in the polls with a uniquely uninspiring political platform, trying desperately to court Pennsylvania voters with a series of head-scratching appeals to humble middle-class life. Fetterman's campaign has equally embraced the disregard for gravitas that now dominates American political theater. Mounting an incessant trolling campaign against Oz and his ritzy lifestyle has cer-

STAFF EDITORIAL

Vote and use your voice this election cycle

It's a principle that gets regurgitated every election cycle, but the importance of being a registered voter and an active voice remains essential as the midterm elections now sit less than two weeks away.

The deadline to register to vote in Pennsylvania passed on Monday, and while not all residents have taken the steps necessary to vote in the Nov. 8 election, a majority of the state is prepared.

As of Oct. 3, nearly 8.8 million Pennsylvanians were registered to vote, according to *The Morning Call*. This closely compares to data from Pennsylvania's Department of State during the May 17 primary, which indicates that over 8.7 million were registered to vote at that time.

While it's unlikely that every registered voter will end up casting their ballot—whether by mail or in-person—the Department of State reports that voter turnout in the 2020 general election was 76.5%. Nearly 9.1 million Pennsylvanians were registered to vote in November 2020.

The data shows that Pennsylvania has seen a decline in registered voters from 2020 to now. Naturally, an election where the presidency is at stake is more likely to garner participation from voters.

However, Pennsylvania is considered by experts to be a swing state that could determine whether Democrats in Congress maintain control of the Senate, or whether Republicans can pick that chamber back up as they move toward the 2024 presidential election.

On Tuesday, in their lone debate, Democrat John Fetterman and Republican Mehmet Oz took to the stage to discuss issues that matter most to communities and neighborhoods throughout the Commonwealth, such as crime and inflation.

Whether it's in the race between Fetterman and Oz, or the race for governor between Democrat Josh Shapiro and Republican Doug Mastriano, the resources for voters looking to decide which candidate they believe deserves a vote have never been more readily available.

In an age where social media and a non-stop news cycle feeds up-to-the minute information to the consuming public, take advantage of the information provided on candidates. Use that information to inform your decision-making process.

Any time that a new party takes power, the shortcomings of that administration are going to be called out. If you've taken the steps necessary to participate in the Nov. 8 election, now is not the time to let up.

In areas like Berks County, Centre County and Chester County, areas with significant populations where the difference in registered Democrats and registered Republicans is 2% or less, the amount of participation (or lack thereof) could swing portions of the state in one direction or another.

If you've come this far, take the next step. Vote for the change you want to see enacted.

Truss' resignation spawns the unknown

RUSSELL MACIAS
staff writer

Forty-five days. That's how long ex-British Prime Minister Liz Truss served in office before resigning Oct. 20. It's a laughably short term, the shortest ever for Great Britain, with the next closest being a prime minister named George Canning, who died in office in 1827.

How could this possibly happen? It's one of the unusual political occurrences

a time of great chaos, where Boris Johnson's tumultuous reign had just ended, and during an ongoing energy crisis. Truss' actions were perplexing and bewildering at best, and downright catastrophic at worst.

In her third week in office, she unveiled her great economic solution. She enacted £45 billion in tax cuts. And so, the markets immediately stumbled and collapsed, the British Pound plummeted and Truss fired her chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, in

entire policy was essentially overhauled.

Soon after, dozens of members of Parliament and members of her own party demanded her to step down amidst fiery criticism. The first prime minister to serve under two monarchs since George VI died in 1952 resigned less than two months into her tenure.

Replacing her is Rishi Sunak, but to say only that would be a farce. Immediately following her resignation, a stunning push from within the Conservative Party began. Public support was being put forth by dozens of members of Parliament for ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who had exited in disgrace just six weeks prior. Stunningly, it seemed as if Johnson had become the favorite.

After leaving office, Johnson went to the United States to give a speech for north of £100 thousand, and additionally was on vacation in the Caribbean. As a couple days wore on, more and more members of Parliament called for the return of a man who threw huge private parties at 10 Downing while the rest of the United Kingdom was in lockdown for Christmas during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sanity prevailed, but only because Johnson took his name out of consideration.

The Conservative Party held a leadership contest, and Sunak emerged victorious. Sunak is the first Asian-British prime minister, and is the youngest prime minister in over 200 years. Sunak, 42, immediately said the economic crisis is his main focus. Truss, in her 45 days, had unbanned fracking. Sunak immediately reinstated the ban.

Despite that, he voted against a Labour motion to ban the entire practice outright,

so who knows where he truly stands as he continues to flip flop his beliefs?

What simply can't be overstated enough is the fact that Britain badly needs a general election, yet there won't be one forthcoming. It's the United Kingdom's fourth prime minister in five years, a shocking number that shows the hectic turnover there.

Additionally, the support that was shown toward Johnson, a man whose reign can be best summarized as one filled with turmoil and one that showed him as an incompetent leader, is alarming.

Britain is a very fractured country at present, and the idea of continued conservative leadership is unlikely to make it any better. While Sunak is less extreme than Truss, he is still going to prefer businesses over people, and isn't going to fight to make the energy crisis go away.

Britain is slowly becoming nothing more than a laughing stock to the rest of the world. There was a popular livestream on YouTube set up by the Daily Star, a British tabloid, that was titled "Can this lettuce outlast Liz Truss?" It amassed tens of thousands of likes over the matter of just hours. Six days after the video was published is when Truss resigned.

The unpopularity and utter dismal treatment of citizens and their opinions is something that Americans can uniquely relate to with the state of politics here.

With the Nov. 8 election just two weeks away, we can all afford to take a lesson from our ally across the Atlantic Ocean. That lesson is to not elect a party that has shown time and time again that they will dismiss the concerns of their citizens.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ex-British Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned Oct. 20 after just 45 days in office. Her term is the shortest ever for a prime minister, and Rishi Sunak is now serving as Truss' replacement.

in recent memory.

Truss was the third-ever female prime minister, behind Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. She entered into office in

a dizzying reversal of actions and statements. The two had been close allies for over a decade, and it was seen as Truss just trying to save face. Additionally, the

Tom Brady's comment inflates outrage

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Tom Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback, is under scrutiny for a comment made while interviewing NBA star Kevin Durant last week on his "Let's Go!" podcast on SiriusXM, along with Larry Fitzgerald and Jim Gray.

"I almost look at a football season like I'm going away on deployment for the military. And it's like, 'Man, here I go again,'" Brady said.

In a culture that has recently taken offense to musical artist Lizzo playing James Madison's flute, the Little Mermaid's skin color and the sexual orientation of a Scooby-Doo character, its fitting that the 23-year NFL veteran's words sent enough shockwaves to require an apology.

The audacity of the future-hall-of-famer to dare compare a non-typical job that requires employees to be away from their family for an extended period of time to another non-typical job that requires employees to be away from their family for an extended peri-

od of time is unfathomable, apparently.

Brady used a press conference later in the week to apologize.

"Before we start, can I say one thing?" Brady said. "Earlier this week, I made a statement about playing football and the military, and it was a very poor choice of words. I just want to express that to any sentiments out there that people may have taken it in a certain way, so I apologize."

The worst part of this entire controversy, for me, is not the sensationalized sports reporting, nor the manufactured outrage. It's that I agree with Brady's original statement.

The parallels between an active-duty infantryman and a pro athlete, while imperfect, are quite apt. They are both male-dominated fields, they require an immense amount of physical dedication and both take people away from their loved ones for a long period of time.

Even before his well-crafted apology, it was quite obvious that Brady was not downplaying all the sacrifices of military service. If anything, he was recognizing a hardship that a lot of

these young people endure.

When did we start getting so offended by the truth?

What is unsettling is the amount of outrage that this caused. I know we're currently in a culture war where everything is scrutinized under a polarized scope, but it's hard for me to wrap my head around the military community being upset with these comments.

They just don't have the numbers to support it.

According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2018, only about 7% of the adult American population are veterans. Of that, only about 1.4 million (or less than 1%) of Americans are active duty.

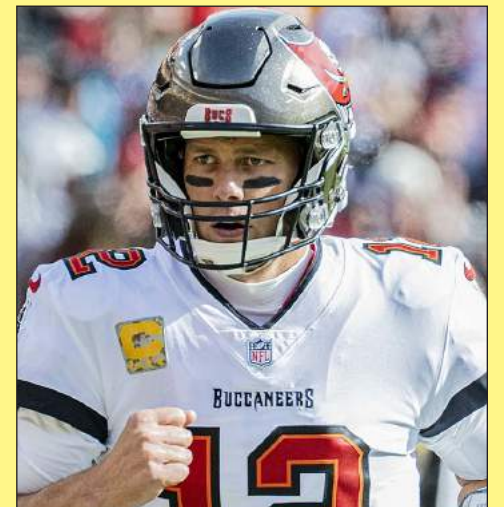
Of the 1.4 million active duty members, only about 193,442 (15% of service members) deployed overseas.

Even fewer have deployed to a combat zone.

Once again, a certain group of people are hijacking a group of people to push their irrational messaging. There are so many more pressing issues that the military community are rightfully outraged by that get conve-

niently ignored by the public.

Instead of finding fault with Brady's comments, why don't we turn our need for outrage toward real military-related issues like PTSD, the VA health care system or the disturbingly high number of sexual assaults that occur within the ranks.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Tom Brady faced scrutiny for his comparison between the NFL season and active deployment.

Owl Post letters arrive across campus

HANNAH PETERS
staff writer

A disappointing part of living in the Muggle world is not being able to participate in what is considered by wizards “the normal way” of communicating—Owl Post.

As much as some may wish that Hogwarts was real and that personal messenger pets existed, it's likely that Duquesne's staff is appreciative of the lack of rats, toads, cats and owls scampering around campus.

Fortunately, Assumption Hall resident assistants found a way to bring this part of the wizarding world to Duquesne's campus without extra critters running around. Owl Post letters went on sale for residents to send to their friends across campus in a candy gram-like fashion between Oct. 17 and Oct. 21.

The letters were \$1 each, and students could buy them online via a QR code posted around campus, or in-person at Assumption Hall. The QR code led to a Google form, where students filled out who the letter was for and the message they wanted to send to that person.

The RA's Owl Post promised to be Harry Potter-themed, and recipients also received a piece of candy.

Additionally, all of the proceeds raised were put toward the Mario Lemieux Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based charity dedicated to cancer research, patient care and supporting families in challenging medical situations.

The Owl Post will be delivered throughout this week by the RAs of each recipient.

This event was held as an RA program

in accordance with the Honors College Harry Potter Week, a recurring event at Duquesne. However, this year marked the first time that the Owl Post made its way to campus.

Although they don't have feathers or sharply hooked beaks, the original creators and stand-in owls behind Duquesne's Owl Post are three Honors College RAs—Libby Corbett, Evelyn Foster and Evie Sarle.

Corbett said that the origins of the Honors College Harry Potter Week can be traced to Honors College Director Kathleen Roberts, who is a huge Harry Potter fan.

In fact, Roberts took her love for Harry Potter so far that she turned it into a way for students to earn college credit. Roberts designed the “The Hallows and the Holy: The Theological World of Harry Potter” course here at Duquesne.

“We were trying to think of something to do that's Harry Potter-related, and I was thinking about how they get their mail in the dining hall—when the owls come—and I thought well, we could do that, but just drop it off at people's doors,” Foster said.

With a collective, exasperated laugh, the trio said that the total time it took to create all of the Owl Post letters took between eight and nine hours.

“Each customized message had to be matched up with the right envelope and person, and then their room number, so it was just a lot of assembly and logistics of making sure they get to the right place,” Sarle said.

Each card also needed to be cut from the template, folded, taped and then sealed with a wax stamp of the Hogwarts

crest. In addition to the cards, the group also made personalized paper bags labeled with “Duquesne Owl Post” tags.

“I love Harry Potter, so we went all out,” Corbett said.

They seemed surprised to receive responses requesting that the Owl Post be held again.

“I don't know if we can do many more of these with just the three of us,” Corbett said. “We'd need a whole crew.”

They ended up selling and making 117

Owl Post letters, and due to a few extra-generous students, they raised \$120 for the Lemieux Foundation.

“We were happy with the turnout,” Sarle said. “It was pretty good for our little program.”

With 117 students receiving a bit of magic at their doorstep, there's a little taste of what it might feel like to be at the Duquesne's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, even if there are no wands, secret passageways or a Forbidden Forest.



HANNAH PETERS | STAFF WRITER

As part of Duquesne's Owl Post letters, recipients received both a letter and a bag that contained a piece of candy. All proceeds from the letter sales went toward the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

Duquesne hosts Mole Day celebration

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Duquesne's American Chemical Society hosted its annual Mole Day celebration on Mellon Patio on Monday. Although the chemistry-themed holiday is typically celebrated on Oct. 23, members and students showed up on Monday to see what the day was all about.

Schools around the world participate in this event with chemistry experiments, nerdy desserts and, naturally, games of whack-a-mole. Duquesne's event consisted of different games and activities like mini golf, tie-dye and a cornhole tournament, as well as a variety of snacks for attendees to enjoy.

Mole Day is celebrated each year on Oct. 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. because of Amedeo Avogadro's number, 6.022×10^{23} , which is the number of atoms in one mole. Using this equation, chemists are able to work with extremely small particles which otherwise would be impossible. This is also why the

day was made to celebrate moles.

Pratham Patel, the junior executive within the society, explained the basics and the importance of a mole.

“It's just such a fundamental number that's used,” Patel said. “It's a very important number for any chemist to know.”

“It was such a revolutionary number when they first figured it out, and it helped build the periodic table. All the numbers you see that are related to mass are related back to the mole number.”

Since the society is known for its ability to advance chemistry knowledge throughout the community, this event was the perfect opportunity to do just that. By having a corn-mole tournament, participants were able to enjoy the mole-themed game, as well as compete to win mole-themed prizes.

Although last year's mole day consisted of a whack-a-mole with inflatable hammers, corn-mole has taken its place in their annual event, according to Serina Tressler, the society's president.

“Now we do corn-mole and people seem to really like this,” Tressler said. “I

think it's going to be an annual thing.”

Members of the society like Tressler think chemists around the world celebrate this fundamental day because of its ability to bring other chemistry lovers together.

“I think the mole is a really central concept to chemistry in general,” Tressler said. “So I think this is a fun way to bring people together, using something we all use regularly, even though there are so many branches of chemistry.”

Ashley Berdel, a member of the society's junior executive board, said she thinks the event is worthwhile for anyone who enjoys chemistry.

“I think it's just a fun thing for us to do because it's kind of nerdy,” Berdel said. “We use it all the time for our calculations, so it's just cool for us to have a day that celebrates it.”

Berdel was also excited for the corn-mole tournament, hoping she would win the grand prize of a giant stuffed mole decked out in green safety goggles, a white lab coat and a blue cape that showcased the periodic table.



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

The grand prize at the American Chemical Society's Mole Day event on Monday was a stuffed mole decked out in lab equipment.

The Duquesne Duke

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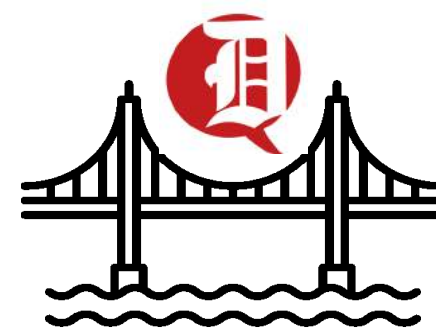
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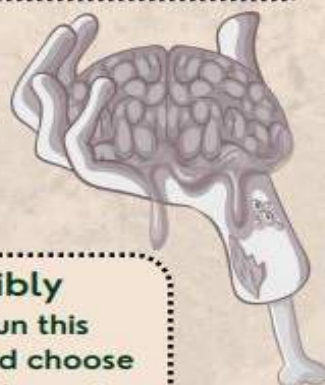


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