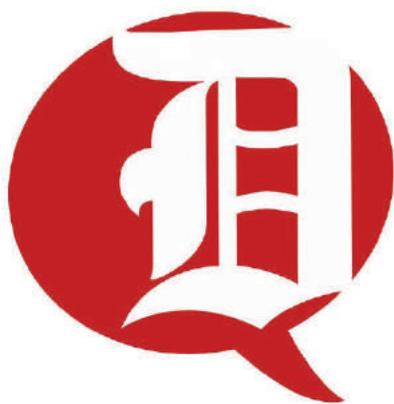


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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Occupational therapy students engage in unique dissection cadaver lab

Duq hosts suicide awareness event

BRENTARO YAMANE

layout/multimedia editor

Dozens of backpacks sat perfectly spaced across the lawn in front of Brottier Hall and Gumberg Library.

Each bag represented a person. Some of the people were lost to suicide. Sometimes the people survived and still had bags representing them.

Active Minds is the nation's premier nonprofit organization which supports mental health awareness and education for young adults.

Last Thursday, Active Minds teamed up with Duquesne to host an event called "Silence Packing." It is one of many programs from Active Minds to help people around the country. Thursday's stop at Duquesne was the 21st college the program visited during this year's tour.

Kelsey Pacetti, the Send Silence Display Coordinator for Active Minds, has noticed how the event has helped students talk about their problems, which is comforting for her. She knows that those who need help are going to the right resources to get the help they need.

"The main reaction from students is gratitude, and a lot of people will open up and share their story with us," Pacetti said. "And sometimes that means connecting the person to counseling, and hoping that it will have a ripple effect across these college campuses. So, just being there to support them, but a lot of people end up being super open and a lot of people, you'd be surprised, are impacted by suicide in some way. Whether they've had thoughts of suicide, if they've attempted or they know someone that is lost to suicide, it has impacted them. There's a huge ripple effect in

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EMILY AMBERY | STAFF WRITER

Lucy Barber (left) and Jess Ashton (right), both third-year occupational therapy majors, work in the osteology lab on days in which they aren't in the cadaver lab.

EMILY AMBERY

staff writer

In a cold, bright room, four third-year occupational therapy students gathered around their station as they worked on the superficial back of the cadaver, separating connective tissue and exposing the muscular structures underneath.

Jess Ashton and Lucy Barber used their fingers, as one approached from the back of the cadaver and the other approached from the side.

As they worked with their hands and learned in a way no textbook could teach, the cadaver moved while they tried to meet in the middle, which would signify that they had successfully separated the connective tissue from muscle. As they worked, Sarah Ricketts and Vivian Chan observed and debated about the seemingly aggressive method their professor was having them use.

"That's probably muscle tissue," Chan said to Ricketts as they pointed to something to the left of what Ashton and Barber were working on. "Maybe we were too aggressive."

Then, Chan stepped in to replace Ashton and continued to

move her fingers toward Barber's.

"Oh, that's your finger!" Barber said, finally, as the four of them leaped forward in excitement to see.

In their third year, Duquesne's occupational therapy program requires students to take a dissection cadaver lab to further their learning of anatomy as a foundation in their education. In this lab, students work in groups of four with one cadaver for the entire semester. Twice a week, students are in the lab for two-and-a-half hours. Two students begin the first hour, and then co-teach the other two as they come into the lab for the final hour-and-a-half.

Although many smells permeate the environment, formaldehyde was the most prominent as it filled the air. Barber described the smell of rotting fruit as the closest scent she could relate to the chemical preservative.

The atmosphere was respectful, yet filled with eager learners and a professor whose passion motivated a lot of the students to keep exploring.

"This is gorgeous," Dr. Kim Szucs said, the professor of the lab and lecture, with her hands deep into the back of a station's cadaver. "Look at that posterior

delt right there."

While the benefits of a dissection lab, as opposed to the more typical pro-section lab, are highly debated, Szucs advocated for this hands-on type of learning. Pro-section labs have the cadavers already dissected for students to look at.

"The 3D relationships of the body in a life-size view are critical for understanding how the structures of the body work together," Szucs said. "It is a relationship that cannot be developed from textbooks, apps or plastic models."

Measuring the benefits of the dissection cadaver lab is difficult. But in her six years of teaching anatomy at Duquesne, Szucs always sees the confidence built in her students as they work with cadavers. In the lab, the senses are used in ways that develop a unique depth of learning, she said.

"Before working with the cadavers, I was really excited to see what everything looked like but as soon as I actually saw the cadavers I thought, 'Wow, these are real people who lived real lives just like us, and we are going to be some of the last people to touch their bodies,' so I felt

guilty in a way," Ricketts said.

"However, after working there for a couple hours, I was able to detach more and focus on learning the muscles. I now just feel really grateful that they were willing to donate their bodies for our learning because it has really helped me to have an accurate understanding of our bodies."

Before the students go into the lab, the program establishes a sense of gratitude and respect in the space. Students learn that the opportunity is a gift, and that it is respecting the person's wishes to learn as much as they can in the lab, Szucs said.

There is a card at each station detailing the person's first name, age, cause of death, marital status and occupation. The information helps to provide context for the student's learning, but also helps to maintain empathy and appreciation for the person and their choice to donate their body to science.

"We always try to stick to the lab manual so we're not doing any meaningless cuts and keep the face and genitals covered," Ricketts said. "Most of us also refer to the cadavers by their names as a reminder that they

see **CADAVER** — page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Monday, Oct. 31-

Three resident students in Des Places Hall were found to be in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. The students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Wednesday, Nov. 2-

A resident student reported that he sent explicit photographs to a student, who is now extorting him for money. This is an active case.

Saturday, Nov. 5-

A student reported that she was pick pocketed Downtown.

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.

see **CADAVER** — page 1

had an identity and life before this."

Each group of students in the lab worked at 1 of 14 stations. Students were dressed in scrubs, masks, protective eyewear and lab coats. Some were using a scalpel and forceps to expose more of the muscle, while others were using their hands to explore the structures they were studying for the day.

As all the occupational therapy students worked with their specific cadaver, students from different groups went around and asked about what other students

were discovering.

The takeaway from every station was, "Nobody is the same, even if they look similar on the outside," Barber said.

Another benefit to dissection Szucs noted was the variability in each cadaver, not found in textbooks. She noted specifically that, with occupational therapy's holistic approach, understanding and seeing the differences in structures across the cadavers will help their future careers in problem solving and treatment plans.

"Learn the typical, but respect the atypical," Szucs said.

A lab assistant and practicing

physical therapist, Holly Bacasa, shared that her master's program only used computer models for learning anatomy.

"Even after 25 years of practice, this experience will definitely benefit my therapy from now on," Bacasa said. "It really makes you appreciate how everybody is different and the textbooks just do not do it any justice."

At the end of the semester, students will write letters of gratitude to the cadaver they worked with. Then, at the end of the year, the cadavers will be sent back to the procurement

center, cremated, then sent back to their families.

Duquesne will hold a service for the cadavers, in which students are invited to show their respect and appreciation for the donation.

"Everything is where it should be, but for me, it is like I am seeing [the structures] again for the first time," Szucs said. "It is satisfying to see the students have these lightbulb moments in making the connections between the structure and function on a deeper level. It gives you a great appreciation of our bodies."



EMILY AMBERY | STAFF WRITER

Lucy Barber (left) and Jess Ashton (right) evaluate a fake hand bone.



EMILY AMBERY | STAFF WRITER

Lucy Barber (left) and Jess Ashton (right) work with multiple fake bones.

Duquesne celebrates first-generation students

SAMANTHA HAUCK

staff writer

The fourth-annual First Generation Celebration for Duquesne's first generation students took place on Tuesday from on the 3rd floor of the Duquesne Union.

For some students at Duquesne, they are the first person in their family to go to college and face many challenges.

First-generation students were able to go to the the Union to grab candy, popcorn from the Pittsburgh Popcorn Company and other free merchandise as a token of the university's appreciation for these students.

Ashley Kane is the Assistant Director for Student Programming and Freshmen Development. Kane organized the event for first generation students to recognize and show support for them.

"I think it's important to celebrate students that are first generation," Kane said. "If you are first generation, it's not something that you necessarily talk about most of the time because most of the time, no one in your immediate family went to college, so I think when your college actually celebrates it, it can kind of be like an 'aha!' moment for some of the students."

Kane herself was a first-generation student and knows that

one problem can be not knowing where to go for help. Her undergraduate school did not have much acknowledgement toward first-generation students, so she wanted to change that at Duquesne.

"I think we have a great community built to support first generation college students," Kane said.

Raechel Mabie, a Resident Director at Brottier Hall, helped out at the event to show them that they are appreciated.

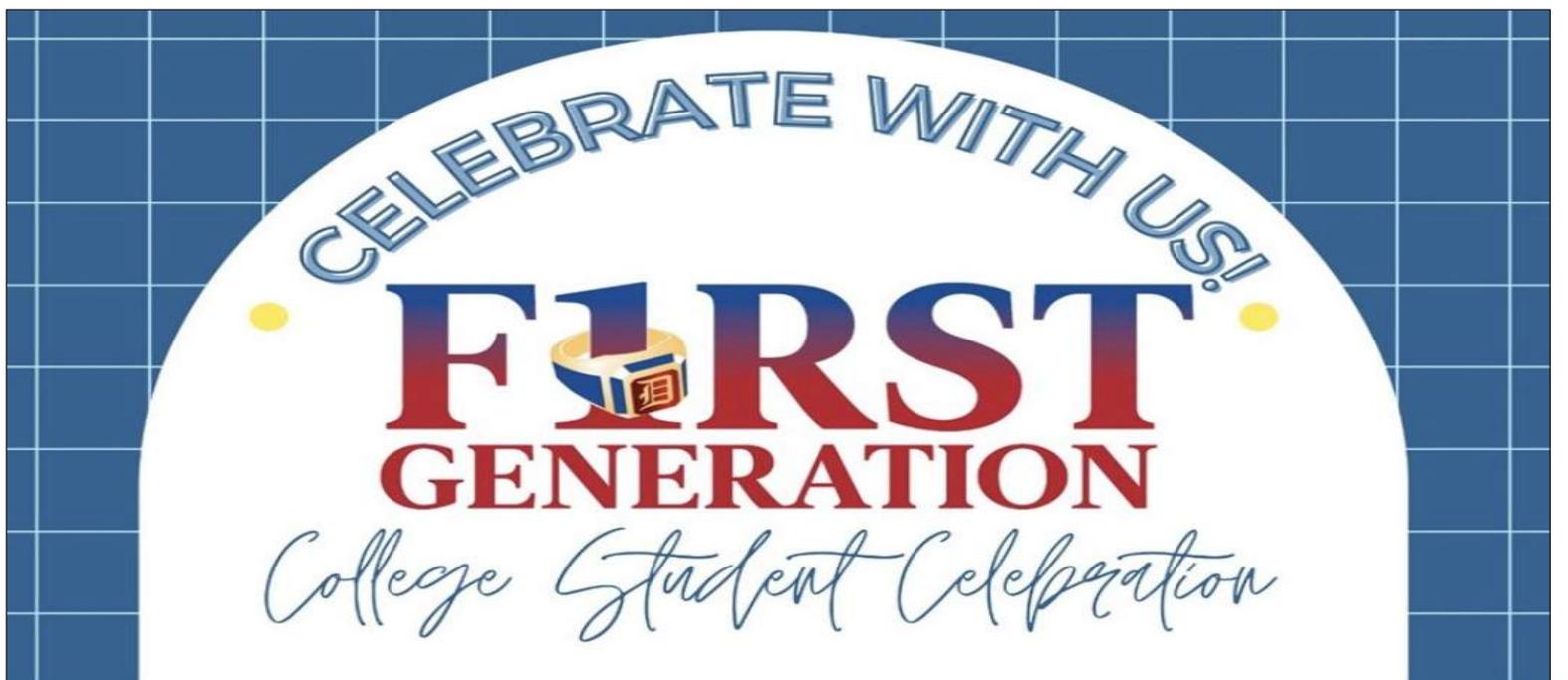
"I think it is important to engage them and to let them know they aren't alone in this experience with being first-generation students, and being the first in their family to experience some-

thing like this," Mabie said.

Freshman pharmacy student Grace Bowers is a first generation student at Duquesne University. For Bowers, it is important to her because she wants to set a standard for her little sister and her family. The main appeal of Duquesne for her was the campus and how it was an easy adjustment into college life.

"You don't really have anyone to guide you through it, so it's a little more difficult to do it, but it just proves that you can do it no matter what," Bowers said.

"It just makes me feel seen and like I am included in it. It isn't a huge thing, but to people like me, it's a personal experience."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Duquesne holds a first-generation college student celebration every year, with this being the fourth one. There were snacks and drinks available to students in the Union.

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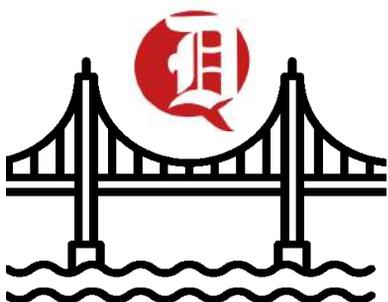
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see **AWARENESS** — page 1

how suicide impacts all of us.”

In the past, Pacetti has struggled with mental health, and she was able to use Active Minds to get through the tough times.

“I struggled a lot with my own mental health, and I found a lot of hope and resources through Active Minds,” Pacetti said. “I found that sharing my story and being vulnerable was really healing not only for me, but for other people. And to be able to go out on the road and hear people’s stories and just get to know them and realize that none of us are truly alone is just really inspiring. It’s a great opportunity for me professionally, and just for my own mental health.”

Brandon Graham is the Assistant Director and Groups Coordinator for the Coun-

seling Services on campus. Throughout his time in, he has noticed an increase in people who are willing to speak up, which has also lead to a decrease in suicides.

“I would say definitely the stigma appears to be going down,” Graham said. “We still have a lot of work to do, but there appears to be a trend through technology and social media, through the younger generation, through organizations like these ones, putting on events like this to allow people to speak about their experiences, mental health, sometimes just things that maybe people didn’t talk about over time,” Graham said. “So, I would say a stigma reduction, openness to having tough conversations and people doing the work to normalize suffering and hard times and how people respond to that in a variety of ways,”

“There’s not just one way of coping with

these symptoms.”

The friends, family and loved ones of those who have died can struggle to cope with the loss in their lives as well. That’s why it’s also important for them to have resources as well.

Ethan Horn, a senior at Duquesne majoring in psychology and minoring in human services, also helped at the event. Since graduating from high school, Horn has lost people to suicide as well, and, he has been able to better cope with the losses he has had.

“I had to realize that, yes, these people might be gone. But the memories of them are not,” Horn said. “Something in philosophy says that people can die two deaths. They can die a physical death. And they can die a psychological death, which relates to our memories. So really, these people aren’t totally gone, as long as you remember them.

As long as we keep them in memory and intend to make a better future. I think it’s important to connect back with family and friends to really kind of reign in that support as well as to maybe take a moment for ourselves. I think that’s been one of the biggest lessons here. Take time for yourself. Take time to check in with people and know that you’re not alone.”

Graham is just one of the people who have the everyday goal and desire of trying to help people get through tough times. “It’s one of the most meaningful things in my life, to be able to help navigate us to a good session, to see the change in someone that has a little bit more hope, a little more joy in their life or even just feel supported,” he said. “I would say that’s what got me into this work. And it’s extremely meaningful.”



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A sign of encouragement reads "Keep going. The world needs you HERE." at Thursday's event.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Surrounded by the personal story backpacks, a sign reads "Treatment is EFFECTIVE and can HELP."

PA Democrats overperform in early election results

ALICIA DYE
news editor

The Pennsylvania elections for U.S. senate and governor were watched nationwide as votes were counted Tuesday. At the end of the night, democrats clinched both positions.

Democrats were able to gain a senate seat in Pennsylvania when John Fetterman defeated Oz in a close U.S. Senate race. Fetterman will be replacing Republican Pat Toomey, who decided to not run for re-election in 2022.

Fetterman has received over 2.5 million votes and received 50.6% of the vote. Oz received just under 2.5 million votes, and received 47% of the vote overall according to *The New York Times*. Fetterman expanded the margins when compared to the 2020 election. In Allegheny County, Fetterman had a 28 point margin over Oz, up eight points from Biden’s margin in 2020.

Oz had a shrinking margin when compared to the 2020 election. In Westmoreland County, Oz had a 19 point margin, down nine points from Trump’s margin in 2020.

Fetterman was announced the projected winner around 1:30 a.m. and celebrated his win at Stage AE in Pittsburgh.

“I’m not really sure what to say right now. I’m so humbled, thank you so much,” Fetterman said in his speech. “We launched this campaign almost two years ago. We did what we needed to do. Tonight, I’ll be the next US Senator from Pennsylvania, thanks to all of you.”

Oz conceded to Fetterman early Wednesday morning.

“This morning I called John Fetterman and congratulated him. I wish him and his family all the best, both personally and as our next United States Senator,” Oz said in a statement. “We are facing big problems as a country, and we need everyone to put down their partisan

swords and focus on getting the job done. With bold leadership that brings people together, we can create real change.”

Josh Shapiro defeated Republican Doug Mastriano. Both were running to replace current Governor Tom Wolf. Shapiro overperformed compared to Biden’s margin in almost every county in Pennsylvania. In Berks County, Shapiro won by a four-point margin, where Trump won in 2020 by an eight-point margin. Many counties in Pennsylvania flipped to vote for Shapiro, and Mastriano lost a large amount of votes when compared to the 2020 election. In the 2020 election, Trump won Westmoreland County by a margin of 28. Mastriano won that same county by a margin of six, down 22 points.

“Tonight, you, the good people of Pennsylvania, you won,” Shapiro said in his victory speech. “Opportunity won. A woman’s right to choose

won. In the face of all the lies and conspiracies, the baseless claims, you also ensured tonight that truth won right here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

Shapiro and his running mate, Austin Davis, also made history, as Shapiro will be the second Jewish governor of Pennsylvania, with Ed Rendell being the first. Davis will be the first Black lieutenant governor in Pennsylvania’s history. Shapiro defeated Mastriano with 55.9% of the vote, while Mastriano received 42.3% of the vote, according to *The New York Times*.

Mastriano has yet to concede to Shapiro.

“We’re going to take this fight all the way to Harrisburg,” Mastriano said during his rally. “This movement is unstoppable. [We will] wait patiently to see what the people of Pennsylvania said. And what the people of Pennsylvania said, we will of course re-

spect that.”

Democrat Summer Lee defeated Republican Mike Doyle for the U.S. House District 12 seat. Lee received 56% of the vote, while Doyle received 44%, according to *The New York Times*. Lee made history, as she will be the first Black woman elected to U.S. Congress from Pennsylvania.

“Our communities have been waiting far, far too long for this,” Lee said. “This is victory, not just for me but for each and every one of us.”

Doyle conceded to Lee in a statement.

“Tonight, the voters of the 12th Congressional District came to the polls and made their voice heard,” Doyle said in his concession statement. “While we came up short in the 12th Congressional District, I look forward to continuing to serve my neighbors in Plum and supporting candidates who share my values in future elections.”



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MBB dominates Montana in season opener

SPENCER THOMAS
sports editor

Led by a 25-point, 8-for-8 shooting (6-for-6 from three-point range) performance from Dae Dae Grant, the Duquesne men's basketball team coasted to a 91-63 win over Montana in Tuesday's season opener at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The win helped the program secure its

ing point guard Tevin Brewer missed the game with an injury. On top of that, the Dukes finished the 2021-22 campaign on a 17-game losing streak and the Atlantic 10 Conference's preseason poll picked the Dukes to finish 15th out of 15 teams.

As the pregame festivities concluded and the fans filed into their seats, Associate Head Coach Dru Joyce III went down the bench, greeting every player with a

up court, the Grizzlies were greeted by the vicious full-court press organized by Head Coach Keith Dambrot. Reece got another steal and threw down a dunk.

The thunderous barrage from Duquesne brought a packed student section to its feet and brought audible cheers from teammates. When he finally returned to the floor, Reece looked up at the screaming crowd, and spread his seven-foot wingspan out wide, as if he were basking in its glory.

If the program is able to turn things around this year, that moment could be looked at as a turning point for the Dukes.

It certainly was in the game, as that sequence sent Duquesne on its way to scoring 14 unanswered points and, eventually, a 21-2 run that put the game well out of reach.

"Just seeing [Reece] pressure the ball like that, and all the other bigs," Grant said, "That just rallied and started everything for us to just get hot."

Depth was also on display in the fieldhouse, as Duquesne saw 11 different players reach double digits in minutes. Kevin Easley and Tre Williams were the only remaining constants from last season, and both saw their roles significantly reduced.

"We're not going to win the league with five [players], so we have to win it with 11," Dambrot said.

Reece was also confident with how the depth gelled in their first competitive game together.

"We're super deep, our young core is talented," Reece said. "On and off the court, we have a connection."

Meanwhile, Grant continued with an elite shooting stroke. In addition to his perfect night from the field, he was 3-for-3 from the free-throw line.

"Patience is key to me and my life," Grant said, "I just let it come."

"He's been a pleasure to coach. He's come to work every single day. You can talk to him, and he listens," Dambrot said. "A lot of guys that have a lot of success nowadays, they don't listen, but [Dae Dae] does."

Dambrot also said that he had no trouble putting the ball in Grant's hands.

"With his stroke, when he shoots open shots, they're going in. When he shot it, I felt like every one was going in," Dambrot said, "That's how it's been every day at practice. If he's open, he's making it."

Finishing behind Grant in points was freshman forward Matus Hronsky. He finished with 13 points on 5-of-6 shooting, and a pair of threes that even had Williams' father standing in the crowd, waving the Slovakia native's flag in the air.

"He's a typical European player," Dambrot said. "He can dribble, pass and shoot. He's got a good brain."

Also tallying double figures were Reece and Quincy McGriff. Tre Clark led the Dukes with three assists, while also adding eight points of his own.

Duquesne shot 64.4% from the field, the program's best performance under Dambrot, who is now in his sixth season guiding the Dukes.

The diamond press was on frequent display. Their skin-tight defense was relentless, no matter who Dambrot subbed in.

"With me being 6'8" with a 7-foot wingspan at the frontcourt taking it out," Reece said. "Man, it's scary. So, Kudos to [Dambrot] for that."

The Dukes will turn to a more-difficult task on Friday evening, when they travel to Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., for a date with No. 4-ranked Kentucky.

"It's a good opportunity," Dambrot said while tempering expectations. "It's not going to make or break our season."



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Duquesne men's basketball team prepare to break huddle following a timeout during Tuesday's 91-63, season-opening victory over Montana at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

first win in its last 18 games (dating back to Jan. 8), and it was the Dukes' largest margin of victory since defeating Columbia by 36 points on Dec. 9, 2019.

It would be bullish to suggest that such a dominant performance was always in the cards. Duquesne welcomed nine new players in the offseason, and probable start-

double fist bump and words of encouragement. Seconds later, a new season tipped off, and with it a plethora of opportunity.

Holding a 14-12 lead early in the first half, Duquesne struck a match. A pair of made free-throws were followed by a backcourt steal and bucket by Joe Reece. When Montana once again tried to move the ball

Football beats Sacred Heart in overtime

SEAN O'DONNELL
staff writer

A 4th-and-1 defensive stop propelled the Duquesne football team to a 35-28, overtime victory over Sacred Heart at Rooney Field on Saturday afternoon.

The Dukes moved to 3-6 (2-3 in Northeast Conference play) with the win, while the Pioneers dropped to 4-5 (also 2-3 in NEC action).

Duquesne led 28-21 late into the fourth quarter, but a 14-yard touchdown connection between Sacred Heart quarterback Marquez McCray and wide receiver Kenneth Womack evened the game at 28 with 1:22 remaining.

On the ensuing drive, Duquesne quarterback Joe Mischler found Joey Isabella for a 37-yard gain, but Isabella fumbled and gave the ball back to Sacred Heart with 16 seconds left. The Pioneers were unable to score, and the game went to overtime.

In overtime, Duquesne running back Billy Lucas took over. He accounted for all 25 yards (20 rushing, five receiving), including an eight-yard rushing score. The corresponding extra point helped the Dukes claim a 35-28 lead.

Lucas ran for a game-high 170 yards and two touchdowns. It marked the second time

this season where Lucas eclipsed 100 rushing yards, as he ran for 136 yards in a Sept. 10 victory over Thomas More.

"Our O-line did a great job creating some creases for Billy and DeMarcus [Ware]," Mischler said.

Sacred Heart, with its back against the wall, got to 4th-and-1 from the Duquesne 16-yard line on the next possession. However, the Pioneers were unable to convert, and the Dukes secured the victory.

Mischler, who finished the day with 209 passing yards and two touchdowns, found success throwing the ball to sophomore wide receiver Nick Leopold.

In the second quarter, Mischler delivered an accurate strike over the middle to hit Leopold for a 20-yard touchdown. That score, which was Leopold's first-career touchdown, put Duquesne up 14-7.

"He's always in the right spot," Mischler said. "It's like he's reading my mind half the time."

Leopold finished the game with three receptions for 46 yards and the touchdown.

The game was even at halftime, as McCray threw a 15-yard touchdown to Rob DiNota with just 1:13 to go in the second quarter.

The short score was set up by a 39-yard reception from Womack earlier in the drive.

Womack posted game highs in both catches (eight) and receiving yards (123).

The Dukes' defense came out much more aggressive in the second half, blitzing Sacred Heart on the first play, resulting in a sack from defensive back Jeremiah Josephs.

"Come at them and be aggressive," Duquesne linebacker Todd Hill said of the mindset coming into the second half. "We've been playing [Sacred Heart] since my freshman year, and it's always been a good fighting game."

Hill was an anchor for Duquesne's defense, finishing the game with nine tackles (2.5 for a loss).

It was a back-and-forth contest the rest of the way. Mischler floated a ball deep along the right sideline to hit Isabella in stride for a 26-yard gain on Duquesne's next drive, setting up a 1-yard touchdown pass from Mischler to tight end Logan Lutz.

Sacred Heart then brought in Rob McCoy at quarterback temporarily. In the first drive with McCoy's mobile legs, he ran for a 46-yard touchdown to even the score at 21.

Mischler ran for a 3-yard score of his own, which helped Duquesne hold the lead for much of the game's final quarter until the aforementioned late connection between McCray and Womack.

The win over the Pioneers snapped a brief two-game losing streak for Duquesne against Sacred Heart.

"Everybody just kept believing," Mischler said. "We played really hard, and I think that's why we pulled it out today."

The Dukes will be back in action on Saturday, when they make the brief trip to Loretto, Pa., to battle St. Francis (Pa.). The Red Flash have won seven-straight games, with their two losses coming in the season's first two weeks against Akron (FBS) and Richmond (currently ranked No. 12 in FCS).



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Duquesne running back Billy Lucas tries to break tackles in Saturday's overtime victory.

MSOC defeated in A-10 semifinal round

ROBBIE GRILL
staff writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team fell to Loyola of Chicago 1-0 in Wednesday night's Atlantic 10 Conference semifinal contest at Rooney Field.

The goal came on a 59th-minute strike from Marc Torrellas that deflected off

"It just wasn't our night," Duquesne Head Coach Chase Brooks said. "We really couldn't break them down or create enough opportunities on goal. If you can't create enough opportunities on goal, you always know you are going to have a long night."

The Ramblers were in control most of the night, not allowing the Duquesne offense to start its build-up play. When the

Another big difference was in corner kicks. The Ramblers benefitted from 15 corner kicks, while the Dukes only managed seven.

Nascimben — the fifth-year graduate player who played his last game in the Duquesne kit — kept it closer than the shot ratio would suggest, thanks to a few strong saves.

"I just told [Nascimben and the other seniors] 'thank you,'" Brooks said. "They've been a big part in the turnaround and helping us continue to grow the program into what it's been the last couple years."

Following the loss, Nascimben sat down on the turf to take it all in. Players and staff members comforted him with fist bumps, hugs and conversation.

This year, the team won the most games in program history with 11.

The record number of wins already has Brooks looking toward the future to see what he can do to make the team even better.

"[The success] is all beneficial," Brooks said. "It's all positives within our culture, and the characters we have on the squad that allow us to drive forward will help to continue recruiting in like-minded individuals who are going to help us compete and win."

Thirteen of the Dukes' players are from overseas, no small feat in A-10 soccer. Brooks has been notable for his willingness to recruit out of country, and the results are paying dividends.

It was clear by all the faces on the field after the game that this was a season to be proud of, even though the end result

wasn't what they had hoped for.

The Dukes have not won the A-10 since they three-peated from 2003 to 2005.

"Pittsburgh loves winners," Brooks said.

The team that he is building is poised to consistently win the A-10 and compete with teams like Saint Louis and VCU each year.

Even though the team records may be better and the championship runs may be a bit deeper, the men's team this year was still unique.

"We've got guys that have been in this program for a long time, and guys that have seen it when it has not been as high as a standard as we would've liked," Brooks said. "The guys that will still be here will be guys who are used to winning them, so that's exciting as well. We'll lose a little bit of age and experience, but we're gaining a huge winning culture from this season and last season."

Only two of the 17 players on the field tonight for the Dukes were graduate players or seniors.

A significant aspect of this program has been the level of turnover in terms of bringing in new players. For the 2020 season, the Dukes brought in 15 new players. For 2021, the Dukes brought in nine players.

Something that Brooks kept emphasizing was 'culture'.

He said that he's seen a significant change in Duquesne's soccer culture since he took over a decade ago.

"To do what we've done the last two seasons in particular has been absolutely fantastic," Brooks said.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Duquesne men's soccer team huddles following Wednesday's 1-0 loss to Loyola of Chicago in the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament's semifinal match at Rooney Field.

of Dukes keeper Domenic Nascimben's hands. The assist came from John Gates.

After the final whistle blew, and depondent Dukes fell to their knees, a record crowd of over 1,000 offered them a standing ovation.

Ramblers got the ball, they were very aggressive with it.

Loyola of Chicago out shot Duquesne 21 to 13, with the Ramblers guiding six of their shots on target. The Dukes only put one shot on target.

WBB opens campaign with blowout win

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK
staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team defeated Point Park by a 94-47 score in Monday night's season opener at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

Behind Megan McConnell, who had game highs in points (17), rebounds (10) and steals (five), the Dukes coasted to victory. She also added three assists and had a perfect shooting night, going 6-for-6 from the field (1-for-1 from behind the arc) and 4-for-4 at the free-throw line.

Things were going so well for McConnell that after the buzzer sounded at the end of the third quarter, she heaved up a half-court shot that went in. The bucket didn't count, but it was an example of her all-around performance on the evening.

She committed to getting stronger by adding 19 pounds of muscle during the offseason.

"That's complete dedication to wanting to win at the highest level, by adding that kind of size and maintaining that," Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt said.

The Dukes were also aided by Tess Myers, who put up 16 points, four rebounds and two steals. Burt believes that Myers, who went 6-for-15 (2-for-9 from three-point range), will only get better.

"Tess Myers is a very, very good shooter and has only gotten better with the ball," Burt said. "I didn't think we saw that a lot tonight. She started out a little slow. I think we could have done some things to help her. That's on me."

Although Myers started off the game 0-for-5 from three, Burt has no issue with her taking as many shots as she wants. Last year, Myers was two three-pointers shy of tying the Duquesne all-time record for most three-point field goals made in a season (90).

"All the players on our team have the green light to shoot it. You can miss one or two, I don't have a problem," Burt said. "You're never going to come out if you miss two, anybody on the roster. It's when we get to three and four, then we have to think about maybe coming out."

"In Tess Myers' case, she's supposed to shoot it every freaking time she has the ball. She's that good."

Point Park didn't score in double figures. Ari Bleda had a team-high eight points and a team-high-tying seven rebounds.

Turnovers were a huge factor in the game. Point Park had 26 turnovers, while Duquesne had just 12. The Dukes forced 14 steals and scored 35 points off Pioneers' turnovers.

"This team has a lot of grit," McCon-

nell said. "We go hard every day in practice, no matter if it's a day before a game, scrimmage or whatever. We all love each other, that's what makes our team special. It showed out there today how close we were."

On the other hand, Duquesne had two other players score in double figures. Ayanna Townsend put up a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Amaya Hamilton had 14 points, nine rebounds, and a game-high seven assists.

"Yanni (Ayanna Townsend) is a kid that is an absolute jewel," Burt said. "I believe, at the end of this year, she'll be an all-conference player, and that means nothing to her. The only thing that matters to her is wins. She's a very good team player."

Townsend, a Pittsburgh native, is in her first season with the Dukes after transferring from Xavier.

"At first, I was a little nervous just because it was my first game," Townsend said. "I enjoyed every moment of it. Obviously, some stuff I got to work on, but [I] was very happy today."

The Dukes grabbed the lead early, 6-5, with 6:11 left in the first quarter, and never surrendered.

"We used our athleticism and our size to our advantage tonight," Burt said.

The Dukes, picked ninth in the A-10

preseason poll, were hoping for a commanding win to start their season, and they got it.

"It was definitely a great team win to start off," McConnell said. "Previous years, we weren't able to get that win in the beginning of the year, so I think going forward, we have the confidence, and we have the energy. It was really helpful."

Duquesne will return to action on Friday, when it hosts Brown at the fieldhouse.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan McConnell high-fives teammates after a free throw in Monday's 94-47 victory.

Pittsburgh Playwrights premiere sneak-peak of new musical

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

Sitting with a pile of newspaper clippings during the pandemic, Pittsburgh playwright Ray Werner pieced together the forgotten story of Friar James Cox: 1930s St. Patrick's Church pastor and activist that housed many and fed millions, single-handedly leading the Strip District out of poverty during the Great Depression. Putting a mark on his house ultimately put a mark on the heart of Pittsburgh, defining the city's love for giving back and paying it forward.

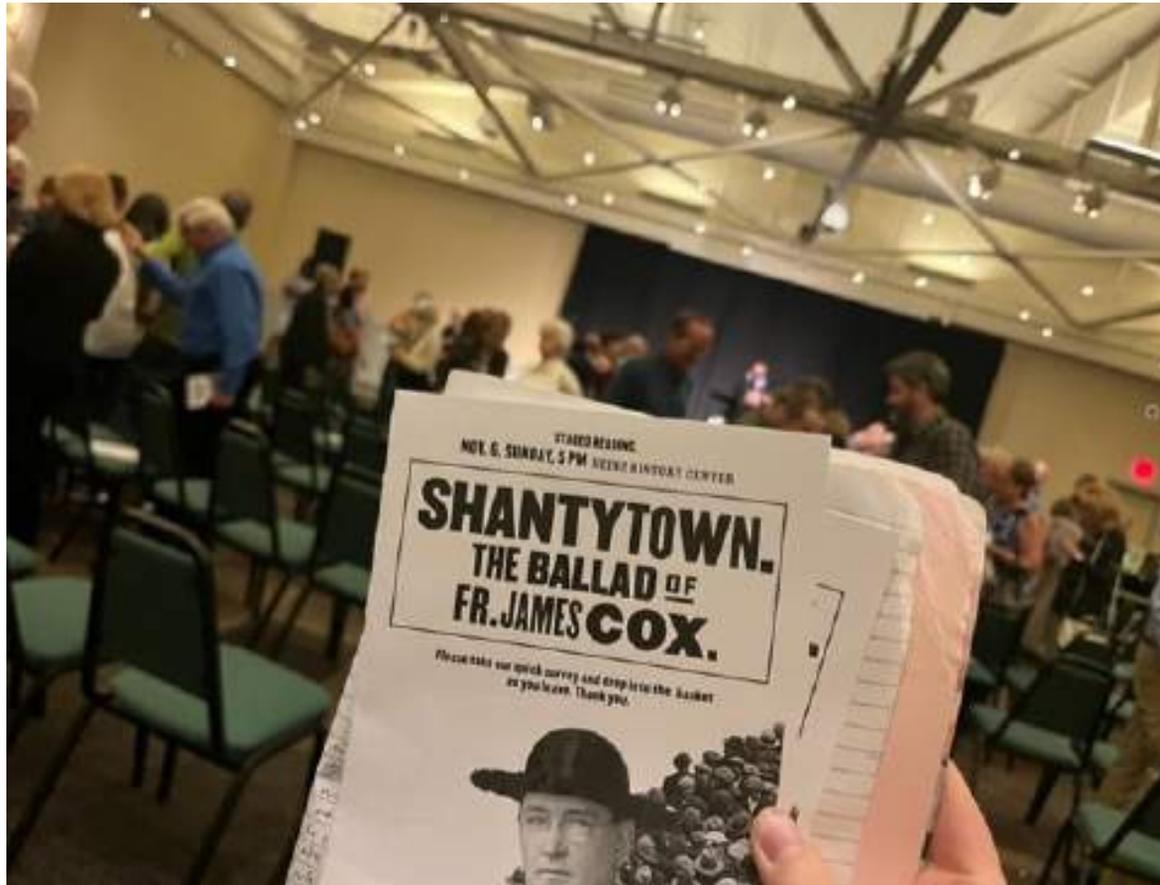
Pairing with director Gregory Lehane and artistic musical director Dwayne Fulton, these artists honored Cox's life in story and song through the upcoming Pittsburgh Playwrights 2023 musical, "SHANTYTOWN: The Ballad of Fr. James Cox."

"We wanted to make sure we could move the theatrical world forward, building a framework that would educate the community and tell a story," Lehane said. "You can take everything away from a person, but you can't take their song, and that is what we wanted to show people, a time where people had their illegal cocktails and told each other real stories about real struggle."

Showcasing eight cast members and a pianist, the show persisted through snarky dialogue and heartfelt ballads, scripts on the music stands with booming voices that carried through the hall with exuberance. The energy of the cast encapsulated the hopeful cheer of living through the trying times of the Depression, and kept audiences fully engaged without a prop in sight.

Featured in the cast is John Alex Noble, adjunct School of Music professor at Duquesne. Invited to the cast by producer Monteze Freeland, Noble accepted the role of Big John for this reading – one of the homeless folk from the Strip District who befriended Cox in the '30s.

According to Noble, "The purpose of readings is to gauge an audience reaction and interest as well as to hear the words read



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

"Shantytown" is coming to Pittsburgh Cultural Trust theaters in February 2023.

aloud by actors to see if it translates from page to page." This helps writers get a live reaction of what audiences like and what might need to be fine-tuned.

The story is told through Stephen, a journalist who is profiling Cox's life behind-the-scenes of his do-good model. Slowly, he realizes there is no facade – Cox is truly a miracle worker.

The show holds its humor, as well as its heartfelt moments, at a high standard, poking fun at President Herbert Hoover's mistakes while also expressing the grief of raising a child in trying times. The show is conversational throughout, integrating dialogue in the songs to show the effects of poverty through different perspectives. The American Dream could not be more clearly visualized, hoped for and celebrated.

Dominique Briggs as "Catherine" and Charlese Dawson as "Emma" brought powerhouse vocals to the show. With ballads in the rising action and climax, these characters shined in a way that showed how special and in-

dividually deserving each person was that Cox helped.

Throughout the show, Cox led 20,000 jobless individuals in a labor law demonstration in Washington, printed the first food stamps and even ran for president before passing the torch to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In between these ambitious successes to advocate for those in need, Cox allowed those without a home to stay in St. Patrick's basement, either paying them for "odd jobs" or running underground lotteries to help give back to the community. An investigation was called, and Cox was sent to court, which is the show's falling action and more somber tone in the music.

At the end of the musical, when Cox dies, the song "Hope" is reprised with the full cast in an uplifting, delicate air that sweeps the audience to standing ovations and applause. Stephen's article is finally written, and it is now a eulogy instead of a profile.

At the end of the read-through performance, a Q&A reflection

session was held for audience members to ask questions and express their favorite moments throughout the show.

"This show is very Pittsburgh. An Irish Catholic priest standing up for the poor during one of the most difficult times in our nation's history. He changed things at the local and national level and stood up to powerful people to make this world a better place," Noble said.

Charles McCollester, an avid theater-goer and Pittsburgh Playwright audience member, said that in all of his 20 years of seeing plays and musicals in the area, this show will be "one of the most beautiful."

"It is so moving to see Irish Catholic social justice voices in theater. Father Cox was an inspiration, and it is incredible to see the wonderful Black Pittsburgh playwrights honor one of Pittsburgh's greatest treasures," McCollester said. "Keep 'Shantytown' amongst your friends, you will see it again."

CAMPUS
EVENTS

"SpongeBob: The Musical"
Nov. 10-13 @ 8 p.m. and
11:59 p.m.

Red Masquers runs their second weekend of "SpongeBob!" Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 11:59 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Bake Sale
Nov. 11 @ 1 p.m.

\$1 sweet treats on Union 3rd Floor! Get 'em while you can.

Food Truck Fridays
Nov. 11 @ 11 a.m.

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

Beats on the Bluff
Nov. 13 @ 3 p.m.

Join Duquesne a cappella group, Mic Drop, for an invitational concert featuring Pitt and CMU performers! The show is at the Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

CAPRI'S
KIND WORDS

Check off your boxes

Take the time to check off your boxes. And no, I don't mean just the grueling assignments that are scribbled in red ink across your Target planner. I mean doing the things that you set aside that are also productive, that are also good for your health and will get you to where you want to be.

I think that prioritizing yourself as a person is important. At the end of the day, who are you at the core besides what you do?

I know I am a student. I am a friend. I am a daughter. I am an employee. I am a member of way too many clubs. But I am also kind. I am brave. And I am passionate in all that I do.

Differentiating who you are to others and who you are to yourself is important in finding what boxes you'd like to check off, what matters to you right now in becoming the very best version of you out there.

Instead of thinking of things you have to do, who do you want to be, and how do you want to get there?

— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

Alexa, play Ride of the Valkeries.

Pisces

heyyyyy
HEYYYYY
anyone home???

Aries

Self-care night and masks! No not spooky masks like face masks. No not Covid masks like spa masks

Taurus

I feel like I'm lying! What if they take me away!

Gemini

Cat person externally, dog person internally

Cancer

Get well soon <3

Leo

I'LL STARE DIRECTLY AT THE SUN BUT NEVER IN THE MIRROR

Virgo

My doctor said I have cool socks which must mean it's true.

Libra

I always knew uptown girl was a thing. Now what is "downtown girl???"

Scorpio

Let's go on a hike! *drives an hour and a half just to walk in a straight line*

Sagittarius

DUBS ONLY!

Capricorn

What if I went somewhere where nobody knows my name (just my last name).

Young and sweet, only 50: PSO celebrates ABBA

RIO SCARCELLI
staff writer

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra joined together on Nov. 6 with Finnish a cappella group Rajaton to perform hits from “Mamma Mia!” Audience members were left singing “Thank You for the Music” as the ensembles celebrated 50 years of 70s pop group ABBA.

Rajaton and the PSO under maestro Steve Reineke’s direction delivered a high-energy performance that paid tribute to ABBA for the years of iconic songs they have released. With melodies so infectious and a full orchestra of support, it was hard not to become immersed in the music and embrace that ‘70s feeling.

The audience was a mix of all age groups coming to attend the performance. Unlike more classical performances by the PSO curates, their Pops concerts pull in people from other genres of music.

It showed how transcendent ABBA’s music truly was even though some of the people there were not alive to experience the

group’s debut.

The vocalists’ outfits stood as a sharp contrast to PSO’s concert-black ensemble. The women sported shimmery silver ensembles resembling the in-musical band Donna and the Dynamos. The men opted to wear gray disco-style suits and stood in for Sophie’s three dads from the movie.

Because the a cappella group had an entire symphony orchestra to back them, Rajaton took a more flexible approach to the songs and altered roles and vocals when necessary. This meant most solo repertoire from the musical was cut or abbreviated to allow as much participation from the PSO and Rajaton as possible.

In overture-style, the orchestra previewed a slurry of numbers that they would perform for the night including “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!” and “S.O.S.” The iconic xylophone line got an excited response from the audience as the “Mamma Mia!” instrumental theme opened up the scene.

During this time, the members from Rajaton all entered the stage with theatrics and the audience rose with applause. Alto



COURTESY OF RAJATON

Every audience member could dance and jive by the end of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra’s ABBA-inspired set.

Soila Sariola then led the charge with the next song “Money, Money, Money” as Donna Sheridan. The harmonies provided by the

backup singers were lush and the orchestra had a strong moment to usher in the key change of the song, which was led with energy by Reineke.

The pacing of flashy-ensemble numbers to more emotional pieces was strong as bass Jussi Chydenius took the role of Harry Bright in “Thank You for the Music.” In this part, Rajaton seemed to add more harmonies to the piece to give it a more full sound against the orchestra.

All members of the PSO and Rajaton alike had strong, independent voices to bring to the table. In more company numbers like “Dancing Queen” and “Under Attack,” the vocalists and orchestra both had their own moments to take over portions of the song.

This back-and-forth created a strong chemistry between the two groups that engaged the audience even more.

For the final number “I do, I do, I do, I do,” the instrumentation in the orchestra felt more similar to a mariachi band

with trumpets, violins and castanets doing most of the ensemble work. This spin on the song created a contrasting timbre to Rajaton’s vocalists and the traditional work of ABBA. Nearing the end of the piece, the audience rose and stayed in a standing ovation.

In “Mamma Mia!” fashion, the show did not end there. Reineke gave the audience time to applaud while Rajaton exited the stage, but he gave a cue to the PSO to play the starting notes of the song “Mamma Mia” to usher in the singers one more time. They continued their set with “Dancing Queen” and “Waterloo” with the audience being encouraged to sing along.

The encore felt like a final celebration and tribute to ABBA that encapsulated their legacy through the timeless musical. It was through strong vocals, interactive dancing and a fun environment that Rajaton and the PSO brought their audience in for a night of reminiscing on one of the ‘70s most iconic pop groups.



RIO SCARCELLI | STAFF WRITER

Disco could be heard from every corner of Heinz Hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ABBA.



The Student Government Association Invites You To...

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH STARTING AT 4:30PM

NIGHT OF LIGHTS

IT'S A WONDERFUL BLUFF

The holidays have officially arrived on The Bluff this season! Kicking off with Duquesne's annual Night of Lights, the SGA has plenty of seasonal cheer to go around.

<p>Campus Lighting A-Walk/Union Fountain at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Holiday Dinner (Free to All Student) Union Ballroom at 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Additional Activities (from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Carriage Rides — A-Walk Train Rides — A-Walk Photo Booth — Union 3rd Floor Santa's Workshop — Africa Room Caroling — A-Walk & Fun for All</p>
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Yesterday's
weirdness
is
tomorrow's
reason
why.

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduqduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications

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

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COURTESY OF ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 17 veterans commit suicide each day.

If we care about veterans, why do we keep failing them?

How can you tell if someone has served in the military?

Just talk to them. They will undoubtedly tell you.

This phenomenon of veterans' eagerness to disclose about their time in the military is perplexing to me. As someone who served in the Marines, I make a concerted effort to not bring up my service.

It is my opinion that civil servants should have a semblance of humility.

This is not a shared opinion among many of my fellow veterans.

There have been many instances where someone who served in the military is over-eager to talk about the intimate details of their experiences. More often than not, it seems like their service has morphed their personality. From their hobbies to their clothing and even overzealous political leanings, it has become painfully clear who served.

It was not until this past summer, as I waited 45 minutes on the phone with the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center, that I figured out why so many veterans feel the need to let the world know that they served in the military in every facet that is available to them.

It is because nobody really cares about veterans.

Sure, there is plenty of moral support for those that served this country. There are clothing lines and coffee brands that claim to help bring awareness to the problems that plague veterans. Social media posts, just like the ones you will see Friday, will shape a narrative that people respect those that joined the ranks. Restaurant chains will offer generous discounts for the holiday.

Yet, this is where the support ends. It is mostly lip service.

We are nothing more than strategic tools used to enhance capitalist and political endeavors. We have become faceless mascots, pigeonholed into overwhelming stereotypical facades.

We are boxes to be marked off

for marketing purposes.

There are real issues plaguing my fellow veterans that are not addressed. Perhaps it's because the depths of these problems shatter the narrative that often coincides with the nationalism that is often associated with our military.

The most-obvious issue is the amount of suicides. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide-related deaths among veterans increase at a greater rate than that of the



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

general United States population. From 2001 to 2019, the rate of suicide among veterans increased nearly 36%, compared to an increase of 30% in the general population. From the same report, published in June, the CDC estimates that everyday, 17 veterans commit suicide.

This is not a recent phenomenon. This is a trend that has been occurring for two decades. The proposed solution from the Department of Defense: Give more money to the V.A.

In what world is it appropriate to reward an institution that continues to fail with an even-larger budget? There's a theory for this. It's called the sunk-cost fallacy.

However, the silver lining to this now two-decade long epi-

demic is that this issue appears to be receiving the level of attention that it deserves.

The same can't be stated about the rampant sexual assault that occurs to those in the military.

This past summer, the DOD reported that 1 in 12 women and 1 in 67 men experienced unwanted sexual contact between 2018 and 2021.

In the same report, the DOD found that "[In the] fiscal year 2021, the military services received 8,866 reports of sexual assault involving service members as either victims or subjects, which is a 13% increase from reports made in fiscal year 2020. Of the 8,866 reports, 7,249 were from active duty members making an unrestricted or restricted report of sexual assault for an incident they experienced during military service."

There are about 35,900 members in our military that reported being victims of sexual assault.

The only demographic group that has a higher chance of being sexual assaulted is college students. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (R.A.I.N.N.), 13% of all students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation.

This is just the tip of the iceberg to the sexual assault issue surrounding our military. The culture inside the military very much frowns upon reporting anything above your chain of command. "Keep it in-house" is as common a mantra as "semper fidelis" or "hooah."

The DOD estimates that just slightly over half of reported assaults receive "command action."

Somewhere between the red, white and blue celebrations and the camouflage decorations, we have forgotten that we sent children to fight a 20-year war. We have made yellow ribbons and catchy bumper stickers to show our devotion to those that swore to protect us.

However, catchy sayings and American flags are not going to save veterans. Actions will.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Losing gracefully applies to elections, too

In sports, whenever a team loses, they typically congratulate the other and shake hands, saying "Good game." That tradition should be followed by politicians as well, and at one point in history it was.

After Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 presidential election, many Republicans refused to concede in races, including Trump himself. Trump and many other Republicans argued that the election was fraudulent, and that mail-in ballots should not count. Trump eventually conceded on Jan. 7, 2021, almost two months after the race was called in President Joe Biden's favor and after the Jan. 6 insurrection.

These discussions still continue today. Many Republicans, such as Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano, argued that the 2020 election had fraudulent results and that mail-in ballots should be outlawed. Many (36) Republicans running for the 2022 midterm election ran off the claims of a stolen election in 2020.

On Tuesday at approximately 10:30 p.m., multiple news outlets including MSNBC and *The New York Times* projected that Josh Shapiro would become the next governor of Pennsylvania. At this time, Mastriano has still not conceded and will not concede until every single vote is counted. "Have faith," Mastriano said Tuesday night in Camp Hill, Pa. "We're going to wait until every vote counts."

In contrast Republican Mehmet Oz, a U.S. Senate candidate called his opponent, John Fetterman, and conceded after many outlets projected Fetterman to win late Tuesday night. Oz was backed by Trump and many other election deniers, but chose to take the high ground when it comes to conceding in a race.

In Arizona, the gubernatorial race is still too close to call, but Republican candidate Kari Lake already started to hint at election fraud and that she would not accept defeat in the race, even as the votes come in.

What happened to accepting a loss with grace? In the past, a large majority of candidates would concede as soon as results came out and accept their loss, ultimately congratulating their opponents on their victory.

Even in the highly contested 2000 presidential election, Democratic candidate Al Gore conceded to Republican George W. Bush and congratulated him on his victory.

All candidates, regardless of their political affiliations, should concede and take their loss in an appropriate manner. Many Republicans who have lost their race in 2020, and their endorsements from Trump may have hurt their chances in this election.

Politicians should take a page from sports games and learn how to react to a loss appropriately.

\$374 million is money not so well spent

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Other than a handful of races, the champagne has been popped and the balloons have fallen as the 2022 midterm elections draw to a close. The state of Pennsylvania is set to have John Fetterman flip the first Senate seat of the election, while Josh Shapiro won his bid for governor.

Despite our political alignment,

Pennsylvanians can come together and breathe a sigh of relief, as our television and radio ads will go back to their normal programming, and our social media diet will return to its normal level of political toxicity.

And while the outcome of this election cycle may seem mundane, Pennsylvania was part of one of the most historic senate races in our country's 245-year history.

According to Opensecrets.com, this cycle's U.S. Senate race shattered the

previous spending record from "outside groups" who ended up spending more than \$240 million in both the primary and general elections.

A total of \$373,934,908 was spent in total on the U.S. Senate race. The most ever in the state. It was also the most expensive Senate race in the country.

One race, and \$374 million spent.

For those that have a hard time breaking down that astronomical amount, here is what \$374 million can get you.

It can nearly buy you Tom Brady for a decade, as his upcoming contract with Fox Sports is \$375 million for 10 years.

It can buy you 383,828 Supreme hoodies with matching fanny packs.

That amount is enough to fully fund an undergraduate degree at Duquesne University, including room and board for 5,168 students.

For \$374 million, you could theoretically buy Acrisure Stadium (it cost \$281 million to build) and still have enough money left over to buy everyone in the stadium (68,400 seats) an autographed Troy Polamalu jersey.

On a more serious note, according to Gov. Tom Wolf's 22-23 executive budget, \$374 million would fund the Nellie Bly Tuition Program — a program that offers scholarships to students who are pursuing degrees in high-workforce needs — and have enough left over to cover the rest of the allotted budget for higher education.

Those \$374 million would cover the

PA Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, the Behavioral Health Commission, the School Safety Grant and the allocated amount for the police departments for new equipment and for hiring and retaining officers.

And there would still be \$20 million left over.

That amount of money could fundamentally change this state.

There is an irony in that these candidates spent the past year telling us what was wrong with this state, while they were funneling obscene amounts of money for their campaigns.

You have to wonder if either of these candidates were truly as passionate as they appeared in their countless commercials. Did they think of just how money is being used to promote themselves, rather than help the Commonwealth and its residents?

While it may be unfair to blame these individuals, this is a product of a political system that seems to be edging away from a republic and reshaping into an oligarchy. We, as citizens, have allowed this glutinous type of spending on our elections.

It's hard not to feel hoodwinked by this. Elites come in, spend money, then leave in their private jets until the next election cycle.

Let's see if that \$374 million investment in one representative is worth it. I'm betting it won't be.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

John Fetterman is set to become Pennsylvania's U.S. Senator, after defeating Mehmet Oz in the nation's highest-spending Senate campaign. A total of nearly \$374 million was spent in this elec-

We must be cautious with Musk's takeover

SIMON JARONSKI
staff writer

Elon Musk's recent takeover of Twitter has inspired significant backlash. Despite his claim to defend free speech, critics say Musk's goals are far more sinister: to purge the platform of content moderation structures, thereby creating a haven for misinformation. And, of course, the most terrifying - or perhaps desperately anticipated - scenario: the return of Donald Trump from his wintry exile in the barren wastes of TruthSocial.

Last Friday's sudden and unannounced layoffs may seem to validate these concerns.

What does Musk's intent in acquiring Twitter signify for American society? I will argue that Musk - a member of a powerful social elite who has the ability to insert his ideas into the national consciousness - is seeking to define his role in a rapidly changing America.

America's political culture is transforming, with once esteemed values falling into disregard by the public, notably the rule of law and constitutional patriotism.

Twitter is not just an investment for Musk, but a means to leverage his influence. The CEOs, tech futurist-billionaires and commercial innovators today are not singularly guided by the profit motive; although this is undoubt-

edly important, they seek influence foremost, and anticipate their as-yet uncertain roles in America's dawning post-liberal era.

I do not seek to express partisan allegiance here, but merely to advance a hypothesis largely supported by empirical data on increasing dissatisfaction among the public: The faith in America's democratic institutions has waned considerably, although both sides still employ the spiritual essence of America's democratic exceptionalism to justify their respective visions.

Conservatives have been quick to embrace the potential of alliance with figures like Musk and Peter Thiel even as they decry Big Tech and ideologically motivated censorship. Thiel, a venture capitalist and prolific donor to the campaigns of J.D. Vance and Blake Masters, is himself enmeshed in the ecosystem of the New Right, a more philosophically grounded articulation of Trumpism. Clearly, these tech luminaries have benefitted from links to political developments taking place on Twitter, just as their disciples benefit from the struggle to articulate alternative political frameworks in these very media spaces.

Conversely, those on the left will find Musk's reclamation of Twitter a boon to their own ideological engagements. I cannot help but attribute the mass appeal of this younger cohort of far-left politicians to growing political tribal-

ism. The appeal of today's social justice politics would lose some of its glow if robber barons like Musk - and the very platform he has now acquired - did not exist as objects of scorn on which to redirect the pathological frustrations of the Democratic Party.

Twitter was a cesspool long before Musk came along, and it will undoubtedly remain so. The truth is that we cannot step away: our impotence in the face of the collective responsibility deficit brought on by these unstable communicative networks signals a lack of trust in and patience for the demands of American democracy, which was never meant to operate in tandem with the hyperreality of digital media.

When James Madison denounced the spirit of faction in his iconic Federalist #10, he assumed that the temporal and geographical obstacles to sustained group consensus - of the destabilizing sort - would restrict all but the most valuable opinions from rising to the level of public consideration. This is certainly not the case today. The virtues necessary for the maintenance of democracy are no longer being fostered, their development having failed to keep pace with social change and ideological excess.

Our society has lost the will for patience and reticence. If many of us are no longer able to pursue a course of balanced information, how can we be expected to remain satisfied with the

procedures and consensus our system of governance demands? Both those on the left and right are awaiting the arrival of the post-liberal moment, and plan to make it their own. Although 2022 and 2024 still have a lot to tell us, the warning signs are clear: Americans are slowly making their peace with the withering away of their tradition.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Elon Musk recently took over Twitter. His proposed changes have sparked heavy criticism.

Program Council combines service with fun

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Although Christmas time hasn't come just yet, the Duquesne Program Council hosted its "Season of Giving" event this past week.

On Friday night, in the newly renovated NiteSpot, students got in the Christmas spirit and decorated ornaments for themselves, while also making blankets and scarves for local charities and shelters.

While some participants went for the fun of making their own unique ornaments, others went for the service and made blankets and scarves that will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul, a non-profit organization in Pittsburgh.

Ethan Delp, the council's executive director, was excited for the night because of its ability to help the community around him. He said that "it was nice to do something bigger than ourselves."

"This one, we were especially excited about just because we also had the donation drive," Delp said. "We have the blanket-making specifically for that, that we're going to donate to St. Vincent DePaul, to go to any homeless or at risk populations."

As they walked into the event, students were able to pick from many different sizes and styles of ornaments to decorate like large clear, medium white or small sparkly ornaments. Dozens of different paint brush sizes, paint colors and stickers also lined the tables.

The set-up could have easily been mistaken for a scene straight out of the "Elf," with all of the decorating materials laid out in an orderly fashion, along with the

amount of supplies available for the students — or elves in this scenario.

Delp said the ornament making was fun for everyone who decided to come and decorate.

"We have different types, all sorts of paint decals," Delp said. "People really seem to be getting creative and enjoying it."

Some of the decals available included small, plastic sparkly red and brown reindeers, white snowmen and red Santas. Bowls piled high with fake snow, and Mod Podge provided more creativity for a globe-like ornament for those who attended.

To get students even more excited and ready for the upcoming holiday season, a table full of festive snacks like sugar, chocolate and double chocolate cookies were up for grabs, along with a large jug of hot chocolate.

Paint colors students could choose from included classic Christmas colors like silver, white and gold, as well as many other bright and bold colors like light purple, turquoise, pink, dark blue, green and red. Although there wasn't a specific design or way to decorate the ornaments, students could be seen mixing the colors and swirling them around to create a marble effect, or even just using one color to create a monochrome effect.

Elizabeth Solenday, the council's recreation director, helped coordinate the event. She said it was specifically made to combine fun with community service.

"We decided to do this because it benefits the community around us, and it's something fun to do to celebrate the holidays on a Friday night," Solenday said.

Olivia Gieske, a general member of the

council, said that the organization made a total of 34 scarves and two knot-style blankets in the span of less than two hours that night. The variety of different-designed blankets and scarves were then taken for donation to the homeless community of Pittsburgh, at a perfect time of year to receive them.

Although the crowd wasn't as big as the amount of ornaments bought, which was

around 50, the atmosphere there was filled with smiles and festivity, while the blankets, scarves and ornaments were being made and the soft cookies were enjoyed.

The Duquesne Program Council is just beginning their lineup of Christmas season events. The annual Night Of Lights, which includes activities like a photo booth, train rides, caroling and a holiday dinner, will take place this Friday.



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

Ethan Delp, the executive director of the Duquesne Program Council, paints a Christmas ornament during Friday night's "Season of Giving" event, which took place in the NiteSpot.

Comic raises homelessness awareness

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Homelessness occurs everywhere, but not only do we sometimes not notice it, we also often don't understand or see the stories behind the homeless community.

A somewhat new Pittsburgh-related comic that brings these stories to life has recently made its way to Gumberg Library's bookshelves and is the Social Justice Reading Club's Fall 2022 selection.

The comic, titled "Drawn To Home" is a community comic that features nine individuals' stories who currently or recently experienced homelessness. Through the dialogue of art, the comic allows these stories to be heard and understood by a larger population.

Some of the stories, like "When I Was Fourteen" by Camden Yandel, discuss the reasons that led to their homelessness. Yandel says he became homeless when he saw the disappointment in his parents' eyes as he came out as transgender and decided to leave. Since he was go-

ing through a lot at the time, and no one would hire him, he turned to shelters, which also would not let him in, leaving him homeless.

The art for this story features a young girl walking away from home with a bag of belongings and a camera. She's seen capturing images of nature as she's walking away toward an outdoor living situation.

Another story, "Janet," focuses on an older woman dealing with homelessness. The story by Eileen Lee, draws on the life of a 70-year-old named Janet, who has trouble juggling a job and an illness, which comes crashing down on her. Since she has no support from family or colleagues and has difficulty finding a new job, she finds herself in homelessness.

In the pictures used, Janet is seen fighting for her life alone, while asking for help from those around her, who are pictured ignoring her.

There are also pictures of a flower withering away, which represents illness taking over.

Both of these comics show that compas-

sion and support from others can help out of homelessness.

But others have endings where they've stayed homeless, with some dying while living on the streets.

The story titled "She Built Me" holds this element of death. This comic discusses a child going to school while homeless, as his mother tries her best to get him out of that situation.

The boy is shown working hard through school and trying his best to get good grades, but eventually, his mother dies from an underlying illness. His final words in the comic says he's doing everything for her.

For students wanting to read more from the comic, the "Drawn To Home" exhibit will be displayed in Gumberg's fourth-floor Popular Reading Room from Nov. 3 through Dec. 2.

If any students or staff want to learn more about helping combat the problem of homelessness in their community, the back page of "Drawn to Home" features different ways they can help.



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

Free copies of "Drawn to Home" comic are available on the fourth floor of Gumberg Library.



Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

Contact our editor-in-chief

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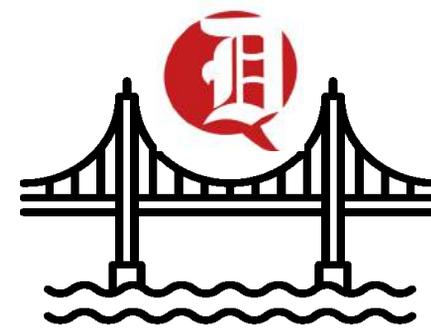
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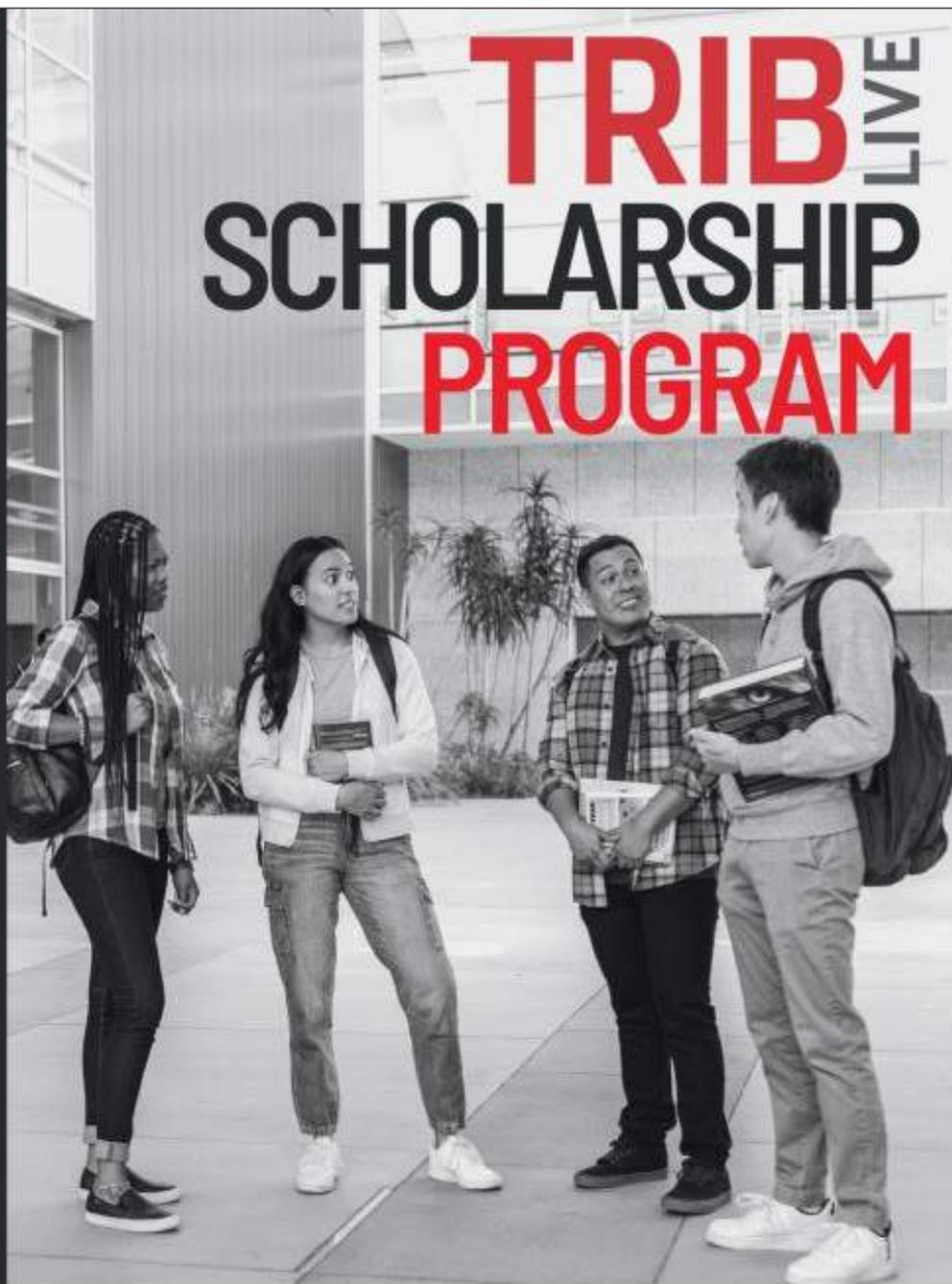
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